



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

18 CULTURES AT INT'L FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Representatives of 18 cultures are confirmed to join the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)'s inaugural International Festival of Cultures on Saturday (Sept. 13).

Organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters, the festival will be staged for four consecutive Saturdays at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan.

Confirmed cultural participants will represent Chamorros and Carolinians of the Northern Mariana Is., Kosrae, Palau, Chuuk, Japan, Bangladesh, Korea, China, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Hawaii, New Zealand, Tahiti, Marquesas, and Cook Is.

“We’re encouraged by the strong show of support for our local groups,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “The International Festival of Cultures is going to be a great way for visitors and residents to experience the rich cultural diversity of our island population. The stage performances will change every 15 minutes, so there will an excellent opportunity to enjoy entertainment from a wide variety of cultures.”

Slated for September 13, 20, and 27 and Oct. 4, 2014, on each night various cultural groups from the Pacific and Asia will showcase their heritage through performing arts, cuisine,

and arts and crafts. Demonstration booths will feature basket weaving, *mwar*-making (floral head lei), storyboard carving, origami paper folding, and more.

In addition, a parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Rd. to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Ave.

Booths will open at 5 p.m. Performances begin at 6 p.m. and the event will run until 11 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

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 and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Hangzhou and Wuhan to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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