

MEP – PCFV Workshop on Ultra-Low Sulfur and Low Carbon Vehicle Fuels 29 – 30 July 2010

Co-sponsored by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (MEP) and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (UNEP-PCFV), the International Workshop on Ultra-Low Sulfur and Low Carbon Vehicle Fuels was held in Beijing on 29 – 30 July 2010. More than 80 representatives from government, international organizations, institutes and private enterprise participated in discussions on promoting ultra-low sulfur and low carbon vehicle fuels, improving air quality, enforcement and other related issues.

Ms. Song Xiaozhi, the Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation of MEP and Mr. Young-woo Park, the Regional Director for UNEP's regional office for Asia and the Pacific, attended the workshop.

Ms. Song introduced the situation in China on vehicle pollution prevention and control. She pointed out that China has already become the No.1 vehicle manufacturer and the No.1 vehicle market in the world; motor vehicle production exceeded 13 million in 2009. According to available statistics, in 2009 vehicle population in more than 20 cities in China was over 1 million. Vehicles have become one of the main sources of urban air pollution. International experience indicates that vehicle fuels and vehicle emission control should be treated together, as fuels and vehicles operate as one system. China has successfully phased out leaded gasoline since 2000. In order to adapt more advanced technologies and promote vehicle emission control, China also began to lower sulfur levels for vehicle fuels. However, there are still great gaps between Chinese and advanced countries on vehicle fuel sulfur content, especially vehicle diesel fuel. The relatively high level of sulfur in fuel has already restricted the implementation of China IV emission standards.

Dr. Park from UNEP appreciated all achievements gained by China on motor vehicle emission control and lowering sulfur in fuel, and introduced UNEP's work on improving vehicle standards and fuel quality. He pointed out that vehicle emission control and fuel quality should be considered as one system. EU has achieved 50ppm and lower vehicle fuels (both gasoline and diesel) in 2005 and as China has adapted EU emission standards, he hoped that China would achieve this goal soon, in order to reduce vehicle emissions.

According to the officer from the Department of Pollution Prevention and Control of MEP, in the next few years MEP will develop its fuel regulation work focusing on the following aspects:

1. To seek authority to regulate and enforce vehicle fuel standards by revising "Law of the Peoples Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Atmospheric Pollution"
2. To strengthen fuel classification management and regional management.
3. To promote regional low sulfur and low carbon fuel progress.

Mr. John Guy from US EPA introduced American experiences on promoting low sulfur and low carbon fuels. US EPA has established regulation systems for highway,

non-road and ocean vessel emissions and related fuels. He said that American regulation on mobile source was very cost effective and has generated great health benefits. Mr. Cherry Estrada from SWRI showed us the detailed regulation progress of America in his presentation.

On 30 July, about 30 representatives from governmental offices, local Environmental Protection Boards, petroleum manufacturers, vehicle manufactures and international NGOs participated in a roundtable discussion under the topic of “Motor Vehicle and Fuel Problems During the 12th Five-Year (2011-2015) Period.” International experts expressed their opinions on implementing China IV and China V vehicle emission standards and China IV diesel fuel standard; they provided suggestions for the enforcement program of China IV gasoline and diesel standards based on the Chinese situation and international experiences. Price incentive for high quality motor fuel was also discussed.

China Environment News, Science and Technology Daily and the website of Vehicle Emission Control Center of MEP have released media reports on the event.