

AIR QUALITY IN LONDON AND TOKYO: A COMPARISON**D. Hutchinson¹**, D. Vowles¹, A. Kannari², Y. Tonooka², Y. Nishida³¹*Greater London Authority, London, UK*²*Institute of Behavioural Sciences, Saitama University, Saitama, Japan*³*Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo, Japan*

London and Tokyo have much in common. They are both huge capital cities in developed countries in the northern hemisphere. Both have seen a shift in concern from pollution from stationary combustion sources, including heavy industry, in the 1950s to pollution from road traffic today. In London the great smog of December 1952, which killed an estimated 3,500 to 4,000 people, led to the passing of the Clean Air Act in 1956. The main cause was the widespread and inefficient use of coal, including for domestic heating. In the 1950s Tokyo embarked on a period of unprecedented economic growth, fuelled first by coal and then by imported oil. The effects of air pollution on health became a serious social and political concern. Today, the main concern in both cities is with air pollution from road traffic, particularly fine particulate matter (PM10) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Both cities are exploring ways of reducing pollution heavy diesel vehicles. This paper presents a comparison between the histories of air pollution control in London and Tokyo, its current state, and the action being taken to improve air quality.