

Mapping Asian Financial Flows

A new study by Fair Finance Asia has mapped and identified regional trends in financing towards four of the region's high risk sectors - infrastructure, power generation, extractives (fossil fuels), and agriculture. The three key findings of the study were:

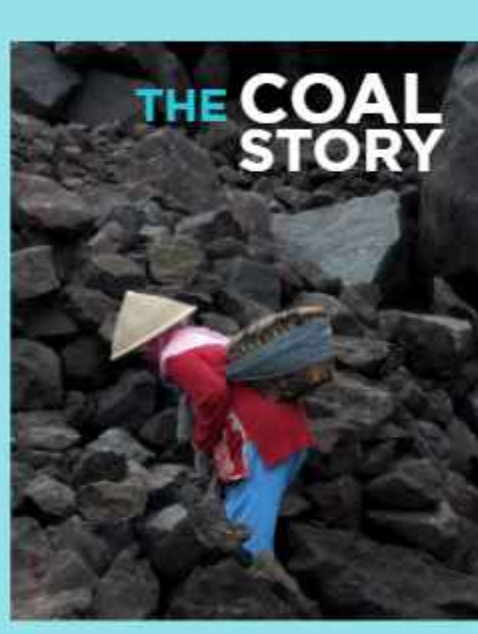
1. Japanese financial institutions continue to maintain the lion share of credit relationships to key businesses in Asia's high risk sectors, other key players are also emerging from India, Philippines, and Thailand
2. Power generation and fossil fuel extraction are the two sectors that receive the most significant financial flows from creditors and investors outside Asia, and between the countries in the region itself
3. Asia's reliance and appetite for coal is evidently supported by the vast amount of finance continuously flowing towards this sector with no clear end in sight.

FINANCED COUNTRIES	Agriculture	Fossil Fuels	Infrastructure	Power
Cambodia			●	
India	● ●	●	●	●
Indonesia	● ● ● ●	● ●	● ●	●
Japan	● ●	●		
Philippines	●	●	●	● ●
Thailand	●	● ●	● ●	●
Vietnam	● ●	● ●	●	

FFA Japanese Coalition's No Coal Japan Campaign Together with Other Local CSOs

In June, 35% shareholders of Mizuho Bank back the climate resolution that would require it to disclose climate risks & its plans to align with the Paris Agreement. Though the resolution was eventually rejected, it shows that Japanese financial institutions are putting more efforts to improve their policies and take a more public stand against coal financing. Financial Institutions like Mizuho Bank and SMBC revised their policies towards coal financing earlier this year. With other CSOs, Fair Finance Japan together with Fair Finance Vietnam also successfully advocated for non-life insurance companies to withdraw from the Vung Ang 2 coal-fired power plant project in Vietnam.

Presently Fair Finance Japan, along with other civil society groups, is calling on the Japanese Government to not only stop 'in-principle' support for new coal-fired projects overseas but stop support for ALL such projects, including ones in consideration.



Building awareness on sustainable finance in Asia



- Fair Finance India's Op-Ed by Shreya Kaushik focused on linking financial institutions to take responsibility in the Vizag Gas leak wherein thirteen people were killed and thousands exposed to toxic styrene fumes
- Fair Finance Philippines' blog by Victoria Caranay and Amanda Lingao highlighted the road ahead for Financial Institutions in the Philippines given that Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Philippine Central Bank) finally signed a Sustainable Finance Framework for all banks in the country.

Building financial sector capacity on sustainable finance

FAIR FINANCE VIETNAM

GREENING THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

Attended by 40 national and international organizations including the Vietnam Banks Association and the Asian Development Bank

The Chief Advisor and Head of Sustainable Finance of BDO Unibank (Philippines), Ms. Eunjo Min-Parc, who was one of the speakers highlighted the need to increase project funding for green energy in the region

TRAINING FOR THAI BANKERS ON RESPONSIBLE LENDING POLICIES

SESSIONS

1. Overview of international sustainability issues & standards
2. Voluntary ESG standards for the banking sector
3. How to develop and implement responsible lending policies

15 representatives from 7 Thai banks (out of the nine that Fair Finance Thailand assesses the policies of every year) were present.

Addressing Supply Chain Risks and Trends in the Palm Oil Sector

The Role of Financial Institutions

180 people attended the webinar of which 34 were Financial Institutions and 8 representatives of the Government

Speakers:

- Istiana Mafituchah, Senior Sustainable Finance Analyst at Financial Services Authority (OJK)
- Pierre Togar Sitanggang, Secretary General of Indonesia Palm Oil Association (GAPKI)
- Fitrian Ardiansyah, Executive Chairman of ICH - Sustainable Trade Initiative
- Erin Sweeney, Manager, Sustainable Business & Investment, Green Asia

Moderator:

- Richard Welford, Senior Advisor, FFA-VIET

INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS INTO FINANCING DECISIONS

FOCUS: How human rights risks can be integrated into risk assessment. Due diligence processes of financial institutions. 55 participation, with majority being from the Philippine financial sector

SPEAKERS:

- Suz B. Poitka, Co-Founder, Community Resource Centre (CRC)
- Miles Carrison, Head of ESG Research, Asset Investment Management
- Beth Holzman, Director, Human Rights, ELEVATE

Prioritizing consumer protection

In March, Bank of Thailand announced that financial institutions would incorporate measures to lighten the debt payments for the vulnerable population due to the impacts of COVID-19. The Fair-Debt.org website was created by the Fair Finance Thailand to help retail debtors compare the relief measures and calculate the impact of the debt burden.

ResponsiBank Indonesia released a case study on household over-indebtedness. To ensure that message was heard by affected individuals and problem got its due importance, ResponsiBank ensures that the findings from the study were promoted through online mediums and interviews with Radio Salam. A webinar on the issue was also organized.

How are banks taking care of customers in the Covid-19 crisis?

Choose service: Credit card, Car loan/mortgage loan, Car/retail financing purchase, Lending, Home loan/personal loan

Choose bank: (Grid of bank logos including Bank of Thailand, CIMB, UOB, etc.)

New from Fair Finance International

A GLOBAL NETWORK

Fair Finance Asia collaborates and partners with Fair Finance International



Fair Finance International - a new name for the FFGI network

Fair Finance Guide International (FFGI) is a diverse global advocacy network of over 50 CSOs and NGOs founded in 2009, working for more transparent, green, fair, and responsible investment policies & practices across the financial sector. FFGI will now change its name to Fair Finance International (FFI).

At the core of the work for many years is the Fair Finance Guide - a rigorous methodology used to assess Financial Institutions' approach to sustainability. These assessments form the basis of constructive fact-based dialogue with financial institutions on ways to achieve more responsible and sustainable financial policies and practices. In addition, our network works in many other ways to achieve change - such as public campaigning; political lobbying; expert consultation and advice; coalition building; and evidence based research in cases of harmful investments. To better reflect the scope and diversity of how we work today, and in preparation for an exciting expansion to new regions and countries, we are updating our international network name to Fair Finance International. We will continue to use the Fair Finance Guide as a central part of our work, and we will expand our focus and influencing in the global South.

Fair Finance Asia is a regional network of Asian civil society organizations that is committed to ensuring that the business decisions and funding strategies of financial institutions in the region respect the social and environmental well-being of the communities in which they operate.

Seven countries within the region are a part of FFA: Cambodia, Japan, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.