Reply to Editor

Comment from the editor

Editor Decision: Reconsider after major revisions (further review by editor and referees) (01 Jan 2020) by Jon Tennant

Comments to the Author:

Dear authors,

The reviewers noted a number of potential conceptual and methodological improvements that could be made. Furthermore, there seem to be a number of smaller points through the article that could be clarified or expanded upon to help strengthen the arguments.

Because of this, I have recommended major revisions at this stage. I do not feel that there is anything critically wrong with the research, but the large number of 'smaller' issues seems to require some fairly substantive changes overall. I remain confident that the authors will be able to appropriately address these.

Best,

Jon

Author's response

Dear Prof. Tennant

We greatly appreciate your great effort to improve our manuscript. We answered all comments from the reviewers point-by-point as follows. Major improvements of this major revision are:

- improving abstract, introduction and conclusion to state the purpose of this study clearly, i.e., to propose our concept of "Clean aIr Index, CII" to form a global standard to quantify the air cleanness,
- improving a validation of our WRF-CMAQ calculation by comparing with the all AEROS observation sites from 6 major cities in the previous manuscript,
- updating all values, figures and tables of CII following improvement of ozone calculation in CII to make the time length of the air pollutant amount (x) consistent with that of the numerical criteria (s).

We hope that our manuscript is suitable for publication in GC.

Sincerely yours,

Tomohiro Sato, Yasuko Kasai

National Institute of Information and Communications Technology

Point-By-Point Reply to Referee Comment 1 from Anonymous Referee #1

Comment from Referee:

A. General comments from Referee:

In this manuscript, authors focused on their original index to evaluate air cleanness, named as CII. CII is defined as the difference from unity of the sum of relative cleanness of each pollutant (NO2, SO2, SPM and O3) normalized by each standard. This study is positioned as a basic research of their novel index and a demonstration for indicating reasonability and utility of the index. Such an index may be useful for capturing and understanding simply the air cleanness. Thus, the reviewer believes that this work has an important implication and is significant enough to be published in this journal. However, the present manuscript leaves several points to be improved, clarified, modified, and/or reconstructed, in order for readers to understand descriptions and to recognize the significance of this study clearly. Especially, it is necessary to indicate more information and explanations with some arguments and/or references, and to clarify the story of discussion.

Author's response:

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help us improve our manuscript. Yes, this manuscript is fundamental, and the aim is to propose our concept of "Clean aIr Index, CII." We answered your valuable comments point by point as the attached files, especially for the abstract, introduction and conclusion to state the objective of CII more clearly. We hope that our manuscript is suitable for publication in GC.

B. Important specific comments:

B1) Overall: uncertain and unclear points The referee thinks that the story which authors want to explain may be as follows: (1) validation of the model calculation (WRF/CMAQ) by comparison with observation data (AEROS), (2) explanation and interpretation of the novel cleanness index, CII, estimated for all the municipalities in Japan from the results of WRF/CMAQ, and (3) demonstration of the utility of the index, top 100 clean air cities in Japan. Would you please confirm that the referee's understanding is correct? Such a self-doubt of the referee is due to ambiguity and uncertainness in this study's aim, position, and significance, as follows, especially: (a) What are the differences among the indices? What are advantages to CII? Why CII, not AQI, for example? (b) What is the aim and significance of the top 100 clean air cities in Japan? (c) Descriptions and explanations on the methods and results are unclear. The major data in this study are based on the model calculation, aren't they? However, such critical points are not clearly found in the manuscript.

Author's response:

Thank you so much for your valuable comment. Yes, your understanding is right. We answered your question (a), (b) and (c) as follows. (a) As you mentioned, the statement about CII was unclear and we added a statement of AQI in Sect. 1. The advantage of CII is to represent the combined effects of multiple pollutants. A comparison study between CII and AQI using WRF-CMAQ and AEROS was added in Sect. 3.4, and please also read the Author's response to C2. We also improved the description of AQI in Sect. 1. (b) The CII has many possibilities to be used in society, and "Top 100 clean air cities" is presented as one example of use in society of CII not for scientific meaning. We believe that presenting "Top 100 clean air cities" is suitable for the aim and scope of this journal, "*Geoscience Communication aims to raise awareness of the importance and value of science communication from a scientist's point of view as part of a broader vision of "geoscience for society"* <https://www.geoscience-communication.net/about/aims_and_scope.html>". (c) Descriptions of our model simulation in Sect. 3.1 was updated following your comments. Please also read the Author's response to C1.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 2 Line 38 – 44, Page 11 Sect. 3.4

Page 1 Line 21, Page 15 Line 247 – 251, Page 17 Table 5, Page 19 Line 307 – 308

Page 5 Sect 3.1

Comment from Referee:

B2) Shallow descriptions without arguments and/or references: Some descriptions are without any arguments and/or references. The referee feels that authors say these descriptions definitively, without explanations.

Eg. Line 65: : : : , because more than 90 - 95 % of Ox is composed of O3.

Eg. Line 136 (similar to Line 65)

Eg. Lines 176-: : : :, because polluted air was transported from East Asia and : : :

Eg. Lines 187-: (similar to Lines 176-)

Eg. Line 188-: typical lifetime of NO2

Eg. Line 251: There are many industrial areas in western Japan, : : :

For example, are these the results of model calculation, or cited from references?

Author's response:

We added the following references in the manuscript.

- Akimoto, H.: Overview of policy actions and observational data for $PM_{2.5}$ and O_3 in Japan: A study of urban air quality improvement in Asia, (2017).
- Park, M. E. et al.: New approach to monitor transboundary particulate pollution over Northeast Asia. Atmos. Chem. Phys., 14(2), 659-674, (2014).
- Kenagy, H. S. et al.: NOx lifetime and NOy partitioning during WINTER. J. Geophys. Res. Atmos., 123(17), 9813-9827, 2018.
- Li, M. et al.,: MIX: a mosaic Asian anthropogenic emission inventory under the international collaboration framework of the MICS-Asia and HTAP. Atmos. Chem. Phys., 17(2), 935-963, 2017.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 3 Line 70, Page 9 Line 166

Page 6 Line 157, Page 9 Line 175

Page 9 Line 177

Page 18 Line 277

Comment from Referee:

B3) Table 6 and Lines 225-228 Descriptions are only qualitative on the top 100 cities. What is the scientific implication?

Author's response:

Thank you for pointing it out. We believe the CII has many possibilities to be used in society, and "Top 100 clean air cities" was presented as one example of use in society of CII not for scientific meaning. We believe that presenting "Top 100 clean air cities" is suitable for the aim and scope of this journal, "*Geoscience Communication aims to raise awareness of the importance and value of science communication from a scientist's point of view as part of a broader vision of "geoscience for society"* <https://www.geoscience-communication.net/about/aims_and_scope.html>".

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 1 Line 21, Page 15 Line 247 – 251, Page 17 Table 5, Page 19 Line 307 – 308

Comment from Referee:

B4) Line 239: Would you please indicate authors' opinion why 'except for Osaka'? What is the situations in Osaka?

Author's response:

Discrepancy between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS in Osaka in the previous manuscript was much improved by the following revisions. We changed the x value of O_3 from the daily average to the maximum of hourly value in 24 hours to make the time length of x consistent with that of s, following the comment from Anonymous Referee #3 (Major comment 3). Also, following the comment C7, we investigated correlation between CII and population density (n) for all Japanese municipalities, where the AEROS observation covered more than 80% of the days of the study period, including Osaka. Both WRF-CMAQ and AEROS showed negative correlation between CII and population density, and the linear regression of CII (= Y) with $\log_{10}(n)$ (= X) was consistent within their errors as follows. The slope was -0.034±0.001 and -0.033±0.001 for WRF-CMAQ and AEROS, respectively. The intercept was 0.801±0.002 and 0.796±0.005 for WRF-CMAQ and AEROS, respectively. Therefore, we updated Fig. 7 and the description of CII and the human activity in Sect. 4.3 in the previous manuscript.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 15 Sect. 4.2, Page 16 Figure 9, Page 20 Line 299 – 315

Comment from Referee:

C. Other comments and Technical corrections: C1) Explanations on model and method are insufficient. Essential parts of the model descriptions are not enough, the referee feels. For example: What is CMAQ? What reactions are considered? How to consider, for example, emission, deposition, secondary formation, transportation and diffusion, for SPM, O3, NO2, and SO2?

Author's response:

CMAQ is a chemical transport model and we used CMAQ to calculate air pollutant amounts for this study. WRF is used for a calculation of meteorological fields (e.g., temperature, wind, and humidity) which is essential for accurate calculation of air pollutant amounts. We added the descriptions of emission, deposition, secondary formation, transportation and diffusion in Sect. 3.1 following your suggestion.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 5 Sect 3.1

Comment from Referee:

C2) The referee thinks that readers want to compare CII with other indices. Thus, please add explanations on other indices. For example, what is AQI? If possible, as a demonstration, please calculate AQI and compare some data and figures based on CII with those based on AQI.

Author's response:

Thank you so much for this comment. We additionally calculated the AQI value based on our WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurements. The correlation coefficients (r) of daily CII value for the study period between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS were compared with those of AQI. Figure 5 in the revised manuscript shows the distribution of r of (a) CII and (b) AQI. The mean of r for all municipalities, where the AEROS observation covered more than 80% of the days of the study period, was 0.664±0.048 (1 σ) and 0.566±0.056 (1 σ) for CII and AQI, respectively. The CII showed better agreement between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS than AQI. This is because of the difference of definition between CII and AQI. In the calculation of AQI, only the air pollutant that causes the largest health risk is taken into account and the other air pollutants are ignored. In the calculation of CII, all of air pollutants, O_3, SPM, NO_2 and SO_2, are averaged with normalization by their numerical standards. The definition of CII relatively cancels discrepancies in each species in case that the amounts reciprocally vary as O_3 and NO_2 by the chemical reaction; $NO + O_3 \rightarrow NO_2 + O_2$. Therefore, the cancellation of discrepancy in individual species in the definition of CII is a significant advantage for quantifying air cleanness using the proposed model.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 2 Line 38 – 44, Page 11 Sect. 3.4

Comment from Referee:

C3) Line 137: What is 'Fig.3(a)' ?

Author's response:

Thank you for pointing it out. We corrected this typo.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 6 Line 158

Comment from Referee:

C4) Line 165 and others: '1.2 times', for example, is not proper because CII is defined as '1 – (ratio of pollution)' in Eq.(1). In addition, the 'times' description is also not proper because the CII can be less than zero when the pollution is severe. Meanwhile, for the 'ratio of pollution', the 'multiple' description (like '1.2 times') is proper, because such 'ratio of pollution' is proportional to the quantities of pollutants. However, for the difference from unity in Eq.(1), such 'multiple' description cannot be explained to be proportional to some values.

Author's response:

We appreciate your comment and agree with your suggestion. The value of 1 – CII is proportional to air pollutants amounts, thus we improved the statement as "The average and standard deviation (1 σ) of CII was 0.67±0.10, 0.52±0.18, and 0.24±0.32 in Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing, respectively. The value of 1 - CII is proportional to air pollutant amounts, and the air in Tokyo was 1.5 and 2.3 times cleaner, less air pollutant amounts, than those in Seoul and Beijing, respectively."

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 1 Line 16 – 18, Page 11 Line 213 – 215, Page 19 Line 299 – 301

Comment from Referee:

C5) Line 165: Please indicate the sources of data and information on the pollutions in Seoul and Beijing.

Author's response:

The data of the pollutants in Seoul and Beijing are derived from our CMAQ model results, as those cities are inside the Domain 1. We added the description in the end of Sect. 3.1.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 6 Line 146 – 147

Comment from Referee:

C6) Figure 4: Would you please add the histogram of CII determined from AEROS data and compare them with CII from CMAQ? Such additional comparisons can support the reasonability of CII from the model calculation.

Author's response:

Yes, we added the histogram of the CII difference between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS for all Japanese municipalities.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 10 Fig. 4

Comment from Referee:

C7) Overall: Would you please add the figures of CII determined from AEROS data (similar to Figs. 5, 6 and/or 7) and compare them with those from CMAQ? Such comparisons can support the advantages of CII from the model calculation. For example, 'figures acquired from AEROS data are insufficient but those from CMAQ are fine enough to discuss the spatial distributions and temporal variations of CIIs over Japan.'

Author's response:

We performed a comparison study for all AEROS observation sites following your comment, and we discussed the spatial and temporal bias in our model simulation by statistical approach as follows. 498 in 1896 municipalities were covered by the AEROS measurements and the statistical method could be possible by including all AEROS observation sites to cover large number of samples. We deeply appreciate your valuable comment. To investigate the spatial bias between municipalities in our model simulation, we compared the CII mean of all days in the study period for each municipality between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS. The mean and standard deviation (1 sigma) of CII difference (WRF-CMAQ - AEROS) were 0.000 and 0.022, respectively. In the similar way, we investigated the daily temporal bias by comparing the CII mean of all Japanese municipalities for each day between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS. The mean and standard deviation (1 σ) of CII difference were 0.000 and 0.044, respectively. We averaged the CII values for at least 30 days to compare the CII value among municipalities to reduce the temporal bias in CII difference between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS to be less than 0.01. Consequently, we regarded that the CII difference larger than 0.02 is significant.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 7 Fig. 2, Page 9 Sect. 3.3

Comment from Referee:

C8) Overall: Geographical descriptions of Japan (eg. cities, prefectures, and islands) are insufficient. Readers unfamiliar with Japan cannot understand the information in this paper.

Author's response:

Thank you so much for pointing it out. We showed the location of the municipalities mentioned in this manuscript.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 11 Line 215 – 216, Page 12 Fig. 7

Point-By-Point Reply to Referee Comment 2 from Referee Kunihiko Arai

Overall summary from Referee:

It is highly appreciated that the author defined "Clean Air Index = CII" as a new concept and aimed to apply it worldwide. The author has developed "CII: Air Cleanliness" for the first time in the world and proposed to set it as an international standard of air quality, which has been diverged in various countries until now. It contributes to environmental science in that air quality observation and future prediction can be done quantitatively. It also contributes to social aspects such as utilization in urban planning. "Delicious air" is of great interest in areas with severe environmental problems (especially China, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, etc.). CII is an important factor for people moving abroad or staying longer. In addition, it is wonderful to open up the possibility of using CII to set a standard for incorporating "delicious air" as a tourism resource. CII can also be highly evaluated for its potential to become a standard for tourism and migration.

Author's response:

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help us improve our manuscript. Yes, CII has many possibilities in social aspects such as urban planning, residence, tourism and migration. We believe the clean air is as valuable a resource as clean water and this manuscript would work to make the CII concept common in the world. We answered your valuable comments point by point as the attached files. We hope that our manuscript is suitable for publication in GC.

Comment from Referee:

[Comments and questions for the whole] The reliability of CII is not a problem because it uses the index set by WHO. Is there a correlation between the global distribution of CII and healthy life expectancy in each country? I think that it is too few to carry out model verification at 6 points. Why did it not be done at all points? Can you visualize the global distribution of CII in near real time? What tools do you need to do that? When creating CII for countries other than Japan, especially for emerging countries such as Africa and Southeast Asia, is there any data equivalent to that of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment? The goal of making CII as a global standard should be clearly stated as an issue for the future and written in the abstract.

Author's response:

Thank you so much for your valuable comments. We performed a comparison study for all AEROS observation sites following your comment. 498 in 1896 municipalities were covered by the AEROS measurements. The statements and figures for validation of WRF-CMAQ using the AEROS measurements were updated in the revised manuscript. The global distribution of CII can be derived using a global model such as GEOS-chem [Wang et al., 2004] and CHASER [Sudo et al., 2002a; 2002b]. We recommend to use the WHO Air Quality Guidelines for the numerical criteria for the global distribution of CII because it is the only criteria for air pollutants defined by the international organization as far as we know. The WHO AQG is also employed for applying CII to countries with no environmental standards. Following your comments, we improved the abstract and introduction to clearly state our aim of CII to make a global standard for the air cleanness.

- Sudo, K., Takahashi, M., Kurokawa, J. I., & Akimoto, H. (2002a). CHASER: A global chemical model of the troposphere 1. Model description. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *107*(D17), ACH-7.
- Sudo, K., Takahashi, M., & Akimoto, H. (2002b). CHASER: A global chemical model of the troposphere 2. Model results and evaluation. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *107*(D21), ACH-9.
- Wang, Y. X., McElroy, M. B., Jacob, D. J., & Yantosca, R. M. (2004). A nested grid formulation for chemical transport over Asia: Applications to CO. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *109*(D22).

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 1 Line 3 – 4, Page 2 Line 31 – 32, Page 2 Line 45 – 46, Page 3 Line 71 – 80,
Page 9 Sect. 3.3

Comment from Referee:

[Comments and questions for the whole] Please tell us why you normalized human activity in the population. Since this paper uses NO2 and SO2 for CII, I thought that the number of cars and the number of factories were more appropriate than the population density.

Author's response:

The common logarithm of population density is commonly used to quantify the human activity (e.g., Kerr and Currie, 1995). In our calculation, the common logarithm of population density showed good correlation with NO_2 (r = 0.80) and SO_2 (r = 0.74). The population density might not be the best, but appropriate to quantify the human activity.

- Kerr, J. T., Currie, D. J. (1995). Effects of human activity on global extinction risk. *Conserv. Biol.*, 9, 1528 – 1538.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 15 Line 257

Comment from Referee:

[Comments and questions for the whole] Are there any plans to visualize the CII information on Web system in the future? Developing the system which can overlay CII with other information (disaster prevention and disaster prevention information app) and enable easy access to thematic map, e.g. land risk assessment, would be one of social implementations.

Author's response:

We had no such plans but we would like to adopt your idea in the future. Thank you for your nice suggestion.

Comment from Referee:

[Comments and questions for the whole] Can you create CII for other countries with significant air pollution? For example, China, Southeast Asia, India, Nepal, Mongolia and Ulaanbaatar.

Author's response:

Yes, we can derive the CII values for other countries by using a global model, such as GEOS-chem [Wang et al., 2004] and CHASER [Sudo et al., 2002a; 2002b]. The WHO AQG standards should be employed as the numerical criteria in CII in case that no environmental standards were defined in the countries.

- Sudo, K., Takahashi, M., Kurokawa, J. I., & Akimoto, H. (2002a). CHASER: A global chemical model of the troposphere 1. Model description. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *107*(D17), ACH-7.
- Sudo, K., Takahashi, M., & Akimoto, H. (2002b). CHASER: A global chemical model of the troposphere 2. Model results and evaluation. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *107*(D21), ACH-9.
- Wang, Y. X., McElroy, M. B., Jacob, D. J., & Yantosca, R. M. (2004). A nested grid formulation for chemical transport over Asia: Applications to CO. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *109*(D22).

Comment from Referee:

[Comments and questions for the whole] Although there is a solid observation network in Japan, why do you use the model? Please write reason for needs of the model at the beginning of the appropriate chapter.

Author's response:

We used the model because the AEROS measurements do not cover the all 1896 municipalities.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 4 Line 85 – 86

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 25. Change a word, "Furthermore". In the sentence after "Furthermore", the reason for the change in air quality is written, so that it is not adequate. 26. Add references; why reduced labor productivity leads to increased demand for projected energy. 27. Why does GDP increase due to harvest loss derived from air pollution? How about excerpting one sentence from OECD2016?

Author's response:

We revised this sentence because it was too long and partly wrong as follows.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 2 Line 27 – 30

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 28. How about excerpts from "McCarty and Kaza, 2015" about important issues in city planning? The reason for the change in air quality is written as "Increase in pollutants", but the reason for the importance of urban planning for air quality is not written. Therefore, the sentence balance in the paragraph is bad.

Author's response:

Yes, we agree with your suggestion. This sentence was isolated in the paragraph. We moved this statement from introduction to conclusion.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 20 Line 321 – 322

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 29-30. With regard to "clean water is", we insist on the necessity of creating an index based on "same as water", but is there a water world index? Provide references if any. If not, cut this sentence.

Author’s response:

Yes, there is a water world index, “Global Drinking Water Quality Index (GDWQI).” We added this reference in the manuscript.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 2 Line 31 – 32

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 30. The meaning of "allow people to make more informed choices" is unknown. Please write specifically.

Author’s response:

We modified this sentence as follows.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 2 Line 32 – 33

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 31. Easy access for citizens, easy to read, easy to understand, this is an important perspective for journals. This expression is written at the beginning of the sentence, and "Upgrading with experts and scientific data" will be described later.

Author’s response:

We agreed with your suggestion and modified this sentence as follows.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 2 Line 33 – 34

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 35. Correct spelling. indexes or indices?

Author’s response:

Thank you for pointing it out. We corrected the term “indexes” to “indices” as follows.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 2 Line 35, 36, 37, 41, Page 11 Line 192

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 39. What are the selection criteria for that chemical? It is written a little in Chapter 2, what is the reason for making only 4? For example, is there a reference, whether it is a high rank, is it attracting attention in Japan, or is the standard that the country is most interested in?

Author’s response:

These 4 pollutants are selected from the WHO Air Quality Guidelines which is most common guideline for air quality as far as we know.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 40. I understood the meaning of "optimizing the numerical criteria" after reading Chapter 2. This means that the user can set any value. Since "optimizing" is likely to be misunderstood as an advanced optimization algorithm, it is expressed to avoid misunderstanding.

Author’s response:

We agreed with your suggestion and changed from “optimizing” to “defining.”

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 3 Line 71

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 57. "O3, PM, NO2 and SO2 following the WHO AQG (WHO, 2005)" overlaps with Chapter 1. There is no need to erase. But write something already mentioned above, such as "mentioned above".

Author's response:

We agreed with your suggestion and added "as mentioned above" in the manuscript.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 3 Line 64 – 65

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 67. The health risks written in the introduction are also motivating research. Is it consistent with chemical substances SPM that are not health risks?

Author's response:

There are many studies to report association between SPM and health risk, such as Ueda et al., (2010).

- Ueda, K., Nitta, H., & Odajima, H. (2010). The effects of weather, air pollutants, and Asian dust on hospitalization for asthma in Fukuoka. *Environmental health and preventive medicine*, *15*(6), 350.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 69. According to the cited document (1993), volcanic eruptions are said to have the highest SO2 emissions, but I hear that there is also a document that "the amount of sulfur supply to the atmosphere is more due to industrial activity than volcanic activity." Are there any recent papers, not 1993 references? 70. Regarding volcanoes, it is stated that SO2 emissions are high, and in line 110, it is stated that SO2 volcanic emissions were ignored in Japan, and there is a conflict. Furthermore, it is not consistent to include Kagoshima to evaluate the effects of volcanoes. Devise how to write.

Author's response:

We deeply appreciate for pointing it out. As you mentioned, the description of our SO_2 calculation was ambiguous. Major source of SO_2 emission in Japan is combustion of fossil fuels [Wakamatsu et al., 2013]. Amount of SO_2 occasionally rise because of volcanic eruption, but only in a short period of volcanic eruption. In this study, the SO_2 numerical criterion is for the daily average, and the CII values are compared by averaging at least 30 days values. This process dilutes temporal SO_2 increase due to volcanic eruption. That is why we ignored SO_2 emission in our model simulation. We modified the statements about SO_2 calculation as follows to make this point clearer.

Author's changes in the manuscript:
Page 6 Line 130 – 132, Page 9 Line 176 – 178

Comment from Referee:
[Minor comments and questions] 89. Nudging is performed according to the 6-hour data. What is the time interval of the WRF-CMAQ calculation results?

Author's response:
The time interval of both WRF and CMAQ outputs is 1 hour. We added the description about the time interval.

Author's changes in the manuscript:
Page 4 Line 90 – 91

Comment from Referee:
[Minor comments and questions] 100. Are the NOX, SO2, and SPM boundary conditions other than O3 set in MOZART?

Author's response:
Yes. MOZART provided the distributions of more than 80 kinds of chemical species and aerosols, including NOX, SO2, PM and O3, as added in the manuscript.

Author's changes in the manuscript:
Page 6 Line 137 – 138

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 105. How did you find "the statistical secular changes in the annual total anthropogenic emissions"? Give a reference.

Author's response:

We added the reference in the manuscript.

- Crippa, M., Oreggioni, G., Guizzardi, D., Muntean, M. Schaaf, E., Lo Vullo, E., Solazzo, E., Monforti-Ferrario, F., Olivier, J., and Vignati, E.: Fossil CO2 and GHG emissions of all world countries, https://doi:10.2760/687800, 2019.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 5 Line 125 – 126

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 116. What is the reason for setting "R = 16km"? Is the domain grid interval related to 20km?

Author's response:

It is due to the convenience of the derivation of air quality at the municipal office, to be able to refer at least 1 model grid point. Theoretically the necessary smallest value of R is 14.1 km ($\sqrt{2}$*10 km), so we consider R=16 km is a good definition.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 117. Outside of the domain such as Okinawa, it may not be necessary to consider CII. Evaluation is difficult because the scale is different.

Author's response:

In Okinawa, there are no large local emission sources and major source of pollution is transboundary effects from outside. Transboundary pollution was well reproduced with larger scale. That is why we ignored difference of scale in two domains.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 130. As stated in "Volcanic emissions of SO2 were ignored

(L110)", is it consistent with selecting Kagoshima because of the volcanoes? 134. It is written that the site of Sakurajima was excluded because it did not consider volcanoes in CMAQ, but are other sites in Kagoshima city susceptible to volcanoes? From Table 2, Kagoshima has a particularly poor correlation between NO2 and SO2. Is this the reason for the volcano? Or for reasons other than volcanoes? Did you enter Kagoshima to insist that the impact of the volcano is not so great? Clarify the intention to include Kagoshima. Or Kagoshima is not needed. Or let CMAQ consider Sakurajima's volcano. Do you have emission data for Sakurajima?

Author's response:
In our simulation the effects of volcanic activities are not considered because of the reason described in Author's response to Minor comments and questions for Line 69 and 70. Also, we changed the strategy of validation of our WRF-CMAQ calculation from specific case study with 6 cities to statistical approach with all the AEROS sites. We drastically changed the statements of the comparison study in Sect. 3.2.

Author's changes in the manuscript:
Page 9 Sect. 3.3

Comment from Referee:
[Minor comments and questions] 139. Correct the spelling. abovementioned-> above-mentioned

Author's response:
Thank you for pointing it out. But this sentence was removed because of changing the validation strategy from specific case study with 6 cities to statistical approach with all the AEROS sites.

Comment from Referee:
[Minor comments and questions] 140. A good agreement with a correlation coefficient of 0.61 is a bit overstated. Is this a problem with the resolution and representativeness of the 10km model?

Author's response:
Major cause of discrepancy between our WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurements is probably local and unpredictable emissions. In our model, local emissions from industries, such as traffics and combustion, were given by the MIX inventories. The temporal resolution of the

MIX inventory is monthly, thus the daily or hourly-scale emissions could not be reproduced by our model. That is why we compared the CII values by averaging at least 30 days.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 141. In Table 2, why is “CII” better in Akita and Nagano than in Kagoshima, where NO2 and SO2 are bad? 141. As with the time series, are the values in Table 2 a comparison of daily averages?

Author’s response:

We could not understand your point. Do you mean why CII in Akita and Nagano ($r = 0.61$) were worse than that in Kagoshima ($r = 0.65$)? But this table was removed because of changing the validation strategy from specific case study with 6 cities to statistical approach with all the AEROS sites.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 146. Put a dot after the formula number R.

Author’s response:

We appreciate your comment. We confirmed the style defined in the Copernicus Publications, and “(R1)” is correct, not “(R.1)”. We unified the style to “(R1)” in the manuscript.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 9 Line 179

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 146. Since it is a reaction by "hv", do the values in Table 2 and CII change depending on the presence of sunlight, that is, day and night? I think that the result of each day and night also has utility value (social needs). I think there is demand for people who need delicious air at noon and those who need it at night.

Author’s response:

Yes, air pollutant amounts vary in day and night as you suggested. But CII defined in this paper can only derived to daily unit because the we used the numerical criteria for 24-hour average.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 150. The reaction R3 causes the model to underestimate O3 and overestimate NO2, resulting in a poor correlation between O3 and NO2. Since CII is added together, it is offset and the correlation of CII does not deteriorate. Isn't it possible to properly devise an underestimation of O3 and an overestimation of NO2 in the model? And why does the correlation worsen in areas with few human origins such as Akita and Nagano?

Author's response:

We appreciate your comment. Adjusting amounts of O_3 and NO_2 is theoretically possible but quite hard because many parameters, such as convergence rate, are intricately related with each other in the model. Although further investigation is required, one possible reason for worse correlation of CII in Akita and Nagano can be an uncertainty in natural emission sources.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 153. Since the elimination of the NO2-O3 offset problem depends on the type of model, I think it will not be an advantage for all models.

Author's response:

We appreciate your comment and agree with your suggestion. Following the comment from Anonymous Referee 1, we compared CII and AQI using both WRF-CMAQ and AEROS. The correlation between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS was better in CII than AQI. This is due to difference of the calculation method, i.e., CII averages normalized air pollutant amounts, but AQI only employs the highest air pollutant and the others are ignored. This is an advantage of CII to comprehensively estimate all air pollutants and we stated it in the revised manuscript.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 19 Line 297 – 298

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 157. There are things that look asymmetric and those that don't. Devise how to write.

Author’s response:

This figure was removed because of changing the validation strategy from specific case study with 6 cities to statistical approach with all the AEROS sites.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 158. I think 1-σ is a convention in this field. However, readers in other fields can easily misunderstand “-” as minus, and mistakenly read it as 1 minus σ. Isn’t it just σ?

Author’s response:

We changed the term “1-σ” to “1 σ”.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 9 Line 185, 187, Page 10 Caption in Fig. 4, 5, Page 11 Line 196, 213, Page 13 Caption in Fig. 8, Page 14 Line 221, 222, Page 19 Line 294

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 165. Which agency’s data follows the denominator “s” for Seoul and Beijing’s numerical criteria?

Author’s response:

The same numerical criteria for Japan are used for Seoul and Beijing to directly compare the CII values of Seoul, Beijing and Japanese municipalities.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 174. Write that the time being stated is around May. The writing style is unified.

Answer from authors

We modified the statement as below.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 6 Line 154

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 185. Does "amount of O3 was relatively higher than the value of s" mean that x / s is larger than other spices?

Answer from authors

Yes, you are correct. The sentence was improved as below. Thank you pointing it out.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 9 Line 173

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 187. The famous city name, Mega City, is written on the vertical axis in Figure 5.

Author's response:

We added Sapporo, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, and Fukuoka on the left of the vertical axis in the figures.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 7 Fig. 2, Page 8 Fig. 3

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 193. In response to the above paragraph, it will not be "Consequently". It does not lead to cross-border pollution. How do you interpret Figure 5 to get evidence of cross-border pollution? I think there is cross-border pollution, but I can't interpret it from Figure 5 alone. 194. Since it overlaps with the 187th line of the upper paragraph, delete the sentence, "The variation in O3 had the most significant effect on seasonal variation in the CII. The spatial distribution of CII corresponded to those of NO2 and SO2." 195. The impact of domestic local sources can be seen in the vertical stripes in Figure 5, but there is insufficient evidence for "outside of Japan".

Author's response:

Thank you so much for pointing it out. We wrote this paragraph to summarize dominant source of spatial and temporal distribution of CII, but it should be done in the conclusion section. We removed this paragraph.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 200. From Figure 6, it is difficult to tell the difference between good and bad places such as northern Japan. Devise the color scale to a palette of about 8 colors.

Author's response:

Yes, we agree with your suggestion that the color resolution was too detailed. We analyzed that the difference in CII derived from the WRF-CMAQ larger than 0.02 was significant to be reproduced by AEROS by averaging 30 values. Thus, we changed the color resolution to 0.02 grid in this figure.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 13 Fig. 8

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 222. Add a reference to show that "Generally, the transboundary pollution effect" is significant in Japan in the spring. Write the reasons, such as the monsoon, or the high demand for coal-fired power generation in China in winter. 222. In the case of cross-border pollution, it is difficult to understand unless it is compared with a model such as PM2.5 that is expressed in time series. In addition, photochemical smog is a phenomenon under some very special circumstances in some areas, so it is better to expand the data representation a little more. That will be a future issue.

Author's response:

There are many previous studies of source of air pollutants in Japan using chemical transport models. As you mentioned, this topic is quite important for the environmental policy and should be further investigated in the future. We improved the sentence and added the following reference.

- Nagashima, T., Ohara, T., Sudo, K., & Akimoto, H. (2010). The relative importance of various source regions on East Asian surface ozone. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, *10*(22), 11305-11322.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 15 Line 244 – 245

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 225. Is "The 30 highest daily mean CII values" shown in Fig. 6 (c)?

Author's response:

Thank you for pointing it out. "Top 100 clean air cities" was selected by different way. The 30 days with highest daily CII values were selected for each municipality. But for Fig. 6 (c), the 30 highest days were selected for the average CII for all 1896 municipalities. We selected "Top 100 clean air cities" by quite simple way in this manuscript but the selection method should be civilized through discussion in the future. We improved the description as follows.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 15 Line 248 – 249

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 225. Based on the data in 6 prefectures in Japan, the municipalities in the prefecture are selected. However, from the nationwide data, there are naturally other regions with high value, so it is better to use these 6 cases. It may also be a good idea to list the seasons roughly.

Author's response:

We deeply apologize that we could not understand meaning of your question. The "Top 100 clean air cities" were selected using all 1896 municipalities data not only the six, Akita, Tokyo, Nagano, Osaka, Fukuoka and Kagoshima cities. It would be so nice if you could give us more detailed explanation.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 232. Why is it "not fair" when it is fair to quantify CII on an objective basis? 245. Does normalization in human activity (population density) mean to exclude the influence of human activity? Why is that? Is it for seeking potential cleanliness of the air?

Want to see the impact of cross-border pollution? Write the reason and purpose at the beginning of the chapter. 250. Is it not just "neighboring municipality" but also transboundary pollution? For example, if the distribution of yellow sand and the distribution in Figure 7b overlap in previous studies, this is evidence of cross-border contamination.

Author's response:

Thank you so much for pointing it out. Our objective to normalize CII with human activity is categorizing municipalities into four groups; 1) Clean air with high human activity, 2) Clean air with low human activity, 3) Dirty air with high human activity, and 4) Dirty air with low human activity. The CII value showed negative correlation with the human activity, thus the municipalities in groups 2 and 3 are in normal situation. The municipalities in group 1 is ideal case because such municipalities are expected to be industrially advanced as well as to succeed to maintain clean environment. Problems are in the municipalities in group 4, because only few people live in but the environment can not be saved. It means that there are large air pollution sources such as large power plant or air pollutants are transported from the outside. We guess this interpretation is also important to apply the CII concept in social usage such as residence and environmental policies. We improved this section to make this point clearer as follows.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 15 Line 254 – 256

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 282. Due to the circumstances of each individual, it is not necessary to strongly recommend moving to Hokkaido. Write about the causal relationship with healthy life expectancy, or write other reasons, such as clean air is better in nature and is more sustainable. However, just as people and factories set out to seek clean water, if people seek for clean air, they can put a load on clean nature and have the opposite effect. Sometimes it is better not to be a tourism business.

Author's response:

Yes, we agree with your suggestion. We removed this sentence.

Comment from Referee:

[Minor comments and questions] 284. "enabled" is too much to say. Rather than saying that

Korea and China alone can be applied to other countries, it is better to write that this method is simple and can be applied to countries and municipalities around the world.

Author’s response:

We appreciate your valuable comments. We improved the sentence following your suggestion.

Author’s changes in the manuscript:

Page 20 Line 322 – 323

Point-By-Point Reply to Referee Comment 3 from Referee Kunihiko Arai

Comment from Referee:

[Impression] (a) About tourism business

The area where the starry sky is beautiful is a tourist spot. The Ministry of the Environment of Japan reports Achi Village in Nagano Prefecture as “a place suitable for observing Japan’s starry sky”. However, Achi Village is not ranked in the “Top 100 Municipal Rankings for Clean Air” in this study. An area with a beautiful starry sky can be a tourist attraction, but needs to be investigated to see if an area with beautiful air can become a tourist attraction. For example, in “sightseeing” or “business trips”, the demand for cleanliness of air becomes clear by conducting interviews and questionnaires to people who want to go to a clean city. Needs surveys such as questionnaire results will be a strong basis for claiming that CII is necessary for the tourism business.

Author’s response:

We deeply appreciate your encourages. Thank you so much for showing us clear vision to implement CII to the tourism business. We guess that the reason why Achi Village in Nagano Prefecture was not selected in “Top 100 clean air cities” is that CII is not an index to quantify the air visibility. SPM is most effective for the air visibility but daily mean value of SPM was used in this study (not focusing on the nighttime). CII for the sky visibility, cloud condition should be included, could be one option of social use of CII.

Comment from Referee:

[Impression] (b) Insurance / real estate business

In Southeast Asia such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand, East Asia such as Mongolia and China, and South Asia such as India and Nepal, urban air pollution is severe. In cities and regions with severe air pollution, if the CII model can be used to set up medical insurance, it can be used for private use as evidence for insurance products. In some countries, the cause of death is air pollution. More certainty is required to use CII as an index for insurance companies. When considering foreign tourists (inbound), it can be used for indicators such as Japan x culture x nature x water and air. Persuasive power will increase if there are more specific data utilization cases. However, you need to be careful not to be criticized by the region.

Author’s response:

CII is a simple index, and can be applied to other countries where the air pollution is more severe than Japan. If we compare the CII values between country and others, the numerical criteria should be given by the WHO Air Quality Guidelines because it is the only criteria for air pollutants defined by the international organization as far as we know. Also if we could set reliable standards for health risk, CII for medical insurance could be made. Analysis of association with CII and social data such as number of insurance client or foreign tourist number would be helpful to implement CII to the insurance and foreign tourist businesses.

Comment from Referee:

[Impression] (c) Corporate risk hedging

The policy of increasing coal-fired power generation goes against the SDGs. In some cases, air pollution can lead to litigation issues. Dirty air can be a litigation risk for energy policies, power companies, construction companies, loan banks, etc. that have an environmental impact. In addition, these affiliates are at risk of being divested in ESG investments that are already spreading among investors. On the other hand, clean air is just an advertisement for local governments. Companies are also expected to invest ESG in activities that maintain and improve the clean air. CII is an effective index for measuring the potential of local brands and tourism resources. In countries and regions where there are few observation sites for air pollution, standardization of this CII model will lead to regional environmental assessment. In the future, it is possible that CII can be used as evidence for penal regulations for atmospheric environmental regulations in each urban area.

Author's response:

We deeply appreciate that you could understand our research. This is our motivation to present the CII concept in this manuscript. We added the perspective of the CII in the business scene in the last paragraph of the conclusion.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 20 Line 316 – 323

Comment from Referee:

[Impression] (d) Model expression ability

In the future, the author expects to create not only Japan but also the global CII distribution. In that case, can the difference in seasonal change be correctly modeled in the mid-latitude and high-latitude zones, and in low-latitude zones, particularly in the rainforest, Indonesia, and the Amazon, forest fires, bushfire haze, and volcanoes? I think that there is a lot of room for further study on whether such effects can be correctly incorporated into the model. The scope of this study is still within Japan. In the future, it will be necessary to verify in other regions whether it can be applied worldwide.

Author's response:
Yes, evaluation of air cleanness in the world should be the scope of this CII research in the future. According to the report of WHO, approximately 3.7 million deaths in the world were caused by exposure to the air pollution in 2012, and Asia is especially severe. As you mentioned, modeling such a local pollution is a scientific problem to overcome. Validation strategy is also important because the observation data near the surface for whole of the world is required. Satellite measurement is useful for global coverage but is difficult to extract the surface data from space, especially for the surface ozone. Thank you so much for giving us such a positive feedback and it would be so nice if you could continue to discuss with us.

Point-By-Point Reply to Referee Comment 4 from Anonymous Referee 3

Overall comment from Referee:

It is of great significance to develop the local and global air quality index for providing informative information to policy maker and citizen. The authors propose a simple index for qualifying air cleanness, "Clean aIr Index (CII)" and evaluate the air quality in Japan by using the CII. This work is challenging but the CII has critical problems for applying globally and locally. Additionally, the evaluation of CMAQ is too insufficient to analyze the air cleanness in Japan. This reviewer would recommend the publication of this manuscript after major revisions responding to following comments.

Author's response:

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help us improve our manuscript. We answered your valuable comments point by point as the attached files. We improved abstract and introduction to state the purpose of this study, i.e., CII, and also a validation of our WRF-CMAQ calculation was much improved by comparing with the all AEROS observation sites. We hope that our manuscript is suitable for publication in GC.

Comment from Referee:

Major comments 1. The authors mentioned that "the purpose of the CII is to estimate the level of air cleanness that is not a health risk" (line 66). What is the "air cleanness" in this study? It should be explained the meaning of "air cleanness". The authors referred the WHO (2015) when they selected the pollutants in the CII. However, WHO (2015) focused on the health effects of air pollution. As a result, the author's idea/concept about "air cleanness" is ambiguous.

Author's response:

Thank you so much for pointing it out. As you mentioned, the statement about "air cleanness" was unclear and this sentence was misleading. The purpose of this manuscript is to propose the concept of CII to make globally common standard for air quality because the presented worldwide used Air Quality Index (AQI) has critical problem that is not applicable to multi-pollutant air pollution. We modified the sentence that you mentioned as well as the abstract and introduction to state our purpose more clearly.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 1 Line 3 – 4, Page 2 Line 31 – 32

Comment from Referee:

Major comments 2. The authors mentioned that "The CII can be used globally and locally by optimizing the numerical criteria". The author should explain how to set the value of numerical criteria when the CII is used globally. The air quality standards in each country are different due to the current status of air quality, health effects, socioeconomic and political aspects and other factors. Hence, the authors should propose the methodology for optimization of these differences.

Author's response:

We suggest the WHO Air Quality Guidelines for the numerical criteria for the global distribution of CII because it is the only criteria for air pollutants defined by the international organization as far as we know. We added this statement as follows.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 3 Line 71 – 72

Comment from Referee:

Major comments 3. As show in Table1, the averaging time of air quality standard for Ox (hourly) and other pollutants (SPM, SO2 and NO2; daily average) are different. How do the authors harmonize these differences?

Author's response:

We deeply appreciate your valuable comment. In the previous manuscript, we used daily average of O_3 as x and the numerical criterion of Ox hourly limit as s, ignoring time difference between x and s. We changed x of O_3 as maximum of hourly value in 24 hours to be consistent between x and s. All CII values, figures, and tables were updated in the current manuscript.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 3 Line 66 – 69

Comment from Referee:

Major comments 4. The authors analyzed air cleanness in whole Japan by using the simulated results of CMAQ. However, the model evaluation is limited in only six cities. The CMAQ should be evaluated in all stations including remote sites. In particular, the municipalities in Hokkaido and Okinawa which are selected as those with highest CII value in Chapter 4 should be included in the model evaluation.

Author's response:

We performed a comparison study for all AEROS observation sites following your comment, and we discussed the spatial and temporal bias in our model simulation by statistical approach as follows. 498 in 1896 municipalities were covered by the AEROS measurements and the statistical method could be possible by including all AEROS observation sites to cover large number of samples. We deeply appreciate your valuable comment. To investigate the spatial bias between municipalities in our model simulation, we compared the CII mean of all days in the study period for each municipality between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS. The mean and standard deviation (1 sigma) of CII difference (WRF-CMAQ - AEROS) were 0.000 and 0.022, respectively. In the similar way, we investigated the daily temporal bias by comparing the CII mean of all Japanese municipalities for each day between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS. The mean and standard deviation (1 σ) of CII difference were 0.000 and 0.044, respectively. We averaged the CII values for at least 30 days to compare the CII value among municipalities to reduce the temporal bias in CII difference between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS to be less than 0.01. Consequently, we regarded that the CII difference larger than 0.02 is significant.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 9 Sect. 3.3

Comment from Referee:

Major comments 5. The authors mentioned that "The model underestimates the amount of O3 and overestimates that of NO2 in case of large contribution of the reaction (R3), i.e., NO titration effect." (lines 149-150). Is this correct? If the model can reproduce well the NO titration effect, there are less discrepancies between model and observation. In general, the regional chemical transport model such as CMAQ tends to be underestimate the NO titration in urban area because the model cannot reflect the effects of local emissions. Additionally, the CMAQ tends to overestimate the O3 concentration in Tokyo (For example, see Akimoto et al., 2019).

(Ref.) Akimoto et al., Atmos. Chem. Phys., 19, 603–615, 2019 https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-19-603-2019

Author's response:

We deeply appreciate your valuable comments and agree that our manuscript was quite misleading. Considering the comment from Referee #1 to compare CII and AQI, we improved the statements as follows.

Author's changes in the manuscript:
Page 11 Sect. 3.4

Comment from Referee:
Minor comments 1. Line 67: "The amount of SPM was simply assumed as [SPM] = ([PM10] + [PM2.5])/2 in this study" should be moved to section 3.2 because this assumption may be applied in the conversion of PM10 and PM2.5 of CMAQ to SPM.

Author's response:
We agree with your suggestion. The sentence was moved to Sect. 3.

Author's changes in the manuscript:
Page 4 Line 93

Comment from Referee:
Minor comments 2. Lines 163-166: Is it appropriate to analyze the air quality in Seoul and Beijing by using the CII based on the Japanese's standards?

Author's response:
Yes, the same numerical criteria for Japan should be used for Seoul and Beijing to directly compare the CII values of Seoul, Beijing and Japanese municipalities.

Comment from Referee:
Minor comments 3. Lines 249-251: In "The (delta)CII value reflects the transport of air pollutants from around the municipality rather than the CII value", what is the meaning of negative value of (delta)CII?

Author's response:
We stated the purpose of this analysis using ΔCII more clearly in Sect. 4.2. Our objective to

introduce ΔCII by normalizing CII with human activity is categorizing municipalities into four groups; 1) Clean air with high human activity, 2) Clean air with low human activity, 3) Dirty air with high human activity, and 4) Dirty air with low human activity. The negative ΔCII value means the municipality is categorized in group 4. There might be some issues in this group because only few people live in but the environment can not be saved. It means that there are large air pollution sources such as large power plant or air pollutants are transported from the outside.

Author's changes in the manuscript:

Page 18 Line 267 – 274

Novel index to comprehensively evaluate air cleanness: the "Clean aIr Index"

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Abstract. Air quality on our planet has been changing in particular since the industrial revolution (1750s) because of anthropogenic emissions. It is becoming increasingly important to visualize air cleanness, since clean air deserves a valuable resource as clean water. ~~We~~ Global standard to quantify the level of air cleanness is swiftly required, and we defined a novel concept, namely "Clean aIr Index, CII~~,~~." ~~to quantify the level of air cleanness in terms of a global standard.~~The CII is a simple index defined by the normalization of the amount of individual air pollutants. A CII value of 1 indicates completely clean air (no air pollutants), and 0 indicates the presence of air pollutants up to numerical environmental criteria for the normalization. In this time, the air pollutants used in the CII were taken from the Air Quality Guidelines (AQG) set by the World Health Organization (WHO), namely O_3, particulate matters, NO_2 and SO_2. We chose Japan as a study area to evaluate CII because of the following reasons: i) accurate validation data, as the in situ observation sites of the Atmospheric Environmental Regional Observation System (AEROS) provide highly accurate values of air pollutant amounts, ii) obvious numerical criteria, namely the Japanese Environmental Quality Standards given by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). We quantified air cleanness in terms of the CII for the all 1896 municipalities in Japan, and used Seoul and Beijing to evaluate Japanese air cleanness. The amount of each air pollutant was calculated using a model that combined the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) and Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) models for 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017. The CII values ~~were validated by comparing~~ calculated by the WRF-CMAQ model and ~~AEROS measurements for selected six cities, and an average~~ the AEROS measurements showed good agreement with a correlation coefficient of ~~$>$ 0.61 was obtained~~0.66$\pm$0.05, averaging 498 municipalities where the AEROS measurements have operated, which was higher than that of Air Quality Index (AQI) of 0.57$\pm$0.06. The CII ~~value of Tokyo~~ values averaged for the study period was ~~0.75, which was 1.2 and 1.9 times higher than that of Seoul (0.64) and Beijing(0.39)~~0.67, 0.52 and 0.24 in Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing, respectively, thus, the air in Tokyo was 1.5 and 2.3 times cleaner, i.e., less amounts of air pollutants, than those in Seoul and Beijing, respectively. The average CII value for the all Japanese municipalities was 0.72 over the study period. The extremely clean air, CII ~~$>$ 0.93, occurred~~ $\approx$ 0.90, occurred in southern remote islands of Tokyo and around west of the Pacific coast, i.e., Kochi, Mie and Wakayama Prefectures ~~, and southern remote islands of Tokyo~~ during summer with transport of clean air from the ocean. ~~The average CII value for the all Japanese municipalities was 0.78 over the study period.~~ We presented "Top 100 clean air cities" in Japan ~~using the CII~~ as one example of application using CII in society. We confirmed that the CII enabled the quantitative evaluation of air cleanness.

The CII can be useful value , for example, for in various scenarios, such as encouraging sightseeing and migration, as "tasty air," investment and insurance company business, and city planning. The CII is a simple and fair index that can be applied to all nations.

1 Introduction

Air is an essential components for all life on our planet. Air quality has been changing since the industrial revolution (1750s). FurthermoreAccording to the report from OECD (2016), air pollutant emissions are predicted to increase because of the projected increase in the energy demand, e.g., transportation and power generation, especially in East Asia, and . This report also mentions that the global annual market costs are predicted to increase from 0.3 % in 2015 to 1.0 % in 2060 of global GDP because of reduced labor productivity, increased health expenditures, and crop yield losses due to air pollutionare predicted to increase global GDP from 0.3 % in 2015 to 1.0 % by 2060 (OECD, 2016). Air quality is also an important issue in city planning (e.g., McCarty and Kaza, 2015). Therefore, a .

A global standard index to quantify air cleanness should be developed as the Global Drinking Water Quality Index (GDWQI), for water quality, defined by UNEP (2007), since clean air is as valuable a resource as clean water is. Such an index can be a useful communication tool to allow people to make more informed choiceshelp decision making. The index should be upgraded with the scientific data, and be understandable/informative not only for scientific experts but also general citizen, and also be upgraded with the scientific data.

Several indexes indices exist for estimating air quality, e.g., Air Quality Index (AQI) in the United States (US EPA, 2006) and Air Quality Health Index in Canada (Stieb et al., 2008) and Hong Kong (Wong et al., 2013). The purpose of these indexes indices is to estimate health risks due to air pollution exposure. These indexes indices were developed based on epidemiological studies and optimized for each country or local area. However, a global standard index for quantifying air cleanness The most commonly used index is the US AQI (US EPA, 2006). The AQI ranges from 0 to 500 and is calculated based on the concentrations of the six air pollutants. In the calculation of AQI, an individual AQI for every air pollutants are calculated for a given location on a given day, and the maximum of all individual AQIs is defined as the overall AQI. Hu et al. (2015) performed a comparison study of several indices for air quality using the measurements in China, and showed AQI underestimates the severity of the health risk associated with the exposure to multi-pollutant air pollution because AQI does not appropriately represent the combined effects of exposure to multiple pollutants. An index to quantify the air quality is still under development, and the global standard has not been developedestablished yet.

In this study, we propose a novel concept of index to quantify air cleanness, "Clean aIr Index (CII)." to establish the global standard for quantifying air cleanness. The purpose of CII is to comprehensively evaluate air cleanness by normalizing the amounts of common air pollutants with numerical environmental criteria. In this time, we selected surface O_3, particulate matter (PM), NO_2, and SO_2 from the Air Quality Guidelines (AQG) set by the World Health Organization (WHO)(WHO, 2005). The CII can be used globally and locally by optimizing the numerical criteria. As a first approach, we chose Japan for evaluating the CII because of i) the validation data, as the in situ observation sites of the Atmospheric Environmental Regional

Table 1. Value of numerical criteria (s), O_3, suspended particulate matter (SPM), NO_2, and SO_2 used in this study. We used the criteria of the Japanese Environmental Quality Standards (JEQS) given by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) of Japan. Average of air pollutant amount calculated by the model for all Japanese municipalities over the study period is shown. ~~Criterion for photochemical oxidants (Ox) in JEQS was used as the s value for O_3, because more than 90–95 % of Ox is composed of O_3.~~

Air pollutant	Average of model	Numerical criteria (s)	Notes
O_3	~~31.9~~46.4 ppb	60 ppb	Threshold of the hourly values
SPM	13.5 μg/m^3	100 μg/m^3	Threshold of the daily average for hourly values
NO_2	10.5 ppb	60 ppb	Threshold of the daily average for hourly values
SO_2	1.9 ppb	40 ppb	Threshold of the daily average for hourly values

Observation System (AEROS) provide highly accurate air pollutant amounts, and ii) the obvious numerical criteria, i.e., the Japanese Environmental Quality Standards given by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

In this paper, Sect. 2 ~~introduces~~ defines the CII. Section 3 describes the model for calculating the CII for all Japanese municipalities, and validates the CII ~~by comparing it with that~~ values by comparing with those derived from AEROS measurements. In Sect. 4, air cleanness in each municipality is quantified and the area and season of high air cleanness in Japan is identified using the CII.

2 Clean aIr Index (CII)

The CII is a simple index defined by the normalization of each air pollutant amount. The definition of CII is given by

$$\mathrm{CII} = f(x, s) = 1 - \frac{1}{\mathrm{N}} \sum_{i}^{\mathrm{N}} \frac{x[i]}{s[i]}, \tag{1}$$

where $x[i]$ is the amount of ith air pollutant, $s[i]$ is the numerical criteria for the normalization of $x[i]$, and N is the number of air pollutants considered in ~~this study~~the CII. In this equation, a higher CII value indicates cleaner air, with a maximum of 1 indicating the absence of air pollutants. The CII value decreases as the amount of air pollutant increases, with a value of 0 indicating that the amount of air pollutant is equal to the numerical criteria and a negative value indicating that the amount of air pollutant is larger than the numerical criteria.

~~The CII can be optimized according to users' requirements by selecting the air pollutants and setting the s values. The air pollutants we selected~~ In this study, the air pollutants used in the CII ~~in this study were~~ are O_3, PM, NO_2 and SO_2 following the WHO AQG (WHO, 2005) as mentioned above, i.e., N = 4. ~~We~~ The field of this study is Japan, thus, we set the values of s according to the Japanese Environmental Quality Standards (JEQS), which are given by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) of Japan (Table 1). ~~These~~ The time length should be consistent between the x and s values to implement the air pollutant amount in the calculation of CII. In this case, the s value of O_3 is defined as a threshold for 1-hour average, and those of the others are defined as 24-hour average. We employed the maximum of 1-hour average per day for O_3 and daily-mean for the other pollutants. We used the criterion for photochemical oxidants (Ox) in the JEQS as the s value for O_3, because more than 90–95 % of Ox is composed of O_3 (Akimoto, 2017). The CII can be used both globally and locally by defining the setting of s values. In case of applying the CII to compare the air cleanness globally, the numerical criteria should be given by the WHO AQG (WHO, 2005).

The selected air pollutants have been of importance for the last 5 decades in Japan, and have been monitored by AEROS from 1970. Surface O_3, which is harmful to human health (e.g., Liu et al., 2013) and crop yields and quality (e.g., Feng et al., 2015; Miao et al., 2017), has been increasing in Japan since the 1980s in spite of the decreasing O_3 precursors, such as NO_X and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (Akimoto et al., 2015). Nagashima et al. (2017) estimated that the source of surface O_3 is increasing, and approximately 50 % of the total increase was caused by transboundary pollution from China and Korea. We used the criterion for photochemical oxidants (Ox) in the JEQS as the s value for O_3, because more than 90–95 % of Ox is composed of O_3. We used the suspended particulate matter (SPM) for PM following the JEQS, not $PM_{2.5}$, PM with a diameter of less than 2.5 μm, because the purpose of the CII is to estimate the level of air cleanness that is not a health risk.The amount of SPM was simply assumed as SPM= $(PM_{10} + PM_{2.5})/2$ in this study. .NO_2 is a precursor of surface O_3 and is a harmful pollutant. It mostly originates from anthropogenic sources, especially fossil fuel combustion (e.g., power plants and vehicles). Major sources of The environmental SO_2 are emissions from volcanic eruptions (e.g., Read et al., 1993), as level was severe in 1970s in Japan. But the SO_2 emissions from anthropogenic sources have been reduced via regulatory policies (Wakamatsu et al., 2013). concentration has been decreasing owing to the use of desulfurization technologies and low-sulfur heavy oil, and JEQS for SO_2 was satisfied at most AEROS sites in 2012 (Wakamatsu et al., 2013).

3 Model simulation

A model simulation was performed to calculate the amounts of O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 of all Japanese municipalities (1896 in total; note that wards in megacities, such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Fukuoka were counted as independent municipalities), including municipalitieswith no stations to monitor air pollutants. The AEROS measurement network does not cover the all municipalities, thus we employed the model simulation. We combined two regional models; The Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model, for calculating meteorological fields (e.g., temperature, wind, and humidity), and the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) model, calculating air pollutant amounts using the WRF results as input parameters. Detailed descriptions about the WRF and CMAQ models are written in Sect. 3.1. The calculations were made from 22 March 2014 to 31 March 2017, and the outputs from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017 with the interval of every 1 hour were used for analyses. We selected the simulation period with a unit of fiscal year (FY), starting on 1 April and ending on 31 March, because the AEROS measurement dataset that we used to evaluate our simulation (Sect. 3.2) was archived with a unit of FY. The settings of the WRF-CMAQ model used amount of SPM was simply assumed as $[SPM] = ([PM_{10}] + [PM_{2.5}])/2$ in this studyare described below.

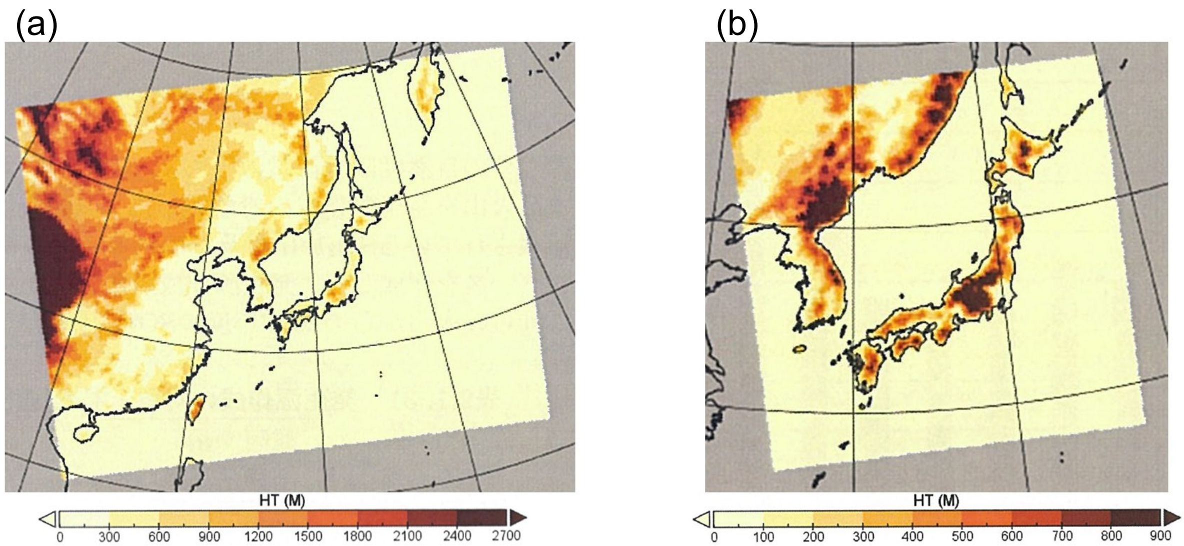

Figure 1. Ranges of (a) Domain 1 and (b) Domain 2 of the WRF-CMAQ models in this study. Color bars denote altitude.

3.1 WRF-CMAQ settings

We used the WRF model version 3.7 (Skamarock et al., 2008) to calculate the meteorological fields. We set two model domains; which Domain 1 covered East Asia with a horizontal grid resolution of 40 km and 157×123 grid points, and Domain 2 covered main-land Japan with a horizontal grid resolution of 20 km and 123×123 grid points, see ~~Figure~~Fig. 1. The vertical layers consisted of 29 levels from the surface to 100 hPa. The initial and boundary conditions were obtained from the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Final Operational Global Analysis (FNL, ds083.2) data (six-hourly, 1° × 1° resolution) (NCEP FNL, 2000). In the model domain, three-dimensional grid nudging for horizontal wind, temperature, and water vapor mixing ratio as well as two-dimensional grid nudging for sea surface temperature were performed every six hours. Furthermore, we used the following parameterizations: the new Thompson scheme (Thompson et al., 2008) for microphysical parameterization, the Dudhia scheme (Dudhia, 1989) and Rapid Radiative Transfer Model (Mlawer et al., 1997) for short- and longwave radiation processes, the Mellor-Yamada-Janjić scheme (Janjić, 1994) for planetary boundary layer parameterization, and the Betts-Yamada-Janjić scheme (Janjić, 1994) for cumulus parameterization.

The CMAQ model version 5.1 was used as a chemical transport model in this study. Byun and Schere (2006) provided an overview of the CMAQ model, and the updates and scientific evaluations of CMAQ version 5.1 are provided by Appel et al. (2017). ~~The~~ For the gas-phase chemistry, the 2005 Carbon Bond (CB05) chemical mechanism with toluene update and additional chlorine chemistry ~~(CB05TUCL Whitten et al., 2010; Sarwar et al., 2012) was usedfor the gas-phase chemistry. The used CMAQ model had two model domains, whose regions were the same as those adopted in the WRF model, see Figure 1, and vertical coordinates of 22 layers; the thickness of the lowest layer was approximately 30 m. The initial and boundary conditions~~

of air pollutants for Domain 1 were obtained from the Model for OZone And Related chemical Tracers (MOZART) version 4 (Emmons et al., 2010), and the boundary conditions for Domain 2 were (CB05TUCL Yarwood et al., 2005; Whitten et al., 2010; Sarwar et was used. The core CB05 mechanism (Yarwood et al., 2005) has 51 chemical species and 156 reactions for the compounds and radicals of hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen and sulfur. After that, the model outputs of Domain 1.

toluene update (Whitten et al., 2010) has improved the predictions of O_3 and NO_X productions and losses dealing with 59 chemical species and 172 reactions in total. In addition, the implementation of chlorine chemistry (Sarwar et al., 2012) added 7 chemical species and 25 reactions of chlorides, affecting to increase O_3 and reduce nitrates. About the photolysis of molecules, the photolysis rate preprocessor (JPROC) with 21 reactions (Roselle et al., 1999) has been implemented. About the formations of aerosols, the combination of secondary organic aerosol (SOA) formations (Pye and Pouliot, 2012; Pye et al., 2013; Appel et al., 2017) , ISORROPIA algorithms (Fountoukis and Nenes, 2007) and binary nucleation (VehkamäKi et al., 2002) has been implemented. 45 kinds of aerosols components, including sulfate, ammonium, black carbon, organic carbon and sea salt, have been considered in this model.

The molecules and aerosols were provided by the emissions (anthropogenic, biogenic and sea salt) from surface or transports from the boundaries of domains, and were transported by the wind fields calculated in the WRF model and the parameterizations of horizontal/vertical diffusions, dry deposition and gravitational settling (see Byun and Schere, 2006; Appel et al., 2017). Anthropogenic emissions were defined using the MIX Asian emission inventory version 1.1 which included emissions by power, industry, residential, transportation and agriculture (Li et al., 2017). This inventory of SO_2, NO_X, PM, VOC, CO and NH_3 for 2015 were estimated by correcting the 2010 data (2008 for NH_3) and implemented into the CMAQ model. The corrections were made using the statistical secular changes in the annual total anthropogenic emissions of pollutants and CO_2 (Crippa et al., 2019), population, amount of used chemical fertilizer and NH_3 emission by farm animals for each country included in the model domains (Japan, China, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, Mongolia, Vietnam, and Far East Russia). Biogenic emissions of VOC were provided by the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN) version 2.10 (Guenther et al., 2012) using the meteorological fields calculated by the WRF model for 2016. The Those implemented emission inventories did not include interannual changes. Volcanic emissions of SO_2 were ignored , even though there are many active volcanos in Japan, because volcanic activities are irregular and difficult to reproducein our model simulation because of the following reason. The SO_2 concentration values were averaged for 24 hours to be consistent with the time length of the numerical criterion of JEQS. This procedure dilutes an increase of SO_2 due to volcanic eruption.

The used CMAQ model had two model domains, whose regions were the same as those adopted in the WRF model, see Fig. 1, and vertical coordinates of 22 layers; the thickness of the lowest layer was approximately 30 m. The initial and boundary conditions of air pollutants for Domain 1 were obtained from the Model for OZone And Related chemical Tracers (MOZART) version 4 (Emmons et al., 2010), and the boundary conditions for Domain 2 were the model outputs of Domain 1. The MOZART provided the distributions of more than 80 kinds of chemical species and aerosols for the inputs of our model calculations. The amount of pollutants in each Japanese municipality were defined at the longitude/latitude of the municipal office, with the weighted average of the outputs at model grid points near the municipal office using the following equation:

$$\overline{A} = \frac{1}{A_w}\sum_{i=1}^{I}\frac{R^2-d_i^2}{R^2+d_i^2}A_i, \quad A_w = \sum_{i=1}^{I}\frac{R^2-d_i^2}{R^2+d_i^2}, \tag{2}$$

where $\overline{A}$ is the defined amount of a pollutant at the municipal office, I (=2 or 3 mostly) is the number of the model grid points of Domain 2 within $R=\sqrt{0.02}$ degrees of the terrestrial central angle (approximately 16 km) from the office, and A_i and d_i are the simulated amount of a pollutant and distance from the office, respectively, at each model grid point. Note that Okinawa Prefecture and Ogasawara-mura municipality in Tokyo Prefecture were outside Domain 2, and the amount of pollutants at the municipalities in them were thus defined using the model outputs of Domain 1 with $R=\sqrt{0.08}$ degrees (approximately 31 km) in Eq. (2). We also derived the amount of pollutants in Seoul and Beijing for the comparisons with that inside Japan from the model outputs of Domain 1.

3.2 Evaluation: Comparison with in situ measurements

Location of Japanese municipalities focused on in this study.

Comparison of CII derived from the WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurements. Left column shows time variation of CII daily mean. Center column shows scatter plot of them with correlation coefficient (r). Right column shows histogram of differences in CII (WRF-CMAQ − AEROS). Dashed line is fitting curve with the Johnson SU function.

Correlation coefficient (r) of the CII, O_3, SPM, NO_2 and SO_2 between the WRF-CMAQ model simulation and the AEROS measurements in six Japanese cities. Numbers in parenthesis represent mean values of WRF-CMAQ (left) and AEROS (right) for the study period (FY2014–2016). Akita Tokyo Nagano Osaka Fukuoka Kagoshima CII 0.61 0.68 0.61 0.73 0.71 0.65 O_3 ppb0.61 0.67 0.62 0.71 0.69 0.62 SPM μg/m^{3}0.49 0.53 0.45 0.57 0.57 0.31 NO_2 ppb0.25 0.51 0.15 0.56 0.37 0.01 SO_2 ppb0.10 0.36 0.21 0.52 0.19 −0.07

The CII value derived from the amounts of O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 calculated by the WRF-CMAQ model was compared with that measured by AEROS. AEROS is operated by the MOE of Japan and has 1901 observation sites for monitoring air pollutants in FY2016. The AEROS data were obtained from the atmospheric environment database of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (*Kankyosuchi database (in Japanese)*). We selected six cities for the comparison, i.e., Akita, Tokyo, Nagano, Osaka, Fukuoka and Kagoshima. The locations of these cities are shown in Fig. 7. Akita, Tokyo, Osaka, and Fukuoka were selected as representative cities of the four seasonal variation patterns of the surface O_3 in Japan: increase in spring in northeastern area (Akita), increase in spring and summer in Kanto area (Tokyo), increase in spring, summer, and autumn in Kansai area (Osaka), and increase in spring and autumn in western area (Fukuoka) (Akimoto et al., 2015). Nagano was selected as a rural area far from large anthropogenic emission sources. Kagoshima was selected to evaluate the effect of volcanic emission because there is active volcano in Sakurajima island, located approximately 5 km from the Kagoshima municipal office. The WRF-CMAQ results were averaged for all the wards in the comparison of Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka cities. The AEROS measurement results were averaged for all observation sites in each city, but in Tokyo, the observation sites in remote islands were omitted. The observation sites in Sakurajima island in Kagoshima were omitted because we ignored SO_2 emission from volcanic eruptions in our model as described in Sect. 3.1. In this comparison, the AEROS Ox data were compared to the WRF-CMAQ O_3 data because the composition ratio was larger than 90–95 % O_3 in Ox.

Time series variations in the daily CII mean derived from WRF-CMAQ and AEROS are compared in Fig. 2 (a). WRF-CMAQ and AEROS showed similar seasonal variations in the CII, i.e., increasing in spring to summer (May–August) and decreasing in autumn to winter (September–April). This seasonal variation in the CII was observed in the abovementioned six cities. The CII showed good agreement between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS with a correlation coefficient (r) of larger than 0.61. Table **??** shows the r values of the CII, O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS for the six cities. The r values of the CII were higher than those of O_3, SPM, NO_2 and SO_2 in the 5 cities (not in Nagano), because the amounts of the species were normalized and comprehensively merged in the definition of CII in Eq. (1). This definition of CII relatively cancels discrepancies in each species in case that the amounts reciprocally vary as O_3 and NO_2 as below. NO_2 is a major precursor of O_3, and photolysis of NO_2 provides the oxygen atoms required to generate O_3 in the following reactions:

$$\mathrm{NO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow NO + O,}$$

$$\mathrm{O + O_2 + M \rightarrow O_3 + M,}$$

$$\mathrm{NO + O_3 \rightarrow NO_2 + O_2,}$$

where M is a third body for the ozone formation reaction. The model underestimates the amount of O_3 and overestimates that of NO_2 in case of large contribution of the reaction (R3), i.e., NO titration effect. This case was observed in the comparison in Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka, and the r values for CII were higher than those for O_3, and NO_2, see Table **??**. Therefore, the cancellation of discrepancy in individual species in the definition of CII is a significant advantage for quantifying air cleanness using the proposed model.

We investigated the precision of the difference in the CII between the WRF-CMAQ model and AEROS measurements to clarify magnitude of significant differences in the CII derived from the WRF-CMAQ model . The histogram of the difference in the CII (WRF-CMAQ − AEROS), the right column of Fig. 2, shows an asymmetric distribution. We fitted the histogram by using the Johnson SU function, which is a probability distribution transformed from the Normal distribution to cover the asymmetry of the sample distribution (Johnson, 1949). The standard deviation (1-σ) of the fitted Johnson SU distribution was approximately 0.06 (0.054–0.067). It showed that the WRF-CMAQ model reproduced the CII value within a difference from AEROS of approximately 0.01 by averaging 30 values ($0.06/\sqrt{30} \approx 0.01$). Consequently, the difference in CII derived from the WRF-CMAQ larger than 0.01 was significant to be reproduced by AEROS by averaging 30 values.

4 Visualization of air cleanness in Japan

3.1 Spatial-temporal variation of CII

In Sect. 4, we discuss the area and season of high air cleanness in Japan. Figure 6 shows the average CII over the study period (FY2014–2016) for each Japanese municipality. The average CII and standard deviation (1-σ) of Tokyo was 0.75±0.07, which

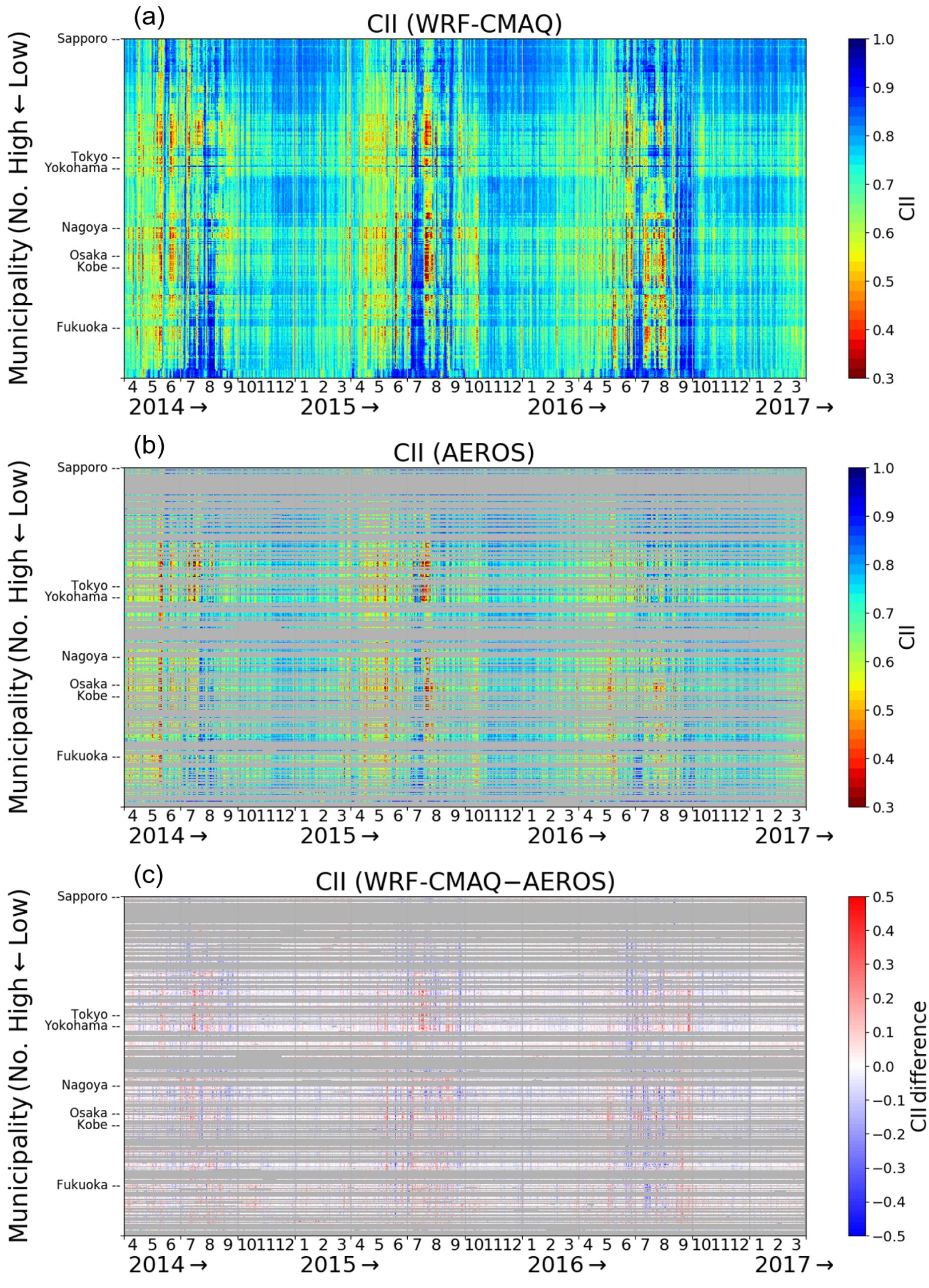

Figure 2. ~~Histogram of average~~ Spatial-temporal variation in CII ~~over~~ values derived from (a) the ~~study period~~ WRF-CMAQ model, (~~FY2014–2016~~b) the AEROS measurements and (c) their difference (WRF-CMAQ − AEROS)~~for each municipality in Japan~~. ~~Red, green,~~ The horizontal and ~~blue dashed lines represent average CII~~ vertical axis corresponds to date of ~~Beijing, Seoul,~~ the study period and ~~Tokyo (23 wards)~~Japanese municipal number, respectively. The municipalities where the AEROS observation covers less than 20 % of days in the study period are masked by gray color.

~~was 1.2 and 1.9 times higher than those of Seoul (0.64±0.13) and Beijing (0.39±0.29), respectively. The average CII of 89 % of municipalities were higher than that of Tokyo, and those of all the municipalities were higher than those of Seoul and Beijing.~~

3.2 ~~Spatial-seasonal variation~~

~~The spatial-seasonal variations in CII , O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 in Japan are described in Sect. 3.1.Figure 3~~The spatial-temporal variations of CII based on the WRF-CMAQ model is shown in Fig. 2 (a)~~shows the daily mean CII value derived from the WRF-CMAQ model for each municipality over the study period~~. The horizontal and vertical axes correspond to the ~~day~~ date and municipal number, respectively~~, and the~~. The lower municipal number corresponds approximately to the municipalities in northeast Japan and vice versa~~. This figure shows that the CII value~~ , and the major cites in Japan are shown in the vertical axis. The CII value clearly depended on both area and season. The CII value tended to be higher in summer because of transportation of unpolluted air mass from the Pacific Ocean. In August 2014, July 2015 and September 2016, the CII values of almost all municipalities were higher than 0.9 for a few weeks. However, the local CII values decreased to below ~~0.55~~ 0.5 over a short period from May because of local air pollutant emissions and the enhancement due to photochemical reactions induced by strong UV sunlight. The CII value was moderate (~~0.70~~0.7–0~~.85~~.8) and stable from November to February over Japan but gradually decreased from February to May or June because polluted air was transported from East Asia (e.g., Park et al., 2014) , and the sunlight strengthened. ~~The municipalities in Okinawa Prefecture, southernmost Japan , maintained their higher CII values of > 0.9 during this period.~~

These spatial-temporal features were reproduced by the AEROS measurements. Figures 2 (b) and (c) show the time series variations in the daily CII value derived from the AEROS measurements and the difference (WRF-CMAQ − AEROS), respectively. AEROS is operated by the MOE of Japan and has 1901 observation sites for monitoring air pollutants in FY2016. The AEROS data were obtained from the atmospheric environment database of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (*Kankyosuchi database (in Japanese)*). We used the AEROS observation sites that cover more than 80 % of days in the study period, and 498 in 1896 municipalities were covered by the AEROS measurements. The AEROS measurement results were averaged for all observation sites in each municipality in case that there were several observation sites in one municipality. In this comparison, the AEROS Ox data were compared to the WRF-CMAQ O_3 data because the composition ratio was larger than 90–95 % O_3 in Ox (Akimoto, 2017).

The CII value depends not only on the amount of O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 (x), but also on their numerical criteria (s), see Eq. (1). A partial differentiation analysis was performed to determine the sensitivities of the s values of O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 to CII. Figure 3 ~~(b–e)~~ shows the weighting function for the numerical criteria (K_s) given by

$$K_s[i] = \frac{\partial f(x,s)}{\partial s[i]} = \frac{1}{N}\frac{x[i]}{s[i]^2}. \quad (3)$$

~~In the definition of CII,~~As shown in Eq. (~~1~~3), K_s positively correlates with x, and the CII value monotonically increases with increasing s. ~~The seasonal~~ The temporal variation in CII primarily corresponded with the variation in O_3. The average K_s for O_3 was highest among the species used to calculate the CII in this study, because the ~~amount~~ x/s value of O_3 was ~~relatively higher than the value of s compared with~~ higher than those of SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 (Table 1). The value of K_s for SPM in

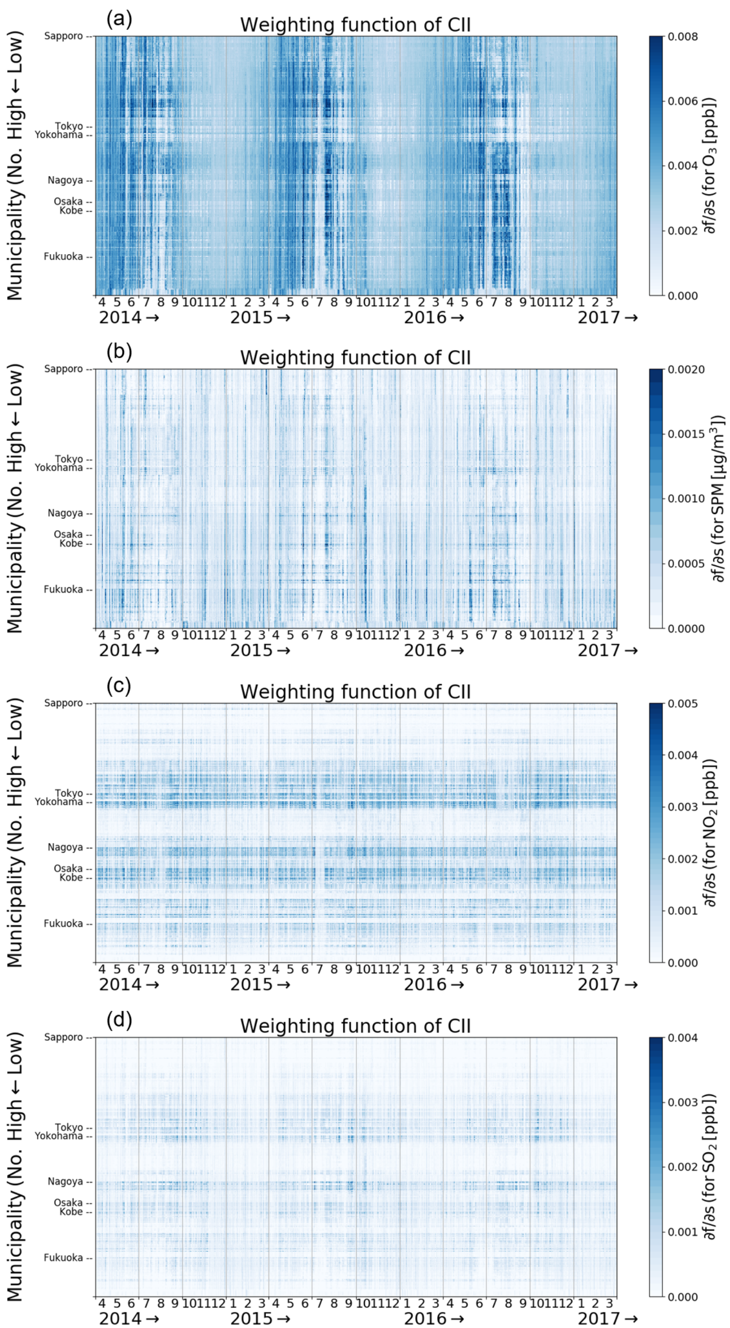

Figure 3. ~~Spatial-seasonal~~ Spatial-temporal variation ~~in (a) CII and~~ of the weighting function for the numerical criteria, K_s, ~~of~~ for (~~b~~a) O_3, (~~c~~b) SPM, (~~d~~c) NO_2 and (~~e~~d) SO_2 derived from the WRF-CMAQ model. The color scaling ~~of (b–e)~~ is optimized for each panel.

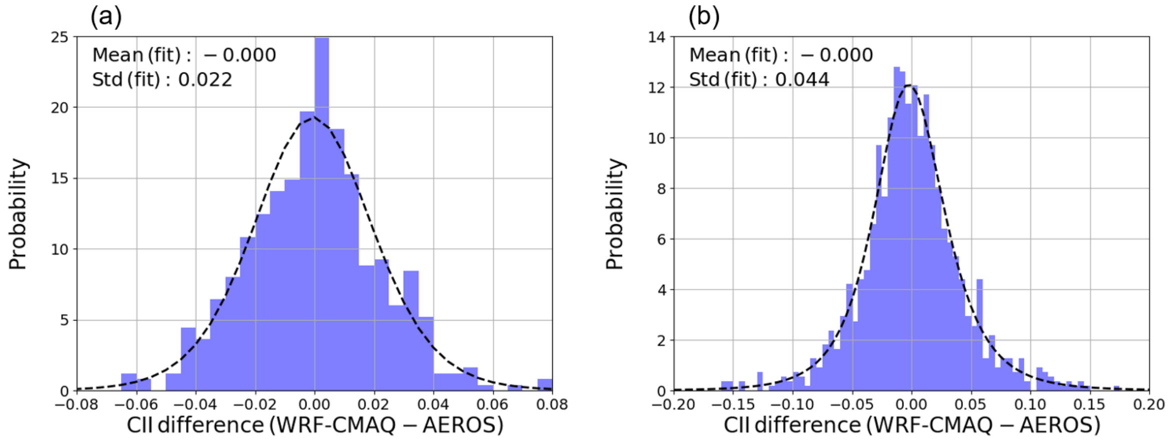

Figure 4. Histogram of CII difference between the WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurements. (a) Their CII mean values of all days in the study period are compared for each municipality. (b) Their CII mean values of all Japanese municipalities are compared for each day. The dashed line represents fitting of the histogram of CII difference by the Johnson SU function. The mean and standard deviation (1 σ) values of the fitting function are shown in the upper left.

western Japan was higher than that in eastern Japan during winter and spring because of the effect of transboundary pollution from East Asia (e.g., Park et al., 2014). The spatial distribution of CII corresponded to those of K_s for NO_2 and SO_2, which explicitly reflected local emission sources, such as megacities and industrial areas. Typical lifetime of NO_2 is approximately a few hours (e.g., Kenagy et al., 2018), and the transport effect was therefore less for ~~this~~ these species. We ignored SO_2 emissions from volcanic eruptions, and the SO_2 distribution consequently corresponded to industrial activities. ~~No significant seasonal variation in K_s was observed for NO_2 and SO_2.~~ The spatial distribution of O_3 was negatively correlated to that of NO_2 primarily because of the ~~NO titration effect, reaction (R.3~~reactions (R1-R3).

~~Consequently, the CII distribution was influenced not only by local emissions but also by transboundary pollution. The variation in O~~

3.2 Evaluation of spatial and temporal bias

We discuss the spatial and temporal bias in our calculation to clarify magnitude of significant differences in the CII value. We compared the CII mean of all days in the study period between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS for each municipality to investigate the spatial bias in Fig. 4 (a). The histogram of the CII difference showed an asymmetric distribution, thus we fitted the histogram by using the Johnson SU function, which is a probability distribution transformed from the Normal distribution to cover the asymmetry of the sample distribution (Johnson, 1949). The mean and standard deviation (1 σ) of CII difference were 0.00 and 0.02, respectively. In the similar way, we investigated the daily temporal bias by comparing the CII mean of all Japanese municipalities for each day. The mean and standard deviation (1 σ) of CII difference were 0.00 and 0.04, respectively. Hereafter,

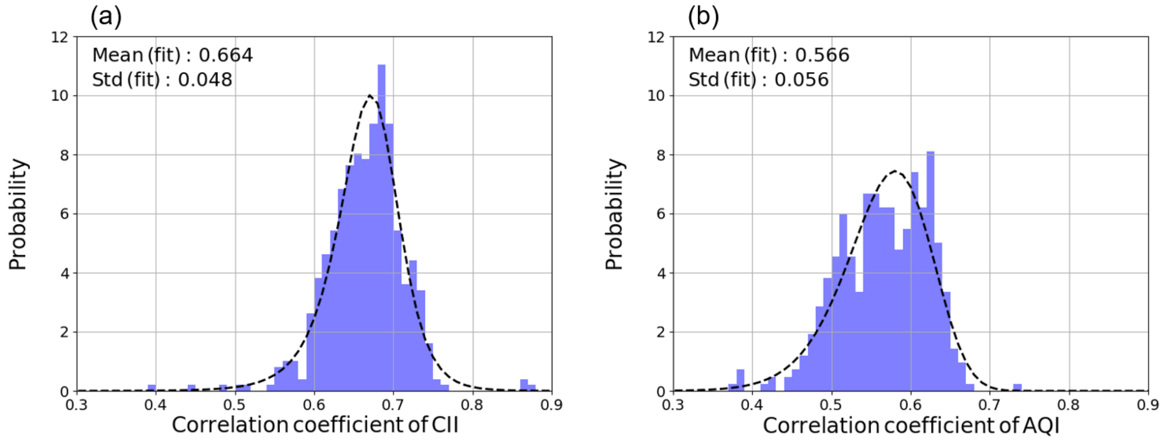

Figure 5. Histogram of correlation coefficient (r) of municipal mean of daily (a) CII and (b) AQI values for the study period between the WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurements. The dashed line represents fitting of the histogram of CII difference by the Johnson SU function. The mean and standard deviation ($1\,\sigma$) values of the fitting function are shown in the upper left.

we average the CII values for at least 30 days to compare the CII value among municipalities to reduce the temporal bias to be less than 0.01 ($\approx 0.04/\sqrt{30}$). Consequently, the difference in CII derived from the WRF-CMAQ larger than 0.02 was significant to be reproduced by AEROS by averaging 30 values.

3.3 Comparison of CII and AQI

In Sect. 3.3, we discuss difference between CII and AQI as a representative of the other indices. We compared these indices calculated from the WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurements. The correlation coefficient (r) of mean for the study period between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS was calculated for each municipality. Figure 5 shows the histogram of r for all municipalities for (a) CII and (b) AQI. The histogram was fitted by the Johnson SU function. The r of CII and AQI was 0.66 ± 0.05 ($1\,\sigma$) and 0.57 ± 0.06 ($1\,\sigma$), respectively, and the CII showed better agreement between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS than AQI.

This discrepancy between CII and AQI is explained by the difference of their definitions. In the definition of AQI, only the air pollutant that causes the largest health risk is taken into account and the other air pollutants are ignored (US EPA, 2006). In the definition of CII, all of air pollutants, O_3had the most significant effect on seasonal variation in the CII. The spatial distribution of CII corresponded to those of , SPM, NO_2 and SO_2. The SPM sources constituted both local emissions and transport from outside of Japan, are averaged with normalization by their numerical criteria, as Eq. (1). It was reported that the amount of the surface O_3 was overestimated by the CMAQ model (Akimoto et al., 2019). In this case, NO_2 is underestimated

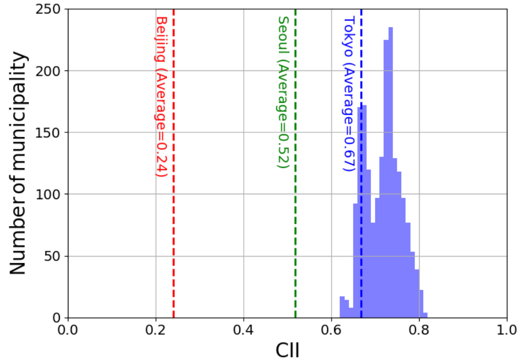

Figure 6. Histogram of average CII over the study period (FY2014–2016) for each municipality in Japan. Red, green, and blue dashed lines represent average CII of Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo (23 wards), respectively.

because of the following reactions:

$$\mathrm{NO_2 + h\nu \rightarrow NO + O}, \quad \text{(R1)}$$

$$\mathrm{O + O_2 + M \rightarrow O_3 + M}, \quad \text{(R2)}$$

$$\mathrm{NO + O_3 \rightarrow NO_2 + O_2}, \quad \text{(R3)}$$

where M is a third body for the ozone formation reaction. This discrepancy is less affected for CII than for AQI because the amounts of air pollutants are averaged with being normalized by the numerical criteria.

4 Visualization of air cleanness in Japan

In Sect. 4, we discuss the area and season of high air cleanness in Japan. Figure 6 shows the average CII over the study period (FY2014–2016) for each Japanese municipality. The average CII of 85 % of municipalities were higher than that of Tokyo (23 wards), and those of all the municipalities were higher than those of Seoul and Beijing. Here the JEQS values were employed to the s values to calculate the CII values in Seoul and Beijing to directly compare with those in Japanese municipalities. The average and standard deviation (1 σ) of CII was 0.67±0.10, 0.52±0.18, and 0.24±0.32 in Tokyo, Seoul, and Beijing, respectively. The value of $1 - \mathrm{CII}$ monotonically increases with air pollutant amounts increase, and the air in Tokyo was 1.5 and ~~SPM variation affected both spatial and seasonal variations in CII~~2.3 times cleaner, i.e., less air pollutant amounts, than those in Seoul and Beijing, respectively. The location of the municipalities discussed hereafter is shown in Fig. 7.

4.1 Area and season of high air cleanness

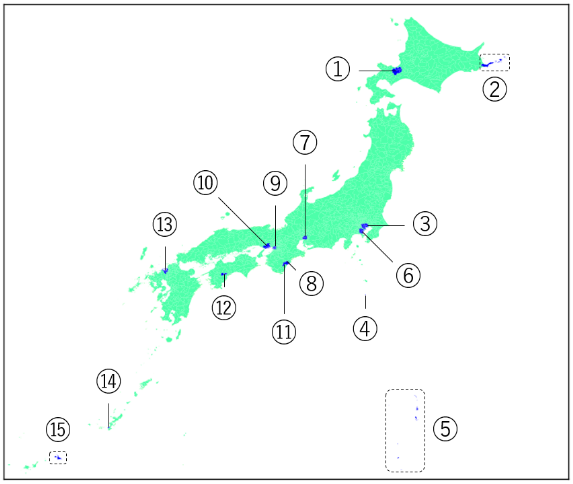

Figure 7. Location of Japanese municipalities focused on in this study. The municipal number is shown in parenthesis.

~~In Sect. 4.1, we~~ We discuss the area and season of highest air cleanness over Japan using the CII in Sect. 4.1. First, the CII average over the study period, FY2014–2016, in each municipality was compared ~~,~~ in Fig. 8 (a)~~, and the daily mean value for this period was averaged for each municipality~~. The CII averages in northern Japan were higher, and those in municipalities around megacities and industrial areas were lower than the average of all municipalities, ~~0.78~~0.72±~~0.05 (1-~~0.04 (1 σ). Table 2 shows the 10 municipalities with the highest average CII values, which ~~all~~ located in eastern Hokkaido and southern remote island in Tokyo. The average CII was approximately ~~0.83–0.84~~ 0.81 in these 10 municipalities ~~,~~and the standard deviation (~~1-~~1 σ) over the study period was lower than that in other areas, see Fig. 8 (b)~~. The~~ , which means the CII remained high throughout the year. For example, the CII daily ~~mean in Betsukai-cho~~ value in Nemuro-shi municipality, where the three-year CII average was the highest, was higher than the total municipal average of ~~0.78 in 91~~0.72 in 95 % of days over the study period.

We discuss the CII distribution in case of high CII average of all Japanese municipalities. We selected 10 days per year, a total of 30 days ~~,~~with the highest average CII values ~~to discuss the CII distribution by same-order precision of 0.01 with the AEROS measurements, see Sect. 3.2~~ (7/9, 7/10, 8/9, 8/10, 8/~~15–8~~15, 8/~~20 in 2014~~16, 8/18, 10/5, 12/6, 1/12 in FY2014; 7/~~13–7~~9, 7/~~19~~13, 7/16–19, 7/22, 8/17, 9/9, 9/10 in ~~2015~~FY2015; and 7/9, ~~8/21,~~ 9/7, 9/12–9/14, 9/19, 9/20, 9/25, 9/27, 9/28 in ~~2016). These~~ FY2016). The 30 days CII values were averaged to discuss the CII distribution by same-order precision of 0.02 with the AEROS measurements, see Sect. 3.2. Almost of these 30 days were selected in summer when unpolluted air was transported from the Pacific Ocean. The average CII values on these 30 days for each municipality are displayed in Fig. 8 (c), and Table 3 shows the 10 municipalities with the highest average CII values on these days. These 10 municipalities located ~~around~~ in southern remote islands of Tokyo and western Pacific coast area, i.e., Kochi, Mie and Wakayama Prefectures~~, and southern remote islands of Tokyo~~. The average CII of ~~Susaki-shi municipality in Kochi~~ Aogashima-mura municipality in

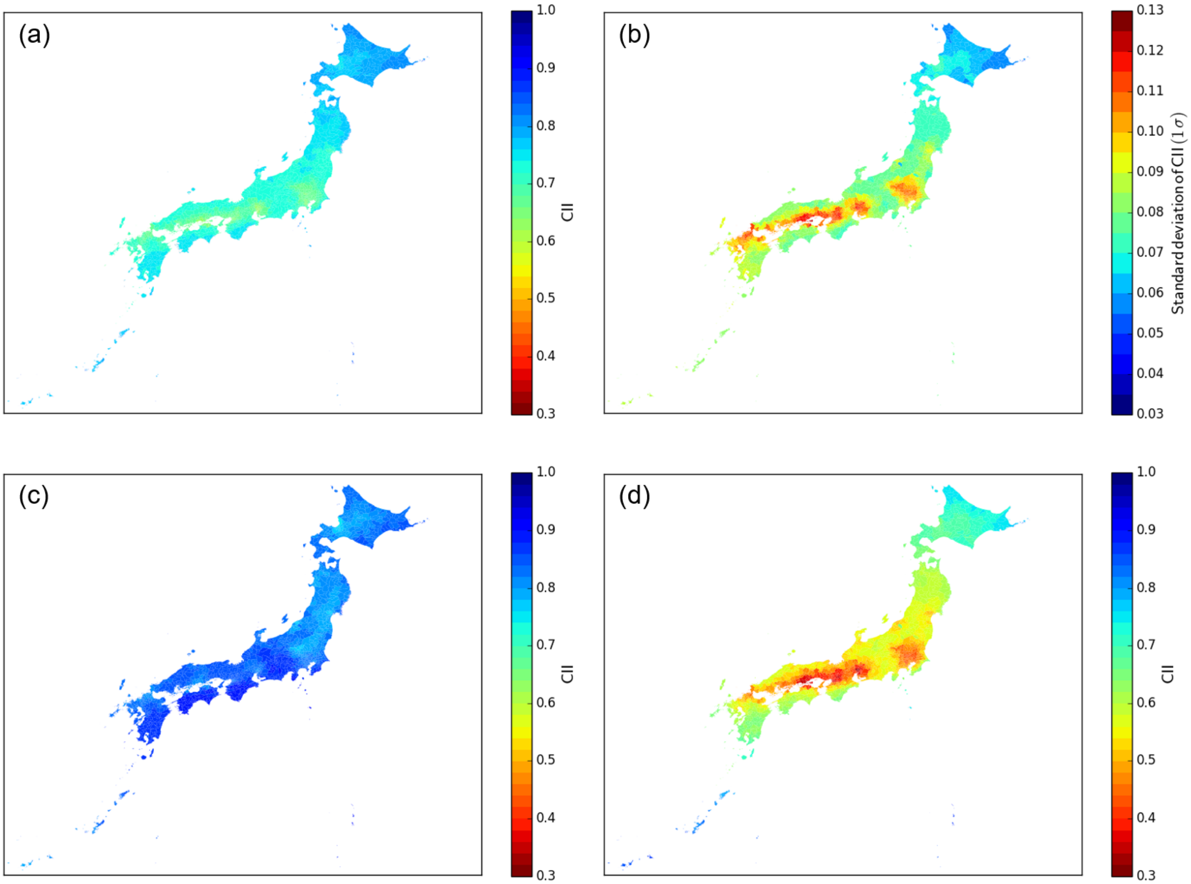

Figure 8. Spatial distributions of CII derived from the WRF-CMAQ model. (a) Mean over the study period (FY2014–2016). (b) Same as (a) but for standard deviation (~~1~~1 σ). (c) Mean for 30 days of highest CII average in all Japanese municipalities (10 days from each FY). (d) Same as (c) but for lowest CII average.

Table 2. Ten municipalities with highest average CII value over the study period, FY2014–2016. The municipal number is shown in parenthesis.

Municipality	Prefecture	CII
~~Betsukai-cho (1691~~Nemuro-shi (1223)	Hokkaido	~~0.840~~ 0.814
Hamanaka-cho (1663)	Hokkaido	~~0.840~~ 0.813
~~Shibecha-cho (1664~~Akkeshi-cho (1662)	Hokkaido	~~0.839~~ 0.812
~~Akkeshi-cho (1662~~Betsukai-cho (1691)	Hokkaido	~~0.838~~ 0.812
Nakashibetsu-cho (1692)	Hokkaido	~~0.838~~ 0.809
~~Shiranuka-cho (1668~~Kushiro-cho (1661)	Hokkaido	~~0.837~~ 0.809
~~Tsurui-mura (1667~~Rausu-cho (1694)	Hokkaido	~~0.835~~ 0.808
~~Nemuro-shi (1223~~Shibetsu-cho (1693)	Hokkaido	~~0.834~~ 0.808
~~Shibetsu-cho (1693~~Ogasawara-mura (13421)	~~Hokkaido~~ Tokyo	~~0.832~~ 0.808
~~Saroma-cho (1552~~Sarufutsu-mura (1511)	Hokkaido	~~0.832~~ 0.808
Average of all Japanese municipalites		~~0.778~~ 0.717

Table 3. Same as Table 2 but for the average CII for the 30 high-CII days.

Municipality	Prefecture	CII
~~Susaki-shi (39206~~Aogashima-mura (13402)	~~Kochi~~ Tokyo	~~0.934~~ 0.902
~~Tsuno-cho (39411~~Hachijo-machi (13401)	~~Kochi~~ Tokyo	~~0.933~~ 0.902
~~Hachijo-machi (13401~~Mikurajima-mura (13382)	Tokyo	~~0.933~~ 0.899
~~Kumano-shi (24212~~Tsuno-cho (39411)	~~Mie~~ Kochi	~~0.933~~ 0.897
~~Kitayama-mura (30427~~Yusuhara-cho (39405)	~~Wakayama~~ Kochi	~~0.933~~ 0.897
~~Mikurajima-mura (13382~~Kumano-shi (24212)	~~Tokyo~~ Mie	~~0.933~~ 0.897
~~Nakatosa-cho (39401~~Kitayama-mura (30427)	~~Kochi~~ Wakayama	~~0.933~~ 0.897
~~Aogashima-mura (13402~~Minabe-cho (30391)	~~Tokyo~~ Wakayama	~~0.932~~ 0.897
Sakawa-cho (39402)	Kochi	~~0.932~~ 0.897
~~Miyake-mura (13381~~Susaki-shi (39206)	~~Tokyo~~ Kochi	~~0.931~~ 0.897
Average of all Japanese municipalites		~~0.880~~ 0.836

southern remote islands of Tokyo Prefecture was the highest. The average CII of these 10 municipalities was approximately ~~0.93~~0.90, which was ~~1.1 times~~ 0.06, by CII, higher than that of all Japanese municipalities on high-CII days (~~0.88~~0.84). Therefore, the highest CII value occurred on the Pacific coast during summer with the condition of few local pollution.

Similar to the high-CII case, 30 days with the lowest CII average of all Japanese municipalities were selected (4/~~25, 4/~~26, 5/~~13, 5/~~29–6/2, 6/~~16, 7/12 in 2014; 4~~15, 6/16, ~~4~~7/~~24, 4~~12, 7/~~26,~~ 15 in FY2014; 4/27, 5/13, 5/22, 5/27, 6/12, 6/13, 6/15, 7/31,

Table 4. Same as Table 2 but for the average CII for the 30 low-CII days.

Municipality	Prefecture	CII
~~Ogasawara-mura (13421~~Miyakojima-shi (47214)	~~Tokyo~~ Okinawa	~~0.852~~ 0.860
~~Ishigaki-shi (47207~~Ogasawara-mura (13421)	~~Okinawa~~ Tokyo	~~0.840~~ 0.857
~~Taketomi-cho (47381~~Tarama-son (47375)	Okinawa	~~0.840~~ 0.857
~~Miyakojima-shi (47214~~Ishigaki-shi (47207)	Okinawa	~~0.835~~ 0.854
~~Tarama-son (47375~~Taketomi-cho (47381)	Okinawa	~~0.835~~ 0.854
Minamidaito-son (47357)	Okinawa	~~0.832~~ 0.848
~~Yonaguni-cho (47382~~Kitadaito-son (47358)	Okinawa	~~0.829~~ 0.845
~~Kitadaito-son (47358~~Yonaguni-cho (47382)	Okinawa	~~0.828~~ 0.841
Kunigami-son (47301)	Okinawa	~~0.824~~ 0.838
Higashi-son (47303)	Okinawa	~~0.824~~ 0.838
Average of all Japanese municipalites		~~0.644~~ 0.544

8/1, 8/2 in 2015; and 5/~~4, 5/~~27, 5/28, 5/31, 6/10, 6/17, 6/18, 6/~~25~~26, 6/~~26~~27, 8/~~31~~11, 9/1 in 2016). The average of CII values on these 30 low-CII days for each municipality are displayed in Fig. 8 (d), and Table 4 shows the 10 municipalities with the highest average CII values on these days. These 10 municipalities located in southern remote islands, such as Miyakojima-shi in Okinawa Prefecture and Ogasawara-mura in ~~Tokyo and Ishigaki-chi in Okinawa~~Tokyo Prefecture. The average CII in these municipalities was ~~0.82~~0.84–0.~~85~~.86, which was approximately ~~1.3 times larger~~ 0.30–0.32, by CII, higher than that of all municipalities on low-CII days (~~0.64~~0.54). The selected 30 days occurred especially at the end of spring and beginning of summer. Generally, the transboundary pollution effect is large in ~~spring~~the cold season, and heavy local pollution occurs in summer because of photochemical reactions induced by strong sunlight (e.g., Nagashima et al., 2010). These pollution effects are less pronounced in the remote islands, thus the CII maintained higher values.

We selected "Top 100 clean air cities" in Japan ~~using the CII . The~~ as one example of use in society of CII by the following method. The average of 30 highest daily ~~mean~~ CII values in the study period ~~were averaged~~ was calculated for each municipality. The 30 days were selected for each municipality, not as the case of Fig. 8 (c) and (d). Table 5 shows the 100 municipalities with the highest average CII values. The municipalities in remote islands of Tokyo, ~~and~~ around western Japan, especially around the Pacific coast, ~~i.e., Wakayama, Tokushima, Ehime, Kochi, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima~~ and Okinawa Prefectures, were selected.

4.2 Air cleanness and human activities

Industrial activities, particularly fossil fuel combustion such as vehicles and power plants, are major sources of air pollutants, and air cleanness is strongly related with human activities. ~~It is generally difficult to maintain clean air with large-scale industrial activities, and it is therefore not fair to directly compare air cleanness in municipalities with different human activities.~~

Table 5. "Top 100 clean air cities" in Japan. The municipal number is shown in parenthesis.

Municipality
Nemuro-shi (1223), Kushiro-cho (1661), Akkeshi-cho (1662), Hamanaka-cho (1663)
Niijima-mura (13363), Kozushima-mura (13364), Miyake-mura (13381), Mikurajima-mura (13382)
Hachijo-machi (13401), Aogashima-mura (13402), Ogasawara-mura (13421)
Tanabe-shi (30206), Minabe-cho (30391), Shirahama-cho (30401), Kamitonda-cho (30404) Wakayama Nachikatsuura-cho (30421), Kozagawa-cho (30
Uwajima-shi (38203), Seiyo-shi (38214), Uchiko-cho (38422), Matsuno-cho (38484), Kihoku-cho (38488)
Ainan-cho (38506)
Kochi-shi (39201), Aki-shi (39203), Nankoku-shi (39204), Tosa-shi (39205)Kochi , Susaki-shi (39206), Sukumo-shi (39208), Tosashimizu-shi (39209)
Konan-shi (39211), Kami-shi (39212Shimanto-shi (39210), Toyo-cho (39301), Nahari-cho (39302), Tano-cho (39303), Yasuda-cho (39304) ,
Kitagawa-mura (39305), Umaji-mura (39306), Geisei-mura (39307), Ino-cho (39386) ,
Niyodogawa-cho (39387), Nakatosa-cho (39401), Sakawa-cho (39402), Ochi-cho (39403) ,
Yusuhara-cho (39405), Hidaka-mura (39410), Tsuno-cho (39411), Shimanto-cho (39412) ,
Otsuki-cho (39424), Mihara-mura (39427), Kuroshio-cho (39428)
Taragi-machi (43505), Yunomae-machi (43506), Mizukami-mura (43507), Asagiri-cho (43514)
Saiki-shi (44205)
Miyazaki-shi (45201), Miyakonojyo-shi (45202), Nobeoka-shi (45203), Nichinan-shi (45204)Miyazaki , Kobayashi-shi (45205) ,
Hyuga-shi (45206), Kushima-shi (45207), Saito-shi (45208)Ebino-shi (45209), Mimata-cho (45341), Takaharu-cho (45361), Kunitomi-cho (45382)
Aya-cho (45383), Takanabe-cho (45401), Shintomi-cho (45402), Nishimera-son (45403)
Kijyo-cho (45404), Kawaminami-cho (45405), Tsuno-cho (45406), Kadogawa-cho (45421)
Morotsuka-son (45429), Shiiba-son (45430), Misato-cho (45431), Takachiho-cho (45441)
Hinokage-cho (45442), Gokase-cho (45443)
Kanoya-shi (46203), Makurazaki-shi (46204), Ibusuki-shi (46210), Nishinoomote-shi (46213)
Soo-shi (46217), Kirishima-shi (46218), Shibushi-shi (46221), Amami-shi (46222)
Minamikyushu-shi (46223), Yusui-cho (46452), Osaki-cho (46468), Higashikushira-cho (46482)
Kinko-cho (46490), Minamiosumi-cho (46491), Kimotsuki-cho (46492), Nakatane-cho (46501)
Minamitane-cho (46502), Yakushima-cho (46505), Yamato-son (46523), Uken-son (46524)
Setouchi-cho (46525), Tatsugo-cho (46527), Kikai-cho (46529)
Miyakojima-shi (47214), Kunigami-son (47301), Higashi-son (47303), Minamidaito-son (47357) ,
Kitadaito-son (47358), Tarama-son (47375), Yonaguni-cho (47382)

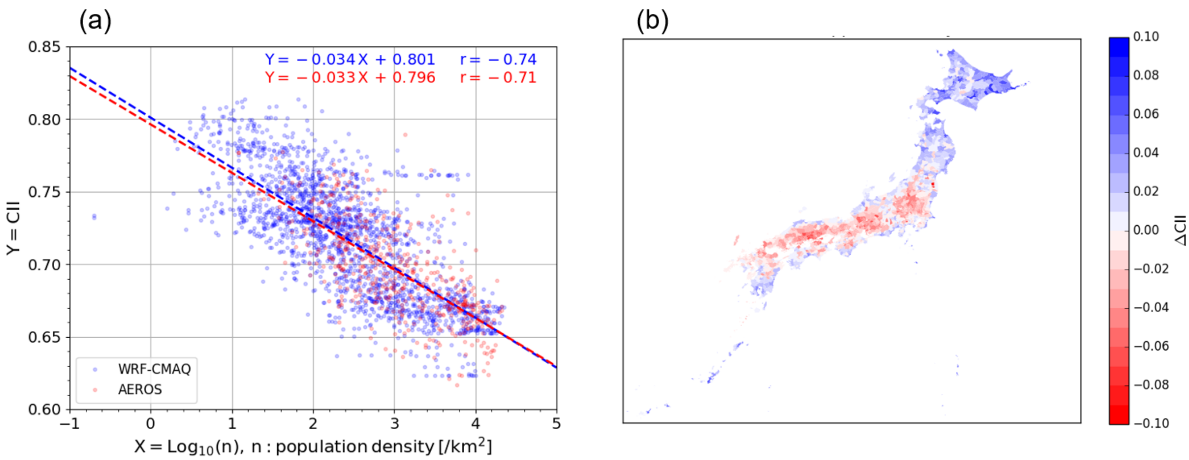

Figure 9. (a) Comparison of CII and population density (n) in each Japanese municipality. ~~Blue dot shows the WRF-CMAQ results. Black dashed~~ Dashed line shows linear regression of CII with $\log_{10}(n)$. Correlation coefficient (r) between CII values and $\log_{10}(n)$ is also shown in the upper right side. ~~Red markers show the CII derived from~~ Blue and red color shows the WRF-CMAQ and AEROS ~~measurements in six cities (Akita, Tokyo, Nagano, Osaka, Fukuoka~~results, ~~and Kagoshima)~~respectively. (b) Distribution of differences in CII from the linear regression (ΔCII) for the WRF-CMAQ model.

In Sect. 4.2, we discuss the ~~relationship between air cleanness~~ municipalities in Japan with not only air cleanness but also human activity, i.e., ~~CII, and the scale of human activities.~~

1) clean air with high human activity, 2) clean air with low human activity, 3) dirty air with high human activity, and 4) dirty air with low human activity. In this study, the common logarithm of population density (n), $\log_{10}(n)$, was employed to quantify human activities ~~(e.g., Kerr and Currie, 1995)~~following e.g., Kerr and Currie (1995). The n data were obtained from the 2015 Japanese national census (NSTAC, 2016). Figure 9 (a) shows the scatter plot of $\log_{10}(n)$ and average CII for the study period ~~, FY2014–2016,~~ derived from the WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurements for each municipality. A clear negative correlation between $\log_{10}(n)$ and the CII was observed and ~~had an~~ the r ~~value of~~ values were $-$~~0.68~~0.74 and -0.71 for WRF-CMAQ and AEROS, respectively. This negative correlation was formulated by the linear regression with the objective variable of CII and the explanatory variable of $\log_{10}(n)$, as shown by the ~~black dashed line~~ dashed lines in Fig. 9 (a).

$$\text{~~CII~~Approximated CII} = \text{~~}-0.016\text{~~}\, a \times \log_{10}(n) + \text{~~}0.82\text{~~}\, b \quad (4)$$

The ~~red markers indicate the CII values derived from the AEROS measurements at the six cities used for comparison study (Fig. 2)~~parameters of a and b were estimated to be -0.034 ± 0.001 and 0.801 ± 0.002 for WRF-CMAQ, and -0.033 ± 0.001 and 0.796 ± 0.005 for AEROS, respectively. The negative correlation between ~~the CII value and~~ $\log_{10}(n)$ and the CII value derived from WRF-CMAQ was reproduced from ~~the AEROSmeasurements and agreed with the linear regression line, except for Osaka~~AEROS, and the parameters of a and b were agreed within their errors.

Ten municipalities with highest average ΔCII value over the study period, FY2014–2016. The municipal number is shown in parenthesis. Municipality Prefecture ΔCII CII Obihiro-shi (1207) Hokkaido 0.050 0.827 Sapporo-shi, Atsubetsu-ku (1108) Hokkaido 0.049 0.805 Kushiro-shi (1206) Hokkaido 0.048 0.830 Sapporo-shi, Shiroishi-ku (1104) Hokkaido 0.046 0.802 Nemuro-shi (1223) Hokkaido 0.046 0.834 Nakashibetsu-cho (1692) Hokkaido 0.046 0.838 Kushiro-cho (1661) Hokkaido 0.045 0.831 Sapporo-shi, Chuo-ku (1101) Hokkaido 0.043 0.800 Sapporo-shi, Toyohira-ku (1105) Hokkaido 0.043 0.800 Sapporo-shi, Higashi-ku (1103) Hokkaido 0.043 0.800 – 0.000 0.778

The The CII value showed negative correlation with the human activity, thus the municipalities in groups 2 and 3 are in normal situation. The municipalities in group 1 is ideal case because such municipalities are expected to be industrially advanced as well as to succeed to maintain clean air environment. There are some issues in the municipalities in group 4 because such municipalities can not save clean air in spite of smaller population. It might indicate that there are large air pollution sources, such as large power plant, or air pollutants are transported from the outside. The degree of this categorizing is quantified by difference between the CII and the linear regression line, Eq. (4), normalized the CIIvalues by the population density n. The difference between the CII and the linear regression line ((ΔCII).

$$\Delta\text{CII} = \text{CII} - \text{Approximated CII} \tag{5}$$

The positive ΔCII value means that the municipality is categorized in group 1, and the negative ΔCII) can be an additional indicator compensating for the unfair comparison of air cleanness caused by human activities. value does group 4. The distribution of ΔCII in the average for FY2014–2016 the study period is shown in Fig. 9 (b), and Table 6 shows the 10 municipalities with the highest average ΔCII values. All of these municipalities were in Hokkaido , similar to the results shown in Table 2, but urban municipalities in Hokkaido were ranked as Sapporo-shi and Obihiro-shi cities. The and Okinawa prefectures. The higher ΔCII values in northeastern Japan, especially Hokkaido, were higher than those in western Japan . The ΔCII value reflects the transport of air pollutants from around the municipality rather than the CII value if the neighboring municipality was a megacity or had industrial factorieswere observed in northeastern Japan and coastal area. There are many industrial areas in western Japan (Li et al., 2017), which might be one reason for the lower ΔCII values. As discussed above, ΔCII quantified the air cleanness with respect to population density, i.e., human activities. The A combination of CII and ΔCII could be a useful way of evaluating air cleanness . in municipality.

5 Conclusions

We defined a novel concept of index for quantifying air cleanness, namely CII. This index comprehensively evaluates the level of air cleanness by normalizing the amounts of common air pollutants. A CII value of 1 indicates the absence of air pollutants, and 0 indicates that the amounts of air pollutants are the same as the normalization numerical criteria.

A model simulation was performed to visualize the air cleanness of all 1896 municipalities in Japan using CII. We used O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2 in CIIthis study, and their numerical environmental criteria were taken from the JEQS set by the MOE of Japan. The amounts of these species were calculated via the model combining the WRF model version 3.7 and CMAQ model

Table 6. Ten municipalities with highest average ΔCII value over the study period, FY2014–2016. The municipal number is shown in parenthesis.

Municipality	Prefecture	ΔCII	CII
Naha-shi (47201)	Okinawa	0.095	0.762
Urasoe-shi (47208)	Okinawa	0.091	0.762
Sapporo-shi, Shiroishi-ku (1104)	Hokkaido	0.088	0.759
Sapporo-shi, Chuo-ku (1101)	Hokkaido	0.088	0.761
Ginowann-shi (47205)	Okinawa	0.088	0.762
Sapporo-shi, Toyohira-ku (1105)	Hokkaido	0.087	0.761
Sapporo-shi, Higashi-ku (1103)	Hokkaido	0.086	0.761
Sapporo-shi, Kita-ku (1102)	Hokkaido	0.086	0.761
Tomigusuku-shi (47212)	Okinawa	0.084	0.764
Yonabaru-cho (47348)	Okinawa	0.083	0.762
Average of all Japanese municipalites		−0.000	0.717

version 5.1. The time period of the simulation was from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2017, i.e., FY2014–2016. The CII ~~value~~ values near the surface derived from the model ~~was~~ were evaluated by comparing ~~it with~~ with those of the AEROS in situ observations, operated by the MOE of Japan~~, in Akita, Tokyo, Nagano, Osaka, Fukuoka, and Kagoshima, which cover areas of four patterns of O_3 seasonal variation, a rural area and an area affected by volcanic eruption. The CII correlation coefficient r between the WRF-CMAQ and AEROS exceeded 0.61. The precision of the difference in CII between the~~ . 498 municipalities were covered by the AEROS measurements. The difference of CII between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS was ~~approximated by the Johnson SU function. The CII difference~~ distributed in 0.00±0.02 and 0.00±0.04 for spatial and temporal bias, respectively. We concluded that the difference in CII derived from the WRF-CMAQ larger than ~~0.01 was significant and could~~ 0.02 was significant to be reproduced by AEROS by averaging 30 values ~~.~~

~~Over~~ to reduce the temporal bias to be less than 0.01 ($\approx 0.04/\sqrt{30}$). Difference between CII and AQI was also discussed. The correlation coefficient (r) of mean for the study period ~~,~~ between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS was calculated for each municipality. The r of CII and AQI was 0.66±0.05 (1 σ) and 0.57±0.06 (1 σ), respectively. The CII showed better agreement between WRF-CMAQ and AEROS than AQI because of the difference of definition between CII and AQI. The CII averages all normalized air pollutant amounts but the AQI employs only the maximum of all individuals, i.e., any effects from the other air pollutants are ignored. This CII concept to comprehensively evaluate multiple air pollutants could be an advantage to quantify the air cleanness.

Over the study period, FY2014–2016~~, eastern Hokkaido had the highest CII average values of 0.83–0.84, which were 1.1 times higher than the average values of all Japanese municipalities of 0.78.The~~ , the average CII value of Tokyo (23 wards)~~was 0.75, which was 1.2 and 1.9 times higher than those of Seoul (0.64) and Beijing(0.39)~~, Seoul and Beijing was 0.67, 0.52 and

0.24, respectively. It means that the air in Tokyo was 1.5 and 2.3 times cleaner, i.e., less amounts of air pollutants, than those in Seoul and Beijing, respectively. The CII value varied spatially and temporally, corresponding to variations in O_3, SPM, NO_2, and SO_2. The municipalities in eastern Hokkaido Prefecture had the highest CII average values of approximately 0.81, which was 0.09, by CII, higher than the average values of all Japanese municipalities of 0.72. The extremely clean air with CII values~~around 0.93, occurred~~ , approximately 0.90, occurred in southern remote islands of Tokyo and around western the Pacific coast, i.e., Kochi, Mie and Wakayama Prefectures ~~, and southern remote islands of Tokyo~~ during summer with transport of unpolluted air from the ocean. The municipalities in ~~remote islands, such as Ogasawara and Okinawa~~ southern remote islands in Okinawa and Tokyo Prefectures maintained their high CII values of ~~0.82~~0.84–0.~~85~~.86, which was approximately ~~1.3 times higher than the average~~ 0.30–0.32, by CII, higher than that of all municipalities on low-CII days (0.54). Furthermore, "Top 100 clean air cities" in Japan was presented ~~using the CII~~ as one example of CII to be used in society.

~~The relationship between air cleanness and~~ We quantified the air cleanness in municipality with respect to human industrial activities~~could not be fairly compared~~. Population density was used to quantify human activities in this study. ~~The CII (Y)~~ A negative correlation between CII and the population density was observed by both the WRF-CMAQ model and the AEROS measurement. The CII was approximated by a linear function of the common logarithm of population density~~(X), $Y = -0.016X + 0.82$~~. The differences ~~in~~ of CII from this approximation line (ΔCII) ~~in northeastern Japan, especially Hokkaido, were higher than those in western Japan. The east-west contrast of~~ indicates the CII normalized by human activity. The municipalities with positive ΔCII ~~might be due to large-scale industrial activities in western Japan~~values are expected to maintain clean air and to be industrially advanced. Those with negative ΔCII values are expected to have certain issues such as large air pollution source and air pollutants transported from the outside. A combination of CII and ΔCII could be a useful way of evaluating air cleanness in municipality.

The CII can be used in various scenarios, such as encouraging sightseeing and migration, investment and insurance company business, and city planning. ~~For example, Hokkaido is recommended to live because the CII value is constantly high throughout the year. Western the Pacific coast and southern remote islands can be tourist spots for seeking "tasty air " because extremely high CII values are temporally given during summer~~The CII can be used for an advertisement of clean air for promoting sightseeing and migration for local governments. The CII ~~enabled the quantitative evaluation of air cleanness, and could not only be applied in Japan but also in other countries .~~

is also effective to measure the potential of local brands and tourism resources. Private company can be expected to use CII for ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investment. If the CII could be associated with life expectancy, the CII can be applied to insurance business especially in Asian region where urban air pollution is a serious problem. City planning is also a possible use of CII because air cleanness is related to urban form (e.g., McCarty and Kaza, 2015). As mentioned above, the CII has a potential to be applied to policy as well as company business in cities and countries around the world.

Data availability. The WRF-CMAQ model data in this publication can be accessed by contacting the authors. The AEROS measurement data are available through the following link: https://www.nies.go.jp/igreen. Japanese population density data are available through the following link: https://www.e-stat.go.jp/.

Video supplement. The CII daily mean for all 1896 Japanese municipalities is archived for each month over the study period, FY2014–2016.

Author contributions. Conceptualization, Leading by Y. K.; All authors; Model simulation, T. K.; Evaluation of data quality; T. O. S.; Manuscript writing, T. O. S. and T. K.; Writing significant contribution to paper, Y. K.; Review and editing, All authors.

Competing interests. The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements. The WRF-CMAQ model simulation was performed by the computing system in the NICT Science cloud. We would like to thank the Big Data Analytics Laboratory of NICT and Suuri-Keikaku Co., Ltd. for supporting the computation. We gratefully acknowledge Iwao Hosako and Motoaki Yasui for their kind management of the research environment in NICT. We deeply appreciate Hideyuki Teraoka in Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications to give us an idea "TOP 100 clean air cities". TOS thanks to Seidai Nara for his polite technical support.

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