



PCU071137

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Received  
9 JUN 2017

Scanning Room

This is a submission to the Hume Coal Project SSD 7172

I object to this project and recommend that it be rejected.

South Korea as of 2016 was burning in excess of 100 million tonnes of coal per year given the estimated extraction figures over the 25 years life of the mine this would produce enough coal to last South Korea 18 months is it worth the risk of not only destroying the ecology and possibly polluting the ground water of the area but also jeopardise the large and varied economy based on visitors to the area coming for country weekends in the fresh air for whom a large contingent of people rely on for income providing Accommodation and food the area is also very popular for weddings which are catered for in many ways the population of the region is also growing with a lot of people escaping the over development of Sydney. Hume coal has greatly played down the varied economy of the area in their EIS STATEMENT - China and India and the rest of the world are backing away from coal and they will expect their trading partners to do the same this project I ask the Government to reject this project could cost NSW FAR MORE than the miniscule royalties they may gain Signed, the Government should use the precautionary principle in Planning in its decision on this mine.

*Terry Look*

I do not donate to any political party

If you wish to maintain your privacy in this submission from the department's website please tick this box

- request your name be withheld from the list of submitters and
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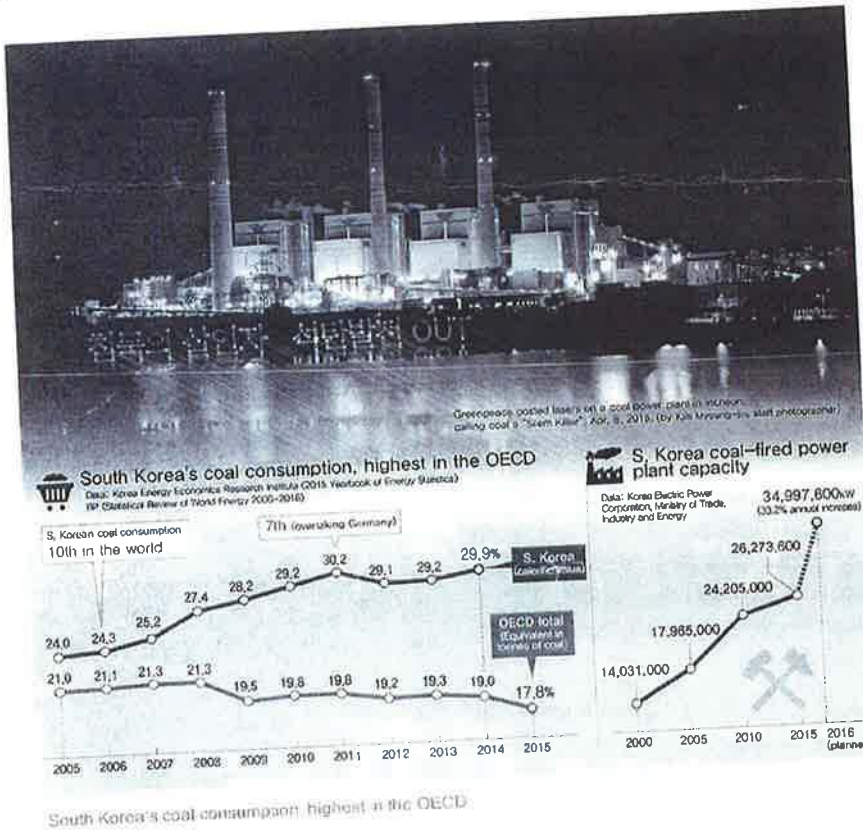


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# South Korea must choose energy future: dirty coal or renewable?

Posted on : Jul.17,2016 10:16 KST Modified on : Jul.17,2016 10:16 KST

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## I Editorial · opinion

[Editorial] On 37th anniversary, more truth of Gwangju massacre must come to light

[Editorial] Can the South Korea-US summit lead to a breakthrough on North Korea?

[Editorial] UN Torture Committee recommends revising comfort women agreement

[Editorial] Now is the time for South Korea to take the lead on solving diplomatic issues

## Multimedia



[Photo] One song makes a big difference



## Despite growing alarm over air pollution, government planning to construct new coal-fired plants

The efforts of other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has had the incidental result of reducing the price of coal, but South Korea should not assume that it will be able to exploit this indefinitely.

As the expression goes, the Stone Age did not end for lack of stones. The question now is whether we will be able to put down the burning stone that has dominated the fossil fuel age. In order to do so, we will have to leave the coal buried in the ground, like the fossil it is, and rush forward to the renewable energy age. While everyone points their finger at coal as a dirty energy source, in 2013, 41.3% of the world's electricity was made by burning coal. Coal's status as the world's primary energy source is as solid as ever, but efforts to advance a future with renewable energy as the new title holder are formidable, as well.

At the end of May, at the G7 Summit in Japan, participating countries announced a commitment to ending fossil fuel subsidies by 2025. Throughout the entire process of fossil fuel production, from manufacturing to consumption, various kinds of subsidies serve to keep the price of fossil fuels and products that use fossil fuels low in order to promote their consumption. Coal was not specifically mentioned in the resolution, but coal is the most obvious target, as it is the source of 46% of the carbon dioxide emissions created by fuel consumption worldwide, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

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Though the government announced on July 6 that it would shutter 10 aging coal-fired plants and that it would stop commissioning new coal-fired plants as part of measures to reduce airborne particulate matter, this hardly means that South Korea has joined the ranks of countries reducing their dependence on coal.

The government had already been planning to shut down or replace the fuel in four of the 10 plants, and the six whose shutdown was newly confirmed (No. 1 and No. 2 at Samcheonpo Coal Power Plant, No. 1 and No. 2 at Boryeong Coal Power Plant, and No. 1 and No. 2 at Honam Coal Power Plant) will not actually be shuttered until between 2020 and 2025. This means that the plants will operate for between four and nine more years, for a total operational lifespan ranging from 36 years on the low end (Samcheonpo) to 49 years on the high end (Honam).

Considering that Chungnam Seochon Coal Power Plant (which the government already announced it would shut down in the seventh basic energy plan confirmed last year) is expected to remain in operation for 35 years altogether, the government's announcement on July 6 looks less like a plan for an early phase-out of coal plants and more like a plan for extending their lifespan.

#### More coal-fired power plants being constructed than shut down

Furthermore, the government refuses to budge on its plan to build nine more coal plants by 2022. The nine power plants will have an installed capacity of 8,420MW – more than double the 3,345MW installed capacity of the 10 power plants the government intends to close.

Assuming that this 5,075MW addition in coal-fired power generation capacity operates at the efficiency of the 870MW Yeongheung Coal Plant No. 6, the most advanced plant currently in operation (as of 2015, producing 7,002,528MWh of electricity per 2,787,403 tons of coal input) the amount of coal that is used for power generation will increase by more than 16 million tons a year. This means that South Korea is a long way from becoming coal-free.

South Korea is actively involved in the construction of coal-fired plants not only at home but also in other countries. South Korea's investment in the overseas coal industry by way of export credit agencies in 2014 amounted to US\$7 billion, the most of any country in the OECD aside from Japan.

This is why South Korea is under fire from both domestic and international environmental groups for selling greenhouse gases and air pollution.

This is also why the board of directors of the Green Climate Fund – whose secretariat is located in South Korea – decided during a meeting on June 30 not to authorize the Export-Import Bank of Korea to carry out the fund's projects and to distribute its money.

The number one reason that South Korea is ignoring the movement away from coal and keeps trying to increase its coal consumption is because coal is cheap.

Statistics for 2015 provided by the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) list the price for 1kWh of electricity purchased from power generating companies according to the type of generation: 62.61 won (US\$0.05) for nuclear power, 71.41 won for bituminous coal, 105.99 won for wind power, 153.84 won for solar energy and 169.49 won for liquefied natural gas (LNG).

While nuclear power is even cheaper than bituminous coal, potent opposition to nuclear power makes the construction of coal-fueled power stations seem a rational choice. But coal's price does not account for the cost of environmental damage and health problems caused by air pollution, including the particulate matter that has made headlines recently.

But greenhouse gases and particulate matter are not coal plants' only problematic products. These plants also produce heavy metals and various other trace toxins that are harmful to the human body, though they receive scant attention in South Korea.

According to a study published by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2011 that laid the groundwork for the agency's MATS (Mercury and Air Toxics Standards) regulations for coal plants, these plants are virtual heavy metal factories, churning out 50% of the mercury, 62% of the arsenic, 39% of the cadmium and 22% of the chrome among all US environmental emissions.

#### South Korea backpedaling on reduction of greenhouse emissions

In South Korea, a survey of this sort has only been done for mercury. According to a report called "A Second Study on Mercury Emissions from Air Polluting Facilities," which an industry and academic cooperative team of researchers at Yonsei University prepared for the Ministry of Environment in



# Posco steel project faces steely opposition

**Locals in India's Odisha state continue protest against proposed \$12bn plant despite project getting key sanction.**

28 Jan 2014 10:55 GMT |



**Saif Khalid**



**Sanjay Kumar**

Sanjay Kumar is a New Delhi based journalist. He writes on Indian politics and South Asian affairs.

The lifeless branches of betel vines are lying bare in the field, some of the dried leaves still clinging to the twigs, with many of them likely blown away by the winds into oblivion.

Betel vineyards, the economic mainstay of the local farmers in the remote village of Jagatsinghpur in India's eastern Odisha state, are being destroyed to make way for a massive steel plant to be built by South Korean steel giant Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO).

Live Box 2013927135832671882

The nearly \$12bn project, India's biggest foreign direct investment, has been stalled for the past eight years due to stiff resistance by local farmers and tribals, who face displacement due to the project.

On January 10, the country's environment ministry cleared the project, but asked the Korean company to spend on "social commitments".

"Though an additional burden has been put on us, we are happy with the revalidation," POSCO-India spokesman IG Lee told Reuters news agency.

The PPSS leader, who has more than 50 cases slapped on him related to the anti-POSCO agitation, has been arrested twice in the past.

Repeated calls to seek Orissa government's reaction on the issue went unattended.

Superintendent of Police of the Jagatsinghpur district, Satyabrata Bhoi, denied that the police was biased.

"Actually, this POSCO thing started in 2005. From 2005 till date there are charges against 100-150 people, not 2,000 people," he told Al Jazeera.

The UN independent human rights experts in December 2013 urged company promoters to halt the mega-steel project citing serious human rights concerns.

"Forced evictions constitute gross violations of human rights," said the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing Raquel Rolnik.

"People who would be evicted for the POSCO project have relied on their lands for generations in order to obtain adequate food and sustain themselves and their families," the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, said.

The South Korean steel major, the world's fourth largest steel producer, has defended its track record.

"POSCO has been highly sensitive to the human rights of the local community from the inception of the project. POSCO has never infringed upon any human right of any individual in the course of project implementation," the company said on its website.

### Spurt in protests

In recent years, there has been a spurt in protests by tribal people living in resource-rich areas of Odisha against government plans to evict them to make way for mining and industries.

An inept bureaucracy has meant that the project-affected people have most often not got adequate and fair compensation.

Odisha, which holds nearly 30 percent of the country's total mineral resources, has seen a number of agitations against land acquisition.

In July, 2013, the Dongaria Kondh tribal people of Niyamgiri Hills in the state rejected aluminum mining by Vedanta Plc, a UK-based company. The tribal council was given the final say by the Supreme Court, India's top court.

In 2008, at least 14 tribals were killed in police firing during a protest against a steel plant owned by the Tata group.

"They are not considered equal, their rights are not respected and most of the time, the tribals don't even know about their own rights. There is a loss of livelihood, there is a loss of housing, there is breakdown of community, there is breakdown of social structure," Chaudhary from HLRN said.

In 2005, POSCO signed a memorandum of understanding with the resource-rich state to build the plant at an investment of \$12bn (Rs 52,000 crore).

There is a proposal by the Odisha government to give iron ore mining lease to POSCO in Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts.

But opposition parties and activists have accused the Odisha government of leasing the mines cheaply. Environmentalists say the project will affect the livelihood of locals dependent on the surrounding forests.

The mega steel plant, which experts say will generate an estimated 50,000 direct and indirect jobs, will result in the displacement of nearly 22,000 people from the area and thousands more from surrounding areas.

But it will also prove to be a death knell to sustainable agriculture around the betel vines.

A vineyard of about 4,000 square feet generates an income of nearly Rs 30,000-40,000 (\$650) per month for each farmer. The popular Kujangi betel leaves reach big cities such as Varanasi and Mumbai, and are also exported to neighbouring Bangladesh and Pakistan.

With little skill to work in the proposed plant, the farmers' future look uncertain.

Home > What's new > Steel company POSCO violates human rights in India: ABP invests 64 million.

## STEEL COMPANY POSCO VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA: ABP INVESTS 64 MILLION.



26 January 2012

Biju Mathew, an American professor from India who is also active for the 'Mining Zone Peoples Solidarity Group (MZPSG)', visited Both ENDS' office in Amsterdam on January 19th. He was returning from a 'fact-finding mission' in the province of Orissa in India, where Korean steel company POSCO has plans for building a steel plant, several iron ore mines, roads, a railroad

and a private harbor.

### Disastrous consequences

The Dutch pension fund ABP invests 64 million euros in this huge project. If the plans go ahead at least 22,000 farmers and 30,000 fishermen will be displaced and lose their primary source of income. Moreover, irreversible environmental damage will be caused. People from local villages have been objecting the plans for years already, but their protests are being brutally suppressed by police and local militias. Farmlands have been deliberately destroyed and the villagers are attacked repeatedly. The area is completely shut off from the outside world and the locals are captive in their own villages, without access to medical care.

### Withdraw

During the public meeting on January 19 at Both ENDS, Mathew gave insight into the problem and the current state of affairs. Mathew and MZPSG make an urgent appeal to ABP to withdraw from the project. Both ENDS supports Mathew and his fellow activists in their battle against POSCO's plans. On January 23, a Dutch national newspaper published an article on the subject after having interviewed Mathews. To date, the ABP has not withdrawn from the project.

For additional information see the article 'ABP must withdraw from steel project in India' in the Volkskrant of Monday, January 23 this year

Report: [Iron and steel: the Posco-India story](#)

Photo: human shield of villagers against police and militias in province of Orissa.

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