

ACID RAIN

Tougher monitoring measures sought

Air pollutants that cause acid rain will be under more intense surveillance as 12 eastern Asian nations set up a new international pact to curb them.

Three years ago countries in the region, led by Japan, set up a network to keep a watch on the phenomenon, caused by sulphur and nitrogen-based gases.

However, some want tougher measures to stop the problem becoming worse.

"We want to improve the monitoring system," said Supat Wangwongwatana, deputy chief of the Pollution Control Department.

The framework for an international agreement would be discussed this year, but could take another three years to come into effect. The pact would lead to action plans designed to curb sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions in vehicles and factories.

Pollutants can travel from country to country, taking acid rain to remote areas.