



Race Report



GT Asia SUZUKA Round-7&8

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Audi R8 LMS accomplishes the commemorative 100th win at GT Asia SUZUKA

Hitotsuyama Racing accomplished the two consecutive wins for the Round 7 and 8 of GT Asia series held at Suzuka Circuit on August 20th – 21st.

Hiroshi Hamaguchi, who took the steering of Audi R8 LMS this time, is the driver with the extraordinary ability unlike a “gentleman driver”, who participated in Porsche Carrera Cup Japan in 2008, won the championship in his debut year and won the race in Super GT 300 class in his debut year in 2010.

In the morning of August 20th, the qualifying sessions for GT Asia series were conducted with 2 sessions of 15 minutes with the 10-minute interval in between. For the first qualifying, Hamaguchi entered the track, warmed the tires carefully for two laps, and attempted for the time on the third and fourth laps in succession. He marked the time 2' 05" 929 on fourth lap, which is better than GT 300, and came back to the pit. At this point, there was a big 1.5-second gap between us and the second-positioned Ferrari 458, and this gave Hamaguchi of Audi R8 LMS the steady pole position. However, Hamaguchi did not seem satisfied with this time. He declared that he would mark the time of 2' 04" in the second qualifying and got on the machine again.

Hamaguchi took the same maneuver as the first qualifying and targeted for the third and fourth laps for the time trial. He marked the time 2' 05" 2 on the third lap and kept recording the sector best on the fourth lap. The time he recorded was 2' 04" 748. This amazing time was way better than expected and startled not only the rivals of GT Asia series but also the Super GT personnel, which was held at the same time.

Audi R8 LMS and Hamaguchi, being the subject of attention for his overwhelming speed, were to challenge for the Round 7 to be held in the afternoon.

At 14:20 in the afternoon, the circuit being covered with thick clouds, the 40-minute race started. Starting from the pole position, Hamaguchi managed to escape from the snarling Ferrari 458, Porsche 997 GT3R and Ford GT, defended the position and went through the first corner as a leader. At the end of lap 1, Hamaguchi made the 3-second gap to the second-positioned car and started leaving all the other cars behind. He did the 85-second compulsory pit stop which is imposed between 15 minutes and 25 minutes after the start

of the race without any problem, and won the race with a great difference of 54 seconds 803 to the second-position in the end.

Round 8 to follow was started with one rolling lap in the light rain at 11:40 in the morning on August 21st. As in the Round 7 held the day before, Hamaguchi was leaving all the following cars behind from the first lap. Hamaguchi of Audi R8 LMS did not have any rivals who could follow his pace in the wet condition and just went on and on to make more laps. He still kept his pace till the final lap and achieved the two consecutive wins from the Round 7 with the 55-second-891 gap to the second-positioned car in the 40-minute race.

These two wins that Hitotsuyama Racing recorded at this event are actually the 99th and the milestone 100th wins by Audi R8 LMS since the Audi R8 LMS Customer Racing Project started in 2008.

We Hitotsuyama Racing will surely continue making our effort for more wins with R8 LMS without being satisfied with this commemorative victory.

At this GT Asia SUZUKA event, Kenji Kobayashi, who took the steering of Audi R8 LMS at Fuji Rounds, was attracted by GT Asia series and participated in the series again from Hitotsuyama Racing. His machine was his own Porsche 997 CUP which he fought the Porsche Carrera Cup Japan in 2010. He finished second in Round 7 and third in Round 8 in the GTM class and brought more podium finishes of GTM class to Hitotsuyama Racing.

A lot of guests and fans came to see us at the event.

We would like to thank all the persons who cheered us from the depth of our hearts.

We as a team aim for the overall victory again at the next round of Super Taikyu series in Okayama. Your continued support would be always appreciated.