

The authors have made satisfactory revisions to the manuscript, which could be accepted subject to technical corrections during English editing with language improvements. For example: The revised manuscript is below:

The Taklamakan Desert (TD) is a major dust source in East Asia, yet the dynamic and thermal processes associated with dust-storm development remain insufficiently understood from vertically resolved observations. This study combined dual-gradient tower observations from Tazhong (TZ) and Xiaotang (XT) in the TD, ERA5 reanalysis data, and backward trajectories calculated with the Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) model to examine eight dust-storm events in spring and summer 2024. Three main pre-storm airflow pathways were identified: east-inflow transport through the northeastern Tarim Basin, mountain-crossing transport across the Tianshan–Pamir region, and south-to-north transport across the Tibetan Plateau and Kunlun Mountains. Meteorological anomaly diagnostics show that spring events maintained stronger mean sea-level pressure-gradient and 850-hPa geopotential-height-gradient anomalies throughout the pre-onset period, while 10-m wind speed anomalies increased rapidly after approximately 12 h. In contrast, summer events showed stronger thermal signals before approximately –18 h, including enhanced surface air temperature contrast, positive net shortwave radiation anomalies, and boundary layer growth. Tower observations further indicate stronger summer warming and closer-to-onset enhancement of wind speed and wind shear. Differences between TZ and XT suggest that local terrain modulates the near-surface response to regional dynamic and thermal forcing. These findings provide observational evidence for seasonal differences in dust-storm processes in the Taklamakan Desert.