

Individual Projects of the Environment Subcommittee

Establishment of dust and sandstorm monitoring system (Toyama)

1 Objectives:

These years in the region of Northeast Asia, air pollution caused by dust and sandstorm has become serious. The first step for the problem solution, we need to know the present situation extensively with the unified method.

This project has the aim to establish the monitoring network among economic and academic societies, and municipalities, to understand the real situation and influences of dust and sandstorm. It is expected that the project produces useful information to develop effective measures against dust and sandstorm in the future.

2 Outline:

(1) Period: April 2008 to March 2009 (the monitoring is conducted from March to May, the season of dust and sandstorm)

(2) Places: Private companies, schools, academic organizations, municipalities in Japan, China, Korea, Russia, Mongol, which are interested in this project

(3) Method:

I) Main body of the monitoring

The municipalities conduct the monitoring with private companies and schools (the municipality has responsibilities of securing participants and instructing the monitoring procedure)

II) Procedure

- Monitoring of the visible range — by the municipalities, private companies and schools

The visible range is monitored by checking an object by unaided eyes. The municipality instructs participants how to monitor.

Look over the view from the research point (some higher place such as a roof of a building), then, decide any landmarks (chimneys or tall buildings). Make sure the distance from the research point to the landmark.

Monitor the landmarks everyday at the same time by unaided eyes and check how far you can see.

- Data is analyzed based on the monitoring result (the behavior analysis with academics together).

III) Monitoring result

- Each municipality collect results and submit them to Toyama.
- Toyama will compile them to make a report which will be opened in the web site.

(4) Participating municipalities (as of February 13, 2009)

11 municipalities of 5 countries

- Japan (3): Yamagata, Toyama, Tottori
- China (2): Liaoning, Jilin
- Korea (2): Kangwon-do, Chungcheongnam-do
- Russia (2): Primorsky, Khabarovsk
- Mongol (2): Dornogovi, Tuv

(5) Annual plan:

2008 4 – 10 : Development of the research manual

5: Implementation of trials with elementary schools, private companies, and administrative agencies in Toyama

10 – 2: Instruction of the monitoring procedure, development of the web site

2009 3 – 5 : Implementation of the monitoring (it is the season of dust and sandstorm)

(6) Others:

I) Future plan

It will be implemented for 3 years from 2008 to 2010.

II) Outcome to be expected

Participants will deepen the understanding mutually and exchange opinions. They will also share the knowledge on the situation caused by dust and sandstorm and issues for solution, which will lead to effective countermeasures in the future.



Monitoring by students of the elementary school