Fuel Cell Vehicle Policies

To make fuel cell vehicles viable, it will still take great efforts toward technological and economical improvement of fuel cells and vehicle, development of fuels and infrastructure, preparation of legislation, standardization, etc. The government has been committed to fuel cell vehicles conducting basic researches and demonstrations, and to prepare the social framework and infrastructure for the common interests. The New Sunshine Project was a national project for the development of energy and environment related technologies, started in 1993 funded by the METI. Under this umbrella project, fuel cells of various types including phosphoric acid fuel cell, molten carbonate fuel cell, solid oxide fuel cell and polymer electrolyte fuel cell have been developed targeting in 2003 for viable performance. In 2002, fuel cell related programs funded by the METI were restructured as the Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Utilization Program.

FC Introduction under the Millennium Project

The national Millennium Project aimed Japan's industrial renovation in the 21st century focusing on the environment, information technology and welfare for the aged, and fuel cell was selected as one of the innovative technologies to be promoted. The ultimate objective of fuel cell project was to introduce viable fuel cell cogeneration system including fuel cell vehicles by the year 2005. Project scenario contains the analysis of potential fuels for fuel cell vehicles in 2001; preparation of evaluation methods and standard specifications of fuel cells in 2002; practical technology accomplishment in 2004; and, commercialization and mass production in 2005. According to the report of the strategy study meeting for fuel cell commercialization, advisory meeting for the Director General of the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy, the phase of initiative introduction will be from 2005 to 2010 when 50,000 FCVs are expected to be introduced to public utilities and FC related companies. The fuel cell vehicle will then enter on the phase of diffusion when its market will develop autonomously on the basis of the completed fuel supply structure and cost reduction. The report targets 5 million FCVs on the road in 2020.



WE-NET Project

World Energy Network (WE-NET) program, a component of the New Sunshine project, aimed the establishment of a global clean energy network of hydrogen fuels produced from renewable energies. WE-NET project included the researches and development of technologies in terms of the production, distribution and refueling of hydrogen for FCVs. In fiscal 2003, this project was integrated into the demonstration study on polymer electrolyte fuel cell system including the JHFC project.



WE-NET Hydrogen Station in Osaka

	Phase I	Phase II			
	FY1993 ~ FY1998	FY1999 ~ FY2003			
	Development of H ₂ production, distribution and storage technology				
A Cor A Res A Der	ncept planning of overall system searches on technologies using H ₂ , etc. velopment of H ₂ fuel turbine, etc.	 Development of H₂ refueling station, H₂ vehicle system, PEFC, H₂ absorbing alloy, etc. Researches on system evaluation, safety issues, etc. 			

Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Utilization Program

This synthesized program funded by the METI is the largest national efforts currently conducted in Japan for the commercialization of fuel cell vehicles and stationary fuel cells. The program covers 11 projects including the development, demonstration studies, and standardization for fuel cell, fuel cell vehicles, hydrogen, hydrogen refueling facilities, and other peripheral technologies. The total budget was 17.6 billion yen in FY2002, and for FY2003, 22.5 billion yen was requested. Major components are shown below.

Development of Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cell System Technologies				
Period	FY2000-FY2004			
Undertaken by	New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)			
Objectives	Development of element technologies and material technologies comprising fuel cells, as well as systematization technologies, mass production technologies, and cost reduction technologies, aimed at the commercialization and widespread use of fuel cells			
Development of Basic Technologies for the Safe Use of Hydrogen				
Period	FY2003-FY2007			
Undertaken by	NEDO			
Objectives	Establishment of safety technologies, by gathering the data necessary to verify the safety of hydrogen, and development of auxiliary equipment, such as the compressor, necessary to develop the hydrogen fuel infrastructure, in order to establish technologies for safe and low-cost manufacturing and use of hydrogen, aimed at the widespread use of fuel cells in the initial stage			

Demonstration Study on Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cell Systems				
Period	FY2002-FY2004			
Undertaken by	Japan Automobile Research Institute (JARI) Engineering Advancement Association of Japan (ENAA) New Energy Foundation			
Objectives	Public-road testing of fuel cell vehicles, including the demonstration of fuel stations, and operational testing of stationary fuel cell cogeneration systems under actual use conditions while taking into account technological advancements, in order to gather fundamental information necessary for development and widespread use			
Japan Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Demonstration Project (JHFC Project				
	 Fuel Cell Vehicle Demonstration Study Demonstration Study of Hydrogen Refueling Facilities Undertaken by ENAA 			
Projects for Development of Infrastructures for Widespread Use of Polymer Electrolyte Fuel Cell Systems				
Period	FY2000-FY2004			
Undertaken by	NEDO			
<i>Objectives</i> Data gathering, establishment of evaluation methods, and proposal of c criteria and standards through evaluation testing aimed at developing the infrastructure, such as safety and reliability criteria and standards that w required in the stages of commercialization and widespread use of fuel				

JAPAN HYDROGEN & FUEL CELL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The Japan Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Demonstration project consists of a FCV Demonstration Study and a Demonstration Study of Hydrogen Fueling Facilities. Both studies are among the polymer electrolyte fuel cell research projects subsidized by the METI. The JHFC project aims to gather and share fundamental data on the methods for producing hydrogen from various fuels and the performance of FCVs under conditions of actual use in order to develop a roadmap to the full-scale mass production and widespread use of fuel cell vehicles. The project is the first extensive FCV demonstration study in Japan. In fiscal 2003, seven auto manufacturers are testing respective FCVs on public roads. Also, Japan's first fuel cell public bus started operation in Tokyo under this project. The project is also the first study in the world to operate different types of hydrogen refuelling facilities to validate different types of fuels, refueling data, and issues to be solved for the diffusion of fuel cell vehicles. Hydrogen is produced at respective stations by reforming LPG, desulfurized gasoline, methanol, and naphtha. Technologies for producing liquefied hydrogen from a steelmaking by-product gas will also be developed and validated.

JINFC				
Period	April 2002 – March 2005			
Goals	 To clearly show the energy-saving effect of FCVs and hydrogen refuelling facilities To clearly show how FCVs and hydrogen refuelling facilities have a beneficial effect on the environment To acquire data useful to develop laws and regulations, and standards for the safety and other related issues of FCVs and hydrogen storage facilities To raise public awareness regarding FCVs and hydrogen storage facilities To clarify issues to be solved so that the number of FCVs and hydrogen storage facilities To develop and demonstrate technologies of efficiently recovering surplus hydrogen and liquefying it so that hydrogen can be transported 			
Vehicles	Direct hydrogen type fuel cell vehicles			
2003 Participating companies	Toyota Motor Corp.Japan Air GasesNissan Motor Co., Ltd.Nippon Sanso Corp.Honda Motor Co., Ltd.Nippon Steel Corp.Daimler Chrysler JapanHino Motors, Ltd.GM Asia Pacific JapanKurita Water Industries Ltd.Mitsubishi Motors Corp.Sinanen Co., Ltd.Suzuki Motor Co.Itochu Enex Co., Ltd.Nippon Oil CorporationIdemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.Cosmo Oil Co., Ltd.Babcock-Hitachi K.K.Showa Shell Sekiyu, K.K.Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd.Iwatani International Corp.Sinanen Co., Ltd.			

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