

Implementing coal transitions to raise climate ambition

UNFCCC side event at COP23

Location: Bonn Zone, Room 9 (100)

Time: Wednesday, 15 November 2017, 11:30 – 13:00

Live broadcast on UNFCCC Climate Change Studio channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCSbUPgmmKUTzRmspKM9DpuQ

Context and Aims

A number of new forces are emerging that will have implications for the future of the coal sector. Most obviously, the Paris Climate Agreement set a goal of keeping climate change impacts to well below +2°C of warming and aiming from +1.5°C. Coal currently accounts for 28% of global primary energy consumption and approximately 46% of global CO₂ emissions. The coal sector will thus also be required to contribute to the broader climate goal by making a transition of its own. At the same time, other drivers, such as falling costs of new energy technologies, economic restructuring and slower developing world growth, growing concerns over local air quality and water availability, are all making the immediate future of global coal demand less certain.

However, a number of specific challenges still need to be addressed to make coal transitions a reality. Moreover, it is essential that coal transitions are managed in a way that is fair and just to vulnerable stakeholders who stand to be strongly affected. A fundamental question for the coal sector is therefore: how to move from the rhetoric to implementing coal transitions in practice.

IDDRI and Climate Strategies have thus been leading a major international project that combines new research and stakeholder dialogue on the future of coal. Specifically in the lead up to the Facilitative Dialogue of 2018, this project explores the implications and aims to make policy recommendations for implementing coal transition strategies that are “+2°C-compatible” in six major producing and/consuming countries – China, India, South Africa, Australia, Germany and Poland. The goal of this event is to present and discuss emerging insights from this ongoing project.

Agenda

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| 11.30-11.35 | Welcome, introduction & chair for the event
Andrzej Błachowicz, Managing Director, Climate Strategies |
| 11.35-11.45 | Emerging insights from past and present coal transitions
Oliver Sartor, Research Fellow, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) |

- 11.45-11.55 **Coal transitions in China’s power sector: A plant-level assessment of stranded assets and retirement pathways**
Thomas Spencer, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India
- 11.55-12.05 **International policy spill-overs: impacts on global coal trade under alternative national coal transition scenarios**
Dr. Franziska Holz, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin)
- 12.05-12.15 **Coal transitions from the perspective of trade unions**
Samantha Smith, Director, Just Transition Centre
- 12.15-12.55 **Q&A with the audience**
- 12.55-13.00 **Concluding remarks on coal transitions and climate ambition**
Teresa Ribera, Director, IDDRI
Henry Derwent, Senior Advisor, Climate Strategies

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