



PCU071137

Name:

TERRY LOOK

Address:

9 BEDFORD PLACE
BURRABOOD NSW 2576.

Date:

6/6/17

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Department of Planning
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 visiting 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. Home 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 could cost NSW FAR MORE than the miniscule royalties they may gain. I ask the Government to reject this project 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

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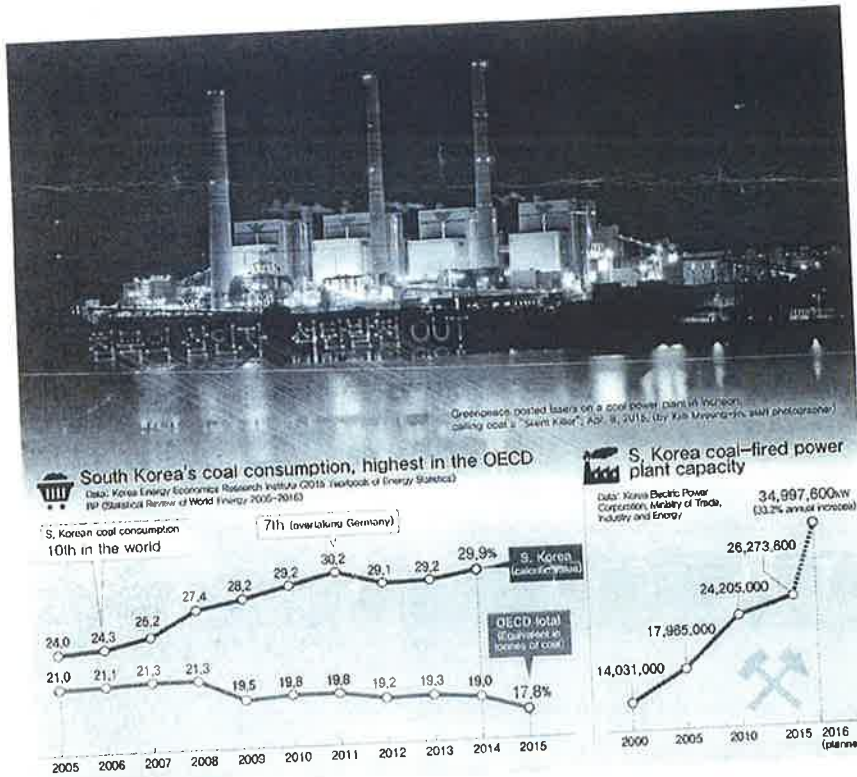


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South Korea must choose energy future: dirty coal or renewable?

86 G+ 0

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



South Korea's coal consumption: highest in the OECD

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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As coal is the main contributor among fossil fuels to the greenhouse gas that is causing climate change, ending its use is considered a priority. Now that the countries that possess over 60% of the world's economic power and hold the most clout within the international society have nailed down a deadline for the end of fossil fuel subsidies, it seems the global community, which was already moving away from coal, will hasten its steps in that direction.

The change is already apparent in the numbers. According to global energy company BP, as the demand for power grows in developing countries, worldwide commercial consumption of coal increased 22.7% from 2005 to 2015. However, OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) member countries, the majority of which have committed to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, reduced commercial coal consumption by 16.7% over the same period. As it is impossible to reduce greenhouse gas while consuming mass amounts of coal, the reduction is inevitable.

The US, the number one producer of accumulated greenhouse gas emissions, is also expected to rapidly move away from coal. While President Obama's Clean Power Plan placed restrictions on coal power, presumptive presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has pledged to source 33% of the country's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2027, up from 13% in 2014. Up until 2005, 50% of the electricity generated in the US was sourced from coal. That figure dropped to 33% last year, thanks to the country's large increase in natural gas power generation.

For China, the world's biggest consumer of coal, cutting back on the fossil fuel is not just an issue of preventing climate change, but also a necessary step for solving the social issue of air pollution. In 2013, with the State Council's announcement of a plan to prevent air pollution, the country resolved to place restrictions on increases in coal consumption while also working to develop renewable energy. The Renewables 2015 Global Status Report, prepared by REN21 (Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century), clearly indicated the result of these efforts, with China ranking highest in four categories, including scale of investment, solar energy generation facility capacity, wind energy generation facility capacity and total renewable energy generation facility capacity.

The UK's efforts to move away from coal are especially striking. While the British Empire was built through an industrial revolution powered by coal, Britain is now pushing through a plan to stop using coal for the production of electricity completely, with all coal power plants set to be closed by 2025. According to media reports, for the first time since the first coal power plant began operating in London in the 19th century, Britain's coal power generation dropped to zero at several points last month. With that news in mind, the goal does not seem unachievable.

The world's private sector is also busy working to put an end to coal power. A look at a website that tracks the current status of worldwide investment institutions' divestment in coal-related businesses (<http://gofossilfree.org>) shows that, as of July 7, 544 funds, universities, foundations and other investment institutions, including the world's largest pension fund, the sovereign wealth fund of Norway, are withdrawing investment from coal-related enterprises. The investment institutions manage funds worth approximately 3.4 trillion dollars.

S. Korea coal consumption rises to 5th place

On this front, South Korea is headed in the opposite direction from the rest of the world.

According to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy's 2015 annual energy statistics report, South Korea ranked 10th for commercial coal fuel consumption in 2006, at 54.8 million toe (tons of oil equivalent). In 2011, South Korea bypassed Germany, Poland and Australia to reach the number seven spot, with 83.6 million toe. While coal consumption in most advanced countries is decreasing or stagnant, these numbers are the result of a steady increase in the number of coal-fired power plants in South Korea. According to the IEA, a per-capita coal consumption of 2.29 tce (tons of coal equivalent) in 2014 means that South Korea has already moved past the US and China to become number five on the list.

When it comes to coal consumption for fuel, South Korea seems poised to catch up to Russia and South Africa for the number five position behind China, India, the US and Japan. Eleven new coal power plants, which will each burn millions of tons of coal per year, are scheduled to be completed by next year, increasing the country's generation capacity by more than 33% from 26,274 megawatts at the end of 2015 to 34,998 megawatts. Even if the new power plants maintain an average rate of operation, the annual domestic coal use for the generation of power will balloon from approximately 81,558,000 tons last year to over 100 million tons.

I Hot Issue

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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

2011, 27.19% of mercury emissions came from thermal power stations (97.6% of which were coal-fired).

In 2007, prestigious medical journal The Lancet published research concluding that, for every 1TWh of electricity generated, 24.5 people die prematurely and 225 people come down with serious diseases that require hospital care – and that assumes that the coal-fired plants are actually following emissions standards. Given South Korea's 207.3TWh of electricity produced by burning coal in 2015, this implies that there were 5,078.9 premature deaths. But considering South Korea's small territory and its high population density, the actual damage is most likely even greater than that.

A joint research project carried out last year by Greenpeace, the environmental advocacy group, and researchers from Harvard University predicted that fine particulate matter (PM2.5) produced by the 20 coal plants that are either under construction or being planned in South Korea will result in 1,020 premature deaths a year. This incalculable sacrifice is a cost that need not be paid if we used renewable energy.

Ahn Byeong-ok, director of the Institute for Climate Change Action, offered his thoughts on how much longer South Korea can afford to indulge in cheap coal.

"There are already a lot of places around the world that have reached grid parity – that is, where renewable energy costs about the same as coal-fired energy. With renewable energy getting cheaper at a rate that is faster than we expected, coal may start to lose its appeal," Ahn said.

In a report published last month titled "The Power to Change: Solar and Wind Cost Reduction Potential to 2025," the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) predicted that by 2025 the rapid development of renewable energy technology would push down the generation cost of onshore wind by 26%, offshore wind by 35%, and solar energy by 59% compared to last year's rates. This means that a day will soon come when coal's comparative price advantage will vanish, even without factoring in its environmental cost.

This could mean that South Korea's excessive capacity in coal plants may become an albatross around its neck: the country might have to purchase power from polluting coal plants even after it costs more than clean electricity.

Since increasing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions around the world necessarily implies less demand for coal, some experts think it will become even cheaper to buy coal in the future. But even if they are right, there is only so long that South Korea – one of the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters, ranking seventh in carbon dioxide emissions – can keep reaping the windfall of disregarding the global community's efforts to cut emissions.

"There's a tendency for the international community to tolerate poor countries and developing countries when they use cheap coal despite their greenhouse gas emissions. But South Korea won't be able to keep getting away with blending in with developing countries by turning cheap coal into cheap electricity," said Lee Sang-hun, director of the Green Energy Strategy Institute.

By signing the Paris Agreement on climate change, South Korea promised the international community to reduce its greenhouse emissions by 37% of business-as-usual projections until 2030, as part of a new climate protocol that will launch after 2020. This regime will demand that the country's target keep increasing.

The view shared by climate change experts is that, if the South Korean government moves ahead with its plans to increase the number of coal-fired plants, it will be effectively impossible to reach these targets. This means that, somewhere down the line, South Korea may find itself forced by international approbation to hurriedly "call off the party" and try to catch up to the coal-free campaign.

The future is not something that just happens; it is defined by each and every one of the choices that we make today. What future will South Korea choose to make?

By Kim Jeong-su, senior staff writer

Please direct questions or comments to [english@hani.co.kr]

Original Korean

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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 environment clearance to the multi-billion project comes after a proposed captive port nearby was delinked from the much-delayed plant.

The National Green Tribunal, which has been looking into the felling of trees in the area, has finally agreed to give the project forest clearance.

The clearance notwithstanding, opposition to the project runs deep in the area.

Activists allege that the government has run a witch-hunt against members of POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti, PPSS (Committee to oppose POSCO) - formed in 2005 to counter the project.

PPSS spokesman Prashant Paikary told Al Jazeera that the environment ministry rushed with its decision eyeing the general elections.

"POSCO claims that it spent Rs 400 crore (\$65m) under corporate social responsibility on peripheral development work, but nothing has been done in the area. You can come and see for yourself," he said.

Paikary said that the democratic movement against the proposed plant will continue.

Al Jazeera's call to India's ministry of environment was not answered.

Poor, mineral-rich region

Odisha state, a poor but mineral-rich region, has been zealously pushing for the project as part of its industrialisation policy.

In July last year, the state government led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, announced the completion of land acquisition that has seen persistent opposition from the local people.

In February and July, police had destroyed vineyards in Govindpur village in Jagatsinghpur district, about 150km east of state capital, Bhubaneswar, amid opposition from farmers, many of whom were allegedly injured in the police action.

The acquisition took place despite suspension of environment clearance by the National Green Tribunal in March last year.

"The state is trying to move them [local people] out from there. Their livelihood, their habitat is never considered a priority by the state," Shivani Chaudhary, Executive Director, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), told Al Jazeera.

Local farmers and tribals, who stand to lose their houses, lands and livelihood, in Gadkujang, Dinkia, Nuagaon, Paatna and Govindpur villages have been putting up a struggle against the government's land acquisition plan for the past eight years.

There is heavy police presence round the clock in the area and fear stalks Dinkia and Govindpur villages, which have become the battleground of resistance against the proposed plant.

Crackdown alleged

Paikary of PPSS said a large number of people opposed to the proposed plant have not ventured out of their villages for nearly five years fearing arrest by the police.

"Today, there are about 245 cases against nearly 2,000 people, including 500 women," Paikary said.

Abhay Das, a resident of Dinkia village who is opposed to the project, alleged that the police had been supporting the company.

"We will continue our agitation against the project."

Chaudhary of the HLRN said: "There is collusion between the state and corporate interests. People are not even allowed to go out for medical purposes. You know the kind of violations that are happening there in Jagatsinghpur's Dinkia are absolutely unbelievable."

Abhay Sahu, PPSS leader, was arrested in May last year in connection with a bomb blast in Paatna village that killed three of its own members in March. Anti-POSCO activists allege that the bomb was thrown at their members by pro-POSCO men and that Sahu was framed.

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.

"We don't want POSCO, there is no compromise on this position. We don't believe the government's claim on rehabilitation. People who were affected by mining projects in the past are yet to be rehabilitated," PPSS spokesperson said.

Environmental impact

The environmental impact of the project is immense as hundreds of thousands of trees have been cut to clear the forests, which acted as natural barrier against cyclones such as the one in 1999 that caused the death of about 10,000 people.

The government says most of the betel farms are on forest land. As a result, it doesn't need the villagers' consent for acquisition.

The village assemblies of Govindpur and Dinkia, home to the largest number of vineyards, had passed resolutions last year, under the Forest Rights Act, not to divert any forest land for the proposed plant.

The Act, passed in 2006, grants legal recognition to the rights of forest dwelling communities. But the country's top court approved diversion of the forest land for the project in 2008.

With the latest forest clearance, the controversial project has taken one giant step towards fruition.

However, environmentalists say the plant, which will extract huge quantity of water from the Mahanadi river, may lead to scarcity of water in the region.

Moreover, the project has split the village communities.

Superintendent of police Bhoi said 52 families from the Paatna village have been forced to flee their homes for supporting the project, a charge denied by anti-POSCO activists.

"The government and the company are using divide and rule here and the 52 families living in the POSCO transit camp are an example of that," a PPSS spokesman said.


"The government gives only Rs 20 (\$0.317) to each individual as daily allowance. They are living there for several years and the government has not yet rehabilitated them."

Many of those who accepted the compensation initially have already exhausted their money and are now unemployed, according to a report by New Delhi-based *Hindustan Times* newspaper.

"The economic benefit comes at a very large cost. People are losing their livelihood and education and are being forced to migrate to urban areas," Chaudhary of HLRN said.

Source: Al Jazeera

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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 steal: the Posco-India story](#)

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

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Both ENDS

Nieuwe Kruisweg 45

1018 VC Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Telephone +31 20 5306 600

Fax +31 20 670 8049

E-mail info@bothends.org

Web www.bothends.org





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Iran: The Sanctions Hotel

At the height of Iran's isolation, a fashion designer and an architect attempt to turn an old mud palace into a hotel.

Middle East, Iran, Arts & Culture



Name:

TERRY Cook

Address:

9 BEDFORD PLACE BURRAGO NSW 2576

Date:

6/6/17.

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

This is a submission to the BERRIMA RAIL PROJECT EIS. SSD7171

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

this project to allow more coal trains to
and from the proposed mine will create longer
waiting periods at level crossings and will
hinder emergency services because of the
extra closing periods of the level crossings
it will also be a detriment to the
many tourists who visit the area for the
many WIN VILLAGES & Villages throughout the
area the EIS and the D.A. lodged by
Hume coal (ES 3.3) shows these delays and level
crossings will be part of everyday life
Should this mining project go ahead
the NSW government may in the light of
this project have to spend money upgrading
these level crossings to protect travellers
and stop people taking risks when delayed at
level crossings. The Government should use the
Precautionary principle in planning for this proposal.
I ask the Government to reject this project

Signed,



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