



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## **MTEC AND MVA VISIT 18 CNMI SCHOOLS**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) and Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) have wrapped up their annual school presentations, visiting 18 public schools with the message “tourism is everybody’s business.”

MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente has led the presentations for the last four years in the CNMI public and private schools. MTEC is administered by a Board of directors, including Perry Tenorio (MVA), Christopher Lubi (Ernst & Young), Jonas Barcinas and Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Larry Lee (MTEC), James Nelson (DOCOMO Pacific), Christopher Concepcion (Delta Air Lines), and Gordon Marciano (PDI).

“At each MTEC presentation, students are asked how they can become involved with the islands’ tourism industry. At every age level, they are much more aware of the importance of taking good care of our visitors and at the same time, the importance of taking good care of our natural resources,” said MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente.

A number of industry professionals joined MTEC this year in the presentations, including General Manager Gloria Cavanagh, Robert Bansil and Robin Sablan from Mariana Resort & Spa, photographer Del Benson, PIC Saipan executive Glenn Policare, Tony Satur of Laolao Bay Golf Resort, and Marciano.

“I appreciate very much the students’ enthusiasm; tourism is highly regarded as a priority. I know we are in good hands with our future tourism ambassadors taking us all to the next level,” said Marciano. “We should continue to praise MTEC for their efforts to align today’s stakeholders with our children to (help them) understand that there is opportunity for all in the tourism industry.”

"I can really see how MTEC's tourism summits and visits to the schools are greatly increasing our younger generations' understanding of the value and importance of tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands," added Lee. "The students are actually thinking about the kinds of tourism jobs they'd like to pursue and about furthering their education in the hospitality industry."

MTEC’s presentations to the schools included visitor demographics, language lessons, survey results, the benefits of tourism, industry jobs, and ways students can help support tourism. Giveaways were provided by Pacific Islands Club Saipan and the MVA.

MTEC is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the tourism industry and its importance to the community.



Students of Dandan Middle School answer questions posed by Pacific Development Inc. Director Gordon Marciano on January 8, 2015, as part of the tourism presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council. Marciano is also a MTEC Board member.



Photographer Del Benson shares professional insights with students of San Antonio Middle School on January 13, 2015, as part of the tourism presentation by the Marianas Tourism Education Council.

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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