



Running Free

Biodiesel ADVENTURE

Driving around the world recycling used vegetable oil



Project Release

2007.7.20

Biodiesel Adventure
Project leader

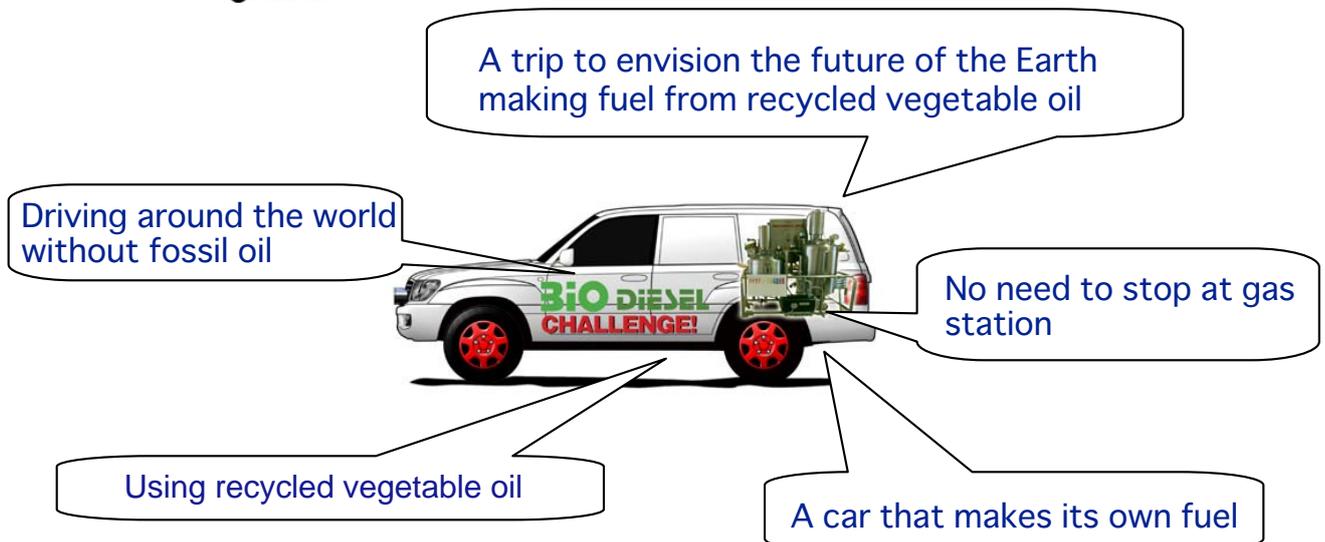
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Biodiesel Adventure Mission Statement

Biofuel is not only an energy resource to help reduce global warming but a unique source through which we learn, think and talk about the environmental issues by taking actions in grass roots activities like growing vegetables, collecting used oil, processing it into diesel etc. Biodiesel Adventure (BA) is a project in which we collect used oil from local people, making own diesel in the car and connecting people interested in global issues. BA is a form of adventure. We are building a very small oil processor in the car, asking people for help, networking with people in the world and planning the route to take. Please help us in any way you can.

Biodiesel Adventure
Project leader

Shusei Yamada



Project of Biodiesel Adventure

World tour on biodiesel of eco-fuel

Recycling used vegetable oil and processing biodiesel in our own car

Biodiesel
ADVENTURE

It was in 2005 when I first learned about biodiesel. Right away I was so curious to see how this eco-fuel does in the real world. Back then I did not know much about biodiesel fuel (BDF), but by the time I finished the trip across Japan on 100% biodiesel, I was sure that it was possible to travel on biofuel processed in my own car using used household oil wherever I want to go throughout the entire world.

Biodiesel is made from vegetable oil, which there is an infinite supply. It contains less hazardous materials, and never dries up like fossil oil. It also does not increase carbon dioxide when burned because the plants the fuel is made from convert into oxygen as they grow. Therefore it is a true eco-friendly fuel. On top of that, I thought it would be a great demonstration of recycling if we could run on the diesel made from used frying oil we collect from people's kitchen. This is how the "Biodiesel Challenge" came into the world.

The challenge so far

- 2006.7 **Tour across Japan on 100% BDF 2800 miles**
 from Kagoshima (in Kyushu island) to Hokkaido
- 2006.8 **Tour through 10 countries in Europe and Africa**
 on BDF 12500 miles
- 2006.11.1 **UAE Desert Challenge Race : Finished on BDF**
 (Finished 3rd in this FIA approved cross country world cup)
- 2007.1 **Paris-DaKar Rally : Finished on B20**
 (Finished 3rd in the class for commercial diesel unmodified,
 2nd in the armature grade)



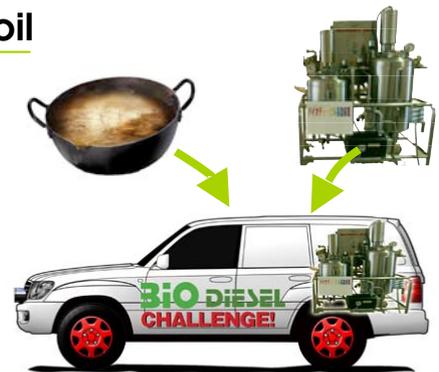
● World's first entry in Paris-DaKar on biodiesel

In summer 2006, we started testing the diesel on the tour across Japan, then to Europe. In November 2006, the fuel was proven to do well in harsh environments, finishing 3rd in its class and 17th in the whole race in cross country rally world cup held on Arabic peninsula. And in January this year, we entered as the first car to use biodiesel fuel in the history of the Paris-DaKar Rally. We not only finished the race but also came in as 3rd in the class and 40th in the total race.



● We run on fuel made from used kitchen oil

Mother Earth is out of balance. We hear bad news about climatic disasters these days. One of the main causes is global warming. We decided to try biodiesel, which produces less carbon dioxide, only to find out that only a few countries in the world that even have biodiesel stations. So we came up with this rather imaginative solution: to build a small processor in our car to make biodiesel as we travel. Our challenge is to go circle the world without depending on fossil fuel. Instead, we collect used oil locally from local kitchens.



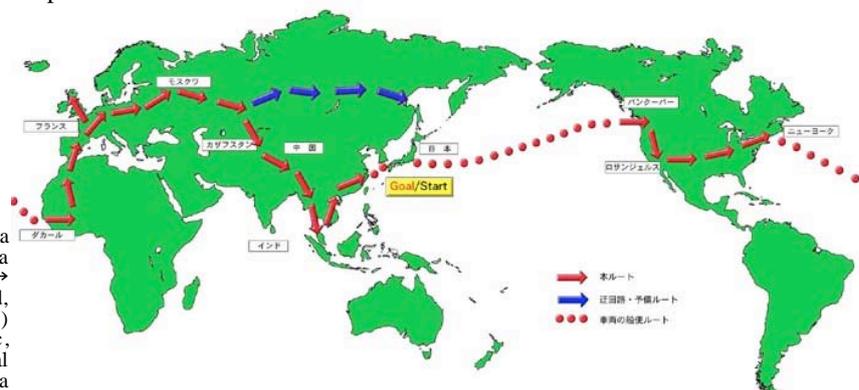
● The route

Using the new method we don't have to stop at gas stations to fill the tank. We can visit wherever people use oil. Basically we start from Japan and go east to North America, Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, Central and Southeast Asia and then back to Japan.

- Estimated period : 8 months to 1 year
- Total distance: 60,000 – 80,000km
- Time table :

Test drive in Japan Early November 2007
 Promotional tour in Japan December 2007
 Start from North America February 2008

■ Japan → (by ship) → North America (Canada to US) → (by ship) → West Africa → cross the Sahara → Strait of Gibraltar → Europe (Spain, Portugal, France, England, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany etc.) → East Europe (The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine) → Russia → Central Asia → China → India → Nepal → China → Thailand → Laos → Vietnam → Southeast Asia → Hong Kong → Shanghai → (by ship) → Japan → cross Japan



1 liter per person, 6000 people !



The oil we are using to make biodiesel comes from local kitchens. As we know, oil is a necessity for life. But after use, it is discarded as household or industrial waste. In Japan, they say we throw away 30,000 tons of oil from our household. Combined with the used oil from restaurants and factories, we discard a few million tons. Just imagine how much used oil we get all over the world. The truth is that 90% of this oil could be recycled as fuel for generators; 10% is glycerin, which could be used to make soaps, skincare products, fertilizers and other kinds of fuel. So if we collect used kitchen oil and process it correctly, it is practically 100% recyclable. For our challenge, we need only 6000 liters or so to go across the whole world. If there are 6000 people in the whole world who are willing to save one liter of used oil, we can make this happen.

1. Messages

To everyone who brings used oil to us, we will ask questions like, “What kind of future do you imagine for yourself?” “How do you want your life to be?” We will also take pictures of people and if they want, put them up along with their comments on our website, blog, book and so forth.

2. Used oil for concert ticket

We intend to meet people and communicate with them in different ways. For example, we may hold a music concert or art show with the help of musicians and artists who are interested in supporting the eco-movement. Or we throw a Tempura party or slide shows. Instead of paying for the tickets, people will bring oil. How would you collect oil? We welcome your ideas. Join us and come up with some unique events. One kindergarten teacher wants to come with us during her vacation and visit day care center in different countries. When she plays with children in these centers, she will ask parents to bring oil. She as well as you are welcome to join us on the road. We want to meet as many people as possible and to exchange ideas and messages on this tour. Why don't you come with us, too?

3. Smallest biodiesel processor in the world

There are several ways to process oil into biodiesel. The one many favor is to clean debris and unnecessary materials with water. Using this method, we have to have a huge plant and it is impossible to make one that fits in the car. So we use primarily filters to get rid of the unnecessary materials. This way we can make the processor very small. Our challenge is to build the first processor of biodiesel in a car and drive that car around the world.



4. Education

We can show how the processor works, give a small lecture on our mission or give slide shows of photos taken on this tour to promote biodiesel and an ecological way of life. We will ask people to bring used oil and they can try making biodiesel on the site.

6. Bio-network

There are numerous communities all over the world that practice a sustainable way of life, eco-village so to speak. We will visit those communities and exchange information and ideas on ecological issues. The news will be updated on our web and blog etc. as well as through other media.



5. Sponsors

We will visit companies, organizations and schools and report on their support and sponsorship through TV programs, magazines and other media.

7. Help for the people in need

We are hoping to help people through such services as finding support in medical care, in education, digging wells, and protecting rain forest.



8. Situation notice reporting on BDF in the world

The technology to process BDF has been making progress every day. The most remarkable countries to watch are China, and India, as well as Germany and countries in Africa. (Germany, especially, makes its own BDF.) We will have all the updates on news on BDF.

9. Photo exhibition

There are still amazingly beautiful places on the Earth, Mother Earth. We intend to photograph these places focusing on the Earth both as Paradise and the planet that is hurting. There will be a show and a volume of photographs to share with people interested in our project.



※この催しのための開場をさがしています。
顔写真やメッセージを展示する場所と旅の様子を紹介する写真展開催にご協力お願いします。

● Articles published previously in and outside Japan

In the past year and a half, we have been interviewed by numerous media. Once we initiate BC, we expect to get even more media attention.

Past publications:

(News Paper) Asahi, Yomiuri, Mainichi, Nikkei, Fujisan, Chunichi etc.

(Magazine) Tarzan, iBE-P@L, Sotokoto, Weekly Playboy, Switch, Aera, Best Gear etc.



● Report through Internet and Satellite

We send photos and daily reports on our blog and official home page of BC both in Japanese and English.

Official Web : <http://biochallenge.com/>



● Sponsorship

We are accepting any help we can get; used vegetable oil, donations for the cost (building the diesel processor, travel expenses, chipping cost etc.), places for the crew to stay and so forth. Please support us!!

● Local Volunteers !

To collect used oil, we plan to have events; music concerts, parties, slide shows, eco-markets, tree plantings, medication giveaways etc. We hope to meet people in the world to exchange opinions, information and to share different life styles and local wisdom. Please join us.

Contact:



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● Project Crew

It will be a long journey to go all the way around the world. Several staffs will take turns (3 people in the challenge car at a time.) There is a possibility for a support car with communication crew to follow the challenge car. We also need staffs to stay in headquarter back in Japan, web site operators, PR managers. Contact the project leader listed above.

About Project leader

Shusei Yamada (Photo journalist/ Rally driver)

After driving through the Sahara at the age of 25, he continued the journey around the world by motorcycle for two years and has been traveling a distance equal to approximately 40 times around the world since then. In 1983 he started following Paris-DaKar, many Cross Country races, Camel Trophy, America's Cup and Dog sledge race as a journalist. His personal interests tend to world Nature and environmental issues as well as Native American way of life. His research methods are unique: going into the remote areas in Nature by four wheel drive car, motorcycle, kayak, rope climbing and MTB. Recently he started driving a motorcycle and a four wheel drive automobile in Paris-DaKar. He loves traveling through the Sahara at his own leisure as well. He has visited more than 100 countries. He has driven a total distance of 2 million km (1.25 million miles).



Glossary

● Biodiesel

Biodiesel fuel (BDF) is a fuel made with vegetable base oil and is getting attention as a new energy resource to replace fossil base resources. We will run out of fossil base oil eventually. But we can keep growing vegetables to make oil and recycle used oil to make biodiesel. Also it is fuel carbon neutral.

● Carbon Neutral in BDF

Of course, BDF produces carbon dioxide when burned. But the vegetables BDF is made of reduce carbon dioxide when they grow. So it is considered that BDF does not increase carbon dioxide in theory.