



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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For further information, contact:
Perry John P. Tenorio, Managing Director
Marianas Visitors Authority
Telephone: (670) 664-3200/3201 Facsimile: (670) 664-3237
mva@my Marianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

MVA CANCELS INT'L FESTIVAL, SAIPAN TROPICAL EKIDEN

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – With recovery from Typhoon Soudelor projected to take weeks in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has cancelled two upcoming signature events – the International Festival of Cultures originally slated for six consecutive Saturdays begin on Aug. 14 and Saipan Tropical Ekiden on Aug. 29.

President Barack Obama has declared the NMI under a state of emergency due to the extent of the damage from Typhoon Soudelor when it hit the islands earlier this month.

“As much as we were all looking forward to the International Festival of Cultures and our first Saipan Tropical Ekiden race, it is necessary to cancel the events for this year,” said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. “As government and a community we are focusing all our resources on the recovery effort and on restoring our tourism services 100% as quickly as possible.”

The MVA's next signature event will be the annual Rota Blue Triathlon in November 2015.

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 daily flights from Seoul and Busan and Jeju Air provides daily service from Seoul. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, 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. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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