

New Database Reveals World's Biggest Coal Plant Developers

- **120 companies paving the road towards climate chaos**
- **Massive coal new-build plans in 33 'frontier' countries**
- **First forward-looking divestment tool for banks and investors**

Berlin, June 29, 2017

Today, the environmental NGO Urgewald and its partners reveal which companies are at the forefront of plans to expand the world's coal-fired power capacity by a staggering **42.8%**. Urgewald's previous in-depth research played a key role in initiating the coal divestment actions of the Norwegian Government Pension Fund and the insurance corporation Allianz.

Currently, over 1,600 new coal plants and units are planned or under development in 62 countries.¹ If built, they would add over 840,000 MW to the global coal plant fleet. "The companies pushing forward this glut of new coal infrastructure pose a threat to us all, as their projects would bury our chances of keeping global warming well below 2°C," says Urgewald's director, Heffa Schuecking. "When we began our research, we realized that most banks and investors don't have a clue who the world's top coal plant developers are. Our new database closes this gap by providing a 'Who is Who' of the global coal plant pipeline. It is the first forward-looking divestment tool for banks and investors and we hope it will be widely used."

The database Urgewald has published on the webpage coalexit.org identifies the top 120 companies responsible for 2/3 of the new coal power stations planned around the globe. All in all, these 120 companies aim to build over 550,000 MW of new coal power plants – this is about 2 ½ times India's entire coal plant fleet.

KEY FINDINGS

Coal 'Frontier' Countries

It is especially worrying that many new coal plants are planned in 'frontier' countries, which have little or no coal-fired capacity, and will thus lock them into a coal-dependent future for decades to come. "Egypt does not have a single coal-fired power station, but if companies like Shanghai Electric, ACWA Power and Orascom have their way, over 17,000 MW of coal-fired capacity will be installed in the country," says Schuecking. Pakistan's coal capacity is slated to rise from 190 MW to 15,278 MW. In Bangladesh, coal-fired capacity will grow from 250 MW to 15,960 MW and in Myanmar from 160 MW to 5,130 MW.

In total, coal plant developers aim to build new plants in 14 countries, which presently have zero coal-fired capacity. And in 19 further countries increases of over 100% of coal-fired capacity are in the pipeline. "In most of these countries, there is massive

¹ These numbers are based on CoalSwarm's „Global Coal Plant Tracker“, which maps all proposed and existing coal-fired power stations worldwide.

public resistance to these plans,” says Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian People’s Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD). „Banks and investors need to blacklist companies that are driving ever new countries and regions into a destructive cycle of coal dependency.”

For a complete list of coal power expansion plans in ‘frontier’ countries, see:

<https://urgewald.org/country-list-coal-expansion-march2017>

Ranking the Biggest Coal Plant Developers

The world’s largest coal plant developer, India’s National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), is planning to build over 38,000 MW of new coal capacity in India and Bangladesh.



Protest in Bangladesh against an NTPC coal plant that will endanger the Sundarbans World Heritage site. (source: RAN)

Next in line are the Chinese companies SPIC (31,587 MW), China Datang (28,945 MW), Shenhua (26,014 MW), China Huadian (25,810 MW), China Huaneng (20,750 MW) and China Guodian (17,250 MW). All in all, Chinese companies account for 45% of the projects in Urgewald’s database, but around 1/7 of these projects are located outside of China. “If the Chinese government truly wants to position itself as a global climate leader, it needs to rein in its state-owned companies that are flooding the world with new coal power plants,” says Trusha Reddy, Coordinator of the International Coal Network.

Companies from other Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan also play a prominent role in the coal power pipeline. Japan’s Marubeni is the 26th largest coal plant developer worldwide and is involved in joint ventures totaling over 13,000 MW of

new coal in 9 countries. Among these are many projects in 'frontier' countries like Botswana, Egypt, Mongolia and Myanmar.

The largest African coal plant developer is South Africa's Eskom, which is ranked 15th, and the largest European coal plant developer is Poland's PGE, which is ranked 30th in Urgewald's database.

International Investment in the Global Coal Plant Pipeline

"Although the majority of coal plant developers are from Asia, international banks and investors from Europe, North America and Australia all play an important role in financing their dirty business," says Heffa Schuecking. Bonds and shares of top coal developers such as NTPC, KEPCO, Marubeni, Adani or China Resources are routine positions in the portfolios of large international investors and banks.²

Even institutions that have already taken steps to divest from the coal industry such as AXA, Allianz or CalSTRS still hold investments in coal plant developers. "What we've learned from our research, is that coal-based revenue or power generation thresholds fail to capture many of the coal plant developers," explains Schuecking. Only 1/3 of the top coal plant developers have a coal share of revenue that is higher than 30%, the divestment threshold applied by Allianz and the Norwegian Government Pension Fund.

The remaining 2/3 are companies that are either very diversified like Marubeni or come from other sectors, such as the Vietnamese oil company PetroVietnam or the Malaysian company Toyolnk. Toyolnk is an especially bizarre case. The company currently manufactures printing inks for the Malaysian packaging industry, but has decided that its future lies in the coal plant market.

"This exemplifies why we developed this database," says Schuecking. "Many of these companies are not traditional coal companies and would otherwise not be recognized by the finance industry. Ours is the first list that names and shames the companies whose coal power plans are paving the road towards climate chaos."

For financial institutions, saying "Yes" to the Paris Climate Agreement must mean saying "No" to coal plant developers.

MORE INFORMATION

Full database, info graphics & more information at: www.coalexit.org

² For more information on financing, see the recent publications "Banking on Climate Change" and a report on the role of big insurers in the coal industry: <http://bit.ly/2t3UvHa> & <http://unfriendcoal.com/coal/>

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NOTE TO JOURNALISTS:

The coal plant developers' database reflects companies' actual ownership of planned coal-fired power stations and does not cover contractors or equipment suppliers. Concerning the selection of companies listed, please also consider our methodology on www.coalexit.org.

This database is the first publication of a larger research project, investigating over 1,000 companies that are part of the thermal coal value chain. In Fall 2017, further data will be published.