



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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462 COMPLETE SAIPAN MARATHON 2016

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Four hundred sixty-two competitors from eight countries earned the bragging rights of “finisher” at Saturday’s (April 16) 11th Saipan Marathon, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA).

The race attracted 43 runners for the grueling 50K course, 93 runners for the full marathon, 166 runners for the half-marathon, and 228 runners for the 10K course. A majority of the competitors were from Japan, with others hailing from the NMI, China, Korea, Taiwan, USA, Philippines, and Indonesia.

Leading the full marathon finishers was 21-year-old Haruki Okayama (2:42:12) of Japan in the Men’s Division, while Saipan resident 45-year-old Mamiko Berger (3:15:19) of Japan improved on her time and repeated her 2015 win in the Women’s Division. In the half-marathon, 35-year-old Shiji Shiratori (1:22:52) of Japan led the Men’s Division and 38-year-old Yusuko Miyazaki (1:37:28) of Japan led the Women’s Division. Topping the 10K race was 31-year-old and Saipan resident Keith Longuski (00:37:43) of USA in the Men’s Division, while 38-year-old Tomoe Yokoyama (00:43:00) of Japan repeated her 2015 win in the Women’s Division. Out of 31 men who braved the 50K course, 31-year-old Masayuki Abe (3:29:22) of Japan finished first, while 52-year-old Lori Hutchinson (4:28:26) of NMI bested 12 other women.

“Once again, the marathon was a strong success thanks to the overwhelming support of

our many sponsors, supporters, and the community. We were especially pleased to offer more cash prizes this year to the top finishers,” said MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas.

This year’s marathon included the participation of several Japanese comedians who assisted with the presentation of awards, including long-time marathon supporter Kanpei Hazama. The awards ceremony was held at sunset on the beach at Fiesta Resort & Spa. The event was also covered by visiting media from Japan.

Major sponsors this year are: Scalp D, Mobit, Runtomo, Delta Air Lines, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI), T Galleria, and Northern Marianas Athletics.

In-kind contributors are: Emperor Ent. Corp. dba Furusato Restaurant, Herman’s Modern Bakery, Pacific Subsea Saipan INC., Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, I-Mart, Kanoa Resort, Saipan Shipping Company, Inc., Avis Rent A Car, McDonald’s, Hyatt Regency Saipan, NGT. Country House/Moby Dick, MARPAC, Kan Pacific/Mariana Resort & Spa, Triple J. Wholesale, Island Apparel, and Saipan Advertising.

Aid stations will be manned by members of HANMI and other groups, including: Northern Marianas Athletics, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Point Hotel & Golf Resort, Best Sunshine, Saipan World Resort, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Tasi Tours & Transportation, Pacific Development Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, and Nepalese Community of Saipan

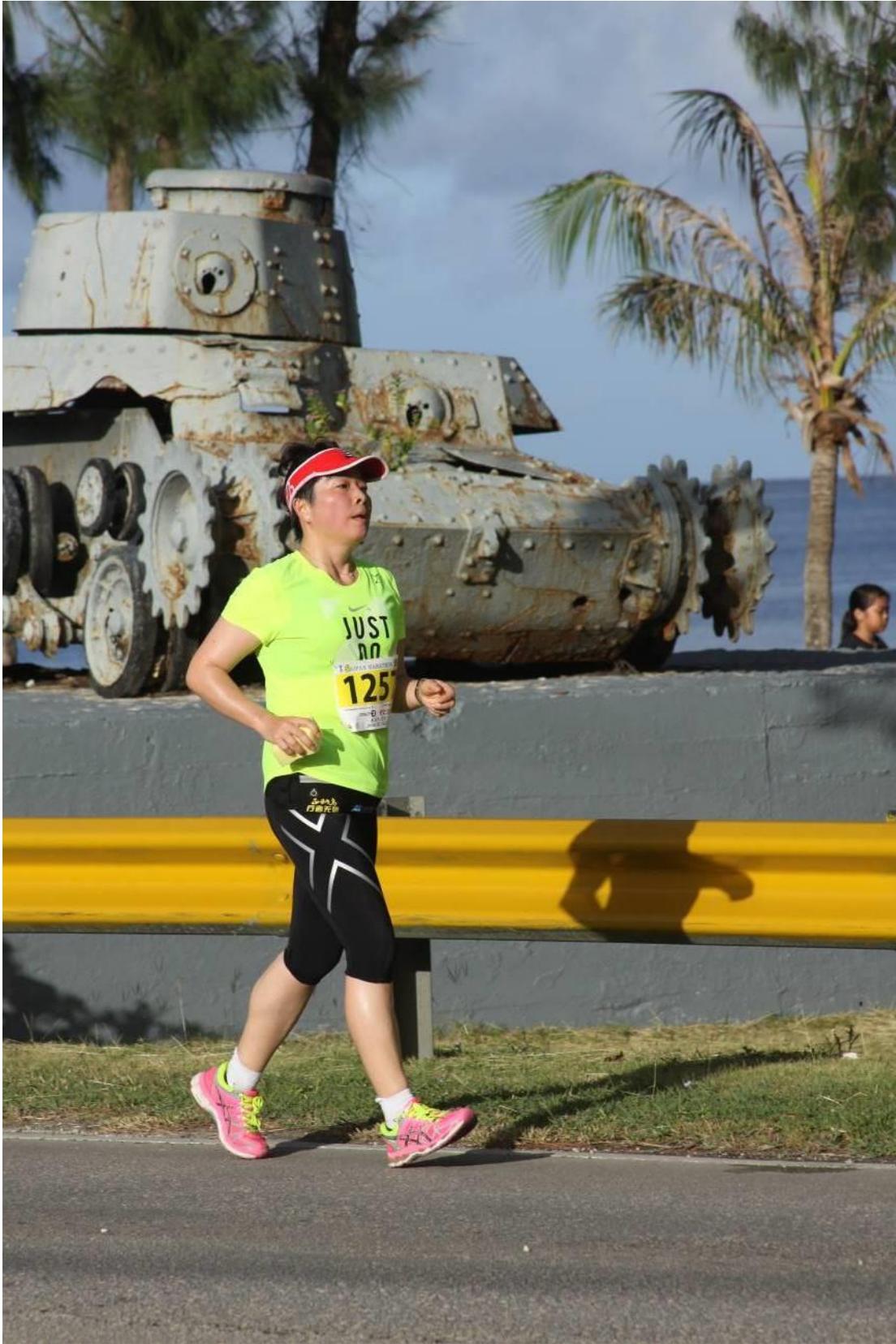
Additional support is being provided by the following government and private sector offices and individuals: Saipan Mayor’s Office, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Safety, American Memorial Park, Fire Division Emergency Medical Services, Hawaiian Rock Products, Department of Public Works, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Miss Marianas Jian Joyner, American Red Cross NMI Chapter, and school MY WAVE Clubs.



Saipan resident Mamiko Berger of Japan, left, runs toward repeating her 2015 1st place finish in the Women's Category of the full marathon at the Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands. Pictured at right competing in the half marathon is Rie Tsubouchi of Japan.



Baoqing Gan shows her energy during the half-marathon course of the Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Liping Tang passes a history military tank along the half marathon course of the Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Yoshiji Kono and other competitors enjoy the view of the scenic western lagoon during the Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Competitors share encouragement during the Saipan Marathon on April 16, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Haruki Okayama, 1st place Male finisher in the Saipan Marathon, receives his award and prize money from a Japanese celebrity comedian and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Vice Chairman Nick Nishikawa, right, on April 16, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



Saipan Marathon top finishers pose with celebrity supporters at the awards ceremony on April 16, 2016.

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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