

## United Nations warns world to quit 'coal addiction'

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The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has told world leaders to end their addiction to coal. He said the fossil fuel was a "major threat" to climate change and warned that the coal addiction "must be overcome". Mr

Guterres was in Thailand for the ASEAN Summit. He said that many countries in danger from climate change are in Asia. He told the world leaders that: "Countries in these areas are countries that are in one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change." He added that: "Unless we are able to...defeat climate change, in 2050, the research has forecasted that 300 million people in the world will be flooded by sea water."

Mr Guterres said climate change was, "the biggest threat to the planet at the present moment". He said using coal was a big problem. "We have to put a price on carbon. We need to stop subsidies for fossil fuels." He urged, "stopping the construction of coal-power electricity plants in order to be able to defeat climate change." The UN chief was speaking on a day that saw "unbearable" and "hazardous" levels of air pollution in India's capital of Delhi. An Indian health ministry official, Varun Jhaveri, said pollution monitors did not have enough digits to accurately record the pollution. He tweeted: "I think we are heading towards Delhi recording the most polluted day in the history of world!! This is a disaster!"

Sources: [un.org](http://un.org) / [asiatimes.com](http://asiatimes.com) / [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)

### Writing

We should stop using coal within the next decade. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Nations / addiction / coal / world leader / climate change / fossil fuels / flooded threat / planet / construction / electricity / hazardous / air pollution / history / disaster

### True / False

- a) The UN asked energy company CEOs to end their addiction to coal. T / F
- b) The UN said world leaders were a major threat to fossil fuels. T / F
- c) The UN chief was speaking at a summit in Bangkok. T / F
- d) The UN said 300 million people could be flooded by 2050. T / F
- e) The UN chief said climate change was the world's second biggest threat. T / F
- f) The UN chief said there should be more subsidies for fossil fuels. T / F
- g) Air pollution in Delhi was so high it could not be recorded. T / F
- h) A health official said it could be the most polluted day in history. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>world</b>      | a. danger      |
| 2. <b>major</b>      | b. weak        |
| 3. <b>overcome</b>   | c. catastrophe |
| 4. <b>vulnerable</b> | d. big         |
| 5. <b>forecasted</b> | e. support     |
| 6. <b>threat</b>     | f. defeated    |
| 7. <b>subsidies</b>  | g. detectors   |
| 8. <b>hazardous</b>  | h. predicted   |
| 9. <b>monitors</b>   | i. dangerous   |
| 10. <b>disaster</b>  | j. global      |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the United Nations?
- b) What do you think about fossil fuels?
- c) How 'addicted' is your country to coal?
- d) Can your country survive without coal?
- e) Why is coal bad for the environment?
- f) What do you know about climate change?
- g) Is your country suffering from climate change?
- h) What are the dangers of climate change?

## Phrase Match

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. told world leaders to end their | a. moment               |
| 2. fossil                          | b. areas                |
| 3. the coal addiction must be      | c. of air pollution     |
| 4. one of the most vulnerable      | d. addiction            |
| 5. the world will be flooded       | e. to the planet        |
| 6. the biggest threat              | f. fuel                 |
| 7. at the present                  | g. plants               |
| 8. coal-power electricity          | h. by sea water         |
| 9. hazardous levels                | i. history of the world |
| 10. the most polluted day in the   | j. overcome             |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are the biggest threats to the planet at the moment?
- How can we stop using fossil fuels?
- How polluted is your town?
- Are you worried about pollution?
- How can you help the planet?
- What will the world's climate be like in 50 years?
- What questions would you like to ask the United Nations?

## Spelling

- coal addiction must be emcvoero
- the ASEAN timuSm
- Countries in these sraea
- one of the most bnlulvaere
- aeeftd climate change
- the world will be deodfol
- the biggest arhtte to the planet
- We have to put a price on orbcan
- stop subsidies for sofil fuels
- unbearable and zsrudahao levels
- accurately record the ilpultono
- This is a dtssaire

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. d	3. f	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. e	8. i	9. g	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Wind Power

You think wind power is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear power, solar power or hydro-electricity.

### Role B – Nuclear Power

You think nuclear power is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): wind power, solar power or hydro-electricity.

### Role C – Solar Power

You think solar power is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear power, wind power or hydro-electricity.

### Role D – Hydro-electricity

You think hydro-electricity is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear power, solar power or wind power.

## Speaking – Cleaner energy

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Wind power        | • Geothermal power |
| • Solar power       | • Nuclear power    |
| • Biofuel           | • Tidal power      |
| • Hydro-electricity | • Heat pumps       |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.