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# Global Warming Activities Linked To Rise In Earth's Humidity

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Paris, France (AHN) - Human activities burning coal and oil, major contributors to global warming, are making the planet Earth more humid, a new study says.

The amount of humidity in the air near Earth's surface rose 2.2 percent in less than three decades.

The British scientists revealed Wednesday that this sudden rise in humidity levels will shift or strengthen the rainfall patterns, intensify the tropical storms, and human health may suffer from heat stress.

Lead researcher Nathan Gillett of the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, eastern England, told AFP that Earth's humidity levels could increase by another 10 percent by 2100.

From 1976 to 2004, when the world's average surface temperature rose 0.49 degrees Celsius (0.9 degrees Fahrenheit), global levels of atmospheric water vapour rose 2.2 percent.

By 2100, humidity levels could increase by another 10 percent, lead researcher Nathan Gillett of the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, eastern England, told AFP.

Scientists have long predicted that a warmer atmosphere will allow more water to evaporate, thus making the planet more humid.

But it was unclear whether these changes were the result of a natural or a human impact on the climate. However, the study is based on a new set of observations of humidity levels obtained through a powerful computer model of Earth's climate system in the late 20th century.

The study combined a fresh data set of surface humidity with climate models, "and actually attribute[s] those trends to human influence," said Gillett.

Steam, a greenhouse gas traps solar heat in the atmosphere thus stoking the warming effect and increasing the humidity. Moisture in the air increases by about 6 percent with every degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit), he said.

The study is published on Thursday in Nature, the weekly British science journal.