

# 37th Tokyo Motor Show closes after successful13-day run

# Total Attendance Tops 1.4 Million New style reverses 12-year downtrend

The 37th Tokyo Motor Show-Passenger Cars and Motorcycles-closed its doors on November 5 after a successful run that demonstrated the appeal of the new audience-participation format. During its 13-day viewing the show recorded 1.42 million visitors, significantly higher than the previous show (1.27 million). Not only did this mark an end to the prolonged decline in attendance brought on by Japan's economic slump, it also provided impetus for stronger sales in the automotive industry. The show's success is attributed to better vehicle exhibits and to a change in format from a "display-oriented show" to an "audienceparticipation show."

Looking back over the show, one of the trends that stands out is the number and breadth of non-Japanese visitors. During the two Press Days, the show was viewed by 12,300 members of the press, of which 4,700 were from overseas. Part of this is attributable to the globalization of the au-

tomotive industry, but it is also significant that the rapid growth of the Chinese automotive industry is bringing more Asian reporters to the show.

Visitors had generally good things to say about the exhibitions. Passenger cars and motorcycles had a combined 192 world and Japan premieres, world-class levels that increased visitor excitement. Exhibition content tended to focus on "environment - friendly advanced technologies," and exhibitors tried to communicate their own distinctive insights on the basic joy and fun of driving. These efforts apparently resonated with visitors. Many responded favorably that the show was "worth seeing" and "felt fresh."

Efforts like these on the part of exhibitors helped more people to understand the intentions behind the new-style



Tokyo Motor Show. The fact that attendance continued to increase throughout the show period indicates that this year's experiment was indeed successful. Also helpful were the show's attempts to cater towards the next generation of drivers, offering free admission for elementary school students and younger, and half-price admission for high school students, which resulted in large numbers of young people and families throughout the show period.

Special events made use of all of the venue's facilities, and they too were given high marks. Clean Energy Vehicle Test Rides, the "Traffic Moral Saver Anzenger" show and the "Fiesta Mariscos" live cooking show were packed every single day. The Carrozzeria Exhibit and the symposiums recorded large numbers of visitors as well.

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On the evening of November 5, Chairman Yoshihide Munekuni of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) gave a press conference in the International Conference Hall at Makuhari Messe to mark the close of the 37th Tokyo Motor Show. During the press conference he announced that attendance had exceeded the target of 1.4 million visitors and that special events had been extremely popular. "This year's Tokyo Motor Show had a great impact," Chairman Munekuni declared.

Discussing the attendance figures, the Chairman noted, "We recorded an increase in first-time visitors that helped to reverse the declining attendance trends we have seen for the past 12 years." The content of exhibits, he said, was well balanced and touched on themes such as environment, safety and IT. Special events were designed to create more "audience participation" and "interactive communication," and they were well received. "I think people could sense the changes that have taken place in the Tokyo Motor Show," he said.

This was the first passenger cars and motorcycles show that JA-MA has been involved in from the in-



At the press conference, Chairman Munekuni (center) flanked by Vice Chairman Suzuki (right) and Executive Director Kato (left).

itial planning stages, and Chairman Munekuni said that it was able to exceed its visitor target, combined with the high praise accorded to the show itself, has convinced JAMA to "retain the new audience-participation style concept and create a more exciting and enjoyable Tokyo Motor Show in the future."

## **The Motor Sports Lifestyle**

Speakers Hiromi (TV personality) Rie Takagi (DJ) Jun Imamiya (Motor Sports Journalist) Keiichi Tsuchiya (Racing Driver) Juichi Wakisaka (Racing Driver)

The symposiums were one of the special features of the 37th Tokyo Motor Show and were held virtually every day (except Sundays and holidays). They covered 18 themes, examining the future of the automotive industry from all angles. This symposium served as the finale.

The setting moved from the International Conference Hall, where the other symposiums took place, to the Special Stage outside in Festival Park. Tsuchiya and Wakisaka, both racing drivers, were joined by Imamiya, an F-1 racing commentator, for an exciting and entertaining talk show.

Popular TV personality Hiromi served as the MC, assisted by Takagi, who is well known to radio listeners for her amusing, fast-paced patter. No sooner had the two appeared on stage than Hiromi turned to his assistant and said, "Hey, Rie, do you remember what today's event is about anyway?" This apparent "flub" had the audience of more than 1,000 rolling in the aisles. A large screen on the center stage showed highlights of Tsuchiya's and Wakisaka's racing careers as the drivers related vivid anecdotes about the events that make motor sports so thrilling. Meanwhile, Imamiya and Hiromi, who is known for his love of motor sports, discussed race viewing as a "new lifestyle."



(November 5)

Symposiums

Hiromi (right) with Rie Takagi (left).



From left to right: Jun Imamiya, Keiichi Tsuchiya, and Juichi Wakisaka.

# Motor Sports Grand Prize" Awarded To Mitsuru Sugaya, "Special Prize" to Kamitsue Village

It was just after 6:00 on the evening of November 5 and the 37th Tokyo Motor Show was in its final hour as the symposium concluded and the awards ceremony for the "Motor Sports Grand Prize" began on the Special Stage.

The "Tokyo Motor Show 2003 Motor Sports Grand Prize" was awarded by JAMA for the first time this year. The prize was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Tokyo Motor Show slated for 2004, and recipients are "people and organizations who have contributed to the popularization of motor sports among the general population."

Winning the "Grand Prize" was Mitsuru Sugaya, an author and manga artist who is well known in books, magazines and network media, and who recently published the novel *Kyokujitsu no Grand Prix*, a historical fiction that deals with motor sports. The Special Prize went to the village of Kamitsue in Hita-gun, Oita Prefecture for its work in restoring "Autopolis," a racing circuit in Kyushu. JAMA Chairman Yoshihide Munekuni presented the prizes to Sugaya and to Village Head Ryunosuke Takahata on behalf of





Chairman Munekuni (left) presents the Grand Prize to Mitsuru Sugaya (right)





# 37th Tokyo Motor Show Visitor Totals

| Date  | Weather      | Attendance | Cumulative total |  |
|---|--------------|------------|------------------|--|
| Oct. 22 (Wed.) <press day=""></press>               | Rainy        | 8,000      | 8,000            |  |
| Oct. 23 (Thu.) <press day=""></press>               | Fine/Rainy   | 4,300      | 12,300           |  |
| Total press attendance 12,300                       |              |            |                  |  |
| Oct. 24 (Fri.) <special day="" guest=""></special>  | Fine         | 47,000     | 47,000           |  |
| Oct. 25 (Sat.) <general day="" public=""></general> | Cloudy       | 122,500    | 169,500          |  |
| Oct. 26 (Sun.) <general day="" public=""></general> | Fine         | 145,000    | 314,500          |  |
| Oct. 27 (Mon.) <general day="" public=""></general> | Cloudy       | 84,600     | 399,100          |  |
| Oct. 28 (Tue.) <general day="" public=""></general> | Rainy        | 75,500     | 474,600          |  |
| Oct. 29 (Wed.) <general day="" public=""></general> | Fine         | 87,100     | 561,700          |  |
| Oct. 30 (Thu.) <general day="" public=""></general> | Fine         | 85,300     | 647,000          |  |
| Oct. 31 (Fri.) <general day="" public=""></general> | Fine         | 92,500     | 739,500          |  |
| Nov. 1 (Sat.) <general day="" public=""></general>  | Rainy/Cloudy | 147,600    | 887,100          |  |
| Nov. 2 (Sun.) <general day="" public=""></general>  | Fine         | 206,800    | 1,093,900        |  |
| Nov. 3 (Mon.) <general day="" public=""></general>  | Cloudy/Rainy | 149,500    | 1,243,400        |  |
| Nov. 4 (Tue.) <general day="" public=""></general>  | Cloudy       | 95,900     | 1,339,300        |  |
| Nov. 5 (Wed.) <general day="" public=""></general>  | Cloudy       | 81,100     | 1,420,400        |  |
| Total general public attendance 1,420,400           |              |            |                  |  |
|   |              |            |                  |  |

Clean Energy Vehicle<br/>Test-rides attendees16,965Symposium attendees5,446

**Blood donors** 

Bone marrow registrations 239



#### Kazuhiko Kato Executive Director, Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. (JAMA)

Throughout its 50-year history, the Tokyo Motor Show has always evolved to keep pace with the times, and this year marked a new step in that evolution as the show transformed itself from an exhibit of new vehicles and technologies to a place to "come," "see" and "experience." This was the first show in which JAMA was involved from the initial planning stages, and we decided to take a step back, look at the show from the visitor's perspective and overhaul what we were doing. The result was a "full model change" for the Tokyo Motor Show.

Ambitious exhibitions, audience-participation events, and symposiums on 18 themes did more than just communicate the industry's messages. They also provided us with feedback from large numbers of customers, creating a show that was truly "interactive." In the future, we look forward to even greater improvements in visitor hospitality and a Tokyo Motor Show that is even more exciting and entertaining.

# Visitors for November 5 81,100

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1,420,400

Attendance to date



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