

Title

Zed came to the factory.

Subtitle

Why did Zed, who has an overwhelming presence in the factory, come to JATCO?

Text

A "Nissan Fairlady Z" (hereafter referred to as "Z") with an overwhelming presence is on display in the plant. Its location is Fuji A Plant 9. Why did the "Z," which also appeared in an interview with President Sato, come to Plant 9?

This issue covers the history of the "Z" exhibition and the thoughts of the core members.

Core members involved in the Z exhibit



From left: Tadashi Higashijima, Engineering Section (M21); Ken Urano, Production Engineering Section (ME4); Yoshiaki Okura and Tetsuya Goto, Second Manufacturing Section (M23); and Shu Sano, First Manufacturing Section (M22).

I want to leave my car at the site!

Higashijima: The project started with a proposal from Masahiko Oishi, section chief of M23, who said, "I want to put a car equipped with a unit we are making in a place where we can see it! This project to display vehicles in Plant 9 began with this passionate proposal to the directors. But where to display the cars? Where would the cars come from? We started from scratch.

Sano: Plant 9, where we work, manufactures the RWD 9-speed AT (product code: JR913E), so naturally we wanted to set up a car with the 9-speed AT, and at first we were considering exhibiting the Titan that was in the Fuji B experimental section. But then I thought, "Wait a minute! If we are going to put a car with 9-speed AT, it should be a "Fairlady Z," the symbol of 9-speed ATs," we all said.

Urano: We were looking for a "Z" with almost no budget, and we got information that we might be able to get a prototype from Nissan. Negotiations were tough, but in the end, with the help of Chairman Honda, we managed to get the "Z" at a reduced cost.



Scene of the interview

How to make "Z" attractive !?

Urano: Next, we thought about how to make the "Z" look attractive. The color of the car, the floor, the walls, the tire mount, the orientation of the car, and the height of the car. How could we best convey the design and luxury of the "Z"? We decided to place the blue "Z" in a chic black space, whereas white is usually the base color in factories in terms of 5S (Seiri, Seiton, Seiso, Seiketsu, Shitsuke). When the "Z" is illuminated, the blue absorbs the light and the design stands out. I chose a rugged stone-like texture for the floor, a clear material for the walls, and a silver color (aluminum striped steel plate) for the tire mounting base so that the black aluminum frame of the "Z" would stand out. When I gave them my vision, Mr. Goto, Mr. Sano, and the rest of the team worked hard to give it shape.

Goto: I had an idea of what I wanted, but I wasn't sure what to do. Mr. Urano and I searched the Internet for something cool and attractive with a low cost. We used wisdom to create a high-class exhibition area without spending a lot of money, such as using residential flooring rolls for the floor and black white boards for the walls.

Sano: The walls are a point of concern for me. When I put paper or other materials on the wall, using tape or stickers somehow doesn't make me feel excited. I wanted to use a material that can be used with magnets. It was difficult to find the right material, but finally I found a black white board and was satisfied with the result.

Higashijima: We were also considering the size of the tire installation platform, which would not break loose even if it moved during an earthquake.

Okura : We also calculated the load on the tire stand, and the safety aspect is perfect.



The "floor", "tire stand" and "wall" of the exhibition area are full of attention to detail!

Now it's time to bring in the "Z"!

Higashijima: On the day "Z" was to be delivered. There seemed to be a traffic jam on the road, and the car arrived about 20 minutes late. The people involved were anxious to see us now, and they were gathering in droves.

Urano: I transported the car, and when I arrived at the delivery entrance, I was surprised to see about 15 people gathered there. I was surprised to see about 15 people there when I arrived at the delivery entrance. I was happy to see that everyone couldn't wait to see "Z".

Sano: I was in the waiting group at the loading dock, but when the "Z" was unloaded from the transport truck, I was like, "Oh! Cool! I was a member of the team waiting at the loading dock. I knew that "Z" was everyone's hero. I thought that "Z" is everyone's hero and they long for him.

Okura : And then we all worked together to bring the cars in by hand, and everyone was all

smiles.



A photo taken just after the arrival of "Z." Everyone is gathering!

What has changed with the arrival of "Z"

Higashijima: What I can say is that the awareness of the people onsite has changed. I feel that people now work with a sense of pride that our 9-speed engine is installed in this cool Z.

Okura : Members of my team are also working with a higher awareness than ever before, saying, "We will never produce any manufacturing defects so as not to spoil the high-class image of the car," and setting a high goal of "No. 1 quality within JATCO"!

Urano: I think the customers who visit our factory are also pleased. Since we installed the "Z" at the entrance of the factory, more and more people say, "Your car is so cool!"

"Z" is still cool!

Urano: What is your image of the "Z"? I was not that interested in cars as a child, but when I saw a Z for the first time in the third grade of elementary school, I thought, "Cool! I was not that interested in cars as a child, but when I saw the "Z" for the first time when I was in the third grade, I thought, "Cool!"

Higashihara: My first encounter with the "Z" was when I was a small child and I knew a neighbor who drove an old Z. After that, when I became a working adult, I drove sports cars such as the Skyline and GT-R. I still think of "Z" when I think of sports cars. Later, when I became a member of society, I drove Skyline, GT-R, and other sports cars, but I still think of "Z" when I think of sports cars.

Sano: My image of "Z" is Wangan Midnight (popular Japanese manga. First published in Shonen magazine from 1990-2008. Total of 42 volumes). I remember how much I admired

the devil's Z gliding along the Bayshore Route at super speed. The devil's Z was blue in color, which overlapped with the "Z" in Plant 9, making it look even cooler, I thought (laughs).

Okura : Yes, I did admire "Devil's Z"! (laughs)

Higashijima: So, Urano. Let me ask you one last time, how satisfied are you with this exhibit area?

Urano: Hmm, let's call it 120 points! I really think we were able to create a satisfactory exhibition area thanks to everyone's cooperation. Thank you very much for your ministry.



This "Z" is our pride "Z" ministry.