

May 23, 2010

## Final Media Conference

**PRESENT:**

Katsu TAGUCHI (TEAM MRF)  
Hiroshi YANAGISAWA (MRF TYRES)  
Gaurav GILL (CUSCO RACING)

Toshihiro ARAI (SUBARU TEAM ARAI)

**Question: Congratulations. A question to Taguchi. This is your second win, did you have any worries?**

TAGUCHI: No problems, it's been only 2 rallies to drive the EvoX. Compared to the Evo9 it's not like it's easy to control. I'm used to driving in Japan and the only worry was the control.

**Question: There is 8 second difference between Taguchi, did you think you could win?**

YANGISAWA: I drove to my limit, without checking the results. I did my best.

**Question: You were leading at some point, what happened. Are you disappointed?**

GILL: I could have been more disappointed. It's great to be here. I finished third, it is a podium place. Winning is better, but I'm happy to finish on the podium. We had a good rally and good competition, but I made a mistake. I'll learn from my mistakes and do better next time. Taguchi and Yanagisawa are fast, but I'll try again next year. It's all been a good weekend.

**Question: Your times were top times from the very beginning, where did it come from? Is it that the Pirelli tires are better than the MRF tires or is it that Subaru is good? Or was it you?**

ARAI: Subaru is good. Subaru was good, Pirelli was good. I raced in Japan for a long time. I race in the production car championship by GRB and I'm used to it. We found a good suspension setting and used it in the rally and it worked good. When you combine all these it worked good.

**Question: About the speed, is it that you are experienced? What about the changes this year?**

ARAI: We used the same stages 3 times and it's a first for me in Japan. This time the roads were bad, compared to previous Rally Hokkaido and Rally Japan. The roads were bad and it was hard. I couldn't retire. I had to drive.

**Question: Are you going to participate in the next APRC round in New Zealand?**

YANGISAWA: No, I'm not going to New Zealand.

**Question: You haven't won in New Zealand. What do you think will happen in New Zealand? Is Proton your biggest rival?**

TAGUCHI: Proton cars times were consistent in this rally. We saw what happened in Malaysia and here. It will be the same in New Zealand if they keep it like that. In New Zealand it's hard to break down, so the times will be similar. In this rally S2000 cars having problems and retiring.

**Question: How many podiums are you going to get?**

GILL: As many as I can. Winning is more important than podiums. We did good. The team is good, not perfect, but almost perfect. MRF are constantly being developed. It's all looking smooth and we have a big lead against Proton. The Proton team is good, but they are not finishing, so it's good for us. We are doing our best.

**Question: What about the speed and consistency?**

GILL: The consistency is up, but not 100%. Last year was my first full season with the new EvoX, and it was still being developed, so it was a very difficult year for me. This year is very good so far. The co-driver helps me a lot. He has the experience and helps me with the technical aspects. It's been good so far.

**Question: What is the difference between the new and the old co-driver?**

TAGUCHI: In the stage and with the pace notes they are quite similar, so it's not a problem. Last year when I finish a stage, going to the time control he was always talking to the girls and trying to get her number. This year he is checking the times and being serious overall, so I trust him.