

S. Korea in airborne fight against 'Chinese' pollution

25 January 2019



An aircraft from the Korea Meteorological Administration is fitted to disperse silver iodide, a compound believed to cause rain to fall, in a hanger at Gimpo airport in Seoul

Seoul on Friday sent aircraft over the Yellow Sea to carry out cloud-seeding experiments in an effort to tackle air pollution many South Koreans blame on China.

Air quality in South Korea is generally better than in its giant neighbour, the world's biggest polluter, which is periodically affected by choking bouts of filthy air and according to the International Energy Agency uses coal to generate around three quarters of its energy.

Beijing has been seeking to tackle the scourge, which causes widespread public anger, and a recent study found urban levels of PM2.5—the tiny airborne particles considered most harmful to health—had been cut by almost a third on average over four years.

But they remain far above World Health Organization norms, and [pollution levels](#) in Korea sometimes spike as the prevailing winds blow PM2.5 particulates—referred to as "fine dust" in the

South—across the sea between the two countries.

Many South Koreans accused China when pollution surged for three days earlier this month, and on Friday the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) sent an aircraft to disperse silver iodide, a compound believed to cause rain to fall, over the waters, known as the West Sea in Korea.

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