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ACE 21/95
for information

Air Pollution Index and Forecast System

Introduction

This paper is to inform Members of the new air pollution index and forecast system that will be launched on 6 June 1995.

The Air Pollution Index and Forecast System

2. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has developed an air pollution index and forecast system with sponsorship from the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club. The system is to serve the following objectives :-

- (a) to enhance public awareness on air pollution;
- (b) to disseminate air pollution information in a simple manner; and
- (c) to advise the public before the onset of air pollution incidents.

3. Details about the system are given in the information leaflet attached which will be made available to the public soon.

Release of the Air Pollution Index

4. After launching the system on 6 June 1995, the EPD will release everyday at 4:00 pm the air pollution index of the day to the public through newspapers, radio and television announcements, except on Sundays and holidays (Measurements in the past have shown that air pollution is usually low on these days). Forecasts will also be made for the following day. Apart from the mass media, the public can obtain the air pollution index and forecasts by phoning up 2827 8541.

Environmental Protection Department
May 1995

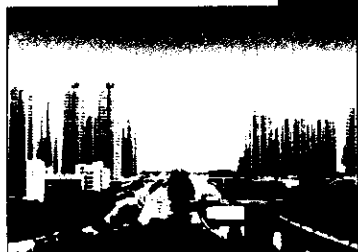
Geographical Coverage of the API

Districts in Hong Kong are classified into three types of air quality areas: Urban, New Development and Industrial. API readings are reported for each of these areas which tend to have different and distinct air quality.



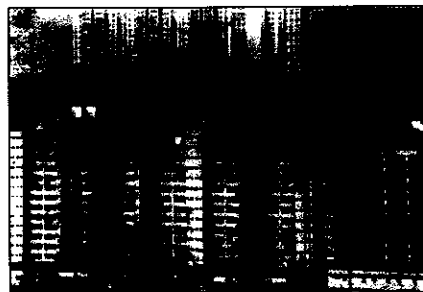
Urban Area

Central and Western, Wan Chai, Eastern, Kowloon City, Sham Shui Po, Wong Tai Sin and Yau Tsim Mong districts.



New Development Area

Islands, Southern, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Sha Tin, Tai Po and North districts.



Industrial Area

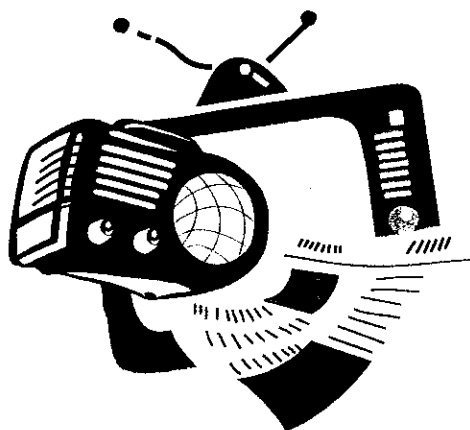
Kwai Tong, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan districts.



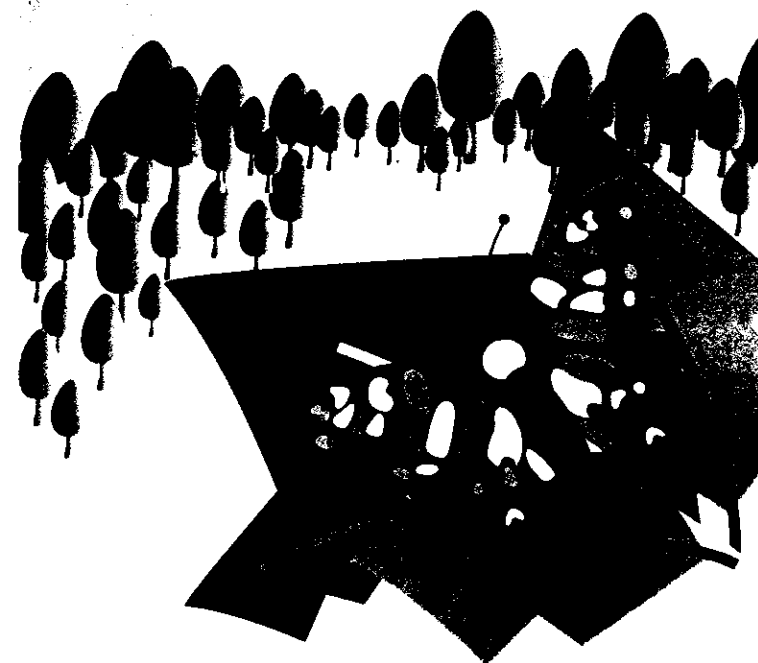
Where to Obtain API Information

Information on the daily API and the forecast for the following day are provided to the public via newspaper, radio and television announcements.

In addition, the public may telephone 2827 8541 to obtain up-to-date API information.



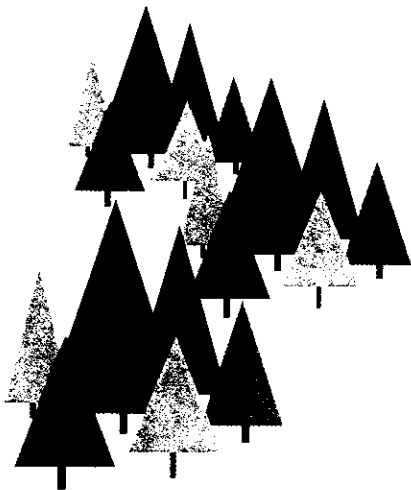
Air Pollution Index



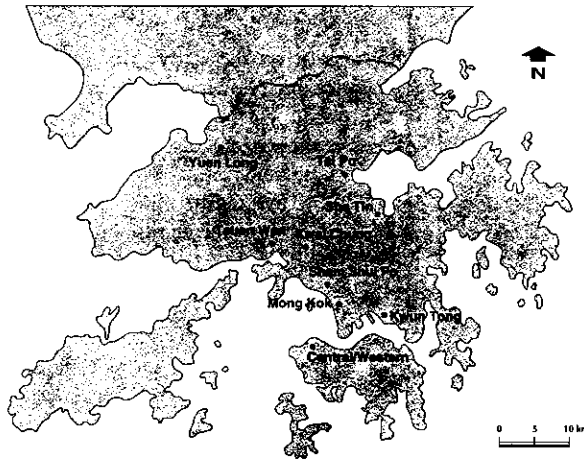
Hong Kong Government
Environmental Protection Department

Air Pollution Index (API)

Public awareness of air pollution problems has increased the need for timely information about air pollution levels. The Air Pollution Index is a means for the concise representation of information on air quality. It provides a simple and uniform way to report daily air pollution concentrations and serves as a basis for issuing advice to the public before the onset of air pollution episodes. This will enable everyone, particularly susceptible groups, such as people with heart or respiratory illnesses, to consider taking precautionary measures when necessary.



How the API is Calculated



Locations of EPD's Air Quality Monitoring Stations (1995).

The API is based on the measurement of six air pollutants for which Hong Kong Air Quality Objectives (HKAQO) have been established. These pollutants are: nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, total suspended particulates and respirable suspended particulates. They are measured at the air quality monitoring stations of the Environmental Protection Department at the sites shown above.

The measured pollutant concentrations are transformed into an air pollution index which ranges in value from 0 to 500. An index between 0 and 100 represents good or moderate air quality and, in this range, no individual HKAQO is exceeded. An index exceeding 100 indicates that one or more individual HKAQOs are being exceeded at one or more of the monitoring stations.



What To Do When the API Exceeds 100

In general, the air quality in Hong Kong falls within the 'Good' and 'Moderate' ranges. When the API exceeds 100, people with existing heart or respiratory illnesses will notice mild aggravation of their conditions and generally healthy members of the population could notice some discomfort.

If the API rises above 200, those with heart or respiratory illnesses will experience significant aggravation of their symptoms and be less able to take exercise. There will be also widespread symptoms in the healthy population. At very high values of the API, most people will experience some adverse symptoms such as eye irritation, wheezing, coughing, phlegm and sore throats.

Condition	API	Advice to Public
Very Unhealthy	201-500	The general public are advised to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities.
Unhealthy	101-200	Susceptible persons with existing heart or respiratory illnesses are advised to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities.
Moderate	51-100	No response action is required.
Good	0-50	

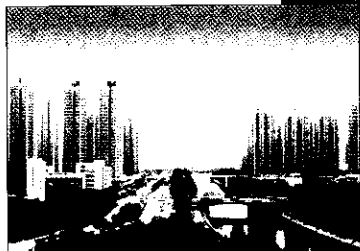


空氣污染指數地區的劃分

香港的空氣質素地區分為三類，分別是市區、新發展區及工業區，各具空氣特質及差異。環保署根據各區內錄得的空氣質素數據，分別計算出該三類地區的空氣污染指數。



市區
中西區、灣仔、東區、九龍城、深水埗、黃大仙、油尖旺



新發展區
離島、南區、西貢、屯門、元朗、沙田、大埔、北區



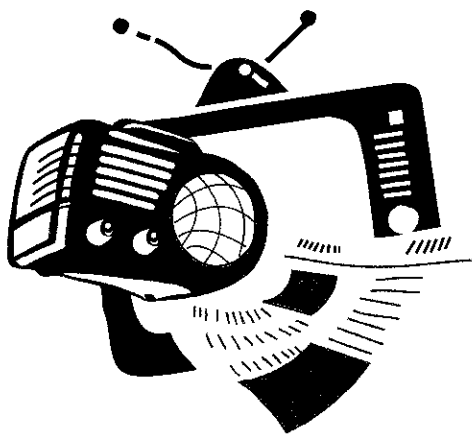
工業區
觀塘、葵青、荃灣



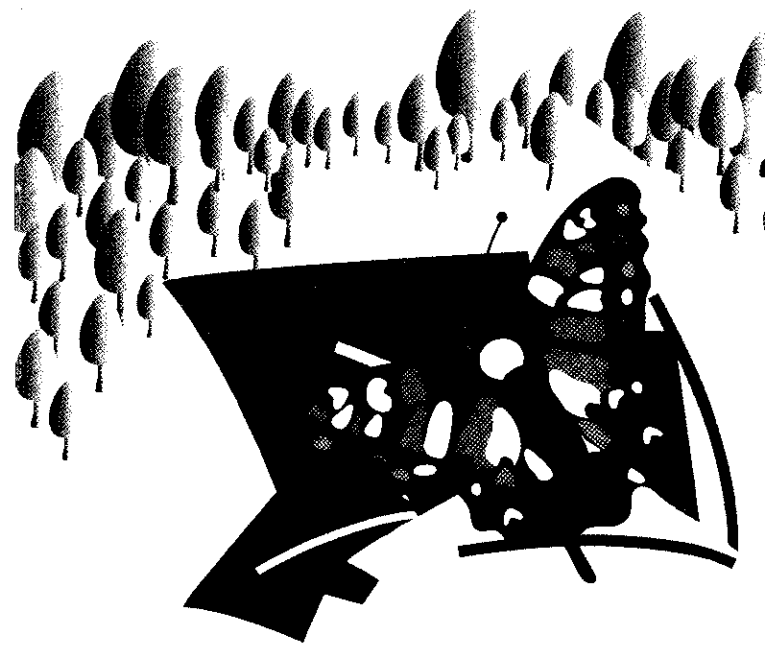
如何得知空氣污染指數

市民可從報章、電台、電視台報導獲悉即日的空氣污染指數及翌日的指數預報。

此外，亦可撥電 2827 8541 查詢有關空氣污染指數的資料。



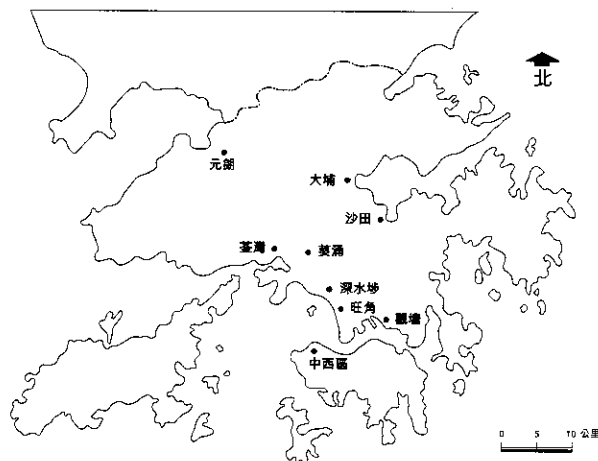
空氣污染指數 (API)



空氣污染指數 (API)

市民對空氣污染問題日趨關注，因而對迅速獲得空氣污染資料的需求亦與日俱增。環境保護署因此制訂空氣污染指數，以一個簡易劃一的方法，為市民提供空氣質素資料。該指數可顯示每日的空氣污染濃度，並可作為基礎數據，在空氣污染情況出現前，提示市民大眾，特別是那些對空氣污染敏感的人士（如心臟病患者或呼吸系統有毛病者），採取適當的預防措施。

怎樣計算空氣污染指數



一九九五年環保署轄下空氣質素監察站的位置。

空氣污染指數是根據香港空氣質素指標六類空氣污染物的量度結果而計算。這些污染物包括：二氧化氮、二氧化硫、臭氧、一氧化碳、總懸浮粒子和可吸入懸浮粒子。環保署把各空氣質素監察站量得的污染物濃度簡化為空氣污染指數，數值由0至500不等。如指數在0至100之間，表示空氣質素良好至普通，並且沒有出現超逾香港空氣質素指標的情況。指數如果超逾100，表示若干監察站所量得的空氣污染物濃度已超逾一個或多個香港空氣質素指標。

空氣污染指數如果超過100，該怎辦

香港的空氣質素普遍屬於「良好」及「普通」。空氣污染指數如果超逾100，患心臟病或呼吸系統毛病者的健康情況會輕微轉差，而一般人或會稍感不適。

空氣污染指數倘若超逾200，患心臟病或呼吸系統毛病者的健康情況會明顯地受影響，運動時會感吃力；而一般人普遍會有不適的情況。當空氣污染指數更高的時候，大多數人會有眼睛不適、喘氣、咳嗽、痰多、喉痛等徵狀。

空氣質素級別	空氣污染指數	對市民的忠告
惡劣	201-500	市民宜減少體力消耗及戶外活動。
不佳	101-200	對空氣污染敏感的人士，如患有心臟病或呼吸系統毛病者，宜減少體力消耗及戶外活動。
普通	51-100	可如常活動。
良好	0-50	