



AMOC/Japan Spring Meeting

Yokohama's opening for foreign trade and settlement in 1859 was a major milestone in Japan's modernization and is celebrated annually. This year, AMOC/Japan arranged its first-half meeting to both commemorate Aston Martin Lagonda's Centennial and coincide with Yokohama's Y154 Festival.

Part of the event involved showing off a full score of Aston Martin cars, including 15 from AMOC/Japan members (many of them prewar vintage -- the cars, not the members) and five from Aston Martin Asia Pacific (including a latest-model Vanquish).

These were on exhibition on May 25 and 26 (Saturday and Sunday) and proved very popular with the many visitors to the Yamashita Park grounds.

Members motored to the site bright and early on May 25, although cars from distant Kyoto (approx. 450km driving) and Okayama (approx.. 650km driving) were brought in on car carrier trucks. Not only did people crowd around to look, they peppered the staff with questions about the classic cars and Aston history. That afternoon, we had the pleasure of welcoming AMAP's Michael van der Sande, who had come for the occasion, press, and numerous enthusiastic fair-goers.

Rally Nippon also held an event in conjunction with Y154 that weekend, and a number of AMOC/Japan members were among the 80 classic cars that took part in this event.

The first day of the rally involved driving from Yasukuni Shrine downtown Tokyo around the Tokyo suburbs and down to the Yokohama site.

That evening, there was an AMOC/Japan buffet dinner and party aboard the Marine Rouge, which was docked nearby, to celebrate the Centenary. With AMAP CCO van der Sande, Regional Manager for Australia and New Zealand Kevin Wall, the AMAP staff, the many dealers, and everyone else, this was a most enjoyable evening cruise for all 70 people who were there. And it was made all the more enjoyable thanks to Ginza Tailor Group President Emiko Wanibuchi.

When the Marine Rouge had docked and people were disembarking after having seen the port, the 860-meter-long Bay Bridge, and other sights from shipside, everyone got a box of

moon cakes from Yokohama's famed China Town. Not only were they from historic China Town, they showed not the typical Chinese design but the Aston Martin logomark. This was a special surprise from Hideaki Enatsu, president of the Kaseiro restaurant in Yokohama. Some of the people who lived in the Tokyo-Yokohama area went home for the evening, but most stayed at the historic Hotel New Grand (see <http://www.hotel-newgrand.co.jp/english/index.html>) nearby.

Bright and early the next day, the Rally Nippon cars left Yamashita Park to drive around the Miura Peninsula. Once they had left, the Aston Martins reclaimed the prime show space and were once again a center of attraction for Festival visitors. Then, when evening came, the signage and other things were taken down, the site was cleaned up, and people went home. But not before CCO van der Sande had joined AMOC/Japan officers in expressing his profound appreciation to AMOC/Japan members, participating dealers and other business concerns, and the many other people who had done so much to make this Centennial event a success.

Planning is already under way for a Centennial event in the autumn, and we very much look forward to working with the enthusiastic membership and supporters for another weekend of happy motoring and good fellowship.

Yoshiki Yokoyama, secretary

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