



## Third of China 'hit by acid rain'

Published Sunday, 27 August 2006 by **BBC News**

One third of China is suffering from acid rain caused by rapid industrial growth, an official report quoted by the state media says.

Pollution levels have risen and air quality has deteriorated, the report found. This comes despite a pledge by the authorities to clean up the air.

In the latest incident, a reservoir serving 100,000 people in north-west China was polluted by a chemical spill.

China has some of the world's most polluted cities and rivers.

The pollution inspection report to the standing committee of parliament found that 25.5 million tonnes of sulphur dioxide were spewed out, mainly from the country's coal-burning factories last year — up 27% from 2000.

Emissions of sulphur dioxide — the chemical that causes acid rain — were double the safe level, the report said. In some areas, rainfall was 100% acid rain, it added.

"Increased sulphur dioxide emissions meant that one-third of China's territory was affected by acid rain, posing a major threat to soil and food safety," Sheng Huaren of the standing committee, was quoted by state media as saying.

### Caustic soda

Local governments were accused of overlooking environmental regulations in the rush for economic development.

"It is especially worrying that most local governments base economic growth on energy consuming industries, disregarding the environment's capacity to sustain industrial expansion," Mr Sheng said.

His report echoes the findings from the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) released earlier this month.

In July, China announced it planned to spend 1.4 trillion yuan (\$175bn) over the next five years on protecting its environment.

The sum — equivalent to 1.5% of China's annual economic output — will be used to improve water quality, and cut air and land pollution and soil erosion.

Meanwhile, water supplies to the city of Hancheng in Shaanxi province were due to resume on Sunday, following an emergency when a nearby reservoir was polluted with 25 tonnes of caustic soda.

Officials brought in 10 tonnes of hydrochloric acid to neutralise the caustic soda, which was being carried by a tanker that fell into the Xuefeng reservoir on Friday, killing one person.

Name

Section

# Acid Rain in China Questions

Answer the following questions using complete sentences. Use your own words: phrases copied from the article will be given a mark of zero.

Who published this story? When was it written? Who wrote it?

What country is this article about?

What compound causes acid rain? What is its formula?

How much will China spend to clean up the environment?

What is China's annual economic output?

Why is pollution in China so bad?



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This story is from the BBC News. It was written on August 27, 2006.  
We don't know who wrote it, but it was probably a BBC reporter.

3

What country is this article about?

This story is about China.

1

What compound causes acid rain? What is its formula?

Acid rain is caused by sulfur dioxide. Its formula is SO<sub>2</sub>.

2

How much will China spend to clean up the environment?

China will spend 1.4 trillion yuan over five years to clean up its environment.

2

What is China's annual economic output?

1.4 trillion is 1.5% of China's annual economic output, so China's total annual economic output is 93 trillion yuan.

1

Why is pollution in China so bad?

China is industrializing very quickly. Many local governments are ignoring environmental laws because they want to encourage industrial development.

3

Not mentioned in this article, but also in the news, is that many officials are being bribed to ignore environmental regulations. Corruption is a big problem in China.