

Ms Fiona Colton, the Museums manager for Live Borders, Mr. Andrew Tulloch, members of the Jim Clark Memorial Museum, ladies, and gentlemen, I am very pleased to be a part of the opening event this wonderful exhibition which links Japan and Scotland in such a unique way.

Although the 1966 Indy 200 race has been forgotten by many, it was a turning point in Japanese motorsport. Many innovations during this decade saw Japan emerging as a high-tech nation, not least due to its automotive industries, and the wish to spur innovations in this industry was a motivation behind welcoming the Indy 200 race to Japan. The race itself may have faced several difficulties, including a mechanical failure of Jim Clark's car which meant the pre-race favourite and 2 time Formula 1 Championship winner could not compete in the race, but it provided a rare opportunity for those who witnessed it and those who took part.

One such person, was Joe Honda, whose career in motorsport photography began due to the chance encounters he had with racing stars including Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart at this very event. Although not able to compete during the Indy 200 which was likely a great disappointment to spectators who were already familiar with Formula 1, Jim Clark had been invited to Japan to test-drive the Fuji Road course 5 months earlier and the car he drove in Japan can be seen here today. Joe Honda recalled that despite the setback, Clark took it in his stride and focused on mentoring the younger drivers. It was Jackie Stewart who went on to win the Indy200 that day and fuelled Joe Honda's interest in global motorsport, beckoning him to Europe to see what the sport had to offer outside of Japan. This initial push would see Honda embark on a European adventure in the following year with only \$500 dollars in his pocket, his cameras, and his Toyota Corolla which he brought from Japan. During his first stop at the Pau Formula 2 Grand Prix in France he met Jackie Stewart again, who he said welcomed him hospitably and, in 1967, he joined the International Racing Press Association. This adventure resulted in an international career which saw him document many different types of races and solidify his place as the chief pioneer of motorsport photography in Japan.

Joe Honda's images capture not only the look, but the feeling and atmosphere of the event, enabling us, all these years later, to experience it too. This exhibition ensures that the memory of this pioneering race can be shared with an entirely new audience and allows us to reflect on the power of photography as a tool for cross-cultural exchange and inspiration. Photographs are not only an art-form but can capture and transmit emotions, messages and memories across international borders and across decades of time. Joe Honda's images do

just that, transporting the viewer to a newly emerging Japan and allowing them to experience the race with the same curiosity and passion which Honda himself felt and captured so well. I am certain that those who visit this exhibition will come away with a deep admiration for Joe Honda, and interest in the varied history and influence of motorsports internationally.

Thank you.