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EcoFuel World Tour – Press Release 5 / Jan. 18, 2007

EcoFuel World Tour reaches subcontinent 18,000 km for just 1,000 Euros

- **World's third-biggest natural gas fleet in Pakistan**
- **Low gas pressure and minor gas quality in India**
- **Visit to SOS childrens' village**

After putting 18,000 kilometres behind him, adventurer Rainer Zietlow has reached the metropolitan city of Karachi with his gas-powered VW Caddy Eco Fuel. Converted to German fuel prices, he has spent natural gas (CNG) for just under 1,000 Euros - a cost that would have easily doubled, had he used a conventional petrol engine. *

The world's sixth-biggest city

Directly upon arrival, the EcoFuel World Tour's four participants set out for a sightseeing trip through left-hand traffic. CNG fuelling stations line the roadside, hundreds of vehicles running on natural gas are on their way, very often with a bumper sticker indicating their use of CNG. "When they recognise us as natural gas users, the other motorists greet us," says Zietlow. When talking with them, Pakistanis are hugely impressed by the idea of a round the world trip with natural gas in the tank.

World's third-biggest CNG fleet in Pakistan

Pakistan has a fleet of more than 900,000 natural gas vehicles - the world's third biggest. Every year, another 150,000 passenger cars and commercial vehicles are adapted for the use of this environmentally friendly fuel. In Pakistan, one kilogramme of gas is just under 40 cents, one litre of petrol costs approximately 52 cents, diesel even 72 cents. Natural gas is available at 800 fuelling stations, a number to be increased to 1,000 until mid-2007. Some days later the EcoFuel World Tour passes the border between India and Pakistan.

Low gas pressure in India

For the first time during the tour, Zietlow encounters a gas supply problem in India. The subcontinent's north and western parts have a dense network of CNG fuelling stations, but the gas available doesn't meet the adventurer's expectations. At the first pump the Caddy's tank simply won't fill up. "The pipelines in India just don't have enough pressure", Zietlow realises. Instead of 230 bar the vehicle's pressure gauge only rises to 170 - 175 bar. Also, the fuel value of local gas is much worse than expected. This results in a range 40 percent smaller than estimated before the tour's start. Zietlow now has to cancel the planned Himalay crossing and the tour's China leg.

/2

The visit of the SOS childrens' village is the highlight in India. Before the tour's start Zietlow committed to donate 10 Cents per driven kilometre. The village's 150 children are happy about the visit and find the natural gas tour interesting - but their main focus is football. A spontaneous match between the little Indians and Zietlow's team is great fun and ends with a defeat for the Germans.

Natural gas available worldwide as fuel

The EcoFuel World Tour's target is to prove the worldwide availability of natural gas as an environmentally friendly and low-priced fuel. After crossing five continents Zietlow will reach Germany in early April.

Pictures: R. Zietlow/F Janusiewicz

- ZietlowPakistanLahore1
- ZietlowPakistanLahore2
- ZietlowBombay

* Data based on the consumption figures of an average middle class passenger car (petrol: 10 litres/natural gas: 7 kg) and German fuel prices (petrol: 1,23 Euros per litre/natural gas: 0,79 Cents per kg)

More information about the route, adventures and drivers as well as pictures and videos are available online: www.ecofuel-word-tour.de

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, All Public Relations matters concerning the EcoFuel World Tour are coordinated by Service Global Press. Please contact us under

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All inquiries as well as requests for photographs and interviews can be directed at Mr Peter Lehr and Mr Helmut Weinand. Frequent updates on the EcoFuel World Tour can be found under www.ecofuel-world-tour.com

