

OUTLOOK ON COAL RESOURCES AND COAL MINING TECHNOLOGY. R. Yamamura.
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Since the end of the nineteenth century Japan has spent a great effort to the development of industries and made a splendid achievement in it. During this period, the coal mining industry had exploited coal mines in all parts of the country, and produced about 2.5 billion tons of coal for the use as the foundation of the development.

Japanese coal is geologically of Paleogene period of Cenozoic era. Being located at the edge of the Continent of Asia, it was subject to the influence of the orogenic movements which resulted in that, a wide range of coal varying from lignite to anthracite is available in Japan owing to the accelerated coalification, while the state of mines is worse than many other countries due to the geological deformation.

However, the difficulties in coal mining have been overcome to a considerable extent through the accomplishment of the advanced systems of the technologies for all mechanized long-wall mining, hydraulic mining, under-sea mining and centered control of mine safety, etc.

In order to meet the future global energy demand, the exploitation of the huge amount of coal resources in the countries around the Pacific is becoming important. Japan, as a member country with its energy being largely dependent on importation, is eager to cooperate with them by offering its mining technologies as well as its mine management knowledges.