

Reducing carbon footprint of commercial vehicles on Asian roads

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At a time when the world's focus is squarely on personal mobility and its shift away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy sources, four Japanese auto companies — Toyota Motor Corporation, Isuzu Motors, Suzuki Motor Corporation, and Daihatsu Motor — have formed an alliance to try and find solutions for current commercial vehicle transportation challenges.

The alliance, Commercial Japan Partnership Technologies Corporation (CJPT), aims to contribute significantly to reducing carbon footprint from tailpipe emissions. To this effect, the company show-

cased a few concept models of commercial vehicles that run on varied electrified powertrain platforms in Bangkok earlier last week.

"We would like to contribute to improving the quality of life of people in Asia with various low-fuel consumption and high-efficiency vehicles, including small ICE vans, hybrid EVs, battery EVs and fuel-cell EVs," said Hiroki Nakajima, President of CJPT.

'NO INDIA PLAN YET'

"We believe that we must start in Thailand because the utilisation of commercial vehicles (CVs) is very high over here. Based on our understanding of this market, we would like to look at what is possible in other countries," said Pras



GREEN IS THE NORM. The Toyota Innova BEV concept model on display in Bangkok, Thailand

Ganesh, Asia Region Representative, CJPT. "Right now, we don't have a concrete plan for India. We are still studying. Our intention is for all of Asia. From cab aggregators to the

farming space and public transport — multiple areas could be considered (for partnerships). We are always looking at what is attractive and what is possible," Ganesh told

businessline. When asked if the CJPT could also venture into the passenger vehicle (PV) space, Ganesh said: "We believe we have all the elements (in the commercial space) to showcase the potential of what is possible. This does not mean that each of the companies in CJPT has no intention of carbon neutrality in the PV space. We are equally committed to that cause."

PRODUCING HYDROGEN

On the national green hydrogen policy, Ganesh said the Indian government is probably the most aggressive and bullish on hydrogen.

"We are happy in terms of the broad direction, and we are looking at mobility and non-mobility solutions, and how we

can contribute to the cause in India." Regarding the high cost of producing hydrogen, Hirofumi Ota, Project General Manager of CJPT Planning Division, said: "The best way to reduce the cost of hydrogen is to increase its consumption. We need to produce more hydrogen on a global level so that the price can come down."

The models exhibited at the event included Toyota Sora (a fuel cell bus), Hino FCEV heavy duty truck, Isuzu & Toyota FCEV light duty truck, Toyota Granace FCEV, Toyota LPG-HEV taxi concept, Suzuki Every small van, Daihatsu Hijet small van and Toyota e-Palette.

The correspondent was in Bangkok at the invitation of Toyota Kirloskar Motor