



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

MIYAZUKA TOPS 12th TINIAN TURQUOISE BLUE TRIATHLON

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – A pack of 33 swimmers, runners, and bikers from Japan competed in the 12th Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim held on Saturday (June 2) in the Northern Mariana Islands, with Hidea Miyazuka repeating his winning form of 2011 to finish as champion.

49-year-old Miyazuka completed the 1.5km swim, 40km run, and 10km bike in 2:30:40. Rounding out the top male finishers were Katsumasa Nesori in 3:30:39 and Shohei Shibata in 3:33:30.

Female finishers in the triathlon were led by Satomi Okochi in 3:07:15, followed by Yoko Mineo in 3:31:30 and Midori Takeuchi in 3:35:02.

Making a celebrity showing this year was Japan model Kaori Ikeda, who finished the full triathlon in 3:59:47. The event was also covered by Japan's Triathlon Magazine.

Some competitors opted for only the reef swim. The 1.5km route was capped by female competitor Noriko Ito in 31:55, edging out the top male competitors of Shoji Yamashita (32:45), Yoshio Shimizu (34:00) and Kohki Kaneko (38:56). Ito was followed by female competitors Satsuki Matsuo (41:18) and Mioko Koda (46:16).

The oldest event competitor, 72-year-old Midori Hasegawa, finished the 1.5KM reef swim in 47:13.

The 3km reef swim went to all female finishers first: Riko Nagashima (56:02), Akie Matoba (1:03:31), and Chiyomi Tanaka (1:03:48). Only two males competed in the 13-swimmer 3km pack, with 68-year-old Kazumi Mineo finishing first for the men and fifth overall in 1:08:34.

“This year’s triathlon went off without a hitch, to the great satisfaction of our competitors who travelled all the way from Japan to enjoy the competition,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We’re very grateful to the Tinian Mayor’s Office, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and the Tinian community for rolling out the red carpet of hospitality to our visitors again this year.”

The event was also organized by KFC Triathlon Club of Japan.

The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is an annual signature event of the Northern Mariana Islands held each June.



The 12th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim was held on June 2, 2012, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Over 30 competitors from Japan competed in the 12th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim held on June 2, 2012, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Blue skies and blue waters set the perfect stage for the 12th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim held on June 2, 2012, in the Northern Mariana Islands. The triathlon is organized every June by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Tinian Mayor's Office, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, and the municipality of Tinian.



Three-time Tagaman Triathlon champion Hidea Miyazuka poses for photographers after placing first place in the 12th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim on June 2, 2012, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Yoshio Shimizu of Japan proudly crosses the finish line after completing the 2012 Fun Run held as part of the 12th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim on June 2, 2012, in the Northern Mariana Islands.

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.