27 January 2010

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Lumix DMC-TZ8
Panasonic

Panasonic's New Lumix DMC-TZ8 Packs Improved Optical Stabilization

For better or worse

Just like I was telling you earlier, Panasonic has more compact digital cameras to show us, and this time, it is the Lumix DMC-TZ8 that packs an optically stabilized lens, 12 megapixels in a compact casing. This will surely be one of the consumer choices, namely the ones that are looking for a light, yet versatile camera to take along on day trips, vacancies and days out, as well as birthday parties.

Even so, this will still meet the expectations of beginner photographers, as it is a compact camera. It packs an amazing 12x optical zoom, for an overall focal range of 25 - 300mm, allowing users to capture close and wide scenery, as well as candid pictures such a portraits without intruding the person's personal space.

With the effective resolution being at 12 megapixels, the sensor is an actual 14.5-megapixel high resolution CCD, just so that the DMC-TZ8 can record pictures in multiple aspect ratios, like 4:3, 3:2 and even 16:9, to meet the needs of the customer. HD video could not lack here, of course, and is featured as 720p in the Motion JPEG format at 30 frames per second. With such capability, users can but shoot HD video, then switch to still picture mode, select the 16:9 aspect ratio and obtain pictures directly embeddable in the HD video he or she captured.

As for the Power O.I.S., Panasonic enhanced this feature too, so that now it sports double the suppression power compared to the common Mega O.I.S. featured in most of the company's cameras. Just because this packs intelligent auto and other beginner-friendly features doesn't mean it will not let one learn more, as it has manual controls too, aside from semi-autos like Aperture Priority and Shutter Priority. Available this March, pricing will be announced close to the shipping date.

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