



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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**105 JOIN 1ST ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S TOURISM CUP
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – A total of 105 golf participants turned out for the 1st Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament on Saturday (May 14) at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort – East Course, braving a morning of rain to help raise funds for tourism education.

““Thanks to all the participants, sponsors and volunteers, for your support and most especially for braving Mother Nature's blessings throughout the day. This is the first of what I imagine will be an annual tournament,” said Tournament Director James Nelson. “Thanks to Gov. Ralph Torres and the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) for hosting a successful event. Lastly, thanks to the Tournament Committee, Vicky Benavente, Martin Duenas, the MVA staff, Ivan Blanco, and Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, for their invaluable assistance and hard work in putting this tournament together. I'm sure everyone involved will look forward to the 2nd Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament in May 2017.”

The tournament was hosted by the Office of the Governor and the Marianas Visitor Authority (MVA).

““We are pleased with the great turnout for the first annual Governor's Tourism Cup,”

said MVA Managing Director Chris Concepcion. “We thank all our winners and participants for supporting the MTEC’s efforts at educating our youth on the importance of tourism. The MVA team will continue to emphasize that tourism is everybody’s business, so we appreciate the support of the entire community going forward.”

Winners from 1st to 3rd in each flight category were: Championship - William Retardo, David Largent, and Jeff Taylor; A Flight-Lee Dong Kyu, Joey Dela Cruz, and Alex Sablan; B Flight- Tony Guerrero, Pablo Lito Mendoza, and Carl Hocog; C Flight- Mario Taitano, Glenn Maratita, and Diego Benavente; Seniors - Alex Tudela, Manny Mangarero, and John Cepeda; and Ladies- Masayo Miyamoto, Lorraine Babauta, and Noriko Togawa.

Proceeds of the tournament will go to the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC)

“The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) will continue to engage students to highlight the tourism industry’s social, cultural, and economic value,” said Vicky Benavente, MTEC chair. “I especially want to express our thanks to Director James Nelson, MVA Vice Chairman and Tournament Director, for his awesome leadership with organizing this fundraising event for MTEC.”

The event was supported by the following sponsors: Major Sponsors – Bank of Guam, Bridge Capital, DFS Saipan Ltd., IT&E; Classic Sponsors- Pacific Islands Club, Joeten Superstore, Best Sunshine Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan; Classic Donors – Alter City Group, PHI Pharmacy, Saipan Shipping Co., IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, JET Holding Co., Island Training Solutions, Herman’s Modern Bakery; Hole-in-one Sponsors- Joeten Motors, Pacifica Insurance, Triple J Motors, AK Saipan, IT&E; and Beverage Sponsors MARPAC-Budweiser, Saipan Ice & Water, PTC-Miller.



CNMI Governor Ralph Torres welcomed golfers to the 1st Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament on May 14, 2016, at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.



CNMI Governor Ralph Torres congratulates J.J. Atalig at the awards ceremony for the 1st Annual Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament on May 14, 2016, at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort. Pictured from left are Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) Board Member Larry Lee, Atalig, Torres, and MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente.

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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