Interactive comment on "Ensemble Forecasts of Air Quality in Eastern China – Part 1. Model Description and Implementation of the MarcoPolo-Panda Prediction System" *by* Guy P. Brasseur et al.

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Dear Reviewer,

Thank you very much for your comments and your supportive review of our manuscript. Below are the responses to your specific comments:

The references are pretty Europe centric. Section starting on line 137 could consider adding an earlier reference to ensembles McKeen, S. et al., Assessment of an ensemble of seven real-time ozone forecasts over Eastern North America during the summer

of 2004, J. Geophys. Res., 110, D21307, doi: 10.1029/2005JD008888, 2005

Response: We have added this important reference.

I suggest adding a separate section on model evaluation. What systematic evaluations are performed, what data is used, how the data was made available, are their plans in the system for retrospective evaluation (say every year using additional data (not available in real time) and finalized data, etc., This is an important component of a forecast system. It would be interesting to present lessons learned – about establishing such a system in another region. What guidance can be given?

Response: Another paper with a similar title, but labelled "Part 2: Evaluation of the MarcoPolo Prediction System, Version 1" has been submitted to GMD and is currently under review in the GMD-Discussion. We feel therefore that we should not add a separate section in Part 1, but that we should address the remarks and follow the suggestions made here in the Part 2 paper. The suggestion to discuss Lessons learned about establishing such a system in another region is particularly interesting and will be included in the conclusion of the second paper.