

COAL PHASE OUT

AND ENERGY TRANSITION PATHWAYS
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY





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Contents

Acknowledgement	v	
Executive summary	vi	
Introduction	1	
Chapter 1	Current situation, trends and expansion plans	3
1.1	Current role of coal for power generation in the Asia-Pacific region	3
1.2	Planned coal fired power generation	6
1.3	Emissions from coal power generation not consistent with the Paris Agreement	14
1.4	Impact of COVID-19 crisis on policies for phasing out of coal in the South-East Asia subregion	19
Chapter 2	Drivers of coal expansion in the region	21
2.1	Asian countries are joining the global trend away from coal	21
2.2	Drivers of coal expansion in Asia and the Pacific	22
Chapter 3	How can trends be reversed – pathways for a transition to clean energy	27
3.1	Paris Agreement compatible energy transition	27
3.2	Renewable energy potential	35
3.3	Comparison of costs for renewable energy and storage vs. fossil fuel technologies	37
3.4	Integration to maximise benefits from renewable energy potential	40
Chapter 4	Benefits of a transition from coal towards renewable-based efficient energy system	41
4.1	Access to clean and affordable energy	41
4.2	Employment	42
4.3	Health, reduced air and water pollution, and impact on water scarcity	42
4.4	Avoided risk of stranded investments	43
4.5	Energy security and independence	43
4.6	Environmental degradation	43
4.7	Land use	44
4.8	Shifting investment – opportunities for a green COVID-19 recovery	45
4.9	Economic impacts of climate change	46
Chapter 5	Conclusion and recommendations	51
References	59	
Annexes	64	
Annex 1	Asia-Pacific coal fleet pipeline	64
Annex 2	Climate change impacts	65

List of boxes

Box 1 \	The additional burden of COVID-19	44
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List of figures

Figure 1 \	CO ₂ emissions from coal by sector	3
Figure 2 \	Coal generation as percentage of national electricity generation in 2019	4
Figure 3 \	Current coal fleet and pipeline in Asia-Pacific region by status and technology	8
Figure 4 \	Current coal fleet and pipeline (left) and age distribution (right) in the North and Central Asia (NCA) subregion by status and technology	10
Figure 5 \	Current coal fleet and pipeline in countries in the East and North-East subregion (ENEAS) with stable or contracting coal capacity, by status and combustion technology	11
Figure 6 \	Current coal fleet and pipeline in China, by status and combustion technology	12
Figure 7 \	Coal capacity by status and technology, in countries in the South and South-West Asia (SSWA) subregion with high expansion plans compared to current capacity	12
Figure 8 \	Current coal fleet and pipeline in India by status and technology	13
Figure 9 \	Coal capacity by status and technology, (left) and age distribution (right) for countries in the South-East Asian (SEA) subregion (all categories)	13
Figure 10 \	Estimated emissions over time resulting from current coal-fired power generation capacity in the Asia-Pacific region	14
Figure 11 \	Estimated emissions over time resulting from current coal-fired power generation capacity in the North and Central Asia subregion	15
Figure 12 \	Estimated emissions over time resulting from current coal-fired power generation capacity in the countries of the East and North-East Asia subregion with stable or contracting coal capacity	17
Figure 13 \	Estimated emissions over time resulting from current coal-fired power generation capacity in the China	17
Figure 14 \	Estimated emissions over time resulting from current coal-fired power generation capacity in India	18
Figure 15 \	Estimated emissions over time resulting from current coal-fired power generation capacity in the countries of the South and South-West Asia subregion with high capacity expansion plans (Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka)	18
Figure 16 \	Estimated emissions over time resulting from current coal-fired power generation capacity in the countries of the South-East Asia subregion	19
Figure 17 \	Potential coal generation in Non-OECD Asia against Paris Agreement benchmarks	28
Figure 18 \	Levelized cost of electricity – a comparison between fossil fuels and renewable sources, 2019	37
Figure 19 \	Shift in energy investments from current policy to a 1.5 pathway	45
Figure 20 \	Projected changes in GDP per capita in subregions due to changes in global mean annual temperature	48
Figure 21 \	Projected GDP per capita gains from limiting 1.5°C versus 2°C warming by subregion	49
Figure 22 \	Projected changes in climate extremes over five Asia-Pacific subregions	67

List of tables

Table 1 \	Share of coal in power generation and capacity in the Asia-Pacific region by economy	5
Table 2 \	The coal pipeline in the Asia-Pacific region: Current expansion plans and recent changes	7
Table 3 \	Country groupings by Asia-Pacific subregion and coal capacity expansion categories	9
Table 4 \	Providers and recipients of the highest amount of G20 international public finance for coal, 2016-2017, annual average (million United States dollars)	24
Table 5 \	Share of unabated coal-fired power in the electricity sector for 1.5°C compatible pathways at global, regional and national levels	33
Table 6 \	Benchmarks for the share of renewable energy for power generation for 1.5°C Paris Agreement compatible pathways at the global, regional and national levels	34
Table 7 \	Global and regional Weighted Average LCOE (2019 \$/MWh): Selected countries and regions	39
Table 8 \	Coal fleet capacity pipeline in Asia-Pacific by combustion technology and fuel type	64
Table 9 \	Climate impact indicators	66
Table 10 \	Extreme indicator for specific ESCAP member States	68

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The principal authors from Climate Analytics were Anna Chapman, Ursula Fuentes, Gaurav Ganti, Bill Hare, Katharina Lehmann-Uchner, Fahad Saeed and Jessie Ruth Schleypen.

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Executive summary

The Asia-Pacific region, more than any other global region, is highly reliant on fossil fuels. How it transitions away from fossil fuels will be a pivotal issue for Asia-Pacific and the world in the coming years, in light of the current and future climate impacts and the sustainable development benefits possible through an energy transition.

This paper aims to provide insights into how the region can transition away from coal to a renewable-based efficient energy system compatible with the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The study brings together a systematic review of literature and data to provide a background on the current situation as well as drivers of coal expansion in the region, options for a clean energy transition and the benefits of a transition, to highlight policy options. The paper reviews the data on coal's share in the Asia-Pacific region's power generation and capacity, and assesses the benefits of a transition away from coal. It presents an analysis on the impact of greenhouse gas emissions at the regional level as well as regional impacts of global warming, illustrating the importance for the region of achieving the Paris Agreement goals. The paper concludes with a review of proven policies based on existing literature, evaluating their potential application in the region to provide recommendations for Governments to adopt best practices.

Coal generation is still expanding in Asia-Pacific – against the trend in other regions

The Asia-Pacific region has a very large share of current global coal capacity and generation as well as expansion plans. A total of 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region account for about 76 per cent of current global coal generation capacity and for almost the entire (94 per cent) global pipeline¹ of coal-fired power plants under construction, planned or announced. The countries in the South and South West Asia subregion with coal capacity at present are all expanding their capacity, most of them have very high expansion plans compared with their current capacity, reflecting their fast-growing energy supply particularly electricity demand. The group of countries in South and South-West Asia with high expansion plans (Turkey, Pakistan and Bangladesh) include only 2 per cent of current coal capacity within the Asia-Pacific region, but 13 per cent of the expansion pipeline within this region. While India still relies strongly

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