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Meteorological analysis of the spring-2010 radionuclide measurements in Eastern Asia

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In May 2010, multiple detections of radionuclides were recorded at CTBTO monitoring stations in Asia. Particulate radionuclides (Barium-140, Lanthanum-140) as well as radioxenon isotopes were found in filters and air samples. While radionuclide detections do occur from time to time, these detections were unprecedented in terms of temporal and spatial coincidence and duration. In an effort to better understand the scenario, the measurements were looked at from the meteorological and atmospheric transport perspective. The major question was in what country or at least in what region the detected radionulides could have been released, and whether the different events could have been caused by one single source.