

“Working Motorcycle Zone” Scores Big Hit at 38th Tokyo Motor Show

The 38th Tokyo Motor Show – Commercial and Barrier-Free Vehicles – (2004), an event sponsored by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, was held for a six-day run from November 2 to 7 in the Makuhari Messe Nippon Convention Center just outside of Tokyo. The theme of the event was “Vehicles for People, Vehicles as Partners.”

With the focus of this year’s show placed on commercial vehicles, the motorcycle display space (developed under the theme of the “Working Motorcycle Zone”) was mobilized to showcase practical models that play key roles in everyday life. The major motorcycle products on display were as described below.



Newspaper delivery motorcycle

Mail and Newspaper Delivery Motorcycles

On display in this corner was a selection of small-size models (50-90cc) developed with carrying capacities matched to specific delivery loads. To empower these motorcycles to function with maximum effective in delivering mail, newspapers or other cargo in residential areas, extensive engineering efforts have been made to minimize noise and exhaust emissions.

Transport Motorcycles Used in Daily Life

Motorcycle models perfected to play key roles in our everyday lives. With the goal of bringing greater convenience to shopping, cargo carrying and other common situations, these units are equipped with front baskets, large carrier decks, rainy weather roofs other specialized hardware.



From the left, models equipped with a front basket, large carrier deck and rainy weather roof.



Pizza delivery motorcycles

Food Delivery Motorcycles

To support the safe and speedy arrival of pizzas and other catered foods, these models are given the capabilities to maintain food temperature, freshness and respond on other fronts. These 50cc models were developed to ensure even tastier food deliveries.

Automobile Repair Motorcycle

This 50cc model, specially designed for the Japan Automobile Federation, is built to handle repairs of vehicles disabled or experiencing other troubles. The vehicle provides excellent mobility in congested traffic conditions for speeding to the scene of accidents or breakdowns, and can also maneuver down narrow alleyways. It can handle cases of keys being closed inside a car, dead batteries, flat tires and numerous other emergency situations.



JAF version motorcycle



Firefighting motorcycle: The mannequin is holding a water jet nozzle (slightly below the center of the photo).

Emergency-Use Motorcycles

Motorcycles used by the police to crack down on traffic violations, or models equipped for fighting fires. Pictured here is a firefighting type model – the type of highly durable and maneuverable off-road motorbike that showed off its capacity in the relief operations following the Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake that struck in October. The capabilities include support of prompt damage surveys, information gathering to speed up recovery work, staying in contact with the task force headquarters in areas where mobile phones or wireless communications cannot be used, and other vital supports.

Messenger Service Motorcycles

Among the various transporter modes, these motorbikes provide the speediest possible courier services. Extensive steps have been taken with these vehicles to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of documents and small packages, maintaining tight schedules and avoiding any damage to the cargo.



Scooter type motorbike courier (left)



Automatic transmission license training model

Also displayed was an example of the training model to be used from next year for Japan's automatic-transmission exclusive motorcycle-licensing program. This area was set up for experiencing motorcycle riding simulators and other exhibits. Visitors were able to touch

and even climb aboard motorcycles that excel on the frontlines of society, supporting the particularly stellar marks awarded to the “Working Motorcycle Zone.”

This year’s Tokyo Motor Show was held on a site with 24,465m² of space, featuring participation by 111 companies, one government and one organization from six countries in all. At 248,000 visitors, the total gate surpassed the previous show of this genre (the 36th Commercial Vehicle Show in 2002) by 17.8%. This was an all-time record for the commercial vehicle format show.

The event also marked the finale for the Tokyo Motor Show for commercial vehicles, while the 2005 passenger car and motorcycle version of the show will be the last for that format as well. The plans are to have no show in 2006, and then from 2007 shift to an integrated style Tokyo Motor Show that will cover passenger cars, motorcycles and commercial vehicles in a single comprehensive event.