



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**MVA: INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CULTURES A SUCCESS**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has declared its newest annual signature event, the International Festival of Cultures, a resounding success after four consecutive weekends of festivities at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, Saipan.

With 19 cultures represented, the festival offered live performances, international cuisine, arts and crafts, and cultural demonstrations from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. The festival was organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters.

“By all accounts, the International Festival of Cultures was a resounding success,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “The culture groups represented on the organizing committee really put their hearts into making this first festival a success, and our visitors and the local community were all able to greatly enjoy their efforts. Every week there were recommendations from the committee on how to improve the event. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

Participating cultural communities were Japan, Mariana Is. (Chamorro and Carolinian) Kosrae, Palau, Chuuk, China, Bangladesh, Korea, Philippines, New Zealand, Hawaii, Cook Is., Marquesas, Tahiti, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. A Parade of Culture was also held on the final Saturday.

“As long as we can continue to work with our cultural communities, we look forward to holding the International Festival of Cultures again next year,” said Duenas.

Nightly photos from the event are posted on the MVA Facebook page: My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority).



The Bangladesh community participates in the Parade of Cultures on Dec. 4, 2014, in conjunction with the International Festival of Cultures on Saipan.



The Filipino community participates in the Parade of Cultures on Dec. 4, 2014, in conjunction with the International Festival of Cultures on Saipan.



A representative of Polynesian community dons traditional attire for the Parade of Cultures on Dec. 4, 2014, in conjunction with the International Festival of Cultures on Saipan.



The communities of Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji, and Tonga participate in the Parade of Cultures on Dec. 4, 2014, in conjunction with the International Festival of Cultures on Saipan.



The Saipan Awadori team performs at the International Festival of Cultures in Saipan on Dec. 4, 2014.



The Mariana Islands Chamorro and Carolinian communities lead the Parade of Cultures on Dec. 4, 2014, in conjunction with the International Festival of Cultures on Saipan.

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

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