



## Philippines

### Automobiles

The Board of Investments (BoI) of the Philippines is reportedly drafting a framework for the development of a viable motor vehicle industry that would pave the way for the manufacture of an affordable but quality Philippine motor vehicle for the needs of the lower end market.

### Biofuels

The Philippines Government signed into law the Biofuels Act which aims to reduce the country's dependence on petroleum products. The Act mandates blending of 1 per

cent bio-diesel for diesel run vehicles by April 2007 and 5 per cent ethanol blending for petrol run vehicles by January 2009. A number of local and foreign companies are planning ethanol and bio-diesel production plants in the Philippines. A few Indian companies are also looking at setting up ethanol plants in the Philippines. The country has the land, resources and manpower to produce enough biofuel to supply its needs and even export. It has 2.4 million hectares of land planted to corn, 3.2 million hectares to coconut, 390,000 hectares to sugarcane, 330,000 hectares to cassava and camote. Other plants being considered are sweet sorghum, jatropha and pongamia.

*(Source : EEPC Singapore Office)*