

12th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP
Decision No. 9.2.7

Clean Fuels and Vehicles

Realizing the significant and increasing impacts that air pollutants can have on health, crops, natural ecosystems, man-made environment and their socio-economic consequences for South Asian countries,

Recalling the recommendations of representatives of governments at the Regional Workshop on Clean Fuels and Vehicles held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 22 – 23 March 2010 organized by SACEP in collaboration with UNEP's PCFV,

Mindful that vehicles, both gasoline and diesel, emit significant quantities of nitrogen oxides, Sulphur oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons which are harmful to human beings, other forms of life and the environment,

Understanding the strong linkages between emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases and its connection to Global warming and climate change,

Commending the South Asian countries' efforts to successfully phase out leaded gasoline and the significant steps taken by individual countries to improve fuel quality and vehicle standards,

Considering that the introduction of cleaner fuels along with policies and programmes for more efficient vehicles would minimize the air pollution in the region,

Recognizing that air pollution takes a high toll on the health, environment and economies of South Asian countries, and that the transport sector is one of the sources responsible for rapidly increasing emissions,

Mindful that political and technological solutions exist and have proven their effectiveness in many places around the world and that it is necessary to provide financial support and transfer of technology to the developing countries like South Asia's

DECIDE:

1. Promote low Sulphur fuels within Countries of the South Asia region:
 - ü Work towards an ultimate goal for the region to be 10ppm Sulphur in fuel, with the intermediary goal of 50ppm Sulphur;
 - ü Develop a road map, with a timeframe, on the necessary steps to achieve these goals, including refinery upgrades (where appropriate), and changes in regulations governing fuel quality, emission standards and vehicle fuel economy etc;

- ü Develop an innovative and strategic financial mechanism, and incremental funding through bilateral/multi-lateral aid;
 - ü Each country to develop clean development mechanism and to promote public – private partnership in order to promote cleaner fuels and vehicles;
 - ü Ensure that all policies, programmes and taxes are harmonised to eliminate negative signals that promote dirtier fuel and vehicles;
 - ü SACEP countries to eventually harmonise fuel and vehicle standards across the region;
2. Promote clean vehicles within Countries of the South Asia region:
- ü Develop a policy, or update an existing policy, on the importation of second hand vehicles;
 - ü Ensure that the vehicle fleet within the country meets ever-tightening standards with regards to age and / or emissions, fuel efficiency etc;
 - ü Establish an inspection programme linked to emission standards of in-country vehicles, as well as ensuring that imported vehicles meet certain requirements (based on age and / or technology, such as catalytic converters etc);
3. Promote clean transport systems within Countries of the South Asia region:
- ü Develop a holistic transport policy that promotes public and non-motorised transport;
 - ü Establish a platform for coordinating the different government departments and agencies that are involved in transport or in issues that impact transport;
 - ü Ensure that all transport and road related projects include funds and space to provide facilities and infrastructure for non-motorised, people-friendly transport (sidewalks, protected bike lanes, bicycle rickshaw lanes etc), as recommended by UNEP’s Share the Road programme;
 - ü Initiate awareness raising for public support of clean transport initiatives;
4. SACEP to create platforms for technical assistance and capacity building between countries, through technical meetings and case studies, in which countries can share best practices and advances in research and development, thus contributing to regional advancement as well as development and adoption of new fuel and vehicle technologies.
5. SACEP to facilitate promotion and enhance transfer of technology among member countries and from developed countries as well.