



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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FAMA, SASAKURA, & TOVES TOP MTEC ESSAY CONTEST
Theme: Tourism & Our Community

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) has announced the winners for its essay contest “Tourism & Our Community.”

In the high school division, senior Chelsea Fama of Marianas High took 1st place, stating, that tourism “promotes social values, environmental awareness, and love for our island and its people.” She was followed by 10th grader Ann Margaret D. Norcio of Mariana High in 2nd place, and 11th grader Ou Yuan Zhi of Agape Christian School.

In the junior high school division, 8th graders of Grace Christian Academy Rota sweep the awards, led by Daniel Sasakura II, who wrote, “Tourism allows businesses to prosper and the people who work there to get paid. This also allows the government to get taxes and get income for future purposes.” Sasakura was followed by Rency Camacho in 2nd and Antonio Atalig in 3rd.

In the elementary school division for grades 3-6, 6th grader Hanna Toves of Sinapalo placed 1st, pointing out tourism “provides support such as money to build many infrastructure in

our community such as public roads, parks, and etc.” She was followed by 6th grader Ivany Manglona of Sinapalo Elementary in 2nd place and 6th grader Sharmaine Olivos of Garapan Elementary.

“The winning essays really demonstrated a true understanding of the importance of our local tourism industry to the well-being of our community,” said MTEC Board member Larry Lee.

“Written essays help the students articulate what they think about the tourism and hospitality industry. It’s one way to engage them and keep them informed about the importance of their role in our primary industry,” said MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente.

Prizes for grades 3-8 were \$50 (1st place), \$30 (2nd place), and \$20 (3rd place). Prizes from grades 9-12 were \$75 and 1 roundtrip ticket to 2015 MY WAVE Tourism Summit in Guam (non-transferable 1st place), \$60 (2nd place), and \$50 (3rd place).

Winners were announced at the MTEC/MY WAVE Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015.



12th grader Chelsea Fama of Marianas High, in blue, read her division winning essay to fellow students at the Marianas Tourism Education Tourism (MTEC) Summit on Jan. 23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort. From left are MTEC Treasurer Chris Lubi, Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing Assistant Charlene Mendoza, MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente, MTEC Board Member Gordon Marciano, Fama, keynote speaker and Associate Professor of Global Resources Management in the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam Dr. Fred R. Schumann, and MTEC Board Members Larry Lee and Chris Concepcion.

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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