

# TOWARDS ZERO POLLUTION

4 June 2021

# Launch of the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution Report





Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Global Assessment of Soil Pollution: Asia-Pacific

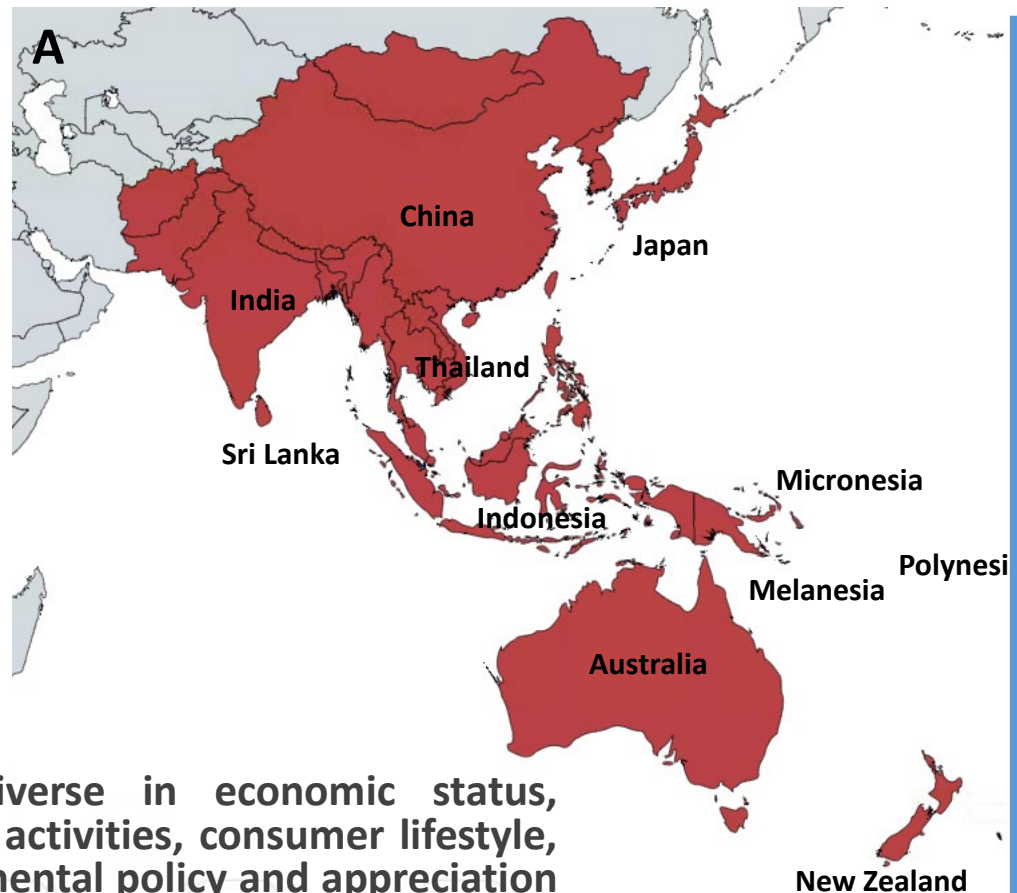
**Laureate Professor Ravi Naidu & Dr Bhabananda Biswas,  
University of Newcastle, Australia**

**Other contributors:** Zueng-Sang Chen (Taiwan), Joytishna Jit (Pacific Island countries), Mohammad Mahmudur Rahman (Bangladesh), Luchun Duan (Mainland China), Jeonggwan Kim and Kihwan Lee (The Republic of Korea), Tanapon Phenrat (Thailand and Myanmar), Nabeel Khan Niazi (Pakistan), M.A. Ayanka Wijayawardena (Sri Lanka).

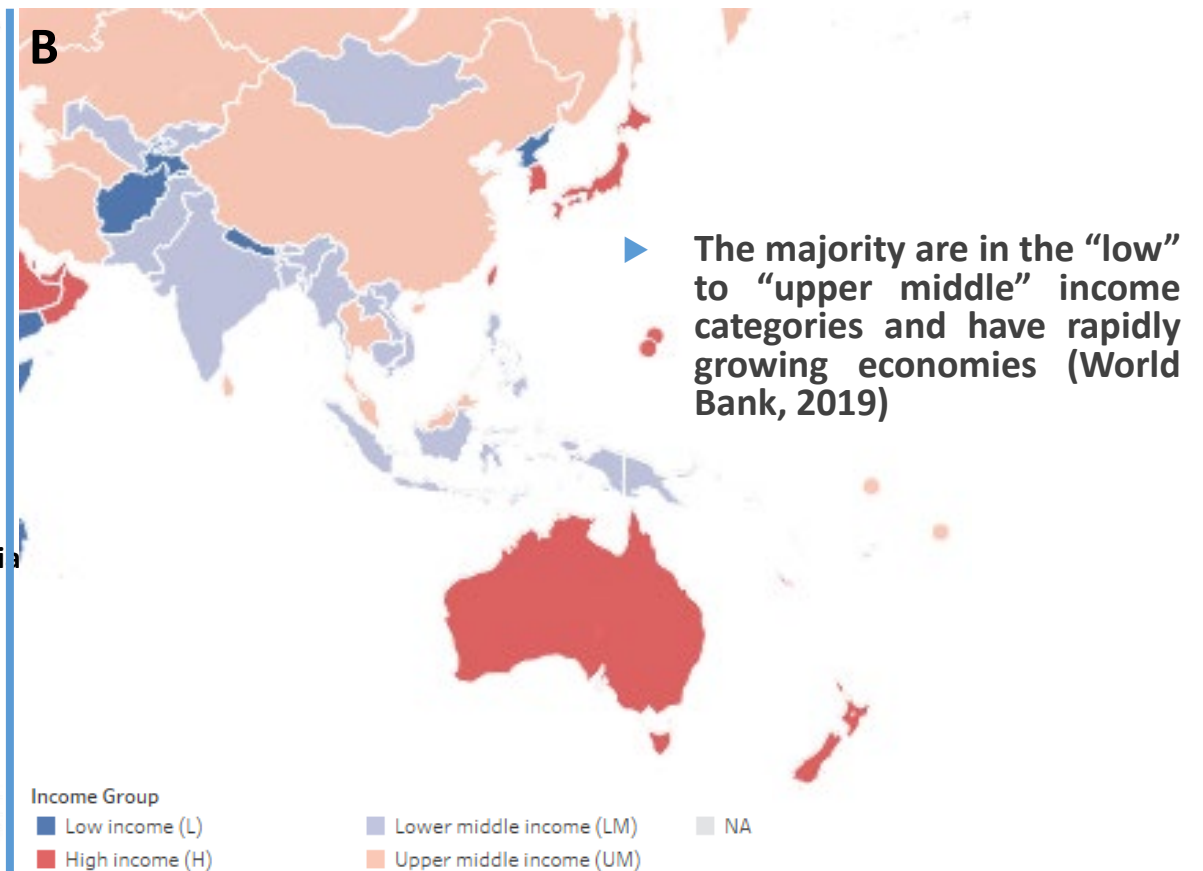




# Brief about Asia-Pacific: **Heterogeneity**



- ▶ Quite diverse in economic status, business activities, consumer lifestyle, environmental policy and appreciation of sustainable development

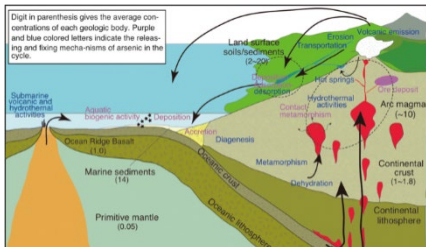


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# Sources of soil pollution: **Natural** & **Man-made**



(Chakraborti, et al. 2017: Hydrogeol J. 25: 1165-1181)



(Masuda, 2018: Pro Earth Planet Sc. 5: 68)



(source: Flickr)

## Natural

- ▶ Arsenic > irrigation to surface soil

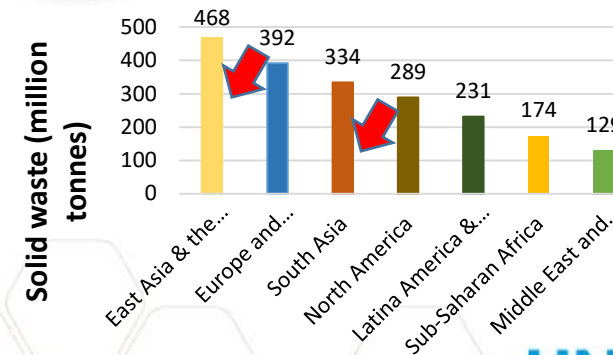
- ▶ Heavy metal(oids) > eruption to soil
- ▶ e.g., Hg in New Zealand

- ▶ PAHs > wash-up to soil
- ▶ e.g., PAH in AUS and S. Korea

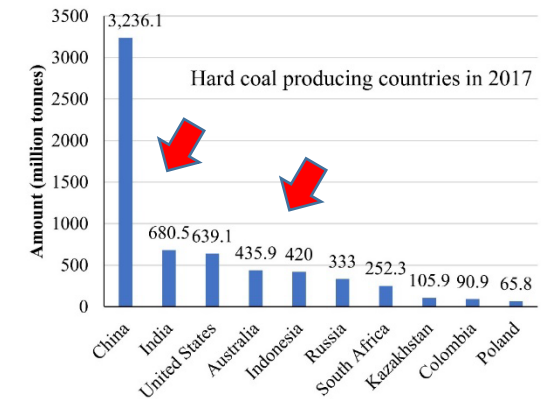
(photo source: Creative Commons Licence)



- ▶ Industrial activities
- ▶ Mining & Quarry
- ▶ Agro-chemicals
- ▶ Energy production
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Solid waste and others



## Man-made

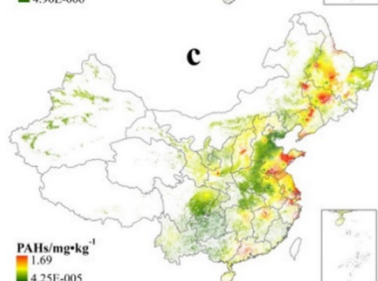
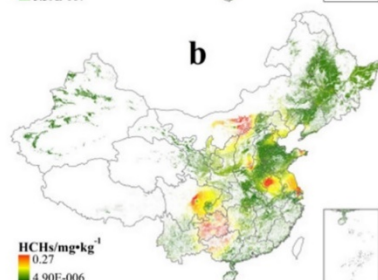
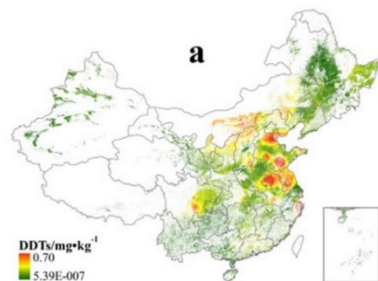
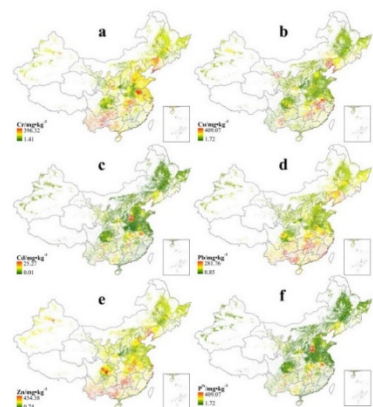
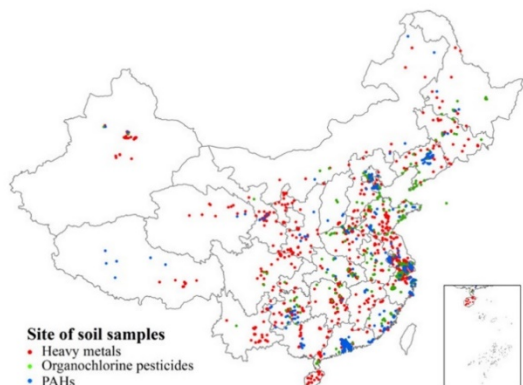


## Pesticide use (kg/ha)

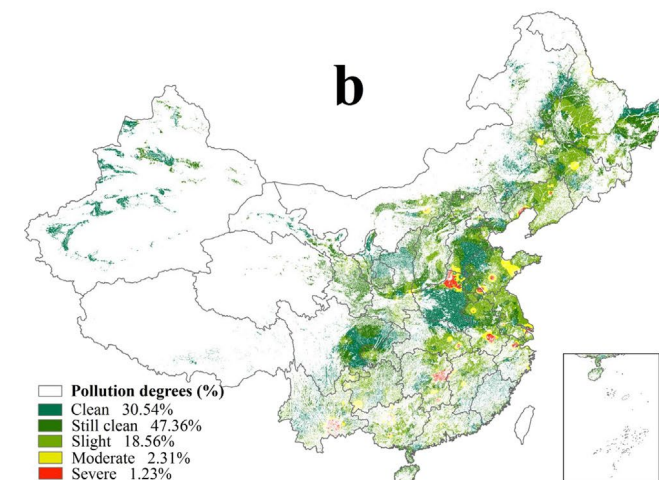
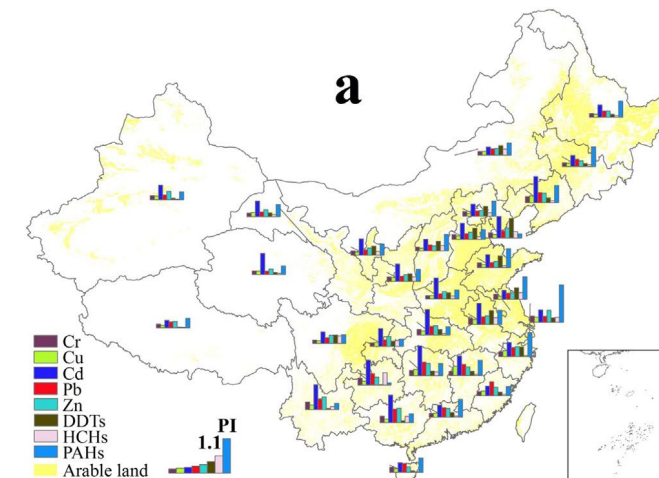


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# Regional extend: **An example of China farmland**



- 22.1% of China's farmland soil present a mixture of contaminants,
- 20.8 percent of soils are likely to pose a carcinogenic risk to the adult population and an even greater risk to children (**left side Fig**),
- Yunnan, Hunan, Anhui, Henan, and Liaoning provinces should be controlled as a priority because of severity and high risks to human health (**right side Fig**).



Source: Zeng *et al.*, 2019, *Science of The Total Environment*, 687: 642–653.

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# Legal frameworks addressing soil pollution

- **International legal frameworks addressing soil pollution**

- Most countries in the region pledged to tackle waste management and chemicals pollution, specific to soil pollution, response varies,

- **Regional legal frameworks addressing soil pollution**

- No regional convention on soil protection or soil pollution prevention and control currently exists in Asia–Pacific, but may cover using few existing environmental cooperation agreements,

- **National legal frameworks addressing soil pollution**

- Rare legislation that was drafted to specifically address soil pollution. In these countries soil pollution tends only to be addressed in other sector-specific legislation;

e.g., [Japan] Act to Prevent Soil Contamination on Agricultural Land, 1970; Soil Contamination Countermeasures Act, 2002 [specific to soil pollution], while [Fiji] Environmental Management Act 2005 and Rural Land use policy for Fiji 2005 [part of other legislations]



# Key messages and recommendation

Many developed countries in the Asia–Pacific implemented legislation that prevents greater environmental pollution and provides guidance for soil remediation. In contrast, **most developing countries in the region are still struggling to cope with soil pollution.**

These gaps has been identified:

- (a) Register of potentially contaminated sites;
- (b) Human capacity;
- (c) Contaminated sites assessment;
- (d) Source-receptor pathways/life cycle analysis;
- (e) Lack of awareness;
- (f) Food Security & Safety;
- (g) Soil pollution exclusive guideline.

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# Thank you for your attention!



**R. Naidu**  
Australia &  
Region



**B. Biswas**  
Australia &  
Region



**J Jit**  
Pacific Island  
Countries



**Z-S Chen**  
Taiwan



**MM Rahman**  
Bangladesh



**T Phenrat**  
Thailand &  
Myanmar



**L Duan**  
Mainland China



**MAA Wijayawardena**  
Sri Lanka



**NK Niazi**  
Pakistan



**J Kim & K Lee**  
South Korea

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discussions time-to-time**

## The Asia-Pacific team

