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# **Concept Cars**

SPOTLIGHT

Sales of clean-energy vehicles that are run on alternative fuels has been increasing, and the number of these vehicles in Japan reached 180,000 in FY 2003. Low-Emission Vehicles and Vehicles with Improved Fuel Economy are eligible for special tax incentives under Japan's Green Tax scheme: they are treated favorably under the country's automobile and acquisition taxes. Another reason for their increased popularity is the growing number of people who are concerned about the global environment.

Automakers unveiled various concept cars at the 39<sup>th</sup> Tokyo Motor Show held in October 2005. Almost all of these cars were clean energy vehicles.

Each manufacturer produced a dream vehicle based on a new concept by combining environmental considerations and innovative technology. These concept cars included the Toyota Fine-X with four-wheel independent drive control that allows it to move freely, the Nissan PIVO with a cabin that revolves 360 degrees, eliminating the need to reverse, and the Honda FCX CONCEPT powered by an advanced fuel cell system.

The Honda W.O.W CONCEPT is especially appropriate for this year, the Year of the Dog in the traditional Chinese Zodiac. Thanks to low floor technology, even small dogs can easily get in and out of the vehicle. With a cabin designed as much for people as for their four-legged friends, this is a concept car that pet owners will love.

