

"EFV International Conference (tentative title)"

Submitted by Japan

A. Objectives of the Conference

The objective of the proposed "EFV International Conference" is to facilitate solutions for air pollution, climate change and other environmental problems for which the transport sector is considered to be partly responsible. This will be achieved with as much international collaboration as possible through the exchange of information and views among participating countries, concerning the concept of environmentally friendly vehicles (EFV) and policies for promoting the development and dissemination of the EFV.

B. Background

On January 15-16, 2002 the Ministerial Conference on Transport was held in Tokyo to discuss three main issues: (1) Prevention of Marine Pollution, (2) Urban Transport and Environment, and (3) Development and Promotion of Environmentally Friendly Vehicles. This conference resulted in the adoption of Ministerial statements on each of these three issues.

In the Ministerial statement on development and promotion of the EFV, entitled "Ministerial Statement on Comprehensive Strategy for Environmentally Friendly Vehicles", it was noted that: "To discuss EFV concept and to facilitate the development and dissemination of EFVs, close international cooperation will be an effective approach. As a first step forward, we share the collective view that it is important to hold an "International Meeting of EFVs."" (Please see the attached document).

In this regard, consultation with related countries and organizations is being undertaken to establish an EFV International Conference.

C. Outline of the Proposed EFV International Conference

1. Date:

23rd and 24th of January, 2003

2. Venue:

Tokyo, Japan

3. Host Organization and Country:

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) of Japan

4. Participants:

Countries and organizations that participated in the Ministerial Conference on Transport held in January 2002 and other major motor vehicle producing countries.

- A Director General level official is expected to lead the delegation for each participating country and organization.
- Representatives from the automobile industry, the academic community and other appropriate groups may be included in the delegation.

5. Agenda

(1) Current status and measures in the transport sector regarding air pollution and climate change

- * Participating countries or organizations will give a presentation on the current status and measures in the transport sector in their countries or regions to mitigate air pollution and climate change.

(2) Harmonization of the concept of the EFV

- * Participating countries and organizations will discuss the necessity of the harmonization of the concept of the EFV and will share common recognition on this issue, and will also begin efforts to harmonize the concept.

(3) Measures to facilitate the development and dissemination of the EFV

- * Participating countries or organizations will give a presentation on measures to facilitate the development and dissemination of the EFV, including improvement of the fuel quality for the EFV.

(4) Field tests

- * Participating countries or organizations will give a presentation on field tests

regarding the next-generation of environmentally friendly heavy trucks and fuel cell powered buses. They will agree to share data obtained for future field tests.

(5) Harmonization of regulations

* Participating countries and organizations will consider how to harmonize vehicle construction regulations related to air pollution and climate change.

(6) Measures to support the dissemination of the EFV in developing countries

* Participating countries and organizations will consider possible measures to support the dissemination of the EFV in developing countries, where motorization progress is anticipated.

(7) Future course of international action for the development and dissemination of the EFV

* Based on discussions at this conference, participating countries and organizations will consider the future course of international action to facilitate the development and dissemination of the EFV, including the establishment of working groups on issues that will need further consideration.

(8) Joint communiqué of the "EFV International Conference"

* Participating countries and organizations will examine a draft joint communiqué of the "EFV International Conference", and will adopt it for public announcement.

(9) Any other business

6. Schedule (tentative)

DAY 1

18:00 Welcome reception

DAY 2

09:00 Opening of the conference

09:15 (1) Current status and measures in the transport sector regarding air pollution and climate change

10:15 Coffee break

10:45 (1) Current status and measures in the transport sector regarding air pollution and climate change (continued)

12:00 Lunch break

13:30 (2) Harmonization of the concept of the EFV

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 (3) Measures to facilitate the development and dissemination of

the EFV

- 16:30 (4) Field tests
- 17:30 Closing of the first day's session
- 19:00 Reception

DAY 3

- 09:00 (5) Harmonization of regulations
- 09:30 (6) Measures to support the dissemination of the EFV in developing countries
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 (7) Future course of international action for the development and dissemination of the EFV
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:30 (8) Joint communiqué of the "EFV International Conference"
- (9) Any other business
- 15:00 Press conference

7. Secretariat

The function of secretariat for the proposed "EFV International Conference" will be assumed by the MLIT of Japan.

8. Expenses

- (1) Expenses for the proposed "EFV International Conference" will be paid by the MLIT of Japan.
- (2) All expenses for transportation and accommodation are to be borne by participants.

Relationship between of EFV International Conference and WP29

In the EFV International Conference, the scope of discussion is the Next-Generation EFV whose practical utilization is aimed around 2015-2020, and it aims to accelerate the development of Next-Generation EFV by forming the consensus among the delegations from member countries on;

- 1) What type of vehicles should be the concept of Next-Generation EFV to be developed
- 2) What should be the target of the environmental performance which the Next-Generation EFV is supposed to aim at

While in WP29, we understand that it is expected to set the scope of EFV for the subject of international regulations, and to discuss the measurement procedure, level of requirement and such of the emission. Furthermore, if the international harmonization of emission measurement procedure currently proceeded such as WHDC and WMTC is achieved at an early stage, it would lighten the burden of the vehicle manufacturers, and development of EFVs be accelerated.

Accordingly, in cooperation with this EFV international conference and WP29, we expect that the measures for vehicle environment will be promoted in a wide range of the EFV which will be shortly introduced and the Next-Generation EFV to be developed in the future.
