Coal remains indispensable. No other fuel matches its promise of cheap and abundant energy for development.
Victor D, Morse R (2009) Living with Coal, Boston Review

Coal is the major source of the world’s electricity. It is relatively easy to mine, transport, store, and convert into electricity and many countries have their own coal resources. This makes it the cheapest source of electricity. It is a tough act to follow.

What may kill coal is the emissions. But many countries will not give up their cheap coal easily. Hence the search for “clean coal”—advanced coal technologies that can deal with the emissions problem.