



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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CHAMPIONS RETURN FOR ROTA BLUE TRIATHLON ON NOV. 12

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Former champions Hidea Miyazuka and Taro Shirato will return to the Northern Mariana Islands this month for the 18th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 12, according to the event organizers.

Principal sponsor Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan has confirmed the two will join this year's competition. Miyazuka is a five-time champion of the triathlon, while Shirato has taken the crown six times. Triathletes from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guam, and Japan have registered to take part in the annual Ironman event.

“Rota Blue continues to have a faithful following of athletes who return year after year, as well as a steady stream of new competitors,” said Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas of event co-sponsor Marianas Visitors Authority. “You can't beat the course, racing through Rota's tropical waters and on quiet roadways through villages and jungles. Rota Blue is a world-class event.”

The event is also sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office. The triathlon features two distances: an A-type half-marathon distance, which includes a 1.5 km swim, followed by a 40 km rigorous biking course and a 10 km run (no time limit) and the B-type Olympic distance,

which includes a 2.0 km swim, followed by a 90 km biking course and topped off with a 21 km run (8-hour time limit). For team competitors, there will also be triathlon of the A-type distance, again with no time limit.

Starting time for both distances is 6:30 a.m. at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted, while bike helmets are required. Registration fees are \$80 for A-type course solo competitors and \$70 for each member in a team. The fee for the B-type course is \$100. The entry fee includes an event t-shirt, high-quality swim cap, and an invitation to the awards banquet at East Harbor.

Pre- registration will be held on Nov. 11, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Restaurant & Bar. The swim course inspection will be held the same day from 1-2 p.m. at the East Harbor. Final registration will take place that evening from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rota Resort & Country Club's Sunset BBQ Tiki Tiki. The pre-race briefing for all participants will be held that evening from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The Awards Banquet will be held after the race at 6:30 p.m. at East Harbor.

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the Northern Mariana Islands, along with the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon and the Tinian Turquoise Blue events.

The Rota Blue Triathlon is also sponsored by Rota Resort & Country Club, other government departments and agencies and the people of Rota.

For more information about the annual Triathlon, please contact Frank Tudela at 1.670.664.3200/01 or ftudela@mymarianas.com, or contact Sandra Atalig at the MVA Rota Office at 1.670.532.0327.

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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