



中华人民共和国生态环境部

Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China



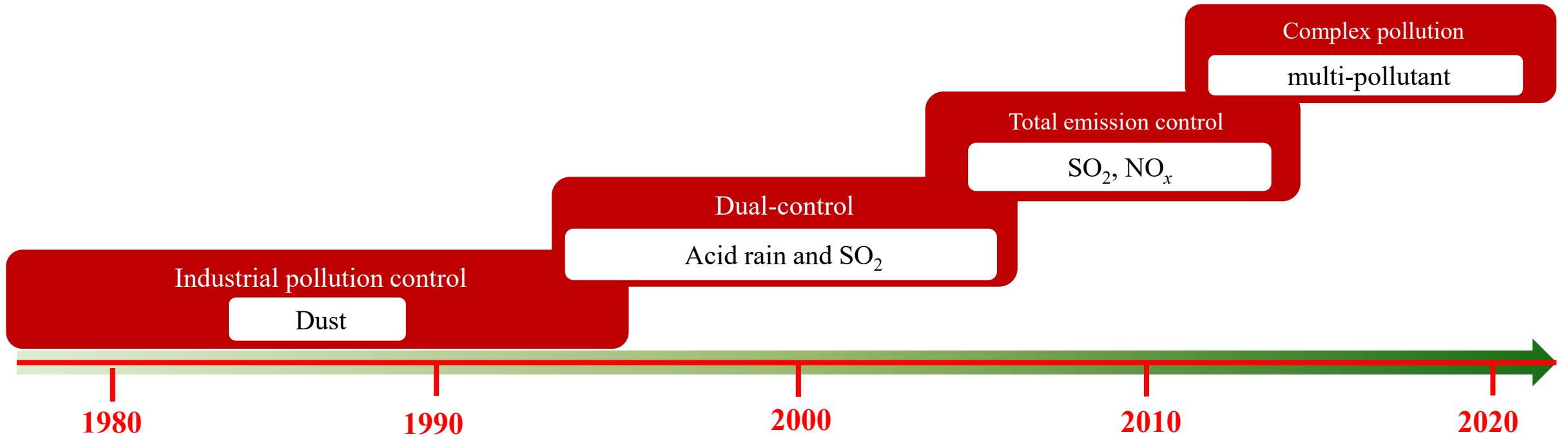
Air Pollution Control in P.R. China: Achievements and Next Steps

Department of Atmospheric Environment, MEE, P.R. China

March 2026, Thailand



Timeline of air pollution control in PRC



□ Since 2013

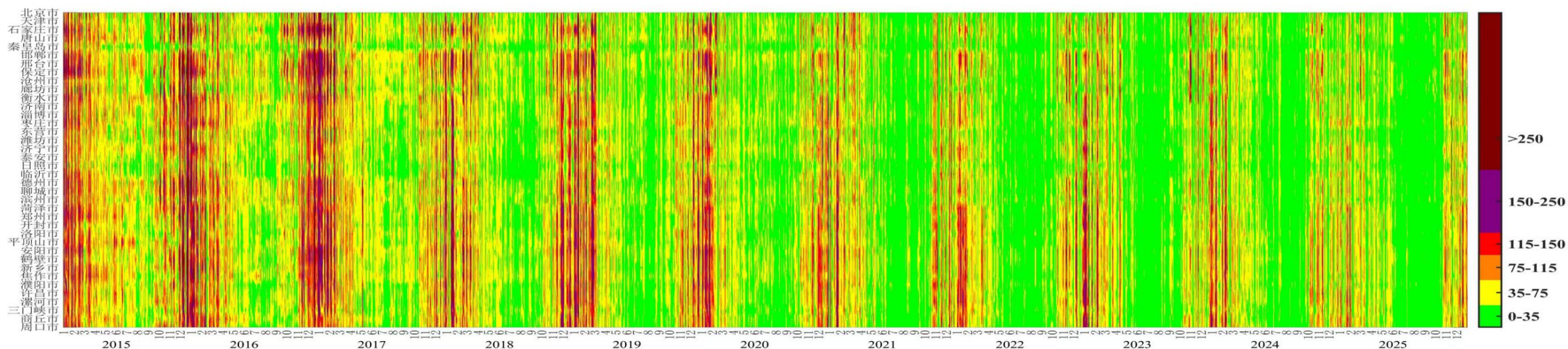
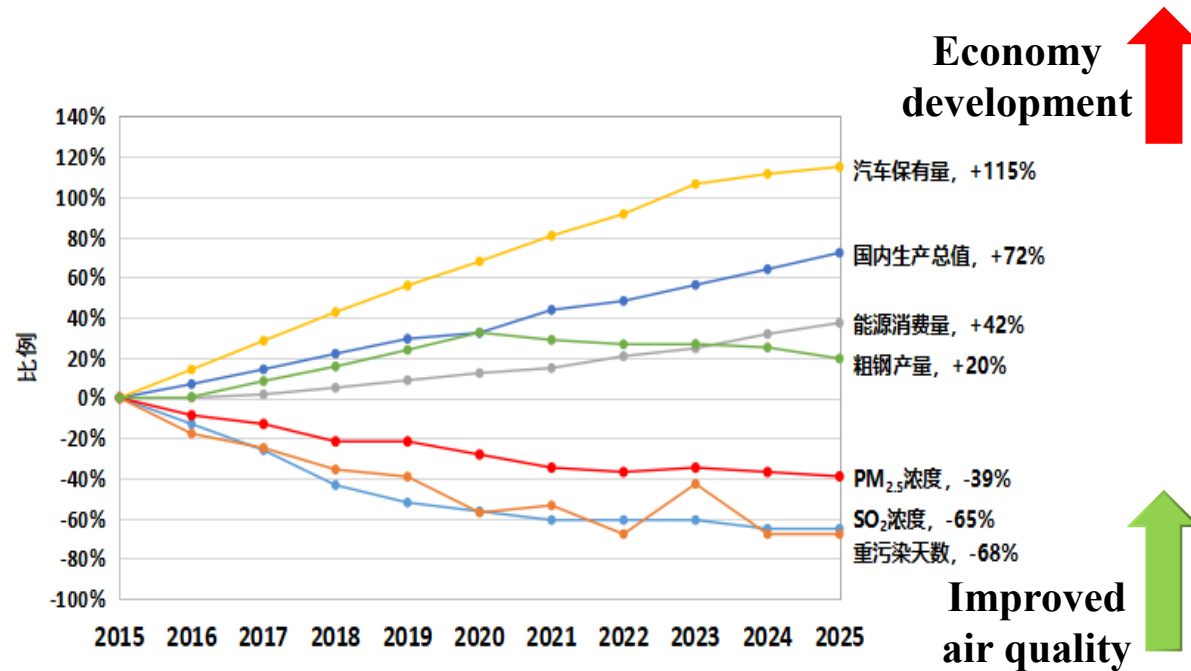
- The Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan
- The Three-Year Action Plan for Blue Skies
- The Action Plan for Continuous Improvement of Air Quality



Historic achievements in air quality improvement



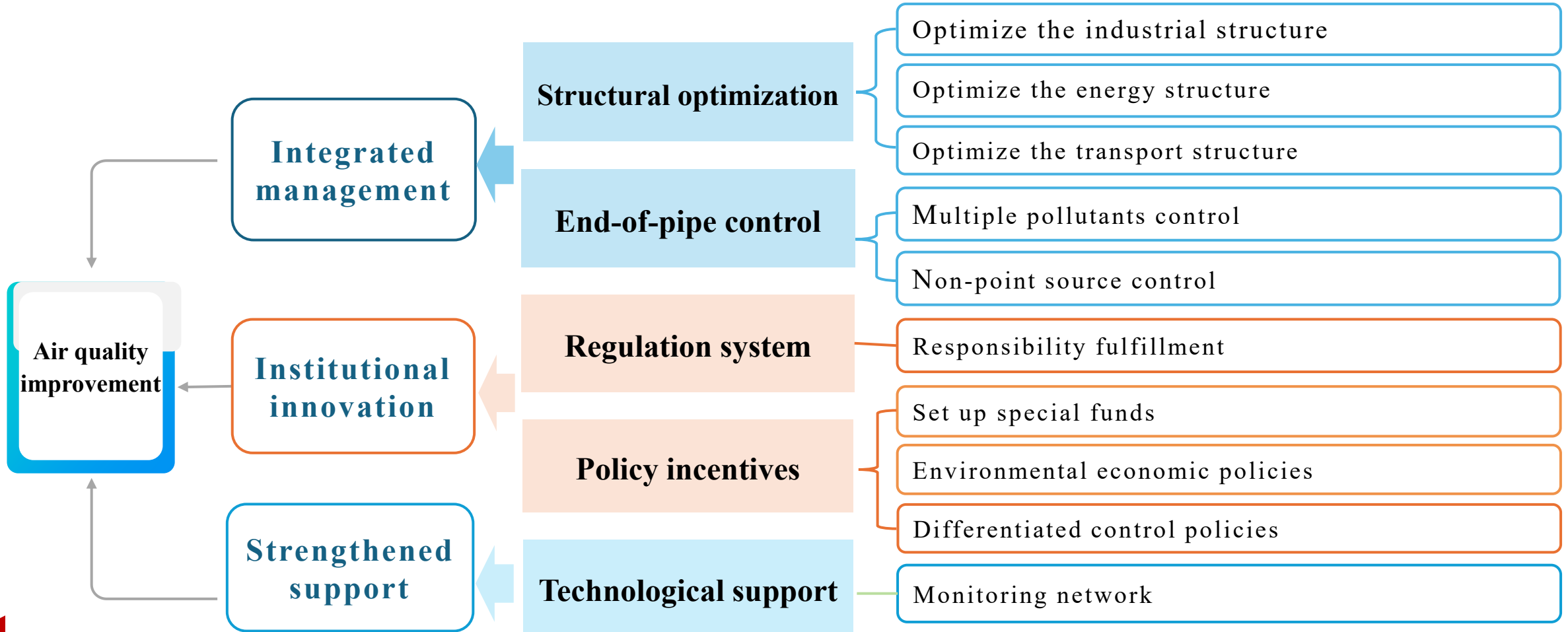
- 2015-2025, national GDP increased by 72%, number of vehicles increased by 115%, while the **PM_{2.5} concentration decreased by 39%**
- Air quality in key areas has improved significantly, with PM_{2.5} concentrations in BTH and surrounding areas dropping by 53%, **PM_{2.5} concentrations in Beijing dropping by 65%**



PM_{2.5} concentration in “2+36” cities from 2015 to 2025



➤ Through multiple measures, we have promoted the continuous improvement of ambient air quality

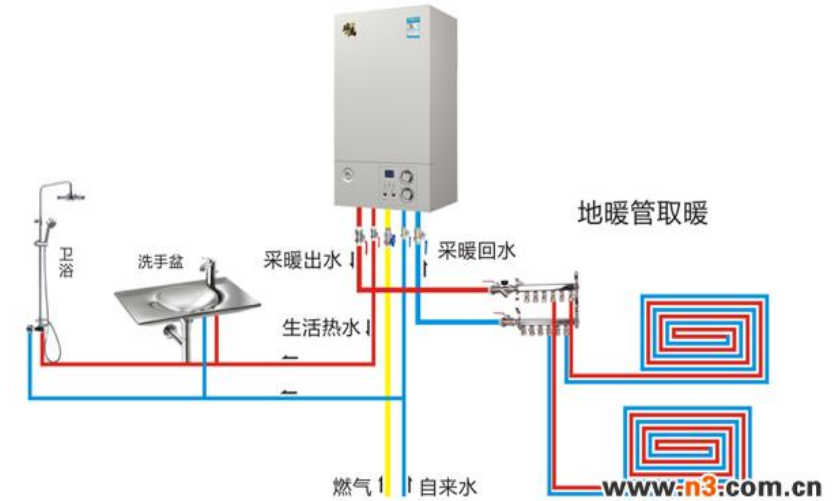




1. Focus on clean energy utilization, reducing coal consumption



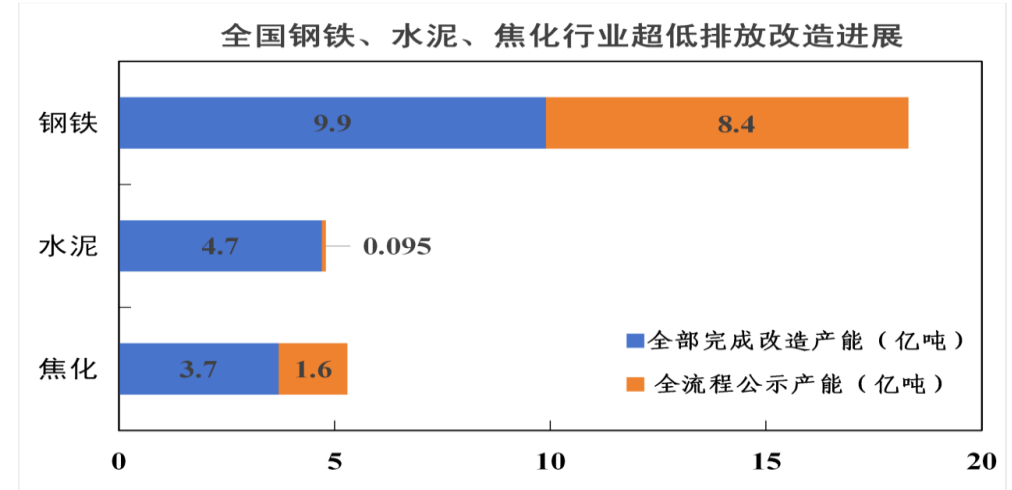
- Compared with 2013, national total energy consumption in 2025 increased by 47.9%, **the proportion of coal dropped from 67% to 51.4%**
- 2013-2025, **clean energy accounted for about 61.5% of PRC's incremental energy consumption**
- The number of coal-fired boilers dropped from about 500,000 in 2013 to less than 30,000 nationwide, **reducing coal consumption by more than 400 million tons**
- Clean heating has been carried out in northern areas, with 42M households completed the substitution of coal by gas or electricity, **reducing coal consumption by ~ 80M tons.**



2. Promote technology upgrade and end-of-pipe control to reduce industry emissions



- Since 2013, the outdated capacity of **300M tons of steel, 400M tons of cement and 1 billion tons of coal have been eliminated**, and 140M tons of illegal steel have been cleared.
- Nationwide, 1.13billion kilowatts and 95% of coal power units have completed ultra-low emission renovation, **building the world's largest clean coal power system.**
- Steady progress has been made in the ultra-low emission renovation of the iron and steel, coking and cement industries and boilers. Nationwide, **990M tons of crude steel production capacity has completed the ultra-low emission transformation.**



Ultra-low emission renovation in key industry



A garden-style factory



The first coal-fired power plant meeting ultra-low emission standards

3. Promote cleaner fuels and vehicles to significantly reduce transportation emissions



- **Vehicle emission standards:** China IV to China VI emission standards have been implemented, and **NOx emission control has reached the world's leading level**
- **Fuel quality standards:** The **full implementation of the National VI gasoline and diesel standards**
- **Accelerated vehicle electrification:** sales of new energy vehicles (NEVs) in PRC account for **70% of global NEV sales**; sales of new energy heavy-duty trucks surged by **173% year-on-year**, rank 1 globally



Large decrease in PM emission from diesel trucks



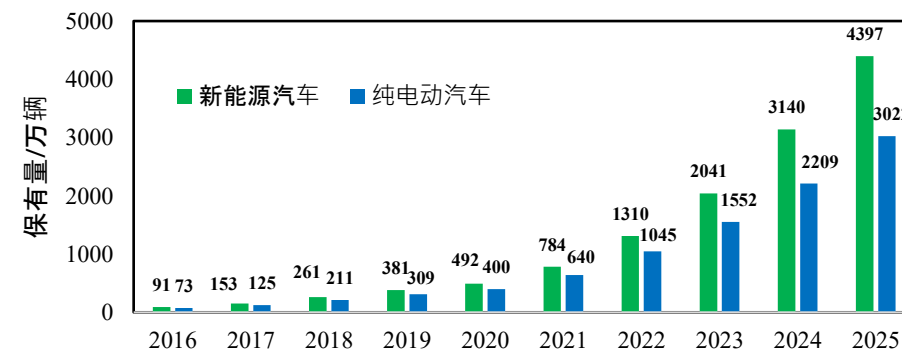
UN Climate & clean air award



Diesel sample from China I to VI



Gasoline sample from China I to VI



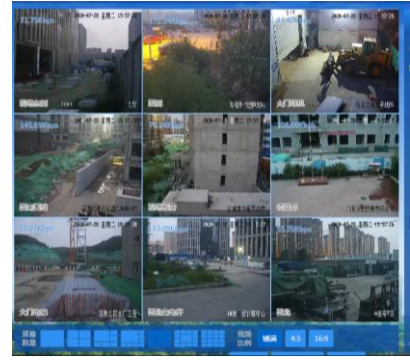
近年来我国新能源汽车和纯电动汽车保有量 (单位: 万辆)



4. Promote source reduction and regulation to reduce non-point source emissions



- Construct high-definition video systems, establish a unified platform for construction dust regulation, and set up monitoring stations in townships



Unified platform for construction dust regulation

“Air dome” for dust reduction

- **Improve comprehensive utilization of straw:** the national straw utilization rate reached 88% in 2025



Remote monitoring system for straw burning



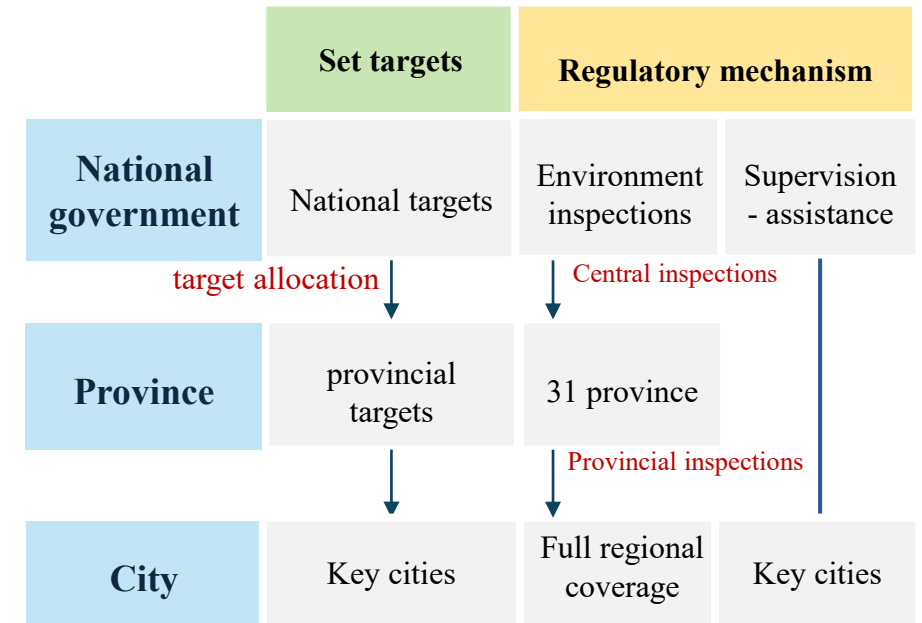
Comprehensive utilization of straw



5. Mobilize the enthusiasm of governments at all levels



- Air quality targets are **allocated top-down** to each province
- **Central environmental protection inspections** cover 31 provinces, and provincial-level environmental inspections cover all prefecture-level cities
- Continuous **supervision and assistance for air pollution control** in key regions have help local government address over 542,000 air pollution issues
- Real-time air quality monitoring information is provided to the public



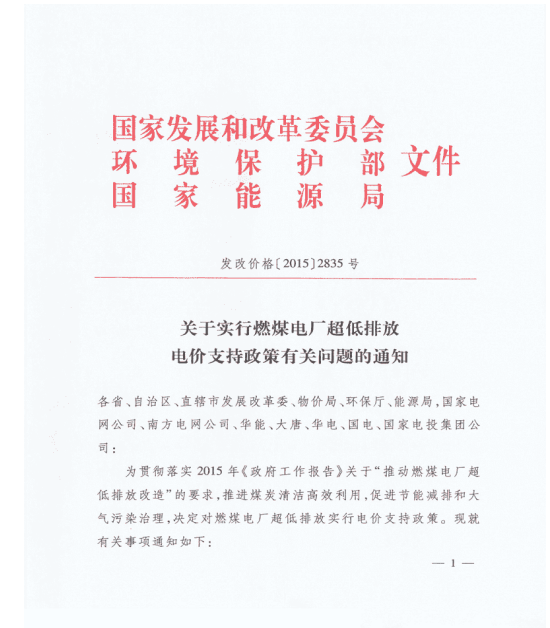
Real-time air quality monitoring



6. Stimulate enterprises' motivation for pollution control



- Establish the **Central Air Pollution Prevention and Control Fund**: A total of **305.91 billion RMB** has been allocated, supporting various regions in implementing policies like coal and industrial pollution control, clean heating, capacity building
- Improve major policies such as **environmental taxes** and **differential electricity pricing**
- **Performance grading and differentiated management**: Develop technical guidelines for performance grading and differentiated emission reduction measures for 39 key industries, covering approximately 319,000 enterprises



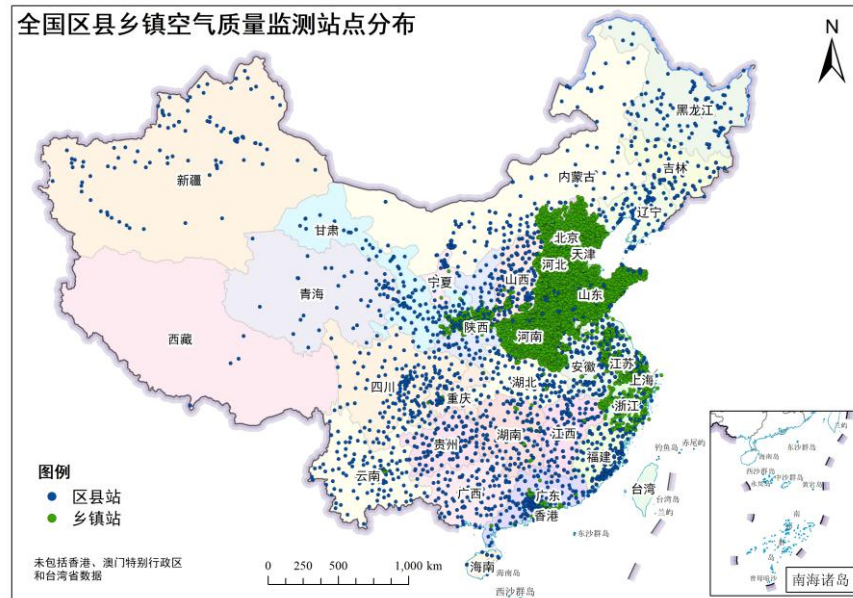
Guidelines for performance grading



7. Strengthen technological support



- **Established ambient AQ monitoring network**, covering neighborhoods in key regions; carry out particulate matter composition and photochemical monitoring
- Built a **national-regional-provincial-municipal air quality forecasting and early warning system**, and organized regional joint prevention and control with full support of scientific analysis and technical assistance



National air quality monitoring network



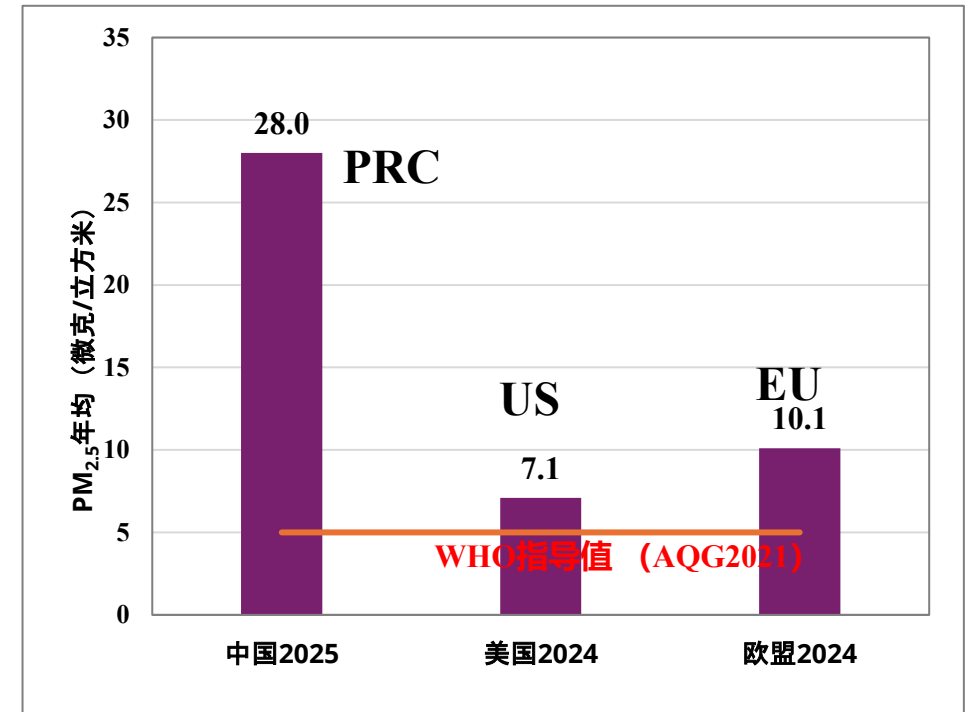
Regional comprehensive field observation



Main challenge for air quality improvement: PM_{2.5} concentrations remain high



- PM_{2.5} conc. in PRC is 5.6 times WHO AQG level, and ~3 times that in Europe
- Higher PM_{2.5} concentrations in key regions. BTH and surrounding area and Fen-Wei River Plain are **30% higher than the national average**



PM_{2.5} concentration in PRC, US, and EU



Next-step: Synergizing air quality improvement, climate mitigation, and economic development



"Beautiful China"

PM_{2.5} concentration reduced to
25 μg/m³ by 2035

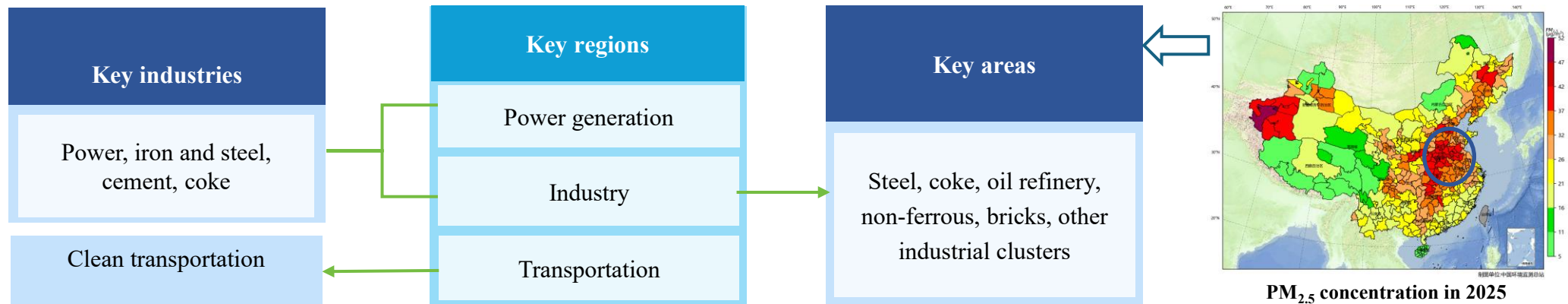


"Dual Carbon"

Achieving "Carbon peak" by 2030
and "Carbon neutrality" by 2060

➤ **Strengthen the synergy between air quality improvement and climate change mitigation**

- **Focus on key industries: power, iron and steel, cement, coke**
- **Focus on key regions: clean industry demonstration zones in BTHSA region**
- **Focus on key areas: promote zero-emission trucks and machinery**





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**Looking Forward to Our
Continued Cooperation**