

The State of Environment in China 2007

Air

1.1 Status

The national urban air quality was good in 2007 by and large, yet pollution was serious in some cities. The distribution of acid rain nationwide remained stable, but acid rain pollution was still serious.

1.2 Air Quality

The air quality met the Grade I National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for 2.4% of cities at or above prefecture level, while it met Grade II and Grade III for 58.1% and 36.1%, respectively. Air quality was below Grade III for 3.4% of cities. The percentage of cities with annual average concentration of particulate matter meeting Grade II was 72.0%, yet below Grade III was 2.2%. Heavier pollution was mainly located in Qinghai, Xinjiang, Ningxia, Zhejiang, Sichuan, Beijing, Jiangsu, Hubei, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Gansu, Liaoning, Hunan, Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong, Henan and Chongqing.

As for the annual average concentration of sulfur dioxide, the proportion of cities meeting Grade II was 79.1%, while below Grade III was 1.2%. Heavier pollution happened mainly in Shanxi, Guizhou, Inner Mongolia, Yunnan, Chongqing, Hunan, Hebei, Xingjiang, Guangxi, Gansu, Anhui, Henan, Liaoning, Shanxi, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Tianjin.

The annual average concentration of nitrogen dioxide met the Grade II standard for 100% of cities at or above prefecture level. Moreover, 86.9% of cities met Grade I. The nitrogen dioxide of higher concentration appeared in Xinjiang, Beijing, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Shanghai.

Major Cities The air quality in the 113 cities which need more environmental protection remained stable. Among these cities, 44.2% met Grade II, 54.9% met Grade III and 0.9% of them were below Grade III. Compared with last year, the percentage of the cities below Grade III decreased by 6.2%.

1.3 Acid Rain

Acid Rain Frequency 281 out of 500 cities (counties) under the national acid rain monitoring program experienced acid rain in 2007. Among these 281 cities, 171 experienced an acid rain frequency of 25%. The frequency was above 25% in 65 cities.

Acidity of Precipitation Compared with last year, the proportion of cities experiencing moderate acid rain (average pH of precipitation <5.0) decreased by 3.2%. Likewise, the proportion of cities experiencing heavy acid rain (average pH of precipitation <4.5) dropped by 1.3%.

Nationwide Distribution of Acid Rain Occurrence Acid rain mainly happened in the areas south of the Yangtze River and east of the Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, covering the provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan, Fujian and most parts of Chongqing city as well as Yangtze River and Pearl River Delta region.

Compared with last year, the acid rain distribution didn't change much. Acid rain pollution abated in the areas in the south of Hunan province, middle part of Guizhou province, northwest of Sichuan and Guangxi Autonomous Region.

1.4 Emissions of Major Pollutants out of the exhaust gas

In 2007, sulfur dioxide emissions, soot emissions and industrial dust emissions were 24.681 million tons, 9.863 million tons and 6.99 million tons respectively. Emissions of these pollutants decreased by 4.7%, 9.4%, and 13.5% respectively, compared with 2006.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.zhb.gov.cn/plan/zkgb/2007zkgb/200808/P020080825228750586787.pdf>

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