

# Nintendo profit drops on exchange rate despite sales boost

TOKYO (AP) - Nintendo Co's fiscal first quarter profit dipped to about half of what it was a year earlier despite improved sales as an unfavourable exchange rate eroded earnings, the Japanese video game maker said yesterday.

Nintendo's April-June quarter profit totaled JPY16.6 billion (USD153 million), down from 30.6 billion yen the year before. Quarterly sales rose two per cent to JPY172 billion (USD1.6 billion).

Kyoto-based Nintendo sold 2.13 million Nintendo Switch machines for the period, up from 1.88 million in the same period of the previous year.

The Switch is a hybrid game machine that works both as a console and a tablet. More than 36.87 million consoles have been sold since sales began about two years ago.

Nintendo's forecasts for the fiscal year were unchanged at JPY180 billion (USD1.7 billion) profit on JPY1.25 trillion (USD11.5 billion) sales.

Nintendo, which makes Super Mario and Pokemon games, said its game software *Super Mario Maker 2*, released in June was selling well, as are games from outside software makers such as *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe*.

More games are planned for later in the year, such as *The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening*, according to Nintendo. Nintendo also plans to start selling a compact and lightweight version of Nintendo Switch called Nintendo Switch Lite for on-the-go playing.

Switch sales for the last fiscal year totaled 17 million machines, falling short of the company's goal of 20 million. Nintendo stuck to its sales forecast for this fiscal year, which runs through March 2020, at 18 million Switch machines.

Nintendo has been diversifying its business, such as theme park facilities and merchandise



A Super Mario figure is displayed at a showroom in Tokyo

featuring Nintendo characters like Pikachu.

It also offers games for smart devices, a move it resisted at start for years, allowing its characters to only appear in games designed for Nintendo game machines.

## New Audis to Brunei come with mild hybrid tech

TCY Motors Sdn Bhd is offering two of Audi's full-sized class models featuring innovative engines.

To enhance comfort and efficiency, the new Audi A6 and Q8 for Brunei (both with 340hp/500Nm V6 engines) are fitted with mild hybrid technology (MHEV, mild hybrid electric vehicles). Audi engineers have linked the MHEV drive to the vehicle's sensors to ensure anticipatory, predictive control and enhanced efficiency.

The six-cylinder engines in both models use a 48V MHEV system. At the heart of the 48V system

is a belt alternator starter, which instantly restarts the combustion engine while it extends the start-stop system up to 22km/h.

Between 55 and 160km/h, the full-size models can coast fuel-efficiently with the combustion engine shut off. The drive management decides on the suitable strategy. The lithium-ion battery housed in the rear stores the recovered energy and passes this onto auxiliary consumers such as the air conditioning or the oil pump in the transmission.

In real-world driving, fuel savings of up to 0.7 litres are possible.

## FINANCIAL TALK LEAVES PARTICIPANTS MORE INFORMED



Standard Chartered Bank Brunei conducted a financial planning talk for government officers at the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) recently. The financial talk was divided into a morning and afternoon session where over 60 staff attended. Participants were enlightened on financial planning tips and concepts as well basics of investment terms and product knowledge - Standard Chartered Bank