Is Japan's Green Transformation (GX) 'Greenwashing'?

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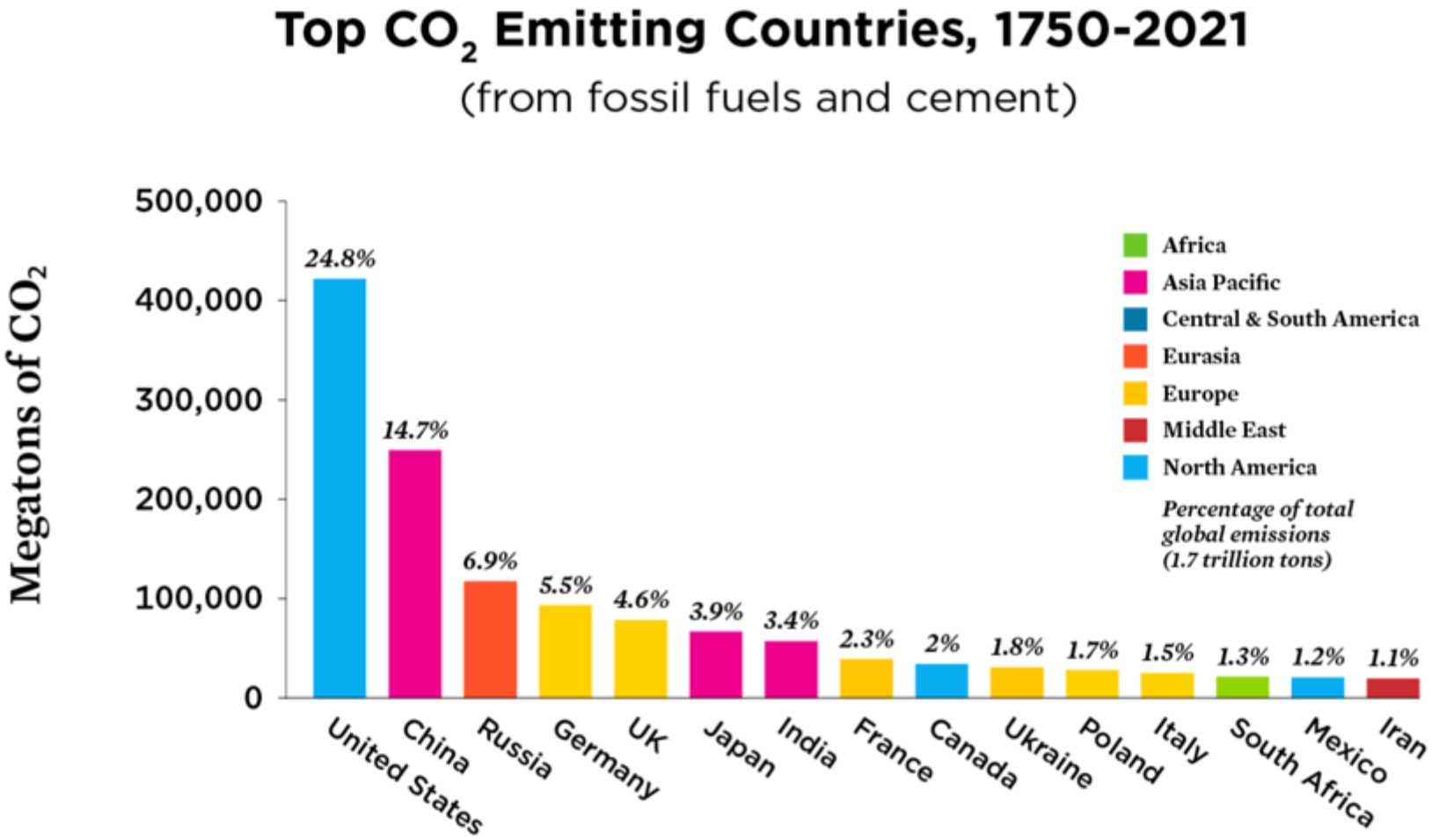
概要

Historical Emissions



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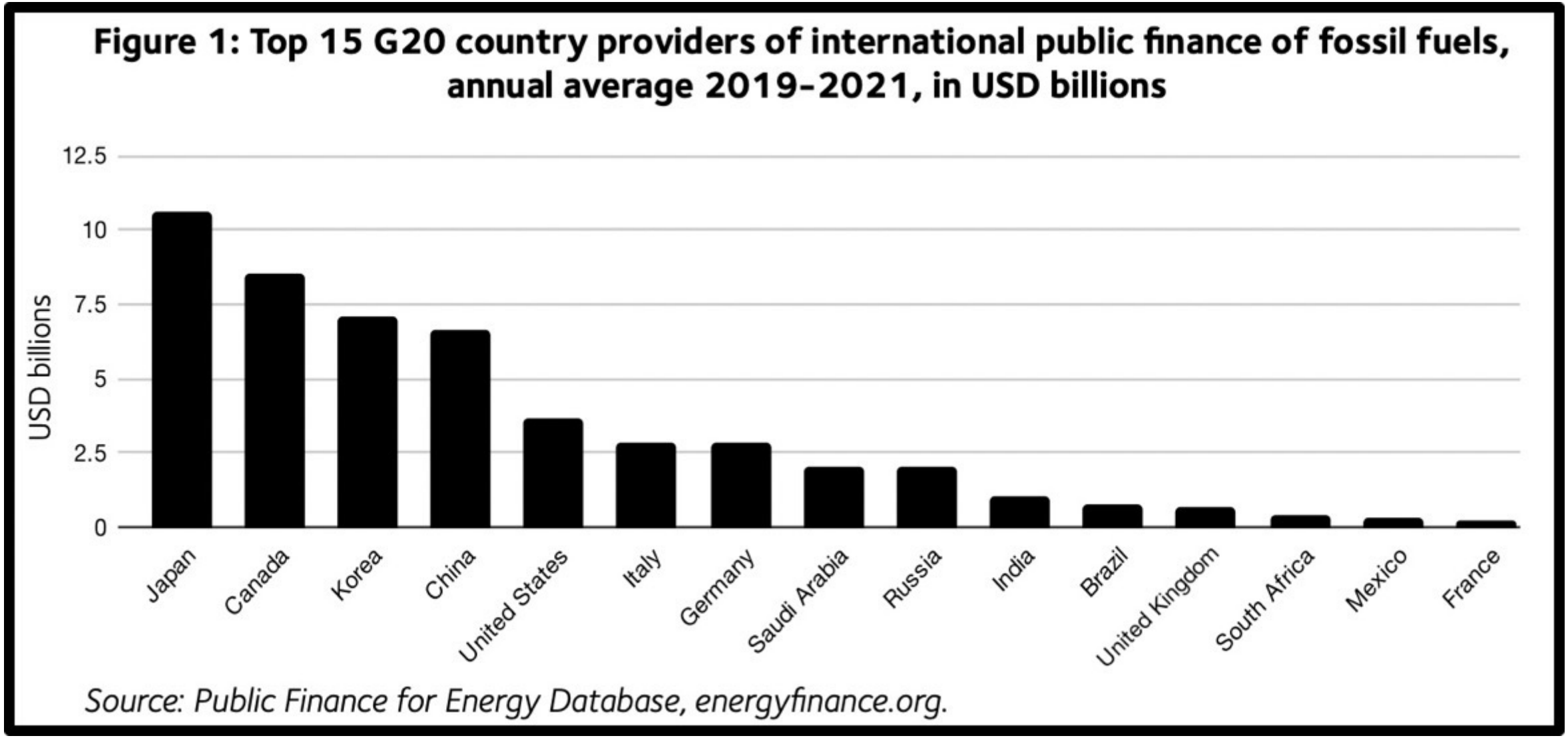
Financing fossil fuel infrastructure



Green Transformation

- GX（Green Transformation） under Kishida Administration= transformation to utilize clean energy while reducing the reliance on fossil fuel
- Achieving both emission reduction and economic growth
- 150 trillion yen public and private investment next 10 years
- Package includes not only energy efficiency and renewables but also nuclear, hydrogen, ammonia, CCS, Gas and SAF
- There is no definition of ‘Green’. Fossil based technologies are also promoted

Asia Zero Emission Community

- January 2022, Kishida administration launched the AZEC initiative to advance decarbonization in Asia while achieving economic growth and energy security, *creating various pathways tailored to each country's circumstances.*
- Emphasizing 'various pathways', AZEC also promotes fossil based technologies including hydrogen, ammonia, CCS and gas

AZEC

Asia Zero Emission Community

Asia's Various Pathways to Net Zero Co-Created by Japan

Hydrogen, Ammonia, CCS

- Hydrogen and Ammonia are labeled as decarbonization fuel as they are not emitting CO2 during combustion
- However, most of hydrogen and ammonia are made from fossil fuel. Japan is promoting co-firing these fuels at thermal power stations
- CCS, or Carbon Capture and Storage is to capture the CO2 from the factories, thermal power stations etc. and store them underground. Japan set a goal of storing 120-240 million tons of CO_2 by 2050.
- Biomass cofiring is also promoted, as biomass fuel is 'carbon neutral'. The large volume of biomass fuel are now imported. Risks of biodiversity loss, deforestation, increasing emissions.
- Hydrogen, Ammonia, CCS are all costly and not reducing CO2. Rather these technologies prolong the use of fossil infurastructure.

Exporting CO2 to other countries

- Projects to export CO2 to other countries are increasing, as domestic CCS projects are more costly than storing them overseas according to the government and companies.
- At least more than 13 projects MOU are signed past 2 years
- Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia are top destination of carbon dumping

Now, countries like Japan are considering transferring not only responsibilities but also CO2 itself to other countries. They are just dumping the waste in the Global South. This is ridiculous. This will undermine Malaysia's own emissions reduction efforts. Who pays for this although any payment will not guarantee safety for generations to come? —
Meena Raman/FoE Malaysia

FoE Japan

Expanding GX in Asia thru AZEC

- Technical assistance for developing energy plan development in Bangladesh, Indonesia etc.
- Financing for gas or other false solutions projects thru public finance
- Signs numerous MoUs though AZEC

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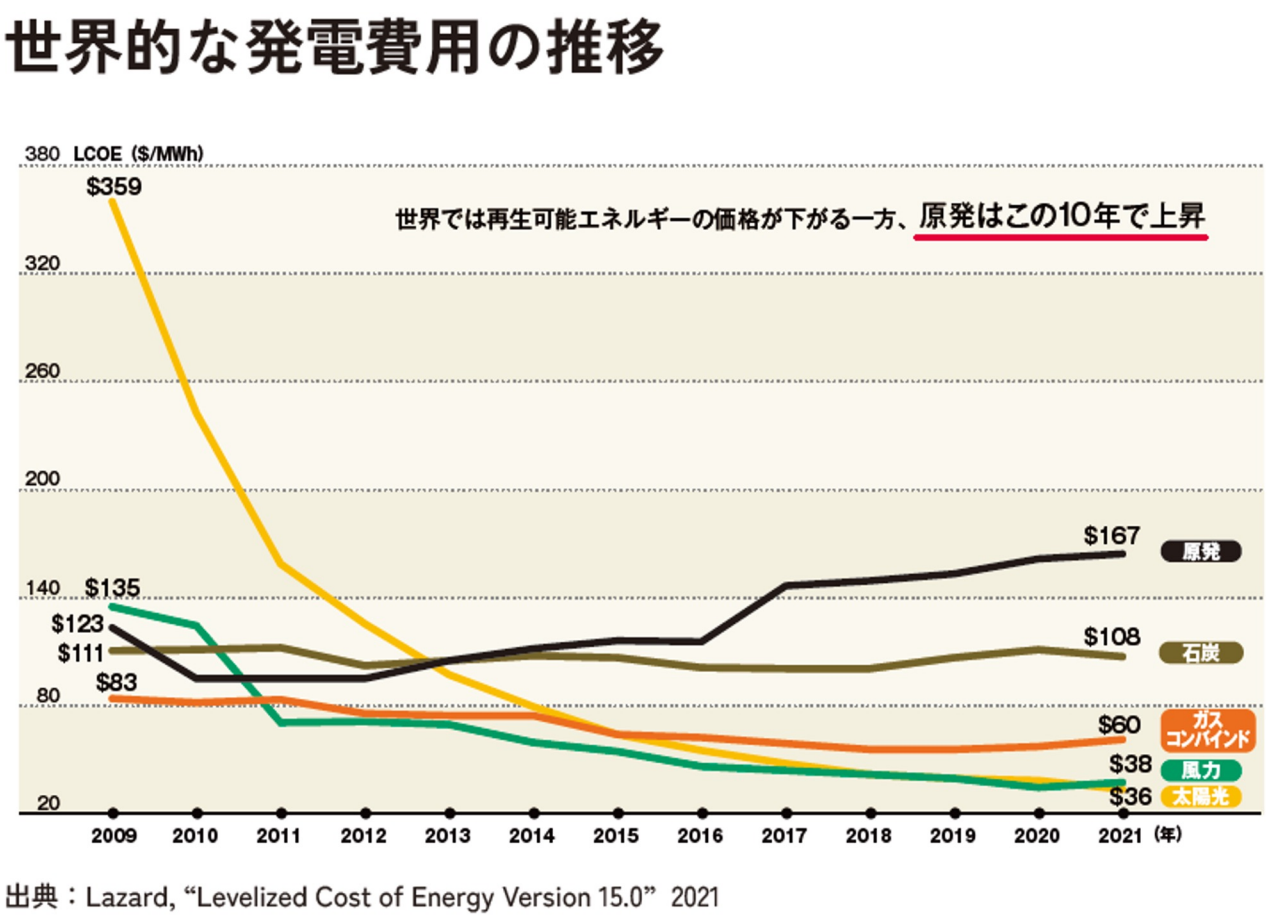
Nuclear

- GX– allow new nuclear build for the first time after Fukushima nuclear crisis
- Extending the operational life of nuclaer power plants
- No solutions to nuclear wastes, communities are against nuclear restart
- Cost of nuclear power increased while renewables are getting cheaper
- Small Moduler Reactors (SMR) is also promoted but the same risks with conventional nuclear



出典：Lazard, “Levelized Cost of Energy Version 15.0” 2021

Carbon Credit

- The JCM （Joint Credit Mechanism) is a system to cooperate with developing countries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Japan aims to reduce 100 million tons CO2 through JCM by 2030 and use the credit to achive NDC
- Hydrogen, Ammonia and CCS projects are not excluded from JCM project (under discussion)
- Offset credit does not reduce the domestic emissions rather allows more emissions


Green Transformation
＝Green washing?

What do we need for transformation

- Climate action – need fossil phase out
- Where are we transiting ?
- Japan's GX is delaying the transition
- We don't have much time. Transition cannot take long time.
- Japan must support viable climate actions, reduce emissions at home, pay climate finance, do fairshare.

Photo: Wales suel