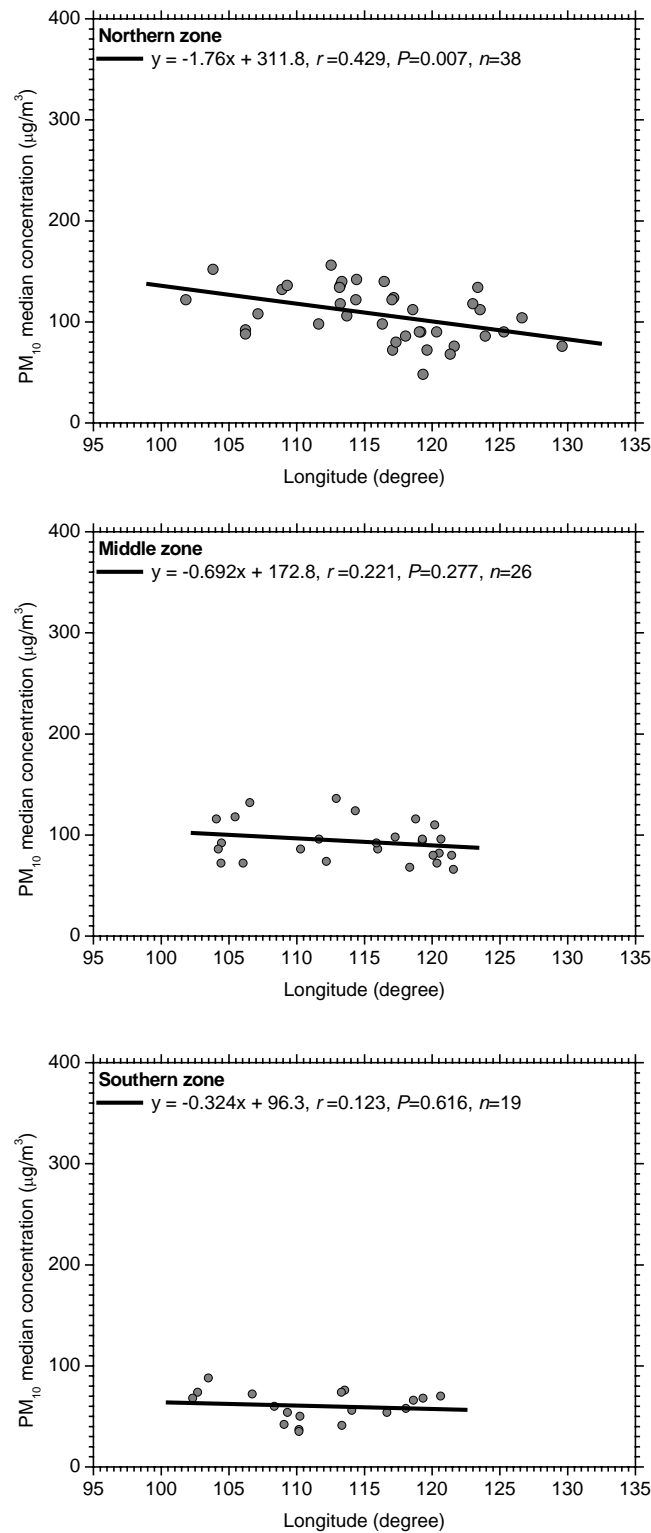


Supplement Table 1. Pearson correlation coefficients between the daily air pollution indexes (APIs) of 86 Chinese cities from June 2000 to February 2007

[illegible]

The upper right portion of this table shows the number of daily API pairs used in the calculations. The lower left portion of the table shows the correlation coefficients. Only correlations (*r*-values) significant at $p < 0.01$ are listed, those in bold type are correlations between APIs of the cities attributed to one specific cluster (which were also used as reference to cluster), and dashes are significant $p < 0.05$ or not significant.

G-1 through to G-14 on the upper-left to lower-right diagonal labelled the specific group of the cities with correlation coefficients between them framed



Supplement Figure 1. Longitudinal PM₁₀ gradient denotes by linear fitting of PM₁₀ median concentration with longitude for (top) the 38 cities in the northern zone, (middle) the 26 cities in the middle zone, and (bottom) the 19 cities in the southern zone. Linear fitting of PM₁₀ median concentration with latitude was significant ($p < 0.01$ significance) for the 38 northern cities (top). While for the cities in the middle zone (middle) and the southern zone (bottom), PM₁₀ concentrations also generally exhibited a decreasing trend from west to east, but the longitudinal differences in those cases were smaller and linear fittings of PM₁₀ concentrations with latitudes were not significant (not passed the 95% confidence level test) for these cities.