

S41-5 Atmospheric environmental issues in East Asia and countermeasures

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In East Asia, which has been undergoing a rapid increase of population and economic and industrial development, large amounts of pollutants are released into the air and water. For example, the contribution of China to the carbon dioxide emission is the second largest in the world (14.5 %) followed by USA (23.9%). Sulfur dioxide emitted from China is transported by the northwest wind in winter season and causes acid rain or acid snow in Japan. Yellow sand (Kosa) is also transported from the Asian continent to Japan in the winter and spring seasons. The main energy source has been changed to petroleum from coal in Japan and Korea. However, the main energy source is still coal (more than 75 %) in China. The differences in energy, traffic and life style cause the current diverse situation of atmospheric and water pollution in East Asian countries. From these reasons, Chinese government has controlled the use of coal, removed the old chimneys, controlled the traffic transportation. As a result, the atmospheric quality has been thought to be dramatically changed after the Baijing Olympic Games 2008. In this talk, I would like to discuss the atmospheric environmental issues and countermeasures of East Asian countries including China.