



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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SAIPAN MARATHON ATTRACTS CELEBRITIES

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The 7th Saipan Marathon on March 3, 2012, has attracted a number of celebrities who will join Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) Tourism Ambassador and Japanese comedian Kampei Hazama, who is returning for his third marathon this year.

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and other event sponsors are working to ensure every detail is addressed in preparing for the annual signature event of the Northern Marianas.

Kampei, as he is known, encouraged the addition of a 50K course at this year's race and will cheer on runners in the ultra-marathon. Joining him at the race are stand-up comedian couple Daisuke and Hanako Miyagawa; comedian Kenji Tamura; comedian groups Total Tenbos, Ten Dollar, License, Genkiis, Izumo no Okuni; and musician Shinato Hazama. All are scheduled to perform at the awards dinner and some will also run in the event. Actor Arthur Kuroda, who wed in Saipan last December, will also participate in the race.

“Early and extensive promotions is paying off, as well as the name-recognition of Kampei, who we expect will again attract a large number of followers and media coverage from Japan this year,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “We are all excited

about the upcoming marathon, XTERRA Saipan Championship, and Tagaman Triathlon in March.”

With registration closing today (Feb. 9) at 5 p.m., over 25 runners have already registered for the ultra-marathon. In addition, the Saipan Marathon offers a full marathon (26.2 mi./42.195km), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1km) and a 10K (6.2 miles).

Each participant is required to pick up their race packet on March 2 at 4:30 p.m. at American Memorial Park, with no exceptions. The full marathon and 50K will begin at 4:30 a.m. on March 3, followed by the next two races. The entry fee includes the awards banquet, finisher’s t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

For more information, visit www.mymarians.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.

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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