

SHC 23. CHINA, AS THE “WORLD’S FACTORY”, IS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY

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The latest international research results of the Global Burden of Disease Project from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation showed that 5.5 million people die every year around the world because of various diseases caused by air pollution, with 1.6 million located in China. Research also shows that the huge number of abnormal deaths caused by air pollution over the world each year is mostly concentrated in some countries undergoing the rapid process of industrialization, especially the so-called emerging economies like China and India. In China, which is responsible for the huge number of deaths caused by air pollution worldwide each year, coal is the leading source of serious air pollution without any doubt. When people inhale significantly polluted air, it may cause stroke, respiratory diseases, heart disease and even cancer in the human body. The number of deaths resulted from air pollution are much more than those resulted from malnutrition, obesity, alcoholic and drug abuse, and unsafe sex threats, so it is actually considered an invisible killer and its harm to the whole society should not be underestimated. In the recent years, with the high speed of economic development, China has benefitted from economic globalization, but it is also suffering from great environmental pressure from its massive export-oriented industry, as a result of which, an increase in environmental pollution has been observed. To overcome this, related departments in China have attached great importance to these problems and certain actions have been carried out according to the basic principles and research methods of environmental toxicology which has a remarkable role in solving all kinds of environmental pollution problems occurring worldwide.

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