

The 31st Clean Coal Day International Symposium Held in Japan

Pathway towards Carbon Neutrality - in Pursuit of 3E+S in Coal Utilization

Japan Coal Frontier Organization (JCOAL), with co-organized by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC), held the 31st Clean Coal Day International Symposium for 2 days (September 5–6, 2022) in a hybrid manner for the first time in the history of the event. The Symposium was sponsored by 9 embassies in Tokyo including the U.S. Embassy, 4 state governments of Canada and Australia, the Global CCS Institute (GCCSI), Ube City, and the City of Kushiro

Held as a hybrid manner mainly consisting of online sessions due to COVID-19, a total of 1,800 participants from 23 countries representing industry, governments, and academia participated in the symposium. The event included presentations from the major coal-producing/consuming countries such as U.S.A., India, China, Australia, Indonesia as well as relevant institutions and companies, the international organizations such as the World Coal Association (WCA), the Global CCS Institute (GCCSI), ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and VGBE Energy e. V. (VGBE). Many active and fruitful discussions were made with a variety of information and opinions. JCOAL has released JCOAL's Statement below.

JCOAL'S STATEMENT

- Towards the realization of Carbon Neutrality by 2050, the whole world is rapidly shifting away from fossil fuels to non-fossil fuels today. However, emerging countries, especially Asian countries have no choice but to continue to use fossil fuels, especially coal as the primary energy source. What we have to do to realize Carbon Neutrality is not to stop using fossil fuels including coal, but to achieve Net Zero emissions by reducing CO₂ emissions as much as possible.
- Coal is an energy source that supports the foundations of society in such fields as power, iron and steel, cement, and the chemical industry. Specifically, coal-fired power generation has conventionally served as a base-load power source in the power industry. However, as the introduction of renewables is rapidly promoted in response to energy transition, it has come to play an important role as power load adjustment that supplements renewables supplies.
- As the world moves toward the target of realizing Carbon Neutrality, i.e., Net Zero CO₂ emissions while using coal as a resource or energy source. Under these circumstances, such factors that affect the stable supply of resources are arising due to soared coal prices and the crisis in Ukraine. In such global situation, we need to reaffirm the importance of 3E+S of coal.
- In order to realize Carbon Neutrality, inefficient coal-fired power generation will gradually phase down from the scene in the energy transition, but in the meantime, we need to take measures to thoroughly reduce CO₂ emissions, such as adopting co-firing with biomass/ammonia to the existing coal-fired power plants, shifting from co-firing to exclusive firing in the future, sector coupling in industrial complex, hydrogen utilization, and introducing Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS).
- Also, we need to identify and introduce the optimal combination of technologies appropriate for the various conditions of each country (natural conditions, geopolitical conditions, economic conditions, social acceptability, etc.), and it is important to ask for support from transition finance, which includes not only government financial institutions but also private financial institutions, in the transition period. The importance of disseminating by ONE VOICE message from Asia to worldwide on necessary of transition finance was emphasized.
- Besides, the reduction of CO₂ emissions is an issue that should be addressed on a global basis, and it is important to promote international collaborations in order to achieve the big goal, "The realization of Carbon Neutrality". One such collaboration is the "Asia CCUS Network" established in Indonesia last year. It serves as a critical platform for promoting cross-border cooperation.

*Symposium Summary Movie will be posted on the JCOAL website shortly (<http://www.jcoal.or.jp/eng/>) .
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