



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

---

*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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

---

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

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](mailto:mva@my Marianas.com)  
[www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com)

**YANAI, TAN TOP PLUMERIA SWIM**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – Kaito Yanai finished first (23:54) in the Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Plumeria Swim (formerly the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament) on June 20, 2015, at Pau Pau Beach. Angel Marie Tan repeated her 2014 winning form to place 1<sup>st</sup> in the Female Division (24:59).

Thirty-three participants from Japan, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands joined the 1.5K race event, with another 12 joining the 500m and 1.5K group swim.

Yanai was followed in the Male Division by Takumi Sugie (23:55), who also finished first last year, and Mark Maestro (26:10). Tan was followed by Sophia Klair Gauran and Kyona Rivera (27:26) and Aika Watabanbe (28:38).

“We’re very happy with the results of the festival. Everything went smoothly, and the participants had a safe and enjoyable time,” said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Perry Tenorio.

In the Male Junior Division, the winners were Isaiah Aleksenko (28:57) for ages 10 & Under and Nelson Jay Batallones (31:10) for ages 11-12. In the Female Junior Division, the winners were Ayumi Obligacion (35:10) for ages 10 & Under, Kathrine Illahi (33:52) for ages 13-15, and Angel Felice De Jesus (29:23) for ages 16-18.

Harry Choi (28:29) placed 1<sup>st</sup> for ages 19-29 Male, Shinji Takayama (32:17) placed 1<sup>st</sup> for

ages 30-39, and Hiroshi Tanaka (00:32:01) placed 1<sup>st</sup> for ages 40-49 Male, a repeat of his 2014 win the same age division. In the Female Age Division Category, the winners were: Haruko Furugori (39:28) for ages 40-49, Motoko Kubo (30:28) for ages 50-59, and Takachi (30:59) for ages 60 & Up.

1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the 500m swim was Takako Ishizuka (11:00), while Yayoi Kabata (24:48) placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 1.5K swim.

The race was followed by an awards ceremony and breakfast on the beach.

The event is jointly organized by the MVA and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan. Sponsors and supporters include: Let's Go! Tour, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, World Resort Saipan, McDonald's Saipan, Detry Pumping Service, Saipan Advertising, Pacific Development Inc., Department of Public Safety, Boating Safety/EMS, Emma Perez, Peter Perez, Mobby's, Tusa Reef Tourer by Tabata, Gull, Super VAAM, Bism, SAS, Marine Diving, Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association.



Participants in the 1<sup>st</sup> Plumeria Swim (formerly the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament) organized by Marianas Visitors Authority and Central Sports Co., Ltd. on June 20, 2015, at Pau Pau Beach.



Angel Marie Tan receives her 1<sup>st</sup> place award at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 1<sup>st</sup> Plumeria Swim on June 20, 2015, in Saipan.



Local dancers perform at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 1<sup>st</sup> Plumeria Swim on June 20, 2015, in Saipan.



Swimmers prepare at the start line at the Marianas Visitors Authority's 1<sup>st</sup> Plumeria Swim on June 20, 2015, in Saipan.

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).

###