

Reports of MEXT Fellowship Program

Study on the Problems of Mining-Induced Pollution in China

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China is rich in mineral resources, having numberless metal and nonmetal mines of different sizes throughout the country. Under the market economy system, Chinese economy has been rapidly developing, and as a result, consumption of the mineral resources has also increased. To meet the new demand, mining and smelting are being vigorously promoted in the old manner and facilities of the planned economy era. There exist various kinds of pollution and poisoning caused by mining activities (e.g. As, Hg, Se, F, I).

The author conducted field investigation in some coal and lead-zinc mines and the surroundings in Guizhou Province, southern China, where arsenic poisoning is widespread and more than 3,000 patients occur.

Japanese technical cooperation to China's mining industry has been implemented on a year-to-year basis since 1981, and has focused on resource exploration and increasing production, but there are not very many projects that aim at coping with mining-induced pollution. This might be a result of China's reform and open door policy that has placed priority in requesting support in fields directly connected to profit. From now on, however, it is desirable for Japan to enhance aid in those fields where China may overlook the importance of measures including mining-induced pollution control.



Views of mountainous (left) and rural (right) region in Guizhou Province, southern China.