



Sub Saharan Africa Refining Experts Meeting
Somerset West, South Africa, 8-10 October 2003

Starting with the World Bank Clean Air Initiative conference on phasing out lead in gasoline (Dakar, Senegal – June 2001), Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has seen a remarkable series of sub regional meetings designed to gather together stakeholders from Intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, oil companies, the automobile manufacturers, and host country governments to formulate action plans for the phase out of leaded gasoline in SSA.

With the hosting of the workshop for SADC countries (6 – 7 October 2003 in Somerset West, South Africa), this process is nearly complete. Throughout the sub-regional processes, workshops, and meetings, however, one key obstacle has emerged as the fundamental challenge to the lead phase out process, namely the investment required to upgrade existing SSA facilities to economically produce unleaded gasoline (ULG).

To address this, the World Bank, IPIECA and UNEP have teamed up to run a ‘refining experts workshop’ which will take place from 8 – 10 October 2003. The workshop is designed to bring together representatives from all the major refineries in Sub-Saharan Africa for two and a half days of focused discussion on plans and strategies to upgrade refining capability to produce ULG of sufficient quality for the changing vehicle fleets in the region.

The workshop will examine opportunities to minimize investment costs and maximize production of ULG through:

- (i) Refinery unit modifications and additions
- (ii) Changes in refinery operations
- (iii) The use of blending strategies: addition of high-octane blending components
- (iv) The use of alternative octane-enhancing additives

Through a mixture of presentations, discussions, and breakout sessions, participants will be encouraged to develop a range of strategies appropriate to their own individual cases.