



## Press Release

Toxic 20: Unmasking Indonesia's Most Toxic Coal Fired Power Plants

# Japan and China Named Largest Funders of Indonesia's Deadliest Coal Plants: Report Warns of 156,000 Premature Deaths and USD 109 Billion in Losses

**Jakarta, November 4th, 2025** - Indonesia risks **156,000 premature deaths and USD 109 billion (IDR 1.813 quadrillion)** in economic losses from the cumulative operation of the country's 20 most dangerous coal-fired power plants (CFPPs) through 2050, according to a new report released today by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Celios, and Trend Asia.

The report, titled *“Toxic Twenty: Unmasking Indonesia's Most Toxic Coal Fired Power Plants,”* highlights the severe health, environmental, and economic impacts of continued coal dependence. It comes one year into President Prabowo Subianto's administration, which has yet to take concrete steps toward his stated goal of retiring coal plants and achieving 100% renewable energy within the next decade.

*“Jakarta's rising cases of acute respiratory infections are not isolated incidents—they're linked to transboundary pollution from coal-fired power plants surrounding the capital,” said **Katherine Hasan**, Analyst at CREA. “Indonesia's dependence on coal continues to endanger public health, strain the economy, and undermine its own climate and energy transition targets.”*

## Massive Health and Economic Toll

The report assesses pollution dispersion and health outcomes associated with coal combustion, including **premature births, low birth weight, childhood asthma, stroke, work absences, and premature deaths**. The analysis covers both historical impacts (2000–2025) and projected future effects (2026–2050).





Even with the **Energy Ministry's Regulation No. 10/2025** outlining a coal retirement roadmap, the study warns that its implementation remains *optional* and *financially dependent*, rather than mandatory for climate and community protection. The current energy mix—still heavily reliant on coal—is delaying Indonesia's clean energy transition.

The report estimates that the top 20 CFPPs in the **Sumatra, Java, and Bali** grids could cause **annual economic losses of IDR 52.4 trillion** and reduce public income by **IDR 48.4 trillion**. Moreover, pollution-related damage to agriculture, plantations, and fisheries could lead to the **loss of 1.45 million jobs**, contradicting the Prabowo-Gibran government's promise to create 19 million new jobs.

*“Coal-fired power plants are eroding the livelihoods of farmers, fishers, and plantation workers,” said **Atina Rizqiana**, Researcher at Celios. “While the government promises job creation, coal pollution is destroying the economic foundation of communities across Indonesia.”*

## Foreign Investment Driving the Crisis

The *Toxic Twenty* report also identifies foreign financiers behind Indonesia's most hazardous coal plants. **Japan** and **China** are the largest backers, followed by **Indonesia** and the **United Kingdom**. In terms of capacity, Japan leads with investments in projects totaling **63,328 MW**, followed by China (**18,815 MW**), Indonesia (**17,330 MW**), and the UK (**10,325 MW**).

*“Early retirement of coal plants is not only a public health imperative—it's a financial one,” said **Novita Indri Pratiwi**, Energy Campaigner at Trend Asia. “Continuing to finance coal is a false solution. Governments and financiers, particularly Japan and China, must stop funding coal projects and support a just, sustainable energy transition instead.”*

Despite invitations, the **Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources** did not attend the launch or provide comments on the report. The Ministry plays a central role in planning Indonesia's coal phase-out strategy.

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## Communities Statement:

*“We fishermen are the ones most affected by the Pangkalan Susu coal-fired power plant. The hot waste it releases into the sea has destroyed our fishing grounds. Many of us have been forced to abandon the ocean and change professions—I now work in construction. We’ve lost our livelihoods, and the plant’s pollution has even caused skin rashes in our community. We want this coal plant shut down because it is destroying our lives.”*

**Dedy Susanto, a Fisherman from Pangkalan Susu, North Sumatera  
(near Pangkalan Susu CFPP)**

*“We, the residents of Mekarsari, Indramayu, have been fighting the coal power plant project for years. Indramayu 1 CFPP is already operating, and Indramayu 2 CFPP is still being pushed forward—even after Japan withdrew its funding. The government knows the damage these plants cause; we’ve gone all the way to the Presidential Palace to raise our voices. Air pollution has harmed our health, and our land no longer yields as it used to. Coconut trees that once thrived here can no longer grow. Instead of closing the plant, the government is now burning coal mixed with sawdust. We deserve clean air and a healthy future.”*

**Ahmad Yani, a residents of Mekarsari, Indramayu, West Java  
(near Indramayu 1 CFPP)**

*“The Cilacap coal plant has devastated our community’s health and economy. Many residents of Winong have been forced to leave because they can no longer afford medical costs. The fish market has closed, our coastline has eroded, and homes are sinking. Those who resist the plant’s expansion are left with no choice but to sell their homes to it.”*

**Novi, a residents of Winong, Cilacap, Central Java  
(near Cilacap CFPP)**

*“We were forced to leave our homes just 500 meters from the Nagan coal plant because the area became unfit for human life. Many children now suffer from respiratory and skin diseases, and agricultural yields have fallen drastically. Ironically, despite living next to a power plant, we still face difficulty accessing electricity.”*

**Darna, a residents of Nagan Raya, Aceh  
(near Nagan Raya CFPP)**



**Attachment:**

- Toxic 20 website ([click here](#))
- Short brief Toxic 20 ([click here](#))
- Documentation ([click here](#))

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