

July 13, 2008

Final Media Conference

PRESENT:

Toshihiro ARAI and Glenn MACNALL (SUBARU TEAM ARAI)
Katsuhiko TAGUCHI and Mark STACEY (MRF TYRES)
HIROSHI YANAGISAWA and Yoshimasa NAKAHRA (CUSCO RACING)
Dean HERRIDGE and Chris MURPHY (CUSCO RACING)

Question: Katsu, congratulations on winning APRC Rally Hokkaido. This is the second win following the first round in New Caledonia, and this country is your home. How do you feel about it?

TAGUCHI : Of course I feel excellent!!

Question: Katsu, you are the leader of the championship as you passed Crocker this time. Did you get confidence to be the Grand Champion?

TAGUCHI : This event was the must-win... And luckily, Cody is not in the second and even in the third, so I believe we have an advantage.

Question: Stacey, when did you feel sure that you guys will win?

STACEY : Marc We always had good feeling coming to this event. But until you get in the competition you are never sure just how it'll go. know how it'll go. During yesterday's leg1 we felt comfortable at our state against our main competitor Crocker and Yonezawa. But there were many difficult issues to deal with the event itself. But today we started behind Gill and Yanegazawa felt confident, good clean run with no problems, then we could possibly hunt it down we didn't expect it to be so close to the finish. Very good event, very enjoyable, enjoyed probably more than Mr. Yonezawa. But a very pleasing day. That's rallying it's competitive, big professional sport. That's what we compete for, to have a good competition like this. So I like to thank the event for providing the opportunity.

Question: You could reach the first APRC win in just little bit more, Hiroshi (YANAGISAWA). Did you have any trouble while Day 2?

YANAGISAWA: Today's second stage was little better, but Katsu was a lot faster, and although I pushed myself to reach his speed, he passed me and as the result, he won the event. Well, we had good fight and I enjoyed.

Question: NAKAHARA, the weather was bad this weekend and it made the rally difficult.

What do you think about it?

NAKAHARA: This kind of bad weather was not the first time for me, but it's been a while.

Question: Dean (HERRIDGE), at the pre-event conference you said you have no pressure at all. Do you really felt that way during the rally?

HERRIDGE : Of course the conditions on leg 1 made it extremely difficult for everybody. Being in good position for second leg, ably in a lucky position in some ways to match the guys fighting at the front, so we just made sure we got in front of Cody and we made sure we had the 2 Cusco cars at the podium.

Question: Chris (MURPHY), this is the first time for you working with CUSCO RACING, what mood the team had?

MURPHY : We had fantastic year so far with Cusco. I got some experience at competing against Cusco team at 2006 APRC, I believe at the time they were one of the top teams at APRC. This season confirmed it. It's been a challenge for both Dean and myself to work with a team mainly staffed with Japanese nationals and also they went to some great lengths to incorporate us in the team. Rewarding exercise. In 4 rallies we got 3 podiums. Think it's been a success and look forward to continuing it.

Question: Toshi, was it easy to win?

ARAI : Not easy win but I had little bit experience than other drivers. Yesterday the weather was very bad, my experience and that did it I think.

Question: Toshi, it seems that you are struggling with your new Impreza for PWRC, Do you think this triumph gives you confidence?

ARAI : I hope so, because next PWRC in New Zealand road is not that rough, similar condition as Hokkaido. Also we had some problem today, so I had to do development of the car. Very good situation for the next event.

Question: The weather was so bad yesterday, have you experienced such hard rally before?

ARAI : Realistically the weather. It was different this event, it was similar to last year Rally Japan. Like Toshi said its very bad for the inexperienced here.

Question: Katsu, How do you see the competition at 2008?

TAGUCHI : Next rally is going good. We have done for the pacific round. We next round we did very well stage time before Malaysia and Indonesia, so we have confidence to catch with Cody for next event.