

Remarks for Nissan Opening, 5/27/03
First Draft 5/15/03

I'm a firm believer that we should build our future based on what our future can be.

And, I also believe Nissan is in Mississippi to build their future.

Nearly three years ago, Nissan and Mississippi became partners in an exciting project about building the future. Today, we celebrate the completion of that project and all it represents.

This facility, the people working in it, and the product they are building are all focused on excellence – and it's a standard that Mississippi shares.

We are focused on excellence in our schools, on excellence in job creation, and on excellence in our future.

With that common focus, there's no limit to what we can do together. The fact that we are standing here today in this state-of-the-art automotive plant is a testament to that.

The image of Mississippi has changed. We have set a new standard for others to follow. With the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, with our undying commitment to education, with our dedication to our people, we have set a new standard.

The rest of the world has taken notice. People know what we have to offer, and we are losing our status as the best-kept secret in the world. We have established ourselves as a place of good schools with good jobs in good communities – and that's a reputation for us to hold high and be proud of.

We've reached this new level of excellence because we chose to lead. We chose to live up to our promise and our potential.

To Carlos Ghosn and the entire Nissan team, welcome to Mississippi. We are proud to be your partner. We are proud to work with you to build a future based on what our future can be.