

Webinar on “Just Transition – Planning for a Post Coal Future”

Date: 24th June, 2021 | 11:00 AM – 01:30 PM (IST)

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Just Transitions Planning for a Post Coal Future

24 June, 2021
(Thursday)

11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, IST

Virtual - WebEx

WORLD SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
SUMMIT 2022

TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE



Background

In the context of environmental activism and vigilance whenever the conversation around fossil fuels, especially coal is tabled amongst high powered policymakers, the response has always been a robust “we need to move away from it”. Coal has always been central within the largescale fossil fuel movement, and understandably. Since the earliest times when the mineral was mined it played a pivotal role in the development of regional and local economies. It induced growth around its milieu, be it revenue receipt of the state, urbanization, governance institutions, infrastructural development, amongst others. Hence coal has not just contributed to economic growth, but several other developmental objectives that could not have been achieved without the contribution of (coal-based) fossil fuels.

A Just Transition describes both where we are going and how we get there. Its notion is rooted in the principles of ‘environmental justice’, wherein the transition from a fossil fuel-based infrastructure to a sustainable infrastructure must be just and equitable for everyone that partakes in the transaction. This includes miners, communities, land and resources. While a transition towards sustainable forms of energy is the need of the hour, there is, however, a growing concern related to labour displacement in the existing coal value chains. Their seamless transition from a skill aspect, moving from a fossil fuel sector to a sustainable development sector in many ways will define the future of India’s energy movement. Thus, there is a need for the creation of a mechanism which can help in the identification of all the

possible conflicts and a pathway, that will lead to an acceptable outcome for all the key stakeholders.

To understand just transition in the context of India, TERI has developed two working papers. The first working paper focuses on understanding just transition that should take place in the Indian coal economy. The paper details out the various challenges in the form of vulnerabilities arising from the phasing out of coal like the loss of livelihood, loss of economic revenue for the coal dependent states, infrastructural and social vulnerabilities, loss of social capital of land and the vulnerability to the community attached to illegal mining. Thus, this paper delves deep into the aspect of the linkages that surround the Indian coal economy and the possible economic, societal, and cultural repercussions that will engulf the mineral states in the case of a coal phase out.

The second working paper identifies the solutions to the various vulnerabilities arising from the transition in the coal dominated states and local communities. It identifies the various sources of revenues for the coal dependent states. It further goes on to understand the enablers that have and will facilitate just transition and further deepen learning on how future policies need to be designed, regions to be planned for development, and capacities needed to be strengthened of vulnerable communities.

Given this background, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) with support from Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) is organising a webinar on "JUST TRANSITION – PLANNING FOR A POST COAL FUTURE" on 24th June 2021, 11:00 – 13:30 Hrs (IST).

This event aims to understand just transition in the context of India and explore the vulnerabilities when transitioning away from a coal dependent economy. Since there exist various socio-economic linkages with coal at the central, regional and state levels, the discussions will be focused on examining the vulnerabilities arising from phasing out of coal as well as on the suggestions for future policy support, investment planning, financing and implementation requirements along with identifying respective roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders for a smooth and just transition.