

The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles is the leading global initiative promoting better urban air quality through the use of clean fuels and vehicles.

Nairobi will benefit from the phaseout.  
Photo Credit: Thomas Harrison- Prentice



## Leaded Phase-out Success in Africa, PCFV Launches 2008 Global Lead Campaign

UNEP began the New Year by declaring Sub-Saharan Africa completely unleaded as of 1 January 2006. The official announcement was made at the PCFV 4<sup>th</sup> Global Partnership Meeting. Twenty-eight African countries committed to banning the production, import and use of lead additive in gasoline by end 2005 through the Dakar Declaration of 2001.

Since its founding in 2002 the Partnership, along with the World Bank and other key institutions, has supported this process in the subregion by assisting countries in developing action plans, launching awareness campaigns (including blood lead level testing) and providing training and information for everyone from policymakers to fuel station attendants.

In 2002 only one of the forty-nine countries in the region - Sudan - was fully unleaded. Today, all of Sub-Saharan Africa can boast this accomplishment. These efforts have been recognized through global TV, radio and print media coverage, including the BBC, CNN, Reuters, AP, AFP and newspapers worldwide.

The UK Independent called the lead phase-out **"a virtually unheralded victory for international environmental diplomacy."**

In countries still using leaded petrol, 90% of airborne lead (the primary source of human exposure) comes from leaded fuel. All cars, even older models, can function on unleaded fuel without adjustments. The Partnership looks to support the world's remaining leaded countries (around 25) to completely phase out leaded petrol by end 2008. Africa's success story will be used as a model for this global campaign to improve human health and children's futures. See the 'News' section of the PCFV website for global press covering the phase-out.

### Lead and Sulphur PCFV Targets Set at 4 GPM

PCFV Partners from around the globe gathered for the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Partnership Meeting, held at UNEP headquarters offices in Nairobi, Kenya on 14-15 December 2005.

Over 40 participants representing 27 Partners made the trip to discuss, among other things: PCFV achievements in 2005 (including complete lead phaseout in Sub Saharan Africa - see above); the 2006 & 2007 Programme of Work; setting concrete measurable goals based on PCFV objectives of lead elimination, sulphur reduction and vehicle improvements; selecting a new Advisory Group; and discussing future directions of the Partnership.

Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, welcomed Partners, praising the PCFV as one of the most successful partnerships to emerge from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, but stressing that more work needs to be done in order to narrow the gap between fuel and vehicle requirements in developed and developing countries.

*Continued on page 3...*



Dr. Klaus Töpfer, UNEP & Peter Bakker, TNT at signing ceremony

### TNT and UNEP to Work on Cleaner Transport

On 11 January the CEO of TNT, Peter Bakker, and UNEP's Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Töpfer, signed a cooperation agreement to work together to promote cleaner fuels and vehicles.

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**CENTRAL and EASTERN EUROPE & TURKEY****Launch of PCFV in CEE & Turkey A Success**

The October 27-28 conference held at the Regional Environmental Centre (REC) headquarters, Hungary addressed cleaner fuel and vehicle issues in the region as countries

adopt EU standards and deal with older vehicle fleets. Requests for PCFV assistance have been received from Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia and Turkey. All meeting documents are available through the 'Events' section of the PCFV website, also linked to the dedicated REC website featuring national-level research on air quality, fuels and vehicles.

**Bulgaria Vehicles Training, 13 March 2006**

Forty percent of the vehicles in the country are over 20 years old. Michael Walsh, Associate Partner, will provide training on technology for new and existing vehicles and economic instruments for their promotion at the request of the Bulgarian government.

**NEW CEE & Turkey Fuels and Vehicles Network**

A regional network of policymakers, experts, civil society and industry representatives has been established to facilitate communication on cleaner fuels and vehicles issues. Those interested can join by emailing Ruslan Zhechkov of the REC at [RZhechkov@rec.org](mailto:RZhechkov@rec.org).

**LATIN AMERICA & the CARIBBEAN****Regional Workshop for Automobile Associations, São Paulo, 15 March 2006**

UNEP and the FIA Foundation, along with the Automobile Association of Brazil, will hold a one-day workshop on cleaner fuels and vehicles for Latin American automobile club representatives. The event will address the environmental and health impacts of fuels and vehicles, options available to reduce emissions, initiatives being undertaken in the region and the role automobile associations can play in awareness raising and policy development at the national level. Contact [Elisa.Dumitrescu@unep.org](mailto:Elisa.Dumitrescu@unep.org) for details.

**Central America Follow-Up to Mexico Event**

Following three successful events in the region in 2004-2005, the focus is now on national-level activities in Central America. Documents and presentations from the November 2005 Mexico City Workshop are available under the 'Latin America' section of the PCFV website.

**MIDDLE EAST, WEST ASIA****Yemen to Tackle Leaded Gasoline**

Yemen is one of the few countries in the world still using leaded gasoline. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of Yemen is changing this with support from the Clearing-House for various activities leading to an eventual ban on leaded fuel. Pilot blood lead level measurements will be taken in Sana'a, the results of which will feed into a national workshop.

**Regional Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa, Cairo 24-25 May 2006**

The Middle East is the world's most oil-rich region, possessing crude with some of the highest sulphur content, impacting air quality at home and abroad.

In May the Clearing House will partner with the Asian Clean Fuels Association (ACFA) for a far-reaching fuels and vehicles workshop to address high sulphur levels and cleaner vehicles. Contact [Shoa.Ehsani@unep.org](mailto:Shoa.Ehsani@unep.org) for details.

**AFRICA****Catalytic Converters Post Phase-Out**

In Africa the immediate focus of the PCFV will be the introduction of vehicles that are fitted with catalytic converters for sub-Saharan African countries. Having phased out leaded gasoline as of 1 January 2006, the region stands to further air quality gains in reducing vehicular emissions through the wide use of vehicular catalytic converters. Some countries have already committed to importing only vehicles that are fitted with catalytic converters.

For North African countries such as Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, the priority will be to phase out leaded gasoline in addition to the promotion of vehicular catalytic converters.

A study aimed at reinforcing the health benefits of phasing out leaded gasoline is planned to take place in Ghana during the first half of 2006. Ghana had conducted blood lead level tests in 2003, prior to phasing out leaded gasoline in January 2004.

**Sulphur Reduction A Priority**

The reduction of sulphur levels in diesel fuels will be another priority in the region. Though clean diesel vehicle technology exists, African countries have not been able to take advantage of it due to high sulphur levels in diesel, in some cases up to 10,000 parts per million (ppm). Diesel fuel is the most popular automotive and agricultural fuel in Africa. South Africa is the only African country marketing diesel with sulphur levels of 500 ppm and 50 ppm.

### UNEP Preparing Two Publications on "Hybrid Electric Vehicles" and "Cleaning Up Your Bus Fleet"

UNEP is preparing two publications to be released this spring, on Hybrid Electric Vehicles and a manual entitled "Cleaning up your Bus Fleet".

"Hybrid Electric Vehicles" will be a report aimed at fleet managers in rapidly industrialising countries. It will provide unbiased information on the merits and cost of introducing hybrid technology in their vehicle fleets. The report will also make a brief comparison with other alternatives available such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and clean diesel vehicles.

"Cleaning Up Your Bus Fleet" is developed together with the USEPA and will be a booklet providing basic information on maintenance, cleaner fuels and retrofit technologies. The booklet is aimed at fleet managers in developing countries. The report will mainly deal with the benefits of good maintenance practices and the costs, options and benefits of introducing retrofit technologies in conjunction with using cleaner fuels.

#### UNEP & TNT, continued from front page

UNEP and TNT will work together in the implementation of Driving Clean, inter alia by jointly organising four training workshops, one in each developing world region.

At the workshop TNT managers and other fleet managers from the private and public sectors, will be trained on measures to reduce the environmental impacts of their operations.

TNT is making USD 400,000 available for the activities. Initially, UNEP will develop an interactive toolkit to be used at the training workshops that will provide fleet managers with practical solutions. This project is taking place in the context of the PCFV and other Partners that are interested are kindly invited to get involved in the activities planned, including the four regional workshops. The interactive toolkit will be made available to all PCFV Partners. For more information, contact Carin Ten Hage, TNT, phone: 31 (0)20 500 66 65, Carin.Ten.Hage@tnt.com or Rob de Jong, UNEP, phone: +(254-20) 7624184, rob.jong@unep.org.

#### Did you know...



**US Auto Racing Organization  
NASCAR to Use Unleaded Fuel  
in 2008; news at nascar.com**



Participants at 4 GPM, held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

#### 4GPM, continued from front page

In keeping with Dr. Töpfer's speech, one of the meeting's most important discussions involved setting measurable goals for the Partnership, based on the general Partnership objectives outlined in the PCFV Governance Rules. Accordingly, they address leaded gasoline phaseout, sulphur reduction and vehicles.

As decided at 4 GPM, future PCFV activities will be guided by the following goals:

*To phase out leaded gasoline by the end of 2008 worldwide to be followed by the global introduction of vehicles with catalytic converters.*

*To reduce sulphur in vehicle fuels to 50 ppm or below worldwide, concurrent with clean vehicles and clean vehicle technologies, with roadmaps and timelines developed regionally and nationally.*

Partners agreed that these goals would be internal benchmarks rather than operational directives and countries and regions will be supported in setting their own objectives and timeframes for introducing fuel and vehicle improvements.

In keeping with current momentum, the Clearing-House set forth an ambitious plan for 2006 & 2007 activities. The focus will be on national level activities to eliminate leaded gasoline in the remaining 25 or so countries, support countries in reducing sulphur levels in petrol and diesel through regional and national events, technical and financial assistance, and promote the use of cleaner vehicles and vehicle technologies through retrofit projects, catalytic converter requirements and other strategies.

In addition, Partners approved a new Advisory Group, which includes Partners from Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and East Africa along with government, industry and NGO Partners who have served since the Partnership's founding.

Wrapping up the two-day meeting, Partners considered the long-term (beyond 2007) future of the Partnership, agreeing that the PCFV will continue with its present mandate unchanged.

## Michael Walsh Wins MacArthur Fellowship!



Credit: The MacArthur Foundation

Mr. Walsh was among the 25 surprise honorees announced by the MacArthur Foundation in September, 2005. This latest award is one of numerous recognitions for his contributions to reducing vehicle emissions and improving public health worldwide.

"I'm on a cloud actually. I have always believed that the areas in which I'm working are very, very important..." Michael remarked upon learning of his win, adding that 800,000 people die prematurely each year from air pollution.

Since the 1980s, Mr. Walsh has helped shape air quality legislation and policy in the United States. For decades, he also served as an advisor to governments worldwide.

More recently, Michael has contributed his time to a regional PCFV launch event in Hungary, and will soon advise the Bulgarian government on technology and policy options for a cleaner vehicle fleet. The PCFV wishes to congratulate him on this outstanding achievement.

## Working Groups Update

The reports of the Sulphur and Octane Working Groups are expected in the next few months, with the Clearing-House designated to finalize the Octane document. For the Public Awareness Group, fuels and vehicles awareness material and publications will be posted on a special section of the PCFV website.

It was decided at 4 GPM that a Vehicles Working Group incorporating both older and new vehicles will start once the current groups end. The terms of reference of the group will be determined then, and UNEP will work with MECA on this.

**THE PARTNERSHIP** for Clean Fuels and Vehicles was established in September 2002 to promote clean fuels and vehicles in developing countries, with Partners from governments, industry, non-governmental organisations, and international organisations. **THIS NEWSLETTER** is published by the Clearing-House of the Partnership. Please send comments and contributions to [Elisa.Dumitrescu@unep.org](mailto:Elisa.Dumitrescu@unep.org).

**DISCLAIMER:** Unless otherwise stated, information contained in this Newsletter is not necessarily the opinion of and/or endorsed by all Partners.

## UNEP Urban Environment Update

*The PCFV Clearing House is based within UNEP's Urban Environment Unit in Nairobi.*

### New Website Launched!

UNEP has launched a new website on the urban environment. Check [www.unep.org/dpd/urban\\_environment](http://www.unep.org/dpd/urban_environment) to find out how UNEP supports governments to address key urban environmental issues at the national, regional and global levels and get the latest information on UNEP activities and programmes, publications and events.

### Upcoming UNEP Urban Environment Events

*14th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; Focus on energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. 1-12 May 2006 in New York, USA*

*World Urban Forum III - Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action. 19-23 June 2006 in Vancouver, Canada*

*Regional Conference on Better Air Quality in Sub-Saharan African Cities (BAQ). 25-28 July 2006, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya. Contact [Jane.Akumu@unep.org](mailto:Jane.Akumu@unep.org)*

### Upcoming Partner Events

**Association for Emissions Control by Catalyst:** *Seventh International Congress on Catalysis and Automotive Pollution Control, August 30 - September 1, 2006, Brussels, Belgium, [www.aecc.be](http://www.aecc.be) (Under News)*

### International Fuel Quality Center:

*World Refining & Fuels Conference: SPRING 2006, March 21-23, 2006 & World Refining & Fuels Conference: EUROPE 2006, May 30-June 1, 2006*  
See <http://www.worldfuelsconferences.com/events.html>

*Technology & Policy Briefing, Tokyo, Japan, April 6-7, 2006. For more information please contact Liisa Kiuru, IFQC Executive Director Asia at [lkiuru@ifqc.org](mailto:lkiuru@ifqc.org)*

*IFQC Breakfast "Conventional and Biofuels Standards", Brussels, Belgium, June 1, 2006. For more details please contact Sandrine Dixson-Déclève at [sdixson@ifqc.org](mailto:sdixson@ifqc.org).*

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