

Mr. Masumi Kakinoki
President and CEO
Marubeni Corporation

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Friends of the Earth Japan
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)
Kiko Network

Marubeni should Strengthen Current Coal Policy by Cancelling All Coal Projects under Construction and Planning Stage, and Disclose Related Information

We are writing to restate our requests at the one-year mark after Marubeni Corporation announced its “Business Policies Pertaining to Sustainability” in relation to your business activities in coal-fired and renewable energy power generation.

Your public announcement on September 18, 2018, stated: “By 2030, Marubeni will cut its FY2018 coal-fired power net generation capacity of approximately three gigawatts in half.” In August this year, media reported on the postponement of the start of construction of the Akita Port Power Plant (provisional name) which Marubeni has been planning with Kanden Energy Solutions in Akita Prefecture. We welcomed both reports as a sign of Marubeni’s move to phase out coal.

While Marubeni stated that as a general principle it “will no longer enter into any new coal-fired power generation business”, it also stated it would consider projects if they meet two conditions. The first was the use of “best available technology (BAT)”. However, even “ultra-supercritical (USC)” steam generating technology, though Japanese government considered to be BAT, still emits huge amounts of carbon dioxide. So many countries are simply moving to phase out coal power generation. Your second condition to still go ahead was that a coal plant proposal is “compliant with the policies and measures of the Japanese government and any country in which the project will be executed.” However, Japan is being strongly criticized by the international community for its current policies of promoting coal, and if Marubeni supports those policies it is actually undermining efforts to address climate change. Other countries around the world are accelerating their efforts for the transition from coal to renewable energy. Stronger climate actions are needed from various sectors, including the national and local governments, private sector, local communities, and civil society non-governmental groups.

We the undersigned call upon Marubeni to apply its policies and cancel coal-fired power plant projects that are currently under planning or construction, wherever they are in the world. If the world is to limit global warming to 1.5°C or 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels, actions will be inconsistent with the Paris Agreement unless all currently-operating coal-fired power plants are phased out, and those planned or under construction are cancelled. Continuous support to the export of “high-efficiency coal technologies” by the government will miss the opportunity to meet the Paris goal. Therefore, we urge Marubeni, one of the major Japanese trading companies, involved in the coal-fired power plant industry to exit from coal power.

Specifically, we call upon Marubeni to promptly and completely withdraw from the following coal-fired power plant projects and announce it officially:

- * Cirebon 2 (Indonesia) (1,000MW)
- * Thabametsi (South Africa) (630MW)
- * Nghi Son 2 (Vietnam) (1,200MW)
- * Akita Port (tentative name, Japan) (1,300MW)

Finally, as one year has passed since the announcement of your coal policy, we ask Marubeni to disclose information on the status of the coal projects listed above, plus your progress toward halving your coal-fired power net generation capacity of approximately three gigawatts. Around the world, institutional investors and financial institutions are withdrawing from coal power projects, and the trend is accelerating. Marubeni has the largest share of your business in power generation and your actions are under the spotlight.

We call upon Marubeni, in response to the expectations of the global community, to strengthen your coal policies, to exit as quickly as possible from coal power projects currently under planning or construction, and also to disclose information about your state of progress toward a coal exit under your policies.

This letter is supported by civil society groups and NGOs from around the world as listed below.

Contact groups:

Friends of the Earth Japan
Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES)
Kiko Network

Signatory groups:

350.org Japan
Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED), Philippines
Centre for Environmental Rights
Earthlife Africa
Greenpeace Japan
Market Forces
Mekong Watch
Rapel (Rakyat Penyelamat Lingkungan: People Environment Safer) Cirebon, Indonesia
Sanlakas, Philippines
Urgewald e.V.
Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI - FoE Indonesia)
WALHI West Java, Indonesia