|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Book Name: | [**Geography, Earth Science and Environment: Research Highlights**](https://www.bookpi.org/bookstore/product/geography-earth-science-and-environment-research-highlights-vol-1/) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_4941** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **Are South Korea’s Environmental Policies Rational? An Analysis Focusing on Fine Dust Programs in the Seoul Metropolitan Area** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

**Special note:**

**A research paper already published in a journal can be published as a Book Chapter in an expanded form with proper copyright approval.**

**Source Article:**

**This chapter is an extended version of the article published by the same author(s) in the following journal.**

**Sustainabiliy, 16(15), 6293: 2024.**

**Available:** [**https://doi.org/10.3390/su16156293**](https://doi.org/10.3390/su16156293)

|  |
| --- |
| PART 1: Comments |
|  | Reviewer’s comment**Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **The work is current and addresses a topic that is still recent to the scientific community. Without a shadow of a doubt, the case study presented adds to previous academic production, thus contributing to research on public policies to combat ultra-fine dust particles.** |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Yes, the title is appropriate, at the same time as being formulated as a question it arouses the reader's interest and adheres to the recent standard of scientific titles.** |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | **The abstract revisits important points from the article. However, I have a question for the authors to reflect on regarding the abstract: There is a recent trend of articles taking a stand on social, environmental and political issues, but when the abstract states that the objective of the work is to "prove that the government has thoroughly and meticulously prepared its policies on fine particles" the work may fall into criticism about the scientific validity of this. My recommendation is that the objective should be to identify whether there is rationality in dust programs, thus answering the question in the title.** |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.**  | **Overall, the work is well structured, with fluid language and a connection of ideas. So much so that my suggestions are specific aspects throughout the text, but I take the opportunity to share them with the authors, so I believe that the work will increase its impact by being more adherent to scientific rigor.****It is said that South Korea "suffered environmental pollution before [...] China", but it is not mentioned from which source this strong statement was taken.****In the paragraph "In 2019, the Jae-in Moon administration launched [...]" it is strange that the name of the ruler is mentioned here, but in the plans of the previous years it was not mentioned. To avoid criticism of bias, I recommend standardizing: (i) you can mention the name of the politicians in all mentions of plans or (ii) you can not mention the name of any political agent and only deal with the plans and years of implementation.****Right at the beginning of the results, there is the following expression: [...] The average annual concentration of PM 2.5 in Seoul was 24.8 µg/m 3 , which was significantly higher than 10 µg/m 3 , the target of the World Health Organization [32]". I recommend changing the word "significantly" to something else, such as "significantly" or "more than twice the 10 µg/m 3". This is because the term "significantly" has a more quantitative nature, being used after a hypothesis test.****The color scale in shades of gray in Figure 4 makes it difficult to identify which of the lines refer to which. An alternative is to keep the shades of gray, but use other resources, such as using a dashed line for the "ultra-fine dust" line.****The results say that "[...] . However, the Chinese authorities initially did not cooperate because the government denied its responsibility. Therefore, South Korea alternatively sought joint research with the United States [...]", it was not clear where this information was obtained from. Please cite the source. It also failed to mention the year in which this occurred, so that the reader has a chronology of events.****There is this passage "The ministry also used expert insights [...]", but it was not clear what practical contributions the expert insights made to solve the problem. What did they suggest? Who are they? Are they civil servants, consultants, etc.? Is it possible to know with reasonable confidence that the Ministry actually took into account the suggestions they proposed or is this speculation?****It is said that other ministries reviewed the plan and endorsed it. What source did the authors consult to verify this? One recommendation is that all documents read to obtain the results be cited in the methodology of the work itself.****Another passage using the term "significant" in a context where there is no hypothesis testing: "[...] Ministry of the Environment shows that the concentration of fine dust registered its lowest level, 21.0 µg/m3 in April 2024, while it was 24.4 µg/m3 in April 2019, when the regulation began. The ministry insisted that this improvement meant that the environmental policy was effective."** |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.****-** | **The references are very much in line with the text proposed by the authors. However, it seems to me that most of them are old, 10 years or more. If possible, I recommend updating them to include more current sources. Furthermore, it is worth highlighting the fact that the authors used international sources, which is a positive thing for the article.** |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | **Yes, the language is appropriate** |  |
| Optional/General comments |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **PART 2:**  |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s comment *(if agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?**  | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Francisco Ivander Amado Borges Alves, Federal University of Ceara, Brazil**