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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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**For Immediate Release-Sept. 20, 2016**

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## **PARADE OF CULTURES ON SEPT. 24 IN SAIPAN**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – The Parade of Cultures featuring ethnic costumes will highlight this Saturday (Sept. 24) evening's 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures. The parade route begins at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan and continues north on Beach Rd. to Paseo de Marianas. The parade begins at 5 p.m., while participants are reminded to assemble at the parade starting point at 4 p.m.

“Our Parade of Cultures on Saturday will be a must-see for visitors and residents, alike,” said MVA Community Projects Specialist and event coordinator Ryan Calvo. “There’s no better opportunity to experience the sounds, sights, and flavors of our diverse community than the International Festival of Cultures, and we look forward to an exciting closing night this weekend.”

Following the parade, the festival will feature a full night of stage entertainment: the Chinese community at 6 p.m., the Japanese community at 6:35 p.m., the Korean community at 7 p.m., the Chuukese community at 7:15 p.m., the Filipino community at 7:30 p.m., the Hawaiian community at 8 p.m., the Bangladeshi community at 8:45 p.m., the Tahiti/Marquesas/Cook Is. community at 9 p.m., Samoa/Tonga/Fiji community at 9:15 p.m., the Chamorro community at 9:30 p.m., and the Carolinian community at 9:45 p.m.

Other cultures participating the festival include the Marshall Is. and the Federated States of Micronesia. This year, the MVA and participating cultures has put equal emphasis on stage entertainment and hands-on experiences. The festival also includes arts and crafts and ethnic cuisine.

“Certainly, we couldn’t have made the festival available to the community without the partnership of our sponsors and supporters, both public and private. Our sincere thanks to them again this year,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “The MVA’s signature events such as the International Festival of Cultures are an integral of our annual schedule to host events that attract or add value to the trip of visitors and give them an opportunity to mingle with the local community.”

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 Carolinian community performs at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 17, 2016. The Carolinian and other communities will be featured as part of the Parade of Cultures in downtown Garapan on the final night of the festival on Sept. 24, 2016.



The Samoa/Tonga/Fiji community show their cultural pride and ethnic costumes at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 17, 2016, in Saipan.



Members of the Chuukese community at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 17, 2016.



Japanese and other ethnic food is sold at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 17, 2016, in Saipan.



The community of Samoa/Fiji/Tonga performs at the International Festival of Cultures on Sept. 17, 2016, in Saipan. The festival is held every Saturday in September from 5-10 p.m., at Paseo de Marianas and features hands-on demonstrations, live performances, arts and crafts sales, ethnic cuisine, and more.

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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