

# Air pollution, health risks and coping strategies in China

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**Air Pollution, Health Risks and Coping Strategies in China:  
Addressing the Global Health Challenges**

Li Wang, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017

1. The air pollution issue got people's attention with the outbreak of a few heavy pollution episodes covering a large part of China, which enhanced the formulation of unprecedented air pollution control strategies; yet those strategies are making slight change in air quality that is far less than the expectations from the government and the public. (This dissertation, chapters 1 and 5)
2. Health effect of air pollutants is higher for regions with lower socioeconomic status; males and the elderly are more susceptible to ozone exposure. (This dissertation, chapters 2 and 3)
3. The air pollution control strategies in the Europe involve not just multi-disciplinary approaches, but also a wide scope ranging from the community level to the European level, with some of those, targeting for specific high-risk regions; all those strategies gained health benefit. (This dissertation, chapter 4)
4. Significant challenges remain with regard to air pollution control from industrial restructuring in China, which mainly include incapacity at the local level (implementation level), potential regional contradictions in terms of regional pollution control, and huge social cost like unemployment. (This dissertation, chapter 5)
5. Exploring the connections and interactions between stakeholders is necessary to provide a clear picture of how to balance competing interests, and thus to smooth the implementation of air pollution control strategies in China. (This dissertation, chapters 5 and 6)
6. There is urgent need to bridge the gap between knowledge and decision-making in China, to make the air pollution control policy evidence-based and health-oriented. (This dissertation, chapter 6)
7. The EU's long-term objective is "to achieve levels of air quality that do not result in unacceptable impacts on, and risks to, human health and the environment"; health protection is embedded in the major air pollution control policies, and health related scientific research plays a backbone role for the formulation of the effective strategies in the EU. (European Environmental Agency)
8. A wide range of participation from different stakeholders in decision-making contributes to the successful implementation of air pollution control strategies in the EU. (European Commission)
9. When I walk along with two others, they may serve me as my teachers. (Confucius)  
三人行，必有我师焉。(孔夫子)