

The Role of Japan in the Struggle for Climate Justice from an Asian Perspective

The struggle for climate justice is an intense race against time and huge challenges that seem insurmountable

The world has already warmed to 1.2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and we have already been experiencing increasingly devastating impacts for the last decade.

Scientists tell us that what the world will do in this decade will determine if it will still be possible to keep global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius - which is the goal of the Paris agreement. This goal translates to reaching real zero global emissions before or by 2050.

More than 75% of global GHG emissions come from the energy sector, from the extraction and use of fossil fuels - coal, gas and oil.

Fighting for climate justice and saving people and planet from catastrophic climate change requires a rapid, just and equitable transition out of fossil fuels and into 100% renewable energy.

And this is where JAPAN has a huge role, the country, its government, its corporations, its people.

Japan has been the world's largest public financier of Fossil Fuels - averaging \$10.6 billion annually from 2019 to 2021 in financial involvement throughout Asia and other parts of the world.

Japan's big private banks and financial conglomerates also count among the biggest private financiers and investors in fossil fuels.

Thus there has been a tremendous amount of attention and pressure on Japan to stop its financing of fossil fuels - ending the financing of new projects and followed by withdrawing its involvement in existing energy projects.

The Japanese government has committed to ending direct government financing of unabated coal overseas, as part of the G7. But this commitment is not enough.

Japan must also stop promoting and investing in gas as transition fuel. It is possible, feasible, more economical, safer and more compatible with climate goals to shift directly to renewable energy systems. The promotion of gas as transition or bridge fuel is only serving the profit agenda of fossil fuel companies.

Japan must also stop promoting false solutions such as Hydrogen and Ammonia.

While Hydrogen can be produced from renewable energy, Japan's push for Hydrogen energy while it is simultaneously pushing for LNG expansion can only be seen as having the intention and effect of prolonging the "need" for Fossil Gas energy, deepening vulnerabilities to an expensive, dangerous and highly volatile energy commodity, increasing distraction from real renewable energy solutions and further delaying the decarbonization process.

Similarly, Japan's push for Ammonia has the danger of extending the life of coal fired power plants. Ammonia-coal co-firing is being presented as "abated" coal technology. The world needs an immediate and total exit from Coal if we are to stop climate catastrophe - there is no room for loopholes and exceptions such as "abated" coal which will still emit unwanted dangerous GHGs. The use of ammonia for co-firing includes other harmful impacts such as very high costs and toxic air and water pollution.

What Japan will do in the next months and years will make a huge difference to the safety, well-being and future of our people, communities and our planet.

Japan - in particular its government, public institutions and private banks and corporations - must stop being a huge part of the problem and instead actively pursue solutions and fulfill its obligations towards people, communities and countries who are suffering the most from climate change.

- **Stop funding fossil fuels; stop promoting fossil gas and false solutions**
- **Deliver on obligations to provide climate finance - very much needed for the energy transition as well as for supporting adaptation programs and covering costs for loss and damage**
- **Pursue a domestic energy transition to reach real zero way before 2050**

We urge the people and communities in Japan to work with us, movements in Japan and all of Asia, for a fossil fuel free future.