

Media Backgrounder

Citizens Across the World Say No to JBIC's LNG Financing

Ignoring the G7 commitment to end international direct public support to unabated fossil fuels, and the COP28 decision to transition away from fossil fuels, **Japan continues to drive the expansion of fossil gas across the world**—sparking global opposition amid environmental and human rights harms.

Japan is one of the world's [top providers of public finance for gas](#), spending **\$4.3 billion on average each year**. Japan is the world's largest provider of international public finance for [LNG export capacity](#). To date, Japan provided \$39.7 billion, comprising 50 percent of global international public finance, for LNG export capacity projects built from 2012 and projects under construction or expected to be built by 2026.

The Japanese Export Credit Agency, **JBIC** (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) **was also [the biggest financier of fossil gas in Southeast Asia](#)**, providing 47% of total public funds to the regional gas industry.

LNG projects across the globe, financed by JBIC, are inflicting devastating impacts on local communities and the environment near the project sites.

In the Philippines, a JBIC-financed LNG import terminal is threatening to destroy the rich marine biodiversity of [the Verde Island Passage](#) and the livelihoods of fisherfolks who depend on it. The LNG terminal project is subject to several legal complaints from stakeholders related to permit violations such as tree cutting and land conversion. Notably, one violation has been confirmed by the local authorities, prompting the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order in August 2022.



Fisherfolk leaders [filed a formal complaint](#) with JBIC, prompting an investigation of the possible violation of its own environmental guidelines. The final report will come out at the end of April at the earliest.

In Indonesia, fisherfolks and farmers have suffered serious impacts on their livelihoods under the JBIC-financed gas projects from upstream to downstream. In the Tangguh LNG in West Papua, relocated indigenous people have been prevented from their free and traditional way of life due to limited access to hunting and fishing

grounds. In the Donggi Senoro LNG in Central Sulawesi, fisherfolks are prohibited from even crossing within a one-kilometer radius of the project site, preventing them from fishing in what used to be good fishing grounds. In the Jawa 1 Gas-to-Power in West Java, fishermen are suffering from declining the amount and variety of fish they can catch as well as their catch area without any meaningful consultation. [Learn more.](#)

In Bangladesh, Japan is influencing Bangladesh's Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) to include LNG in it. However, Japan's energy finance is leading Bangladesh into a debt trap by promoting the unnecessary fossil fuel power system. Electricity produced from LNG costs ten times more than electricity generated



from domestic fuels, making it unaffordable for communities in Bangladesh. Japanese financiers consistently invest in LNG-powered plants like the Meghnaghat 718 MW (Reliance) LNG Power Plant, constructed with financing from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and JBIC. This particular power plant could incur capacity charges ranging from approximately USD 51.13 million to USD 112.25 million annually, and over its 22-year lifespan, costs could reach between USD 1.12 billion and USD 2.47 billion. These financial burdens will weigh down the economy of Bangladesh. [Learn more.](#)

In the U.S, JBIC-financed LNG export terminals caused an explosion and numerous gas leak accidents. Its operations and accidents emit massive amounts of hazardous air pollutants such as methane, benzene, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, among others, causing severe health issues such as asthma, heart disease, and cancer in local communities, especially the people of color, whose residents tend to be closer to the project sites.

In Australia, the Barossa gas project financed by JBIC went ahead without consulting Tiwi island Traditional Owners. This failure to have free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), a key human right for traditional owners, was later confirmed by the Federal Court of Australia. Similar issue has been arising with the Scarborough gas field development project, to which Traditional Owners in the Pilbara region cannot give or withhold FPIC. [Learn more.](#)

In Canada, JBIC finances a carbon bomb called LNG Canada. It's integral pipeline project, the Canadian Gaslink Pipeline, is proceeding without FPIC of the Wet'suwet'en Nation. Authorities unlawfully oppressed peaceful land defenders,

arresting dozens, prompted nationwide protests for solidarity and a resolution calling for the project pause by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, [Amnesty International](#), and [an investigation](#) of the police force. [Learn more](#)

In Mozambique, a

JBIC-financed LNG project is set to restart amid ongoing turmoil since 2017 and renewed attacks from insurgents in recent months. During a violent attack in 2021, project operator TotalEnergies refused civilian victims refuge at its project site which was well protected by the military. A criminal complaint for involuntary manslaughter was



filed against the company. Furthermore, the project, which received a USD 3 billion loan from JBIC, has indebted [Mozambique](#) for decades, is classified a carbon bomb, and has already cost the country lands, local economies, and valuable natural areas. [Learn more.](#)

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In Thailand, the LNG import terminal in Map Ta Phut, Rayong which feeds gas to the JBIC financed power plant has immensely affected the fishery community resulting in the loss of their livelihood. Biodiversity and diverse species of sea animals which are an important source of food and local economy have been destroyed. Yet, there has never been any

compensation for the way of life and the natural resources lost. Communities had to stand up and fight to demand fair compensation. This really shows that these projects go against the quality of life of Rayong people.

The evident pattern observed across countries where JBIC's financing of LNG projects has been nothing but disastrous, not just for climate change but even more so for livelihood, health, and security of local communities, marine biodiversity, and fundamental human rights of indigenous people. We, the citizens from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Mozambique, Philippines, Thailand, the U.S., and around the world urge JBIC and Japanese prime minister Kishida to stop

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financing fossil gas and contribute to a full, fair, fast, funded, and feminist energy transition to renewable energy.

[Photos available for editorial use](#)

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