

Team Mitsubishi Ralliart Triumphs at Asia Cross Country Rally 2025 with Chayapon Yotha's Overall Victory and Team Award

Tokyo, August 18, 2025 – Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (hereafter, Mitsubishi Motors) announced that Team Mitsubishi Ralliart, which receives technical support from the company, has won first place in the Asia Cross Country Rally (AXCR) 2025, held in Thailand from August 8 to 16. The team competed with the Triton¹ pickup truck (T1 specification, or modified cross-country vehicle), covering a total distance of 2,316.32 kilometers (km), including 1,002.95 km of Special Stages (SS)².

In the overall standings, Chayapon Yotha secured first place with a total time of 16 hours, 15 minutes and 12 seconds; Katsuhiko Taguchi finished in fifth place; and Kazuto Koide placed 22nd overall. The team also earned the Team Award – given to teams with three or more finishers based on the combined time of their top two vehicles – for the second time, and the first in two years.



Team Mitsubishi Ralliart

This year's AXCR kicked off with a ceremonial start at Walking Street, a well-known tourist spot in Pattaya, Thailand. The rally officially began the following day with Leg 1, traveling roughly 360 km northeast from Pattaya to Prachin Buri in eastern Thailand. This leg featured the rally's longest SS, spanning 199.13 km.

Leg 2 took competitors about 500 km north from Prachin Buri to Khao Yai. The SS included a mix of rocky terrain and high-speed sections through plantations, highlighting the diverse landscapes AXCR is known for. Leg 3 remained in the Khao Yai area, where the already demanding course was made even tougher by afternoon squalls that turned the roads muddy, causing many vehicles to struggle.

Legs 4 and 6, originally planned to run within 50 km of the Cambodian border, were canceled due to safety concerns. Leg 5 proceeded as scheduled, returning to Prachin Buri for an SS near the city. Although the route followed the same path as SS1, the course had deteriorated significantly due to deep ruts left by vehicles in Leg 1 and fallen trees caused by continuous rain. Even top teams were caught in the mud, making it one of the most grueling days of the rally.

In Leg 7, the rally returned to Pattaya, retracing parts of the SS1 and SS5 routes. This stage featured narrow paths through plantations, pothole-ridden roads, and river crossings. The final day, Leg 8, concluded at Bali Hai Pier in Pattaya.

Team Mitsubishi Ralliart Driver Highlights

Chayapon Yotha, the team's ace driver, started in 12th position but quickly climbed the ranks with strong times in Leg 1, ending the first day in second place. Thanks to precise navigation by co-driver Peerapong Sombutwong and consistent driving that pushed for speed while minimizing mechanical strain, he took the overall lead in Leg 3. Despite getting stuck in deep mud during Leg 5, he maintained an aggressive pace and recorded the second fastest SS time in Leg 7. He held onto the lead and won the rally by a narrow margin of seven minutes, claiming his second overall AXCR victory – his first in three years.

Katsuhiko Taguchi began in a strong fifth position and remained among the frontrunners in the early stages. However, in Leg 3, rough terrain damaged the front suspension and dropped him to 10th overall. In Leg 5, where many vehicles struggled with deep mud, he overtook 18 competitors and posted the fastest SS time, recovering to sixth overall. Despite damage to the under guard and rear suspension on the demanding Leg 7 course, his determined driving earned him a fifth place overall – the highest among Japanese pairs – concluding his third AXCR challenge.

Kazuto Koide, competing in his second year as a corporate driver, faced early setbacks. On the first day, poor visibility from dust led to a collision with a suddenly stopped vehicle, resulting in a day retirement, and in Leg 5, he experienced rear brake failure. Despite these issues, he supported teammates dealing with mechanical troubles in Legs 3 and 8, fulfilling his role as a support vehicle. He improved on last year's result, finishing 22nd overall.

Comments from Team Mitsubishi Ralliart

Hiroshi Masuoka, Team Director

"Winning was our top priority this year, and I am thrilled we achieved it while showcasing the strength and audacity of Mitsubishi Motors-ness. Securing the team award is a testament to the collective effort and determination of everyone at Team Mitsubishi Ralliart. By refining the Triton's core strengths – its stability on high-speed stages and agility on winding roads – we gained a competitive edge over rivals with larger-displacement engines. Looking ahead to next year, we will continue to enhance the vehicle to further boost our competitiveness."

Chayapon Yotha, Driver of Car #112

"I am truly happy to have claimed overall victory once again, thanks to the entire team playing their part perfectly and delivering a flawless vehicle. This

year's rally was extremely demanding, with rocky sections, mud, and slippery terrain. Yet, the Triton's durability and exceptional handling allowed me to stay in control through high-speed corners and technical muddy stretches, delivering top-tier performance. I will be back next year to defend the championship."

Katsuhiko Taguchi, Driver of Car #105

"Although I finished fifth again this year, I can clearly see how much our crew has improved. We consistently posted competitive times against larger-displacement vehicles across all stages, even recording the fastest SS time in Leg 5. The Triton continues to evolve year after year, and its suspension and handling capabilities were crucial in tackling rough terrain and contributing to Chayapon's victory. After the rally, we identified areas where we can gain more time, so with thorough testing to build on our strengths, I am confident we can achieve even better results next year."

Kazuto Koide, Driver of Car #118

"Although the rally was mentally demanding, especially with a day retirement, it was an invaluable experience. The Triton I drove was equipped with an automatic transmission using standard production components, yet it proved remarkably resilient even under the harsh conditions of AXCR. The handling and maneuverability I experienced will provide valuable feedback for future vehicle development, and I look forward to applying these insights to the next generation of Mitsubishi models."

AXCR 2025 Auto Category – Overall Standings

1. Chayapon Yotha (Mitsubishi Triton)	16 h 15 m 12 s
2. Mana Pornsiricherd (Toyota Hilux Revo)	16 h 23 m 03 s
3. Bailey Cole (Ford Raptor)	17 h 08 m 29 s
4. Ditsapong Maneein (Isuzu D-Max)	17 h 09 m 32 s
5. Katsuhiko Taguchi (Mitsubishi Triton)	17 h 37 m 56 s
6. Natthaphon Angritthanon (Toyota Hilux Revo)	17 h 46 m 52 s
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22. Kazuto Koide (Mitsubishi Triton)	29 h 34 m 31 s

Rally reports are available on Ralliart's official Instagram account.
<https://www.instagram.com/ralliart.official/>

AXCR Special Website:
<https://www.mitsubishi-motors.com/en/brand/ralliart/axcr/axcr2025/>

1. Sold as L200 in some markets
2. The actual distance was shortened due to course changes.

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About Mitsubishi Motors

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (TSE:7211) – a member of the Alliance with Renault and Nissan – is a global automobile company based in Tokyo, Japan, which has about 28,000 employees and a global footprint with production facilities in Japan and the ASEAN region. Mitsubishi Motors has a competitive edge in SUVs, pickup trucks and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and appeals to ambitious drivers willing to challenge convention and embrace innovation. Since the production of our first vehicle more than a century ago, Mitsubishi Motors has been a leader in electrification – launched the i-MiEV, the world's first mass-produced electric vehicle in 2009, followed by the Outlander PHEV, the world's first plug-in hybrid electric SUV in 2013. With a target of increasing the sales ratio of electrified vehicles to 100% by 2035, Mitsubishi Motors will deliver models that embody Mitsubishi Motors-ness and contribute to the realization of a carbon-neutral society.

For more information on Mitsubishi Motors, please visit the company's website at <https://www.mitsubishi-motors.com/en/>