



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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TENORIO, WATANABE TOP PLUMERIA SWIM

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Saturday's (Sept. 3) Plumeria Swim in Saipan again showed its appeal for young and old, alike, as 12-year-old Jun Tenorio and 12-year-old Aika Watanabe were named Overall Winners in the male and female categories, respectively.

Tenorio, of Tsunami Swim Club in Saipan, took an easy 1st place in 22:16. He was followed by Nelson Jay Batallones (22:17) and Isaiah Aleksenko (22:18). Japan's Watanabe improved her 3rd place finish in 2015 to finished 30 seconds faster at 28:08, followed by last year's winner Angel Marie Tan (28:51) and Sophia Kalir Gauran (30:51).

The 2nd Annual Plumeria Swim took place at Kili Beach in a course near the historic World War II tanks off-shore. Forty-one participants from Japan and the Northern Mariana Islands joined the 1.5K race event with flippers, snorkels and wetsuits, with another 12 joining the 500m and 1.5K swim.

The event was covered by local media and Japan's Marine Diving magazine, which will feature the race and other destination details in a 6-page article in its November 2016 edition.

"The Plumeria Swim had a great start at its new location at Kili Beach," said Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas. "The was clear and the sun was shining, just like the Northern Marianas is famous for. As one winner commented after finishing his race, we couldn't have asked for a better day."

In the Male Junior Division, the winners were Han Xu (31:21) for ages 10 & Under and Anthony Deleon Guerrero (29:23) for ages 11-12. In the Female Junior Division, the winners were Ashley Dangol (30:34) for ages 10 & Under, Ayumi Obligacion (31:35) for ages 11-12, and Katherine Illahi (38:37) for ages 13-15.

Shuichi Ibe (39:34) of Japan placed 1st for ages 30-39 for in the Male Age Division Category. In the Female Age Division Category, the winners were: Norkia Matsuda (32:36) for ages 50-59 and Matsumi Watanabe (32:50) for ages 60 & Up.

Top finishers in the 1500m swim were new Saipan resident Benjamin Byers (29:33), returning Saipan resident Sarah Johnson (33:32), and Yoko Takeda (40:50) of Japan. Topping the 500m swim were Yuki Hayashi (8:50) of Japan, and Salvi Villanueva (12:31) and Joey Tudela (12:50) of Saipan.

The race was followed by an awards ceremony and an island-style lunch on the beach, complete with roast pig.

The event is jointly organized by the MVA and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan. Additional supporters include Japan Marine Recreation Association, Japan Recreational Diving Industry Association, Japan Scuba Association, Japan Wetsuits Manufacturers Association, University Life Sport Education Society, Northern Mariana Diving Operators Association. Co-sponsors include Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI Dept. of Public Safety Boating Safety, Division of Parks and Recreation, and Dept. of Public Lands. In-kind contributors are: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Mango Resort, World Resort Saipan, Western Sales Trading Co., and J.C. Tenorio Ent.

Marine Diving magazine arrived in Saipan on Aug. 30 and covered two to three dives each day for the upcoming article in the Northern Marianas. They also visited Cha, Star Sands Plaza, Mariana Ocean, Zen, and Garapan Street Market and lodged at Fiesta Resort & Spa. Marine Diving has a circulation of 170,000 and targets people interested in diving.



Participants in the 2nd Plumeria Swim in Saipan organized by Marianas Visitors Authority and Central Sports Co., Ltd. on Sept 3, 2016, at Kili Beach.



Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Managing Director Christopher A. Concepcion, right, and Central Sports Co., Ltd. Director Keili Saegusa, left, meet on Sept 3, 2016, at Killili Beach during the 2nd Annual Plumeria Swim in Saipan. Central Sports Co. has been a co-organizer with the MVA of several swims in Saipan bringing swimmers and snorkelers from Japan.



Swimmers approach a historic World War II tank in the 2nd Plumeria Swim in Saipan on Sept 3, 2016, at Killili Beach.



Jun Tenorio crosses the finish line first in the 2nd Plumeria Swim in Saipan on Sept 3, 2016, at Kili Beach.



Swimmers of the 1500m and 500m swim legs of the 2nd Plumeria Swim in Saipan start their race on Sept 3, 2016, at Kili Beach.



Yuki Hayashi of Japan finishes first in the 500m swim of the 2nd Plumeria Swim on Sept 3, 2016, at Kili Beach.



Sarah Johnson, right, poses with her mother Betty Johnson after finishing 2nd place in the 1500m swim leg of the 2nd Plumeria Swim on Sept 3, 2016, at Kili Beach.



Participants in the 2nd Plumeria Swim in Saipan organized by Marianas Visitors Authority and Central Sports Co., Ltd. on Sept 3, 2016, at Kili Beach.



Roast pig is served by Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas as a highlight of the lunch served at Kili Beach following the 2nd Plumeria on Sept 3, 2016.



Swimmers of Tsunami Swim Club were among the participants and winners of the 2nd Plumeria Swim in Saipan on Sept 3, 2016, at Kili Beach.

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.

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