



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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For further information, contact:
Perry John P. Tenorio, Managing Director
Marianas Visitors Authority
Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237
mva@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

7TH SAIPAN MARATHON SET FOR MARCH 3, 2012

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – One of the Pacific region's fastest growing races returns for its 7th running on March 3, 2012, with the staging of the Saipan Marathon in the Northern Mariana Islands.

With 800+ runners in 2011, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is planning for even more participants in the next round.

“The Saipan Marathon continues to grow in popularity, and we’re looking forward to our biggest participation yet in March 2012,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “Once again, our goal is to have a seamless event for the runners, and we’ve already started working on our checklists, locally and internationally.”

The 2011 running of the event received a big boost from the participation of popular Japanese comedian and NMI Tourism Ambassador Kanpei Hazama, who attracted a large number of followers, media coverage, and sponsorship last year. Hazama is expected to return in 2012.

“Our Japan office has already commenced outreach to running groups via the internet and

at other marathons in Japan,” said MVA Marketing Manager Bruce Bateman. “We are also lining up media coverage for both pre- and post-event coverage to make the most of this event with international publicity.”

The 7th Annual Saipan Marathon will feature a full marathon (26.2 mi./42.195km), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km) and a 10K (6.2 miles). The full marathon begins at 4:30 a.m., followed by the next two races. CNMI and US early bird registration (by Feb. 2, 2012), is \$55 for the marathon and \$45 for the half marathon and 10K. Registration after Feb. 2 will be an additional \$10. International rates are \$100 for the full marathon and \$70 for the half marathon and 10K. The last day to register is 5 p.m., Feb. 9. The entry fee includes the awards banquet, finisher’s t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

For a registration form or more information, visit www.mymarianas.com or <http://japan.mymarianas.com/saipanmarathon/> or contact Ed Diaz of the Marianas Visitors Authority at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3200/1.



Competitors in the 6th Saipan Marathon, Northern Mariana Islands. The 7th Saipan Marathon will be held on March 3, 2012.

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 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 from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana Airlines provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. Fly Guam/Fly Marianas provides direct flights from Hong Kong and Nagoya, Japan. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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