

# Recycling of Suspended Particulates by Atmospheric Boundary Depth and Coastal Circulation

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The dispersion of recycled particulates in the complex coastal terrain containing Kangnung city, Korea was investigated using a three-dimensional non-hydrostatic numerical model and lagrangian particle model (or random walk model). The results show that particulates at the surface of the city that float to the top of thermal internal boundary layer (TIBL) are then transported along the eastern slope of the mountains with the passage of sea breeze and nearly reach the top of the mountains. Those particulates then disperse eastward at this upper level over the coastal sea and finally spread out over the open sea. Total suspended particulate (TSP) concentration near the surface of Kangnung city is very low. At night, synoptic scale westerly winds intensify due to the combined effect of the synoptic scale wind and land breeze descending the eastern slope of the mountains toward the coast and further seaward. This increase in speed causes development of internal gravity waves and a hydraulic jump up to a height of about 1km above the surface over the city. Particulate matter near the top of the mountains also descends the eastern slope of the mountains during the day, reaching the central city area and merges near the surface inside the nocturnal surface inversion layer (NSIL) with a maximum ground level concentration of TSP occurring at 0300 LST. Some particulates were dispersed following the propagation area of internal gravity waves and others in the NSIL are transported eastward to the coastal sea surface, aided by the land breeze. The following morning, particulates dispersed over the coastal sea from the previous night, tend to return to the coastal city of Kangnung with the sea breeze, developing a recycling process and combine with emitted surface particulates during the morning. These processes result in much higher TSP concentration. In the late morning, those particulates float to the top of the TIBL by the intrusion of the sea breeze and the ground level TSP concentration in the city subsequently decreases.

**Key words:** Suspended particulates, Non-hydrostatic model, Random walk model, Thermal internal boundary layer, Internal gravity waves, Nocturnal surface inversion layer, Recycling

## 1. Introduction

During the past decade empirical and numerical studies have been carried out on the prediction of pollutant concentrations over complex coastal terrain, but their accuracy in relation to the dispersion and diffusion of particulate matter contains uncertainties, due to complicated wind patterns caused by topography and the ocean<sup>3), 5)</sup>. After sunset (1800 LST), the number of vehicles gradually decreased and the particulate emissions also decreased, hence lowering the TSP concentration.<sup>10)</sup> Suspended particulates are not only harmful to human health but are also of great importance in the heat budget of the coastal

atmospheric boundary layer. A high density of suspended particulates near the top of the convective boundary layer reduces the solar energy reaching the surface and the reduction of solar radiation, such as the dome effect.

Kuwagata and Sumioka<sup>12)</sup> explained that a local circulation system was very complicated due to the interaction of complex terrain and the adjacent sea under differing weather conditions. Ross et al<sup>18)</sup> indicated that the local air shed surrounding the Comalco smelter was strongly influenced by the proximity of the ocean and the complex terrain of the Tama Valley. An increase in pollution concentration occurred from daytime processes involving photochemical reactions in the city<sup>1)</sup> and pollutant gases could be changed into the aerosol phase by their chemical reaction processes and cause an increase in local and regional air pollution concentrations<sup>13)</sup>. The computation of dust emission factors representative of the city area is very difficult due

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to the problem of lack of necessary input data such as emission rate, chemical processes among different species, and meteorological impact on the transportation and diffusion of particulates<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, this study was mainly confined to investigating how total suspended particulate concentration could vary as a consequence of the recycling process in the complex coastal terrain of southern Korea, using a three dimensional meteorological model and random walk model.

## 2. Numerical methods and data

### 2.1 Meteorological model

A three-dimensional non-hydrostatic grid point model in a terrain following coordinate system ( $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z^*$ ), called the LASV-5 model, originally developed at the Japan Meteorological Institute<sup>19</sup>, was adopted for a 48 hour numerical simulation on meteorological phenomena from 0900 LST, August 13 to 0900 LST, August 15, 1995 on a Hitachi super computer. Two domains were used, consisting of 50 x 50 grid points with a uniform horizontal interval for the course mesh (20km) and also 50 x 50 grid points for the fine mesh (5km) with one-way double nesting. There were 16 levels in the vertical spread from 10 m to 6 km with sequentially larger intervals between levels with increasing altitude. Twelve hourly global analysis data of wind, potential temperature, specific humidity and atmospheric pressure analyzed by JMA were horizontally and vertically interpolated onto the two coarse and fine mesh grids. Initial sea surface temperature data for the model were provided from satellite-derived analyses<sup>15</sup>.

LASV-5, which was originally developed at the Meteorological Research Institute, Japan Meteorological Agency, consists of a three-dimensional hydrostatic and non-hydrostatic option with a terrain-following coordinate system ( $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z^*$ ) based upon the Boussinesq and anelastic approximations<sup>9</sup>. Radiative heating of air was calculated from the thermodynamic equation and conservation of water vapor. The solutions of equations for the time integration and the vertical direction in the  $z^*$  coordinate were calculated by adopting the Euler-backward scheme and the Crank-Nicholson scheme. The atmospheric pressure changes at the top of model atmosphere with a material surface were controlled by the wave radiation condition, in order to avoid

reflections of gravity waves generated in the lower layers. The periodic lateral boundary condition was applied to the calculation of  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $\theta$  and  $q$  in the model domain<sup>16</sup>. In the numerical simulation, the time interval was set to  $\Delta t=30$  s in the coarse-mesh domain and  $\Delta t=10$  s in the fine-mesh domain, which effectively reduces external gravity waves that appear in the equations, especially for the non-hydrostatic model.

The vertical diffusion coefficients,  $K_m$  and  $K_h$  for momentum and heat transfer in the surface boundary layer were evaluated from the turbulent closure level-2 model<sup>20, 21</sup>. For evaluating total net flux of long wave radiation absorbed by water vapor and carbon dioxide and vertical flux from the surface the  $H_2O$  and  $CO_2$  transmission functions, effective vapor amount, specific humidity ( $g\ cm^{-2}$ ), and pressure (mb) at the surface and at several higher levels were considered. Total net solar radiation at the ground as a function of solar zenith angle, latitude, declination and time angle is calculated by the simplified scheme for computing radiative transfer in the troposphere<sup>7</sup>.

Newtonian cooling due to long wave radiation and radiative heating rate for air and soil temperatures near the surface were considered in detail. For the energy budget near the surface, the surface boundary layer was assumed to be a constant flux layer for estimating sensible and latent heat fluxes and similarity theory was adopted<sup>2, 14</sup>. On the time variation of soil temperature and specific humidity at the surface, a force restore method was employed<sup>4</sup>.

### 2.2 Random walk model

The random walk model (Diehl, et al., 1982; Kimura and Yoshikawa, 1988, JMRI, 1995) can be expressed using coordinates ( $\xi$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\zeta$ ). For the conservation of mass during the advection of particulate matter, it is necessary to transform the three dimensional wind field calculated from  $z^*$  coordinate system of the LASV-5 model into  $z$  ( $=z - z_G$ ) coordinate system of the random walk model. The increase in dispersion distribution by diffusion processes of particles with the occurrence probability of each particle is given as Fickian diffusion and the occurrence probability of particles in uniform random numbers with the same dispersion implies a uniform number in the

interval  $(-0.5, +0.5)$ . If a particle undergoes a random walk with a small  $\Delta t$ , the particle distribution is assumed to be Gaussian. In the  $z$  coordinate system

For the treatment of deposition processes below the reference level ( $z = \Delta z$ ), the deposition probability of a particle at the ground level can be given by  $v_d$ , which is the deposition particle velocity of  $0.002 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (Zhang, et al., 2001). When no deposition of a particle occurs, a reflection condition is given. The fine-mesh domain for the particle model consists of  $50 \times 50$  grid points with a uniform horizontal interval of 5 km, which is the same interval as in the meteorological model. Particles in the model were emitted at the surface in Kangnung city at the rate of four particles per two minutes. After sunset, the number of released particles was reduced to two particles per two minutes, due to the reduced number of vehicles on the street. Numerically calculated results on suspended particulate concentration were compared with measured TSP concentrations at Kangnung National University<sup>11)</sup>.

### 3.1 Dispersion of suspended particulates (day)

At 1200 LST, 14 August, the prevailing synoptic-scale westerly wind is directed over Mt. Taeguallung toward the coastal sea and the easterly sea-breeze as an upslope or valley wind ascends as far as the top of the mountains. The opposing wind regimes meet along the eastern slope of the mountains. The easterly wind reaches a height of 1400 m before being finally joining up with the westerly as a return flow toward the East Sea (Figs. 1 and 2). The convective boundary layer (CBL) is developed with to a thickness of about 1 km above the surface on the upwind side of the mountains, while the thickness of the thermal internal boundary layer (TIBL) is confined to less than 100 m along the eastern slope of the mountains below an easterly sea-breeze circulation, owing to differences in surface roughness and thermal heating at the land-sea interface. At 1500 LST, the atmospheric circulation and the thermal and convective boundary layers are similar in structure to those at 1200 LST.

## 3. Results and Discussion

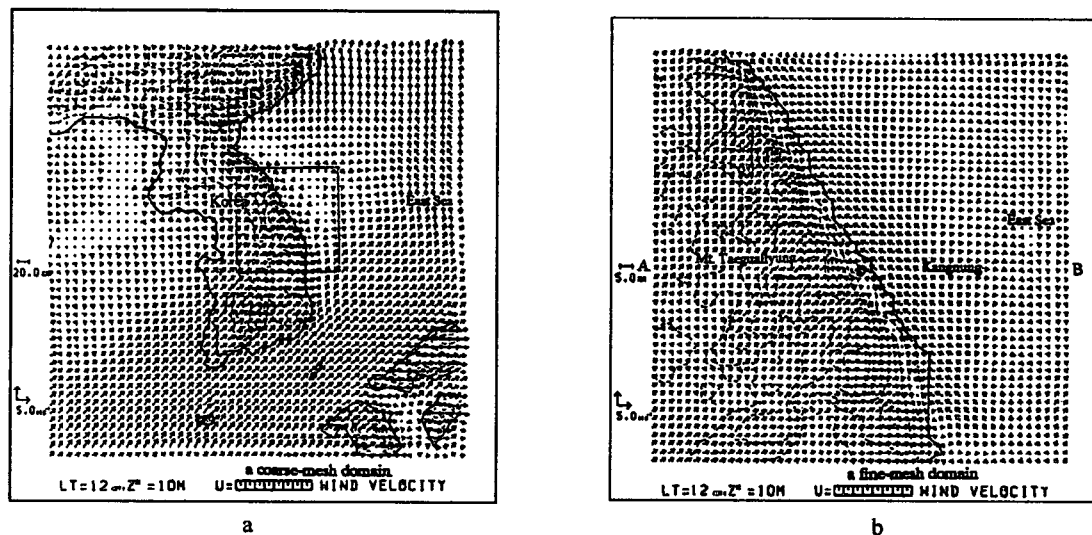


Fig. 1. (a) Wind fields ( $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) in the coarse-mesh domain adjacent to the Korean peninsula at 1200 LST, August 14. The thin line (dashed) and circle (open) denote topography and Kangnung city, respectively, (b) The fine-mesh domain (5 km) which is indicated in (a) by the inset and showing Kangnung city.

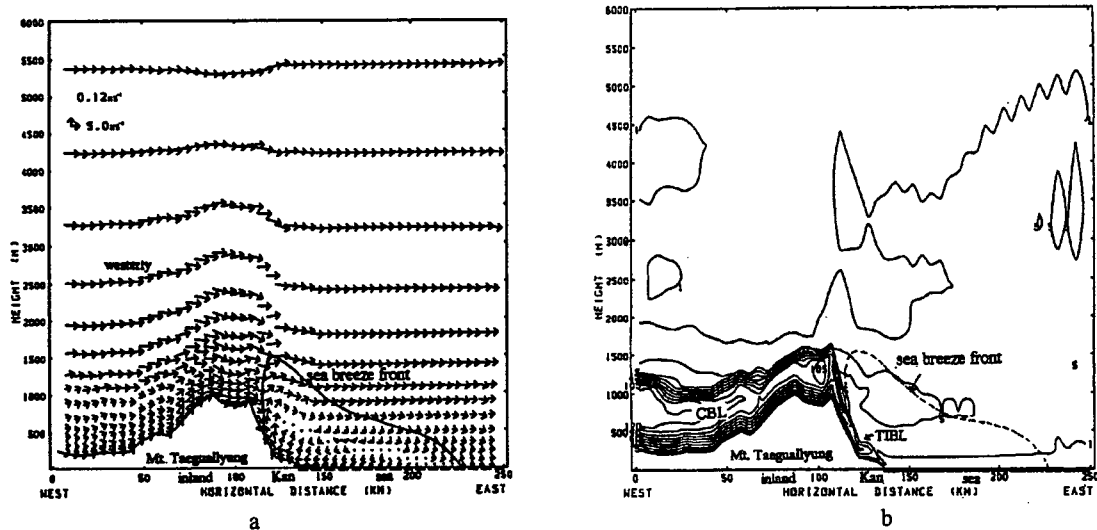


Fig. 2. (a) Vertical wind profile ( $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) at 1200 LST, 13 August, 1995 through a line A-B (Mt. Taegualluyung-Kangnung city-East Sea) as indicated in Fig. 1(b). Dashed line and Kan denote sea-breeze front and Kangnung city. (b) Vertical diffusion coefficient for turbulent heat ( $\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ ). CBL and TIBL denote convective boundary layer and thermal internal boundary layer. The dashed line on the bottom axis (----) indicates the East Sea.

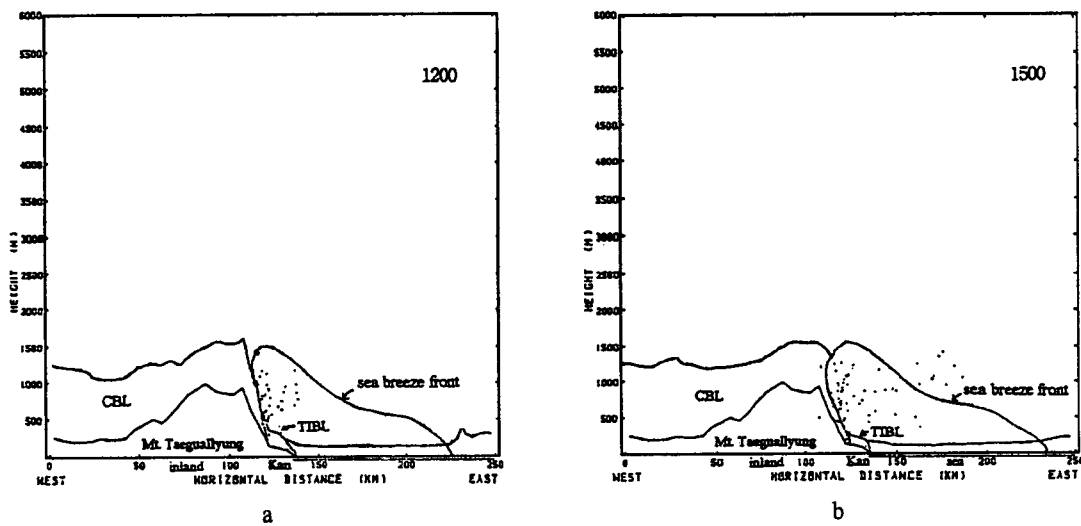


Fig. 3. (a) Transportation of suspended particulates in the coastal region near Kangnung city (Kan) under the influence of thermal internal boundary layer (TIBL) and upslope wind combined with sea-valley breeze at 1200 LST on August 13, 1995, and (b) as in (a) except at 1500 LST. CBL denotes convective boundary layer.

Suspended particulate matter is transported vertically from the surface of Kangnung city by thermal convection, and is transported toward the

top of the mountains in the uplift provided by the easterly sea breeze. As daytime progresses, the floating particulates, reaching as high as 1400 m,

are dispersed eastward below the height of sea-breeze circulation and then, spread out widely over the coastal sea surface (Fig. 3a). At 1500 LST, the suspended particulates are further dispersed over the coastal sea (Fig. 3b).

At 1700 LST, just before sunset, the CBL has shrunk to a depth of 300 m due to the decrease in solar radiation and is much shallower than that at 1200 LST, thereby allowing the TSP concentration inside the thinner CBL to become higher. Vehicle numbers on the roads increased greatly at the end of the working day and a large amount of gases and particulates were emitted, so the TSP concentration became very high (Fig. 7). After sunset (1800 LST), the number of vehicles gradually decreased and the particulate emissions also decreased, hence lowering the TSP concentration.

### 3-2. Dispersion of suspended particulates (sunset and night)

At sunset (around 1800 LST), the TIBL becomes thinner owing to the decrease in solar radiation and sea-breeze circulation subsequently becoming weaker than at 1200 LST. The height of suspended particulates is much lower than at 1500 LST and TSP concentration inside the thinner TIBL near Kangnung city becomes higher. Shortly after sunset (at 2100 LST), as internal gravity waves begin to develop along the eastern

slope of the mountains, a relatively strong downslope wind (katabatic or mountain wind) blows toward the city, but sea-breeze circulation still exists on the lee side (Fig. 4). Thus, the particulates descend along the eastern slope of the mountains toward the coast and the concentration of particulates in the city becomes higher than at 1800 LST.

On the other hand, at 0000 LST, nocturnal radiative cooling of the surface produces a shallow nocturnal surface inversion layer (NSIL) with a thickness of about 200 m over the coastal basin, but a relatively thinner thickness of 100 m near the mountains. Prevailing westerly downslope winds combined with westerly land breeze directed toward the sea, causes the wind speed to increase. Since the downslope westerly wind could penetrate into the city, particulate matter, uplifted during the day also descends along the eastern slope of the mountains toward the center of the city. Those particulates combine with the particulates (vehicle and industrial) released from the surface of the city and generated by strong surface winds are then transported toward the eastern coastal sea, resulting in a maximum concentration of TSP at the surface in the city at 0000 LST. The particulates trapped inside the coastal NSIL generally are dispersed toward the propagation source area of internal gravity waves.

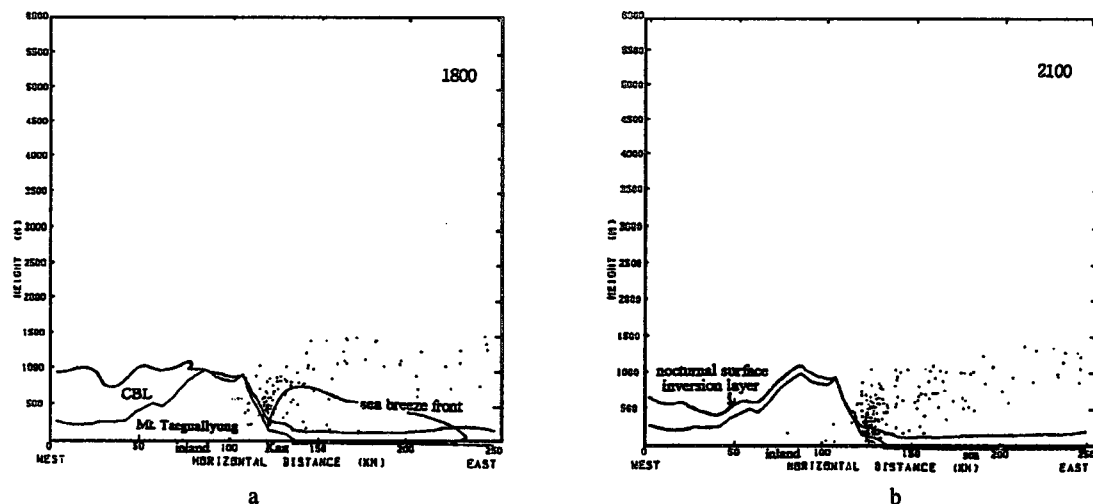


Fig. 4. (a) Transportation of suspended particulates in the coastal region near Kangnung city (Kan) at 1800 LST on August 14, 1995, and (b) as in (a), CBL denotes convective boundary layer.

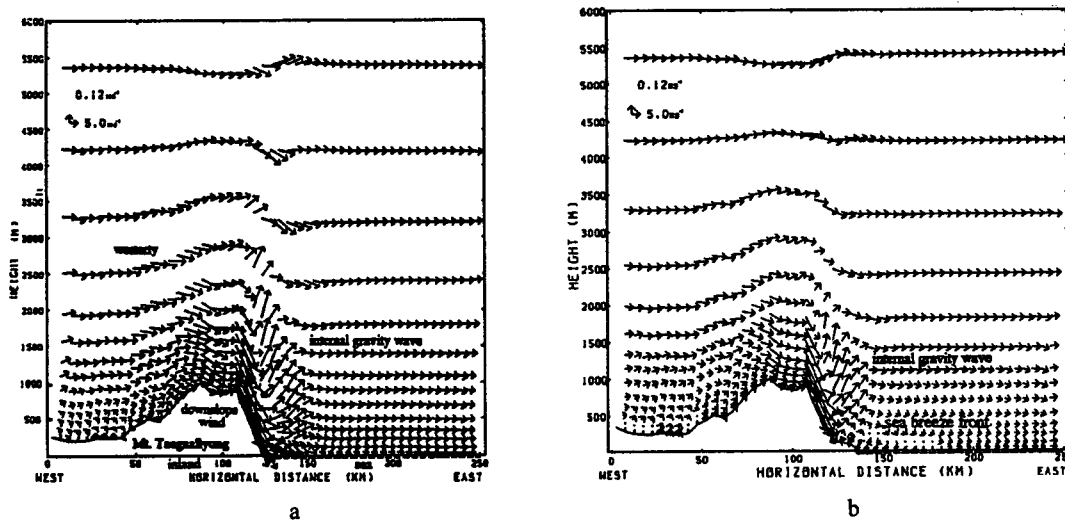


Fig. 5. (a) Vertical wind profile ( $\text{ms}^{-1}$ ) at 0600 LST, August 15, 1995 through the line A-B (Mt. Taegualliyung-Kangnung city-East Sea) when maximum development of internal gravity waves had occurred. (b) Three wind regimes at 0900 LST indicating the effect of westerly downslope winds, internal gravity waves and the easterly sea breeze.

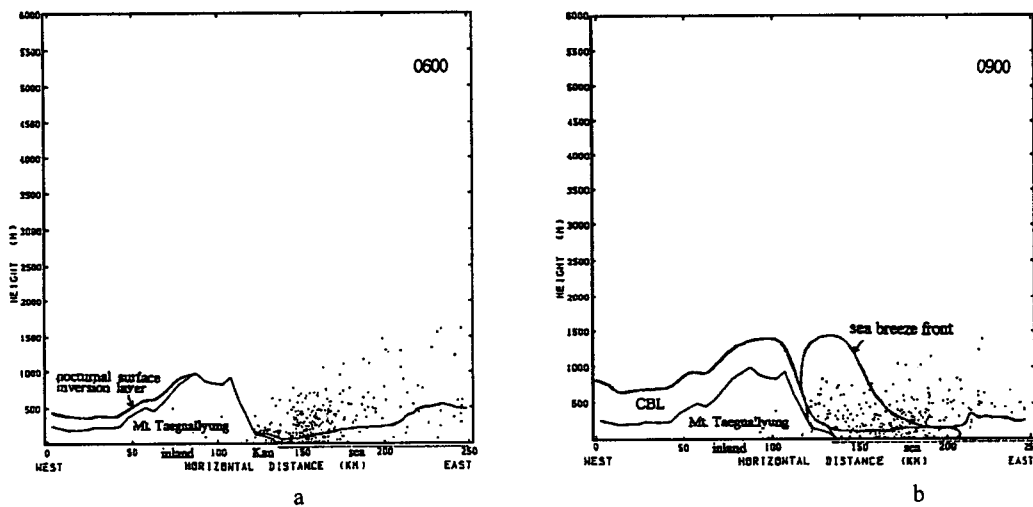


Fig. 6. (a) Vertical profile along A-B as in Fig.7(a) indicating transportation of particulates at 0600 LST, 15 August, 1995 under the combined influence of strong downslope wind and land breeze directed into Kangnung city (Kan) in the coastal region. (b) as in (a) except at 0900 LST when some particulates have been recycled from the sea into the city by the easterly sea-breeze and combined with recycled particulates emitted from the surface of the city in the morning. These particulates, in turn, are again transported toward the top of the mountains.

At 0300 LST and 0600 LST, the particulates move further eastward over the East Sea where some are deposited on the sea surface itself under the influence of the strong mountain-land breeze

(Figs. 5 and 6). The tendency for a low concentration of particles in the model results is well matched by the measured TSP concentration at Kangnung National University(KNU)<sup>11)</sup>.

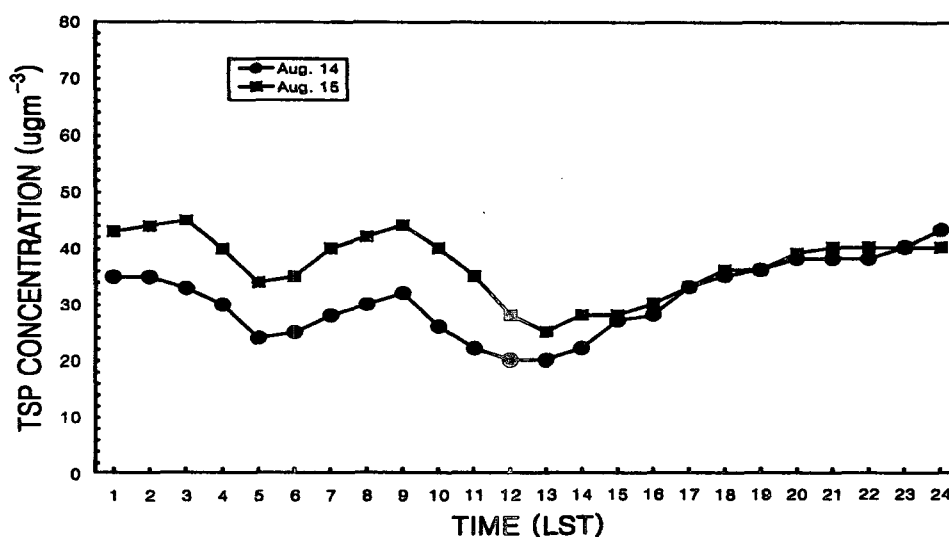


Fig. 7. Hourly concentration of total suspended particulate matter ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) at the monitoring site of Kangnung city from 14 August to 15 August, 1995.

#### 4. Conclusions

During the day, suspended particulates rise from the surface of the city to the top of the TIBL and are transported along the eastern slope of the mountains with the passage of sea breeze, and reach the top of the mountains. Those particulates then disperse eastward below the height of the sea-breeze circulation and spread out widely over the coastal sea. Total suspended particulate concentration near the surface of the city is very low.

Since the strong downslope westerly winds penetrated the city, particulate matter that was near the top of the mountains during the day also moved down the eastern slope of the mountains, reaching the center of Kangnung city and merged near the surface inside the NSIL. Here, a maximum ground level concentration of TSP occurred at 0300 LST on 14 August. A proportion of these particulates were forced to rise from the surface to as high as 1 km and others were transported to the coastal sea surface, as they dispersed in the coastal NSIL toward the propagation area of internal gravity waves. At 0600 LST and 0900 LST on the following day (15 August), the dispersed particulates present over the coastal sea could return to the coastal inland area under the influence of the sea breeze and the recycled particulates could combine with those

emitted from at the surface, resulting in relatively higher TSP concentration. In turn, these particulates again rise toward the top of the TIBL, by the action of the sea breeze circulation.

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