The Global Fuel Economy Initiative

The world is on an unsustainable path regarding oil use and its related environmental impacts such as CO2 emissions. Transportation is a key contributor to this problem. About half the world's oil is used in transport. We face a near tripling of the number of cars on the planet by 2050, the vast bulk in emerging economies; but at the same time, vibrant transport systems are critical to economic development and healthy functioning of society. The question is how to deliver needed transport services while cutting the negative impacts of pollution, congestion, energy and resource depletion, and environmental damage which will follow?

Improved fuel economy is essential if we are to address some of these negative implications. The Global Fuel Economy Initiative (**www.globalfueleconomy.org**) is a partnership of the International Energy Agency (IEA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Transport Forum (ITF), International Council for Clean Transportation (ICCT), ITS Davis, and the FIA Foundation, which works to secure real improvements in fuel economy, and the maximum deployment of existing fuel economy technologies in vehicles across the world. The Initiative promotes these objectives through in-country policy support, analysis and advocacy.

1)   In-country Policy support

The GFEI works with many countries to support their fuel economy policy development process. Central to this is the GFEI's Cleaner, More Efficient Vehicles Toolkit, which provides information and real-world examples of technology and policies used around the globe to improve auto fuel economy. It is aimed at policy makers seeking to understand and design effective policies to improve energy efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions in their countries. It contains guidance, coupled with case studies describing what is being done to improve automotive fuel economy around the world. This innovative tool is available online from **www.unep.org/transport/gfei/autotool**.

2)   Analysis

One of the GFEI's key roles is to improve understanding of global fuel economy trends, policy options and other relevant issues. For example GFEI has recently developed a guidance document that informs national governments in developing, and emerging, economies about some of the current sources of international funding that are available to support efforts to improve vehicle fuel efficiency. The GFEI has also sponsored the first ever global study of light duty vehicle characteristics, including fuel economy, covering close to 90% of global car sales in 22 major markets and the EU. The report found that whilst there was an improvement in global fuel economy of 1.6% between 2005-2008, this is well below the required average annual improvement rate to reach the 2030 GFEI objective of a 50% reduction, which calls for a 2.7% improvement per year from 2005 to 2030.

3)   Advocacy

GFEI works hard to raise awareness of the issue of fuel economy globally. That can include entering low carbon vehicles in eco-rallies, presenting work at a wide range of global meetings and seminars, and engaging in global policy development discussions. For example, GFEI was invited to share its work as an example of an effective global partnership, at the Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) in Copenhagen. The Forum – instigated by the Danish and South Korean Governments and supported by Mexico – was developed to spur green growth through better public-private collaboration, and was attended by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, and more than 200 participants from 27 countries across five continents. GFEI was also presented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth, and formed the core of a Rio+20 Voluntary Commitment for action on sustainable transport.

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