

# **Trends in Energy and the Role of Coal**

# September 2, 2024 Tatsuya Terazawa

Chairman and CEO, The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ)

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# **Increase in electricity demand**



Electricity demand in Japan expected to grow after 15 years of decline



# **Demand for new data centers and semiconductor plants** (MW)



Source: OCCTO

#### **Responding to Intermittency** (March 22, 2022 : Tokyo Area)





# Solar output on each day of March 2022



Source: Tepco Powe Grid ,METI and Cabinet Office

## Need to control cost increase



Coal remains an economically superior resource compared to others.





**Coal is relatively easy to store over the long term.** 



week

# Need to secure stable coal supply during energy transitions

## Coal power plant buildup in China and India



#### Share of China and India in world's coal imports







#### Excerpts from Apulia G7 Leaders' Communiqué (G7 Italia 2024 : June 13-15, 2024)

#### Energy, Climate and Environment (excerpt)

We reaffirm our commitment to achieve a fully or predominantly decarbonized power sector by 2035 and to phase out existing unabated coal power generation in our energy systems during the first half of 2030s, or <u>in a</u> <u>timeline consistent with keeping a limit of 1.5°C</u> <u>temperature rise within reach, in line with countries'</u> <u>net-zero pathways.</u>

# Young fleet of coal power plants in Asia



#### Asia's electricity demand will keep growing, and the average vintage of its coal power fleet is still young.

SHARES OF COAL-FIRED POWER CAPACITY BY AGE (AS OF 2020)



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Source: IEA, Global coal-fired power capacity by plant age; METI for Japanese figures,

# Significance of co-firing in Asia



Co-firing provides a quick, effective, and realistic decarbonization solution.

Carbon intensity can be lowered to an equivalent level to gas-fired power generation if the co-firing ratio is raised to 50%.



## **CCS for coal fired power generation**



Advantage: CCS for coal fired power generation may be efficient because of its high CO2 density in the emitted gas.

■ Challenge: CCS for coal fired power generation requires large volume of CO2 capture and storage.



## **Blue Hydrogen from Coal**



Source: MFTI

Advantage: Low-cost feedstock (Brown coal) Diversification of feedstocks.

**Challenge:** Cost due to larger volume of CCS.

#### Blue hydrogen project from Australia to Japan



### **Summary**



Coal can play valuable roles to address energy challenges especially in Asia

- Power demand growth
- Increased intermittency
- Need to control cost increase
- Enhance energy security

#### Actions to realize the roles of coal

- Ensure stable supply during the transition
- Decarbonize power generation through co-firing & CCS
- Production of blue hydrogen from coal