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For immediate release

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Vehicles running on YOKOHAMA's GEOLANDAR tires take 4 of top 5 positions, including overall championship, in AXCR 2022

Tokyo—The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd., is pleased to announce that a vehicle equipped with its GEOLANDAR M/T G003 mud-terrain tires for SUVs and pickup trucks won the overall championship in the Asia Cross Country Rally 2022 (hereafter, AXCR), Asia's largest cross-country rally, which was held this year from November 21 to November 26. Vehicles running on GEOLANDAR M/T G003 tires dominated the six-day event, capturing four of the top five spots, with 3rd, 4th, and 5th place finishes in addition to the championship. The results once again demonstrate the superior performance and durability of the GEOLANDAR M/T G003 tire in grueling off-road races.

The overall championship was won by Team Mitsubishi Ralliart's team #105 (driver Chayapon Yotha, co-driver Peerapong Sombutwong) racing in a Mitsubishi Triton, a modified version of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation's one-ton pickup truck, one of the company's global strategic vehicles. After recording the top time in Leg 1 on Day 2 of the event, team #105 increased its lead over the second-place team to 7 minutes and 46 seconds in Leg 2 on Day 3 and held on to its lead for the rest of the race. Another Team Mitsubishi Ralliart team, #118 (driver Rifat Helmy Sungkar, co-driver Chupong Chaiwan) drove its Triton equipped with GEOLANDAR M/T G003 tires to a 5th place overall finish.

The overall 3rd and 4th place finishers were both FORTUNER GEOLANDAR Takuma-GP teams, with team #116 (driver Ikuo Hanawa, co-driver Hirokazu Somemiya) capturing 3rd place and team #108 (driver Takuma Aoki, co-driver Itthipon Simaraks) finishing in 4th place. The two teams ran a stable and well-coordinated race in Toyota Fortuners, a popular frame-type SUV sold mostly in Asia by Toyota Motor Corporation.

GEOLANDAR M/T G003 tires deliver superior performance on the full range of off-road surfaces over an exceptionally long lifespan. In addition, the tire features a sturdy and aggressive design that enhances the off-road driving sensation. YOKOHAMA's GEOLANDAR tires have demonstrated their superior off-road performance in many races over the years, including a one-two finish in the 4800 class at the 2021 King Shocks Area BFE Beatdown and a first-place finish in the Trick Truck class of the 2021 King Shocks Laughlin Desert Classic—both races held in the United States.

The AXCR is an FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) officially sanctioned rally event, similar to the Dakar Rally. Past AXCR races have taken competitors across diverse terrain, ranging from mountains, jungles, beaches, plantation lands, and race car circuits in many Asian countries. This year's AXCR was the first in three years after the Covid-19 pandemic cancelled the event in 2020 and 2021. The rally started on November 21 in Thailand and covered about 1,500km to the finish line in Cambodia five days later on November 26.

Under Yokohama Rubber's three-year (2021–2023) medium-term management plan, Yokohama Transformation 2023 (YX2023), the consumer tire business aims to maximize the sales ratios of high-value-added YOKOHAMA tires, namely the global flagship ADVAN brand, the GEOLANDAR brand of tires for SUVs and pickup trucks, and various winter tires. YX2023 also positions participation in motorsports activities as crucial to the company's effort to develop new tire technologies that will further strengthen the ADVAN and GEOLANDAR brands. Yokohama Rubber therefore is again participating in a wide variety of motorsports events in Japan and around the globe, from top-category to grassroots events.

Hiroshi Masuoka (Team Mitsubishi Ralliart director)

An accident on Day 1 reduced us from a three-car team to a two-car team, but both remaining cars crossed the finish line in top positions. The modified Mitsubishi Triton cars driven by both teams are rugged pickups with a handling performance similar to passenger cars. And the GEOLANDAR M/T G003 tires' reliability and strong grip on all road surfaces allowed me to watch the race with peace of mind. As team director, nothing could make me happier than seeing our team use their many years of experience in motorsports to complete the race safely and without trouble.

Toshio Obara (President director, TCD Asia Pacific Indonesia*)

I am very happy that we were able to put together a talented team that achieved such a good result. And I thank Yokohama Rubber, our tire supplier, for helping us create an excellent Team GEOLANDAR. We plan to continue putting into practice our motto of "roads build people, and people build cars," and look forward to passing on this valuable experience to our juniors.

*Supporter of FORTUNER GEOLANDAR Takuma-GP, along with TOYOTA GAZOO Racing Indonesia





Team Mitsubishi Ralliart celebrates (left) after winning overall championship in its # 105 Mitsubishi Triton



116 Toyota Fortuner (3rd place)



108 Toyota Fortuner (4th place)



118 Mitsubishi Triton (5th place)