

# DRIVE ON



EDARAN TAN CHONG MOTOR

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1 / nissan.com.my

**NEW 3S  
CENTRES**  
TO SERVE YOU BETTER

## NISSAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN 2015

LEARN WHILE HAVING FUN

# NISSAN X-TRAIL

THE INNOVATIVE PREMIUM CROSSOVER THAT'S TAKING OVER THE SUV SEGMENT

**NISSAN TEANA  
MEETS ITS  
JAPANESE  
RIVALS**



ENJOY PEACE OF MIND AND EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS  
WHEN YOU SIGN UP WITH **NISCARE**





Innovation that excites

# ALL-NEW TEANA



## SAFEST CAR IN ITS CLASS

Your drive to greatness is secure, as the all-new TEANA has been awarded the maximum **ASEAN NCAP safety rating of 5 stars**. The TEANA sets a new record as the first car to achieve the brilliant benchmark in both **Adult Occupant Protection (AOP)** and **Child Occupant Protection (COP)** rating. The award-winning Teana combines style with safety, making every drive an exciting pleasure.

Test drive the safest car at a Nissan showroom today.



6 SRS Airbags and Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) with Traction Control System (TCS)



Hill Start Assist (HSA) prevents backward roll on a slope

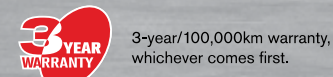


Active Understeer Control (AUC) adjusts brake power when turning



2.0XE CVTC  
RM133,284.55\*

2.5XV TWIN CVTC  
RM162,699.65\*



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Nissan Teana 2.0XE CVTC | Max Power 136ps / 5,600rpm | Max Torque 190 Nm/ 4,400 rpm.  
Nissan Teana 2.5XV Twin CVTC | Max Power 173ps / 6,000rpm | Max Torque 234 Nm/ 4,000 rpm.  
\*On-the-road price including GST without insurance, valid for private registration in Peninsular Malaysia only. Subject to change without prior notice. Terms and conditions apply. Actual car specifications may vary from model shown.

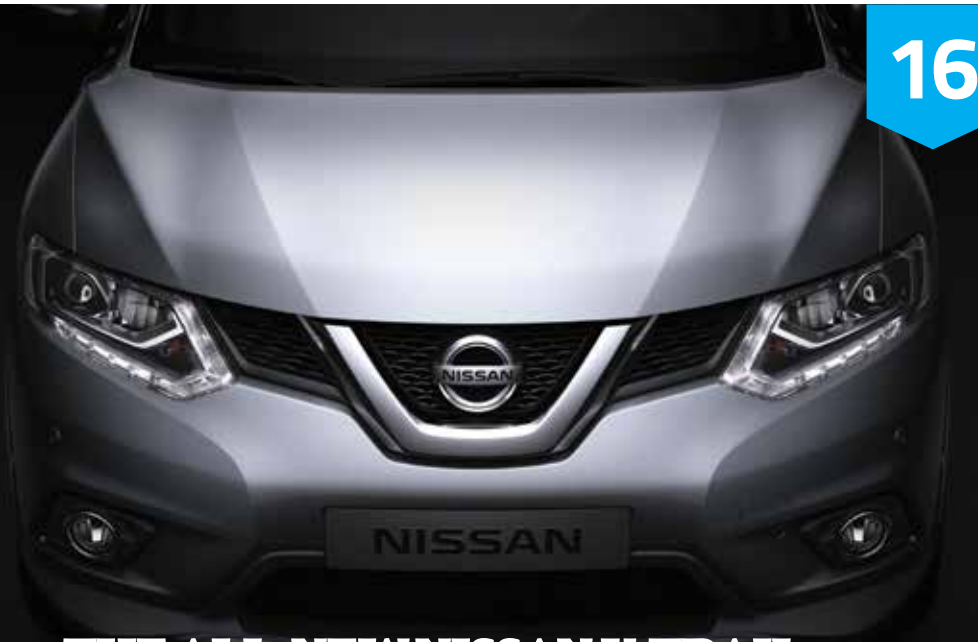
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Scan to witness ASEAN NCAP crash test here.

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# DRIVE ON

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# Foreword >>>>

## Safety is everyone's right

At Edaran Tan Chong Motor, we believe that safety is a right – all of us have a right to feel safe, to work and play in a safe environment. However, many take safety for granted, or are ignorant of the risks we face daily, whether it's at work, at home or at school.



Through innovation, Nissan is always looking to improve the safety of its cars. At ETCM, we strive to bring you exciting products with the latest safety technologies. But above and beyond that, we also aim to generate awareness on the importance of safety, and that the most effective way of doing so is through education and establishing a "safety-first" mindset.

For 2015, we launched the Nissan Safety Campaign so that we can share valuable safety-related knowledge and to inculcate safe practices to our loyal customers, especially children along with their parents. With the support of key partners such as LEGOLAND, and through activities designed to be fun and educational, we have already managed to reach out to more than 600 participants, with another 600 more targeted over the remainder of this year. If you've been part of our Kids Safety Carnival, we sincerely hope that it had made a difference. If you haven't, stay tuned for our latest announcements through SMS, Nissan Malaysia's website and social media channels, including interesting snippets on road safety via the Nissan Malaysia Facebook page.

As you may have personally experienced, ETCM's continuous effort to improve our services has seen four new 3S Centres launched in Kuching, Tawau, Johor and Taiping within the last 14 months. These 3S Centres are brand new and built from ground up, with top-notch facilities to look after your every need. However, we are not resting just yet as more facilities will be unveiled in the near future. More importantly, we hope that your experience as a Nissan customer will be further enhanced.



Innovation that excites

## ALL-NEW X-TRAIL



## THE URBAN THRILL

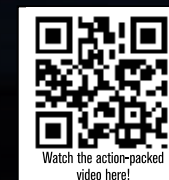
Reawaken the excitement in your drive with the **All-New X-Trail**. Powered by **2.5L** or **2.0L Twin CVTC Engines** and **XTRONIC CVT** paired with a **7-speed manual mode** that work seamlessly together to bring you exhilarating performance and maximum fuel efficiency. Take control of your drive with the **Around View Monitor** for a complete panoramic 360° view and the **All Mode 4x4-i System** with Auto Mode to adjust balance of power between front and rear wheels for best handling on any surface.

Experience this innovative premium crossover now at your nearest Nissan showroom.

2.5L 4WD **RM159,164.06\*\***

2.0L 2WD **RM136,976.96\*\***

<p><b>ACTIVE ENGINE BRAKE</b> Applies engine braking to deliver smoother deceleration <b>WORLD FIRST</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVE RIDE CONTROL</b> Brakes and adjusts engine torque when hitting road bumps <b>WORLD FIRST</b></p>	<p><b>ACTIVE TRACE CONTROL</b> Steer through corners with control and confidence <b>NISSAN FIRST</b></p>
<p><b>HILL START ASSIST</b> Prevents rollback when starting on incline</p>	<p><b>ADVANCED HILL DESCENT CONTROL</b> Descend steep declines safely as HDC controls the vehicle speed for you</p>	



Watch the action-packed video here!

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2.5L 4WD Twin CVTC | Max Power 171ps / 6,000rpm | Max Torque 233Nm / 4,000rpm  
2.0L 2WD Twin CVTC | Max Power 144ps / 6,000rpm | Max Torque 200Nm / 4,400rpm

\*\*On-the-road price including GST without insurance, valid for private registration in Peninsular Malaysia only. Actual car specifications may vary from model shown. Terms and conditions apply.



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# TOTAL COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMER SERVICE

We reach out to you with first class service through our new 3S centres in Tawau, Kuching, Johor and Taiping

The pride and satisfaction of owning a new car can never be complete without top notch customer service. Edaran Tan Chong Motor recognises this and have been steadily upgrading our sales and service network with the addition of four 3S (Sales, Service and Spare Parts) centres in Tawau, Kuching, Johor and Taiping.

Launched in June 2014, the Kuching 3S Centre is the first ever 3S in the City of Kuching (state capitol of Sarawak) and also the largest ever in East Malaysia, with a total built-up area of 42,000 sq. feet on a 1.6-acre piece of land. Its modern and spacious showroom can display up to eight Nissan models and offers a lounge, refreshment bar with Wi-Fi connectivity as well as a Kid's Corner to keep children occupied. The Kuching 3S Centre also has 23 service bays that can service up to 130 cars per day.



The new Kuching 3S Centre can service up to 130 cars per day



Datuk Bandar James Chan Kay Syn, Mayor of Kuching City South



ETCM invested RM1.5 million in the 3,500 sq. feet Tawau 3S Centre

The new Kuching 3S Centre was followed closely by the launch of the Tawau 3S in Sabah three months later in Sept 2014. With a built-up area of close to 3,500 sq. feet on a RM1.5 million investment, its contemporary facility comes with the most modern of amenities just like the Kuching 3S, and is able to accommodate five display vehicles and service up to 40 vehicles a day.



Coming in as the largest ever sales and service facility in the history of Edaran Tan Chong Motor is the Johor Jaya 3S Centre with a total built-up area measuring 256,000 sq. feet. Built on a 2.15-acre land with 400 parking bays, the six-storey Johor Jaya 3S Centre can showcase up to 30 Nissan vehicles and service up to 150 cars per day thanks to the availability of 36 service bays. A comfortable yet spacious lounge, a refreshment bar and complimentary internet connectivity via Wi-Fi cater to the every need of customers, with a Kid's Corner providing further relief to parents with children.





Johor Jaya 3S Centre is the largest ever ETCM facility at 256,000 sq. feet



Professionally-trained team look after your every need

Speaking at the opening ceremony, ETCM Executive Director Dato' Dr Ang said, "This mega Johor Jaya 3S Centre is testament to our philosophy of putting customers first, as we continuously strive to provide comfort and convenience to our customers, whilst remaining true to our commitment to deliver innovative products and excellent services to delight our customers."

To further strengthen Nissan's representation in the Northern region, the brand new ETCM Taiping 3S Centre recently opened its doors to better serve the growing number of customers in this historical yet bustling city. Spanning close to 18,000 sq. feet, ETCM's latest facility is able to service up to 30 cars per day through its 8 service bays. On the sales front, ETCM Taiping 3S Centre is able to show off 8 Nissan models at one time while offering top-class conveniences expected of a 3S centre.



The new Taiping 3S is ETCM's 19th full-service 3S centre



- (From left):
- 1) Ong Siew Luan, Senior GM, Spare Parts Division, ETCM
  - 2) Ang Yue Lai, Head of Sales System Compliance, ETCM (Utara)
  - 3) Borhan bin Abdul Halim, Setiausaha Perbandaraan, Majlis Perbandaraan Taiping
  - 4) Dato' Dr. Ang Bon Beng, Executive Director, ETCM





# SPREADING THE WORD ON SAFETY

The 2015 Nissan Safety Campaign is about raising safety awareness, particularly among children



Learning through play is the best form of education for children

Since 2012, Edaran Tan Chong Motor (ETCM) has been focused on improving the well-being and safety of our customers. We launched City Survival – a pilot workshop dedicated to the personal safety of women drivers, and it received strong participation from our customers. In 2013, we added the Road Survival workshop to further educate Nissan owners on how to respond to emergency situations encountered on the road. Last year, we introduced the Safety Driving Experience – a defensive driving programme designed to enhance the driving skills of Nissan owners.

Whether on the road or otherwise, too many lives are lost needlessly due to the lack of awareness and appreciation that safe habits can greatly minimize the risk of accidents. In our continuous efforts to cultivate a mindset that places safety first, Edaran Tan Chong Motor (ETCM) recently launched a nationwide initiative called the 2015 Nissan Safety Campaign, aimed at raising safety awareness among Nissan customers and members of the public who are keen to learn how to react when faced with danger in different scenarios.

For the 2015 Nissan Safety Campaign, the safety and wellbeing of children are at the forefront. According to Dato' Dr. Ang Bon Beng, Executive Director of ETCM, the overwhelming response received by ETCM in previous safety campaigns were encouraging, and that energised ETCM

to further improve and fine-tune its programme for this year.

"It has been extremely heartening to see how the Nissan Safety Campaign has grown from strength to strength over the years with the support from our customers. This year, we are focused on educating the young and inculcate them with safety knowledge through fun and creative activities. After all, they are the future of our nation."

"We aim to share key safety practices that help to prevent road and fire accidents, and to cultivate these skills from a young age. In that regard, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our corporate partner, LEGOLAND Malaysia for their support in making the Nissan Safety Campaign a success," he added.

The 2015 Kids Safety Carnival is conducted by Captain K. Balasupramaniam, the Founder of Road Safety Marshal Club. ETCM also added a new segment called 'Fire Escape' that is focused on educating participants on how best to survive a fire, and also to undergo an emergency evacuation.

For 2015, the Kids Safety Carnival will be held nationwide, while the Safety Campaign will culminate in a safety driving programme for Nissan owners. Registration are free, on a "first come, first-served" basis.







WE AIM TO SHARE KEY SAFETY PRACTICES THAT HELP TO PREVENT ROAD AND FIRE ACCIDENTS, AND TO CULTIVATE THESE SKILLS FROM A YOUNG AGE.





# MAXIMUM SAFETY, ULTIMATE LUXURY

Safety and luxury exist in perfect harmony in the new Nissan Teana



The new Nissan Teana is not only a statement of luxury and style, but also of ultimate safety. In a crash test conducted late last year by the New Car Assessment Program for Southeast Asia (ASEAN NCAP), the Teana achieved a perfect score of 16 points (out of a maximum of 16) for Adult Occupant Protection (AOP) as well as a 5-star rating for Child Occupant Protection (COP) utilising the Teana's standard-fitted ISOFIX and top tether child seat anchors.

The record-setting scores obtained by the new Nissan Teana is the highest ever achieved by a manufacturer in crash testing conducted by ASEAN NCAP since its establishment in 2011. ASEAN NCAP Chairman, Prof. Wong Shaw Voon said, "Congratulations to Nissan for this achievement, and this new record means a lot to both the consumers and car

manufacturers. The perfect score in AOP as well as being the first to reach 5-Star level in COP is a commendable result and has set another benchmark for a large family sedan."

The new Teana is the third car by Nissan to have undergone the ASEAN NCAP assessment after the Nissan March in November 2012 (AOP 4-Star) and the Nissan Almera in July 2013 (AOP 4-Star).

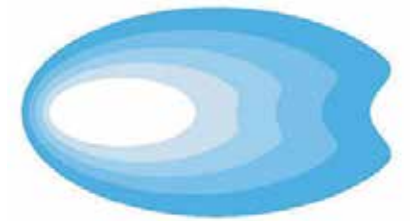
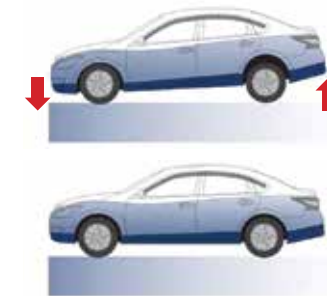
In Malaysia, the new Nissan Teana is available in three different variants (2.0L XE, 2.0L XL and 2.5L XV) with prices starting from RM133,284.55. All three grades come with class-leading features fitted as standard, including six airbags (front, side and curtain), Vehicle Dynamic Control with Traction Control, Active Understeer Control, Anti-lock Braking System with Brake Assist, and Hill Start Assist.



## STAYING SAFE IN NISSAN CARS

Nissan's Safety Shield concept explained, and what it means to you

Nissan pursues innovation as part of its "Safety Shield" concept – a proactive approach to safety based on the idea that cars should help protect people. This approach includes various measures to help the driver and passengers avoid danger in different circumstances, ranging from when risk has yet to appear, to post-crash scenarios.



SAFETY SHIELD

In pre-crash circumstances, technologies that help the driver avoid an accident are commonly referred to as "Active Safety", whereas in a post-crash scenario, "Passive Safety" comes into play to minimise the effects to occupants in the event of a vehicular accident.

### Active Safety technologies

Your Nissan vehicle have various active safety features built into it, and these technologies work collectively to help you avoid an accident.

### Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS)

prevents the wheels from locking up (or sliding) under heavy braking, especially in slippery conditions. This allows the driver to retain steering control.



**Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD)** modulates the braking force of the rear wheels in relation to the load

that the vehicle is carrying. If there are passengers seated at the back, or if the vehicle is carrying a heavy load, brake force at the rear is increased to maintain effective braking performance.

**Brake Assist** increases brake pressure when the driver brakes harder than usual in certain circumstances, this is to ensure maximum stopping power is available to the driver without him/her having to apply greater force on the brake pedal.

### Vehicle Dynamic Control

incorporates **Traction Control** to automatically modulate engine power and braking to assist the driver in regaining control when the vehicle has lost traction and isn't travelling on the intended path (slipping or sliding).



### Passive Safety technologies

Case in point being the Nissan Teana which is rated 5-star by ASEAN NCAP in terms of occupancy protection in the event of a crash. Every Nissan model comes with various passive safety technologies to help protect you and your passengers in the unfortunate event of an accident.

**Zone Body Construction** features absorbing structures that dissipates impact forces before it reaches the passenger cell. Nissan's Zone Body also takes into account minimising injuries to pedestrians with energy-absorbing areas such as the bonnet and fenders.

**Seat-belts with Pre-tensioners** tightens when heavy braking is applied so that the passenger is "held" securely in his/her seat.

**Airbags** provides the final layer of protection against injuries to the head and chest areas of occupants by absorbing their kinetic energy.





# THE TRAIL OF SUCCESS

The all-new Nissan X-Trail becomes a frontrunner in the SUV segment

Launched on 23rd January 2015, the all-new Nissan X-Trail have surpassed all expectations to become one of the top-selling SUVs in the country. Up till the end of June 2015, a total of 3,467 units were delivered to customers. In fact, from April to June, the X-Trail outpaced the Honda CR-V as well as the Mazda CX-5 in the number of units sold.

Based on the feedback from our valued owners, the X-Trail won them over with its stylish yet sporty exterior design and premium image. These new owners were also impressed by the X-Trail's cabin spaciousness as well as interior comfort, in particular its Zero Gravity-inspired seats that are able to reduce fatigue though correct seating posture for both the driver and occupants during long trips.

Speaking exclusively to Drive On magazine, Edaran Tan Chong Motor

Executive Director Dato' Dr Ang Bon Beng said, "I would like to thank and congratulate all our customers who chose the all-new Nissan X-Trail. Innovation is what we practice at Nissan, excitement is what you experience as an owner. I'm proud to say that the X-Trail truly lives up to the Nissan brand promise with its class-leading features and stylish design. To all of you who are awaiting delivery of your new X-Trail, rest assured that we are working tirelessly to ensure that your new Innovative Premium Crossover will be delivered to you as soon as possible."

### Class-leading premium features

The all-new X-Trail is available in either 2.0L 2WD and 2.5L 4WD; both variants comes with a range of premium, class-leading features fitted as standard, they include keyless entry with push-to-start button, full-colour 5-inch Drive Assist Display on the meter cluster, dual-zone automatic climate control,



rear air-con ventilation, cruise control, auto-headlamps, Advanced Hill Start Assist and more importantly, an Around View Monitor that utilises multiple cameras (mounted at the front, side and back) to project an overhead "bird's eye" view to ease the task of parking a crossover that is able to seat up to seven occupants.

For those who require the additional assurance of 4WD traction, the 2.5L variant comes with Nissan's innovative All Mode 4x4 system. Set to the "Auto" mode, the 4x4 system automatically modulates torque between the front and rear axles based on information received from the vehicle's yaw sensors. When the sensors detect a deviation between the vehicle's intended heading and actual movement, All Mode 4x4 will then counteract this and get vehicle back on its intended path. Additionally, All Mode 4x4 also offers Advanced Hill Descent Control where the system is able to automatically control the speed of the vehicle when coming down a steep slope.

### Safety is a priority

As with every new Nissan model, the Safety Shield concept is applied to assist the driver in the avoidance of an accident. To achieve that objective, the X-Trail became the first in its class to introduce Active Chassis Control that automatically adjusts braking and transmission performance in order to control understeer, reduce body motion and improve driving comfort at all times. This is on top of Vehicle Dynamic Control, Traction Control and Brake Limited Slip Differential which come standard even on the 2.0L 2WD variant.

### The global success of the X-Trail

The popularity of the all-new Nissan X-Trail in Malaysia is a reflection of the success of the X-Trail across the globe. Over the period of January to June 2015, Nissan sales recorded yet another all-time high with over 2.7 million vehicles delivered worldwide. One of the reasons attributed to the sales success is due to the X-Trail's strong sales performance in the North American market (known as the Rogue), China as well as in Europe.





# THE D-SEGMENT STANDOFF

There's lot of life left yet for Japanese D-segment saloons, says *Faisal Shah*



Take a close look at the three cars above. This is where you'll eventually end up in life. The sequence is work hard at school, go to college, get a degree, get a job and finally you'll get a Japanese D-segment saloon either as a personal or company car perk. Hardly the stuff of dreams, is it?

But, here's a fact you may have overlooked. In most Asian countries, the D-segment saloons you see above represent the pinnacle of the range for each of these brands. There's no bigger car in the range or a pricier one (unless you count CBU MPVs), so these cars are theoretically the best of the best with high kit counts and the newest technology.

The best seller of the group is the Honda Accord, which arrived in 2013 and almost immediately wrestled the crown of segment sales leader from its rivals. Ours is the mid-spec Accord 2.0 VTi-L, which is the best seller of the range and offers a good mix of specs and performance for the price.

The newest car here is the Toyota Camry 2.0G, which unlike the

all-new 9th generation Accord is actually a mid-life refresh of their 7th generation model. It couldn't have come at a better time for Toyota as they were losing market share to Honda but from the way it's specified to the way the marketing campaigns are worded, it seems Toyota is focussing on the 2.5G Hybrid variant instead. Will that leave the 2.0G, their traditional volume seller, twisting in the wind?

Not many talk about the Nissan Teana, but the replacement of the Cefiro is now in its second iteration and is better than ever. The 2.0 XL version we've selected has a very healthy spec-sheet and though the 2.0-litre engine it uses is the least powerful of the bunch, it counters the deficit by being the only one with a CVT gearbox and having the lowest kerb weight.

Looking at the engines each car uses, the Camry goes some way to justifying its pricing by having the most power. It uses a new 2.0-litre motor equipped with VVT-iW and D-4S direct and port fuel injection, producing figures of 165bhp at 6500rpm and 199Nm at

4600rpm. The gearbox is also new as a six-speed unit with Super ECT has replaced the antiquated old four-speed auto. Toyota says their new engine can switch between normal and Atkinson cycles for efficiency, which is why they also claim a fuel economy figure of 13.9km/L as compared to 12km/L for the old car.

While the Camry has a brand new motor, the Accord engine is a carry over from the old car. Power is rated at 153bhp at 6500rpm while torque peaks at 190Nm at 4300rpm. Honda says improvements have been made to fuel efficiency, equating to a 10 per cent improvement at 13.2km/L. The gearbox is a five-speed automatic and as with nearly all Honda models these days, there's an ECON mode button to optimise fuel usage.

Bring up the rear in terms of power is the Nissan Teana 2.0 XL. It too uses an engine carried over from the previous model and produces a modest 134bhp at 5600rpm and 190Nm at 4400rpm, which is sent to the front wheels via an improved



Xtronic CVT gearbox. Claimed fuel consumption is 13.5km/L, which straddles the Camry and Accord but has the efficiency come at the cost of performance and fun?

Get into the Teana and if you're driving in a convoy there doesn't seem to be any reason to miss the 22bhp extra the Camry has over it. The ultra smooth CVT gearbox allows for some silken progress and though it does mean you're at peak revs when you use the motor hard, the noise isn't too intrusive and the times you're likely to ask for maximum acceleration for prolonged periods will be few and far between. Yes, you do sometimes miss the ability to select the virtual ratios but again, for the typical D-segment user, comfort and refinement trump spirited driving.

Drive over a typical Malaysian road surface and you'll be thankful for Nissan getting their priorities right. Very little road and tyre noise intrudes upon the serenity of the cabin and you can run over bumps and potholes without getting jarred silly by the impacts they cause. The downside though is a slightly soft handling balance.

With MacPherson strut front and a multi-link rear suspension, it shares layouts with the other two cars here so Nissan must have specified slightly softer springs and shock absorbers. It's not that the Teana has too much roll or feels at sea when you drive it spiritedly, but the combination of an overly light electric steering rack and a chassis that mutes all communication to your butt means it's the last car to be chosen for a dawn raid on a twisting mountain road.

Conversely, you can't help but smile widely when you're at the wheel of the Honda Accord. Typically of a Honda, the Accord has the most driver-centric setup with nicely

weighted steering and suspension that's been tuned for flat cornering lines. No, it's not a Type-R but compared to the Camry and especially the Teana, the Accord is almost sporty by nature.

The impression is helped by the engine, which feels the most eager to rev and deliver its power. Despite its power advantage, the Accord isn't appreciably faster than the Teana and the five-speed auto is the least impressive gearbox here, but it still delivers a sporty soundtrack and is the most willing to hit peak revs before swapping cogs.

Unfortunately, the same characteristics also apply to the ride comfort and refinement. Drive over the same road at the same speed in the Accord just after you drive the Teana and it's remarkable how you end up feeling the bumps and imperfections a lot more. There's a noticeable thump over sharp edged imperfections and while the stiff chassis resists any scuttle shake, the same can't be said for the interior trim. On top of that, despite Honda's claims of using more sound absorbing material, there's a lot more road and tyre noise present, which is quite a surprise. You don't need to shout to be heard in at the highway limit but you can't whisper conversations either.

Straddling the two in terms of ride and handling balance is the Toyota Camry 2.0G. It's the fastest of the trio but not by the kind of margin its on-paper advantage would suggest. Sure, doing a roll-on test will see it nose ahead but the difference with the other two is small enough to be a non-factor. The new engine is impressively refined though and the six-speed Super ECT gearbox is a huge improvement over the old four-speeder. In fact, it's almost on par with the old ZF six-speed autos we loved in BMWs, swapping gears imperceptibly yet



being almost intuitive in selecting the gear you want.

Driven at speed, refinement levels are impressively high with a solidity to the way it goes over bumps that is almost European. You hear rather than feel road imperfections and tyre and road noise are a mere distant hum. Insert corners into the equation and the Camry feels assuredly composed, though also inert at the same time. There's some heft to the steering rack but it's also numb and while the suspension resists roll quite well, the overall impression is rather cold with neither the verve of the Accord or the silken smoothness of the Teana.

All is not lost for Toyota though because the Camry has a distinctly solid Toyota feel to the way it's put together. The interior is an improvement over its predecessor though the dashboard design is the plainest to look at among these three. Basically you get a big vertical slab with buttons on it and aside from the cool blue backlit gauges there's not a lot to get excited about inside the Camry. You do however get loads of space, both in front and at the back and a large 515-litre boot. Our test car came with the optional DVD-AVN (Audio-Video-Navigation) system which is an extra cost item, a pity when you consider the Camry's also the most expensive car here.

In fact, when you take value into account, the 2.0G starts to look a little overpriced. Yes it gets xenon lights, dual eight-way electrically adjustable leather seats at the front, VSC and dual climate control as standard but there are only two airbags offered, which is shocking when you consider how its priced.

The Nissan Teana on the other hand gets six airbags, regardless of variant, which is an extension of what they started with the Sylphy sedan. Off the bat therefore, the

Teana already delivers exceptional value, which is reinforced by standard spec items like Nissan's comprehensive electronic safety net (Safety Shield), dual power seats at the front, dual-zone climate control and the biggest boot of the lot with 516-litres of space.

Just like the Camry, the Teana interior is rather plain though well put together. There's a five-inch screen to display audio information that switches to a rear camera view when reversing and the four-inch information display between the two main dials look cool, but there's nothing inside that signals genuine creativity in design.

For a feel-good interior, you need to get the Honda Accord. At first glance it looks a little busy with multiple levels of buttons and dials but look a little closer and it all makes sense. The primary display is an 8-inch colour screen mounted on top. It displays various menus including the sat-nav (the Accord is the only car to get it as standard) map and is clear and easy to read. Below that are the audio controls, featuring a touch screen for easy access. Ventilation controls are stacked in the third tier and at the bottom is a rotary controller and buttons to access the various option on the screen.

There are yet more buttons on the steering wheel and scattered across the rest of the dashboard but amazingly, the Accord interior manages to look classy at the same time. Perhaps it's the way the dashboard and centre console flow into each other or the near German feel to the way the lines intersect but subjectively, the nicest and classiest looking interior belongs to Honda.

There's always a but though and for the Accord it comes in the form of having only two airbags, a manual front passenger seat and the smallest boot (461-litres) of





**SPECIFICATIONS**

**NISSAN TEANA 2.0 XL**

<b>Price:</b>	RM145,748.20
<b>Engine:</b>	4 cyls, 1997cc
<b>Power:</b>	134bhp at 5600rpm
<b>Torque:</b>	190Nm at 4400rpm
<b>Transmission:</b>	Xtronic CVT
<b>Length:</b>	4885mm
<b>Width:</b>	1830mm
<b>Height:</b>	1485mm
<b>Wheelbase:</b>	2775mm
<b>Tyres f/r:</b>	215/60 R16
<b>Kerb Weight:</b>	1456kg

**HONDA ACCORD 2.0 VTI-L**

<b>Price:</b>	RM143,917.03
<b>Engine:</b>	4 cyls, 1997cc
<b>Power:</b>	153bhp at 6500rpm
<b>Torque:</b>	190Nm at 4300rpm
<b>Transmission:</b>	5-speed automatic
<b>Length:</b>	4870mm
<b>Width:</b>	1850mm
<b>Height:</b>	1465mm
<b>Wheelbase:</b>	2775mm
<b>Tyres f/r:</b>	225/50 R17
<b>Kerb Weight:</b>	1530kg

**TOYOTA CAMRY 2.0G**

<b>Price:</b>	RM155,313.88
<b>Engine:</b>	4 cyls, 1998cc
<b>Power:</b>	165bhp at 6500rpm
<b>Torque:</b>	199Nm at 4300rpm
<b>Transmission:</b>	Six-speed automatic
<b>Length:</b>	4850mm
<b>Width:</b>	1825mm
<b>Height:</b>	1465mm
<b>Wheelbase:</b>	2775mm
<b>Tyres f/r:</b>	215/60 R16
<b>Kerb Weight:</b>	1480kg

the three. Its information display between the two gauges also feels the oldest and while our test example was admittedly the oldest among the three, the fact it already felt a bit 'leggy' after only 30,000km could be a cause for concern.

All of our competitors seem to have their good and bad points so perhaps it should then come down to looks. If it did – and taking into account beauty is a subjective area, we'd probably say the Accord would have the most fans out there. It looks rakish and quick even when stationary with an athletic aura to the way the various lines intersect.

The Nissan Teana is the hardest to fall in love with though conversely, it looks the most modern of all. The wide grille and wide-set front lights give it an odd visage, while the low and rounded roof is at odds with the lengthy body but overall, it's a design you learn to appreciate over time instead of admire immediately.

Toyota has given the Camry a new fussy grille and cleaned up the lines a bit, which somehow works quite well. It looks like a very sturdy and high quality saloon with nice looking wheels and twin rear exhaust pipes but it won't be winning any beauty contests either.

However, there's a reason why the best sellers in the segment are the three cars tested here. It's not just for their own individual

qualities but each comes from a brand backed up by a reliable and widespread dealer network that has built up decades of goodwill from Malaysians. You can't just ignore that fact and neither can the used car market, which is why all three also have strong residual values.

**If you're buying new though, which should it be?**

The Honda Accord is still selling strongly and though the new Camry is now eating into its lead, Honda Malaysia will probably sell more of this generation of Accord than any previous version, which is testament to how much Malaysians love it. We couldn't find any major issue with the car in 2.0 VTI-L form but the lack of ride and noise refinement, a few odd spec deletions and the age of its five-speed auto mark the Honda down and place it in joint-second.

Also in second is the all-new Toyota Camry. It has a powerful new engine, fantastic new gearbox and much-improved looks, which will ensure its success but there's a distinct feeling that Toyota would rather you buy the 2.5G Hybrid rather than this car, which has been priced at a big premium over its rivals. In this company, it's hard to justify the extra cost involved especially since the Camry isn't markedly better in any one area.

So, surprisingly, that leaves the Nissan Teana 2.0 XL as the winner of a really closely fought battle. It's by no means a comprehensive victory and there are some areas where the Teana is the poorest of our trio but its combination of comfort, refinement, value for money and fuel economy is just enough to push it to the front. Buyers and the market may disagree but we think if they took a long hard look at all these cars, they'd come to the same conclusion as we did. Well done, Nissan.



• This article was published in the July, 2015 issue of Autocar ASEAN



Ample legroom for all: Teana (top), Camry (bottom left) and Accord (bottom right)







# EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

When it comes to family sedans, few come as complete a package as the Nissan Sylphy

You're the breadwinner of the family. The car loan is paid off, and the home mortgage repayments are on their way to completion. The kids are starting secondary school soon, but thankfully you've just gotten the promotion you've worked hard for in the last few years. While the six-year old 1.5L B-segment sedan has never let you down, it now requires more attention to keep it running reliably. You're thinking of an upgrade and dream of the ideal family sedan.

You are looking for something that's more upmarket and refined, a car that offers all the comfort and conveniences that will make you feel good even while sitting in a traffic jam. It needs to look premium, but should not attract unwanted attention. An SUV sounds interesting, but you're

not ready to incur higher running costs that come with the ownership of an SUV. More importantly, you want a car that has comprehensive safety features to put your mind at ease because family comes first ultimately. You'll want to take a look at the Nissan Sylphy 1.8VL.

### The complete package

Very few sedans in the segment come as complete a package as the Sylphy. Though it isn't a car that grabs your attention at first glance, the Sylphy's graceful and flowing body lines exudes classiness and sophistication that shines through over time. For a touch of sportiness, the 1.8VL variant even comes with 17-inch alloy rims and a rear spoiler with integrated third brake light, while its lighting components incorporate LEDs on both the front and rear ends for a high-tech look.



Getting into the Sylphy, the sense of spaciousness and comfort is apparent. Leather comes standard on the 1.8VL, and the seating is both supportive and plush at the same time. It's the kind of interior where one feels immediately at ease. The view out of the cabin is also good, with ample head, shoulder and legroom for five adults, including a class-leading boot space of 510-litre at the back.

The design of the interior mimics the exterior with flowing lines shaping the soft-touch dashboard. Even though the Sylphy 1.8VL is filled with premium features such as dual-zone automatic climate control (with rear ventilation), a front LCD with rear view camera, push-to-start button, Bluetooth connection and cruise control, its presentation is uncluttered and tastefully modern.

### Smooth is the way to go

The Sylphy is powered by a newly-engineered 1.8L Twin CVTC four-cylinder engine rated at 131PS and 174Nm, mated to the latest generation, fuel-saving Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) – a combination that offers strong, responsive performance with the bonus of class-leading fuel efficiency at 15.6km/l (based on the Japanese JCo8 test cycle). Like all models equipped with Nissan's famous XTRONIC CVT, the Sylphy is the perfect



picture of smooth acceleration coupled with unmatched cabin quietness and refinement.

Life with the Sylphy is one of minimal fuss, every control is logically laid out to help reduce the stresses of daily city commute. The quick-responding powertrain and light steering makes it easy to stay ahead of (and to manoeuvre around) slower traffic, while the supple ride shields occupants away from harsh roads conditions. In short, the Sylphy is a soothing place to be.

Not only is it a comfortable environment, the Sylphy, be it the 1.8E or 1.8VL variant, is also a safe and secure place for you and your family to spend time in as it comes complete with class-leading safety features including six airbags (front, side and curtain), Vehicle Dynamic Control with Traction Control, ABS with EBD and Brake Assist, along with front/rear disc brakes and Xenon headlamps (for the 1.8VL only).

With prices starting from only RM110,920.80 for the all-new Nissan Sylphy, having the ideal family sedan is no longer a dream.

## SPECIFICATIONS

### NISSAN SYLPHY 1.8L

<b>Price:</b>	From RM110,920.80
<b>Engine:</b>	4 cyls, 1798cc
<b>Power:</b>	131PS at 6000rpm
<b>Torque:</b>	174Nm at 3600rpm
<b>Transmission:</b>	Xtronic CVT
<b>Length:</b>	4615mm
<b>Width:</b>	1760mm
<b>Height:</b>	1495mm
<b>Wheelbase:</b>	2700mm
<b>Tyres f/r:</b>	195/60R16 (E), 205/50R17 (VL)
<b>Kerb Weight:</b>	1255kg (E), 1265kg (VL)



# CHALLENGING CONVENTIONS

Radical Nissan GT-R LM NISMO completes gruelling Le Mans 24 Hours;  
Nissan power takes 1st to 7th places in LM P2 class

Innovation drives every Nissan car, none more so than the radical GT-R LM NISMO which successfully completed the gruelling 2015 Le Mans 24-hour race. Unlike traditional Le Mans racers with a mid-mounted engine powering the rear wheels, the GT-R LM NISMO's front-engine, predominantly front-wheel-drive layout is a novel concept that aims to reinvent how endurance race cars function.

By positioning the engine – a 3.0-litre twin-turbo V6 – over its front driving wheels and developing a revolutionary front bodywork around it, the GT-R LM NISMO is able to channel air under its chassis, dramatically reducing aerodynamic drag, while maximising traction at the same time. But due to technical issues affecting its hybrid system just before the race, the team decided to turn off the energy recovery system and run the GT-R LM NISMO purely on internal combustion power, thus sacrificing electric drive to the rear wheels.

Manufacturers go racing to learn and find the best solutions for road cars of the future, it is no different for Nissan. However, few have the courage and fortitude to think out of the box, and to challenge conventions in what is arguably the toughest circuit-based motor racing event on the calendar. Out of the three Nissan GT-R LM NISMO that entered the race, car #22 piloted by Harry Tincknell, Michael Krumm and Alex Buncombe finished the 24-hour race, with car #23 coming

within an hour of completing the race, and the third entrant (#21) retiring after 10 hours.

"I feel proud of the whole team," said Nissan Motorsport's Darren Cox. "For sure we have had problems but that's what happens when you innovate. Our engine is strong and we were able to quickly fix the other problems that we had. We have learnt an incredible amount at Le Mans and our battles will only make us stronger."

"Most LM P1 manufacturers don't finish Le Mans at their first attempt so it was important for us to hit this target," he continued. "The guys in the garage are the heroes and the drivers have all done an incredible job, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. They needed physical and mental strength in equal measure and every one of the nine delivered for us. We have done exactly what we needed to do. We dug in, we solved our problems, we exploited the limits of our current performance and we finished the Le Mans 24 Hours."

In addition to its fledgling LM P1 programme, Nissan provided engines to many of the LM P2 teams at Le Mans. Those teams did the Japanese manufacturer proud at Le Mans by taking the top seven finishing positions in the LM P2 class. The #47 KCMG Oreca-Nissan took the win, followed by last year's winner the JOTA Sport Gibson-Nissan, with the #26 G-Drive Ligier-Nissan taking the last podium place.





# 250,000 & COUNTING



“ The Nissan Leaf is capable of 195km of range based on the combined NEDC cycle ”

Historical electric vehicle milestone achieved by Renault-Nissan Alliance



“ The positive response of our customers is also driving demand. These vehicles enjoy some of the highest levels of satisfaction rates from our customers around the world. ”

In early June 2015, a French engineer named Yves Nivelles took delivery of a Renault Zoe after trading in his 21-year-old diesel powered car. Nivelles's new Zoe thus became the 250,000th electric vehicle sold by the Renault-Nissan Alliance.

Since December 2010, Nissan has sold 185,000 units of the fully-electric Leaf, and it remains the world's best-selling electric vehicle by a considerable margin. Through January to May 2015, the Alliance sold 31,700 units of EVs, which is a 15% increment over the same period in 2014 – a testament to the increasing popularity and demand for zero-emission transportation across the globe.

#### Growing demand, expanding range of models

“Demand for our electric vehicles continues to grow thanks to government incentives and the expanding charging infrastructure,” said Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and CEO of the Renault-Nissan Alliance. “The positive response of our customers is also driving demand. These vehicles enjoy some of the highest levels of satisfaction rates from our customers around the world.”

Customers currently can choose from six models of EVs under the Renault-Nissan Alliance. In addition to the Leaf hatchback (available in Malaysia starting from RM180,566) Nissan also sells the e-NV200 van in Japan and Europe. Chosen as the 2011 World Car of the Year, European Car of the Year 2011, and Car of the Year Japan 2011-2012, the Nissan Leaf is sold in 46 countries around the world, with the United States, Japan, and Europe being the biggest markets.

The Nissan Leaf is capable of 195km of range based on the combined NEDC cycle. According to a global study of car usage by Nissan, 80% of car users clock less than 100km a day, which means the Leaf is already capable of meeting the demands of the majority of car users around the world.



# NISSAN PARTNERS THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

Zero-emission in action as winners of the UEFA Champions League Campaign witness the final at Olympiastadion in Berlin, Germany



infrastructure and energy supplies. This is why Nissan worked closely with UEFA during the final to help lessen the impact on the city around this world-class global sporting spectacle."

In addition, Nissan was able to showcase its EV leadership to the 300,000 estimated visitors at the Champions Festival site at the Brandenburg Gate in the centre of the city as well as launching the zero emission PART e-VAN – a custom designed all-electric e-NV200 that transported the UEFA Champions League trophy from the Champions Festival to the Olympiastadion ahead of the match.

The second round winners of the Nissan UEFA Champions League Campaign held by Edaran Tan Chong Motor witnessed an exciting final that was contested between Barcelona and Juventus, with the Spanish giants emerging victorious. Lee Kah Guek, Nor Khairi Kamaruddin, and Teh Shi Jien (and their nominated travel companions) won the all-expense paid, once-in-a-lifetime experience to Berlin when they purchased their Nissan cars in April. The lucky winners also participated in the many cool activities that were held by Nissan around Olympiastadion, this was on top of from having exclusive access to the training session held a day before the finale. An earlier group of winners who bought their Nissan models in March watched the semi-final return leg between Barcelona and Bayern Munich played at Munich.



The first year of Nissan's four-year partnership with the UEFA Champions League left a lasting legacy of Nissan's commitment to a carbon free future, with over one hundred electric cars deployed around Berlin, the site of the Champions League Final, and 129 charging points installed to support these vehicles.

The UEFA Champions League Final was a demonstration of the impact EVs can have on major cities and Nissan's commitment in developing technologies for the future of mobility. Over three days, Nissan EVs helped transport 1,466 guests over 23,130 km powered by 3,932 kWh of electricity.

Bastien Schupp, Vice President, Marketing – Nissan Europe said: "Nissan is about Innovation that Excites, and we constantly strive to push the boundaries in everything we do. We know the way we live our lives is changing at a rapid pace with cities becoming overcrowded, putting increased pressure on urban

Nissan is the official global automotive sponsor of the UEFA Super Cup and UEFA Champions League covering the period of 2014/2015 to 2017/2018. As an official partner, Nissan will be involved with Europe's most prestigious club football competition through a number of its exclusive products and services.





# EVOKE YOUR EMOTIONS

Answer the call of Infiniti's flagship performance luxury sedan, the Q70

The new Q70 embodies the essence of all things Infiniti. From its expressive exterior design to its elegantly crafted interior, the Q70 is a statement that reflects individuality, luxury performance and technology. Recently refreshed and offered with new prices, the Q70 now starts from RM295,000 for the 2.5L V6, RM375,000 for the 3.7L V6 and RM420,000 for the 3.5L Hybrid.

### Expressive design

Whichever variant you choose, the Q70 can never be called a follower of traditional European luxury. Instead, it impresses with its distinctive, muscular front design showcasing new LED headlamps

with Daytime Running Lights (DRL), Infiniti's signature double-arch chrome grille with wavy mesh pattern, sport front bumper and integrated LED fog lights. At the back, the Q70 earns new LED combination tail-lights, a new trunk lid design with chrome finishers and a re-profiled bumper that imparts the impression of stability and strength. The Q70 comes with standard 18in alloys which can be upgraded to 20in for a sportier look.

### Indulgent interior

The Q70 interior is a feast for the senses with its ultra-premium appointments and fine craftsmanship combining to cosset the driver and its occupants. For

example, its 10-way powered front seats are lined with quilted leather, climate controlled with 2-way lumbar support for unmatched comfort, while its dashboard and centre console are luxuriously trimmed with hand-crafted white ash silver-powdered wood. The cabin of the new Q70 also gets Active Noise Control to reduce "unpleasant" engine harmonics for a truly soothing ride. The available 10-speaker Bose Premium Sound System features Neodymium speakers for an immersive audio experience within the cabin, and is complemented by 9.3GB worth built-

"Q70 is a statement that reflects individuality, luxury performance and technology."

in memory space, while its hard disk-based navigation system is displayed through a high resolution 8-inch centre screen.

### Seat of power

Whichever powertrain you choose, the Infiniti Q70 is ready to respond. From the 218hp/253Nm of the 2.5L V6 to the 320hp/360Nm of the 3.7L V6, there is a Q70 to cater to the different levels of performance required. Then there is the 3.5L Hybrid – the world's fastest accelerating sedan – offering a combined system output of 360hp and capable of propelling the Q70 from 0-100km/h in 5.5 seconds. All variants of the Q70 come with a fast-shifting 7-speed automatic transmission with rev matching feature during downshifts for enhanced driver engagement.

### Reassuringly safe, but always distinctive

The Q70 comes standard with six airbags, including side and curtain airbags, as well as pre-crash front seat belts that tightens in certain conditions so as to "hold" the occupants in their seats, they work in conjunction with Active Head Restraints to minimise whiplash. Vehicle Dynamic Control and Traction Control are also standard features.

With so much to offer, are you ready to step up and answer the call of the Infiniti Q70?



### About Inspired Motor Sdn Bhd

Inspired Motor, a joint venture company between Edaran Tan Chong Motor and Auto Dunia Sdn Bhd, is the sales and marketing arm of Infiniti vehicles in Malaysia. Inspired Motor is responsible for the retailing of Infiniti vehicles whilst Auto Dunia is the franchise holder.



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## THE DATSUN 1000 SEDAN

Did you know that Tan Chong Motor sold the first ever Japanese car in Malaysia?

In 1957, the year Malaysia gained her independence, Tan Chong Motor & Sons Co. Ltd. was appointed the official distributor of Datsun (thereafter Nissan) cars in the country. The first model sold by Tan Chong – the Datsun 1000 Sedan – was also the first ever Japanese car sold in the country.

The Datsun 1000 has a different styling to that of the 210, as

can be seen in the design of the radiator grille, the shape of the signal lamps, and the larger surface area of the rear window. However, its main feature was greatly improved driving performance, the fruit of experience gained in the Australian rally and in the American market. This car was the base for the later Bluebird (Datsun 310).



### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Engine:</b>	4-cyl. In-line, 988cc
<b>Power output:</b>	34PS at 4400rpm
<b>Top speed:</b>	95km/h
<b>Length:</b>	3880mm
<b>Width:</b>	1466mm
<b>Height:</b>	1535mm
<b>Wheelbase:</b>	2220mm
<b>Kerb weight:</b>	925kg



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