

Foreword

Coal power generation is a realistic way for many developing countries to ensure stable, affordable electricity supply. However, its heavy environment load such as air pollution sometimes raises serious health concerns, giving rise to protests against coal power generation. Although tighter regulation is needed to avoid the environmental side effects of coal power generation, considerations such as increasing power generation cost and subsequent rising electricity tariff make a political decision difficult. This study quantifies the health benefits of tighter regulation – air emission standards, to be precise – in monetary terms. The recognition that that the health benefit of tighter air emission standards exceeds the cost of investment in an air quality control system to comply with them may weaken resistance to tighter regulation, thereby lowering the environmental footprint of coal power generation.

I hope this study will serve as a good reference for policymakers in the region.

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