

Greeting/Acknowledgement

Forewords

I would like to thank you all for coming in to our press conference of Japanese Championship Formula NIPPON 2012.

And I also like to express my heartfelt sympathy to sufferers of the Great East Japan Earthquake. I am hoping that earliest re-establishment and reconstruction of this beautiful country and disaster areas will be realized.

For Season Opening

The 7 events of Japanese Championship Formula NIPPON 2012 will start off by Suzuka 2&4 in the coming month.

We have 12 entrants with 17 drivers to compete for the title of “The fastest driver in Japan.” Especially we welcome 4 former Series Champions for this season: Tugio Matsuda, the champion of 2 consecutive years of 2007-2008. 2009 champion, Loic Duval. 2010 champion, Joao Paulo de Oliveira. And champion of the last year (2011), Andre Lotterer. This is first-ever that 4 champions compete in Formula NIPPON. It's easy to expect to see high level and exciting races suitable to Japanese Championship.

In addition, full-time IndyCar Series driver, Takuma Sato will join into the final event. Thus motor sport fans will enjoy high quality entertainment, deserving to the top category of formula car race in Japan.

Feature of 2012 season

We will abolish tire change obligation. Instead, the race distance will be unified at 250km, and we limit maximum capacity of fuel. Therefore pit in is necessary, and team strategy of pit in will be more flexible. That will be a key factor of much more exciting race.

*Rd.7 Suzuka event is set of 2 heats, thus the race distance will differ.

Changing the Series Title

Formula NIPPON started to aim the top race of Japan in 1996. We have been operating for those 16 years with the series title of “Formula NIPPON”. We have held event in Sepang, Malaysia in the past, and we have discussed and negotiated over opportunities to hold more events in Asia: Our vision expands to the global market moreover; therefore we are planning to change the series title constructively.

We will call for entries publicly from April 14 (SAT) for a new title, which is suitable for the coming era.

[Example/Application Guide]

- Title: Wanted New Title of Formula NIPPON!
<Looking for a new title suitable for the globalization of the top race series of formula car in Japan>
- Promoter: Japan Race Promotion Inc.
- How to apply: Write down a new title and its reason, your address, name, age, phone number, and choice of prize on a post card. Send to:
Formula NIPPON New Title Entry
Japan Race Promotion Inc.
2-3-25 Kundan-Minami, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0074
- Period: April 15-May 13, 2012 (The post card must be postmarked by the deadline.)
- Application requirements: Living in Japan and holding driver's license
- Prize: A pair of Series Paddock Pass 2013
(Extra prize) Honda CR-Z type α or TOYOTA 86 grade G
*If we have several title winners, we will choose one prizewinner by lot.
- Schedule:
Press release: March 26 (Mon) in the media conference
Open of application: April 14 (Sat) in Rd.1 of Formula NIPPON at Suzuka Circuit
Close of application: May 13 (Sun) in Rd.2 of Formula NIPPON at Twin Ring Motegi
Announcement of winner: May 27 (Sun) in Rd.3 of Formula NIPPON at Autopolis
Prize ceremony: November 18 (Sun) in Fuji Sprint Cup
Operation of the new title: January 1, 2013

Introducing New Chassis

The series continues to use chassis FN09 by Swift Engineering Inc. for this season. We are considering introducing a new chassis around 2014 that meets current circumstances. We already have approaches from domestic and foreign constructors. We will decide until the summer and hopefully have actually running test from the middle of the next season.

System-E

We have developed System-E, which will bring more exciting and attractive races with

more opportunities of overtaking. The system is battery-powered equipment attached to the gearbox and increases machine's performances without consuming fuel. We've intended to introduce in this 2012 season.

We had practical development test in circuit with cooperation of Honda Motor Company Ltd. and Toyota Motor Corporation last year. Responding to environmental issues, we have evolved the system focusing on energy regeneration.

However, test program in last May was prolonged to September under the influence of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and then our develop schedule was delayed. Thus we have shelved introduction in this season. Now we aim for realization in 2014 and keep on development and testing.

Other Plans

We are planning also:

TV broadcasting contains rich and full views such as in-car camera and reports aggressive and powerful races on BS FUJI and J SPORTS. We do video delivery on internet site YAHOO! Gyaoo!

In addition, we work together with "Enjoy Honda" hosted by Honda and emphasis more with motorcycle races for 2&4 events. Those attempts are aiming synergetic phenomena for more cognition and penetration of Formula NIPPON.

For Closing

That's our vision and plan for 2012 and after.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

March 26, 2012

Japan Race Promotion Inc.

President Hiroshi SHIRAI