



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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TARO RETURNS TO TOP 21st ROTA BLUE TRIATHLON

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – 2013 2nd place finisher Shirato Taro of Japan returned on Nov. 15, 2014, to top the 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon.

Eighty-two triathletes from Japan registered for the race on the Friendly Island or Rota, with 62 participating on race day.

The 48-year-old Taro finished in (2:14:06), followed by Okada Takashi (2:16:14) and Hariki Yasutaka (2:27:21) in the Men's Division. Leading the Women's Division was 34-year-old Sakai Emi (2:19:49), who also placed 3rd overall. She was followed in the Women's Division by Kiyomoto Miyuki (3:02:52) and Miwa Yoko (3:04:53).

In the Half Ironmen event, 45-year-old Sakai Osamu (5:00:26) swept in well before the competition in the Men's Division. Osamu was followed by Ota Tomofumi (5:42:42) and Masuda Keisuke (5:45:30). In the Women's Division 28-year-old Oishida Kazuma finished in 6:16:27, followed closely by Ohashi Yukiko (7:03:00), the lone two female participants in the category.

68-year-old Sakaguchi Toshihiko was the oldest competitor, finishing in 4:43:34.

The triathlon features two distances: an A-type half-marathon distance, which includes a 1.5 km swim, followed by a 40 km rigorous biking course and a 10 km run (no time limit) and the B-type Olympic distance, which includes a 2.0 km swim, followed by a 90 km biking course and

topped off with a 21 km run (8-hour time limit).

The event was also sponsored by Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan, and the Rota Mayor's Office.

“The community of Rota always offers an outstanding welcome athletes for the annual Rota Blue Triathlon,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. “Registration was lower this season due to the limited number of flights available to ship bikes to the island, but we hope for a better turnout next year.”

The triathlon was also supported by Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Dept. of Public Safety Traffic and Boating Safety Unit, Dept. of Finance, Rota Resort, Bay Breeze, Division of Youth Services, Joe Santos, Northern Marianas College CREES, Community and Cultural Affairs, Blue Palm, Mark Michael, System Clinic, JSBM, Aqua Dive Shop, Tri Sports, Serena, Beato Calvo, Vince Calvo, and Rubin.

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the Northern Mariana Islands, including the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon and the Tinian Turquoise Blue events.



The 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon was held on Nov. 15, 2014, in the Northern Mariana Islands. The race attracted 62 participants from Japan.



Blue skies welcomed competitors in the 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon was held on Nov. 15, 2014, in the Northern Mariana Islands. The race attracted 62 participants from Japan.



Lush roadways welcome competitors in the 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon was held on Nov. 15, 2014, in the Northern Mariana Islands. The race attracted 62 participants from Japan.



Competitors take on the swim course in the 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon was held on Nov. 15, 2014, in the Northern Mariana Islands. The race attracted 62 international participants.



An island-style awards dinner capped the 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon was held on Nov. 15, 2014, 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 and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Russia is served via Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan via Guam. United States mainland connections can be made by United Airlines to Saipan via Guam, and Delta Airlines from the west coast to Saipan via Narita. For more information visit www.mymarianas.com.

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