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Headline: Ahead of G20 summit: women climate activists demand Japan to stop funding coal and fossil fuel

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HUNDREDS of women climate activists picketed the Japanese Embassy in Pasay City on Wednesday and called on Japan to end public subsidies for coal and fossil fuels.

"We are in a planetary emergency but G20 governments are not pledging enough and doing even less to fight global warming," said Lidy Nacpil of the Asian Peoples Movement.

Japan was ranked highest among countries between 2013 and 2015 in terms of public subsidies to fossil fuels, Nacpil said.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU).

A report by the Overseas Development Institute said Japan was one of the largest providers of public finance for coal technology exports, spending on average \$5.2 billion a year.

In 2009, G20 members vowed to phase out "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies. The report, however, said total subsidies to coal-fired power plants nearly tripled.

"The Japanese Government, the host and President of 2019 G20 Summit, promised that the Climate Change will figure prominently in the agenda. And yet, Japanese public institutions and private companies have been playing a huge role in the expansion of coal and fossil fuels," Flora Santos, president of Oriang Women's Movement, said.

Santos, together with climate activists, called on Japan and other G20 governments to immediately halt all public subsidies for coal and fossil fuels.

Japanese coal investments in the Philippines include Mitsui and Mizuho Sumitomi's lending for the coal-fired powerplants in Zambales and Bataan.

Marubeni Corporation, another major Japanese integrated trading and investment business conglomerate, is also financing the proposed expansion of coal power projects in Pagbilao, Quezon and Calaca, Batangas. NEIL JAYSON N. SERVALLOS