

Air and water - Pollution in China

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This paper shows the biggest problems of our planet in front of a large audience. We have to understand that our Planet is in a very hard situation and it needs our help and the people of China have to review their actions.

Today's major problem of the world is environmental pollution. In our days the Republic of China is one of the most polluted countries in the world. Lu Guang a freelancer photographer tried to demonstrate it in his documentary project called "Pollution in China" for what he won the \$30,000 W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography [1].

Air pollution is one of the most important problems in China. According to the People's Republic of China's own evaluation, two-thirds of the 338 cities for which air-quality data are available are considered polluted. Respiratory, Cancer and heart diseases related to air pollution are the leading cause of death in China. Acid rain falls on 30% of the country land. China's environmental laws are among the strictest in the world' but enforcing these laws has been difficult in China. The World Health Organization has found that about 750,000 people die prematurely each year from respiratory problems in China.

Water pollution in China is not merely a nuisance; it is a danger. Although Chinese bureaucrats will claim otherwise, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently estimated that 75% of all disease in China comes from water pollution [2].

Dirty water has caused so much cancer that people living along polluted water sources are often said to live in "cancer villages," and are lucky if they reach their prime without contracting a terminable disease. World Health Organization puts the number of Chinese water-pollution-related deaths at 100,000 per year.

This shocking mortality rate could easily be prevented if China's government would change their attitude towards law regulation. Responsible parties currently get away with extreme pollution and the Chinese government quickly and quietly covers up each scandal in order to save face.

Yet there comes a point at which hiding is no longer an option. International attention was arisen in 2005 when a Chinese petro-chemical plant exploded, shooting 100 tons of benzene into the Songhua River. Despite dealing with similarly atrocious spills on a frequent basis, China's government officials did not move fast enough that time, and journalists around the world exposed China's appalling environmental policies [3].

The international community began an ongoing campaign pressuring China to hold itself accountable for pollution, which means not only punishing and restricting the companies that break environmental laws, but also allowing the facts about water pollution to be accessed by the public.

Pollution affects not only China but our entire Planet and it is our duty to pass to the next generations a healthy planet.

Bibliography:

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3. Dasgupta, Susmita; Hua Wang; Wheeler, David; (1997-11-30). "*Surviving success: policy reform and the future of industrial pollution in China, Volume 1*". *The World Bank*. Retrieved 2009-03-14.