



2004 Australia Study Tour on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicles

(16 to 23 May 2004)

15 participants comprising equipment suppliers, inspection centres, potential users of CNG fleet, and car manufacturers joined the study tour. They spent time with TAFE NSW Sydney Institute's trainers and went on site visits to CNG refuelling stations, bus depot and workshops to gain first hand experience on CNG vehicles and fleet operations in Australia. The study tour was also planned to coincide with the [Australian Auto Trade Fair](#), to offer participants the opportunity to network with the automotive industry professionals from companies, associations and institutions in Australia and the South Pacific regions.

Participants found the tour well planned and comprehensive, and appreciated the opportunity to network throughout the programme. One participant said that the CNG study tour "helped me to understand more of CNG Engine system, (the) safety aspect, the set up plan and standards and (the) government policy [governing CNG]. [The study tour] also gave me a chance to meet different industry people attending this class. I am also able to learn about the system set up in Australia and their experience". Agrees another, who commented that the study tour was a very interesting and informative programme with good technical coverage and site visits.



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Day 1: Arrive in Sydney, Australia
Recharging for the days ahead...



Day 2: Class in Session at Sydney Institute, Ultimo
Participants getting into serious mood for studying... by filling up the administration form first!



Day 2: Teaching Old Car New (Fuel) Tricks
Daniel, one of the trainers, introducing a retrofitted CNG car at the workshop. Guess the age of this car? (Answer: 20 years old!)



Day 2: Close examination
Spot any difference in components between the CNG car and the usual petrol car? Not much, except the CNG tank in the car boot!



Day 2: Click, click away!
With so many parts to remember, a participant whipped out his camera to take "notes" while his classmates looked on in rapt attention.



Day 3: CNG refuelling station at Ryde's Bus Depot
While participants learned about the refuelling operations and toured the site, our photographer caught the BBC conducting an interview at the CNG refuelling station.



Day 3: Examining the CNG fuel system on board a CNG bus
Now, how many of us can actually claim to have stepped on top of a bus when we board one?



Day 3: The CNG cylinders placed on top of the buses.



Day 3: It's a cow, no, it's a converted milk truck!
The next best thing to having a cow in your backyard, this CNG powered truck delivers fresh milk everyday without running on diesel (and also without producing methane!).

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Day 4: Site visit to the Australian Post Mail Centre, a user of CNG powered forklifts.

No, the participants are not performing their CWOs overseas. All visitors have to wear a green vest as part of the safety precaution to avoid being mistaken as mails...



Day 4: Site visit to Greenfield Australia, a manufacturer of refuelling stations.



Day 4: Refuelling Demo of a CNG Car

7-11 really is a store and more! This CNG public refuelling station is owned and managed by the convenience store.



Day 5: Last day of study at Sydney Institute, Ultimo

Standing, from left:

Samuel Leong (Goldbell Engineering Pte Ltd), Francis Chan (ST Kinetics), Wong Chu Ken (Sembwaste Pte Ltd), Ridzuan Chong (W.H. Brennan & Co Pte Ltd), Dennis Bay (IDAC), William Chan (Borneo Motors (S) Pte Ltd), Kenny Tan (Tan Lim Motor Pte Ltd), Chua Kay Ngee (Volvo East Asia (Pte) Ltd), Michael Wee (SHC Engineering Group), Vincent Tan (Chartered Motor Pte Ltd).

Seated, from left:

Loh Ben Chong (STA Inspection Pte Ltd), Johnny Harjantho (SMART Automobile Pte Ltd), Tan Tjin Hoat (SMART Automobile Pte Ltd), Ng Thiam Guan (Goldbell Engineering Pte Ltd), Dy Hien Ly (Trainer), Dennis Spagarino (Trainer), Heng Bak Yong (STA Autocentre), Annie Tan (SEI Coordinator cum Photographer)



Day 6: Australian Auto Trade Fair



Day 7: R&R at the sunny Blue Mountains

At the top of the world posing for a picture-perfect photo.

"Oh boy, the wondrous sights were a feast for the eyes at beautiful Kings Tableland!", said our photographer.