Give priority to first-timers/families

Associate Professor Lee Der Horng suggests a two-tier system where an equal number of COEs are given to bidding and balloting. He said: “For the bidding priority, priority should be given to those who really need the car, such as those who have young children or elderly parents.”

But Dr Park Byung Joon, head of programme for Urban Transport Management at SIM University, said: “Unless the supply of COE increases, none of these tweaking measures will have significant impact on the price of COE.”

Restrict car loans

The experts agreed unanimously that the open system should remain as is to prevent the current trend – where the bulk of COEs are going to those who can afford the higher prices – from continuing.

Prof Lee, who thinks that categorising cars and COEs according to power output instead of engines size would be fairer, said: “The general opinion is that COE is good for controlling the population of vehicles, but the increase in COE prices has reached a certain stage where people are calling for a change.”

Professor Lee Der Horng knows that affordability is the centre of the discussion these days. He said: “The general opinion is that COE is good for controlling the population of vehicles, but the increase in COE prices has reached a certain stage where people are calling for a change.”

Keep motor companies out

More companies may sometimes hint aggressively in an attempt to motivate buyers.

“It should be noted that the same situation will arise if COE prices are allowed to rise too high,” Mr Ting said. “Motor companies may sometimes bid aggressively in an attempt to motivate buyers.”

Background

Dr Park Byung Joon, head of programme for Urban Transport Management at SIM University, said: “Unless the supply of COE increases, none of these tweaking measures will have significant impact on the price of COE.”

Referring to the changes next month, he said: “It doesn’t help the situation.”

THE EXPERTS:

Prof Lee Der Horng, a civil engineering associate professor and transport systems specialist from the National University of Singapore.

Dr Park Byung Joon, head of programme for Urban Transport Management at SIM University.

Mr David Ting, editor of motoring magazine Torque