

# Asia

## Constellation: APME East Asia C3

China, Hong Kong, Taiwan



### NEEDS

Continent: **Asia**

Constellation: **APME East Asia C3**

Country: **China**

#### Cry of the Earth

- air pollution (greenhouse gases, sulfur dioxide particulates) from reliance on coal produces acid rain
- China is the world's largest single emitter of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels
- water shortages, particularly in the north
- water pollution from untreated wastes
- coastal destruction due to land reclamation, industrial development, and aquaculture
- deforestation and habitat destruction
- poor land management leads to soil erosion, landslides, floods, droughts, dust storms, and desertification
- trade in endangered species

#### Cry of the Poor

- China remains a one-party authoritarian state that systemically curbs fundamental rights.
  - Since President Xi Jinping assumed power in 2013, the government has arbitrarily detained and prosecuted hundreds of activists and human rights lawyers and defenders.
    - Tightened control over nongovernmental organizations, activists, media, and the Internet
    - In 2016, the government abducted and forcibly disappeared several critics in Hong Kong and other countries.
- The government's highly repressive rule in the ethnic minority regions of Xinjiang and Tibet persists.
  - China is facing growing criticism over its persecution of some Muslim minority groups, huge numbers of whom are allegedly being held in internment camps

### Commitments

- Despite legislation to protect against custodial torture, the practice remains widespread
- Sex trafficking and forced labor
  - Chinese adults and children are forced into prostitution and various forms of forced labor, including begging and working in brick kilns, coal mines, and factories
  - women and children are recruited from rural areas and taken to urban centers for sexual exploitation, often lured by criminal syndicates or gangs with fraudulent job offers;
  - state-sponsored forced labor, where detainees work for up to four years often with no remuneration, continues to be a serious concern
  - Chinese men, women, and children also may be subjected to conditions of sex trafficking and forced labor worldwide, particularly in overseas Chinese communities

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Country: **Hong Kong**

Cry of the Earth

- air and water pollution from rapid urbanization
- urban waste pollution
- industrial pollution

Cry of the Poor

- 2019 Hong Kong anti-extradition bill protests -- ongoing demonstrations in Hong Kong and against the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill 2019 proposed by the Hong Kong government, where Hong Kong citizens and foreign nationals passing through the city could fall victim to the Chinese legal system where the courts are under political control
  - Since the morning of June 12, tens of thousands of peaceful protesters have occupied the area surrounding the Legislative Council, including major roads, in the Admiralty section of the city. In the late afternoon, Hong Kong police moved to disperse the protesters, firing teargas, beanbag rounds, and rubber bullets.

Continent: **Asia**

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Country: **Taiwan**

Cry of the Earth

- air pollution

- water pollution from industrial emissions, raw sewage
- contamination of drinking water supplies; trade in endangered species
- low-level radioactive waste disposal

Cry of the Poor

- concerns about stagnant wages, high housing prices, youth unemployment, job security, and financial security in retirement