



Statement concerning the situation in the Wenzhou area

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During the international symposium on Health Impacts of Cadmium Exposure in China and its Prevention symposium, much attention has been paid to the problems of cadmium pollution in Wenzhou. I will give you a simple introduction of it.

The Wenzhou smelting factory exists in Qiaoweibao which is near Wenzhou city. It was built up in 1961. Its Main products were lead and zinc. Because the production facilities and the techniques fell behind, the slags weren't handled at once and stored in the open-air. After a long time scrubbed and washed by the rain, the polluted water flowed into the streams and rivers nearby. The field was irrigated by the water from the polluted streams and rivers. This resulted in a cadmium concentration in the rice grown in these fields high above the standard. It constituted thus an accumulation hazard to the local farmers consuming this home-grown rice.

To solve these problems, the professional staff of Wenzhou Anti-Epidemic Station and Wenzhou Environmental Protection Bureau did some on-site inspections in the early 80s, and found that the vertebrae of some fishes in the rivers nearby were bent and deformed. In 1987, Kong Qinghu and Wang Zaijuan of Zhejiang medical center came to Wenzhou many times to measure the cadmium concentration in rice, soil and blood or urine of some farmers in Qiaoweibao and Nanbaixiang which is 5 km from the factory accompanied by the professional staff of Wenzhou Anti-Epidemic Station.

It was found that the cadmium concentration in local rice in Qiaoweibao was 3.6 mg kg, which is 18 times higher than the allowable concentration. The cadmium concentration in urine and blood also increased to a varying extent in Qiaoweibao. In Nanbaixiang, the cadmium concentration in rice also was

also high, above the standard. In 1997, Pr. Nordberg from Sweden and Pr. Jin from Shanghai Medical University organized and brought more than 10 professors and graduate students to do a 2 months' research with the company of Kong Qinghu and Wang Zaijuan from Zhejiang Medical Center and the professional staff of Wenzhou Anti-Epidemic Station so that they received systematic and complete data, which offers precise information of importance for prevention and treatment of cadmium pollution, to us.

In order to avoid the hazards posed by the cadmium pollution to local residents, the leaders of the factory have put a lot of fund to reform the workshop and improved the production technique. And they have also made the production residue and draining water recycled to avoid the environmental pollution. The city government has reformed the environment near the factory and it has now been turned into a chemical engineering market.

The farmland has been changed into residential quarter, market place and public service facilities. Now there are no farmlands for growing rice and vegetables. Even in Nanbaixiang, which is a slightly polluted area, many great traffic hubs, cross bridges and grasslands have been built up.

Although the rice and vegetables polluted by cadmium no more longer exist and the new danger will not occur, people who used to suffer from cadmium pollution should be examined in a long time, especially for the residents who are more than 30 years old and used to eat the rice and vegetables they had grown themselves. I earnestly hope that experts and professors from all over the world continue to pay attention to our problems caused by cadmium pollution. And we are longing for your guidance.