



A General World Environmental Chronology

GWEC Editorial Working Committee

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SUIRENSHA

I

The first truly global chronology of the environment

This is the world's first-ever chronology of the environment, covering environmental issues and events throughout the world, from the Industrial Age up to 2010. It brings together data and insights from 138 chronologies compiled in 125 countries and regions.

II

Comprehensive 4-part format with special focus on East Asia

The first part contains chronologies of environmental issues in East Asia (Japan, China, Taiwan, and South Korea), as well as chronologies of historical studies and articles on important environmental issues. In the second part, important events and matters are highlighted to organize global environmental issues into three sections. The third part presents 131 newly-created chronologies, grouped by county and regions. The fourth part brings together eight chronologies concerning environmental issues that are particularly important and that have been observed in various countries and regions, presenting them in a horizontal format for easy comparison and contrast.

III

Combined wisdom of 150 experts from all over the globe

This chronology is a crystallization of the findings gleaned from the collaborative work and achievements of environmental researchers throughout East Asian, as well as some 150 researchers from 15 countries including Spain, Portugal, Croatia, and Estonia. It also draws on the work of experts stationed in Japanese embassies abroad.

IV

Full citations and source material for all articles

All original source material for articles, including study documents, reports, magazines, theses, and websites, are compiled in the included CD-ROM. Source materials are provided for each chronology as a list, so readers can confirm facts and search for additional information.

V

Detailed online indexes

Indexes are being extracted from each article. Before the end of 2014, the editorial committee will complete detailed indexes and make them available on the website of the Institute for Sustainability Research.

(<http://www.sustenaken.hosei.ac.jp/publication/>)

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Details of Chronologies of the
Major East Asian Region****Japan**

- The history of Environmental Policy, the Environmental Movement, and Environmental Problems within Japan
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- History of Studies on Environmental Problems in Japan

Republic of Korea

- Environmental Problems in South Korea
- Chronology of Environmental Problems in South Korea
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People's Republic of China

- Dramatic Change: Chinese Environment Situation in the Past 60 Years
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**Part II:
Integrated Chronology of
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- Republic of Sierra Leone
- Republic of Liberia
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Burkina Faso
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- Togolese Republic
- Republic of Benin
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Republic of Cameroon

Date of event

Mar. 10, 1912

Source

Published on
P.153 of the source
reference list
CHI-307

Chronology of Environmental Problems in China

- 1912.1.1** The Republic of China's provisional government of Nanjing is formed and Sun Yat-Sen is appointed as president. (CHI-300:93)
- 1912.3.10** The Republic of China's provisional government of Beijing is formed, but Yuan Shikai is appointed as president instead of Sun Yat-Sen. (CHI-300:110)
- 1912.5** The Ministry of Agriculture is formed and the first Department of Forestry ever formed in China's history is managed from the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Forestry manages the State Forestry Administration. (CHI-300:110)
- 1912** China's urban population reaches approximately 31 million. (CHI-300:477)
- 1912** The Jiangmen paper mill in Guangdong province is established. (CHI-301:916)
- 1912** The Nandan tin mine in Guangxi province is established. (CHI-301:876)
- 1912** The Kunming electric light factory in Yunnan province is established. (CHI-301:882)
- 1913** The Zhenxing, Huaxing and Dazhong match factories are established in Yunnan province, Guangzhou city and Kaifeng city respectively. (CHI-301:888)
- 1914** The Beiyang government announces the 'regulations for contract reclamation of state-owned wastelands' and encourages individuals to contribute money and resources for the reclamation of wastelands. (CHI-303:451)
- 1915** The China Chemical Industry Company that was established in 1911 converts to a corporation after increasing their capital by 50,000 yuan in 1915. (CHI-302:906)
- 1915** The Kailin paint factory in Shanghai is established as the first paint factory in China. (CHI-302:906)
- 1915** The Republic of China's provisional government of Beijing and Jiangsu. 7.6 million people were affected by the disaster and 24,900 people died. (CHI-306:71)
- 1922.8** A hurricane and storm surge hit the coastal areas of Chaozhou and Shantou. The city area of Shantou gets flooded and 34,500 people died. (CHI-307:153)
- 1922** In order to carry out Sun Yat-sen's Yangtze river development plan, the Yangtze River water supply organizing committee is established in 1922. (CHI-305:321)
- 1928.8** The Nanjing National Government establishes a construction committee and it manages the coal mines and power companies. (CHI-300:169)
- 1928** The Republic of China promulgates the "Rules regarding the control of soft drink businesses," banning the usage of preservatives and harmful color additives in the manufacture of soft drinks. (CHI-310:43-59)
- 1929.7.19** The Central Development and Farming Committee is established. (CHI-300:170)
- 1929** The Republic of China promulgates the "Regulations for the inspection of agricultural products" and "Fisheries Act." (CHI310:46-59)
- 1930** The Republic of China promulgates the "Mining Act," "River Law" and "Methods to limit afforestation at dikes and development and cultivation of sloped lands." (CHI-308:46-59)
- 1930** The Huainan Mining Bureau is established, and it manages the mining of the Huainan coal mine. (CHI-300:178)
- 1931** Abnormal weather is observed from June to August and sustained periods of rain occurs across China from the start of summer, resulting in a nationwide flood affecting 592 prefectures across 16 provinces. 51.27 million people were affected by the disaster, and 495,000 people died. (CHI-309:17)

- Central African Republic
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Republic of the Congo
- Gabonese Republic
- Republic of Zambia
- Republic of Malawi
- Republic of Botswana
- Republic of South Africa
- Republic of Namibia
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- Republic of Madagascar
- Other Countries of Africa

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- United Kingdom
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- Kingdom of Belgium
- Netherlands
- Republic of Austria
- Swiss Confederation
- Italian Republic
- Portuguese Republic
- Kingdom of Spain

- Hellenic Republic (Greece)
- Kingdom of Sweden
- Republic of Finland
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- Republic of Ecuador
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Contributors
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References (attached CD-ROM)

Foreword

Harutoshi Funabashi

Chairperson of the GWEC Editorial Working Committee

For the world in the 21st Century, environmental issues have become more than individual social problems, but extremely serious problems that affect the the survival of human beings. We must prevent resource depletion and environmental pollution, and we have to create a sustainable society. We can say that achieving this is the highest-priority and urgent goal that needs to be shared among mankind's societies in the 21st Century. To put this into practice, we have to consider fundamental questions: how economy, politics, culture, and scientific technology should be developed in the future, how we should live, and how innovation can be used in our modern world. In particular, it is especially essential for us to comprehensively understand what kind of environmental issues have actually been caused, to what degree they have been solved, and what is the actual situation regarding the current environmental issues.

This book is actually the first attempt in the world to try to provide the entire picture of history of the environmental issues across the globe after industrialization. This was done by systematically arranging 138 chronologies based on a four-part structure. The methodology we tried with this book, in order to try to understand historical processes by accumulating a vast amount of information in the form of chronologies, is actually originated within cultural traditions of East Asian countries. No such a method or achievement has been seen in the United States and European countries. Based on such traditions, we formed an international editorial committee consisting of researchers from Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan in order to compile and edit this book of chronologies. Moreover, we were able to receive cooperation from about 150 environmental researchers and experts from Japan as well as various other countries of the world.

This book consists of four parts, so that readers are able to learn and understand the history of environmental issues across the world from many perspectives. The first part contains chronologies of environmental issues, chronologies of history of related studies, and articles regarding environmental issues according to the East Asian countries of Japan, South Korea, China, and Taiwan. With these three pillars, this part presents historical facts and research information in a detailed fashion. The second part is an integrated chronology of important items and matters. This chronology covers the related items and matters in the world during the period from industrialization to 2010, in three columns. Based on the data presented by the first, third, and fourth parts, this chronology was created by extracting about 15% items from the first, the third and the fourth parts. The third part provides 121 chronologies of individual countries and regions, so that readers are able to understand the details of global trends according to countries and regions. The fourth part contains eight chronologies of related to specific themes. Along with each individual important theme regarding environmental issues, these chronologies organize historical facts and processes across other chronologies of individual countries and regions horizontally.

The foundation of this book is the "Integrated Environmental Chronology - Japan and the World (Suirensa, 2010)" published in Japanese. In order to edit an integrated chronology that is appropriate for this modern society where globalization is in progress, we decided to increase the number of countries to be contained in this book and publish it in English with the aim of widely diffusing our work throughout the world. We all hope that this book will serve to spread recognition the history of environmental issues across the world. Our desire is that this book will provide essential knowledge for humans to think and decide in which direction they should move.

A Recommendation for the
"A General World Environmental Chronology,"
which Envisions Humanity's Future

Ken'ichi Miyamoto

Owing to the Rio Declaration issued at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, it was hoped that "sustainable development" would become humanity's common goal, and that the 21st century would be the century of peace and the environment. But since then the world has faced the war on terror, a rich-poor gulf caused by economic competition, and, most of all, environmental and resource crises. How can we envision a society capable of maintaining peace and caring for the environment?

After the Second World War Japan enjoyed rapid economic growth that was unprecedented, but that growth produced many victims because of Minamata disease, itai-itai disease, and serious air pollution, and it irrevocably damaged the natural environment. And the 21st century brought what is arguably the biggest and worst pollution ever — the earthquake-induced Fukushima nuclear accident. We need to facilitate progress in future environmental policy by means of earnest soul-searching over such historical experiences.

Because of their historically uncommon pollution experience, Japan's researchers believe that the first step toward solutions for environmental problems is to learn from history. In other words, future environmental policy is created from the lessons of pollution history, and that requires chronologies that bring together accurate and comprehensive information on environmental problems. For Western countries there are histories of individual instances of air pollution or damage to the natural environment, but there are few chronologies or historical records that synthesize environmental problems and policies.

This is the world's first global environmental chronology, and it is arguably an accomplishment of the methodology used by Japanese researchers, who have engaged in a bitter struggle to solve postwar environmental problems. This chronology has been put into the form of a chronicle showing the stream of events related to environmental problems and policies, but sans any value judgments. By following the dynamic, one can naturally comprehend the theory of environmental problems and the desirable form of environmental policies. This characterizes the "chronology science" developed by Japanese researchers of pollution and environmental problems.

There are expectations for this World Environmental Chronology, the first of its kind anywhere, as a basic resource for considering future global environmental conservation, and there are also expectations that, by comparing the chronologies of the 124 countries/regions included, people will learn from the achievements of advanced environmental policies, and also learn lessons from bad examples and failures. I recommend this World Environmental Chronology as a means of advancing environmental science.

Praise for
"A General World Environmental Chronology"

A General World Environmental Chronology is a very welcome and major addition to the rapidly growing social scientific literature on the environment. The volume follows a tradition of environmental chronologies in Japan, but moves far beyond one country. It provides a truly global analysis of environmental developments in historical perspective, with a special emphasis on the East Asian region. Moreover, compiled by an international team of East Asian environmental sociologists, the volume illustrates the growing importance of and collaboration among the environmental social sciences in East Asia. With over 900 pages and over 130 entries this is likely to become a standard reference volume for the chronology of the world environmental problems, events and policies. It will be of major interest for environmental scholars, policy-makers, business and activists. The making of this Chronology is a major effort and the editors and contributors should be applauded for this!

Prof. Arthur P.J. Mol

President, ISA RC24(2002-06)
Chair and professor in Environmental Policy, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

The General World Environmental Chronology represents a great achievement, providing an in-depth overview of the evolution of environmental problems and issues in East Asia as well as good coverage of their evolution in the rest of the world. It represents an important extension of the work initiated by Nobuko Iijima, the "mother of environmental sociology," and reflects the labors of leading Japanese environmental sociologists and their international collaborators.

It is a special pleasure for me to see this volume appear, as I have had the good fortune of observing the development of environmental sociology in East Asia first-hand. I met several Japanese scholars interested in environmental sociology when I presented on the topic at the 1991 International Institute of Sociology conference in Kobe. A year later they and Iijima established the Japanese Association for Environmental Sociology, which has become hugely successful and launched the world's first environmental sociology journal. Then in 1993 I met Korean sociologists doing environmental research at the Korean Sociological Association's conference on environment and development in Seoul, and in 2000 they formed the Korean Association for Environmental Sociology and its journal ECO. Lastly, in 2007 Dayong Hong and I co-organized an international environmental sociology conference at Renmin University in Beijing. The current biennial "International Symposium on Environmental Sociology in East Asia," which has become a wonderful vehicle for solidifying environmental sociology across Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and other East Asian nations, evolved from that conference.

Such experiences have allowed me to witness the development and evolution of Asian environmental sociology, and it is clearly thriving. Asian scholars are making important contributions to our rapidly developing field, providing vital perspectives that complement those from other regions. This essential volume provides a source of integration for Asian environmental sociology, and an essential resource for scholars worldwide.

Riley E. Dunlap

President, ISA RC 24 (1994-98) and Regents Professor of Sociology, Oklahoma State University, USA

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