



# Coal phase out and energy transition pathways for Asia and the Pacific

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# Background

- **Coal phase out becoming a key element of regional and global climate response**
- **What are the reasons for this?**
  - Coal expansion plans in Asia-Pacific put the world off track from climate goals
  - The affordability and feasibility of alternatives has improved dramatically
  - Risk of stranded assets and associated financial risk from existing and planned coal projects
  - Notwithstanding stranded assets risk, building new coal presents a decades long technology and emissions “lock-in”



# United Nations Issues-Based Coalition (IBC) Working Group on the Phase Down of Coal

- UNEP, ESCAP, ILO and UNFCCC – combining and coordinating efforts to support the move away from coal.
- Multi-sectoral perspectives covering environment, climate change and just transition.
- Research and knowledge creation, national and regional dialogues, linking to regional and global initiatives (COP26, Energy Transition Partnership).

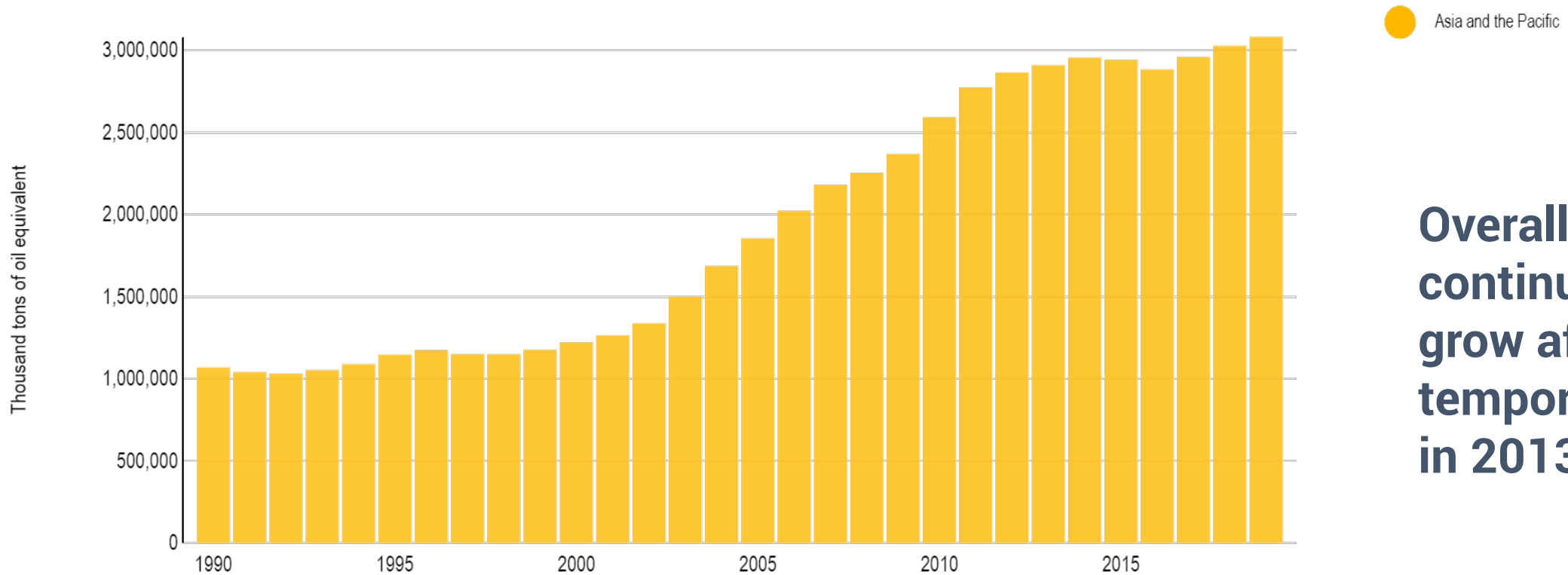


Regional Collaboration Centre – Bangkok  
Promoting Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific



# Coal Sector Growth in the Asia- Pacific (1)

Coal Energy Supply in Asia and the Pacific, 1990-2019



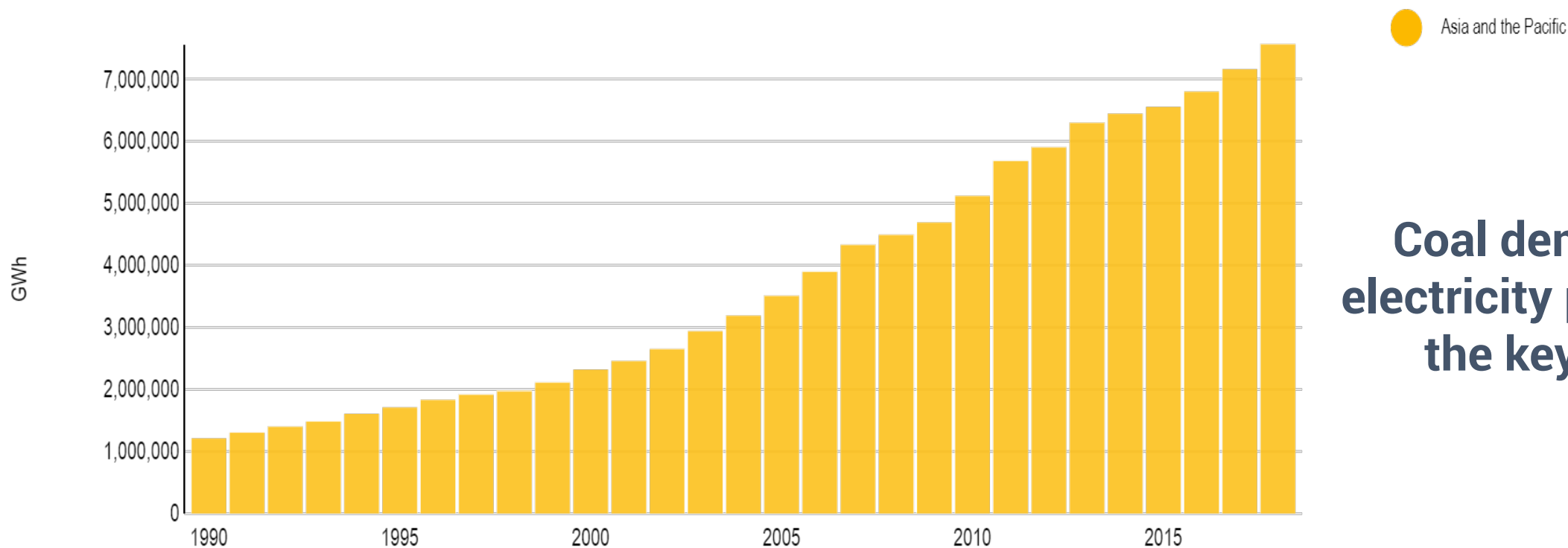
**Overall coal use continues to grow after a temporary peak in 2013**

Source: International Energy Agency (IEA), World Energy Statistics and Balances

Chart generated from Asia Pacific Energy Portal ([asiapacificenergy.org](http://asiapacificenergy.org))

# Coal Sector Growth in the Asia- Pacific (2)

Electricity Production from Coal in Asia and the Pacific, 1990-2018



**Coal demand for electricity production the key driver**

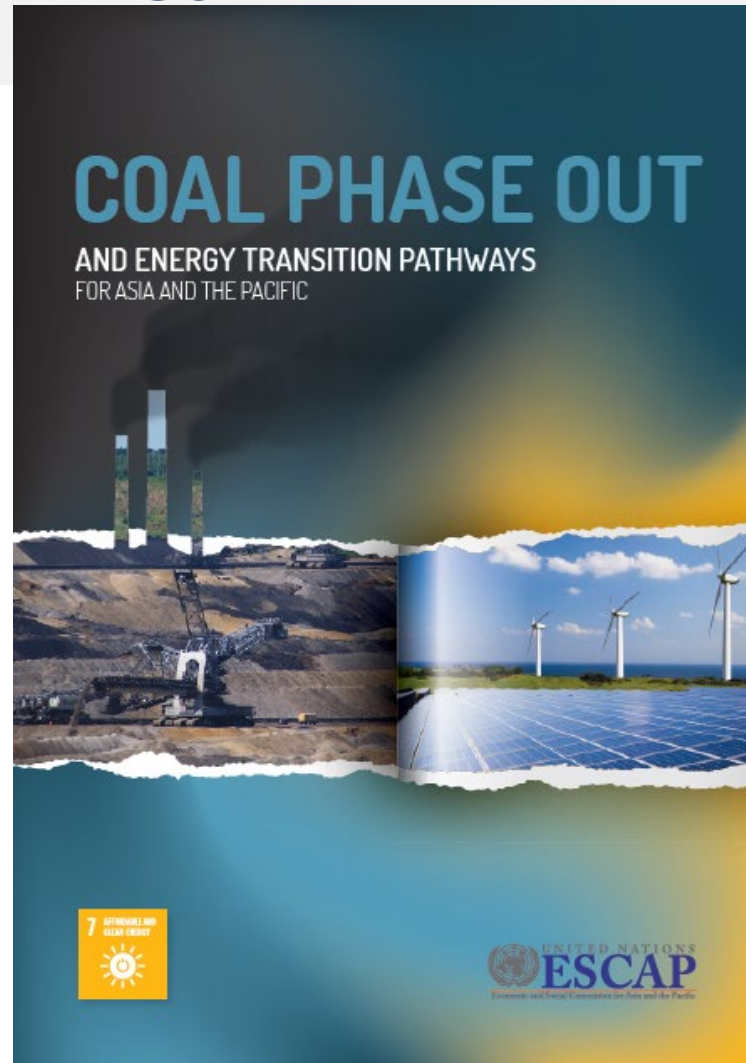
Source: International Energy Agency (IEA), World Energy Statistics and Balances

Chart generated from Asia Pacific Energy Portal ([asiapacificenergy.org](http://asiapacificenergy.org))

# Coal Phase out and Energy Transition Pathways (2021)

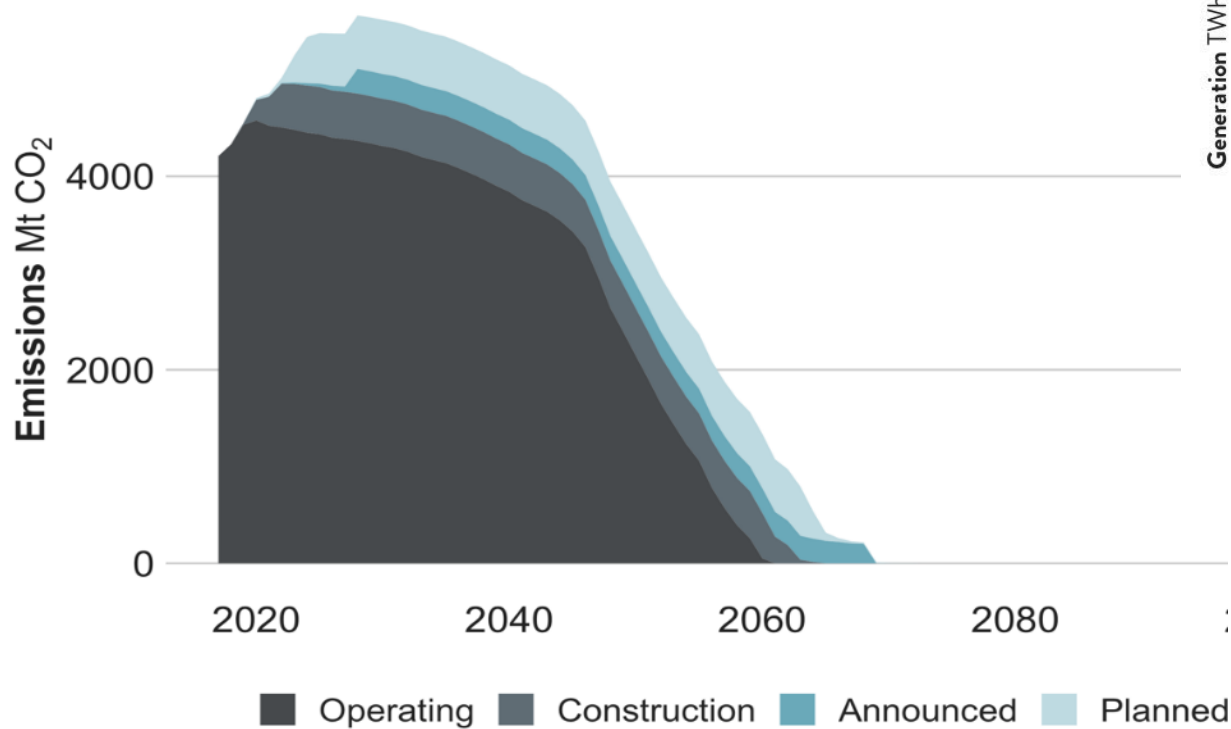
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*A total of 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region account for .... almost the entire (94 per cent) global pipeline of coal-fired power plants under construction, planned or announced.*

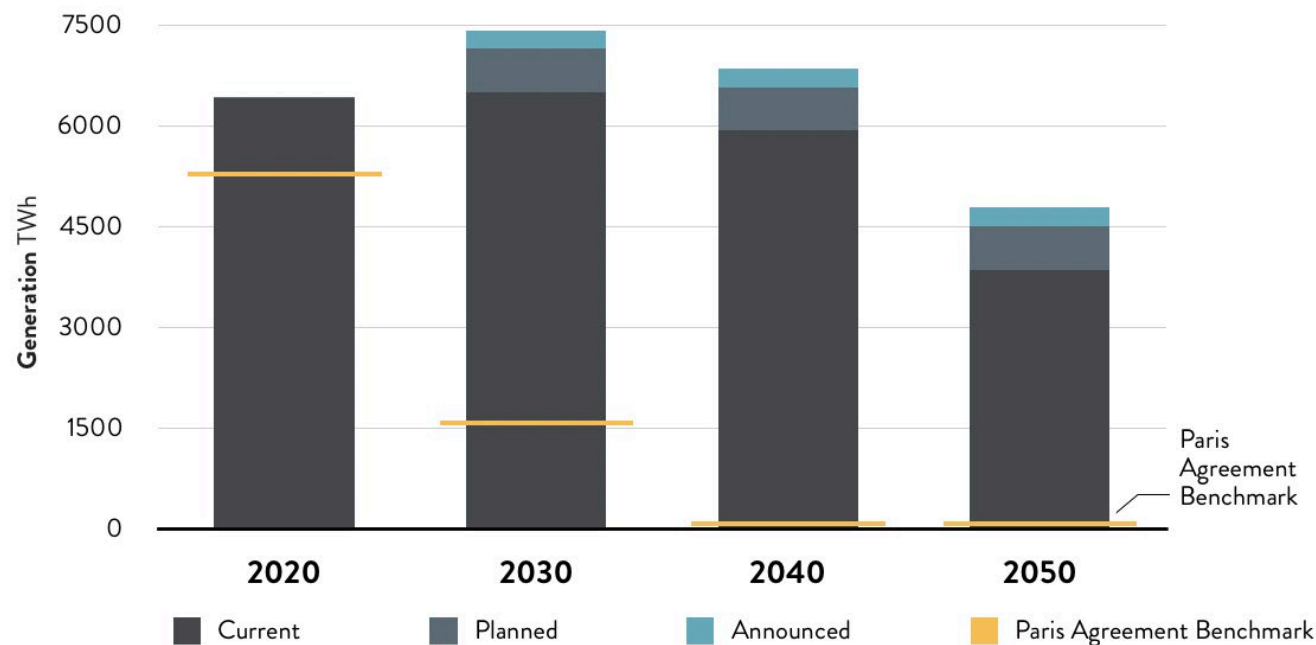


# Locked-in emissions from coal fired power plants

Lifetime: 40 years | Capacity Factor: 0.5



ASIA'S COAL BASED POWER GENERATION  
INCOMPATIBLE WITH PARIS AGREEMENT BENCHMARKS





# Key Policy Recommendations to Phase Out Coal

- Phase out fossil fuel subsidies, adopt carbon pricing, renewable energy support, encourage shift in investment
- Move to transformational policies, targets and long-term planning in line with Paris Agreement
- Clear pathways to enable anticipation of change and avoid more stranded assets
- Financial support and capacity-building: focus on needed shift of investment
- Regional and international cooperation, private sector engagement, civil society
- Cross border power system connectivity.
- Financial institutions to cooperate on sustainable finance, transparency





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