



# Local PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> Ambient Air Quality Targets Setting Study in Lishui, China

Shuping Pan\*, Shengjun Zhang

Zhejiang Environmental Monitoring Center, Hangzhou, China

## Email address:

491563092@qq.com (Shuping Pan), Zhangsj@zjepb.gov.cn (Shengjun Zhang)

\*Corresponding author

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**Abstract:** 2021 will be the first year of China's 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year period, and all cities have been working on making new local environmental protection plans. To further improve air quality, reduce smog, and control ozone pollution, many cities intend to set more stringent local air quality targets than the national requirements. However, how to set a reasonable and attainable air quality targets is very important because the targets have impacts not only on the welfare of local residents, but also on the local economy. This work presents a comprehensive approach to set reasonable local air quality targets. This approach has been applied to determine PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> ambient concentration targets for Lishui city in its 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Environmental Protection Plan. In this study, five years monitoring data of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> from year 2014 to 2018 in Lishui was collected and analyzed to assess the status quo and trends of its air quality. Then the concentration distribution of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> in Lishui surrounding cities and counties in Zhejiang Province were also analyzed and the possible impacts on Lishui city were evaluated. Moreover, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> air quality standards in other developed countries were reviewed and compared with Chinese current standards to assist the setting of appropriate ambient air quality targets. Based on the analysis, three-year sliding average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> are included in Lishui's annual air quality targets for the first time, and different air quality targets are set for both the whole city and each specific area of Lishui city.

**Keywords:** PM<sub>2.5</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, Ambient Air Quality Target, Annual Average Concentration

## 1. Introduction

With the rapid development of China's economy, Chinese cities have been suffering severe air pollution in the past decades. In 2013, Chinese State Council issued the "Action plan for the prevention and control of air pollution", referred to "Atmospheric Ten Articles"[1]. Since then, Chinese governments at all levels have taken unprecedented strong measures on air pollution control, and air quality in key areas of China has improved remarkably. China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced in 2018 that all of the 45 key tasks identified in the State Council's "Atmospheric Ten Articles" have been completed on schedule [2].

Zhejiang province is one of the most economically developed provinces in China. Located in the southwest of Zhejiang province, Lishui city is the largest prefecture city in land area, which includes one municipal district: Liandu,

seven counties: Qingtian, Jinyun county, Suichang, Songyang, Yunhe, Qingyuan, Jingning, and one county-level city: Longquan city. Its land covers 17,275 km<sup>2</sup>, with a resident population of 2,186,000 in 2017. In 2018, Lishui's urban air quality ranked the first in Zhejiang province and the 5<sup>th</sup> among 169 cities in China.

To further improve air quality, reduce smog, and control ozone pollution, Lishui city intend to set more stringent local air quality targets than the national requirements in its 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Environmental Protection Plan. However, how to set a reasonable and attainable air quality targets is very important because the targets have impacts not only on the welfare of local residents, but also on the local economy. In addition, different air quality levels in different areas of Lishui city should be considered when setting the air quality targets.

## 2. Analysis and Setting of Local PM<sub>2.5</sub> Ambient Air Quality Target

### 2.1. Comparison of PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standards in Different Countries

China's current air quality standards were set in 2012, implemented in some areas in 2013 and made mandatory nationwide in 2016 [3]. There are two types of national air quality standards. Primary standards (Level I) set limits for Class I ambient air function area, which includes nature reserve, scenic spots and other areas in need of special protection. Secondary standards (Level II) set limits for Class II ambient air function area, which includes residential areas, commercial traffic mixed areas, cultural areas, industrial areas and rural areas. Same as China, the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in U.S. also have two types of national air quality standards [4]. However, NAAQS standards are set for different protection objects, but not for different ambient air function areas. There's no ambient function area classification in NAAQS. Primary standards set

limits to protect public health, including the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings [5].

A comparison of PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient standards between China and other five developed countries and regions in the world is shown in Table 1. It can be observed in Table 1 that the national PM<sub>2.5</sub> secondary standards, which almost all cities in China shall obey, are much more lenient than those in the listed five developed countries and regions. In addition, different from China's one-year average standard, both the U.S. and E.U. are using 3-year sliding average concentration index [6]. The three-year "sliding average concentration index" of PM<sub>2.5</sub> refers to the arithmetic average of the average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in three consecutive natural years. Considering that the change of meteorological conditions has a certain influence on the air quality, this index can weaken the influence of inter-annual fluctuation of meteorological conditions to some extent.

Table 1. Comparison of PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards between China and other countries.

Country	Standards (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Averaging time	Criteria for compliance
China [3]	15 (Level I)	Annual	Annual Average
	35 (Level II)		
	35 (Level I)	24-hour	95th percentile in a year
United States [4]	75 (Level II)		
	12 (Level I)	Annual	3-year average
	15 (Level II)	Annual	3-year average
European Union [6]	35 (Level I & II)	24-hour	98th percentile in 3 years
	25	Annual	No exceedance allowed
	20	Annual	3-year average
Australia [7]	8	Annual	No exceedance allowed
	25	24-hour	No exceedance allowed
	7	Annual	Year 2025 target
Japan [8]	20	24-hour	Year 2025 target
	15	Annual	Annual Average
	35	24-hour	the 98th percentile in 1 years
Singapore [9]	12	Annual	Year 2020 target
	37	24-hour	Year 2020 target

### 2.2. Status Qu and Interannual Variation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentration in Lishui City

It is essential to understand the status qu and the change trend of Lishui's PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient air quality before setting a new PM<sub>2.5</sub> ambient air quality targets. As Table 2 shows, PM<sub>2.5</sub>

ambient concentration in all of the nine counties (cities and districts) of Lishui in year 2018 are lower than the corresponding national standards. The average annual concentration in Lishui city is 25µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is 28.6% lower than the Level II national standard (i.e., 35µg/m<sup>3</sup>).

Table 2. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Ambient air quality in Lishui in 2018.

City	Annual average concentration (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Daily concentration (95 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Exceed limits or not
Liandu	28	61	No
Qingtian	26	55	No
Jinyun	25	52	No
Suichang	25	51	No
Songyang	28	56	No
Yunhe	23	48	No
Qingyuan	26	54	No
Jingning	23	51	No
Longquan	21	44	No
Average	25	52	No

In this study, Spearman rank relational coefficient method was adopted to assess the air quality variation trends in the

nine counties (cities and districts). The Spearman rank relational coefficient was calculated by using Equation 1.

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{6}{n(n^2-1)} \sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - Y_j)^2 \quad (1)$$

According to China's "Technical regulation for ambient air quality assessment (HJ663-2013)" [10], to evaluate the change trend, at least five years monitoring data from national network points shall be used. In addition, for 5 years evaluation period, only if the absolute Spearman rank coefficient ( $r_s$ ) is greater than 0.9000 (the critical value), the change trend is statistically significant. The positive value of  $r_s$  indicates an upward trend, while the negative value indicates a downward trend. If the absolute value of the rank correlation coefficient is less than or equal to the critical value, it indicates that there's no obvious change.

In this study, five years monitoring data from nine secondary monitoring stations in Lishui were collected and analyzed. The variation and spacial distribution of annual average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in nine areas of Lishui city over the past five years (2014-2018) is shown in Table 3 and

Figure 1. From Table 3, we can see that PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average concentration in five of nine areas of Lishui city and the citywide average value in year 2014 exceeded the national secondary standard, while from year 2016 to 2018, no exceedance of PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average concentration was observed in any of the nine areas.

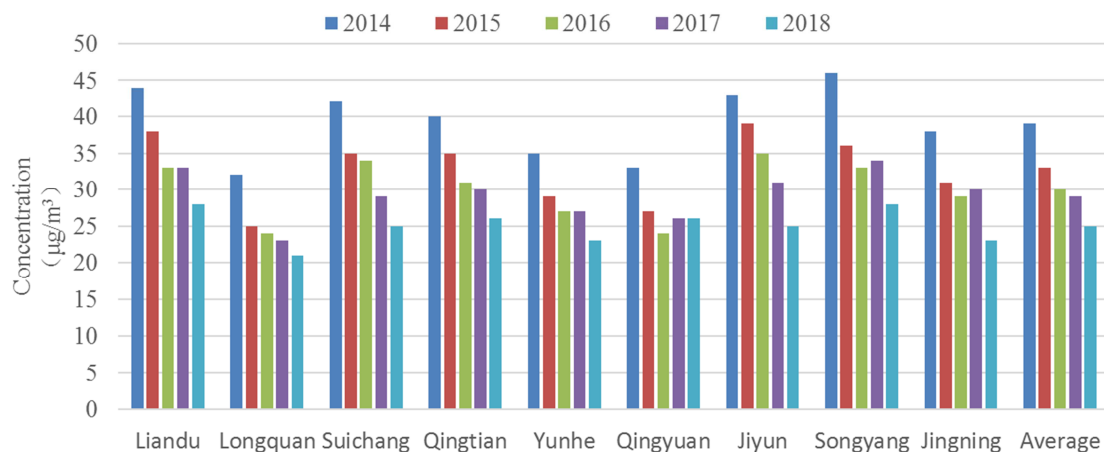
According to the analysis of rank relational coefficients, the citywide  $r_s$  during the past five years is -1.000 with a decline rate of 35.9%, which indicates an obvious downward trend of PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average concentration in the whole city. In terms of each individual area, the  $r_s$  for six of nine counties (cities and districts) during the past five years are negative and their absolute value are greater than the critical value (0.9000). The  $r_s$  for Songyang county and Jingning county are equal to -0.9000. Although the  $r_s$  for Qingyuan county is only -0.667, lower than the critical value, there's no exceedance from 2014 to 2018, and the average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in the past five years is the second lowest. The downward trend of PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average concentration in each area and the whole city can also be shown clearly in Figure 1.

**Table 3.** PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average concentration in all counties (cities and districts) of Lishui city from year 2014-2018 (Unit:  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).

Area	Year2014	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Variation (%)	Correlation
Liandu	44	38	33	33	28	-36.3	-0.975
Long-quan	32	25	24	23	21	-34.3	-1.000
Suichang	42	35	34	29	25	-40.5	-1.000
Qingtian	40	35	31	30	26	-35.0	-1.000
Yunhe	35	29	27	27	23	-34.2	-0.975
Qingyuan	33	27	24	26	26	-21.2	-0.667
Jinyun	43	39	35	31	25	-41.9	-1.000
Song-yang	46	36	33	34	28	-39.1	-0.900
Jingning	38	31	29	30	23	-39.5	-0.900
Average	39	33	30	29	25	-35.9	-1.000

In terms of regional distribution, the relatively high PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in 2014 was mainly distributed in the northwest, central and northeast of Lishui, including Liandu district, Songyang county, Jinyun county and Suichang county, with the highest concentration of  $46\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in

Songyang county. By 2018, relatively high PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations were mainly distributed in the central part of Lishui, with the highest concentrations of  $28\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in Liandu district and Jinyun county.



**Figure 1.** PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration interannual variation in all counties (cities and districts) of Lishui city from year 2014-2018.

### 2.3. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Regional Impacts from Outside Lishui

It is well known that ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration are not

only influenced by local emission sources, but also by long distance transport. Therefore, regional impacts on Lishui's PM<sub>2.5</sub> air quality should not be ignored when attempting to

set a new target.

In this study, the monitoring data from 69 monitoring stations in Zhejiang province in 2018 were collected and analyzed. The spacial distribution of annual average  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration in Zhejiang province in year 2018 is shown in Figure 2. In 2018, the annual average concentration range of  $PM_{2.5}$  in 69 cities above the county level were between 21 ~ 42  $\mu g/m^3$ , with the annual average concentration of 31  $\mu g/m^3$ .

According to Figure 2, the relatively high concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  is in the central and northern areas of Zhejiang and the Jinqu basin, while the relatively low concentration is mainly in the mountainous areas in Southern Zhejiang, East Zhejiang and islands in southeast Zhejiang. Located in southwest in Zhejiang, annual average  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration in Lishui city in 2018 is apparently lower than that in most of Lishui's surrounding areas.

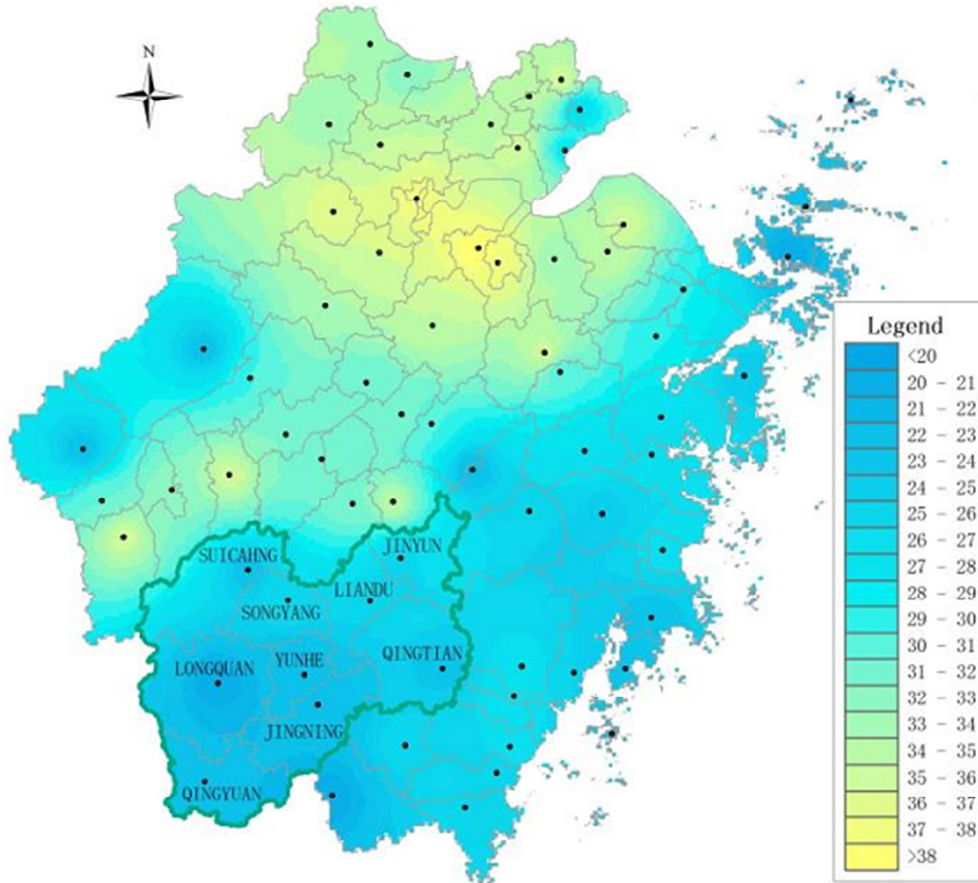


Figure 2. Annual average  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration distribution in Zhejiang province.

In addition,  $PM_{2.5}$  air quality conditions in ten counties and cities around Lishui city in 2018 were also analyzed. In the surrounding counties and cities, only  $PM_{2.5}$  annual average concentration in Taishun county and Kaihua county were lower than Lishui's average value, which is 25  $\mu g/m^3$ . The average annual concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  in Wenzhou, Yongjia and Xianju is around 30  $\mu g/m^3$ ; that of  $PM_{2.5}$  in Jinhua and Quzhou is higher than 30  $\mu g/m^3$  but lower than the national secondary standard (35  $\mu g/m^3$ ); and Wuyi, Longyou and Jiangshan's  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration even exceeded 35  $\mu g/m^3$ . The details are shown in Table 4.

Table 4.  $PM_{2.5}$  ambient air quality in cities at the county level or above surrounding Lishui in 2018.

City	Annual average concentration	Daily concentration (95 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Exceeds limits or not
Wenzhou	30	60	No
Yongjia	28	54	No
Taishun	21	40	No

City	Annual average concentration	Daily concentration (95 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Exceeds limits or not
Jinhua	34	72	No
Wuyi	36	78	Yes
Quzhou	33	73	No
Kaihua	23	46	No
Longyou	37	74	Yes
Jiangshan	36	74	Yes
Xianju	27	62	No

Obviously higher  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations in most of the surrounding areas of Lishui city will put pressure on the further improvement of Lishui's  $PM_{2.5}$  air quality. However, according to the 2018 annual report of Zhejiang province's air quality [11], the annual average  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration in the province decreased significantly year by year from 2013 to 2018, and this trend is expected to continue if strict controls on emissions continue. Therefore, it can be expected that the impacts of long-distance transport of  $PM_{2.5}$  from the surrounding areas on Lishui city will also decrease in the future.

#### 2.4. Setting PM<sub>2.5</sub> Ambient Air Quality Target During the 14th “Five-year” Period in Lishui City

According to the analysis above, PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average concentration in the whole city in 2018 was 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is 28.6% lower than the national secondary standard, and over the past five years, the concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> has steadily declined year by year. In aspect of spatial distribution, almost 45% of the areas in Lishui city (i.e., four of nine counties) had an annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration higher than 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, with the highest of 28 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Liandu district (the downtown area), and Songyang county. In addition, since PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations in most surrounding areas (i.e., eight of the ten counties) were higher than that in Lishui, the negative impacts caused by long distance transport of PM<sub>2.5</sub> on Lishui city should also be considered when setting a new PM<sub>2.5</sub> targets for the whole area. On the other hand, compared with the international air quality standards of developed countries and regions, the current annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in the E.U. is 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which indicates that the use of 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> as the new target of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Lishui is advanced. Therefore, setting PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average concentration of 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> as the new target in the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year period for the whole city is reasonable and attainable.

For specific counties (cities and districts) in Lishui city, 5 out of 9 districts and counties in Lishui in 2018 had the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of less than or equal to 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. In order to further improve their local air quality, stricter air quality standards should be introduced to these areas. From the point of view of air quality standards development and progress history, it took the U.S. 15 years to reduce its three-year sliding average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (20% reduction) [12]. The E.U. requires its member states to reduce the three-year sliding average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> by 20% (from 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) over a 10-year period [13]. Therefore, a target of 23 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (i.e., 8% reduction) for these areas over the next 5 years (from 2021 to 2025) is reasonable.

In addition, as mentioned above, the “three-year sliding average concentration index” of PM<sub>2.5</sub> adopted by the U.S. and E.U. can weaken the influence of inter-annual fluctuation of meteorological conditions to a certain extent. Although

three-year sliding average concentration is more lenient than one-year average value, it can better reflect the environmental benefits brought by pollution control, and better meet the demand of current air quality evaluation. In China, according to the “2019 Action Plan for the prevention and control of pollution in Beijing” [14], Beijing has also included the “three-year sliding average concentration” of PM<sub>2.5</sub> to evaluate air quality in its 2019 annual air quality control target. Therefore, this study suggests that the three-year sliding average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> should be included and used for setting the PM<sub>2.5</sub> control targets of specific counties in Lishui’s during its 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Environmental Plan. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> target of three-year sliding average concentration for Longquan county, Jingning county, Yunhe county, Suichang county and Qingtian are recommended to be 23 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and below, and the same index for Liandu district, Qingtian county, Qingyuan county and Songyang county are recommended to be 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and below.

### 3. Analysis and Setting of Local O<sub>3</sub> Air Quality Target

#### 3.1. Comparison of O<sub>3</sub> Standards in Different Countries

The current ozone air quality standards in China include daily maximum 8-hour mean and 1-hour average. A comparison of O<sub>3</sub> ambient standards between China and other five developed countries and regions in the world is shown in Table 5. The primary standard of daily maximum 8-hour average is 100 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is the same as Singapore’s 2020 standard and more stringent than the current standard in the United States and the European Union. The secondary standard of the daily maximum 8-hour mean value is 160 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is more lenient than the 8-hour ozone standard of the United States and the European Union. However, the annual evaluation criteria for O<sub>3</sub> compliance are different between China and other countries, such as the U.S. and E.U. In China, 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the daily maximum 8-hour sliding mean in each year is adopted, while 3-year average 4<sup>th</sup> highest daily maximum 8-hour rolling average is used in the U.S. and in E.U., no more than 25 days each year averaged over 3 years are allowed.

Table 5. Comparison of PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards between China and other countries.

Country	Standards (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Averaging time	Criteria for compliance
China	100 (Level I)	daily maximum 8-hour	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile of daily maximum 8-hour sliding average in a year
	160 (Level II)		
	160 (Level I)	1-hour	/
	200 (Level II)		
United States	140	daily maximum 8-hour	3-year average 4 <sup>th</sup> highest daily maximum 8-hour rolling average
European Union	120	daily maximum 8-hour	Exceed no more than 25 days per year averaged over 3 years
	180	1-hour	Information threshold
	240	1-hour	Alert threshold
Australia	130	8-hour	Year 2025 target
	160	4-hour	No more than 1 day per year
	200	1-hour	No more than 1 day per year
Japan	0.06 ppm	1-hour	Maximum 1-hour concentration of photochemical oxidants
Singapore	100	8-hour	Year 2020 target

### 3.2. Status Qu and Interannual Variation of O<sub>3</sub> Concentration in Lishui City

It is essential to understand the status qu and the change trend of Lishui's O<sub>3</sub> ambient air quality before setting a new O<sub>3</sub> ambient air quality targets. As Table 6 shows, 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the daily maximum 8-hour sliding mean of O<sub>3</sub> (hereinafter referred to as O<sub>3</sub> concentration) in all of the nine counties (cities and districts) of Lishui in year 2018 are lower than the secondary national standards. The average annual concentration in Lishui city is 118µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is 26.3% lower than the secondary national standard (i.e., 160µg/m<sup>3</sup>).

**Table 6.** O<sub>3</sub> Ambient concentration in Lishui in 2018.

City	Daily maximum 8-hour average concentration (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Exceed limits or not
Liandu	135	No
Qingtian	125	No
Jinyun	112	No
Suichang	118	No
Songyang	119	No
Yunhe	112	No
Qingyuan	114	No
Jingning	102	No
Longquan	121	No
Average	118	No

**Table 7.** 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the daily maximum 8-hour mean of O<sub>3</sub> in all counties (cities and districts) of Lishui city from year 2014-2018 (Unit: µg/m<sup>3</sup>).

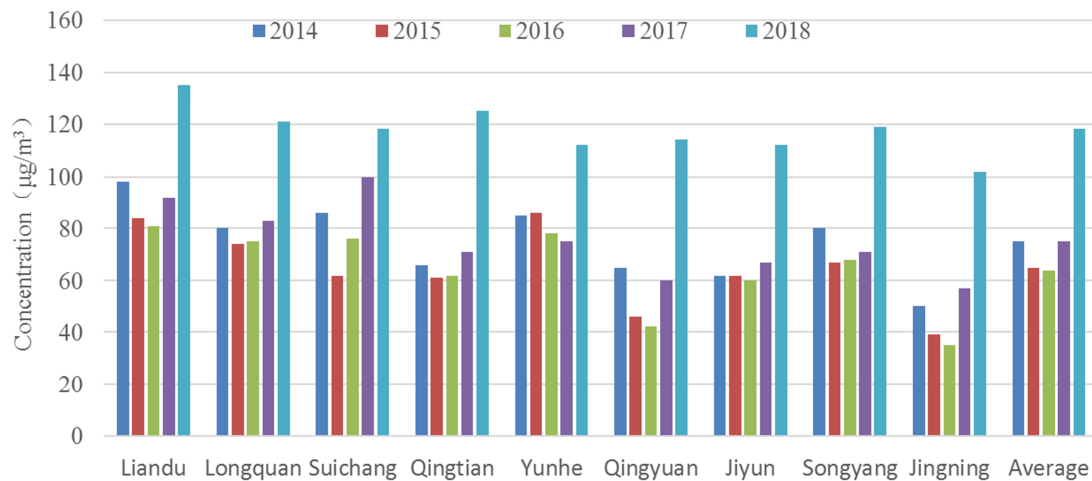
Area	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Variation (%)	Correlation
Liandu	98	84	81	92	135	37.8	0.300
Long-quan	80	74	75	83	121	51.2	0.700
Suichang	86	62	76	100	118	37.2	0.700
Qingtian	66	61	62	71	125	89.4	0.700
Yunhe	85	86	78	75	112	31.8	1.000
Qingyuan	65	46	42	60	114	75.4	0.300
Jinyun	62	62	60	67	112	80.6	0.667
Song-yang	80	67	68	71	119	48.8	0.400
Jingning	50	39	35	57	102	104	0.600
Average	75	65	64	75	118	57.3	0.462

In terms of regional distribution, the relatively high O<sub>3</sub> concentration in 2014 was mainly distributed in the northwest and central region of Lishui, including Liandu district, Suichang county and Yunhe county, with the highest

The variation and spacial distribution of O<sub>3</sub> concentration in nine areas of Lishui city over the past five years (2014-2018) is shown in Table 7 and Figure 3. From Table 3, we can see that from year 2014 to 2018, O<sub>3</sub> concentration in all of the nine areas in Lishui city were lower than the primary national standard, which is 100µg/m<sup>3</sup>. However, in 2018, compared with the previous four years, the O<sub>3</sub> concentration of all districts and counties in the city increased significantly, with an average rise rate of 57.3%. Among the nine counties and urban areas, Jingning county experienced the largest increase of 104%, with 52 µg/m<sup>3</sup> higher than that in 2014, while Yunhe county had the lowest increase of 31.8%, 27 µg/m<sup>3</sup> higher than that in 2014.

According to the analysis of rank relational coefficients, both citywide and county specific  $r_s$  during the past five years is positive and their absolute values are lower than the critical value (i.e., 0.9000), which indicates there's no obvious upward trend of O<sub>3</sub> ambient air concentration from 2014 to 2018. Only Yunhe county is an exception. Its  $r_s$  is 1.000 and higher than the critical value, which means the upward trend of O<sub>3</sub> ambient air concentration in this county is obvious.

concentration of 98µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Liandu (Lishui's downtown area). By 2018, relatively high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations were mainly distributed in the north of Lishui, with the highest concentrations of 135µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Liandu district.



**Figure 3.** O<sub>3</sub> concentration interannual variation in all counties (cities and districts) of Lishui city from year 2014-2018.



3.3. O<sub>3</sub> Regional Impacts from Outside Lishui

Same as PM<sub>2.5</sub>, considering pollutants’ long distance transport, O<sub>3</sub> concentration is also influenced by emission sources outside of Lishui. The spacial distribution of O<sub>3</sub> concentration in Zhejiang province in year 2018 is shown in Figure 4. In 2018, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the maximum 8-hour average ambient air concentration of O<sub>3</sub> in 69 cities above the county level were between 96 ~ 189 μg/m<sup>3</sup>, with the average of 142 μg/m<sup>3</sup>. Among them, O<sub>3</sub> concentration in 55 cities are

lower than or equal to the national secondary standard, accounting for 79.7% of the total. According to Figure 4, the relatively high concentration of O<sub>3</sub> is in the central and northern areas of Zhejiang, while the relatively low concentration is mainly in the mountainous areas in southwestern Zhejiang. Located in southwest of Zhejiang, O<sub>3</sub> concentration in Lishui city in 2018 is apparently lower than that in most of Lishui’s surrounding areas.

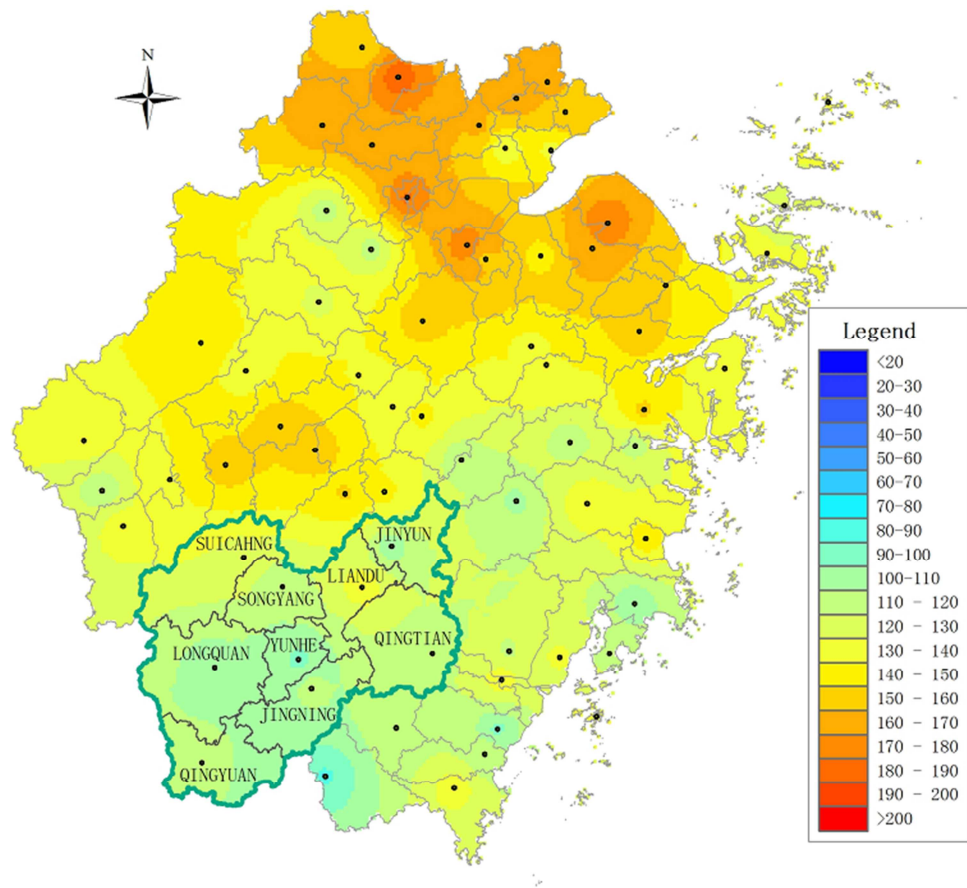


Figure 4. 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the daily maximum 8-hour mean of O<sub>3</sub> concentration distribution in Zhejiang province.

In addition, O<sub>3</sub> air quality conditions in ten counties and cities around Lishui city in 2018 were also analyzed. In the surrounding counties and cities, only O<sub>3</sub> concentration in Taishun county and Kaihua county were lower than Lishui’s average value (i.e., 118μg/m<sup>3</sup>). And two of the ten cities’ O<sub>3</sub> concentrations even exceeded the secondary national standards. The details are shown in Table 8.

Table 8. O<sub>3</sub> ambient air quality in cities at the county level or above surrounding Lishui in 2018.

City	Daily maximum 8-hour average concentration (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Exceed limits or not
Wenzhou	141	No
Yongjia	132	No
Taishun	96	No
Jinhua	165	Yes
Wuyi	162	Yes

City	Daily maximum 8-hour average concentration (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	Exceed limits or not
Quzhou	152	No
Kaihua	115	No
Longyou	128	No
Jiangshan	130	No
Xianju	132	No

According to the 2018 annual report of Zhejiang province's air quality, from 2013 to 2018, while the concentration of other pollutants decreased year by year in all districts and counties of Zhejiang province, the concentration of O<sub>3</sub> was rising. The number of pollution days with O<sub>3</sub> as the primary pollutant was the largest, accounting for 59.1% of the total pollution days. It has surpassed PM<sub>2.5</sub> as the primary pollutant in heavy pollution weather. The O<sub>3</sub> concentration in the ambient air of various cities fluctuated and rised, and the

frequency that O<sub>3</sub> concentration exceeded the standard is higher than that of other pollutants. Obviously higher O<sub>3</sub> ambient concentrations in most of the surrounding areas of Lishui city will put pressure on the further improvement of Lishui's O<sub>3</sub> concentration, and the increase of regional O<sub>3</sub> concentration in the whole province in 2018 is also an important reason for affecting the increase of O<sub>3</sub> concentration in Lishui.

### 3.4. Setting O<sub>3</sub> Ambient Air Quality Target During the 14<sup>th</sup> "Five-year" Period in Lishui City

According to the analysis above, O<sub>3</sub> concentration in the whole area of Lishui city did not show an obvious trend of increase during the five-year period, except that O<sub>3</sub> concentration in 2018 in each area increased obviously than that before. The reasons for the increase of O<sub>3</sub> concentration in 2018 are complicated. Different from particulate pollution, O<sub>3</sub> is not directly discharged from the sources, but is a product of secondary transformation. VOCs and NO<sub>x</sub> are the main precursors of O<sub>3</sub> [15]. Therefore, to control O<sub>3</sub> concentration, VOCs and NO<sub>x</sub> emission control must be coordinated. NO<sub>x</sub> mainly comes from fossil fuel combustion and vehicle exhaust emissions, etc. VOCs comes from a wider range of sources, including industrial emissions, vehicle exhausts, domestic pollution sources and natural sources. In recent years, the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in Lishui is decreasing year by year (from 11,358 tons in 2014 to 4,206 tons in 2017), and the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> in the air is also decreasing. However, it is difficult to reduce VOCs pollution due to its complex sources and large amount of fugitive emissions. Meanwhile there is a complex relationship between the concentration of VOCs and NO<sub>x</sub> (i.e., the precursors) and O<sub>3</sub> (i.e., the photochemical product). The ozone concentration increases with the increase of VOCs, while the decrease of NO<sub>x</sub> concentration may lead to the increase of O<sub>3</sub> concentration without effective control of VOCs concentration. In addition, due to the continuous decrease of particle concentration in recent years, the light radiation enhances, which is conducive to the generation of O<sub>3</sub> by photochemical reaction. Meanwhile, the formation of O<sub>3</sub> needs a certain period of time. Considering pollutants' long distance transport and dispersion in atmosphere, O<sub>3</sub> concentration in Lishui is also affected by external sources.

Due to the complicated formation mechanism of ozone, and the difficulty of controlling the emission of ozone precursors, the prevention and control of ozone pollution in Lishui city are facing a severe situation. Although the ambient air quality in Lishui is the best in Zhejiang province, it is not appropriate to set a more stringent O<sub>3</sub> target than its current level. In this study, it is recommended to set the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the maximum 8-hour daily O<sub>3</sub> concentration in the whole area during the "14th Five-year" period to be 140 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is the same as the current U.S. zone standard.

For specific counties (cities and districts) in Lishui city, 6 out of 9 districts and counties in Lishui in 2018 had the O<sub>3</sub> concentration of less than 120 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. In order to further improve their local air quality, this study suggests that the

3-year average daily maximum 8-hour rolling average concentration of O<sub>3</sub> to be included and used for setting O<sub>3</sub> control targets for specific counties in Lishui's during its 14<sup>th</sup> Five-year Environmental Protection Plan. The O<sub>3</sub> target of three-year sliding average concentration for Jinyun county, Songyang county, Qingyuan county, Jingning county, Suichang county and Yunhe county are recommended to be 120 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and below, and the same index for Liandu district, Longquan city and Qingtian county are recommended to be 140 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and below.

## 4. Conclusion

This work presents a comprehensive approach to set reasonable local air quality targets. Firstly, we assessed the status quo and trends of Lishui's air quality by analyzing its five-year monitoring data of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> from year 2014 to 2018. Then the possible impacts on Lishui from its surrounding cities and counties in Zhejiang Province were evaluated. Moreover, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> air quality standards in other developed countries were reviewed and compared with Chinese current standards to assist the setting of appropriate ambient air quality targets. Based on the analysis, three-year sliding average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> are introduced into Lishui's annual air quality targets for the first time, and different air quality targets are set for specific areas of Lishui city.

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## Biography



**Shuping Pan**, Senior Engineer of Zhejiang Environmental Monitoring Center, born in Dec, 1977. Research mainly focuses on environmental monitoring and assessment, especially in the field of ambient air monitoring.