

Reinforcement of the Engineering Capability in Thailand

Isuzu Motors Limited (Isuzu) will strengthen the engineering capability of Isuzu Technical Center of Asia Co., Ltd (ITA) to earnestly promote localization of pickup trucks development in one of its main markets, Thailand, so that it can timely develop products that meet diversifying market needs. The company will also consolidate ITA's prototype, test and evaluation departments, which are currently located in three different places, as well as benchmark facilities with the aim to increase the engineering efficiency and quality. A new building to accommodate them is planned to be completed in Samutprakan, Thailand this December.

The functions of vehicle component design, test, evaluation, and validation are transferred from Japan to Thailand to enhance the R&D base in ASEAN. Through this move, ITA, launched with 27 engineering staff members (five Japanese and 22 local engineers) in 1991, will have had 170 persons by the end of 2006.

Isuzu currently has four R&D bases in Japan, North America, China, and Southeast Asia, where it implements engineering, evaluation and marketing activities related to vehicles and engines.

The outline of ITA is as follows:

Company name	Isuzu Technical Center of Asia Co., Ltd
Location	6th Floor, 38Kor. Moo9 Poochaosamingprai Road, Samrong-Tai, Phrapradaeng, Samutprakan 10130, Thailand
Established in	December, 1991
Capital	40 million baht
Investment ratio	IMCT: 51% IMA: 49%
Representative	Fumimasa Shimamoto
Number of employees	Approx. 170
Business description	Development center in ASEAN