

Press release

## **Health and economic benefits from early phase out of Indonesia's first JETP coal power plants**

Cirebon Unit 1, Pelabuhan Ratu Unit 1-3, and Banten Suralaya Unit 1-4

**Jakarta, 20 June 2024** - Indonesia's commitment to transition away from coal through the announcement of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) in November 2022 is outlined in the JETP Comprehensive Investment and Policy Plan (CIPP) released a year later. Cirebon Unit 1 and Pelabuhan Ratu Unit 1-3 are listed as the first two pilot projects for Indonesia's early coal power retirement in the JETP CIPP. Banten Suralaya Unit 1-4 has been mentioned in the media as a target candidate for reduced operations and to eventually be shut down.

An analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) highlights the benefits that can be reaped through early retirement of coal power plants in Indonesia by revealing current impacts of the earmarked candidates, as well as other potential candidates with high impacts and considerably aged.

Operations of the shortlisted candidates affect public health due to continuous release of health harming pollutants. The operations of Cirebon Unit 1, Pelabuhan Ratu Unit 1-3, and Banten Suralaya Unit 1-4 amount to 1,263 deaths annually. Air pollutant emissions from Cirebon Unit 1 are linked to 441 deaths, Pelabuhan Ratu Unit 1-3 421 deaths, and Banten Suralaya Unit 1-4 401 deaths.

In terms of economic burden, USD 885 million (IDR 13.1 trillion) of air pollution-related costs can be attributed to the operations of these plants annually, from increased risks and incidences of respiratory diseases, productivity losses, and mortality. The economic burden linked to Cirebon Unit 1 amounts to USD 308 million (IDR 4.57 trillion), Pelabuhan Ratu USD 293 million (IDR 4.35 trillion), and Banten Suralaya Unit 1-4 USD 284 million (IDR 4.22 trillion).

The inclusion of two pilot projects in the JETP CIPP only partially address air pollution from coal power generation. If including the top ten coal power plants with the highest health impacts along with the two ageing complexes located in Java, the whole of Indonesia would avoid future impacts of about five-fold. Currently, the operations of these high-impact coal



power plants located across Java are linked to 6,928 air pollution-related deaths and USD 4.8 billion (IDR 71.3 trillion) in corresponding economic costs annually.

“With Indonesia's air quality in significant decline in 2023, the Government and national stakeholders can no longer afford to ignore air pollution from coal power generation and its impacts on the population and economy,” said Katherine Hasan, Analyst at CREA.

Managing large pollution sources with the highest health impacts — specifically, coal-fired thermal power plants located across Indonesia — includes proper installation of air pollution control by enforcing use of emissions standards referencing best available technology or techniques (BAT) as the immediate or short-term intervention, as well as coal phase-out through early retirement schemes and accelerated deployment of clean energy as mid to long-term pathways.

“Listing Cirebon-1 and Pelabuhan Ratu as pilot projects in the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) is a notable first step for Indonesia to demonstrate commitment to the energy transition, but the work is just beginning,” emphasised Katherine Hasan.

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## Note to editors

The publication related to this press release will be available [here](#).

## About CREA

The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) is an independent research organisation focused on revealing the trends, causes, and health impacts, as well as the solutions, to air pollution. CREA was founded in December 2019 in Helsinki and has staff in several Asian and European countries. The organisation's work is funded through philanthropic grants and revenue from commissioned research.

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