



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MVA HIGHLIGHTS NMI CULTURE AT DOMANNAKA FESTIVAL

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Indigenous culture of the Northern Mariana Islands was highlighted by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) this month at the largest dance festival in the Chubu area of Japan, a primary tourism market of this beach resort destination.

As in years past, the MVA and other sponsors funded the participation of Carolinian dancers in the Nippon Domannaka festival held on Aug. 24-26, 2012.

The festival is held mid-summer in Nagoya, located in central Japan. Dancers from all over Japan and abroad gather in Aichi prefecture to perform local dances and music.

The 14th annual celebration of Domatsuri, as it's commonly called, featured over 200 dance groups comprised of about 20,000 performers, most from Japan. An estimated 1.9-million viewers watched what has become one of the largest dance festivals in Japan.

“The Carolinian dance performance has been an award-winning favorite at Domatsuri before, and we're pleased to continue to support this unique opportunity to showcase indigenous culture in promoting the Northern Marianas,” said MVA Marketing Manager Bruce Bateman. “In last year's survey of visitors, many stated they wanted more opportunities to experience

Chamorro and Carolinian culture, so the festival continues to be an excellent avenue to capitalize on that interest.”

The participation of the Northern Marianas delegation was also supported by the Mayor of Saipan Office and Pacific Development, Inc.

Through June of this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received 109,091 visitors from Japan, about 37 percent of total visitors arrivals.







(All photos) Carolinian cultural dancers representing the Northern Mariana Islands participated in the 14th Annual Domannaka Matsuri in Nagoya, Japan on Aug. 24-26, 2012. Over 20,000 dancers from throughout Japan and abroad performed at various venues through the city as part of the 3-day celebration, one of Japan's largest dance festivals.



Carolinian cultural dancers representing the Northern Mariana Islands received a certificate of appreciation on Aug. 24, 2012, for their participation in the 14th Annual Domonakka Matsuri festival in Nagoya, Japan on Aug. 24-26, 2012. Over 20,000 dancers from throughout Japan and abroad performed at various venues through the city as part of the 3-day celebration, one of Japan's largest dance festivals. The certificate was presented by the chairman of the Domatsuri Cultural Foundation, second from left, at the mayor's office.

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 Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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