



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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TEAM BUILDING WITH SAIPAN TROPICAL EKIDEN

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is offering businesses, government offices, sports teams, community groups, families and more the opportunity for team building with its newest signature event, the Saipan Tropical Ekiden on June 4, 2016.

“Ekiden is a long-distance relay race originating in Japan, where universities, especially, show their school pride and form bonds through interscholastic competition. Like American football or other sports, it can become quite emotional as each team member contributes to the effort,” said MVA Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion. “It’s going to be a great opportunity for businesses, community groups and others to bond over a common and physically demanding effort, a 3-hour relay marathon. Co-workers can also show their organizational pride by cheering their team on. The emphasis is friends, family, and fun.”

The 3-hour relay marathon in Garapan will feature two categories: Composite Division for ages 18 and older, and General Division for any age (at least one member age 18 or older is required when minors are included in the team).

Each team will continuously run a 2K course from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. beginning at Garapan Fishing Base and through downtown Garapan, switching to the Saipan Beach Pathway for the latter part of the race into the evening.

General Division teams may have two to 10 members. Composite Division teams may register in groups of up to four members, who may be combined with other groups to form teams of five to 10 members.

Registration for CNMI and U.S. residents is \$20/person for high school students and adults and \$10/person for elementary and junior high students. A U.S. or CNMI Driver's License or CNMI ID is required. Entry fee includes the awards ceremony and barbecue following the race, memorial towel, and Certificate of Completion.

The race is organized by the MVA and Japan-Saipan Cultural Exchange Association and supported by Hori Production and ORLAIGH.

Applications and a fact sheet are available under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ed Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3200/01.

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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