Highlights of 2020

1. Participation in KSAE's annual conferences

Two technical presentations in total were given at the annual spring and autumn conferences sponsored by the Korean Society of Automotive Engineers (KSAE). Owing to the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the annual spring conference was convened from July 1-4, approximately one month later than the original schedule. An employee of JATCO Korea Engineering Corporation presented a technical paper entitled, "Development of a Continuously Variable Transmission without electric oil pump for Start and stop system," in which he explained start-stop coasting. At the annual autumn conference that was held from November 18-21, a JATCO Korea Engineering Corporation employee presented a technical paper entitled, "A Study on Bolt Fastening Structure for Plastic Valve Body of CVT," in which he explained a new bolt fastening structure designed for plastic valve bodies.





2. JATCO's 50th Anniversary Ceremony

A ceremony to celebrate JATCO's 50th anniversary was held on January 28 at Fujisanmesse in the city of Fuji, where the company originated and the headquarters is still located today. Approximately 2,000 people, including present and former employees and other related persons, attended the ceremony to mark the half-century since Japan Automatic Transmission Co., Ltd. was founded in January 1970. Four representative company officers gave presentations about JATCO's history and future. Following an opening message by President Teruaki Nakatsuka, historical talks were given by successive presidents and the current chairman. In addition, Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, a native of Fuji and the former goalkeeper of Japan's national soccer team, gave a message to JATCO about going forward toward the future based on his own personal experience. After the conclusion of a gigantic balloon relay in which everyone participated, JATCO's new employees made a powerful declaration for the future, and the ceremony closed with a commemorative photograph of all the attendees.



3. Production of medical gowns and face shields

As part of JATCO's support for medical workplaces that are dealing every day with the novel coronavirus pandemic, the company produced medical gowns from May through June and provided them to the Fuji Medical Association in the city of Fuji where the headquarters is located. The gowns were made from polyethylene sheets used as packaging material at plants and other places and were produced in the clean room of the CVT plant assembly line in the Fuji No. 1 Area.

Medical face shields were also produced from April to June and were provided through the Fuji Medical Association to medical workplaces of the Fujinomiya Medical Association, Fuji Dental Association and other organizations.



Medical gowns produced





Frames produced with a 3D printer

Face shield

4. Recipient of GM's 28th annual Supplier of the Year Award

JATCO received a 28th annual Supplier of the Year Award from General Motors (GM). This was the third time JATCO has received this award since fiscal 2016. JATCO was one of 116 suppliers from 15 countries, not including the United States, that were recognized for making continuous contributions exceeding GM's expectations, providing outstanding value and bringing about novel innovations. GM selects companies once a year for its Supplier of the Year Award based on the results of the Strategic Supplier Engagement (SSE) program under which GM regularly evaluates its suppliers, among other criteria. This difficult-to-win award is given only to approximately 100 companies, representing just 1% of the some 10,000 suppliers that are eligible for evaluation. A virtual awards ceremony was held on June 24.



5. Jatco CVT-S-equipped minivehicles named "2020-2021 K Car of the Year"

The Japan Car of the Year awards for 2020-2021 were announced on December 7. The Nissan Roox, the Mitsubishi eK X space and Mitsubishi eK space, all equipped with the Jatco CVT-S, won the K Car of the Year award. This marks the second consecutive year for winning this award following the Nissan Dayz last year. The Japan Car of the Year Executive Committee cited the following reasons for giving these vehicles the K Car of the Year award.

"The cars raised the standard for minivehicles with their highly stable, easy-to-control driving performance, while also providing the outstanding practicality of a super height wagon. The excellent quality of the interior trim and seat comfort were also highly evaluated. Moreover, another notable attractive feature is the adoption of the ProPILOT advanced safety/driver assistance system that delivers performance equal to that of larger registered vehicles."



Source: Japan Car of the Year website

6. JATCO Group companies certified as "Health and Productivity Management Organization 2020"

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced on March 2 the enterprises certified as a "Health and Productivity Organization 2020". The Nippon Kenko Kaigi certified 1,481 organizations in the large enterprise category and 4,723 organizations in the small and medium-sized enterprise category. This time all JATCO Group companies were certified, including JATCO Ltd and JATCO Engineering Ltd in the large enterprise category and JATCO Plant Tec Ltd and JATCO Tool Ltd in the small and medium-sized enterprise category. It is an especially notable achievement that JATCO and JATCO Engineering were recognized as "White 500" organizations, representing the top 500 organizations in the large enterprise category.



7. QC Circle Congress of the Technology Promotion Association (Thailand-Japan)

The QC Circle Activities Congress for Fiscal 2020 Thailand Domestic Quality Awards was held in an event hall at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC) in Bangkok from September 1-4. The Gleung-Gat-Jor Team participated in the congress as the representative of JATCO (Thailand) Co., Ltd. The team presented its QC activity entitled, "Eliminate Dent inside Diameter Dai 45.920 at SLIDE-PRI Line" and received the Silver Prize.



8. Receipt of Shizuoka Prefecture Governor's commendation award for safety achievement in fiscal Reiwa 2

An employee at the AT Plant in the Kambara Area received a safety achievement commendation award given by the Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture. The award was presented at an awards ceremony sponsored by the Shizuoka Prefecture Association for Safety of Hazardous Materials on November 18. This award is given to individuals who have contributed to promoting improvement of safety standards through efforts over many years to prevent hazardous material accidents in workplace facilities and to foster voluntary safety activities.

