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THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES



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**Gus Lagman**  
AAPPRESIDENT

## Update on the car plates issue

“W

HY aren't my car plates and stickers available yet when I paid for them many months ago?" AAP continues to receive this question from members. It's a very valid question that deserves a clear answer from the Land Transportation Office (LTO). Here's what happened:

More than a year ago, the LTO announced that it was issuing redesigned, black and white vehicle car plates, which some car owners welcomed because the European-inspired design looked, to them, better than the old ones. They were also supposed to be more secure in the sense that an owner would not be able to easily switch one set of car plates for another — something that quite a few car owners do, to avoid the number coding restriction. With an additional digit in the number, it also allows for the rapidly increasing volume of vehicles.

But then the LTO announced, shortly after that it was also requiring the replacement of old plates in old vehicles that were renewing their registration. "What?! Why?!" was the common reaction from vehicle owners. With that decision, the LTO automatically multiplied the task by 25 times. From having to deliver car plates to some 300,000 new vehicles in 2015, it had to deliver new car plates as well to the existing eight million or so vehicles, which do not need them!

After about a month of issuing new plates with new numbers to old vehicles, the LTO probably discovered that vehicle plate numbers are supposed to be permanent — meaning the LTO should not issue the new seven-character numbers to old vehicles. It also discovered, after issuing black and white plates to public utility vehicles, that different classes of vehicles (private and public utility) should have different-colored plates. Those two rules are in the law, which the LTO probably failed to review before it implemented the above plan. To its credit, these two errors were immediately corrected.

But the delay in the delivery of new plates remained. Actually, to this day! Because of this, new vehicles could be seen running around using non-standard, self — or dealer-fabricated plates that display instead the conduction sticker numbers.

In May, 2015, a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing was held to investigate the problems confronting the LTO. The hearing revealed several issues surrounding the car-plates fiasco.

- The COA issued a notice of disallowance against the "plates" project for violating the procedures under R.A. 9184 (Procurement Law). It questioned why LTO bid out a P3.6-billion project when its budget for the year was only P180 million. Had the agency bid out the plates fabrication only for the 300,000 new vehicles, the amount would have been way below their annual budget.
- The losing bidder also asked why the LTO was charging an additional P50 for the stickers when that cost should have been part of the P450 bid.

There were no plausible responses to these questions.

The newspapers reported recently that some 600,000 car plates are already at the Bureau of Customs (BOC) waiting for the consignee to claim these by paying for the duties and taxes. But the LTO can't, because of the COA's notice of disallowance for the procurement. The BOC in the meantime warned the supplier that if the importing company fails to pay the duties and taxes, it would declare the shipment as abandoned cargo and would auction off the goods.

We met with the newly installed LTO Chief, Assistant Secretary Robert Cabrera, on whose shoulders this problem now rests. Considering the enormity of the problem that he inherited, we do empathize with him. He explained that he has been trying to convince the COA to lift the notice of disallowance and that he feels confident that they will agree. He wants to be able to deliver those plates to all vehicle owners who have paid for them before the end of President Aquino's term. Henceforth, the LTO will only require new plates for new vehicles. (As an aside, we could never get an appointment with the previous LTO Chief.)

### TWO FINAL QUESTIONS:

1. Why did we have to award the contract to a foreign company. Fabricating vehicle plates is so simple that in the United States, prisoners are tasked with producing them;
2. The LTO has a fabricating plant for vehicle plates — why doesn't the agency revive this plant, modernize it perhaps, and do away with bidding it out to outsiders?

This experience proves once more how important appointing the right people is to critical government positions. **QQ**

“ The COA questioned why LTO bid out a P3.6 billion project when its budget for the year was only P180 million. ”

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Aida Sevilla Mendoza  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# High Tech Problems Affect Vehicle Dependability

**D**ID you know that a modern car these days has 100 million lines of code, 10 times more than that of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner? I'm referring to a car that is equipped with state-of-the-art infotainment and connectivity systems. Consumers now expect these things when they go shopping for a new car.

Just recently, in one episode of the final season of American Idol, there was a scene where the host Ryan Seacrest was driving a car and turned a rotary dial on the dashboard to switch off the engine.

In other words, instead of a Stop/Start pushbutton or an ignition switch, a rotary dial switches on and off the engine and instead of a gear shifter, the dial operates the Drive, Neutral, Park and Reverse functions.

Advanced technologies in a car attract buyers but, unfortunately, don't always work well, according to a feature article that recently appeared in The International New York Times.

Problems related to cars' rapidly advancing technology top the list of consumer complaints, the 2016 J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability Study reported.

Twenty percent of all consumer complaints were about balky voice recognition systems and problems with Bluetooth pairing.

More than half of the car owners who complained about Bluetooth pairing said the vehicle did not find or recognize their mobile phone or device.

One complainant, a technically adept man who works as an e-commerce project manager, said that even when he got connected, the Bluetooth system seemed like it would randomly decide to either connect or not connect.

Among those who complained about troublesome voice recognition, 67 percent said

the system did not recognize or misinterpreted verbal commands.

The complaints resulted in a 3 percent decline in vehicle dependability in the study.

Complaints about technology have gone from fifth most troublesome in the 2014 study, to third last year, to being first now, the INYT article says.

Software patches meant to fix the problems don't always work. The owners who had problems with these systems when they acquired the vehicles were still vexed by the same glitches three years later.

Driver assistance systems can also malfunction. In another J.D. Power study, owners of cars with blind-spot monitoring complained that they had been getting false readings in which the system said it was safe to change lanes when it was not, and the other way around.

I myself have experienced problems with reverse parking cameras that are confusing or prematurely sound alarms when the obstacle at the rear is still far away.

More often than not, the first time you drive a new car loaded with high-tech gizmos, you undergo a hit-and-miss learning process with the infotainment and communication systems. Not to mention the driver assistance technology.

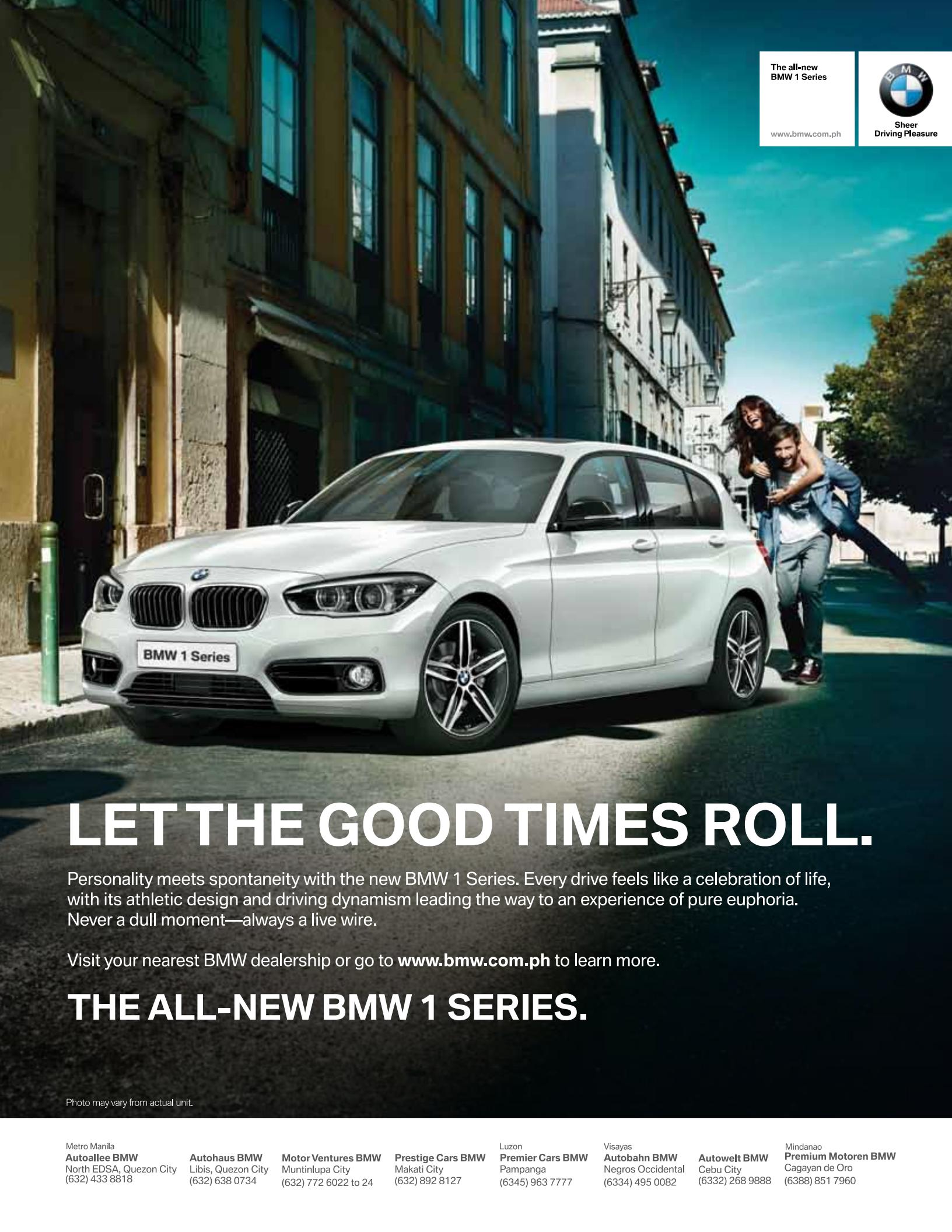
You can always read the entire operating manual before you begin to drive, but many consumers, like me, don't have the patience or time. Or hate to read manuals.

A few car manufacturers make the mistake of designing systems that are too complicated, not user-friendly. Word gets around and they risk losing customers.

Auto makers have to keep up with new technologies that add more capability and integrate these new things to remain competitive. But they have to redo the interface to add the new stuff, replacing an interface that has been fairly stable for a few consecutive years.

The vehicle dependability study is closely watched in the industry and problems like those with Bluetooth, connectivity and voice recognition indicate that automakers face a challenge as they introduce increasingly sophisticated technologies in cars. 

**“ Advanced  
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in a car attract  
buyers but,  
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don’t always  
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FIA President Jean Todt together with executives of the Automobile Club d'Italia and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, presents the FIA Action for Road Safety helmet to Pope Francis. FIA Ambassador for Road Safety Michelle Yeoh stands behind Todt.



Jean Todt, FIA president (at the left side of Pope Francis) together with AutomobileClub d'Italia President Angelo Sticchi Damiani, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach, and FIA Ambassador for Road Safety Michelle Yeoh (beside Todt), presented the #SaveKidsLives road safety campaign to His Holiness Pope Francis at their meeting last January 14.

# Pope Expresses Support for FIA's road Safety Campaign

**T**HE leader of the Roman Catholic Church has expressed his support for the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)'s campaign to promote road safety worldwide, especially the safety of children.

On January 14, FIA President Jean Todt, along with ACI (Automobile Club d'Italia) President Angelo Sticchi Damiani, UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Executive Secretary Christian Friis Bach, and FIA Ambassador for Road Safety Michelle Yeoh went to Rome to meet Pope Francis to discuss global road safety issues and the need to make our roads safer, particularly for the 1.8 billion children whose lives are put in danger every day on the road.

In a letter to FIA member clubs including the Automobile Association Philippines, Todt said that His Holiness was "kind enough to grant us a private audience to discuss the global challenge of road safety."

"During this audience, we presented the current situation of this worldwide crisis to the Pope, and outlined the need for governments and communities to prioritise road safety, beginning with putting in place effective traffic regulations," added Todt, who was recently appointed the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety.

Todt showed the Pope a film Save Kids Lives directed by Luc Besson showing the dangers faced by children on their way to school daily. The film was produced to promote the #SaveKidsLives campaign launched by the UN Global Road Safety Collaboration to prompt action around the world toward making roads safer and saving lives—beginning with children.

#SaveKidsLives encourages people worldwide to sign the Child Declaration on Road Safety, which calls on policymakers' attention to lead the global fight against road fatalities and injuries.

According to Todt, the Pope showed great interest in the cause, understanding of the challenge at hand, and signed a message in support of the campaign.



FIA President Jean Todt is greeted by Pope Francis during their meeting last month where Todt presented the #SaveKidsLives road safety campaign to His Holiness. Todt was recently appointed United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety.

Emphasizing the significance of the Pope's support, Todt said: "The Pope's backing for road safety will not only help raise further awareness of the 500 children who lose their lives every day on the world's roads, but the global reach of his voice will also bring us closer to the ambitious goal of halving road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020." **QQ**



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# AAP REVEALS 2016 MOTOR SPORT CALENDAR

**2016** is expected to be a thrilling and busy year for Philippine motor sport participants and fans as the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) revealed the calendar of races starting February 1st.

AAP is the only motoring club in the Philippines authorized by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) to govern and sanction motor sport events in the country.

AAP Motor Sport Operations Manager Mark Desales said that the season commenced on January 16 with the first leg of the 2016 National Drag Racing Championship at the Clark International Speedway in Mabalacat, Pampanga, followed by the second leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC) in Rosario, Batangas on February 6. The third leg will take place on February 20 at Clark; the fourth leg will be on March 12 at BRC; the fifth and sixth legs on April 2 at Clark and April 16 at BRC; while the seventh and eighth legs will be held on May 14 at BRC and on May 28 at Clark, respectively.

Meanwhile, the 2015 National Karting culminated with its sixth and seventh legs on January 23-24, 2016 at the Carmona Race Track in Cavite.

In March, two series are scheduled to

start, with the first leg of the 2016 National Slalom Series happening in Robinson's Novaliches on March 13, and the first leg of the Vios Cup on March 18 to 20 (venue to be announced).

The second and third legs of Slalom will be held on April 3 (Robinson's Antipolo) and 24 (Robinson's Las Piñas), while the fourth and fifth legs will take place on May 1 (Robinson's Pampanga) and May 22 (Malolos Commercial Center).

Continuing the Slalom Series, the sixth leg will be held on June 5 (Robinson's Sta. Rosa), and the seventh leg will be on June 26 (Robinson's Novaliches), the eighth leg on July 10 (Robinson's Pampanga); the ninth leg on August 7 (Robinson's Gen. Trias), the 10th leg on September 4 (Robinson's Antipolo), the 11th leg on October 2 (Robinson's Novaliches), and the 12th and final leg will be held on November 6 (Robinson's Marikina).

The second leg of the Vios Cup is set for May 27-29; its third leg on September 9 to 11, and the fourth and final leg will be on November 18 to 20, venues to be announced later.

The first leg of the 2016 National Karting series will kick off on April 30 and May 1 at the Palawan International Circuit (PIC), the

second leg will take place on July 30-31 at Carmona, the third leg on August 13 to 14 at BRC, and the fourth leg on September 10 and 11 at Clark.

The Philippine Grand Touring Championship will begin in May, with its first leg on May 21 and 22 at BRC. The second and third leg will take place on June 25 to 26 at Clark and July 23 to 24 again at Clark, the fourth leg on August 27 and 28 at BRC, the fifth on September 24 and 25 at BRC, and the sixth leg on October 22 to 23 at Clark.

On June 4-5, the 2016 Asian Karting Open Championship (AKOC) will be launched, with its first leg to be hosted in Macau. The second leg will take place on July 30 and 31 at Clark, while the third and fourth legs will be held on October 29 to 30 in Thailand and December 10 to 11 in Macau.

"Philippine motor sport is getting livelier and more exciting each year," Desales said. "And with the current line-up, it would be a very busy yet fulfilling year for us. We hope to see a bigger number of participants and spectators at all of these events."

The motor sport schedule is subject to change without prior notice. For updates and more details, please call the AAP Motor Sport Department at 655-5889 loc. 823. **AQ**

## AAP URGES CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TO APPROVE SPEED LIMITER BILL



**T**HE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) declares its full support for the Speed Limiter Bill that passed the bicameral conference meeting of the 16th Congress last February 1.

The proposed measure mandates the installation of speed limiters on public utility vehicles (PUVs). If approved by the President, without a speed limiter, "no vehicle shall be registered by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), or renewed franchise by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB)."

AAP President Gus Lagman urged the lawmakers to prioritize the bill as soon as Congress resumes session on May 23, 2016. According to Lagman, the consolidated and agreed-upon version of the Senate Bill 2999 and House Bill 5911 would further promote safety and order on the country's roads.

"There has been a substantial number of deaths and injuries that involved buses, trucks and other public utility vehicles whose drivers seemingly find it amusing to risk the lives and limbs of their passengers,"

Lagman said. "We're glad that both chambers have kept the ball rolling on this monumental proposal."

"We are hopeful that the Senate and House of Representatives would be able to ratify it on time and get the approval of President Benigno Aquino 3rd before his term ends this year," he added. Lagman also said that the national auto club's support of the speed limiter bill is in sync with the Federation Internationale del'Automobile (FIA) Decade of Action for Road Safety campaign, which aims to reduce road traffic fatalities worldwide by 50 percent by 2020.

In an interview, Catanduanes Representative Cesar Sarmiento, who chairs the House Committee on Transportation, said they expect the Lower Chamber to immediately ratify the bill as soon as Congress resumes. The final version of the proposed measure will include Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs), trucks and trailers (long-haul vehicles), but not taxis and jeepneys, Sarmiento said.

For his part, Senator JV Ejercito, the principal sponsor of the Senate version of

the bill, is optimistic that the speed limiter bill would be ratified by the 16th Congress. "There is more than enough time for this bill to be passed into law," Ejercito said.

"The DOTC will determine whether taxis and jeepneys will also be covered by this law after one year of implementation," Ejercito revealed. "Shuttle service vehicles are included in the bill." Ejercito noted that drivers of long haul vehicles are the ones prone to reckless driving.

According to the two bills, the driver of a PUV faces a P50,000 fine if he operates a vehicle without a speed limiter. The operator, driver and owner will be fined the same amount if they allow the operation of a PUV with a tampered or non-functioning speed limiter.

Moreover, those found guilty of tampering a speed limiter face a jail term of six months to three years and a fine of P30,000. Aside from the fine, the suspension or revocation of driver's license and franchise of a public utility motor vehicle awaits subsequent/repeat offenders. **AQ**

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Go Further

# AAP HONORS TOP RACE DRIVERS OF 2015 AT 21ST MOTOR SPORT AWARDS

**T**HE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) hosted its 21st AAP Motor Sport Awards Night on April 7, 2016 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City together with the Manila International Auto Show (MIAS.).

AAP is the only organization in the Philippines authorized by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) to regulate and sanction local four-wheel motor sport events as it is the only motoring club affiliated with the FIA.

The FIA, based in Paris, governs all four-wheel motor sport activities worldwide including Formula One, the World Rally Championship and 24 Hours at Le Mans.

AAP awarded trophies to the champions of various series such as the Philippine Touring Car Championship Series (PTCC), National Karting Series, Asian Karting Open Championship (AKOC), GT Series and Vios Cup.

At the 2015 Motor Sport Awards, AAP acknowledged various personalities including Milo Rivera (2014 Driver of the Year for Slalom), the late Ferdinand "Enzo" Pastor (Posthumous Award),

and car companies Toyota Motor Philippines and Berjaya Auto Philippines for their contribution to the development of motor sport.

Last year, the club also named Johnny Tan to AAP's Hall of Fame for improving the Clark International Speedway, Batangas Racing Circuit and Carmona Race Track and thereby attracting more people to organize, compete and join motor sport activities.

AAP Trustee and Motor Sport Chair Mandy Eduque expressed his appreciation to all those who were part of the motor sport scene in 2015 and said he looks forward to more people sharing their enthusiasm.

"I congratulate each and every one who made it to the top and became awardees of AAP for the year that was. I hope that everyone will continue to support not just the club but all of Philippine motor sport as well," Eduque said. **aq**



Participants at the Annual Safety Seminar of the Sual Power Station in Sual, Pangasinan. AAP Executive Assistant for Advocacies Cynthia Reyes (center) was invited to speak on road safety before 40 employees of the power plant.



## AAP conducts road safety seminar at Sual Power Station

**T**HE Automobile Association Philippines, an advocate of the United Nations' Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, conducted a road safety seminar at the Sual Power Station in Sual, Pangasinan earlier this year.

Built in 1997 to help deal with the energy crisis in Luzon, the Sual Power Station is currently the biggest and one of the most cost-effective coal-fired power plants in the country.

Last January 9-10, the national auto club—represented by AAP Executive Assistant for Advocacies Cynthia Reyes—was invited to speak on road safety at the Sual Power Station's Annual Safety Seminar.

The two-day safety seminar consisted of lectures and a practical driving test.

The lecture on road safety and Republic Act No. 4136, also known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code, had 40 participants from different departments of the power plant.

In the lecture, Reyes talked on RA 4136's Chapter IV, which stipulates the laws on speed limit, keeping to the right, overtaking or passing, right of way and signals, and turning and parking.

In addition, she covered basic safe driving techniques, the importance of road safety, and ways to stay safe on the road.

She also informed the participants about the Decade Of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, which was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in May 2011 to reduce the number of road

traffic deaths and save millions of lives worldwide.

Reyes also joined the panel of observers during the practical driving test held for the seminar participants at the power plant.

Reyes said AAP is pleased that more and more organizations from both the government and private sectors are sharing the Decade of Action for Road Safety cause and recognizing the importance of road safety in their respective areas.

"We have started the year on the right track with this program, and we hope that more companies would follow suit," she said. "This would be the first of the many road safety programs that the AAP has in store for the general public." **aq**

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Students of the Kaytitinga Elementary School at the Road and Pedestrian Safety Training Seminar conducted by the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) and Bioeq Energy on January 22, 2016.



PGRSP Secretary General Alberto Suansing teaches the students how to avoid the "blind spot" during the Road and Pedestrian Safety Training Seminar at the Kaytitinga Elementary School.

## PGRSP Assists Bioeq Energy's Road and Pedestrian Safety Training

THE Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP), which aims to reduce the number of road accident victims in the Philippines through informative, educational, technical, and empowering programs, recently supported a training program developed by a private entity.

PGRSP is chaired by Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) president Gus Lagman and its secretariat is housed in AAP's office at 28 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan City.

Last January 22, Bioeq Energy, a renewable power investor funded by an energy and infrastructure specialist in Asia, the Singapore-based Equis Funds Group, conducted a Road and Pedestrian Safety Training for students at the Kaytitinga Elementary School in Alfonso, Cavite.

The seminar, spearheaded by Bioeq's Director for Project Development Mia Jarumayan, had a variety of activities focusing on the significance of road safety in Barangay Kaytitinga.

Throughout the day-long event, the PGRSP team—composed of Secretary-General Alberto Suansing, Program Director Ma. Theresa Perez, Support Officer Cynthia Reyes, along with Safety Organization of the Philippines Vice President for Internal Affairs

Loy Reyes and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Institute of Traffic Management Officer-in-Charge Tony Pagulayan—assisted Bioeq Energy by serving as instructors.

Videos were shown to the students to raise their awareness of road safety. In addition, through the "Road Safety Park," a miniature traffic setting with mini-roads and traffic signs, the children were educated on the dos and don'ts when walking on the street.

A "Shine a Light" activity was also held, where students were taught about the importance of conspicuity on the road. They were familiarized with different kinds of reflectors (items that reflect light to improve the wearer's visibility in the dark) and were taught what to wear to make them more conspicuous on the street and thus help avoid accidents.

A "Blind Spot" activity was conducted, in which the students were taught how and where to walk or stand on the road so they could be more visible to drivers of motor vehicles, especially trucks.

After the seminar, the PGRSP group conducted a survey among the students to collect information in relation to road safety. The data gathered will aid PGRSP's efforts to further understand and respond to road safety issues in the community. **aq**

## AAP LINGKOD AUGMENTS ERS CAPABILITY WITH FUSO MEGA TOW TRUCK

**T**O further augment the capability of its Emergency Roadside Service (ERS), the Automobile Association Philippines through its ERS provider AAP Lingkod recently acquired a 10-ton, 10-wheeler Mitsubishi Fuso mega truck.

The Mitsubishi Fuso mega-truck will be the second biggest tow truck of AAP, which has 40 units.

The new tow truck will be stationed at the AAP-SOMCO (Skyway O and M Corporation) Office, which now houses 14 tow trucks all-in-all to serve AAP members and non-members.

Last February 3, a blessing ceremony was held at the AAP-SOMCO Office in Western Bicutan, Taguig for the Mitsubishi Fuso mega-truck. Rev. Mark Emman Sese, parish priest of Our Lady of the Poor in Western Bicutan, Taguig presided at the blessing ceremony.

AAP Lingkod General Manager Joey Mundo said that in 2015, AAPL renewed its partnership with SOMCO and Manila Toll Expressway Systems (MATES) through San



Lingkod acquired a 10-ton Mitsubishi Fuso mega tow truck to augment AAP's Emergency Roadside Service fleet. The new unit is the second biggest tow truck in the fleet.

Miguel Corporation.

He also revealed that AAPL has been SOMCO and MATES' exclusive towing service provider since the start of their tollway operations.

Mundo added that AAPL recently received a plaque of appreciation from the Malaysia-based Assist and Assistance Concept (A & AC). for the emergency roadside service AAPL has extended to the Malaysian organization's members locally.

Since 2013, A & AC has been availing



Rev. Mark Emman Sese, Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Poor in Western Bicutan, Taguig, blesses the Fuso mega tow truck which will be deployed on the South Luzon expressways.

of AAP Lingkod's emergency roadside assistance.

Aside from SOMCO and MATES, AAPL has an ongoing partnership with the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), which manages and operates the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX).

AAP Lingkod is also the exclusive ERS provider at more than 60 kilometers of the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLex). **aq**

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# AAP Rewards Program Revised to Give Members More Points

**A** year after its Rewards Program was launched, the Automobile Association Philippines revealed revisions that will enable members to earn more points more easily.

On May 1, 2015, AAP began a rewards program that allows loyal members to earn points that they can use when availing of AAP services such as Emergency Roadside Service (ERS) or when purchasing car parts and insurance, renewing their Philippine International Driving Permit (PIDP), or participating in AAP Travel Drive Tourism caravans.

Every point given to members is equivalent to P1 but is not convertible to cash.

Now the club's incentives program has been tweaked to give more points to members.

## NON-USE OF ERS

One easy way to earn points is through non-use of AAP's Emergency Roadside Service (ERS). The longer a member does not avail of ERS, the more points he or she accumulates.

Regular individual members will earn 400 points for non-use of ERS during two consecutive years; 450 points will be added on top of this for non-use of ERS during the third consecutive year; another 500 points will be earned for non-use of ERS during four consecutive years and 550 points will be added for non-use of ERS during the fifth succeeding year.

In essence, a regular individual member who does not use ERS for five straight years will accumulate a total of 1,900 points.

Meanwhile, an associate individual member can earn

as many as 950 points if he/she does not use ERS for five straight years since 200 points will be given for the two years that he/she did not avail of such service, another 225 points will be earned for the third year, 250 more points for the fourth year and an additional 275 points additional for the fifth year.

Also, by joining an AAP Travel caravan, using travel service, and purchasing lubricants, tires, and boutique items from AAP, members will earn one (1) point for every P200 spent.

Those who choose to get their copy of AQ, AAP's quarterly magazine online will gain 100 points (generated on the member's anniversary date).

## MEMBER-GET-MEMBER PROGRAM

Current members are also encouraged to help AAP grow by referring friends and fellow motorists to become part of AAP through the "Member-Get-Member Program."

AAP members will earn 200 points for successfully referring another person to get a one-year regular individual membership; 500 points for a three-year regular individual membership; 100 points for a one-year associate individual membership; and 250 points for a three-year associate individual membership.

Points are not convertible to cash, but they can be transferred to another member's account as long as the member signs the transfer of points form. Points are valid and may be redeemed provided that the membership is active. If the term of membership has expired, members can renew within seven (7) days; otherwise the points will be forfeited. 

For any questions regarding the AAP Rewards Program, please call Ms. Necy Zornosa of the AAP Membership Department at 655-5889 loc. 817.



## 2016 AAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**ANNOUNCEMENT**



**THE** Automobile Association Philippines' (AAP) 85th Annual General Membership Meeting and Election of the Board of Trustees will be held at the Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines Diliman, on April 28, 2016, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.

This year's theme is "Strengthening AAP through Membership Services."

**NOMINATIONS TO THE AAP BOARD**

In preparation for the 2016 general membership and annual elections, the AAP Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for the 2016-2017 Board of Trustees. Regular AAP members in good standing—with no unpaid obligations—may submit nominations to the Nominations Committee until April 15, 2016.

**NOMINEES SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Must be a regular AAP member for at least one year.
- Must be able and willing to devote time and energy to attend AAP's meetings and activities as a member of the Board of Trustees.
- Must send a brief resume to the Nominations Committee, c/o AAP Executive Office, 28 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan City 1500.
- Must pass the evaluation of the Nominations Committee. The evaluation will focus on the nominee's willingness to volunteer his/her time and energy to the association.
- Must be present at the AAP General Membership Meeting on April 28, 2016.

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Way of Life!

# AAP Baguio-Benguet Drive-Tour Caravan Scheduled in May

**AAP** TRAVEL, a division of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), is inviting everyone to join the AAP Baguio-Benguet Drive-Tour Caravan on May 27-29, 2016, themed, "A Floral and Heritage Road Trip to the Cool Highlands."

The event is the twelfth of AAP Travel's series of drive-tour caravans that began in 2010. AAP Travel drive-tour caravans promote historical, cultural, and natural destinations in the Philippines by organizing participants to travel in a convoy in their own motor vehicles.

The tour is organized in cooperation with the Department of Tourism-Cordillera Administrative Region (DOT-CAR), Tourism Promotions Board Philippines (TPBPHL), Province of Benguet, City of Baguio, Petron, Manila North Tollways Corporation, and AeroMed Ambulance Transport.

The tour includes eight exciting destinations in the towns of Tublay, La Trinidad, Tuba and Baguio City.

In Tublay, participants will visit the Winaca Eco-Cultural Village, an eco-tourism village that features authentic old dwellings such as the Ifugao house, the Sagada-Bontoc house, and the Bakun-Benguet house. There is also an Eco-Trail, where one can enjoy walking through a forest with coffee and anthurium flowers underneath the shade of indigenous trees, giant ferns, narra trees, and pine trees that are hundreds of years old.

Participants are in for a relaxing experience with nature as they drop by La Trinidad's Bahong Flower Farm, which showcases vast

fields of roses and mums. They will also visit the Strawberry Farm in La Trinidad, which is famous for the strawberry-picking experience it offers visitors.

Next stop will be the BenCab Museum in Tuba, Benguet which houses Philippine National Artist Benedicto "BenCab" Cabrera's paintings, and his collection of native Cordillera art pieces and creations of Filipino contemporary artists.

In Baguio City, participants will visit the Camp John Hay Historical Core, which tells of Camp John Hay's remarkable past through landmarks such as a statue, a museum, an amphitheater, and a symbolic cemetery. Participants will also take a trip to the Philippine Military Academy, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' college.

The DOT-CAR will extend full assistance to ensure the safe, convenient, and enjoyable stay of each participant.

AAP members can join the AAP Baguio-Benguet Drive-Tour Caravan for only P8,500 per person. Non-members are also welcome to participate for only P9,500 per person. Fees are inclusive of hotel accommodations at the Igorot Lodge; three breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners plus morning and afternoon snacks; entrance fees to sites; toll fees; guided tours; souvenir items; and security escorts, ambulance, and nurse for participants' safety.

For more information on the AAP Baguio-Benguet Drive-Tour Caravan, please visit [www.aaptravel.com.ph/view-caravan](http://www.aaptravel.com.ph/view-caravan) or call +63 928 507-4288 and look for Michael Quitorio. **QQ**

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TUBLAY • LA TRINIDAD • TUBA • BAGUIO

**Theme:** A Floral and Heritage Roadtrip to the Cool Highlands

**Tour Highlights**

- TUBLAY**
  - Winaca Eco-Cultural Village
- LA TRINIDAD**
  - Bahong Flower Farm
  - Strawberry Farm
- TUBA**
  - BenCab Museum
- BAGUIO**
  - Camp John Hay Historical Core
  - Philippine Military Academy
  - Mother's Garden

**May 27-29, 2016**

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# AAP Travel's Fly-Drive Caravan Goes to Batanes This Summer

**AAP** Travel, a division of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), is preparing for its Batanes Fly-Drive Caravan scheduled on April 29 to May 2, 2016. The event, themed "Initial Impressions," is open to both AAP members and non-members.

Since 2010, AAP Travel, to promote local tourism, has been hosting drive-tour caravans, in which participants go on an organized trip with their own motor vehicles in a convoy. This time, however, as its title suggests, the Batanes Fly-Drive Caravan will involve not only driving, but traveling by air as well.

On Day 1, April 29 (Friday), participants will fly from Manila to Basco, Batanes, where a welcome reception will be held. They will then transfer to Basco Central, for a Thanksgiving Mass at the Santo Domingo Cathedral, Batanes' oldest church (1783), followed by breakfast before checking into the Batanes Resort or Batanes Seaside (Main or Annex).

Next, guests will have a North Batan Island Tour that includes the Chawa View Deck; Mt. Carmen Chapel; Basco Weather Station; Fundacion Pacita Batanes Nature Lodge; the Dipnaysuhuan Japanese Tunnel, built during World War II; and Valugan Boulder Beach.

After lunch at the Pension Ivatan Homotel and Restaurant, participants will discover the flora and fauna of Batanes as they drive to the foot of Mt. Iraya, the highest peak of the island, and go on a nature walk to Nakamaya Burial Grounds. They will then resume driving to Vayang Rolling Hills, Naidi Hills Lighthouse and transfer to the Batanes Octagon Bed and Dine, where they will have a "Dinner by the Sea" and stay for the night.

On Day 2, April 30 (Friday) the Honesty Coffee Shop in Port Ivana and the nearby San Jose de Ivana Church will be the destinations.

Next, guests will board the Faluwa boat for Sabtang Island for a welcome reception at the Sabtang Municipal Hall. After breakfast at the Centro, participants will each check-in to their homestay.

An "Island Discovery" tour of Sabtang, Sumnanga and Nakanmuwan follows to explore the villages and their coves, see the stone houses, and witness the locals' fish drying techniques.

The next stop will be Morong Beach (Nakabuang Arch) for a picnic lunch before proceeding to Savidug for a walking tour of the village's ancestral stone houses and ruins. They will then proceed to the Chavayan Village, to make *vakul*, an Ivatan headdress made of abaca fiber. Participants will then gather abung (mussels) before joining the Ivatan Cooking Challenge.

After visiting the famous Chamantad Tinyan Viewpoint for photos, they will enjoy an Ivatan Fiesta Dinner before heading to their respective homestays for the night.

On Day 3, May 1 (Sunday), guests will drive from Sabtang to Ivana and have breakfast in Kadpidal before visiting the House of Dakay, the oldest house in Batanes (1887).

Next stop is Uyugan for a welcome reception and passport-stamping at the Municipal Hall grounds plus a walking tour of the Song Song Ruins and the Alapad Rock Formation.

After lunch at the Racuh a Payaman, which is also known as

» TO NEXT PAGE...

**Batanes** 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS  
FLY-WALK CARAVAN  
MAY 05 - 08, 2016

**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- NORTH & SOUTH BATAN ISLAND TOUR:
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  - Tukon Radar Station
  - Fundacion Pacita
  - Dipnaysuhuan Japanese Tunnel
  - Valugan Boulder Beach
  - S. Domingo Cathedral
  - Vayang Hills
  - Naidi Light House
  - Pacières View Point
  - Chawa View Deck
  - Molhatiao Shelter Port
  - San Carlos Borromeo Church
  - Old Spanish Bridge
  - House of Dakay
  - Honesty Coffee Shop
  - Mutchong Hill Top
  - Sung-sung Ruins
  - Alapad Hill and Rock Formations
  - LORAN station
  - Rakuh a Payaman (Marlboro Country)
  - Tayid Lighthouse
- SABTANG ISLAND TOUR:
  - Savidug Ildang
  - Chamantad View Point
  - Vernacular Houses
  - Weavers Hand Crafts
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  - Muring Beach
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#BatanesFlyWalkCaravan2016

**NOTE:** Please deposit ₱15,000.00 per person to secure reservation on or before **March 31, 2016**. Payment is non-refundable. Remaining Balance is on **April 15, 2016**.

**Terms and Conditions**

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# AAP Seeks More Young Participants for 2nd Motor Sport Development Program

**T**HE Automobile Association Philippines is seeking more participants to join the 2nd Motor Sport Development Program (MSDP) after the successful launch of the 1st MSDP last August.

The MSDP is the first nationwide grassroots racing program developed by AAP with a grant from the Paris-based Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) which governs all four-wheel motor sport worldwide.

"We know that there are a lot of talented young drivers out there who have what it takes to be the next racing sensation," AAP Motor Sport Department Operations Manager Mark Desales said. "Through this program, we want to hone their abilities, not just for them to be better drivers, but also for the growth of local motorsport."

"We are targeting persons ages 16 to 19 years old at the grassroots level who are talented drivers, physically fit and have 'a champion attitude,'" Desales added.

## SCHEDULE

Desales revealed the schedule of the 2nd MSDP, which consists of classroom-type lectures, hands-on workshops and practical driving tests featuring road safety and motor sport driving techniques.

Aside from Metro Manila, the 2nd MSDP will be conducted in the Visayas and Mindanao.

This year's program kicks off in Metro Manila at Megatent, Libis, Quezon City on March 12-13 for Modules 1-3, followed by Module 4-6 and workshops at AAP 28 EDSA office on April 2, June 12, and 26. On September 4, AAP EDSA will host Modules 7-9 of the MSDP program and on November 12-13, the MSDP returns to Libis for the final set of Module 1.

Meanwhile, in northern Luzon, young drivers will be tapped for Module 1 of the MSDP program as the instructors head to Cagayan de Oro on July 10 and October 15 in Dagupan.

The MSDP instructors will fly to the Visayas region to organize a new set of Modules 1-3 on May 14-15 in Bacolod, and on June 18-19 in Cebu. Modules 4-6 for Bacolod will be held on July 16-17 in Bacolod and September 16-17 in Cebu.

In Davao, potential MSDP participants may join Modules 1-3 on April 23-24 and Modules 4-6 on September 24-25.

## FIRST BATCH OF FINALISTS

The five finalists chosen from the first MSDP—Jero Consing from the Bacolod leg, Raymond Ryan Cudala, Chenee Hazel Ang Jimenez, Patrick Oliver Bautista, Bernard Michael Santos, and Paolo Ivan Santos from Manila—will undergo further motor sport training under AAP's MSDP instructors.

They will compete in various motor sport events such as Slalom, Time Attack and Endurance races lined for the year.

## HOW TO JOIN THE MSDP

Those interested in joining the MSDP can register online on its Facebook page entitled, "Motor Sport Development Program." All qualified participants will be notified regarding the details of the next program session.

The MSDP is supported by Mazda Philippines, Aeromed Ambulance Transport and Autoperformance PH. **aq**

## CONTINUATION... AAP TRAVEL GOES BATANES

Batanes' "Marlboro Country," participants will visit the Diuran Fishing Village, the Mahatao Church (San Carlos Borrmeo Church) and Library, and the Mahatao Shelter Port.

In the evening, a Fellowship Dinner and Awarding Ceremony will be held for the participants.

Finally, on the fourth and last day, May 2 (Monday), participants will fly back to Manila.

AAP members can join this awesome four-day Batanes Fly-Drive Caravan for P30,000 (single), P28,000 (twin), or P26,000 (triple) per person. Non-members can also participate for only P33,000 (single), P30,800 (twin), or P28,600 (triple) per person. Ticket prices are inclusive of roundtrip airfare via Airswift Charter, 4D3N room accommodation, full board meals, roundtrip airport transfer, North and South Batan and Sabtang Island Tour, boat transfer, fees and taxes, guided tours, souvenir items and travel insurance.

For more information, please visit [www.aaptravel.com.ph/view-caravan](http://www.aaptravel.com.ph/view-caravan), call +63 2 551 0014, or E-mail [info@aaptravel@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:info@aaptravel@yahoo.com.ph). **aq**

## HALL OF FAME GOLDEN WHEEL AWARD



**AAP** Trustee and Motor Sport department chairman Mandy Eduque (left) is congratulated by AAP President Gus Lagman after receiving the Hall of Fame Award of 2016 from the Golden Wheel Awards Foundation at the 13th Annual Golden Wheel Awards last February 27 at Samsung Hall, SM Aura Premiere Taguig City. Lagman was invited as the guest of honor and guest speaker by Golden Wheel Awards Foundation chairman Johnny Tan.

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**T**HE ladies at AQ Magazine needed a break from work one weekend so we decided that a short trip up North should give us a bit of respite and relaxation. It was a good thing that Foton offered its newly launched Toplander for this trip.

Unveiled at Foton's recent "Big Show" at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, the Toplander is expected to give competitors in the diesel SUV segment a run for their money. Engineered to keep up with even the most rugged and active lifestyle, the Toplander boasts practical utility — not to mention, elegance — for more urban, everyday functions.

# Foton Toplander

## Fun, plush ride



The Toplander is offered in 4x2 and 4x4 variants and mated with a Foton Cummins ISF2.8-liter engine. Going up Marcos Highway (Kennon Road was closed for repairs) was easy as pie for this SUV, thanks to its torquey engine run by a Bosch electronically controlled, high-pressure common rail fuel injection system with turbo intercooler.

Ride quality, especially while traversing the zigzag road, was excellent. The Toplander's body-on-frame design helped it withstand torsional stress while increasing stability and rigidity.



As with other Foton vehicles, the Toplander is bestowed a host of active and passive safety technologies designed for maximum protection, convenience, and ease of use. Completing the ecosystem are torque-on-demand for the 4x4 variant, electronic stability program, hill-start assist, hill-descent control, etc.—that one usually finds in top-of-the-line variants of competitor SUVs.

We enjoyed the Foton Toplander posh interiors with leather seats, cup holders galore; arm rests, to name a few. The two-tone cabin got classy touches of matte

silver, and blue illumination that added to the drama and elegant ambience.

We were blown away by the Toplander's instrumentation and multimedia system that can be controlled via a touchscreen display. Steering wheel-mounted controls are even thrown in for the 4x4 variant. Power windows and side mirrors, and a power sunroof for the 4x4 join a host of other features to make the Foton Toplander on top of its class. We all agreed that the Toplander's selling price is its main drawing power. How can you beat an SUV with all the bells and whistles for less than P1 million?

What we would like, though, for the Toplander is to have an automatic transmission option—and a much bigger stowage to accommodate all our purchases.

We went home tired from our quick northern escape—but invigorated from the short break. We vowed to go on another similar trip, soon.

Foton has a full range of commercial vehicles, including light-duty and heavy-duty trucks, heavy machineries, pickups, and buses. The automaker has breached an accumulated production and sales volume of 6,000,000 vehicles. (AAA)

**United Asia Automotive Group, Inc. is the exclusive distributor of FOTON vehicles here in the Philippines.  
It recently established an ISO-certified assembly facility in Clark, Angeles City in Pampanga.**





# Veterans Bank Launches Bank with a Heart Campaign

PHILIPPINE Veterans Bank (PVB) recently launched its new advertising campaign, the "Bank with a Heart for Every Filipino" in time for Valentines and introduces Ms. Heart Evangelista-Escudero as its brand ambassador.

The new ad campaign is aimed at revitalizing the bank's image and focuses on what makes PVB unique among the country's 36 universal and commercial banks - corporate social responsibility is at the core of the PVB's existence in that it has to be profitable to be able to give aid and assistance to surviving Filipino World War II veterans and their descendants. In fact, 20% of its annual net income is set aside for such a purpose. PVB is the only bank that looks after the welfare of the veteran community.

This ability of the bank to deliver services to an equally unique sector of society allows it to be sensitive to the needs of its customers from all walks of life, veteran or not. Coupled with a banking survey released a few years ago that stated that Philippine banks are perceived as stiff and uncaring, it was this impetus that gave birth to the suitable campaign of PVB as a bank with a heart for every Filipino.

After the campaign theme was identified, the choice of Ms. Evangelista-Escudero to be the brand ambassador of PVB was already given.

Aside from the quick association to the campaign thanks to her name, PVB believes Ms. Evangelista-Escudero embodies the traits shared by Veteran Bankers all over the country: professionalism, integrity, and the pursuit of excellence. Her passion in pursuing her acting and modeling career, arts, and socio-civic advocacies make her a fitting choice to represent the bank and its products and services.

The new PVB ad campaign will feature Ms. Evangelista-Escudero in TV and radio commercials, print advertisements, and other marketing collaterals that will be released through a variety of traditional and online media.

PVB launches the new advertising campaign with short program at the historic Kamuning Bakery in Quezon City whereby Ms. Evangelista-Escudero signs an agreement with the bank to be the latter's brand ambassador. PVB Chairman Roberto F. de Ocampo, OBE and PVB President Nonilo Cruz will sign the agreement on behalf of the bank.

Since being taken over by Mr. Wilson Lee Flores in 2013, the Kamuning Bakery has become instrumental in changing the landscape of Kamuning Street in Quezon City from dilapidation to one of dynamism and vibe. Despite the 76-year old bakery eschewing modern baking techniques and sticking to its tried and tested, traditional pugon-powered baking, Kamuning Bakery has become a symbol of the street's rebirth, encouraging other nearby establishments and commercial enterprises to reinvent themselves. The bakery regularly hosts The Pandesal Forum, an interactive discussion on various topics such as politics, history, economy and others as the place became a favorite venue of historians, academic professionals, politicians, students, and the media.

Philippine Veterans Bank is a private commercial bank owned by about 300,000 Filipino World War II veterans and their descendants.

A Bank with a Heart<sup>♥</sup>  
for Every Filipino.

Philippine Veterans Bank is here to serve every Filipino.

Everything that we do comes with a sense of duty to serve your ever changing needs.

You, the Filipino, are what motivates this bank to be a better bank. We know how it is to serve, just like our veteran heroes. After all, it is in our name.

We may not be a big bank but we are a bank with a big heart.

**philippine**  
**veteransbank**

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Telephone Numbers: (02) 902-1600 • (02) 902-1700  
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With my cold weather clothes getting the least priority in my baggage full of photography and video gear, I went through my mental checklist of things to pack and did a final visual scan. Staying up all night was the logical thing to do as there wasn't much time left anyway, before I'd need to roll out for the airport. I didn't want to be even a bit late, as I—like the rest of the journalists in our large group on special invite by Mitsubishi—was genuinely excited for this grand reveal at the 44th Tokyo Motor Show held late last year. But by now the big half-secret's out, and it's apparent that Mitsubishi isn't pulling any stops in enticing everyone to have a good long look and even a drive, to check out their the much talked-about flagship nameplate, the all-new Mitsubishi Montero Sport.

Enough of the SUA concern, as I have more faith in a global brand's engineering and tech know-how than the driving skills

Text and photos  
by Ardie O. Lopez



# 2016 Mitsubishi Montero **REDEFINED TRANSFORMATION**

and motives of some of our countrymen. If there's anything that's glaringly positive arose from that issue, it's that it has become a reference point to how far advanced the new Montero Sport has become, and how it's set to reinvigorate the confidence, admiration, and even aspiration towards the name.

After a near overwhelming immersion at the Tokyo Motor Show with all the latest releases of the significant auto brands in the industry, and being wowed by Mitsubishi's cutting-edge technology and ambitious direction towards the near future of motoring (which is leaning towards the more desirable and capable electric vehicles like the stunning EX Concept Crossover), we finally set out for the FujiGane Off-road Park, near the base of the famous Mount Fuji, where we finally got to wrap our chilled fingers around the steering wheel of the Montero Sport.

After the all-important safety and test-drive briefing, we finally laid our eyes on a stunning fleet of Montero Sports units, looking majestic in the crisp and nippy Fuji Gane clime. Undoubtedly, it's the Montero's entirely new stunning look that's one of its best features, if not the best—though I'm sure its chief engineer would vehemently disagree. It's the futuristic design cues that give it a sleek and smart bearing, and none of the overboard touches that'd give it a short style shelf life. The ingenious Dynamic Shield Concept design it was based on, gave it an aggressively sporty character that's all its own. Care to ask the

difference between its predecessor's looks and this new one? I'd say night and day.

We were delighted to discover that the off-road track turned out to be more challenging than the way the drive master had described, and not the opposite, since we were all quite eager to take the

Montero through its paces and thoroughly test its mettle. The Montero Sport has been upgraded with a totally new powerplant, a 2.4-liter, 4-cylinder, DOHC, 16-valveclean diesel MIVEC (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control system) engine. At maximum power, it provides 181 PS at 3500 RPM, and at maximum torque, it churns out a hefty 430 Nm at 2500 RPM. It's mated to a smooth-shifting eight-speed automatic transmission.

With the numerous new cars we get to test, it feels good to be excited again—a steep and rough uphill climb abruptly capped the short straight upon rollout, and if it weren't for the slippery rocks, I believe staying on 4x2 mode would've sufficed. Traversing hill posed no problem as the hefty torque on tap made it a walk in the park. Testing the suspension once the terrain was back on level, the new Montero felt more planted, with a lot less



body roll on aggressive cornering—the wallowy feel its predecessor had is gone. Barreling forward on the rough at about 40kph, the suspension soaked in the bumps and rocks without a problem, maintaining a plush quality on the ride while still providing a good feel of control all throughout. Reaching the edge of a deep downhill



*GG The Montero Sport has been upgraded with a totally new powerplant, the 2.4-Liter, 4-cylinder, DOHC, 16-valve Clean Diesel MIVEC (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control system) engine. JJ*



slope, we were instructed to shift to four-wheel low mode, sit back and (try to) relax, and let the hill descent feature do all the work. All by itself—well, with the occasional steering input, of course—the Montero safely and securely rolled down the slope, which would've probably made a Billy Goat take notice. After that was a series of camber twisting routes and chicanes for an enjoyable lap-end finale that showcased the Montero's drive and ride qualities quite well. Or so we thought.

Mitsubishi brought in their off-road Meister, the Gentleman Rally Driver Hiroshi Masuoka-San, who is one of only four in the sport's history who has won the Dakar Rally Championship back to back, in consecutive years... to give us confident little people no-holds-barred taxi rides in the Montero Sport, rally style!

I had my turn, white-knuckled and strapped-in on the front left passenger seat, screaming in delight as if it was a roller coaster ride. In a way it was, but a lot more comfortable. Masuoka-san made great use of the Montero's leveled-up power output, virtually blasting out of ruts, making dirt plumes by carving-out turns, and literally jumping out of smoothed-out craters action movie-style! We all took our turns, along with other Mitsubishi execs with Masuoka-San, and always at the same driving intensity, and all with the same Mitsubishi Montero! It going through the rally gauntlet unscathed, and still running optimally as if it just rolled out of a covered garage is testament to its engineering superiority and rugged durability. The exercise certainly made staunch believers out of everyone present.

Mitsubishi may have been a bit embattled with the recent major challenge it went through, but without a question, the all-new Mitsubishi Montero is more than just an explosive redeemer of a flagship nameplate, it's proof of the company's unrelenting drive to top themselves, to decisively exceed expectations, and come up with one truly exceptional ride that makes all the difference. **QQ**



# 2016 TOYOTA FORTUNER Track Time



Text and photos  
by Dino Ray V. Directo III

**A** month after the launch of its best-selling sport utility vehicle (SUV), the country's largest automotive player gave the all-new Fortuner a shakedown at the Clark International Speedway in Clark, Pampanga.

In attendance were Toyota Motors Philippines (TMP) executives led by Sherwin Chua Lim, TMP VP for sales and marketing. "This is a great way to experience what the Fortuner is capable of on and off the road. This will provide you with an accurate feedback on how the SUV performs given the exercises line up for the day," explained Lim.

JP Tuason of Tuason Racing School (TRS) set up the whole track to allow participants to test the acceleration, braking, handling capabilities of the SUV. Adjacent to the track was an off-road route where the media participants realized their WRC fantasies driving the Fortuner along the dry river bed.

First introduced in 2005, the all-new Fortuner is expected to lock horns with the Mitsubishi Montero, Ford Everest, Hyundai Santa Fe, Chevrolet Colorado and the Isuzu MU-X. "Our concept was to build a true SUV that has style and confidence. The all-new Fortuner is the outcome of our continuous efforts to redefine toughness," said Hiroki Nakajima, executive chief engineer of the all-new Fortuner.

"This latest variant looks more sophisticated and dynamic," added TMP President Satoru Suzuki, during a formal presentation before the track day held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Clark. The Fortuner carved its niche in the domestic market by way of its quality, durability, reliability and a tough suspension system that can take on any kind of terrain. The iconic name originates from the word "fortunate," specifically chosen to symbolize a new type



of model designed for customers who long to own a prestigious SUV. Under the hood of The Fortuner has a 2.8-liter four-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine mated to a six-speed transmission and produces 130 kW of power and 430 Nm of torque.

The G grade comes in sporty 17-inch alloy wheels while the V grade flashes a stylish set of 18 inch alloy wheels. As you step inside the vehicle, anyone would be awed by the bolder and more elegant interior. Its V grade comes in hues of dark brown, black and wood trim details while the G grade boasts colors of chamois, black and dark wood trim details. This

2016 version is bolder, has a longer and wider stance which is an improvement of the previous generation.

With a body on frame design that can accommodate seven individuals and powerful diesel engine and a nameplate that spells rock solid reliability and toughness, Toyota's rivals have their work cut out for them.

The All-new Fortuner is offered in five variants with a starting price of P1,386,000. Toyota dealers across the country are currently accepting reservations and delivery of units will commence in the middle of March, said Lim. **aq**

*GG The Fortuner has a 2.8-liter four-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine mated to a six-speed transmission and produces 130 kW of power and 430 Nm of torque. JJ*





Text and photos by George Apacible



# M

ELBOURNE, the capital state of Victoria, is a charming, stylish, multicultural expanse that reflects the city's gold-rush history. This year, it also played host to a significant event for Kia Motors Corporation (KMC).

Philippine delegates, headed by Kia Philippines president Ginia Domingo, and Chut Velasquez, head of sales, as well as several media journalists went on a four-day adventure to try out Kia's globally popular fourth-generation Sportage while enjoying the beautiful outskirts of Victoria.

The first day started with a media conference with KMC head of overseas PR Michael Choo, who gave us a hindsight of what the Kia brand value is all about and how KMC has grown significantly in a short span of time.

Then, we proceeded to tour around Melbourne with its old industrial buildings fused into malls, rooftop bars on century-old edifices, chic lane way cafés and restaurants. At the Rod Laver Tennis Arena, we got the chance to tour the facilities, and later, watch the finals of the Kia-sponsored Australian Open.

Back at the hotel for that much-awaited

# 2016 KIA SPORTAGE

## Sporty Fun in the Land Down Under



test drive, fellow journalist Charlie Cruz and I were assigned to the top-of-the-line Diesel Platinum/GT-line.

We were given route options to choose from—the coastal routes of the Peninsula Hot Springs, Dandenong Ranges or Yarra Valley National Parks. We chose the Hanging Rock formation upper Northwest from Melbourne City.

Driving on the “wrong” side of the road for us who are so used to driving left-hand was challenging at first, since you have to program your mind to think on the opposite side—but eventually we got used it.

Our route had picturesque countryside with rolling hills of grassy meadows, and yes, kangaroos. Then, we headed up to the chilly mountains of Mount Macedon. We couldn't help but roll down our windows and enjoy the fresh smell of mountain air.

The Sportage has a surprisingly low 0.33 cd drag coefficient for a compact SUV. By having less drag and wind noise, it also meant greater fuel economy.

Not only does it look good on the outside but the Sportage's new functional dynamic platform says it all. There is still that subtle tinge of diesel clatter but driving was very relaxing upon reaching the Hanging Rock. We got a glimpse from afar of the beautiful mountains where a hanging rock actually rests on two formations.

The Sportage's all-new VGT (variable geometry turbo) CRDI diesel power plant is more efficient with Euro V technology more advanced than its rivals and previous model. With advances in technology, bigger displacements are things of the past. Kia engineers were able to extract 181 ps at 4,000 rpm and 400 Nm of torque at just under 1,750 rpm in a

2.0-liter engine.

Climbing the mountain route was done with ease. A slight depression on the pedal had the Sportage humming spontaneously with the six-speed transmission. However, I found the 18-inch tires a bit too stiff for rumpled roads. In case of obstacles, slippery hills and articulations that require serious off-roading, the GT line comes equipped with Downhill Brake Control (DBC), Hill Assist Control (HAC), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Traction Control System and Center Differential Lock.

On Day 3, we found ourselves assigned to drive the high-end SLi briefly on the busy streets of Melbourne and try out the Sportage's safety features—Forward Collision Warning System, Lane Departure Warning System, Blind Spot Detectors, Lane Change Assist, and my favorite, the Smart Parking Assist System. All the tests were scheduled to end early to allow us to watch the men's finals of the Australian Open which ended with Novak Djokovic winning against long-time rival Andy Murray. What a game!

Kia has raised the bar again on their compact Sportage by packing all the amenities of a modern mid-size SUV in a small package. **qq**



# Luxury and comfort redefined

**A**SIAN Carmakers Corporation (ACC), the official importer and distributor of BMW in the Philippines, recently unveiled the all-new BMW 7 Series, with two variants—the 750Li and the 740Li.

"Since 1977, BMW has been delivering ground-breaking innovations and setting new standards with our flagship BMW 7 Series. From the electronic speedometer, to

Park Distance Control, to the revolutionary iDrive operating system, all of which have become an industry benchmark for modern cars. Today, this sixth-generation BMW 7 Series has made yet another breakthrough by introducing new technologies such as carbon core that reduces overall weight by up to 130kg, and a full suite of innovations like Touch Command, Gesture control, Sky Lounge with Panorama Glass Roof, just to name a few," said ACC President Maricar Parco. "This all-new BMW 7 Series embodies our quest for modern mobility, the highest quality and absolute precision. This is truly a masterpiece from BMW, and probably the best car we have ever built."

Intelligent lightweight engineering has reduced the weight of the all-new BMW 7 Series models by up to 130 kilograms compared with their previous generation counterparts. At the center of it all is the body structure with Carbon Core, a product of the transfer of technology from the development of the BMW i8.

The all-new BMW 7 Series offers both sharper driving dynamics and superior ride comfort, thanks to its highly-sophisticated, precision-honed chassis technology. The latest raft of innovations offer drivers more freedom of choice for configuring the ideal vehicle set-up, which means they can now opt for even sportier handling or greater ride comfort as they wish.

With its double-joint front axle, five-link rear axle and Electric Power Steering, the all-new BMW 7 Series comes with all the right ingredients for precise, assured

and harmonious handling characteristics. The inclusion of the 2-axle self-levelling air suspension as standard furthermore endows the luxury sedan models with notably superior ride comfort. The suspension is supplied with air by an electrically powered compressor with pressure reservoir. This means that even when the engine is switched off, the height of the vehicle body is adjusted to keep it at a constant level regardless of the load being carried. And because the air supply is controlled individually for each wheel, it is even possible to compensate for an unevenly distributed load.

Electronically controlled dampers improve ride and suspension comfort at the same time as adding to the sedan's dynamic handling qualities. A variety of modes can be engaged using the Driving Experience Control switch, which serve to foster either driving comfort (COMFORT, COMFORT+ modes) or sporty, agile handling (SPORT mode).

For the first time, an ADAPTIVE mode can also be selected in the all-new BMW 7 Series via the standard Driving Experience Control switch. With this setting activated, the vehicle setup is matched to the current driving style and changing route profile in adaptive, clearly perceptible fashion. The control logic reacts to movement of the accelerator and steering wheel, and also factors in whether the gear selector is in the D or S position.

A further refined version of the Integral Active Steering system is available as standard for the all-new BMW 7 Series. With



it, the rear wheels help to steer and provide more driving stability, safety and comfort. When travelling under 60 kph, the front and rear wheels steer in opposing directions to reduce the turning circle and ensure every bend is taken with precision. This is very helpful when the driver is parking or negotiating hairpin bends with small turning circle because fewer movements and more precision are enabled.

The iDrive operating system's Control Display comes in the form of a touch display for the first time in the all-new BMW 7 Series in conjunction with the standard Navigation system Professional. The touch display concept is included because the method is so familiar from consumer electronics devices. The iDrive system comes with the standard BMW gesture control, which is being premiered in the all-new BMW 7 Series. By making specific hand movements in the vicinity of the center console, where they are registered by a 3D sensor, commonly used infotainment system functions can be controlled very intuitively and conveniently.

Characteristic features of the interior include generous levels of space accentuated by its horizontal surfaces and lines, the driver-focused cockpit design, the fusion of exquisite materials and precision craftsmanship and the sophisticated functionality of the control and display elements. The luxurious flair that pervades the interior of the all-new BMW 7 Series can be further enhanced by an unrivalled range of options for travelling in even greater comfort and adding to one's personal sense of well-being.

The Massage function for the driver and front passenger seats is activated via the iDrive controller and offers a choice of eight different massage functions in the backrest and seat surface in order to stimulate or relax muscles in a targeted manner, leading to less pressure on the spinal discs. These massage programs can be set to one of three intensity levels. The same feature is offered for the rear passenger seats when equipped with the Vitality Program and Rear Seat Entertainment, controlled via the BMW Touch Command (standard on 750Li, optional on 740Li).

The exclusive atmosphere inside the all-new BMW 7 Series can be accentuated by a precision-crafted lighting design. The standard ambient light provides harmonious indirect illumination in the vicinity of the instrument panel, the door beltlines, the map pockets on the front seat backs, and in the footwells. Courtesy lights and illuminated bars on the door sills also form part of the specification.

The long-wheelbase versions of the all-new BMW 7 Series come standard with

a two-section Panorama glass roof with an opening front section. This is equipped with the Sky Lounge Panorama glass roof that is quite unique in the luxury limousine segment (standard on 750Li, optional on 740Li). With this version of the roof, the light emitted by LED modules along the sides in the dark is spread evenly throughout the glass surface. Here, it strikes an imprinted graphic creating the magical effect of a starlit sky.

Meanwhile, the standard ambient air package offers yet more scope for enhancing one's personal sense of well-being. It comprises functions for ionizing the air and the fragrance of the vehicle's interior with selected scents, both of which can be controlled from the air conditioning control console or the iDrive menu.

The Bowers & Wilkins Diamond surround sound system (standard on 750Li, optional on 740Li) makes it possible to experience a new dimension in listening pleasure while enjoying the in-car entertainment program. A fully active 10-channel amplifier with an output of 1,400 watts and 16 partially illuminated speakers together produce an exceptionally precise and wonderfully rich sound in the cabin. In the process, dynamic sound



**“ This all-new BMW 7 Series embodies our quest for modern mobility, the highest quality and absolute precision. This is truly a masterpiece from BMW, and probably the best car we have ever built. ”**

equalizing with three analogue crossovers ensures uniform acoustic performance delivered to all seats.

The Driving Assistant safety package (standard on 750Li, optional on 740Li) has now been extended to include Rear collision prevention and Rear crossing traffic warning. Both these functions use data supplied by sensors at either side of the rear of the vehicle. To reduce the risk of a rear collision, a rapid-flashing warning is used to draw the attention of following traffic whenever such a risk is identified. If it is no longer possible to prevent a collision, the Active Protection system is engaged, and automatically performs functions such as pulling the seat belts tight and closing the side windows and sunroof. The second function, crossing traffic warning, assists drivers when backing out of parking spots in situations where there is a poor or impeded view of traffic. The warning takes the form of audible alerts and a visual alert in the Control Display. With the reversing camera fitted, the extended view of the traffic situation behind the vehicle is shown in

the Control Display. The Driving Assistant package also includes the Approach control and Person Warning with light city braking function, Lane Change Warning and Lane Departure Warning and Speed Limit Info with no-overtaking indicator.

The all-new BMW 7 Series comes standard with Surround View, which includes the camera-based functions Rear view camera, Panorama View, Top View and 3D View. Cameras at the front and back of the exterior mirrors provide a 360° view around the vehicle.

It is also the first car in its segment to come with the option of innovative laser headlights including BMW Selective Beam. BMW Laserlight, which made its debut on the BMW i8, provides a high-beam range of 600 meters that is twice the range of the powerful LED headlights. The risk of dazzling oncoming or preceding road users is reliably excluded by the integrated BMW Selective Beam anti-dazzle Highbeam assistant. The BMW Laserlight with Highbeam assistant comes standard on the BMW 750Li and is optionally available for the 740Li. **AQ**

# Nissan Juke

# Spunky Fun Crossover

Text and photos by Ardie O. Lopez

**T**HANKS to technology, it's absolutely normal nowadays for regular people—especially for car enthusiasts—to get a preview of upcoming releases, way before they're brought in by their respective local distributors.

No big secrets are safe, so it's really just a matter of knowing when a certain car model will be brought into the market, if at all. The Nissan Juke is no exception. In fact it's been around for quite a few years, and we have come across this vehicle more than a few times on our overseas coverage. We've always wondered when it would finally hit the roads and highways of the Philippines, and more so, how the market would react to it, because it is—by all counts—a bold and quirky design move by Nissan.

If you've always wondered why the more exciting models always get released in other countries and not here, it looks like Nissan has begun to change that. First with the X-Trail, the Navara, and now this.

At first glance, you'd probably think it's a love it or hate it kind of design—as it is definitely like no other. Those double sets of "eyes" are attention magnets, and would make you wonder which set is meant to be the headlamps. If you guessed the second tier from the top, you'd be right. The signature Nissan arrow-shaped lights at the top level are LED clearance lights—which double as daytime running lights. There's a third tier of light, actually, and these are fog lamps.

Well, it's easy to love, but if you dislike the design—I would suggest that you give it a while. It will likely grow on you, and you most probably will get drawn to it. The Juke is certainly brimming with personality—and a fun one at that—as its huge haunches atop its wheel arches suggest; a ride height that's taller than usual, and its big 17-inch alloy wheels also hint of its sporty on-road and

mild off-road capabilities. In fact if you'll give it a thorough walk-around, you'll recognize some design cues also found on the Z series of Nissan performance coupes—the rear tail light clusters and the tapering silhouette are dead giveaways.

But is it a fun car behind the wheel, as its exterior broadcasts? The new Nissan Juke is equipped with a modest 1.6-liter inline 4-cylinder DOHC twin CVTC gasoline engine (HR16DE as they call it) that's mated to an XTronic Continuous Variable Transmission (CVT). It makes good use of its 116PS and 154Nm output. Now the numbers may not sound as fun, but the power is pleasantly ample, perhaps due to its 1,132-kg curb weight, which is relatively light for a sub-compact crossover. The smooth-shifting CVT complements the well-spaced gear ratios that maximize the power band for some impressive acceleration—whether for overtaking or for briskly bringing it up to a 3-digit cruising speed, which the Juke has no qualms





about. You also get to decide how much fun you want to have by simply pushing a button on its I-CON system for a choice of three drive modes: Economy, Normal, and Sport. This button significantly affects and dictates the Juke's power handling and fuel efficiency, based on your need or whim at the moment. At its default Normal mode, the Juke remains sprightly and agile.

I do have a couple of niggles, though. I'd be happier with a lot less engine noise; and I do mean the kind that better sound deadening materials can probably solve. A little drawback of prioritizing form and aesthetics is its limited trunk space. Cabin dimensions allow for comfortable seating for 5, with decent legroom, but if you're going on an extended road trip with all seats taken, you might need to consider mounting a roof box on a rack to accommodate the necessary amount of cargo. Then again, considering its across-the-board sticker price of P980,000 for the only Juke variant they offer, it's certainly a great value.

Considering it's got nifty features like cruise control, a lane departure and blind spot warning system aside from the ABS with EBD with brake-assist and dual airbags that come standard, it's almost a steal.

So obviously Nissan has given the Juke a lot of thought, as well as a lot of latitude in terms of its very legit combo of unique design, a generous specs and features set that's on offer at a price that's hard to beat. Now that's my idea of spunky fun. **aq**





SUZU Philippines Corporation returned to its playground in the skies to test the mettle of the new 3.0-liter engine that powers its best-selling pickup truck, the Isuzu D-Max.

Text and photos by Angelo Perez

# Isuzu D-Max 3.0L Proves mettle with return to Mt. Pulag



When the second-generation D-Max was introduced in 2015, it initially came with a 2.5-liter turbo diesel engine, which was more than enough to power the workhorse, yet provides excellent fuel economy. However, IPC was forced to introduce a bigger powerplant for the pickup truck due to the big demand from Filipino customers.

In October last year, IPC finally gave in to the clamor and introduced a newly developed 4JJ1-TC (HI) 3.0-liter diesel engine, fitted with Common Rail Direct Injection and an intercooled Variable Geometry System (VGS) turbocharger. With the new VGS system, the engine responds quickly even at low speed and eliminates "turbo lag" or the delay in the distribution of power.

The new 4JJ1-TC (HI) engine also promotes Isuzu's reputation of being reliable, durable and fuel-efficient. Its lifetime steel timing chain and anti-friction melt-in cylinder liners are among its advantages that ensure durability. Evaluated to produce 163 Ps at 3,200 rpm and a high 380 Nm of torque from 1,800 to 2,200 rpm, the engine also provides plenty of power, translating to less gear changes, effortless hill climbing and easier off-road driving.

To prove the mettle of the D-Max's new powertrain features, Isuzu decided to return to its 'home in the clouds' in northern Luzon, Mt. Pulag. This mountain-top destination is well-known to mountaineers as being the third-highest peak in the Philippines. It gives the best-ever view of the sunrise as it peeks over oceans of clouds in the Pacific.

The gateway for trekkers going up the peak is at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Ambangeg, which is some 120 kilometers from Baguio City. All visitors to Mt. Pulag are required to register at the DENR office and attend the mandatory briefing on the upkeep and maintenance of the National Park. After the briefing, visitors have to negotiate about 15 kilometers of steep, winding roads up towards Babadak in Barangay Kabayan, where the Ranger station is located. Some sections of this road require an all-wheel drive vehicle to assure that the vehicle stays on the path up the steep slopes.

This was the fourth time for Isuzu to scale the slopes of Benguet Province on the way to Mt. Pulag. Not only did the second-generation D-Max successfully conquer the roads to Mt. Pulag, tagging along were IPC President Hajime Koso and



*GG The Philippines bears so many beautiful places scattered all over it, which is why we have the Isuzu D-MAX – it is for those adventure junkies so that they can reach these destinations with power and style. SJ*

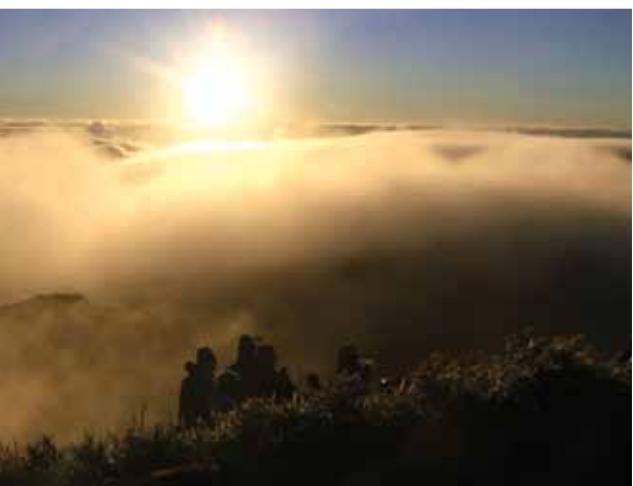
IPC EVP Takashi Tomita along with a new batch of motoring journalists.

Much like the drive, the trek going to the campsite was easy as the participants wore specially designed trekking shoes courtesy of Sandugo Philippines which is the official footwear partner of Isuzu for the adventure trip.

Braving the almost sub-zero temperatures in Mt. Pulag, the group starting their assault to the summit of Mt. Pulag a couple of hours before dawn. By 5 a.m., the group reached the summit just in time to catch a glimpse of the glorious sunrise over the sea of clouds over the Pacific. It was there that Koso expressed his utmost appreciation of the natural beauty not just of Mt. Pulag but of the country, "The Philippines bears so many beautiful places scattered all over it, which is why we have the Isuzu D-Max – it is for those

adventure junkies so that they can reach these destinations with power and style."

After securing breathtaking pictures over by the sea of clouds at the summit, the group headed back to the campsite for some final preparations before trekking down back to the Ranger Station, and then back to Manila. **AQ**





# All-New Audi Q7 'GREAT QUATTRO' unveiled

**A**UDI Philippines reasserts its presence in the full-size premium SUV segment with the much-awaited arrival of the second-generation Q7 – its all-new, award-winning family SUV.

Presented to valued clients, guests, and members of the media during a formal launch at the Audi Greenhills showroom, the Q7 was described by Audi Philippines head Benedicto Coyiuto as “the great quattro,” boasting values of “presence, precision, and performance.” He shared that, coincidentally, the first-generation Q7 was introduced in 2005, on the 25th anniversary of the Ingolstadt-based carmaker’s quattro vehicle, which first bannered Audi’s revolutionary permanent four-wheel-drive system. Coyiuto

considers the Q7 as the “cornerstone” of the brand’s SUV lineup.

In a speech, German Embassy to the Philippines chargé d'affaires Michael Hasper declared that “Germany and cars belong together,” and praised Audi for winning the prestigious Le Mans 24-hour endurance race 12 times in the last 15 years. He cited the carmaker’s tagline “Vorsprung Durch Technik (Advancement Through Technology) and assented: “There is no Audi without top technology.”

And top technology the Q7 indeed has, inside and out.

For starters, Audi engineers capitalized on more than two decades of experience in manufacturing aluminum chassis and suspension components to shave off

substantial weight from the Q7 without sacrificing cabin safety and integrity. Audi general sales manager Paolo Brambilla said the new iteration is lighter by as much as 325 kilograms compared to the first-generation Q7. “That’s the same weight as a grand piano.”

The considerable weight reduction promises a myriad of benefits—reduced fuel consumption, more dynamic handling response, increased cornering ease, improved braking, and quicker acceleration. Audi makes the lighter Q7 possible through a multi-layer material for the chassis consisting of hot-stamped high-strength steel and aluminum. Other parts like the doors, tailgate, hood, and fenders are made entirely out of aluminum to save further



Audi AG Chairman and CEO Rupert Stadler and Audi Philippines Head Benedicto Coyiuto.



weight without decreasing cabin safety and integrity.

While 37 millimeters shorter and 15 millimeters narrower than its predecessor, the all-new Q7 provides much roomier interiors, with an additional 21 millimeters of space between the first and second rows. This enhances rear-seat legroom and makes passenger ingress and exit easier. Headroom has improved by a generous 41 millimeters in the front seats, and 23 millimeters in the second-row seats.

A sleeker profile has lowered the Q7's coefficient drag to 0.32, leading to further reduction in fuel consumption and reduction of wind noise at highway speeds. A rear-facing reverse camera comes standard for both the locally offered 3.0 TDI and 3.0 TDI S Line variants to provide added ease in maneuvering and/or parking.

Under the hood rumbles a 3.0-liter V6 TDI good for a healthy 272hp and a hefty 600Nm. Power is transmitted to the standard quattro all-wheel drive system via a ZF eight-speed automatic. A gas-fed 2.0-liter, four-cylinder power plant meanwhile offers 252hp and 370Nm. The diesel engine enables standstill to 100kph in 6.3 seconds; the gas variant reaches the rate in 7.5 seconds.

The exterior imbues a decidedly more aggressive look for the Q7. Angular wheel fender flares pay homage to legendary Audi quattro models of old, and the trademark single-frame grill is deeply sculpted and features bold horizontal crossbars to project an image of strength and confidence. Xenon/HID, LED or Matrix LED headlights surround the grill, depending on options. Body strips come standard to protect the main exterior panels and are covered in matte aluminum, while the S-Line option adds more aggressive styling components that further separate the Q7 from the competition.

Owners can easily stow the third-row seats with a press of a button. With both this and the second rows folded, the Q7 boasts a substantial 2,075 of cargo space. Audi designers also lowered the rear loading lip by 46 millimeters for more convenient loading.



Benedicto Coyiuto  
with the all-new  
Audi Q7.

The rear tailgate is powered as well. A kick or sweeping motion underneath the center of the rear bumper can open and close the tailgate – handy when the driver's hands are full.

Leading the charge into the future, the Q7 features Audi's breakthrough Virtual Cockpit centered around a 12.3-inch TFT display that shows a variety of engine and vehicle information, multimedia settings, and route guidance for a GPS/satellite navigation system. This highly customizable system is complemented by the Audi Multi Media Interface (MMI) system. Haptic feedback now improves usage while driving – as the system provides both an audible sound as well as vibration through one's fingers to confirm the selection of a function. The revised MMI also uses a new-generation software that allows for a more "intelligent" voice command control and search function between MMI and driver.

Designers and engineers trimmed down the number of buttons on the Q7 for a more user-friendly, cleaner layout. Drive Select is available, which provides four drive modes are available—comfort, normal, dynamic, and individual. The last allows the driver to define a combination of settings for the engine responsiveness, transmission responsiveness, steering effort and suspension firmness.

All the improvements and innovation

have not gone unnoticed. Early in its lifecycle, the all-new Q7 has already received the Euro NCAP Advanced award for its optional Multi-Collision Brake Assist System and Audi Pre-Sense, which puts tension on the seatbelts and closes the windows and sunroof when the system detects a dangerous situation leading to a collision. Meanwhile, the Multi-Collision Brake Assist System initiates braking automatically in case of an accident to reduce the risk of skidding and mitigate greater damage. Audi also places maximum value on integral safety by going above and beyond the measures assessed by the institution. A central element in the Q7 is the Audi Pre-Sense City, a predictive warning and emergency braking system for accident avoidance and the protection of pedestrians. At speeds of up to 85kph, the feature observes the road with respect to other road users. Both are optional in the new Q7. Eight safety airbags come standard.

Hasper expressed excitement in the all-new Q7's arrival, and added that the quattro feature in the Q7 promises versatility and ability for whatever road and weather condition throughout the year. "It's everything you need for the Philippines throughout the year," he concluded.

For more information, call 0917-8139064 or visit the Audi showrooms located at Greenhills, Global City, and Alabang. **aq**



**T**HE sight of hot air balloons majestically flying above the ground could only mean one thing... summer is nearly here!

Weather must be at its optimal best to fly these big balloons. The skies must be clear and wind conditions should be normal. Storms are extremely hazardous for hot air balloons, because of the danger of a lightning strike. Even rain is a problem, because it decreases visibility and damages the balloon material (plus, it's not much fun to fly around in wet weather, anyway). And while you need a nice wind current to have a good flight, very strong winds could easily wreck the balloon.



## New Honda CR-V Up, up and away to the next level

By Armin A. Amio

Here in the Philippines, mid-February is the best time to launch hot air balloons. Morning air is still nippy cool; there is minimum chance of rain, and wind conditions are ideal.

Celebrating its 20th year this 2016, the Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta has become a much-awaited event, especially for local tourists. Last February 11, 2016, we hied off to Clark in Angeles City, Pampanga to once-again witness these majestic balloons in flight—with the new Honda CR-V.

The fiesta usually starts on a Thursday and ends on Sunday. To get away from the weekend crowd, we suggest that you schedule your trip on opening day or on Friday. The Saturday and Sunday events are usually jam-packed.

We left Manila around 3 a.m., just to give us enough time to leisurely cruise the expressway, although the CR-V's 2.4-liter engine can deliver maximum power output of 185ps at 7,000rpm if we wanted to get to the venue early. After a short pee and breakfast stop in one of the establishments within the gasoline station along the expressway, we proceeded to Angeles City

with the hopes that we would be one of the first visitors to arrive.

But much to our disappointment, there were a lot of people who came in much ahead of us. Parking was a challenge...but thanks to the CR-V's reverse camera, we didn't have to worry about bumping people at the rear while we parked the vehicle.

The CR-V's panoramic windshield and side windows allowed us to size up the crowd (which has become much bigger than when we first went to the event on its inaugural staging), while we called our friends using the hands-free phone function of our ride. It was a good thing they've managed to get a good area for our group.

On our way to the staging area, we just can't help but take in the new CR-V's improved looks. It's now sleeker and more masculine with new front and rear bumper garnishes, prominent front grille, LED daytime running lights, and a redesigned sporty 17-inch alloy wheel.

We found our friends at just the right time. The ballooners were nearly finished with pre-flight preparations. The hot air balloons featured this year came in different shapes and sizes. Aside from the circular-

shaped balloons from event sponsors, there were also special-shaped ones. Among the main attractions are the balloons shaped like a dinosaur, a scarecrow, a hatching dinosaur egg, a clown, a devil, a green creature, a boy, and a girl.

Before we knew it, they were launched one after the other. All 26 balloons that joined the Hare and Hound Hot Air Balloon flight flew southwest at different altitudes, led by the Philippine flag balloon. There were other activities scheduled for the day, like paragliding, jet fly-by and car drifting. Special bands were also scheduled to perform for the visitors that Sunday (February 14, 2016) as part of the Valentine's Day festivities. But we just stayed for one thing...and one thing only...i.e. to see the magnificent balloons in flight. Year after year, these never disappoint the onlookers.

Much like the Honda CR-V, this SUV never fails to disappoint as well. This vehicle's efficiency, functionality and confidence have been translated to a ride that has the feeling and efficiency of a passenger car, the functionality of a minivan, and the security and confidence provided by an SUV. **AQ**



**I**t's official. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) was granted distributorship of Hyundai commercial vehicles (CV) in the country. The agreement was formalized last February 15, 2016. Prospects are bright for this milestone venture of HARI, which celebrates its 15th year as the official Philippine distributor of Hyundai passenger cars.



## Hyundai Commercial Vehicles on a Roll: HARI now Official PH Distributor

This new venture is a significant step in advancing Hyundai brand presence in the country—this time as the top-of-mind mobility partner of Filipino businesses. The move is expected to not only raise brand equity, but also contribute to pushing the ascent of the Philippine economy to sustainable success.

Said HARI President and CEO Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, "The timing is just perfect. All the essential ingredients that favor our new venture are in place: a stable economy to support the demand; industries on a steady growth track; upbeat consumer confidence; a vibrant new market that welcomes new players; and an enabling policy environment characterized by the implementation of the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA) and new landmark policies designed to boost the competitiveness of Philippine business in the ASEAN Economic Community. We are experiencing the third wave of motorization, meaning that from year 2015 to 2022, more and more Filipinos can easily own a motor vehicle! Outlook all in all is indeed bright.... Hyundai's strategic investment in the Philippine commercial vehicle sector is spot-on, and nothing short of brilliant. We are in the best position to bring new value to a new market and to drive the ascent of the economy, in alignment with the national roadmap to advance the competitive advantage of Philippine businesses in the ASEAN."

### HYUNDAI COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) is one of world's biggest producers of commercial vehicles. Over the years, Hyundai Commercial Vehicles have carved out a sterling reputation worldwide for their outstanding performance, quality, and reliability. More than 150 different models are sold in over 100 countries. HMC expressed confidence that, with HARI and its strong nationwide dealership network driving CV sales in the country, Hyundai Commercial Vehicles will become a name to reckon with in the Philippine and the ASEAN CV market.

Hyundai Commercial Vehicles boast superior end-to-end design and engineering ingenuity that guarantee an exceptional ride, handling, strength, durability, and safety. The base material, world-renowned Hyundai high-grade steel, already speaks for itself. To top it off, Hyundai Commercial Vehicles come with a field-tested guarantee that they will function superbly in all working conditions, satisfy the most stringent safety standards, and deliver cost-effectiveness in spades.

Initial model introductions include: in the Light Trucks category, the HD65, HD72, and HD78; Heavy-duty category, the HD270

Dump; and Bus category, the County (29+1 seater), H350 Bus, and the H350 Van (convertible to bus).

### SET TO MOVE AN ECONOMY THAT'S ON THE MOVE

Commercial vehicles make up the bulk of local vehicle sales. Recent years have seen the gradual growth in sales of trucks and buses in the country on account of the generally upbeat mode of business, across industries.

Compared to other ASEAN nations, the Philippines has a relatively larger market for AUVs, LCVs, trucks, and buses.

Besides the robust regional market, the country has approximately \$2.9-billion-worth of PPP projects in the pipeline, 80% of which are infrastructure-related. The haulage sector is expected to experience sharp growth in the nation's bid to ensure the delivery, completion, and sustainability of these projects.

Demand for buses will also rise to respond to the public clamor for more efficient mass transport systems and to the Government's push for bus companies to replace aging fleets.

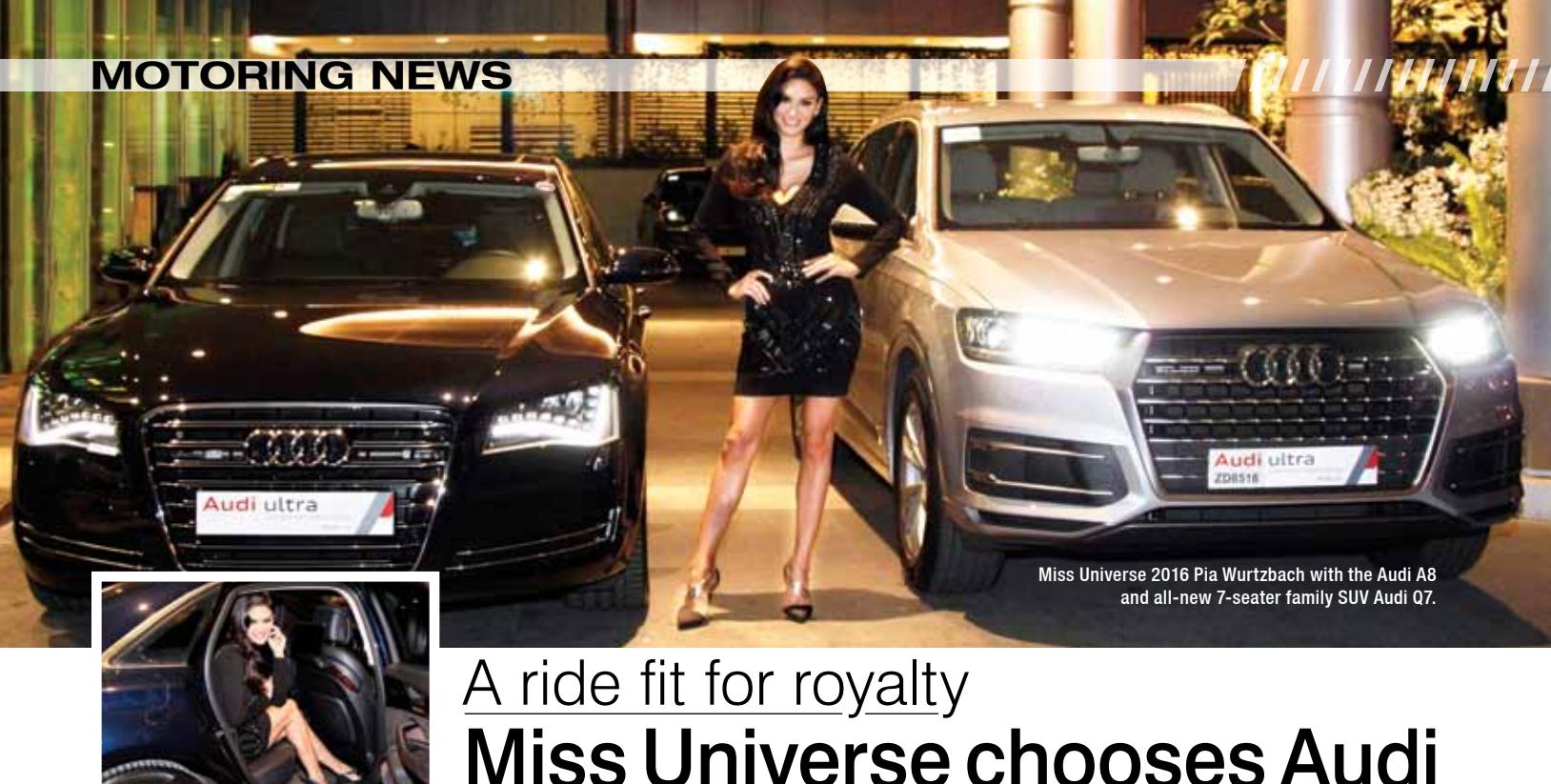
Meanwhile, the ASEAN-KOREA Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA), which took effect in January 2016, puts HARI at an advantage in terms of importation costs and ease of transaction.



### THE HYUNDAI ADVANTAGE

Hyundai dealerships will be carrying Hyundai CVs. The recently inaugurated Hyundai Logistics Center (HLC) in Calamba, Laguna will serve as the home base for standard CV Aftersales and Parts Support. Inaugurated in April 2015, HLC is HARI's pioneering flagship project that has raised the bar for efficient logistics operations while keeping to the company's core advocacy for the environment. While the Hyundai Customer Assistance and Response Center (CARES), the pioneering and only in-house contact center in the local auto industry, is prepped up to accept and handle customer concerns.

Ms. Agudo added, "We are living a new normal with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) upon us and so in the spirit of the Hyundai brand slogan 'New Thinking. New Possibilities,' we are stepping up with the entire business community to take the region forward and redefine our business the ASEAN way, holding true to our commitment to support the current and future Administration's drive toward sustainable and inclusive growth. HARI's entry into the CV sector is our contribution to nurturing a fair, transparent, and competitive market that advances competition and upholds consumer welfare. This is an advocacy closest to the heart of HARI as a major player in the Philippine automotive industry." 



Miss Universe 2016 Pia Wurtzbach with the Audi A8 and all-new 7-seater family SUV Audi Q7.



## A ride fit for royalty Miss Universe chooses Audi

**F**Ollowing her triumph in Las Vegas which ended a 42-year titular drought, our new Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach was rously welcomed by adoring Filipinos who shared in the immensity and pride of her achievement. To show the world, the universe rather, how to go around the metropolis in style, Pia opted for a classy, luxurious Audi A8 as "carriage" during her much publicized Manila homecoming.

"Magandang umaga, everyone! Off to work today!" Pia beamed on her Instagram video post a few days ago where she appears comfortably seated in the back seat of the

four-door, full-size, luxury sedan car from the famous German carmaker. In addition to the A8, an all-new Audi Q7 was also made available to her Miss Universe entourage. Pia will be in the country for nine days before she swings back to the United States. Her hectic homecoming schedule included a courtesy call on President Aquino in Malacañang and a trip to the Senate where she was presented with a Citation of Excellence for winning the 64th staging of the Miss Universe pageant – last won by Margie Moran in 1973.

Even as she secured the crown in December, Wurtzbach also endeared herself

to people through the poise and grace she displayed amid the much-talked-about announcement blunder during the recent Miss Universe pageant. Pia also handily won the admiration of many by substantively answering the questions posed before her during the crucial last rounds of the globally-televisioned pageant.

She called people's attention to timely and crucial advocacies, namely HIV/AIDS awareness. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recently hailed Wurtzbach as a "new champion for children and young people who are at risk of HIV." **AQ**

### NISSAN CHAMPIONS LOCAL TOURISM WITH "VISIT THE PHILIPPINES, DRIVE TO DISCOVER WITH NISSAN" CAMPAIGN

**N**ISSAN Philippines Inc. (NPI) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Tourism Promotions Board (TPB), the marketing and promotions arm of the Department of Tourism (DOT), to launch the "Visit the Philippines, Drive to Discover with Nissan" program. The program aims to boost local tourism through road travel to specific destinations recommended by the TPB.

Leading the Memorandum of Agreement signing ceremony were Mr. Domingo Ramon "Chicoy" Enerio III, TPB Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Antonio Zara, NPI President and Managing Director. Also present during the ceremony were Mr. Milo Oropeza, TPB Project Development Officer, and Mr. SJ Huh, NPI General Manager for Marketing.

"We believe that the Philippines have a lot to offer by way of classic destinations and un-discovered spots alike," said NPI President and Managing Director Antonio Zara. "The call of the open road has its own charms, and we intend to show these through the 'Visit the Philippines, Drive to Discover with Nissan' campaign", he said.

"We intend to support the DOT, through its marketing and promotions agency, the TPB, by offering our revitalized fleet for the road trips", he added. This will include Nissan's product lineup such as the new Juke sport crossover, the all-new NP300 Navara, the all-new NV350 Urvan, the X-Trail,



Photo Shows (From Left): Mr. Milo Oropeza, Philippine Tourism Promotions Board (Tpb) Project Development Officer; Mr. Domingo Ramon "Chicoy" Enerio III, Tpb Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Antonio Zara, Nis-San Philippines. Inc. (NPI) President And Managing Director; And Mr. Sj Huh, NPI General Manager For Marketing

and the sedan models the new Almera, Altima and Sylphy.

"Visit the Philippines, Drive to Discover with Nissan" will run for one year, from November 2015 until late 2016. "By working together with the DOT through the TPB, we hope to raise awareness on the tourism possibilities by highlighting discoveries waiting to be re-vealed through road travel," Zara said. "It's not just about getting to the destination, it's also making the journey itself an exciting and enjoyable experience." **AQ**

SUZUKI Philippines Incorporated (SPH) zooms into 2016 with an upbeat outlook, as it announced an overall robust 2015 performance. The vehicle maker set its highest record sales of 10,000 units with 52% year-over-year sales growth, massive increase in visibility and market share, and aggressive network expansion, as well as bagged several awards for its vehicles.

Making the most of the rosy economy and booming automobile industry in the country, SPH flourished in the past fiscal year ending December 2015, driven by numerous car launches and inauguration of new dealerships. The brand inaugurated a total of 10 new dealerships. Suzuki Auto Pasig, Suzuki Auto East Avenue, Suzuki Auto Sucat, Suzuki Auto Isabela, and Suzuki Auto Naga are the latest addition to its 3S dealerships. To increase visibility in key areas where the target customers are, SPH also opened five satellite showrooms, in Chinatown, Legazpi, SM San Mateo, SM Masinag, and SM Taytay. The Philippine auto subsidiary likewise broke ground for two service and sales facilities at Sta. Rosa and Biñan, Laguna.

Car launches further elevated SPH's numbers. Last year saw the arrival of the much-awaited All-New Celerio, which hit it big in the market. The brand also rolled out updated versions of the Suzuki Swift 1.2, Swift Dzire and the sporty Swift Si. To top it off, Celerio and Ertiga won accolades during the C! Magazine Awards, while Suzuki Swift 1.2 got the Best Value for Money award at the Auto Focus Media's Choice Awards. The Suzuki Celerio M/T was also awarded by Car Awards Group,



## Suzuki Philippines posts 52% Y-o-Y growth

Inc (CAGI) as the Basic Subcompact Car of the Year and AirAsia Philippines Consumer Award for the Celerio A/T.

### Compact Category and Ertiga remain top sales drivers

The seven-seater compact MPV Suzuki Ertiga has not been dislodged as the best-selling single model of the brand, pitching in 30% to the total 2015 sales figures of Suzuki Philippines. This powerful, cost-efficient car option for the whole family boasts of folding rear seats, which can easily accommodate large objects that cannot fit in a regular sedan.

Meanwhile, 46% of total 2015 sales was contributed by the Subcompact and Mini Subcompact Category comprised of Suzuki Swift 1.2, Suzuki Celerio, and the Suzuki Alto. These models embody the Suzuki automotive philosophy: sleek and stylish, with powerful engines at the core. Innovative design and fuel-efficiency features also hike up the

popularity of these mini cars.

SPH expects to repeat or even outperform its impressive 2015 performance in 2016, with strategic marketing and sales activity implementations already in the pipeline. Numerous dealership inaugurations nationwide and new car launches are on its 2016 calendar as early as now, starting with the most-awaited debut of the all-new Suzuki sedan Ciaz.

Shuzo Hoshikura, SPH general manager for automobile, said: "Suzuki Philippines is certainly proud of the record-breaking growth and increase of its market share in the highly competitive automobile industry. We appreciate the overwhelming acceptance of our products and our 2015 achievements fuel us to continue bringing out the best vehicles for our growing market. We are positive that our outlook for the full-year 2016 sales will greatly surpass the 2015 levels. This will start with the upcoming launch of the all-new 1.4L Suzuki sedan, Ciaz." **QQ**

## Suzuki Car Clubs Unite



**One team. One Spirit. One Goal.**  
Suzuki car enthusiasts, with SPH General Manager Mr. Shuzo Hoshikura (center, back row), commenced the first Suzuki Car Club Get Together.

DEDICATED enthusiasts of various bestselling Suzuki cars finally came together under one umbrella to celebrate the Suzuki Way of Life.

The six accredited Suzuki car clubs in the country—Team Alto Pilipinas, Team Celerio Philippines, Swift 1.2 Philippines, Team APV Philippines, Club Ertiga Philippines, and Vitara Club of the Philippines—are now collectively called Team Suzuki Philippines (TSP). They marked the milestone by holding the first get together last December 2015.

A total of 76 members from the accredited clubs participated in the event held in Nuvali, Sta. Rosa, Laguna with fun games and activities that created camaraderie across the car clubs.

It has always been the dream of SPH—the only integrated automobile and motorcycle company in the Philippines—to gather all Suzuki car clubs wherein they can share goals, ideas and experiences, as well as strengthen and promote the Suzuki Way of Life.

Shuzo Hoshikura, SPH general manager for automobile, shared, "We have proven time and again that it is in the relationship that we build with automobile owners that we find the strength and motivation to improve our products. These are the consumers who candidly share their first-hand experience on owning a Suzuki product, and how they feel towards our products will always be important to us."

"This is a great way for us to reach out to them, and to create a network of members who share a common goal: to improve the driving experience. That is the goal of SPH, as well, and we have a better chance of achieving this if we are one team—interacting, exchanging opinions, criticizing, suggesting, and probably even just being friends with one another," Hoshikura added.

SPH, which posted a huge 2015 sales growth, has a positive business outlook for 2016 as well as big plans for Team Suzuki Philippines. Aside from the accredited clubs, other Suzuki car clubs are encouraged to join the TSP family. **QQ**

# Ford Everest Achieves ASEAN NCAP 5-Star Safety Rating



**F**ORD Motor Company today announced that the all-new Everest SUV earned a maximum 5-star safety rating from the ASEAN New Car Assessment Program (NCAP), achieving the highest score for Adult Occupant Protection in its segment at 15.38/16 points. The Everest also received 4-star rating in its Child Occupant Protection (COP) with 81 percent compliance.

"Safety is one of the highest priorities in the design of our vehicles, so we are delighted the new Ford Everest has received a maximum 5-star safety rating from ASEAN-NCAP," said Mark Kaufman, president, Ford ASEAN. "The new Everest delivers on Ford's commitment to meet and exceed high customer expectations for a smarter, safer and more capable medium SUV."

Led by Ford's Asia Pacific design and product development teams, the all-new

Everest was designed from the ground up to offer an unmatched level of occupant protection in both active and passive safety features, with several first-in-class smart technologies. These technologies also improve the driving experience on- and off-road as well as helping to protect other road users.

The all-new Everest comes with a true body-on-frame design that assures the torsional strength required for challenging terrains. It also offers segment-first Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross Traffic

Alert, which informs drivers when there is a vehicle in their blind spot while driving or when preparing to reverse out of parking spots, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) and Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD).

Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Roll Stability Control (RSC) are two core technologies that help give Everest drivers confidence and peace of mind on and off the road. ESC also enables Hill Descent Control, one of the Everest's headline off-roading features, as well as Emergency Brake Assist, Trailer Sway Control and segment-first Curve Control which takes advantage of ESC to help driver stay in control when misjudge a curve in the road.

The tested model is equipped with seven airbags and ISOFIX for child seat attachment.

The highest variant in the Everest line-up, the Everest Titanium also includes side and rear curtain airbags for enhanced protection and a range of new driver assistance technologies. These include features such as Adaptive Cruise Control, Forward Collision Warning System, Lane Keeping System, Auto High Beam Control and Driver Alert System.

The all-new Everest was introduced in ASEAN in August 2015 and quickly gained popularity in available markets. It is built at Ford's Auto Alliance Thailand joint-venture in Rayong, Thailand. **AQ**

## Ford Philippines Honors Top Metro Manila and Provincial Dealers in Annual Dealer Convention

**F**ORD Philippines recognized its top performing dealers at the 2016 Annual Ford Dealer Convention held at the Filinvest Tent, Alabang.

The annual Dealer Convention brings together Ford's dealer principals and their employees to celebrate and recognize individuals, teams, and dealerships who delivered exceptional results in the areas of sales, service and customer satisfaction throughout 2015.

Ford currently has 40 dealerships across the country that are owned and managed by its six dealer principals, namely Andre R. Borromeo, Paolo R. Borromeo, Anthony N. Cheng, Levy P. Laus, Willy Q. Tee Ten and Edmund C. Yee.

True to its commitment towards excellence, Ford also recognized dealership employees who earned silver and gold certification levels in various technical and self-development programs facilitated by Ford Academy and the Technical Training Team, the company's learning resources dedicated to the enhancement of dealership teams' skills and effectiveness.

Ford Manila Bay, under the leadership of Anthony N. Cheng and Dr. Mike Tan, with branch manager Andrew Dinglasan, was hailed 'Dealer of the Year' for Metro Manila for the second consecutive year.

Ford Cainta, led by dealer principal Edmund C. Yee, won 'Dealer of the Year' for Provincial. **AQ**





## Petron Euro-4 Fuels deliver Tri-Activ performance benefits

Now available nationwide in 2,200 service stations

Industry leader Petron Corporation continues to blaze new trails in fuels technology with its Tri-Activ gasoline and diesel products. Petron's Tri-Activ fuels have advanced additives uniquely formulated to meet Philippine driving conditions and cater to the needs of Filipino motorists.

Petron Euro-4 fuels deliver Tri-Activ performance benefits, namely: (1) better engine protection for longer engine life; (2) better mileage for longer drives; and (3) better power. Thus, in addition to cleaner engine and cleaner emissions, motorists can enjoy more savings on maintenance and fuel consumption.

Petron's full line up of Euro-4 Tri-Activ fuels include Petron Blaze 100 (the first and

only premium plus gasoline with an octane rating of 100), Petron XCS, Petron Xtra Advance, Petron Turbo Diesel, and Petron Diesel Max. These are available at 2,200 Petron service stations nationwide.

Petron made headlines in June 2015 when it became the first oil company to locally produce a full line-up of gasoline variants that meet Euro-4 standards, six months ahead of the government mandate to make available Euro-4 fuels by January this year. Motorists also welcomed the Company's move to introduce Euro-4 standard diesel last October 2015.

As of 01 January 2016, all fuels sold in the Philippines are required to meet the Philippine Euro-4 standard that sets the allowable sulfur content for gasoline and

diesel fuels at 50-parts per million (ppm). With this Clean Air initiative, local fuels are expected to be 10-times cleaner than the previous Euro-2 fuels which had up to 500 ppm sulfur content.

Petron Euro-4 Tri-Activ fuels are significantly more environment-friendly. They keep your engine clean and efficient because they have lesser tendencies to form carbon deposits that can clog injectors.

Even vehicles with Euro2 engines can benefit from Petron's Euro-4 Tri-Activ fuels, which with their advanced detergent, combustion improver, and friction modifier additives. With these performance benefits, all vehicle types can contribute to a cleaner environment. At the same time, vehicle owners will definitely appreciate savings from improved mileage and lower maintenance costs.

Petron invested \$2-billion to upgrade its Bataan Refinery and ensure the reliable production of more environment-friendly and premium fuels. It also operates a fuel additives blending plant in Subic Bay, in partnership with leading global fuel specialties company Innospec. With these capabilities, Petron is able to produce six Euro -4 fuel variants—the most extensive in the local oil industry—that meet the unique needs of motorists.





# Toyota Completes IMV Line-up With All-New Innova

**T**HIS February, the No.1 automotive company in the country completes the introduction of its upgraded International Innovative Multi-purpose Vehicle (IMV) line-up. First introduced in the Philippines in 2005, the IMV series is the globally renowned platform for Toyota's best-selling vehicles in key segments of the automotive industry. With the full model change of the All-New Hilux mid-last year followed by the All-New Fortuner last January, the launch of the All-New Innova completing the upgraded line-up marks a new era in innovation for the whole series!

True to their names, each vehicle in the IMV series is armed with various features that cater to the different needs of customers – the Hilux ("High-Luxury") for rugged environments, the Fortuner ("Fortunate") for urban and outdoor terrains, and the Innova ("Innovative") for more than just everyday city driving. With each unit setting itself apart from the other, the IMV's integrated design language translates to overall utility with the same reliability that Toyota is well-known for.

With the All-New Innova completing the line-up this February, its new generation model brings a new dimension of innovation to the Filipino's much loved multi-purpose vehicle(MPV). Moreover, in developing its design concept, Executive Chief Engineer Hiroki Nakajima shares that the vision for the All-New Innova is to be "The MPV designed for Multi-Performance." It combines the essence of an MPV with tough and emotional elements that make it highly functional. In fact, the All-New Innova's exterior has been carefully designed with sophisticated elements such as a stylish sculpted body, new front grille design, subtle aerodynamic effects, and more emotional colors that enhance its luxurious image.

As Nakajima further explains, "I am confident that this groundbreaking image will satisfy customers who are looking for something special in addition to the Innova's much loved heritage." The All-New Innova also intends to replace the conventional image of the MPV with this more luxurious upgrade.

To cater to ever-changing needs and desires of Innova customers and to the vision of Nakajima, the all-new variants have various features and upgrades that allow it to perform in multiple fields and situations. The new exterior design aims to capture a tough and sophisticated persona by adding a luxurious and strong presence. The All-New Innova's stable and solid stance, aero stabilizing angles, LED headlamps with daytime running lights, 16-inch alloy wheels, shark fin antenna, and rear spoiler add even more to its premium



L-R Toyota SVP for Marketing Jose Ariel Arias, Toyota President Satoru Suzuki, Toyota Executive Chief Engineer IMV lineup Hiroki Nakajima and Toyota Executive Vice President for Marketing Yohei Murase.

charisma. Moreover, its interior is as impressive as its exterior. The top grade variants are also equipped with comfortable second row captain's seats, stylish silver and wood grain patterns, HD multi-information display, capacity touch screen audio with navigation, built-in cooler box, seat back tables, adjustable mood lights, and smart push start with keyless entry. Furthermore other variants are equipped with 1 touch tumble second row seats and easy space-up third row seats for added versatility and convenience.

The All-New Innova has also been upgraded to a 2.8-liter (with VNT) DSL engine and 2.0 Dual VVT-I gas engine with a new 6-Speed A/T (with sequential shifter) and an Enhanced 5-Speed M/T gearbox. These major changes allow the vehicle to exert higher power and torque output leading to exceptional fuel efficiency and overall enhanced performance.

Similar to its IMV counterparts, the All-New Innova keeps passenger safety as top priority. Aside from the standard front and driver knee airbags, the new generation model has additional safety features such as side and curtain airbags, anti-lock brake system with EBD (Electronic Brakeforce Distribution), and Vehicle Stability Control.

As the All-New Innova shifts to a more authoritative and luxurious form, the Filipino's much loved MPV will surely inspire more confidence on the road while still keeping its deeply rooted heritage.

Customers have 2 all-new colors to choose from—Alumina Jade Metallic and Blackish Red Mica Metallic. Aside from these, the other standard options are still available such as the Freedom White, Silver Metallic (Thermalyte), Black, Blue Mica Metallic, and White Pearl. ☙

## PRICE LIST

VARIANT	SRP
V DSL AT WP	1,460,000
V DSL AT	1,445,000
G DSL AT WP	1,364,000
G DSL AT	1,349,000
G DSL MT WP	1,284,000
G DSL MT	1,269,000
G GAS AT WP	1,247,000
G GAS AT	1,232,000
E DSL AT	1,222,000
E DSL MT	1,142,000
E GAS AT	1,120,000
E GAS MT	1,040,000
J DSL MT	1,021,000
J GAS MT	919,000

For more information on the All New Innova, log on the Toyota Motor Philippines official website; [www.toyota.com.ph](http://www.toyota.com.ph) or contact our Customer Assistance Center at 819 2912 or visit any of the 49 authorized Toyota dealers nationwide.

Mr. Hajime Koso IPC  
President, Ms. Evelyn  
Co Isuzu D-MAX winner  
and Mr. Raymond  
Jarina, Isuzu INTECO  
Group President.



Mr. Hajime Koso IPC  
President, Ms. Rosalyn  
Manabat assistant of  
Mr. Randy Carolino Isuzu.  
mu-X winner and Mr.  
Raymond Jarina Isuzu INTECO  
Group President.

## Isuzu Philippines Corporation announced 200K raffle promo winners

**C**ELEBRATING its 200,000 unit-sales, Isuzu Philippines Corporation turned into Santa Claus for buyers of the Isuzu Crosswind, D-Max and mu-X by giving away holiday presents in their 200,000 units sold promo.

Some eight winners from the National Capital Region (NCR), Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao received a brand new D-Max and mu-X after purchasing an Isuzu Crosswind and D-Max. Some four mu-X buyers, on the other hand, were given a vacation package for four to Amanpulo.

The winners of the brand new Isuzu D-Max pick-up are Evelyn Co (NCR), City government of Baguio (Luzon), Lloyd Centino (Visayas) and City government of Panabo (Mindanao).

Meanwhile, Randy Carolino (NCR), Tanciano Reyes (Luzon), Juna Prado (Visayas) and Roger Clarete (Mindanao) draw are now owners of a brand new mu-X after buying an Isuzu D-Max during the November draw.

Further, Rogelio Avergonzado (NCR), Napoleon Tedd David Limpco (Luzon), Sarah Ann Javison (Visayas) and Muhamid Janti (Mindanao) and some three companions each are set to enjoy a grand vacation showcase to Amanpulo after winning the raffle.

Moreover, 40 winners of P50,000 coupon that can be used to purchase Isuzu supplied parts, lubricants, accessories, and Best Value Package (BVP) in any authorized



Mr. Raymond  
Jarina Isuzu  
INTECO; Group  
President,  
Ms. Rosalyn  
Manabat,  
assistant of Mr.  
Randy Carolino  
Isuzu mu-X  
winner and Mr.  
Hajime Koso IPC  
President.

IPC dealerships nationwide.

IPC president Hajime Koso said that the promo is a way of extending their sincerest gratitude to those who show their trust and confidence to the brand—old and new alike—that made them reach their milestone in the country.

"As a way of showing how pleased we are with how you show your trust and confidence in us, we have brought you this," he said. "We in Isuzu will continue to find better ways to serve the Filipinos as we will be constant reliable partners in business or leisure alike," Koso noted.

The next batch of winners—those who bought their IPC light commercial vehicles (LCV) from December 1-31—were drawn on January 15, 2016.

Last October, the local arm of Japanese carmaker Isuzu added another feather to

its cap after breaching the 200,000-sales barrier last October during their 19-year stint in the country.

Based on its records, IPC has sold a total of 201,777 since its operations in 1996 up to October 2015.

Leading their sales was the ever-reliable flagship model Isuzu Crosswind (introduced in 2001), with a total of 85,308 units sold after it was introduced some 13 years ago. Also, the biggest sale for the well-loved AUV Crosswind was made in 2003, where 8,901 units were rolled out.

The D-Max pick-up placed second in their top-selling units, delivering 29,115 after being launched in the Philippine market in 2003. The presence of the Isuzu mu-X (launched in 2014), is also being felt in the local scene after reaching the 10,000-unit mark in October 2015. **QQ**

## NLEX-SCTEX Integration will be completed before Holy Week

**E**ASE and convenience await our motorists as the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) sets the completion of the P650-million NLEX-SCTEX Integration Project this Holy Week — just in time for the surge of holiday travelers.

The integration project will provide seamless travel experience by bringing to SCTEX the NLEX's world-class toll collection system and reducing toll plaza stops to two instead of five from Balintawak to Subic and back, and two instead of four from Balintawak to Tarlac and back.

During last year's Holy Week rush, almost 230,000 vehicles



were given a foretaste of the integration when we successfully implemented the Express Exit Scheme.

Now that the project is 85 percent complete, smoother and more enjoyable trips to the North will be experienced before the Holy Week. **QQ**

C ALTEX Fuel Your School (FYS), a collaborative program wherein senior-ready public schools, motorists and Caltex retailers, work together to provide quality classroom project materials in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects, is feted as the grand prize winner in the "Improving Quality and Access to Education" category in the recent AmCham CSR Excellence Awards. It is estimated that at least 600 public school teachers and 102,000 public high school students will benefit from the FYS donation.

Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI), marketer of the Caltex fuels and lubricants, was lauded for its pioneering efforts of localizing Chevron's global program in education to fit the needs of the Philippine public school teachers and students by focusing on the needs of public high schools that in 2015, the year Caltex FYS was launched in the country, were still preparing for the full implementation of senior high school grade levels.

Targeting the highest need senior public high schools in Metro Manila as its first year's beneficiaries, Caltex Fuel Your School aimed for a five million pesos donation fund or P150,000 per school to be raised by Caltex retailers and customers in the metropolis in one month. The FYS project partners, which also included the



### Caltex Fuel Your School Aces Education category in AmCham CSR Excellence Awards

American Chamber Foundation (ACF) and the Department of Education, not only met the target but achieved it in a mere 24 days. As a result, teachers from at least 27 senior-ready public high schools shortlisted by the Department of Education were able to make their wish list come true when the FYS project partners delivered to their schools several laptops, multimedia systems, scientific calculators, tablets, laboratory equipment, books and other materials to make STEM learning easier for the incoming grades 11 and 12 students.

This achievement is also due to FYS'

highly successful social media project awareness campaign. FYS engaged the schools' stakeholders — from its teachers, students, parents, alumni to join forces with Caltex customers in driving the fuel-to-donate campaign. As a result, more than 6 million digital impressions and 2.8 million digital reach were logged during the two-month campaign period.

The AmCham CSR Excellence Awards is held every two years to recognize corporate social responsibility projects of member-companies of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. **aq**

### Food service livelihood program brings Poro fishers added income, marine protected area closer to reality

TO augment the income and help wean folks from overdependence on fishing, the Poro Sea Lovers Association (PSLA), a people's organization in barangay Poro in San Fernando City, La Union, recently opened Luto ti Poro (Ilocano for Poro Cuisine), a restaurant and catering services livelihood project.

PSLA launched Luto ti Poro to help the fisher folks of Poro, who live along the coast of San Fernando Bay, cope with the rapid development that comes with living near a large industrial zone. The livelihood project offers home-cooked local cuisines to community residents and workers. It also offers catering services to several institutions and offices of San Fernando City and Poro Point's growing industrial and commercial zones. The food service training provided by TESDA instructors and on-the-job experience prepare the restaurant's staffs, who are PSLA members, for possible employment in the city's growing tourism industry. Luto ti Poro also serves as a direct-to-market venue for legally caught marine products of the PSLA members.

PSLA was founded through a grant of P7.2 million from Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI), marketer of Caltex fuels and lubricants, to the Institute of Social Order (ISO) for the creation and management of the Poro marine protected area (MPA). As a livelihood project of PSLA, Luto ti Poro will allow PSLA to focus on the planned



173-hectare multi-use Poro Marine Protected Area (MPA) to conserve Poro Bay's depleted marine resources.

"We are inspired by how Chevron goes beyond grant donation to ensure that sustainable components are built in their social investment programs. We now have work outside of fishing. We are strongly encouraged by the growing patronage of our community because this will enable us to help that help more fishers. We encourage everyone to visit us or we can deliver straight to your doorstep.

Try our best-selling Igado, Sinanglaw, and Pinaryaan Manok," said PSLA President Moises Cacap.

Dr. Liza Lim, director of project partner Institute of Social Order (ISO), said that apart from the creation of livelihood for PSLA members, "Luto ti Poro profits can be used by PSLA to better equip the MPA guards, buy fuel for the patrol boat, and conduct more workshops for the conservation of San Fernando Bay."

PSLA also partnered with the City Government of San Fernando and the Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) to boost support and sustainability of the Poro MPA. PPMC pledged to include PSLA and, consequently, Luto ti Poro, in their community projects. So far, the city government has provided a P50,000 grant to jumpstart PSLA's rice trading venture to complement the eatery and an annual P500,000 stipend for the operation of the Poro MPA. **aq**



## FOTON unveils P1.2-billion assembly plant in Clark

**F**OTON Philippines forecasts an output of up to 12,000 vehicles annually for the assembly plant it recently opened in Clark, Pampanga.

Representing a total investment of P1.2 billion, the factory in an 11-hectare leased property in Clark, Pampanga will produce passenger vehicles, light-duty and heavy-duty trucks. A red 4x4 variant of FOTON's new SUV product, the Toplander, recently made a ceremonial rollout off the factory's single assembly line to signal the formal start of operations.

"Having been in the automotive industry for quite a while already, this assembly plant is truly the ultimate goal that my brothers and I had," said FOTON Philippines president Rommel Sytin. "Along with the continued expansion of our dealership and service network, our production facility signifies FOTON's intent to be in the Philippines for the long haul." Sytin also noted that the new assembly plant is also providing jobs to over 500 people. "In all that I do, the greatest satisfaction is in knowing that aside from

reaching or my dreams, I have also helped and changed the lives of others" he added.

Construction started on the FOTON assembly plant in 2013. Even with its completion and opening, the company is looking at expanding operations further. Another assembly line is expected to be added in two to three years. The Clark assembly plant will supply not just the domestic market, but selected countries as well.

Locally, FOTON currently has 18 dealerships all over the country, in addition to 44 accredited service centers. "We're definitely still looking at growing this number," said Foton Philippines executive vice president Anna Maria Parado. "Just for this year, we are planning to open six new dealerships. This is another vote of confidence for the Philippine economy, and is indicative of how warmly the brand has been received by the buying public."

The company widens its footprint with a view of reaching its 2020 goal of surpassing 20,000 in unit sales. **AQ**

## 2016: A MORE EMPOWERING FOTON PHILIPPINES

**I**NSPIRED by FOTON's apparent success, company president Mr. Rommel Sytin shared his future plans during the inauguration of their 11-hectare assembly plant in Clark, Pampanga last February 12, 2016.

Since 2011, FOTON has been a registered locator in the Clark Freeport Zone with a 50-year lease agreement with Clark Development Corporation engaging in the automotive and truck industry. A total of P1.2 billion was invested for the construction of the plant with an assembly line capable to produce 12,000 units annually. Currently, this single line is being used for their passenger vehicle line-up, light duty trucks, as well as for heavy duty trucks. Within the next three years, FOTON plans to add another assembly line that will focus mainly on the manufacturing of FOTON vans.

Looking back, Sytin remembers how challenging it was to sell barely 100 units during their first two years of operation. Apparently,

FOTON Philippines has gone through rough roads prior to incessantly evincing preeminence in the industry. "It took a while, but we feel very fortunate that all our hard work has paid off," he said.

FOTON's expansion comes in many forms. Beginning with just a single model variant of pick-up and one light duty truck in 2007, their product line has grown immensely to 24 models and 64 variants. Being able to offer such a wide range of vehicles is one of the contributing factors of how they were able to reach a sales volume of almost 4,000 units.

Moreover, FOTON persists to pull off even higher target sales through their growing number of dealerships all over the country.

This 2016, the network will extend to 24 as new dealerships will open in Quezon Avenue; Pasong Tamo; Marilao; Santa Rosa, Laguna; Batangas City and Camarines Sur. Within the next 3 years, FOTON expects to reach a total of at least 35 dealerships nationwide.

Manifesting more of the company's development, Sytin also announced that shortly, they would begin exporting vehicles to other neighboring ASEAN countries particularly in Laos and Taiwan.

Through the help of TESDA, Clark Development Corporation and the provincial government of Pampanga, FOTON Philippines also committed to put up a Technical Training Center in Clark which will cater effective technical education not only to the locals of the region but also to every individual interested in the given profession. Sytin further stated, "The future graduates of this technical training center can expect high possibility of employment within our company, with our dealers, as well as with other FOTON distributors abroad." **AQ**

# AAP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION					
<input type="checkbox"/> MR. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME		
BIRTHDATE		BIRTHPLACE			
SEX <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	CIVIL STATUS		AGE		
CITIZENSHIP		OCCUPATION			
CONTACT INFORMATION					
HOME ADDRESS					
COMPANY NAME					
ADDRESS					
HOME PHONE	COMPANY PHONE	FAX NO.			
CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS				
REGISTERED CARS					
CAR	MAKE/MODEL	YEAR	COLOR	PLATE NO. CONDUCTION STICKER NO.	FUEL TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL <input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL
1 <sup>st</sup>					
2 <sup>nd</sup>					
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES					
<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL <input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE GROUP NO. OF CARS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MOTORSPORTS GOLF AUTOCROSS RALLY RACERS DRAG RACING DRIFTING		
MEMBERSHIP FEES					
Annual Fee	P2,000	P2,500	P4,500	P1,200	P6,000 (P2,000 + P3,000)
3-year Fee	P5,000	P6,000	P3,750	N/A	P9,000 (P3,000 + P6,000)
PAYMENT MODE					
Paid in PHP <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> BPI's check free payments Visit <a href="http://www.bpicexpressonline.com">www.bpicexpressonline.com</a> or call 89-100 <input type="checkbox"/> Pay through Banco de Oro (Institution code #0136) Upon teller's validation, BDO payment slip serves as your official receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Check Payment (payable to Automobile Association Philippines) Date _____ Bank _____ Account No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Bancnet Online Payment (for online Applications only)					

DATE		APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE	
FOR AAP USE ONLY			
SOURCE: <input type="checkbox"/> REG <input type="checkbox"/> JRS <input type="checkbox"/> RDL <input type="checkbox"/> PDP <input type="checkbox"/> SALCS	BRANCH: _____	OTHERS: _____	AMOUNT PAID: _____
API ID: NO. _____	INSURANCE NO. _____	O.R. NO. _____	DR. NO. _____



The National Auto Club

The **Automobile Association Philippines (AAP)** is the country's premier auto club representing and serving the motoring public. AAP promotes road safety, motorsports, green mobility, and champions the interests of its members.

AAP is affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the world's largest auto club federation.

AAP offers its members the following exclusive benefits:

- 24/7 Emergency Roadside Service
- LTO Vehicle Registration Assistance
- Free Personal Accident Insurance
- Free Glass Etching\*
- 24/7 Ambulance Service\*\*
- FIA Clubs International Reciprocity
- Partner Establishment Discounts
- 24/7 Road Safety Call Center
- Travel Assistance
- Club Activities and Discounts

#### Additional Products and Services:

- Philippine International Driving Permit
- Competition License for Motor Sports\*
- Comprehensive Motor Car Insurance and Other Non-life Insurance Coverage
- AAP Autocare Service Center
- Member Service Vehicle Program\*

\* Not available in some offices

\*\* Outsourced

#### EDSA Office

28 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan City 1500 Philippines  
 Tel: (632) 655 5889 Fax: (632) 655 1878  
 Email: [info@aap.org.ph](mailto:info@aap.org.ph)  
 Website: [www.aap.org.ph](http://www.aap.org.ph)

Emergency Roadside Service Hotline: (632) 723 0808

## GOLDEN RULES FOR SAFE DRIVING



- BELT UP – all passengers are my responsibility.
- RESPECT THE TRAFFIC CODE – rules are there to protect us all.
- OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT – my car is made of metal, pedestrians and children are not.
- CHECK MY TIRES – both for wear and for correct inflation, including the spare.
- DRIVE SOBER – when I am drunk or on drugs, I am a danger on the road
- PROTECT MY CHILDREN – keep them safe in car seats.
- PAY ATTENTION – calling and texting make me dangerous
- STOP WHEN I'M TIRED – getting there late is better than not at all.
- WEAR A HELMET – motorbikes and bicycles don't protect my head.
- BE COURTEOUS AND CONSIDERATE – respect other drivers.

(Source: FIA)

# PETRON

## TRI ACTIV™



**BETTER  
ENGINE  
PROTECTION**

**BETTER  
MILEAGE**

**BETTER  
POWER**

1

2

3

### GAS UP WITH PETRON'S BEST

All Petron Tri-Activ fuels are formulated with our best advanced additives to give better engine protection, better mileage, and better power. This makes Petron Tri-Activ fuels 10x cleaner than standard fuels.

*The more you gas up with Petron Tri-Activ fuels, the cleaner the emissions,  
the more you save on maintenance cost and fuel.*

BLAZE RED

XCS

XTRA ADVANCE

DIESEL MAX

TURBO DIESEL



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Best Day  
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*Introducing the all-new*  
**MONTERO SPORT**  
*Engineered Excitement*



**New Features**



Spacious and sophisticated interior



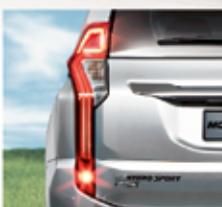
New 2.4L Clean Diesel engine with Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control (MIVEC) system



New 8-speed Automatic Transmission with Sports Mode (A/T variants)



Super Select 4WD-II (4x4 variants) with Off-road Mode (GT)



Tubetype LED Tail lamp



LED Headlamps and Daytime Running Lights (DRL)  
[GT, GLS 4x4, & GLS Premium]



Power Tilt and Slide Sunroof (GT)



Blind Spot Warning (BSW) system (GT)



Forward Collision Mitigation (FCM) system (GT)



Hill Descent Control (GT)

The all-new Montero Sport is available in the following variants: GT 4x4 8-speed A/T, GLS 4x4 6-speed M/T, GLS Premium 4x2 8-speed A/T, and GLS 4x2 8-speed A/T.



Find out more at  
[www.newmonterosport.ph](http://www.newmonterosport.ph)

Keep up-to-date. Download the Montero Sport app now!



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[www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph](http://www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph)