

Sector Brief

**Utilities**15 SEP 2022

# **Power**

## **Non-rated**

## Thermal power shines in early 2023F?

## Average market price remained high in Aug

- Per EVN, total electricity production in Aug was 23.9bn kWh (+11% yoy).
- Based on our collection, the 8M22 aggregate output volume went up +5% yoy to 182bn kWh, much higher than the growth of 3.6% yoy in 6M22.
- Thanks to favorable weather conditions, hydropower output surged to 10.7 kWh in Aug (+30% yoy). Thus, the favorable weather condition will be beneficial to hydropower generators in the North and central region, namely VSH, CHP, SBA, REE, TBC.
- Despite its sharp hike in 1H22, the Singapore fuel oil (FO) price (the reference for gas supplied to domestic gas-fired power plants) gradually slowed down its rising trend when it was down to USD398/tonne (-14% mom) in early Sep.
- The decreasing gas input prices narrowed the price gap between gas thermal and coal-fired power. As a result, gas thermal power became more competitive when its output increased by 5% mom to 2.3bn kWh.
- Coal thermal output shrank 8% yoy, 5% mom due to accelerating coal prices.
- Average competitive market price (CGM) remained at a high level, VND1,511/kWh (+51% yoy, +13% mom).

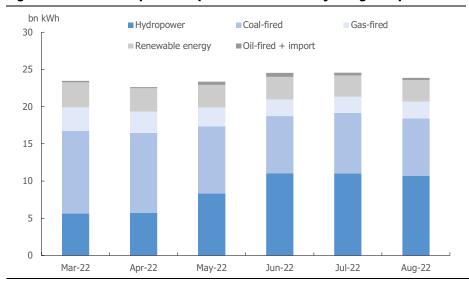
## Coal prices kept rising when input gas prices cooled down

- Faced with gas shortages, several EU members announced the reopening of coal-fired power plants which pushed global coal prices up.
- Newcastle and Indonesian HBA coal prices peaked at an all-time high in early Sep when they reached USD457/tonne and USD321/tonne, respectively.
- According to Vinacomin, in 1H22, the mixed coal price supplied to domestic power plants had increased 30-35% yoy. We predict the coal price will keep its rising trend in light of soaring global coal prices.
- IRI forecasts a continuation of the La Nina event with moderate probability during Sep-Nov 2022, continuing into boreal fall and winter. However, La Nina is expected to wane since early 2023F.
- As a result, we believe that EVN will mobilize thermal power, especially gasfired power as the substitute for shrinking hydropower output in 2023F.
- We expect CGM price will remain high in the following months in the context
  of hiking thermal coal prices and recovering power demand. NT2 still
  benefited from rising power price and its close proximity to southern
  industrial hub.

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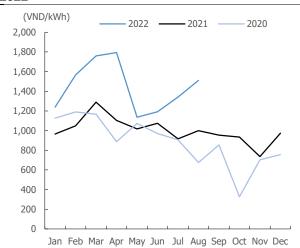
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Figure 1. Coal thermal power output was devastated by rising coal prices



Source: EVN

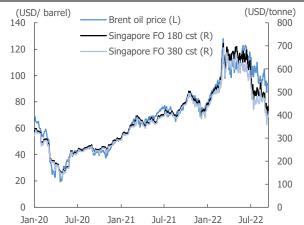
Figure 2. Average CGM price remained high in Aug 2022



Source: EVNGENCO3

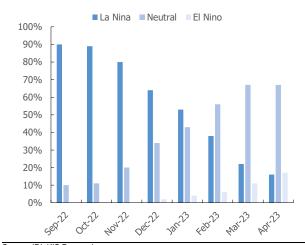
Note: The average CGM price was updated as of Aug 2022.

Figure 4. Singapore FO prices cooled down in Aug



Source: Bloomberg Note: The Singapore FO and Brent oil prices were updated as of Sep 14<sup>th</sup>.

Figure 3. IRI's Probabilistic ENSO forecasts



Source: IRI, KIS Research

Figure 5. Rising global coal prices put pressure on domestic coal-fired power makers



Source: Bloomberg, Trading Economics

Note: The Newcastle and Indonesian coal price was updated as of Sep 14<sup>th</sup>.

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