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

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*Tourism is Everybody's Business!*

**CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION**  
MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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**MVA HOSTS PRESS LAUNCH FOR PHILIPPINE AIRLINES**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) held a press launch in the Philippines last week to promote direct flights between Saipan and Manila by Philippine Airlines (PAL) beginning June 15, 2016.

PAL will fly the route twice weekly utilizing the Airbus A320 with 156 seats. The airline will depart Manila on Sunday and Wednesday at 9:20 p.m. and depart Saipan on Monday and Thursday at 4:35 a.m. The service will be operated by PAL Express.

“The press launch was very successful in Manila, with a lot of support expressed from Philippine Airlines,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “In addition to making it easier for direct travel to and from the Philippines for vacation, business or medical referral, and it’s also going to be a great opportunity to make connections to the NMI from other destinations. We welcome this new partnership.”

The press launch in Manila on Thursday (April 21) was attended by MVA Board Member Jerry Tan, PAL President and Chief Operating Officer Jaime Bautista, MVA Senior Adviser Jemy See, and other dignitaries. Pocket launches were also held in Cebu and Devao, with destination

presentations for travel agents.

The launch was covered by media including Philippine Star, the most widely read broadsheet in the country with a market share of over 50 percent and over 2.7-million daily readers nationwide.



The Marianas Visitors Authority held a press launch on April 21, 2016, in Manila to formally announce direct, bi-weekly flights to Saipan by Philippine Airlines (PAL) beginning on June 15, 2016. Panelists from L-R: Ria Domingo (VP- Marketing, PAL), Ismael Gozon (SVP- Airline Operations), David Lim (SVP- Commercial Group), Jaime Bautista (President - PAL), Bonifacio Sam (President – PAL Express), Jerry Tan (MVA Board), Jemy See (Senior Adviser for MVA Philippines), and Alex Stutely (SVP - Luen Thai Enterprises).



The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) held a launch on April 19, 2016, in Cebu to formally announce direct, bi-weekly flights to Saipan by Philippine Airlines beginning on June 15, 2016. Pictured are Senior Adviser for the MVA in the Philippines Jemy See, center in black, MVA staff, and travel agents.



The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) held a launch and presentation to tour agents on April 20, 2016, in Davao to formally announce direct, bi-weekly flights to Saipan by Philippine Airlines beginning on June 15, 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](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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