



HOURS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

# ATMOSPHERIC BROWN CLOUD



...Air pollution involves a complex interaction of several factors, including emissions from burning biomass and fossil fuels...

About 60 per cent of the world's population lives in Asia. The impressive development of this region has resulted in higher demands for energy, mobility and communications. The environmental consequences of these demands are far-reaching, especially with respect to air pollution at local and regional levels. The most visible impact is the haze.





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...a brownish layer of pollutants and particles from biomass burning and industrial emissions pervades many regions in Asia....

Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABC) are mostly made up of sub-micron size particles that intercept solar radiation. Several international studies have demonstrated that ABCs and their interaction with the build-up of greenhouse gases significantly affect regional climate, water budget, agriculture and health, particularly in the Asia-Pacific Region.





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...Asia Pacific Regional Director Surendra Shrestha and the ABC Science Team inspect Unmanned Aerial Vehicles used for monitoring the Atmospheric Brown Clouds...

UNEP has facilitated an international science team to study impacts on regional climate, water budget, agriculture and human health. Over a dozen ABC observatories have been established, all of them managed by national scientists, with regular training programmes. A preliminary assessment was completed in 2002. UNEP will complete impact assessment reports by December 2007 and establish centres of excellence on these subjects in the Asia Pacific region.

