

THE DAILY YOMIURI

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NATIONAL

AICHI EXPO



Visitors view electric-powered vehicles displayed by a civic group at Kaicho Plaza.

Eco-friendly cars rev up awareness of clean energy

By Hiroko Ihara
Daily Yomiuri Staff Writer

SETO, Aichi—2005 World Exposition Aichi showcases a wide range of vehicular innovations over time—from human-powered tripeaks and gasolines to buses powered by fuel cells or natural gas and maglev trains.

At Kaicho Plaza, a civic group offers eco-friendly ideas by displaying electric vehicles. A total of 30 vehicles will be on display until July 10.

"Times need to make money, but we citizens are different. We can just enjoy making environmentally friendly innovations at our leisure," said Sachiko Ito, representative of the Japan Electric Vehicle Club Aichi and one of the civic group's members. "Environmental issues can't go forward without citizen involvement."

Currently, an electric car converted from an ordinary gasoline-powered car, a motorcycle built from recycled scrap metal and three commercially available electric motor cycles are on display. Also exhibited is a large battery equipped with solar generators

that generate electricity at twice the efficiency of ordinary solar panels. There also is a power station equipped with solar and wind power generators that hints at future possibilities.

"I hope visitors understand that our project aims at reducing carbon dioxide emissions and creating a real awareness of how we need energy generation that is environmentally friendly," she said.

Ito became aware of automobile pollution 20 years ago, when suffering respiratory problems during her time as an English teacher at a technical school near Tokyo. "I began using cooking materials related to electric-powered vehicles and also studied it on my own," she said.

"Aichi Prefecture has the materials and technology, but young people here are lacking interest in creating things," she said. "It's a shame because it's very rewarding."

The group will host working-class workshops on June 18, 23, 24 and 26 from 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. At a related event, about 80 eco-cars will be on show June 15-17 at the Minato Mirai 21 complex in Yokohama.

Major events for Thursday

- Saigoban national day (11 a.m. at Expo Hall)
- Prototype robot exhibition (11 a.m. at Morio G. Gicoro Messe until June 12)

All events subject to change without notice.
Tel: Genza (052) 375-2009
Official Web site: www.expo2005.jp

Yasukuni key to LDP presidency

The Yomiuri Shimbun

With Liberal Democratic Party members holding heated debates over whether Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi should stop visiting Yasukuni Shrine, the issue may become a key issue in the post-Koizumi party presidency race.

On Tuesday, House of Representatives Speaker Yohei Kono called for Koizumi to give careful consideration to his visits to the shrine, where Class-A war criminals are enshrined. But later in the day, Koizumi indicated that he would not stop visiting the shrine, saying, "I'll make an appropriate judgment."

Some LDP members consider relations with China and South Korea to be Koizumi's Achilles heel, and bring up the issue to increase pressure on the prime minister, observers said.

In the meeting at Koizumi's Diet office, Kono told Koizumi he had spoken to eight former prime ministers who were all of the view that Koizumi should be cautious about visiting the shrine.

Kono, who served as foreign minister, also told the prime minister that his predecessors had not visited the shrine since former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone stopped visiting the shrine.

But Koizumi stressed that he had repeatedly explained his position to Chinese President Hu Jintao, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun and he had obtained their understanding.

Senior LDP officials, who are critical of Koizumi, also have expressed reservations about the Yasukuni issue.

Former LDP Secretary General Makoto Koga, who chairs the Japan War-Recovered Families Association, a nationwide association of families of the war dead, said Koizumi needs to exercise consideration and sympathy toward neighboring countries. Former LDP Policy Research Council chairman Shinzuke Kazuo said that the prime minister could possibly stop visiting the shrine for the time being out of concern over worsening relations with China and South Korea.

Policy Research Council Chairman Kazuo Yamano and General Council Chairman Fumio Kyuryu also have expressed concern over Koizumi's visit to the shrine under the current circumstances.

Meanwhile, LDP Acting Secretary Gen-



Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, left, answers reporters' questions after a meeting with House of Representatives Speaker Yohei Kono, right, on Tuesday.

eral Shinzo Abe, who is seen as a prospective candidate to take over from Koizumi, has strongly supported continued visits by the prime minister to the shrine, demonstrating that support for Yasukuni visits is a precondition for the next prime minister.

Abe has repeatedly claimed that China holds a grip on Japanese diplomacy over historical issues and that Chinese pressure over Yasukuni is a loss for Japan's foreign policy. Junior LDP lawmakers are supporters of Abe's assertive foreign policy position.

New Komeito, however, has urged the prime minister to stop visiting the shrine. Party leader Takeshi Katsuki said the issue was damaging the foundation of the coalition.

An LDP member who is a former Cabinet member said it was difficult for the party to hold on to power without New Komeito's cooperation on elections and Diet affairs, and as a result Abe's position on Yasukuni may jeopardize his bid for the prime minister's post.

The LDP member went on to say that

statements made by Koga and other LDP heavyweights were intended to make Yasukuni a key issue for the party presidency.

But Abe is unlikely to budge, telling those close to him that New Komeito will draw opposition from LDP supporters if it becomes too vocal on the issue.

Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura may be running against Abe for the party presidency because he publicly denounced former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda, also seen as a candidate to replace Koizumi, according to a member of the LDP faction led by former Prime Minister Yoshimichi Mori.

In a lecture in Tokyo on Monday, Machimura referred to remarks by Fukuda that it was unusual that the leaders of Japan and China had not been paying visits to each other. "It's odd that Mr. Fukuda has made such remarks. Visits by the leaders have not been done since he served as chief cabinet secretary."

Machimura remarks cause stir

Takeshi Noda, an LDP member who heads the Japan-China Society expressed discontent Tuesday over Machimura's remarks regarding Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi's abrupt cancellation of a meeting with Koizumi.

"Foreign Minister Machimura has lost-of-me. I actually held talks with top Chinese officials, but I didn't refer to anything about the vice premier," he said.

In Monday's lecture, Machimura said: "Although an LDP lawmaker visited China and said I'd been informed of the cancellation in advance, it was not the case. Japan-China relations are heading in the wrong direction because of the presence of such a person following Chinese officials."

Koizumi, Roh to agree to joint textbook study

Kyodo News

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun are expected to agree later this month to have a bilateral history study group discuss the issue of history textbooks in both countries, government sources said Wednesday.

Responding to a request from South Korea for the textbook issue to be included in the joint study, Koizumi plans to propose the idea when he meets with Roh in Seoul on June 26, the sources said.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Ishiguro indicated at a press conference Wednesday that Koizumi and Roh would discuss the issue when they talk about scheduling the joint study group's second

round of talks.

Japan had been reluctant to have the study group discuss the textbook issue as it could be taken as political interference with the editorial rights of textbook creators, but decided to go ahead with the move as part of efforts to improve mutual ties, the sources said. Experts from both countries held the first round of discussions from 2002 aimed at promoting mutual understanding and bridging differences in perceptions of history and compiled a report in May. Japan and South Korea agreed to April to set up a second round.

Sogura, a government spokesman, said South Korea wanted the outcome of the joint history research to be reflected in the wording in future Japanese history textbooks and

that Japan would take heed of Seoul's wish when discussing details of the strengthened second round of the joint history study.

The history experts involved in the first round of the study did not take up the issue related to the wording in Japanese textbooks on history and civics studies, some of which have angered countries such as South Korea and China which say they witnessed Japan's military aggression before and during World War II.

South Korea recently expressed dissatisfaction after the Japanese government approved a civics studies textbook that says a disputed island in the Sea of Japan is "legally occupied" by South Korea. The textbook is for use in junior high schools from the 2006 academic year.

WEATHER										
Locality	TODAY'S FORECAST			Probability of Precip (%)	Temperature		Yesterday's Temperature		TOMORROW'S FORECAST	
	6 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.		low	high	low	high	low	high
Tokyo	10	10	10	10	18-26	18.0	25.7	17	25	
Osaka	10	10	0	15	23	13.0	25.4	14	23	
Sapporo	0	0	0	14	22	18.0	21.5	16	22	
Nagoya	0	0	0	18	27	19.8	26.0	18	25	
Fukuoka	0	0	0	16	26	19.5	26.5	20	26	
Choshi	0	0	0	18	26	21.0	26.0	21	26	
Hiroshima	0	0	0	18	26	20.3	26.0	20	26	
Tsukuba	0	0	0	19	26	21.7	26.7	20	26	
Fukuoka	0	0	0	20	26	22.4	26.3	21	26	
Hiroshima	0	0	0	20	26	22.8	26.5	21	26	
Naha	10	10	10	25	29	22.8	29.7	24	30	

Weather forecast for 9 a.m. today			
Locality	Temperature	low	high
Bangkok	27	24	27
Beijing	16	24	19
Hong Kong	25	26	26
Hong Kong	23	26	23
London	9	20	10
Los Angeles	14	21	15
Mumbai	25	32	25
Manila	10	19	10
New Delhi	31	39	32
New York	19	25	17
Paris	10	20	11
Rio de Janeiro	17	22	19
Rome	12	25	11
Seoul	19	29	15
Sydney	12	24	14

We Extend Our Warmest Greetings to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani the Emir of the State of Qatar on His Official Visit to Japan

and a solar panel that moves v with the sun to generate electricity at twice the efficiency of ordinary solar panels. There also is a power station equipped with solar and wind power generators that hints at future possibilities



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