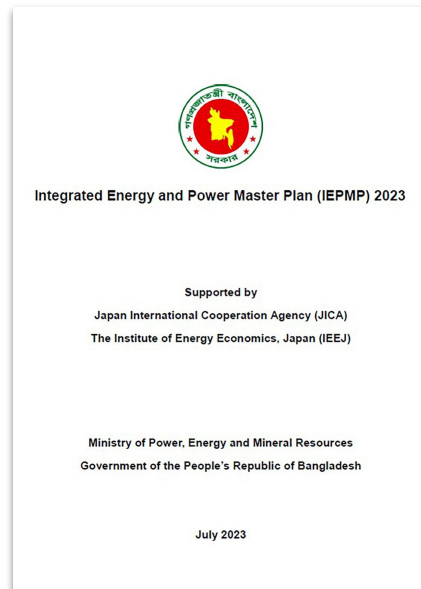




Campaign for Just & Equitable Transition in Bangladesh



Why **Bangladeshi** Civil Society challenged JICA-Proposed “**Decarbonization**” Plans?

Hasan Mehedi

Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN)

JAPAN & BANGLADESH

Japan is the largest bilateral partner of Bangladesh which provided USD 23.8 billion in the last 50 years in the sectors of agriculture, education, energy, health, transport, trade etc..

On 14 March 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) of Bangladesh Government signed an agreement to formulate the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP).

GOAL OF IEPMP

A low/zero carbon energy demand/supply system will be established based on the premise of ensuring energy security and economic viability.

PURPOSE

To establish a low/zero carbon energy demand/supply system, with energy security and economic viability, by introduction of policy and technologies for low carbon/carbon neutral society, towards sustainable development of Bangladesh.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY



COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

JICA, not Bangladesh Government, appointed the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) as the consultant to formulate the IEPMP, without any participation of the recipient country, which is a violation of the country-ownership policy.

TRANSPARENCY

JICA never published the actual budget of the project. It kept silent even when the civil society asked to disclose the budget for formulation of the IEPMP, which is against the basic norms of transparency and accountability.

PARTICIPATION

JICA and IEEJ involved 47 experts in the IEPMP formulation process and all are Japanese nationals, and none of them are Bangladeshi. The IEPMP mentioned that Bangladeshi citizens were there in the process, but no name is mentioned in the document.

RETALIATION RISK

We several times requested to organize dedicated consultations with the civil society due to the risk of retaliation. However, JICA denied our request and invited the former Minister and PM's Energy Adviser in the same meeting. So, we had to be tamed in the meetings.

RISK OF OVERCAPACITY

The IEPMP estimated the demand for electricity may reach 72 GW (108 GW) by 2050 based on GDP projection. However, it may reach maximum 56 GW as per the current rate of demand.

Example: IEPMP estimated a generation capacity of [43 GW by 2025](#). However, the [maximum demand was only 16.7 GW in 2024 which may increased to 18 GW in 2025](#). Current installed capacity in the power sector of is 27.8 GW

and overcapacity is more than 60% of the demand.

If the government followed IEPMP, the overcapacity might reach 140% of the demand in this year.

FUTURE RISK

If government follows the IEPMP in future, the overcapacity and stranded asset will reach around 100% by 2050, and the [government may pay around USD 10 billion per year as the capacity](#)

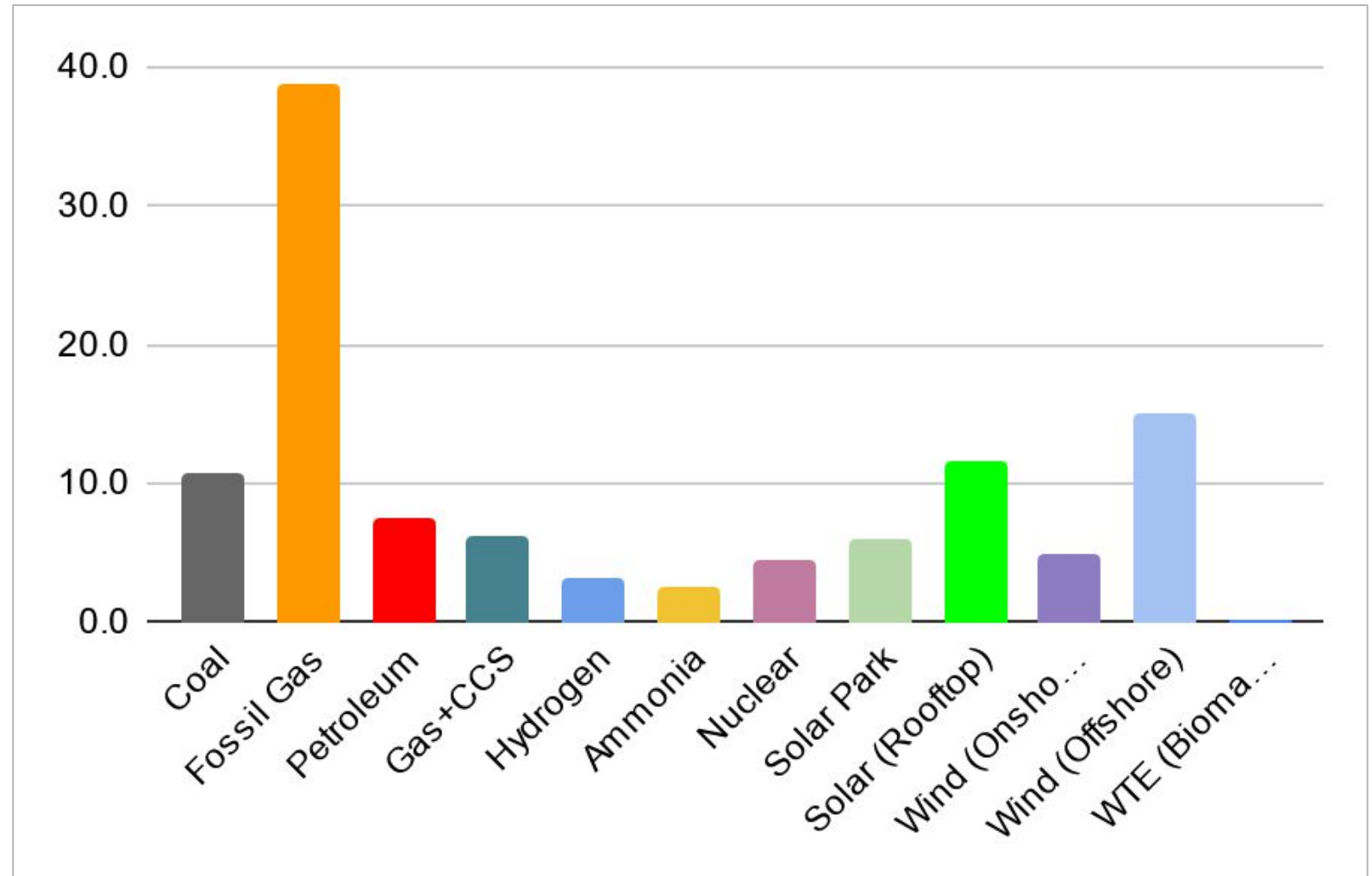
[charges](#) of the idle power plants.

As the capacity charges are to pay in US Dollar, [it will severely affect the foreign currency reserve and economy of Bangladesh](#).

DIRTY PATHWAYS

The IEPMP suggested 30% of fossil gas (LNG) and 30% coal in the energy mix by 2050, which is contradictory with the Paris Agreement and decarbonization targets of Bangladesh.

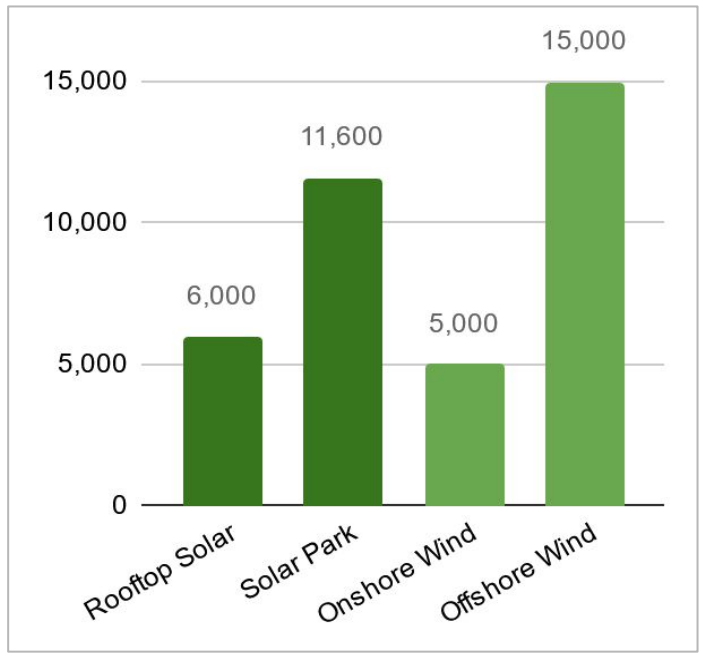
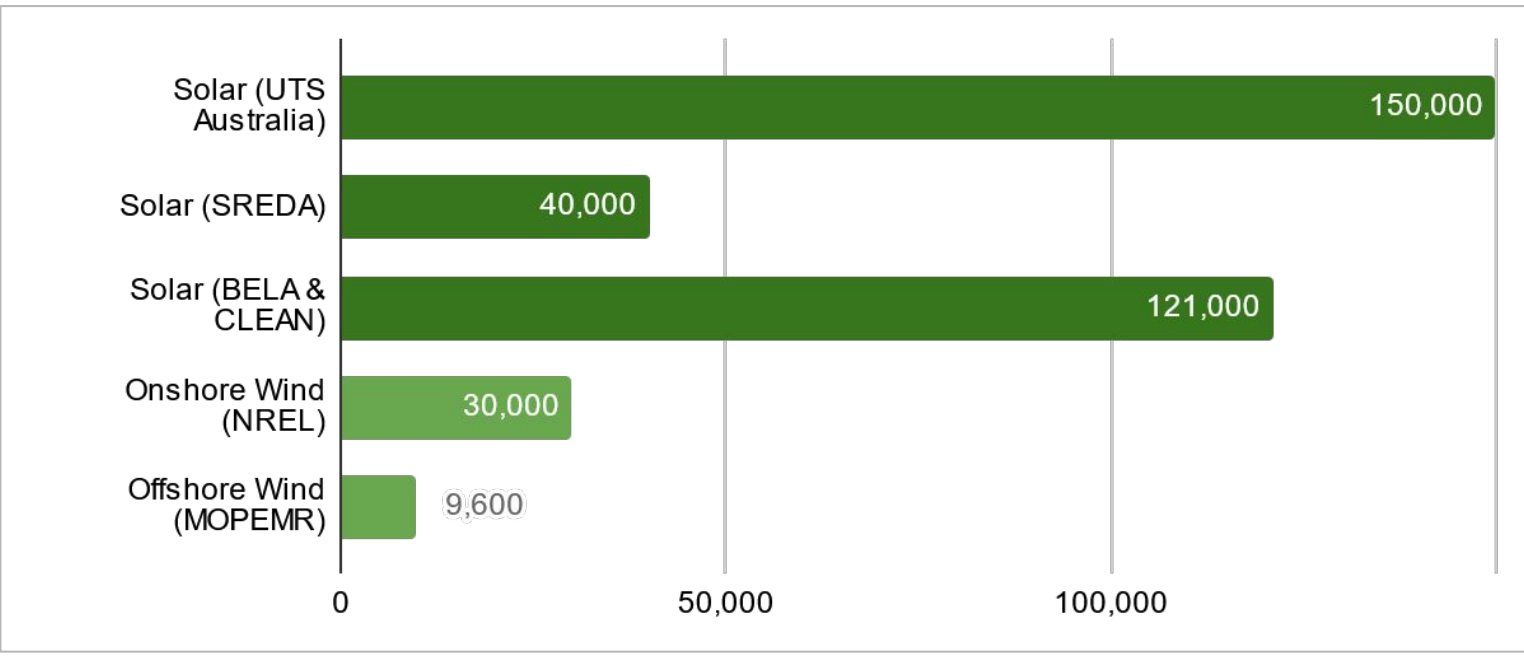
Currently, Bangladesh has to spend USD 6 billion for importing fossil fuels for the power generation only. Importing additional fossil fuels is beyond the capacity of Bangladesh.



UNDERMINING RE CAPACITY

Draft National Solar Energy Road Map and different independent studies proved that Bangladesh has enough space and potential to ensure 100% RE by 2050, especially from solar and wind power.

But the IEPMP proposed to install **only 17.6 GW** of solar power **and 20 GW** of wind power by 2050. it is only 13% of the total installed capacity in 2050, which clearly undermines the capacity of Bangladesh and denial to the Paris Agreement.





The IEPMP proposed to include [Carbon Capture and Storage \(CCS\)](#), [Liquid Hydrogen and Ammonia](#), in addition to Nuclear and Waste-to-Energy (WTE) in the name of 'Advanced Technologies' to reduce carbon emission from the energy sector.

These technologies are [widely known as the 'False Solutions'](#) because they play no role in emission reduction, rather increase emission in some cases.

The IEPMP also suggests to [implement a Hydrogen Combustion system in Bangladesh by 2025](#).

Bangladesh does not have any source of liquid hydrogen now. It will fully depend on import, which will further create pressure on the national economy.

The fixed costs of the these technologies are really high. So, JICA ignored the fixed costs of the assets in the budget.

CONFLICTING WITH NATIONAL PLANS



The Article 18(A) of the Constitution of Bangladesh establishes the protection and improvement of [environment and biodiversity for present and future generations](#).

Accordingly, the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2021 (MCP) commits to implement [30% Renewable Energy \(RE\) by 2030, 40% by 2041 and 100% by 2050](#).

The statement of Bangladesh

in the COP26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) also [committed to ensure 40% RE by 2041](#).

In 2016, Bangladesh committed to the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) that the country [will strive to achieve 100% RE as early as possible before 2050](#).

The Advisor of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change (MOEFCC) of this interim government also committed to implement the same goals.

Based on the policy targets and international commitments, [the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan \(IEPMP\) violates all of the fundamental laws and multilateral agreements of Bangladesh](#).

Why the energy and power master plan must be reviewed



Integrated Power Master Plan economically unviable: Speakers

The plan has been designed to ensure benefits for Japanese companies

DRAFT INTEGRATED ENERGY AND POWER MASTER PLAN (IEPMP)
Can it address the clean energy targets?

Home » Country » Draft energy master plan ignores key issues: experts
Draft energy master plan ignores key issues: experts

Staff Correspondent 10 September, 2022, 00:55

Why Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan should not be reconsidered

...petition filed by Lawyers for Energy Environment and
'The IEPMP serves Japan's interest over Bangladesh'

...ands immediate cancellation of fossil fuel-centric energy master plan

UNB NEWS DHAKA PUBLISH- JANUARY 27, 2025, 07:29 PM UNB NEWS

Bangladesh's energy plan faces gas dilemma as fuel crisis bites

Bangladesh's IEPMP Raises More Questions than It Answers
Shafiqul Alam



Shafiqul Alam is Lead Energy Analyst for Bangladesh at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)

With varying directions from different energy policies,

Figure 1: Future Gas Outlook for Captive Power Generators



Home / Bangladesh / Power & Energy

Japanese influence over Bangladesh's Power Master Plan scrutinized at energy prosperity conference

An integrated power master plan is designed to maximize the profit of Japanese companies

MOVEMENTS



WRIT PETITION

When all requests, appeals and peoples mobilizations were ignored, the Lawyers for Energy, Environment and Development (LEED), a member of the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development (BWGED), filed a Writ Petition to the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court.

After eight months of hearing, [the High Court given a Stay Order on the implementation](#)

[of IEPMP](#) and issued a show-cause to the Government asking [why the IEPMP will not declare illegal and why it is not ordered to be reviewed in consultation with the civil society.](#)



POLICY RESPONSE

Participating in the 2nd Conference on Bangladesh

Energy Prosperity 2050 (BEP2050), both the Adviser of the MOPEMR, Mr. Fouzul Kabir Khan, and the Chief Representative of JICA, Mr. Ichiguchi Tomohide, [agreed that the IEPMP should be reviewed immediately.](#) Mr. Ichiguchi also said that, [Japan will not support in formulation of Energy Master Plans in future](#) as Bangladesh is capable to formulate it. We have been saying it for a long.



MATARBARI COAL: A CORRUPTION SAGA

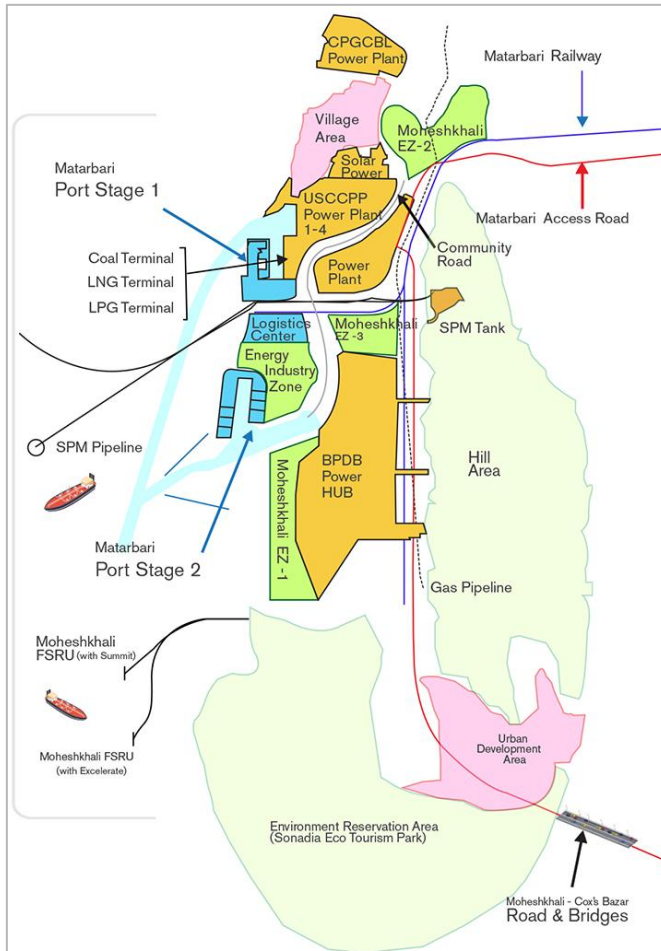


The initial budget of the Matarbari 1200 MW Coal Power Plant was USD 3.0 billion which is 200% higher than similar other projects. The budget raised to 3.9 billion when Sumitomo, Toshiba and IHI Corporation got the EPC contract in 2017.

The budget further increased 40% in 2021 without any rational or explanation. It could be asked that whether JICA is involved in the inflated project budget.

In April 2024, the Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGCBL) bought some tools worth USD 140 million at more than 600% higher rates without proper approvals. The Project Director, Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, was arrested by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) in September 2024. However, JICA has not taken any action against this corruption till date. Is anybody from JICA involved with the corruption?

MIDI: FURTHER PROMOTING FOSSILS



MIDI Map collected from Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh website

JICA is also formulating the Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI) for Bangladesh.

[JICA proposed to install imported LNG power plants with Solar in this power hub.](#)

It is a totally suicidal move for Japan. because, when electricity price goes up due to the cost of imported coal or LNG, people will find an alternative source.

It is to mention that, Bangladesh Government could not purchase any LNG from spot market for 10 months last year, due to market volatility. The electricity generation cost is also increasing every year due to dependence on imported coal and LNG.

In this case, the alternative might be rooftop solar. So, [there is a risk of Chinese influence over energy market if JICA proposes LNG in MIDI area](#)

DEMANDS

- 1.** [Stop promoting fossil fuels](#) (i.e., Coal & LNG) in Bangladesh. It will go against the Paris Agreement and economic interest of the country as well.
- 2.** Bangladesh [does not need and cannot afford the “advanced technologies”](#) such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Ammonia (co)firing or Hydrogen.
- 3.** Support Bangladesh with [finance and technology for achieving 100% renewables by 2050](#) in line with its long-term goals and to save the humankind on earth.
- 4.** [Disclose budget and other information in a timely manner](#) so that the civil society and communities can express their opinions directly to the Japan Government.
- 5.** [Ensure effective participation of the respective communities and civil society members](#) without any fear of retaliation and political consequences.
- 6.** [Stop supporting non-democratic and oppressive governments](#) in Bangladesh and all over the world.

ACRONYMS



BWGED	Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development	LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage	MCPP	Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan
COP	Conference of Parties	MIDI	Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative
CPGCBL	Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited	MOEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
CVF	Climate Vulnerable Forum	MOPEMR	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
EMRD	Energy and Mineral Resources Division	RE	Renewable Energy
GOB	Government of Japan	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IEEJ	Institute of Energy Economics, Japan	WTE	Waste-to-Energy
IEPMP	Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan		
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency		
LEED	Lawyers for Energy, Environment and Development		

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THANK YOU

Your comments, opinions
and queries are highly
solicited.