



Facts & Stats

Global Coal Exit List 2020: Interesting Facts & Stats

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Honest Coal Company Statements

The US company **Longview Power**, owner of a 710 MW coal plant in West Virginia just underwent its second bankruptcy process in less than a decade. In explanation of its 2020 bankruptcy, Longview Power's CEO said: "**It was just such an unseasonably warm winter**, if anything, pricing for us was running less than half of what we normally see."¹ The irony of a coal company's CEO complaining about warmer temperatures was apparently lost on him.

One of the major tasks of the **Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation** (JOGMEC) is providing financial and technical support for the overseas development of coal mines by Japanese companies. For its company profile presentation, JOGMEC has come up with the winning slogan: "**Excavating the Future**".

Sunset Power is the name of an Australian company that runs a 1,320 MW coal power station in New South Wales and plans to build a new 1,360 MW lignite-fired power station 150 km east of Melbourne. A fitting name for a company clinging to a "sunset industry."

Coal Mining

The world's largest thermal coal producer is **Coal India**. Last year, the company produced 573 million tons, accounting for 8% of the world's thermal coal production. Out of 415 coal miners listed on the GCEL, the top 30 companies account for half of the thermal coal mined in 2019.

While the big multinational miners Anglo American and BHP have announced plans to exit their thermal coal business over the next 3 years, **Glencore** remains committed to coal and was the world's 9th largest thermal coal producer in 2019.

The Thar desert in Pakistan's Sindh Province is the world's most heavily populated desert and probably the world's worst location for a coal mine. Yet, the Chinese companies **Sino Sindh Resources** and **Shanghai Electric Group** are developing a huge open pit lignite mine and a 1,320 MW coal power station there. A recently

¹ <https://longviewpower.com/news/longview-power-sees-quick-bankruptcy-exit-plans-gas-and-solar-builds>

published hydrological study warns: “Mine de-watering is likely to affect the water supplies of 1.65 million Tharis, removing the sole permanent water supply for many.”²

Developing a coal mine on a floodplain seems an equally bad idea, but this is exactly what the **Baralaba Coal Company** plans to do in Australia. The planned open-cut mine would be situated only 500 meters from the Dawson River and residents warn that flooding will lead to long-term contamination of water supplies. Baralaba Coal is a 100% subsidiary of the US insurance giant **Liberty Mutual**. Liberty Mutual began applying a coal restriction policy to its clients in 2019, but has up to now refused to shut down its own coal subsidiary.

Coal Power

10 countries accounted for 87% of the world’s coal power generation in 2019. These were in descending order: China, India, the United States, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Germany, Russia, Indonesia and Australia.³ The largest coal plant operators per each of the above-named countries are: China Energy, NTPC, Duke Energy, J-Power, Korea Electric Power Corporation, Eskom, RWE, SUEK, PLN Persero and AGL Energy.

In spite of persistent warnings by the UN Secretary General “to stop building new coal plants by 2020”, 263 companies are still developing new coal plants in 41 countries around the world.

With over 9 GW, Japan has the largest coal plant pipeline of any high-income country. But Japanese companies are planning to build even more coal-fired capacity overseas. In Vietnam and Indonesia, Japan’s big trading houses and utilities are developing coal plants with a total installed capacity of 10.8 GW. When it comes to developing new coal power projects abroad, however, Chinese companies like **China Huadian** or **PowerChina** take first place. All in all, Chinese companies are developing over 37 GW of new coal-fired capacity in 14 countries.

Coal Infrastructure

Hard coal mines can’t be opened without access to coal railways or ports. In Mozambique, companies like **Essar Ports & Terminals** or the **Italian-Thai Development Public Company** therefore play a central role in determining whether the country’s enormous coal reserves will be developed. Essar Port & Terminals is developing a 20 million tons per annum coal terminal in the Mozambican port city of Beira and the Italian-Thai Development Public Company is building a 600 km railway and a deep sea port at Macuse for the export of up to 100 million tons of coal annually.

By the same token, coal plants can only be situated in areas where adequate infrastructure enables their coal supply. A typical example is Bangladesh, where the

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1573293>

³ Global Energy Monitor Coal Plant Tracker, January 2020

Payra Port Authority is building a deep sea coal terminal to enable annual imports of 20 million tons of coal for a planned hub of new coal power stations.

57 companies on the GCEL are developing new coal transport infrastructure or facilities to liquefy or gasify coal. These are billion dollar investments that lock countries into a long-term path of coal development and should be shunned by financial institutions.

Financial Institutions and Coal

Up to now, **222 financial institutions have adopted coal restriction policies**. But according to the Coal Policy Tool developed by the NGO *Reclaim Finance*, most of these policies are still lacking ambition. What's even worse: **211 major financial institutions do not have any coal policy** at all. For a detailed overview, visit: <https://coalpolicytool.org>

The 2020 GCEL can be downloaded at: www.coalexit.org

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