



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **First Singaporean Race Car Driver Melvin Choo to Race in Super GT Series in Sepang**

Singapore, 15 April 2009 - Leading Singapore race car driver, Melvin Choo, of ThunderAsia Racing, has announced his participation in the Super GT (S-GT) Series at Kuala Lumpur's Sepang International Circuit on June 20, 2009. He will be the first Singaporean driver to race in this Series.

Previously, he was also the first Southeast Asian to race in the FIA World Touring Car Championship in Okayama, Japan and Macau, China, and to score points in Yokohama Independents' Trophy in 2008.

Choo will drive a Toyota Celica GT300 class car under ThunderAsia Racing team. Although the Super GT Series is a nine-venue grand touring car series with Kuala Lumpur as the fourth leg, Choo will only be able to participate in Kuala Lumpur due to his packed racing calendar with over 32 committed races in 2009.

"We welcome Melvin Choo and the ThunderAsia Racing team with open arms and we're happy to announce the latest addition of this new team. It is especially exciting as a driver of Melvin's caliber would set high standards for Singapore in their first participation," says Masaaki Bandoh, Representative Director, GTA Co., Ltd. "We are confident that Melvin and his team will provide a leading example for Singapore Super GT and Motor Sport fans alike. We hope that this new addition will spur more overseas participation and provide additional boost to SUPER GT races and Motor sports in general."

"I am gearing up for the very competitive and challenging Super GT circuit in Sepang, known for its demanding circuit, and also the heat and humidity," says Melvin Choo, Thunder Asia Racing. "I relish the challenge and will try my best to do well in this race despite the odds. I hope my FIA WTCC exposure might come in handy in preparing for this race."

Separately, Choo will participate in three races of the FIA World Touring Car Championship 2009 (FIA WTCC), and in the full season of Aston Martin Asia Cup 2009 and Porsche Carrera Cup Asia 2009, which will be held in 12 countries around the world.

### **About Super GT Series**

The Super GT series, formerly known as the All-Japan Grand Touring Car Championship or JGTC (Zen Nihon GT Sensyuken), is a grand touring car race series promoted by the GT-Association (GT-A). Though the JGTC was authorized by the Japan Automobile Federation and recognized by the FIA, the Super GT is authorized directly by FIA. Visit <http://www.supergt.net/en> .

### **About Melvin Choo**

Melvin Choo (# 69) is the first Singaporean race driver to achieve a remarkable feat of chalking up 30 race participations in 2008, with a total of 7 victories, 8 podium finishes and 5 pole positions in three different cars, Aston Martin, BMW and Porsche, representing accomplishment through expertise.

Melvin Choo became the Class B winner in the JPM Integra Championship in Malaysia, this jumpstarted his racing career in Asia in 2006. In 2007, Melvin took part in some of the most prominent races in Asia; AFOS Asia Touring Car Series (AFOS ATCS), where he finished second in Division 2 and third overall, Asian Touring Car Cup, where he finished second overall and awarded the fastest front wheel driver and JPM Integra Championships, where he was third overall.

2008 was Melvin's breakthrough year where he successfully raced in four renowned high profile events in motorsports; FIA World Touring Car Championships (FIA WTCC), AFOS Asia Touring Car Series (AFOS ATCS), Aston Martin Asia Cup (AMAC), and Porsche Carrera Cup Asia (PCCA).

It is also the year he placed Singapore on the international map of motorcar racing as the first and only South-East Asian to race at the FIA WTCC well known for its stringent qualifying process, and by achieving the rare task of scoring points in his debut FIA WTCC race in Okayama, Japan.

### **About Thunder Asia Racing**

Thunder Asia Racing is an experienced racing team with a portfolio of more than 10 years of major race participation and more than 72 racing vehicles built to date. The team has participated in 4 of the highest profile race events in Asia, with 3 of the most prolific racing cars in the world (BMW, Aston Martin, and Porsche). The race drivers' cumulative experience totals more than 100 years between them, and has 32 race wins of 52 races throughout the 10 years of competition. The team has past involvements with factory teams for Honda, Proton, and Lotus.

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