



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

**PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO**  
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**For Immediate Release-June 30, 2015**

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**TEAMWORK RESTORES HISTORIC TEMPLE GATE**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The combined effort of several organizations has restored a historic Japanese temple gate in Saipan that was severely damaged earlier this year.

The pre-war gate post in Garapan near Fiesta Resort & Spa marked the entrance to Nan'yo'-ji (South Sea Buddhist Temple) and was the sole remnant of the temple and the adjoining Saipan Domestic Science Girls School and subsequent Girls High School during the Japanese administration of the islands. The gate was broken into pieces when struck by a vehicle in Jan. 6, 2015.

Initially thought destroyed, the crumbled gate was later determined to be repairable. President Willie Matsumoto of Saipan-based company Pacific Eagle led the initial charge to raise the repair price, including financial support from Kokyu Kumehara of the Jyodo Assembly and the wayward driver. The CNMI Historic Preservation Office oversaw the restoration. Following the completion of the restoration, a rededication ceremony was performed on June 13.

“The Gate Post was considered eligible for inclusion in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places based upon its historical importance,” said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. “We thank all the partners that have lent a hand in restoring this important landmark.”



淨土宗  
多寶山  
南洋寺

多寶山  
南洋寺  
青柳貫孝

After being knocked to pieces by a wayward driver in January 2015, the pre-WWII gate post in Garapan near Fiesta Resort & Spa marking the entrance to Nan'yo'-ji (South Sea Buddhist Temple) has been restored. The historic landmark was repaired through the collaborative efforts of Pacific Eagle, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Jyodo Assembly in Japan, and the CNMI Historic Preservation Office. The gate was the sole remnant of the temple and the adjoining Saipan Domestic Science Girls School and subsequent Girls High School during the Japanese administration of the islands.



Shunsuke Iou, priest of Jyodo Assembly, performs a dedication ceremony on June 13, 2015, at the restored pre-WWII gate post in Garapan near Fiesta Resort & Spa marking the entrance to Nan'yo'-ji (South Sea Buddhist Temple).

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

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