



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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

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**For Immediate Release-Sept. 8, 2016**

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**POLYNESIA, JAPAN TO PERFORM AT INT'L FEST ON SEPT. 10**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – For the first time this year, the communities of Japan and Polynesia will take the stage at the 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures on Saturday (Sept. 10), joining a growing list of cultures that have performed at the free event each week.

This Saturday's festival kicks off the stage entertainment with the Japanese community at 5:45 p.m., followed by the Chamorro community at 6 p.m., the Carolinian community at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Chuukese community at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., the Filipino community at 7:30 p.m., the Korean community at 8:15 p.m. The highly anticipated Fiji/Tonga/Samoa community performs at 8:45 p.m., followed by the Tahiti/Marquesas/Cook Is. performance at 9 p.m.,

Other cultures participating the festival include Marshall Is., Bangladesh, Korea, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The festival is held every Saturday in September from 5-10 p.m. at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

“The festival just keeps getting more exciting each week,” said MVA Community Projects Specialist and event coordinator Ryan Calvo. “People can sample the roast pig cooked on site, learn coconut frond-weaving, watch pandanas mat-weaving, try ethnic dances, and last week, beat the Korean drum. That doesn't include all the delicious food the various cultures are serving up.

Don't miss it!"

This year, the MVA and participating cultures are putting equal emphasis on stage entertainment and hands-on experiences. The festival also includes arts and crafts and ethnic cuisine.

The festival is sponsored by PDM Promoters, Team PDI, Div. of Parks & Recreations, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, KKMP, Best Sunshine Int'l, and Power 99.



The Chuukese community performs at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016. The festival will be held every Saturday from 5-10 p.m. in September at Paseo de Marianas, Saipan.



The Samoa/Tonga/Fiji community serves young and mature coconut at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016, in Saipan.



Bangladesh and other ethnic cuisine is served at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016.



Children of the Samoa/Fiji/Tonga community pose with a festival-goer at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016, in Saipan.



Arts and crafts of the Federated States of Micronesia and other cultures is sold at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016, in Saipan.



Festival-goers of all ages enjoy the Japanese game “kendama” at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 2016, in Saipan. The festival will be held on every Saturday in September from 5-10 p.m., at Paseo de Marianas will feature hands-on demonstrations, live performances, arts and crafts sales, ethnic cuisine, and more.



An off-island women's choir representing the Korean community prepare to perform at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 3, 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 other parts of Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo Narita in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana. From Korea, Asiana, Jeju Air, and Jin Air provide direct flights from Seoul, and Asiana also provides service from Busan. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong to Saipan are available. Philippine Airlines provides nonstop service from Manila to Saipan and connects with many cities in China and across Asia. 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 to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and by United via Guam. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul or Manila. Interisland travel is provided by United Express (Cape Air). For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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