

NEWS RELEASE

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BHP BILLITON ENTERS INTO A JOINT VENTURE FOR ITS INDONESIAN COAL PROJECT (MARUWAI)

BHP Billiton has today announced it has entered into binding agreements to create a new joint venture for its Indonesian Coal Project (ICP) with a subsidiary of PT Adaro Energy TBK (Adaro), which has agreed to acquire a 25 per cent interest in the ICP joint venture. BHP Billiton holds the remaining 75 per cent.

The ICP covers seven Coal Contracts of Work (CCoWs) located in East and Central Kalimantan in Indonesia. Undeveloped metallurgical and thermal Coal Resources are estimated at 774 million tonnes. Adaro is Indonesia's second largest thermal coal producer and has operations near the ICP.

BHP Billiton President Metallurgical Coal, Hubie van Dalsen, said, "These agreements with Adaro provide a strong local partner to ensure the successful development of our world class metallurgical coal interests in Indonesia. As we progress development, we will continue our strong commitment to the protection of the region's outstanding biodiversity."

Completion of the transaction is subject to approvals from the Indonesian Government.

Please refer to the attached Coal Resource statement.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

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BHP Billiton Indonesian Coal Project - Coal Resource Statement as at 31st December 2009

Deposit	Mining Method ⁶	Coal Type	Measured Resource				Indicated Resource				Inferred Resource ⁷				Total Resource				BHP Billiton Interest % ⁸
			Millions of tonnes	% Ash	% VM	% S	Millions of tonnes	% Ash	% VM	% S	Millions of tonnes	% Ash	% VM	% S	Millions of tonnes	% Ash	% VM	% S	
Lampunut ¹	OC	Met	72	4.1	28.6	0.51	31	4.3	28.5	0.62	6.7	4.3	28.5	0.71	110	4.2	28.5	0.55	75
	OC	Th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	75
Haju ²	OC	Met/Th	11	4.6	39.2	0.98	1.4	5.1	39.0	0.97	1	4.6	39.0	0.89	14	4.7	39.2	0.98	75
Luon ³	UG	Met	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	3.4	18.8	0.56	60	3.4	18.8	0.56	75
	OC	Met/Th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	3.6	18.7	0.72	80	3.6	18.7	0.72	75
Bumbun ⁴	OC	Met/Th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	4.5	17.4	0.8	70	4.5	17.4	0.8	75
Juloi Northwest ⁵	OC	Met/Th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	430	4.5	27.7	0.49	430	4.5	27.7	0.49	75
TOTAL			83				33				658				774				

"The statement of Coal Resources presented in this table has been produced in accordance with the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves, December 2004 (the JORC Code). The information in this table relating to Coal Resources is based on information compiled by Competent Persons (as defined in the JORC Code). Each Competent Person consents to the inclusion in this table of the matters based on their information in the form and context in which it appears. All of the Coal Resource figures presented are reported in 100 per cent terms and represent estimates at 31 Dec 2009 (unless otherwise stated). All tonnes and qualities information has been rounded, hence small differences may be present in the totals."

Competent Persons - Resources

Haju, Luon, Bumbun, Juloi Northwest: David Broome (MAIG) (employed by J B Mining Services)

Lampunut: Setiawan (MAusIMM) (employed by BHP Billiton)

"%VM – per cent volatile matter, %S – per cent sulphur, OC – open-cut, UG – underground, Met – metallurgical coal, Th – thermal coal.

Tonnages are at an in-situ moisture basis. Coal qualities for Lampunut are for potential product on an air dried basis, whereas for all other deposits the coal qualities are on an in-situ air dried basis."

(1) Lampunut - No additional drilling or other exploration works since it was reported in 2008.

(2) Haju - The Haju Coal Resource is located in the Lahai CCoW and is 25 km southwest of Lampunut.

(3) Luon - The Luon Coal Resource is located in the Kalteng CCoW and is 45 km northwest of Lampunut. This is the first time this resource has been reported.

(4) Bumbun - The Bumbun Coal Resource is located in the Juloi CCoW and is approximately 55 km west of Lampunut. This is the first time this resource has been reported.

(5) Juloi Northwest - The Juloi Northwest Coal Resource is located in the Juloi CCoW and is approximately 90 km west of Lampunut. This is the first time this resource has been reported.

(6) The split between open cut and underground mining method has been based on an open cut linear ratio limit of 12:1.

(7) Inferred resources in the Luon, Bumbun and Juloi Northwest areas are covered by core hole drilling at <4km spacing with all resource located within the drill grid.

(8) BHP Billiton interest after 25% sell down.