



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

## News Release

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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### **MTEC BEGINS MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** –The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) began its annual presentations to middle schools last week with educational presentations at Hopwood Middle School and Dandan Middle School.

MTEC addressed 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Hopwood on Tuesday (Jan. 6) on the importance of tourism. Pacific Islands Club Saipan Director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities Glenn Policare joined the presentation to teach the students how to give greetings and say “thank you” in Japanese, Korean, and Russian.

On Thursday (Jan. 8), MTEC visited Dandan, where several industry employees participated in the presentation. Robert Bansil and Robin Sablan of Mariana Resort & Spa shared with students about their jobs, the importance of good time and attendance, and the value being friendly to visitors. PDI General Manager Gordon Marciano also shared about how he started in the industry as an entertainer and worked his way up to general manager.

“We’ve very encouraged by the participation of industry employees teaching the students different aspects of tourism,” said MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente. “Presenters like Glenn, Robert, Robin and Gordon have been dynamic in making tourism industry relevant in a way the students can relate to.”

MTEC will hold its annual MTEC Tourism Summit for public school system students on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort. The summit is expected to gather 600 students to learn about tourism and express their own thoughts on the Northern Marianas' primary economic driver.



Pacific Islands Club Saipan Director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities Glenn Policare, left, gets help from a student at Hopwood Middle School on the correct pronunciation of “hello” and “thank you” in Korean. Policare talk students common greetings in Japanese, Korean, and Russian during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) on Jan. 6, 2015, and will also be a guest speaker at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015.



Students at Hopwood Middle School win prizes for correctly answering questions about tourism during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) on Jan. 6, 2015. Also pictured are MTEC member Catherine Perry, left, and MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente, third from right.



PDI General Manager Gordon Marciano shares about his career in tourism at Dandan Middle School during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) on Jan. 8, 2015.



Marianas Resort & Spa Bus Driver Robin Sablan, left, and Transportation Manager

Robert Bansil address the students of Dandan Middle School during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) on Jan. 8, 2015. Sablan and Parnell shared about their jobs, the importance of good time and attendance, and the value of being hospitable to visitors.

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

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