Alternative Energy

Edited by

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Chapter 21

Analysis of Engine Performance with Enhanced Fuel

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ABSTRACT

The performance of an ordinary automobile engine was tested with several percentage of industrially made ethanol (99.8%) mixed with gasoline in IIUM Engine Test Bed. Without having any modification to the engine, a 1500 cc. Mitsubishi 4G15 internal combustion four engine was tested with various percentages of ethanol mixed with gasoline starting from 5%, 15%, 25% and 35%. The results show that by increasing the percentage of ethanol in the fuel, the engine can have more power as well as higher efficiency with low specific fuel consumption (SFC). The gas emission analysis also recorded that having more ethanol in gasoline will reduce the emission of some hazardous gases from the engine combustion compared to gasoline only fuel.

Keywords: Bio-ethanol, renewable energy, alternative fuel

INTRODUCTION

In 1970s, the renewable energy has started to be one of the famous topics to be discussed in energy science after the West starts to initiate the renewable energy programs such as National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to find the replacement for fossil-oil [1]. The idea of replacing fossil product to the other sources came after the OPEC nations cut down their oil export to the West that result in the oil crisis of the 1970s.

The Western country realize that since they are having a limited source of oil, something need to be done to make sure that their step to develop will not stop because oil for a country is just like water which is needed to give a life for a human being. But nowadays the whole world, especially the industrial and development based country such as United States, Brazil and United Kingdom [2] start to initiate the renewable energy program or research to find alternative sources to replace the fossilfuel which is running out day by day [3].

Bio-ethanol is found to be one of the most suitable resources to replace the fossil-fuel used widely in vehicle's engine today. But since it is still a new finding, a lot of research and improvement need to be done to the bio-ethanol composition and also to the machine itself to make sure that both can work perfectly or even better than the old fossil-fuel in engine.

This work intended to look at the performance of an ordinary automobile engine running with various percentage of ethanol mixed in the fuel. It is believed that having more ethanol in the engine will