



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**MTEC SENDS BORJA TO GUAM TOURISM SUMMIT**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – As tourism awareness gains momentum among the youth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Kagman High senior Vanity Borja recently shared her experience attending the Guam Tourism Summit recently with Guam students.

The Guam Tourism Summit was held on Jan. 26, 2012, at Father Duenas Memorial School's Phoenix Center.

"I learned that tourism affects each and every one of us in the islands. The tourism industry brings career opportunities, events, businesses, and exposure to other cultures," said Borja. "It contributes to government revenue and improves the quality of life. As natives of the islands, we must be smart about the things we offer tourists. We have to be able to offer them a unique and wonderful experience during their stay in our islands."

Borja was randomly selected to attend the summit at last year's Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC), where 250 NMI students gathered to learn more about the tourism industry. She added she expects to share what she learned with her peers.

“As locals in the islands, we must give respect and show hospitality. Hospitality is very important in the tourism industry because tourists like to feel safe, well taken care of, and welcomed. A simple “Hello” and “Hafa Adai”, or even help with directions makes a difference. Unfriendliness or bad service in hotels, restaurants, airline, etc. disappoints visitors and they will often spread the word which can result in loss of visitors to the islands and or businesses.”

“In addition to that, we must keep our environment clean and free of invasive pests,” she added. “Guam is battling a few invasive pests on their island such as snakes, rhino beetles, and little fire ants. It is a disruption to the ecosystem. Tourists want clean, comfortable, healthy living conditions. Therefore, we must keep our islands clean by picking up trash, resorting to recycling, and reporting the presence of invasive pests.”

Borja’s trip was funded by MTEC, a non-profit organization aimed at promoting community awareness on the importance of the visitor industry in the Northern Marianas. Membership is open to all interested parties. For more information, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas at [mduenas@mymarianas.com](mailto:mduenas@mymarianas.com) or 670.664.3210.



Kagman High senior Vanity Borja, center, joined other students from the Mariana Islands at the Guam Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2012, to learn about the importance of the tourism industry and community participation in the sector.



Kagman High senior Vanity Borja, second from left at front, joins with students from Hopwood Jr. High School and Guam schools for a commemorative photo at the Guam Tourism Summit on Jan. 26, 2012, at Father Duenas Memorial School.

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](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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