

PRESS RELEASE: Immediate Action Must be Brought to New and Existing Japanese Coal-Fired Power Plants

Coal-fired power plants emit large amounts of CO₂

One new plant emits over 100 million tonnes

April 9th 2015

Kiko Network

1. 127 Mt of additional CO₂ emissions from new coal-fired power plants

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, new plans for coal-fired power plants have been put forth one after another since 2012. In light of new information reported today, there are plans for 43 new power plants, totaling 21.2GW. If all these power plants are to be built, this will amount to approximately 127 Mt--CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere. This amount is equivalent to 10% of Japan's emissions for 1990 (1.26 billion tonnes).

To reach the government's goal of 80% emissions reduction by 2050, greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced by approximately 252 Mt-CO₂ (compared with 1990 levels). Emissions from these new power plants, which are likely to operate until 2050, account for half of this target. Coal-fired power plant construction plans like these moves Japan away from effective climate change mitigation. These plans must be reviewed and aborted as soon as possible.

(List of Coal fired power plants: New Plans, [Bids, Shut downs in Japan](#), Updated April 9th, 2014)

2. The great amount of CO₂, in addition to SO_x, NO_x, emitted from existing coal-fired power plants

Today, we are announcing the release of our report "Data Analysis of Coal-Fired Power Plants". This report is based on published information from utilities as well as supplemental data. For the 68 units operating in 2005, the following facts on emissions per unit were uncovered:

- CO₂ emissions per unit (gross power generation) ranged from 932g/kWh to 759g/kWh. Emissions from the "Worst 10" accounts for the emissions of 30% of all 68 units.
- Units that went into operation after 1991 had higher facility utilization rates and power generation.

- Even highly efficient units (thermal efficiency of approximately 42%) emitted high amounts of CO₂. Units in the 1000MW class emit approximately 6 Mt/CO₂ per year.
- All units emit SO_x and NO_x, although usually emitted in small amounts. However, some units emit high amounts of SO_x and NO_x due to lack of measures.

Based on the above findings, the report touches on the necessity of measures for the existing coal-fired power generation, monitoring and disclosure of emissions data for each unit and the re-investigation of the health impacts from air pollutants from the power plants.

(The full report, “Data Analysis of Coal-Fired Power Plants”, can be found here (in Japanese only))

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