

Letter to the Editor**Smog in Thailand**

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Forty odd years ago, Professor Dr. Pairoj Oonsombat, one of the famous scholars at Siriraj Hospital Medical School in Bangkok, published a paper entitled “Air Pollution and Respiratory Diseases” in the Siriraj Hospital Gazette, 1972; 24: 777-788. The paper noted that the particulate matter (PM) phenomenon, which attracts interests of a majority of us nowadays, was common knowledge some time ago.

It is worth noting that Dr. Oonsombat described the cool season air pollution in Thailand, especially in Bangkok, as a consequence of an inversion phenomenon caused by a lid-like barrier forming between the upper low temperature air and the lower warmer air, trapping polluted air so that it floats underneath the barrier for a few kilometers above the ground. The phenomenon appears as smog, which restricts the visibility in the city owing to the dense tall buildings, which block free atmospheric ventilation.

Further readings:

1. Bovornkitti S, Mutchimwong A, Jarupongsakul T. Noxious Air Pollution. *Thammasat Med J.* 2019;19(2):433-435.
2. Bovornkitti S. PM2.5 and I. *Thammasat Med J.* 2020;20(1):5-7.