



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MTEC CONTINUING OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS SAILING AT GES

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The MTEC (Marianas Tourism Education Council) turned student attention to the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian tradition of sailing during their presentation at Garapan Elementary on Wednesday (Feb. 14).

President Emma Perez of 500 Sails shared the non-profit's vision and ongoing work to restore the maritime tradition of sailing in the Marianas by building 500 "proas" (sailing canoes). Perez' presentation reinforced the MTEC message that tourists are eager to learn about and experience local culture when they visit.

"It was a pleasure to have Emma join us and share the vision of 500 Sails with the students, to plant the seed of them having the opportunity to build, sail, or even own their canoes someday," said MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente. "We are always looking for new ways of connecting everyday life with tourism for the students, and this is one way they will be able to share local culture with visitors."

Last year MTEC visited seventeen schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota in partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA).

“MTEC is a strong partner of the MVA, reaching hundreds of students each year with our message that ‘Tourism is Everybody’s Business’,” said MVA Acting Managing Director Judy Torres. “Our school presentations are helping to raise a new generation of young community members who understand the importance of industry and how they can become active participants in it, even at a young age.”

Schools interested in having an MTEC presentation may contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or MVA Community Projects Assistant Jennalyd Babauta at jbabauta@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3210 to schedule a date. Private schools may also have a presentation upon request.



President Emma Perez of 500 Sails shares the non-profit organization’s vision with students of Garapan Elementary on Feb. 15, 2017, during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) and Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) at school.



Student prizes winners pose with presenters from the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) and Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) at Garapan Elementary School on Feb. 15, 2017. Pictured with the students are MTEC Chair Vicky Benavente, far left, and 500 Sails President Emma Perez, third from left.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four to five from other parts of Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served daily from Tokyo-Narita in Japan by Delta Air Lines with seasonal flights by Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air and Eastar Jet provide direct flights from Seoul-Incheon, and Asiana also provides service from Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong to Saipan are available. Philippine Airlines provides nonstop service from Manila to Saipan and connects with many cities in China and Southeast Asia. United Airlines has daily flight connections from six cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made to Saipan via Tokyo-Narita, Seoul-Incheon or Guam. Visitors from Russia and Taiwan usually arrive via Seoul, Tokyo or Manila. Interisland travel is provided by United Express (Cape Air) and Star Marianas Air. For more information on the Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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