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VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 1
MARCH 2017

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Gus Lagman
AAP PRESIDENT

We need a government agency on Road Safety

OT too long ago, a bus carrying 62 passengers figured in a road crash that killed 15 people. Among those who died were 13 college students, a school staff member, and the bus driver. These 15 people, especially the students, would have been looking forward to a bright future ahead of them, were it not for that unfortunate incident.

We all know, of course, that this road crash that happened in Tanay, Rizal is not an isolated or infrequent case. Many such incidents have occurred before and will continue to occur if nothing is done to prevent them from happening.

What can be done? Let's take a look at the actors and check out their roles in road crashes.

In the above-mentioned case, it was reported that the brakes of the bus apparently malfunctioned as it approached a dangerous curve. This resulted in the bus hitting a road barrier, an electric post, and a tree before coming to a stop. Was the bus roadworthy at all? Was the bus operator negligent by dispatching a vehicle which will carry dozens of passengers without making sure that every part is functioning properly?

If the brakes failed, did the driver attempt to downshift the gears in order to slow down the vehicle? Was he qualified to drive a bus in the first place? Did he pass the driving tests, both written and practical? Did they use the right type of brake fluid?

What about the Land Transportation Office (LTO)? Did it administer all the necessary

tests before granting the driver his professional license? Does it have different driving tests for different vehicles - for passenger buses, ambulances, fire trucks, oil tankers, long vehicles, etc.?

And what about the roads? Are they designed and built with safety in mind? I remember a classic example: A bend on the road right after Antipolo, going to Teresa, Rizal, that if you're not familiar with that part of the zigzag, you can end up with your vehicle wrapped around an electric post. The post is on the carriageway, instead of along the shoulder. Obviously, the road contractor left that electric post in its original position, despite the road having been widened.

A good idea that we can adopt is the creation of a government agency that will focus on road (and vehicle) safety. Malaysia has one. Here's what their website says about it:

"The Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS) was established in 2007 as an agency under the Ministry on Transport Malaysia to serve as a central repository of knowledge and information on road safety. The findings derived from research and evidence-based intervention programmes provide the basis for the formulation of new strategies, legislations, policies, and enforcement measures, governing road safety at the national level."

Principally engaged in research, MIROS collaborates closely with local and international government agencies and private bodies to further the cause of road safety, serving as a one-stop centre for the generation and dissemination of road safety information and data."

When we visited Malaysia two years ago, we were shown some very impressive statistics that demonstrate the results of their research and the guidance they provide on issues related to road safety.

We need a similar agency in the Philippines. 

**“ This road
crash in Tanay is
not an isolated
case. Many
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before and will
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to prevent
them. ”**

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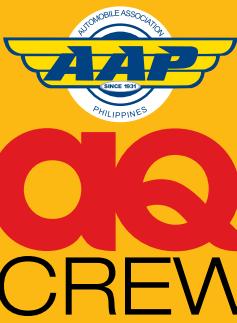
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- AAP PRESIDENT**
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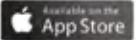
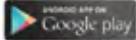


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Aida Sevilla Mendoza
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

From NLEX To SLEX In 20 Minutes

CAN you imagine driving from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City, Metro Manila to the Clark International Airport in Pampanga in just an hour? Or reaching the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) in 20 minutes only?

Making the transportation of people and goods faster, easier and more comfortable between the Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan areas in central Luzon to the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region in the south will be facilitated by the construction of two connector roads linking the NLEX to the SLEX.

The NLEX-SLEX Connector Road Project was the subject of a presentation made by Raul Ignacio, chief operating officer of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) on the first day of the Metro Manila Tourism Forum.

The Forum was organized by AAP Travel with the Department of Tourism as major sponsor and the Quezon City government as host on February 9-10, 2017.

The MNTC, known to motorists for the 88-kilometer NLEX and 93.77-km SCTEx (Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway), will build one Connector Road with the Department of Public Works and Highways in a public-private partnership while the San Miguel Group with their Indonesian partners will build the other one.

Ignacio described the NLEX-SLEX Connector Road as a seamless connection between North and South Luzon, an 8-km, 4-lane elevated road running above the Philippine National Railways line.

From the end of segment 10 of Harbor Link, the MNTC

Connector Road will have two interchanges:

1. the Circumferential Road 3 interchange in Caloocan, useful for cargo trucks from the seaport and
2. the Espana interchange that will bring commuters directly to the University of Santo Tomas and the university belt in Manila.

In effect, the Connector Road will serve as an alternate road from NLEX to SLEX without having to pass through EDSA, C-5 or other highly congested roads in central Manila.

Ignacio said that today, P2.4 billion is lost daily due to the traffic crisis in Metro Manila and this will rise to P6.0 billion daily by 2030 if nothing is done about it. At present, at least 36,000 vehicles traverse EDSA every day.

With the unimpeded delivery of goods 24/7 made possible by the NLEX-SLEX Connector road, a cargo truck ban will no longer be necessary and economic progress will be revved up, Ignacio said.

It will not only make travel faster, but also improve quality of life as motorists can spend more time with family and friends instead of wasting time in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

No question, expressways have changed the way we travel. Motorists from Pampanga can bring their children to school in Metro Manila, then go home the same day, thanks to the NLEX.

Ten years ago, in 2016, about 140,135 vehicles traversed NLEX per day. In 2016, that number went up to 220,010 and still growing, according to MNTC's COO.

The NLEX, SCTEx and TPLEX (Tarlac-Pampanga-La Union Expressway) have made tourist destinations in the north like the Hundred Islands, Monasterio de Tarlac, Mount Pinatubo, Subic Bay, Baguio and Vigan more accessible within three to four hours.

And the expressways are maintained in world-class condition. "The expressway pavement is a happy blend of all-season concrete and soft asphalt, making the ride soft and comfortable," Ignacio said.

Incidentally, AAP is the only authorized emergency roadside service provider on the expressways of northern and southern Luzon. **aq**

“ The Connector Road will serve as an alternate road from NLEX to SLEX without having to pass through EDSA, C-5 and other highly congested roads in central Manila. ”

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AAP Extends Quick Response Service to Expressways

AAP continues to expand its Emergency Roadside Service (ERS) by extending the reach of its Quick Response Service to the North Luzon expressway (NLEX) and South Luzon expressway (SLEX).

Introduced in Metro Manila in July 2015, AAP used the Quick Response Service to get to motorists in distress faster, especially in the middle of a traffic jam.

Within Metro Manila, the AAP's mechanics on motorbikes usually reach the site within 15-30 minutes after the emergency call has been placed.

"Aside from cutting the response time in half, the mechanics also serve as first responders in an emergency situation," said AAP ERS operations manager Mark Desales.

"These motorcycle-riding mechanics can diagnose and fix minor mechanical or electrical problems, thereby lessening the need for a tow truck or flatbed car carrier that could easily be stranded in traffic," he added.

Currently, the AAP central office has three scooter units servicing Metro Manila while two motorcycle units are stationed outside the city limits, one each at the NLEX and SLEX.

"Most of the emergencies that AAP responds to can be resolved by our Quick Response Team. Our priority is to quickly tend to the emergency needs of motorists. Having this unit in our emergency roadside service team is sure to be a game-changer," Desales said.

AAP's 24/7 Emergency Roadside Service can be availed of by members within the AAP service areas and depending on their allowed interventions.

AAP service areas outside Metro Manila include the NLEX, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), South Metro Manila Skyway and ground-level expressway from Magallanes to Alabang (SOMCO) and Alabang-Calamba-Sto. Tomas Expressway (ACTEx).

AAP ERS ON TPLEX

Additionally, AAP has started ERS operations along TPLEX (Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway) after an agreement signed with the Private Infra Development Corporation (PIDC) last



February 1. AAP is now the sole ERS provider accredited to operate along the 72-kilometer tollway that is near completion.

According to the agreement, upon PIDC and O&M Tiger Base directives, AAP can tow any illegally parked or stalled vehicle along the TPLEX and/or inside its area of jurisdiction.

AAP will also provide recovery services for vehicles that have crashed, fallen over embankment slopes or have ditched, overturned or got into other critical situations. ERS will also be made available for clearing operations for any debris, vehicle parts or loose cargo left behind by road crashes.

Should there be a need to change or increase existing personnel, equipment or tools, PIDC and O&M Tiger Base shall inform AAP accordingly.

The contract signed by AAP president Gus Lagman, PIDC chair /CEO Rogelio Murga and PIDC president / COO Mark Gabriel Dumol is effective for six months and subject to renewal by both parties with a written 30-day prior notice.

AAP ERS AT NAIAEx

AAP also recently began providing ERS along the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Expressway (NAIAEx). This newly constructed elevated expressway system which opened in September 2016 links the Metro Manila Skyway to the NAIA and Newport Entertainment City.

With AAP's ERS expanding beyond the metro, AAP president Gus Lagman encourages everyone to join AAP.

"Emergency roadside service is only one of the many benefits of joining AAP. Peace of mind has never been this cheap," he said. **qq**

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"Let's make Metro Manila part of the next top 20 destinations in the world," said Mina Gabor of AAP Travel.



Department of Tourism
Secretary Wanda Teo
challenged the MMTF
participants to make
Metro Manila a destination
city for local and foreign
tourists alike.



Mayor Herbert Bautista welcomed over 200 guests as Quezon City hosted the first-ever Metro Manila Tourism Forum.

PUTTING Metro Manila on the list of top destination cities in the world alongside Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Sydney was on the agenda of the 2017 Metro Manila Tourism Forum (MMTF) on February 9 and 10, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

Organized by Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) Travel with Quezon City as the host, the MMTF celebrated the theme "ASEAN: Enhancing City Tourism Destinations toward Sustainable Development."

Over 200 representatives from the hotel and restaurant, tourism and transportation industries as well as delegates from the public, private and government sectors attended the forum.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista welcomed everyone by underscoring the necessity of tourism in the urban setting.

"As tourism acts as a vehicle for excitement and adventure, it is an

economic stimulus. Tourism must generate employment, provide sustainable funds for investment, uplift people's lives and expand their horizons as well as improve their communities," said Bautista.

AAP Travel and Tourism Committee chair Mina Gabor emphasized further the economic advantages of urban tourism, citing a United Nations report which indicated that over two-thirds of the world's population will be living in cities.

"Imagine the infrastructure that will be needed to host all the local and international guests," added Gabor.

Department of Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo, who was the guest of honor and keynote speaker, cited the notable qualities of each city in Metro Manila that can attract tourists from one town to the other.

"Despite progress, Manila has retained its old charm and, if we can restore its architectural landmarks, it can continue to be the 'regal queen of the country,'" Teo said. "Makati hums with the rhythm of business while Pasay's entertainment and leisure places are for after-hours business. Taguig is emerging to be a prototype of urban living while Pasig, Mandaluyong and San Juan cities

boast of shopping choices from malls to bargain hunter dreams. Quezon City is an eclectic mixture of government centers, universities, and food hubs."

Teo said these are the very things that will get the tourism numbers up in Metro Manila, along with the warmth and hospitality that Filipinos are known for.

But she noted that Metro Manila still has a long way to go: "Metro Manila has its share of challenges; the price we all seem to be paying for its progress. The traffic, congestion, lack of urban planning—all these are taking a toll on the metropolis. But I am glad that we're taking steps to address these concerns and start the big task of changing the face of the city for tourists."

The two-day forum continued with various speakers from different industries providing their inputs on the three scheduled plenary discussion topics. On the last day, Paranaque was presented as the host city for the next MMTF.

The 2017 Metro Manila Tourism Forum was co-presented by the local government of Quezon City, Department of Tourism and the Tourism Promotions Board Philippines with Philippine Airlines, the Philippine Veterans Bank and Petron as event partners. **aq**

Homestay Philippines President Rose Libongco, TravPax Solutions Pte Ltd. President Dror Maytal, Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, AAP Travel and Tourism Committee chair Mina Gabor, Travel Impact Newswire Executive Director Imtiaz Muqbil, Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines President Eugene Yap and Pacific Asia Travel Association former president Gregory Duffell at the Metro Manila Tourism Forum.





Innovation meets energy efficiency at SEM Asia in Singapore

Experience bright energy ideas in action at the Make the Future Singapore in March 2017!

This year, Singapore will host the inaugural Asian edition of Shell's Make the Future festival, featuring Shell Eco-marathon Asia. This four-day, free of charge public festival takes place at the Changi Exhibition Centre from March 16-19, 2017. It will feature bright energy ideas and innovations that address the global energy challenge – how to generate more energy while producing less carbon dioxide.

At the Make the Future Singapore, visitors will experience the ideas, contribute their own and join the journey to an energy-efficient, low carbon future. Through virtual reality and hands-on experiential zones, visitors will be able to explore what is happening now and what the future of energy might look like, from renewable energy to natural gas and low-carbon technologies. They can also learn about bright ideas from around Asia and participate in interactive zones about the future of energy, mobility and innovation by Shell and its partners.

As a festival of ideas and innovation, Make the Future will appeal to young and old, with the objective of inspiring individuals, communities, governments and businesses across Asia to come together and drive change in a responsible way. "Our world faces one of its greatest challenges: to generate more energy, while producing less CO₂. Singapore is no exception to this global energy challenge. Through Make the Future Singapore, we hope to see bright ideas put into action, unlocking the potential of an entire region and working together to turn that potential into tangible solutions for Asia – and the wider world," said Goh Swee Chen, Chairman of Shell Singapore.

Shell Philippines is also actively campaigning for smarter mobility and fuel economy with its own version of Shell Eco-marathon (SEM) on February 3-5, 2017 at the Clark International Speedway in Mabalacat, Pampanga. This exciting competition will be a gathering of brightest engineering

students from prestigious schools and universities nationwide, who formed into teams to design, build, and drive energy-efficient vehicles.

Not just aiming to familiarize the participants with rigors of the competition, SEM Philippines serves as testing ground to determine the quality and reliability of vehicles built by Philippine teams and ensure their competitiveness among the brightest teams coming from all over Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

Singapore has been selected as the inaugural Asian location for Make the Future due to its strategic location in Asia and its great infrastructure for supporting exhibitions and conventions. "With Shell Eco-marathon Asia coming to Singapore and being a part of the larger Make the Future festival, we hope to inspire more young and bright talents to contribute towards creating cutting-edge technology in the areas of energy and mobility. Through Shell Eco-marathon Asia, we want to help the world meet its growing energy needs in a responsible way by working together with students, partners and other stakeholders," said Norman Koch, General Manager, Shell Eco-marathon.

The Shell Eco-marathon, the highlight of Make the Future festivals, is a unique competition for students who are passionate about developing innovative mobility solutions, and challenges them to design, build, drive and compete to create the world's most energy efficient vehicles.



AAP TRAVEL ANNOUNCES 2017 DRIVE-TOUR CARAVAN CALENDAR

GEAR up for another year of relaxing and recharging excursions around the country as the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) Travel, with Petron Tri-Activ as partner, organizes caravans this year to the sublime and enchanting provinces of Ilocos Norte, Dumaguete and Palawan.

"We are excited about our 2017 lineup. We are inviting all our AAP members to join and enjoy our caravans," said AAP Travel manager Michael Quitorio.

The AAP Travel Drive-Tour Caravan Calendar for 2017 begins in late April with a road trip to Baguio-Benguet-Sagada, details of which are given further below.

In June, the AAP Travel Caravan will drive to the must-see northern tourist destination—Ilocos Norte. Here, participants can experience the historical Malacañang of the North which is sprawling with Spanish-inspired motif and houses the Marcos memorabilia.

There is also the Baroque-style Paoay

Church which is a National Cultural Treasure and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The white sand beaches of Pagudpud are another must-visit in this northern province.

In August, AAP members are invited to fly to and tour Palawan, "The Last Frontier." The island of Palawan has been named the

...to next page

2017 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- APRIL**: CAPAS FREEDOM MARCH 2017 (TARLAC CITY, 1 APRIL 2017)
- FEBRUARY**: METRO MANILA TOURISM FORUM 2017 (CROWNE PLAZA MANILA GALLERIA, 09-10 FEBRUARY)
- JUNE**: AAP-PETRON ILOCOS DRIVE-TOUR CARAVAN (1-4 JUNE 2017)
- AUGUST**: AAP-PETRON PALAWAN FLY-DRIVE CARAVAN (24-27 AUGUST 2017)
- OCTOBER**: AAP-PETRON DUMAGUETE FLY-DRIVE CARAVAN (27-29 OCTOBER 2017)
- DECEMBER**: PHILIPPINE CHRISTMAS PARADE (16 DECEMBER 2017)

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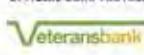
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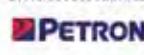
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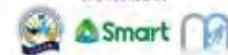
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...continuation AAP TRAVEL ANNOUNCES 2017 DRIVE-TOUR CARAVAN CALENDAR

"best island in the world" and has topped many tourist destination lists.

Participants will go on city tours and river cruises as well as trips to ecotourism sites such as Puerto Princesa's Underground River and the Palawan Rescue and Wildlife Center. Of course, the immaculate white beaches and pristine waters of the island top the itinerary.

In October, AAP-Petron Fly-Drive will take participants to Dumaguete, "The City of Gentle People." Participants will be toured around the low-key city of Dumaguete whose streets breathe history and culture.

Being the center of learning in the South, Siliman University is one of the definite pit stops. This centuries-old institution is the very first and oldest American university in the country. Along with this national treasure is the Dumaguete Belfry Tower that was built in 1811 and still stands firm amidst the contemporary vibes of the metro.

The city also offers river rides and marine sanctuaries for visitors to enjoy.

BAGUIO-BENGUET-SAGADA CARAVAN SET FOR APRIL 28 - MAY 1

Preparations for the Baguio-Benguet-Sagada Caravan are now in full swing. AAP and Petron will be pushing through with the scheduled trip to the Cordillera provinces on April 28 to May 1.

The caravan, previously set on November 10 to 13, 2016, needed to be rescheduled due to roads that were damaged by Typhoon Lawin in October. "The safety of the participants is always our top priority when we organize these caravans," Quitorio said.

Dubbed as "A Floral and Heritage Roadtrip to the Cool Highlands," the caravan will still follow the original itinerary with Baguio, Tuba, La Trinidad, Tublay and Sagada in the route.

Participants will surely enjoy this summer visiting the Echo Valley and Hanging Coffins, Samaguing Cave, Winaca Eco-Cultural Village, Strawberry Farm, BenCab Museum and the Philippine Military Academy.

Interested AAP members can join the tour for P 13,800 while non-members can join for P15,300. The early bird rate is available until March 20 and priced at 12,800.

The package covers accommodations, three breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners and snacks in the mornings and afternoons. It also includes event kits, souvenir items, entrance fees, guided tours, ambulance, nurses and security escorts. A Petron Value Card worth P2,000 will also be given to each vehicle joining the caravan.

For more information on the AAP-Petron Baguio-Benguet-Sagada Drive-Tour Caravan and any of the caravans slated for 2017, please visit www.aaptravel.com.ph/view-caravan or www.facebook.com/itsmorefuninaapcaravan. You may also contact 09285074288 or 705 3333 and look for Michael Quitorio. **QQ**

AAP-PETRON
BAGUIO
BENGUET
SAGADA
DRIVE-TOUR CARAVAN
April 28 - May 1, 2017

Theme: A Floral and Heritage Roadtrip to the Cool Highlands

Tour Highlights

- SAGADA**
 - Lumiang Burial Cave
 - Echo Valley and Hanging Coffins
 - Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin
 - Samaguing Cave
- TUBLAY**
 - Winaca Eco-Cultural Village
- LA TRINIDAD**
 - Baheng Cooperative Flower Farm
 - Strawberry Farm
- TUBA**
 - BenCab Museum
- BAGUIO**
 - Camp John Hay Historical Core
 - Philippine Military Academy

Early Bird Rate*
P12,800/person
based on TWIN

AAP Member Rate
P13,800/person
based on TWIN

Regular Rate
P15,300/person
based on TWIN

*Early Bird Rate is until March 30 only!

Inclusions:

- 3D2N Room Accommodation at Azalea Hotels and Residences Baguio
- Overnight Room Accommodation at St. Joseph Resthouse Sagada
- 3 Breakfast, 2 Lunch, 3 Dinner
- AM and PM Snacks
- Entrance Fees
- Guided Tour
- Ambulance and Nurse
- Security Escorts
- Souvenir Items
- Event Kits
- Petron Value Card worth P2,000 per vehicle

CALL: 7053333 | 09285074288

www.aaptravel.com.ph/view-caravan www.facebook.com/itsmorefuninaapcaravan #BaguioBenguetSagadaDriveTourCaravan2016

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CALTEX



Finalists of the AAP Motor Sport Development Program (MSDP) drove on the zigzagging roads of Marilaque Highway as part of the curriculum. MSDP head instructor Vip Isada coached each finalist via radio as they drove along the loop.

MSDP Finalists Hone Highway and Mountain Driving Skills in 2nd Fun Run

THE first two batches of finalists of AAP's Motor Sport Development Program (MSDP) participated in another fun drive during which they honed their highway and mountain driving skills and also enjoyed the countryside scenery.

Taking turns driving four cars in a convoy along the scenic Marilaque (Marikina-Rizal-Laguna-Quezon) route last January 3, the first batch of MSDP finalists – Polo Bautista, Chenee Ang Jimenez, Paolo Santos and Bernard Michael Santos – and the second batch – Andre de los Santos, Armand Marcaida and Miguel Reyes – got to know one another better, too.

The MSDP fun drive, which begins rolling at dawn, is an annual initiative for finalist-graduates of the MSDP. The first fun drive was held on May 6, 2016 with the first batch of MSDP finalists participating.

AAP started the MSDP in 2015 with a grant from the FIA Foundation and with Mazda Philippines and Seaoil as major partners. The MSDP aims to train talented young drivers at the grassroots level via a series of workshops, driving clinics and competitions for eventual participation in motor sport.

MSDP lead instructor and 10-time National Rally Champion Vip Isada guided the youngsters during the 400-kilometer loop that commenced from Antipolo, passed through Masinag up to Cogeo, then headed to Tanay.

Isada briefed the students on the route and convoy rules and reminded them to observe road safety rules and road courtesy.

Along the way, the group covered the zigzagging roads of the Sierra Madre mountains.

"This was the first taste of mountain driving for the second batch," Isada said. "Andre was with me and I briefed him on how we do the line, how we apply the modules that we learned from MSDP and see the application and the high safety level of highway and mountain driving. Miguel was with Paolo and Chenee and observed how they applied the driving techniques that they had learned from MSDP."

Shortly thereafter, the group stopped for breakfast where they shared their experiences. "The main objective is to make the driving technique imbedded in their daily and regular driving, and this was a fun way to learn," Isada said.

After breakfast, the group resumed driving on the winding roads passing through Capinpin, Baras, Pillila (which has a wind farm), Mabitac and Famy up to Infanta, Quezon.

Isada said that in that segment, the students learned about braking and balancing the car.

He added that on their way to Infanta, the group diverted to the connecting route of the Marikina-Infanta road.

"We did this so Batch 1 could see the bridge that they missed because it was destroyed by a storm two years ago. It made the fun drive more meaningful for them," Isada explained.

After having lunch at Infanta, the group headed back home. "On our trip back home, the students drove with more confidence and knowledge as they had become more precise in the techniques," Isada noted. "We went back on the same route and had a wonderful time. Next time, we will try to make the fun drive more enjoyable and adventurous."

Meanwhile, AAP-MSDP program head and concurrent motor sport operations manager Mark Desales disclosed that he was pleased with the turnout of the event.

"I am happy since the two batches not only learned the technique of driving fast and safely, they became close friends and bonded together like siblings," Desales said. "Friendship and camaraderie are core values in motor sport. I hope they will continue to help one another in bringing out their potential to become champion racers." **aq**

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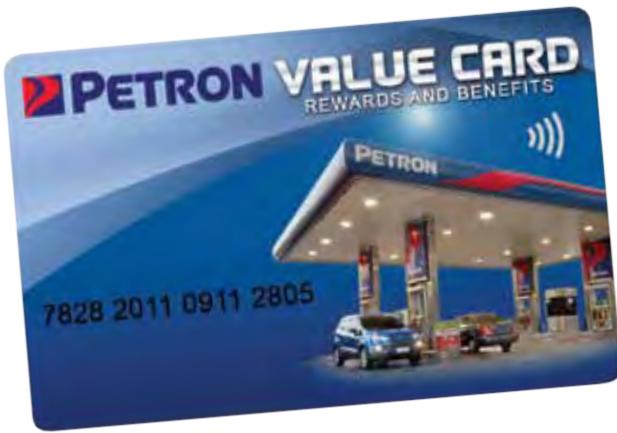
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As of February 23, 2017

2017 MOTOR SPORT CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
		4 3rd Drag Racing CIS	1 2nd FORS BRC 1 - 2 1st National Karting <i>Palawan</i> 2 2nd Leg Slalom ROBINSONS STARMILLS 1 - 2 MSDP Gymkhana <i>Cebu</i>	6 7th Drag Racing BRC 7 3rd Leg Slalom <i>Cabanatuan City</i>	3 - 4 1st AKOC MACAU 3 4th FORS BRC 4 Philippine Endurance Championship BRC 4 5th Leg Slalom ROBINSONS STA. ROSA
	11 2nd Drag Racing BRC 11 - 12 2nd X30 CRT 12 1st Leg Slalom ROBINSONS NOVALICHES	11 - 12 2nd X30 CRT 12 1st Leg Slalom ROBINSONS NOVALICHES	8 5th Drag Racing BRC 8 - 9 MSDP Gymkhana <i>Bacolod</i>	13 - 14 1st PTCC/PGTC BRC 8 - 9 MSDP Gymkhana <i>Tagum</i>	9 - 10 2nd Vios Cup S4 (TBA)
21 1st Drag Racing CIS 21 - 22 2016 National Karting CRT		18 1st FORS BRC	22 6th Drag Racing CIS 22 - 23 2nd National Karting <i>Palawan</i> 23 1st Rally Sprint	20 3rd FORS BRC 8th Drag Racing CIS 2nd Rally Sprint	17 - 18 MSDP Gymkhana <i>Cebu</i> 25 6th Leg Slalom ROBINSONS NOVALICHES
	25 - 26 1st X30 CRT	25 4th Drag Racing BRC 25 - 26 MSDP <i>Megatent, Libis</i>	28 - 30 1st Vios Cup S4 CIS	21 4th Leg Slalom MALOLOS COMMERCIAL CENTER 27 - 28 MSDP Gymkhana <i>Cagayan de Oro</i>	24 - 25 2nd PTCC/PGTC CIS MSDP Gymkhana <i>Bacolod</i>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
1 5th FORS BRC 2 3rd Rally Sprint	5 6th FORS BRC		1 10th Leg Slalom ROBINSONS NOVALICHES 8 6th Rally Sprint	10 - 11 4th Vios Cup S4 CIS	3 12th Leg Slalom ROBINSONS STARMILLS
9 7th Leg Slalom ROBINSONS STAMMILLS	6 8th Leg Slalom ROBINSONS ANTIPOLo 13 4th Rally Sprint	9 - 10 4th National Karting CIS 10 9th Leg Slalom <i>Cabanatuan City</i>	14 8th FORS CIS	12 11th Leg Slalom ROBINSONS ANTIPOLo	9 - 10 4th AKOC MACAU
15 - 16 3rd National Karting CRT MSDP Gymkhana <i>Cagayan de Oro</i>	19 - 20 4th PTCC/PGTC BRC	15 - 16 3rd Vios Cup S4 (TBA) 16 7th FORS BRC 17 5th Rally Sprint	21 - 22 6th PTCC/PGTC CIS	18 - 19 MSDP Gymkhana Championship <i>Manila</i>	
22 - 23 3rd PTCC/PGTC CIS MSDP <i>Megatent, Libis</i>	26 - 27 3rd X30 CRT 2nd AKOC CRT	23 - 24 5th PTCC/PGTC BRC	28 - 29 3rd AKOC THAILAND MSDP Gymkhana <i>Tagum</i>	25 - 26 Philippine Endurance Championship BRC	



10 Reasons To Get A Petron Loyalty Card

In addition to world-class fuels and engine oils specially formulated for Philippine driving conditions, market leader Petron Corporation also has a loyalty program specially designed to give greater rewards and benefits for Filipino motorists. Here are ten reasons why you should get your own Petron loyalty card:



1 Petron Euro 4 Fuels redemption

Every time you load up with a Petron Euro 4 fuel, you earn points that you can use to pay for your fuel purchases at participating Petron stations nationwide. When you gas up with Petron Blaze 100, Petron XCS, Petron Xtra Advance, Petron Turbo Diesel, or Petron Diesel Max, you earn peso points for every fuel spend. Each point is equivalent to P1, so the more points you have, the more cash you can save.



2 Petron Engine Oils points earning

Using world-class Petron engine oils also allows you to earn bigger points, as every engine oil spend gives you peso points, for up to a maximum purchase amount of P1,500 of lubricants per month.



3 Petron Gasul discount and points earning

For your household needs, you get a P10-discount with your Petron Gasul 11-kg refill at a participating Petron Gasul store. At Petron service stations, every P100 earns 1 point with your Petron Gasul 11-kg refill.



4 Points conversion to cellphone load

Points may be converted to prepaid cellphone load using the specific mobile number registered under the card and can be loaded to any prepaid mobile number of

your choice. Prepaid load credits are set at P20, P50 and P100 for Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text, and Sun Cellular mobile phones. You may redeem up to P300 worth of prepaid load every month. Each successful redemption will be charged a 1-point convenience fee.



5 Points conversion to airline miles

You can also convert your Petron points into Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, Air Asia Big, and Cebu Pacific Get-go.



6 Birthday treat

When you gas up within five days from your birthday, you earn special bonus points. You must have properly registered your card via SMS in order to receive the birthday treat.



7 Frequent Visit bonus points

Every 5th day of visit to Petron also gives you bonus points. Depending on your accumulated purchase amount from previous visits, you get additional peso points.



8 Free towing and roadside assistance

In case of emergency, Petron loyalty card holders driving 4-wheel private vehicles are assured of free towing and roadside assistance services nationwide, courtesy of Ibero Asistencia. The only requirement is that the card holder must have earned

10 regular points from the preceding month. To avail of this service, simply call the hotline number (02) 459-4735. Terms and conditions apply. Note that there is no point deduction when you avail of this service.



9 Free personal accident insurance

A Petron card holder who earns a minimum of 5 regular points every month is covered with free personal accident insurance from MAPFRE Insular. This includes accidental death and dismemberment benefits worth P10,000 and medical reimbursement of P1,000. While terms and conditions apply, there is no point deduction when availing of this benefit.



10 Partner merchant discounts and privileges

Enjoy freebies and discounts when you show your Petron loyalty card at partner establishments which include food outlets, health and wellness centers, hotels and other travel destinations, retail stores, and automotive services.

To enjoy all these benefits, all you have to do is sign up for one of the Petron loyalty cards such as the Petron Value Card for regular motorists, the Petron Super Driver Card for professional drivers of public utility vehicles, or the Petron Miles-Sweep Card associated with the tollways RFID payment system. You can easily get one at any participating Petron service station.

CLUB NEWS

LAST February 22, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) was invited to an assembly organized by Bloomberg Initiative Global Road Safety Program (BIGRSP) to discuss a very relevant road safety topic: the safety of child passengers.

AAP president Gus Lagman, AAP Advocacies manager Cynthia Reyes and Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) program director Marte Perez attended the "Forum on Child Restraints in the Philippines" held at the Bayleaf Hotel in Intramuros, Manila.

The forum gathered representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines, Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Office, ImagineLaw, Ateneo School of Government, Safe Kids Philippines, Department of Health, Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies, and the Philippine Red Cross.



AAP president Gus Lagman introduced the club's draft Child Safety Restraint Bill and plans to push for its passage into law.



LTO Traffic Safety Division Chief Bob Valera said the agency collected over P82 million in fines from seatbelt law violators.



Department of Transportation (DOTr) Safety Transportation Development Officer Maria Corazon Japson talked about the various road safety bills that were enacted into law in 2016 and the DOTr's upcoming projects.

AAP PUSHES FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

During the discussion, the group tackled various issues including what advocates need to know about child restraints, working towards child restraint legislation in the Philippines and determining the availability, affordability and acceptability of child restraints.

"Deaths and injuries are projected to rise by up to 80% in low and middle income countries like the Philippines by 2020 if road safety interventions are not made," said Evita Ricafort of ImagineLaw who reported on various researches done by the WHO, Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and United Nations regarding child restraints and road safety.

"It is costlier to let casualties happen than to prevent them and although traffic is a big issue in our country, traffic is just one part of road safety," she added.

The Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines presented a proposed study on child restraints in the Philippines that they intend to do in a period of three months.

Headed by Dr. Hamilton Lam, MHA, PhD, the group will conduct research on the availability, affordability and acceptability of age-appropriate child restraints in the country.

According to the group, in an initial survey that they did, available child restraints in the country cost from P2,000 up to P40,000, with branded children car seats from abroad priced higher.

"Price does not ensure quality. Not everything that's currently available in the

market has passed the United Nations standards for quality child restraint systems," said Lam.

AAP DRAFTS CHILD RESTRAINT BILL FOR LEGISLATION

"A law for child passenger safety is something that AAP has long wanted," AAP president Gus Lagman said during the discussion. "Through this forum, we want to share the child restraint bill that AAP has drafted and hope to get everyone proactively



Dr. Hilton Lam of the University of the Philippines Institute of Health Policy and Development showed the different types of child safety car seats available in the market, none of which meets United Nations standards.



involved in promoting road safety."

AAP plans to tap Catanduanes Congressman Cesar Sarmiento, who heads the transportation committee in the House of Representatives, to support the Child Restraint Bill that it recently drafted.

Currently, there is no specific law that requires child restraints. The Seat Belt Use Act of 1999 only mentions prohibiting infants and children up to six years old from sitting in front.

However, as presented in the forum, there are four bills pending in the 17th Congress regarding child passenger safety.

One is House Bill (HB) 1319 or "An act requiring the use of child restraint (safety car seat) device or system for children riding in running motor vehicles" that was drafted by BUHAY Partylist.

Other pending House bills regarding "child safety devices meeting applicable government safety standards" include HB 717 by Rep. Alfred Vargas, HB 757 by DIWA Partylist and HB 1497 by Rep. Harlin Neil Abayon.

AAP intends the child safety restraint bill to be a preventive measure for children who are riding inside motor vehicles. Should a vehicular collision happen, child safety restraint systems are designed to keep children firmly secured in the seat, preventing them from being injured or killed.



Lagman discussed AAP's draft bill with Jason Salvador of the Ateneo School of Government who is a fellow of the Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety.

According to the FIA Road Safety Toolkit, the restraints allocate the force of impact over the strongest parts of the human body, reduce the severity of the child's contact with the vehicle's interior, prevent the child from being ejected upon collision as well as avert injury to other occupants.

In the United States, there has been a 71% to 82% reduction in serious injury risk due to child restraints according to the report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among infants, child safety seats reduce the likelihood of a fatal crash by 70% while among young children, the risk of fatality is reduced by 54% to 80%.

The United Nations Regulation No. 129 requires the ISOFIX system for effective

child restraints. The ISOFIX system is the international standard for attachment points of child safety seats in passenger cars.

Child restraint systems may refer to child seats (front-facing and rear-facing), carrycots and booster cushions.

Upon enactment of the bill into law, AAP hopes to coordinate with various government agencies including the Department of Transportation, Department of Trade and Industry, Land Transportation Office, Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority as well as the local government units for its enforcement.

To provide clear information regarding the need for child restraints, AAP further suggests that a Child Restraint Safety Training Program be put in place for parents and caregivers.

Under AAP's Child Restraint Bill, only private vehicles will be affected.

Violators may be penalized with fines, revocation of driver's license or imprisonment, subject to the court's decision.

AAP members and those who are interested to join the conversation may find AAP's draft of the Child Restraint Act of 2017 in its website at www.aap.org.ph and on AAP's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AutomobileAssociationPhilippines/>

Sequoia Hotel, Ziebart, and Sangkalan Offer Discounts to AAP Members

MORE benefits await members of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) as it established new partnerships early this year with Sequoia Hotel, Ziebart Auto Care Solution, and Sangkalan Grill.

AAP members just need to show their membership card and can instantly avail of discounts from the various products and services that each partner establishment has to offer.

Sequoia Hotel offers discounted room rates of up to 50%. The rates vary depending on the room type. The offer runs from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

A night at the hotel's standard room can cost P6,000 but AAP members can book this room at P3,000. The accommodation includes complimentary breakfast, Wi Fi and use of the hotel's various amenities.

Situated near Quezon City's food and entertainment district in Timog Avenue, this quaint business hotel is more than just for corporate conferences and meetings.

For reservations, guests can call 921-7469 to 71 or send an email at reservations@sequoiahotel.net. Reservations should be made three to seven days prior to the guest's

arrival.

AAP members can now also show their cards at both branches of Sangkalan Grill Restaurant in Scout Albano and in Visayas Avenue to avail of benefits.

Members can get a 10% discount on their total bill for cash payments while 5% can be availed for payments made through credit cards. This offer runs from February 10, 2017 to February 10, 2018.

For over 25 years, Sangkalan Grill Restaurant has been serving well-loved Filipino food. It boasts of a steady client base that keeps coming back for the bistro's exceptional service.

Inquiries can be coursed through 924 18 66.

Another brand new partnership AAP made is with Ziebart Auto Care Solution to provide members with discounted rates on various car services.

Starting March 1, 2017 until March 1, 2018, members can get up to 25% discount on paint protection, rust protection, body and paint works and full detailing at the Ziebart Manila branch.

Contact Ziebart Manila branch at 524 3348 or 525 6883 or at 0925 993 2278



Sequoia Hotel is a seven-floor business hotel with contemporary rooms and facilities. It has six function rooms for corporate meetings plus a restaurant, spa and salon at the ground floor.



AAP members can take advantage of car services discounted up to 25% at Ziebart Manila Branch.



Sangkalan Grill Restaurant offers discounts of 5% and 10% on the total bill depending on mode of payment.

and 0917 879 8304 for more information.

Members can look forward to more discount benefits as the organization continues to strengthen its AAP Partnership Program. 

Carmudi to Enroll Vehicles in AAP's Corporate Membership Program



AAP president Gus Lagman (right) hands a copy of RA 4136, The Land Transportation and Traffic Code, to Carmudi Philippines managing director Abhishek Mohan after signing a partnership agreement on February 20, 2017 at the Carmudi head office. Carmudi sponsored the printing of the new copies of RA 4136 last October. AAP has been distributing copies of the law at road safety seminars and motoring-related activities it organizes as part of its commitment to the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

LAST February 20, the Automobile Association Philippines expanded its partnership with online business classifieds provider Carmudi Philippines by signing a memorandum of agreement involving the club's corporate membership program.

Under the agreement signed by AAP president Gus Lagman and Carmudi Philippines managing director Abhishek Mohan, Carmudi will enroll at least 100 motor vehicles in AAP's corporate membership program.

Through Mohan, the Berlin-based company manifested its intention to be part of the corporate membership program and presented its capacity and ability to provide results redounding to the benefit of AAP.

People who purchase vehicles via Carmudi's online service and are accordingly enrolled in AAP's corporate membership program will be entitled to two (2) emergency roadside service (ERS) interventions or 50 kilometers tow distance (whichever comes first), 24/7 ambulance service, discounts for motor and non-motor insurance and discounts at AAP's other partner establishments.

AAP, on the other hand, shall provide the interventions, towing and ERS assistance in the following areas: whole of Metro Manila, North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark- Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) in the north up to South Metro Manila Skyway and ground-level expressway from Magallanes to Alabang (SOMCO), Alabang-Calamba-Sto. Tomas Expressway (ACTEx).

Apart from the above areas, AAP shall also give similar benefits to Carmudi-enrolled vehicles that are within 25 kilometers of AAP offices in Alabang, Cebu City, Davao City, Lipa City, and San Fernando, Pampanga.

When a Carmudi-enrolled vehicle is disabled or breaks down on the road, AAP will dispatch a motorcycle-riding mechanic as first responder who shall perform the needed mechanical solutions.

If the breakdown requires transporting the vehicle to an auto repair shop, AAP will send a tow truck or car carrier/flatbed.

After the signing, Lagman and Mohan expressed satisfaction with their new agreement.

Lagman said: "We hope that this partnership will go places. The years of extending assistance to its members should speak volumes about the capabilities of AAP. Rest assured that the members enrolled by Carmudi under the corporate membership program will be taken care of with quality service."

Mohan said that the partnership is a welcome development since Carmudi shares AAP's vision of promoting road safety.

"Carmudi Philippines is here not just to provide assistance when it comes to getting your dream vehicle, we are also in the business of extending more to our clients by safeguarding their trips through AAP," Mohan averred. "We don't just sell cars, we give our customers peace of mind, thanks to AAP."

Previous to the corporate membership agreement, Lagman and Mohan signed a deal for the printing and distribution of new copies of R.A. 4136, the Land Transportation and Traffic Code. **aq**

10 more long weekends this 2017

Mark the dates and plan your vacation

WHO doesn't like long weekends and vacations? After working hard, you also have to play hard. Almost everybody has already planned out his or her holidays way in advance. But there is still enough time to make those travel plans, score lower fares by booking flights that are on sale, and save up for those trips.

This year, pundits have counted 11 long weekends to plan out that much-needed break. Make full use of the announced 10 regular holidays, nine special (non-working) days – plus only three days of vacation leave credits – to enjoy these long weekend getaways. The first long weekend was during the New Year Day holiday from Dec 30, 2016 to January 2, 2017.

The dates for Eid'l Fitr and Eidul Adha, however, are just estimates. It would be best to wait for official announcements from the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos and Malacañan Palace. But aside from these two holidays, you're literally good to go. **aq**

JANUARY

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Fri 30	Sat 31	Sun 1
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APRIL

HOLY WEEK

Thu 13	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16
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MAY

LABOUR DAY

Sat 29	Sun 30	Mon 1
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JUNE

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sat 10	Sun 11	Mon 12
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EID'L FITR

Sat 24	Sun 25	Mon 26	Tue 27
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NOVEMBER

BONIFACIO DAY

Thu 30	Fri 1	Sat 2	Sun 3
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DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sat 23	Sun 24	Mon 25
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RIZAL DAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY(2018)

Sat 30	Sun 31	Mon 1
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AUGUST

NINOY AQUINO DAY

Sat 19	Sun 20	Mon 21
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NATIONAL HEROES DAY

Sat 26	Sun 27	Mon 28
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OCTOBER

Additional Non-Working Holiday

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sat 28	Sun 29	Mon 30	Tue 31	Wed 1
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LEGEND

- LEAVE
- PUBLIC HOLIDAY



By Armin A. Amio

A French-Canadian friend is in town for the summer holidays. While living in the land led by Justin Trudeau for nearly 27 years now, French-speaking Jen has gone to all those exotic places like Quito, Botswana, and The Galapagos. But for some unknown reason, *les Philippines* continues to call her back.

Finding herself with more than three months of vacation leave credits which she must use – and no *raison d'être* – Jen booked the earliest flight to Manila to reconnect with both family and friends.

An originally planned road trip north of Manila was cancelled. Finding ourselves with spare time, we decided to enjoy a weekend ritual – the Sunday brunch.

The Hyundai Accent GL Hatch from Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI) was the perfect vehicle for Jen, Jiggs and me for that venture to the concrete jungle of Makati, hoping for a really nice breakfast-lunch fix.



Sunday brunch quest with the Accent

The Accent is a peppy little car with pizzazz, definitely not your boring, run-of-the-mill passenger vehicle. I would, however, suggest going for a really striking color like burgundy or royal blue to you can spot your car even while parked in a crowded parking area. The loaner vehicle was in metallic gray which matched the concrete towers of the financial district.

The interior layout of the Accent is simple and clean. There's plenty of room for all three of us, even for the not-so-petite ones like ourselves. The car manual says the Accent can accommodate five people. I guess you can squeeze in three slim passengers at the rear – but definitely not for long drives.

The rear seat can be folded down easily for extra luggage space, about 370 liters in total. The dashboard and center console has a metallic hue with instruments all ergonomically placed. I love the power windows and the door lock system that is speed sensitive and automatically engages

once you accelerate.

Cubby holes for drinks and knick-knacks are all over the car, which we like. There is even a sliding armrest cover to increase driving comfort for the driver. But what puzzled me is that the steering wheel is fixed and cannot be adjusted or tilted – well, at least in the test drive vehicle.

Another pet peeve is the blind spot. I hate being startled by a motorcycle rider or cyclists who have gotten too close for comfort near my vehicle. The Accent hatchback practically has none.

One cool feature of the Hyundai Accent GL is its ABS (anti-lock braking) sensors. When braking on wet and slippery roads, any deviation in direction is detected by the ABS sensors. The individual anti-lock brake system then activates to keep your wheels from locking up, prevent skidding and maintain directional control.

The Hyundai Accent comes with a zippy 1.6-liter CRDI VGT engine mated with a 7-speed dual clutch transmission. This makes the compact car a combination pocket rocket and fuel miser. Last year's fuel economy rating conducted by the Department of Energy showed the Accent GL turning in an impressive 29.41 kilometers per liter mileage.

So where did we end up having brunch, you ask? We didn't. We so enjoyed going around Makati and looking at the food spots both in Legaspi and Salcedo villages that we all forgot about eating. **aq**



Cruising through Cape Town in a Porsche Panamera

Text and photos
by KAP MACEDA AGUILA

Despite being almost 20 hours away from Manila, Cape Town in South Africa surely proves worthy of the time zone aggravation and the long-haul discomfort. As your plane breaks through the final cloudbank before touching down the city's international airport, a huge expanse of land welcomes you into a seemingly unhurried, relaxed cityscape.



While buildings and homes new and old jut upward, the undulating earth isn't ruled by the manmade. Rather, the skyline is crowned by the 3,500-foot Table Mountain, with distinctly sheared cliffs and flat top created by some 500 million years of erosion.

Cape Town is also known as the legislative capital of South Africa, and is famous for its beaches, award-winning wines, and beef. Before Johannesburg's rise to prominence, Cape Town was the country's largest city, and was first developed by the

Dutch East India Company to "supply Dutch ships sailing to East Africa, India, and the Far East."

Today, Cape Town dances to a slower, more free-flowing beat – in contrast to Johannesburg. It is a more conducive, logical destination for tourists shunning the starched collar of pure industry and commerce. There's enough time and opportunity to enjoy the sights, sounds, and take it easy.

You can go fast as well. That was in the cards recently when we had the privilege of



visiting this scenic place additionally blessed with pristine roads. The agenda was both straight forward and tantalizing: to experience the on-road virtues of the all-new Porsche Panamera's 4 E-Hybrid and Executive models.

First presented at the 13th Auto Shanghai International Motor Show in 2009, the Panamera – named after the historic Carrera Panamericana border-to-border race in Mexico in the 1950s – is the Stuttgart-based super carmaker's luxury four-door sedan that simultaneously addresses the need for space, luxury, and everyday usability, while staying true to the vaunted Porsche athletic ability.

Globally debuting last year in Berlin, the second-generation is a thorough reboot that sizzles in design and performance. Longer, wider, and taller than the outgoing iteration, the all-new Panamera nonetheless assumes a more sportscar-like profile than before. According to a Porsche Philippines release, "designers have nixed the old hatchback-like shape in favor of lines that more directly



connect the Panamera to its smaller, iconic sibling in the 911."

The tip of the hat to the 911 is not merely in looks, either. There is plenty of commensurate pep and ability that makes the Panamera a worthy family member to such a prestigious, prodigious star. Initially available in the Philippines is the potent Panamera Turbo variant. Equipped with a powerful 4.0-liter V8 dishing out 550hp and 769Nm, the large vehicle surprises with sprightly acceleration – from standstill to 100kph in a mere 3.6 seconds (or 3.4 with Sport Chrono), all the way to a recorded top track speed of 306kph. Quick, robust performance is made possible via an eight-speed PDK (Porsche Doppelkupplung or double clutch) transmission.

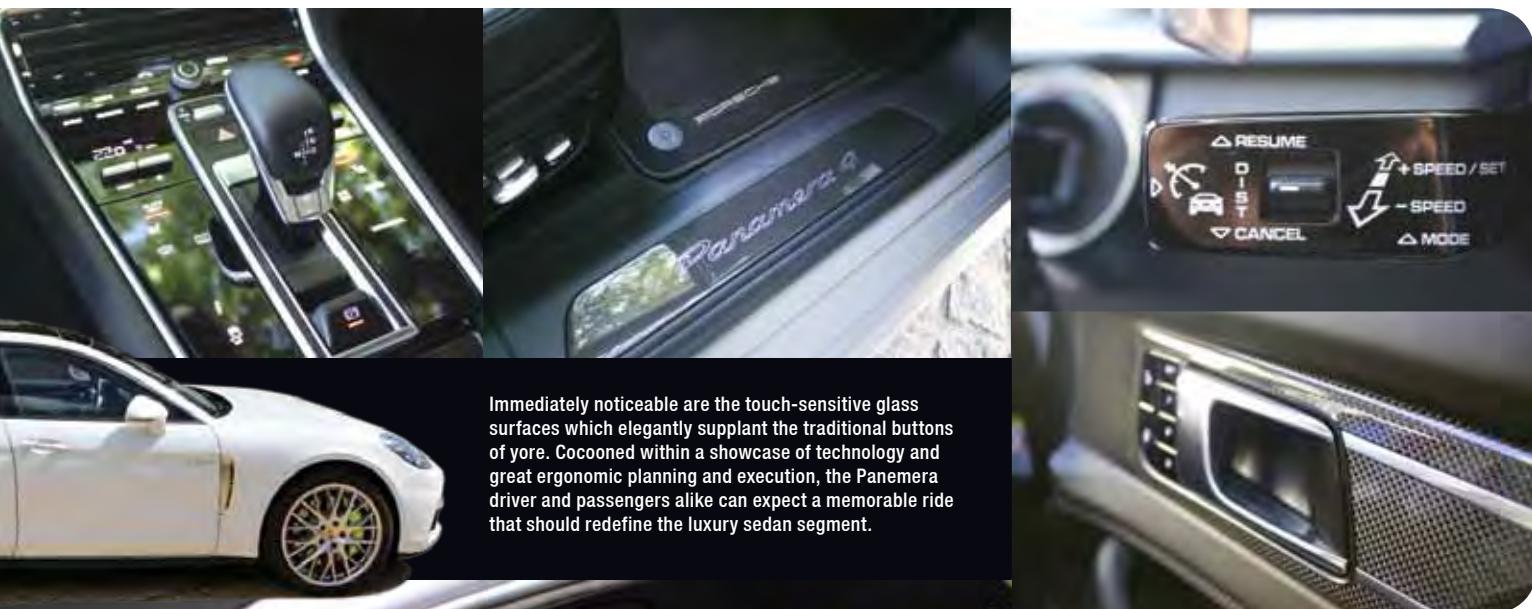
In South Africa, we tried out (among others) the Turbo Executive variant, which

extends the wheelbase by a whopping 150 millimeters to supply even more generous cabin space. It is envisioned as a chauffeur saloon, with the body type available in all-wheel drive versions of the Panamera 4 Executive (330hp), Panamera 4 E-Hybrid Executive (462hp), Panamera 4S Executive (440hp) and Panamera Turbo Executive (550hp).

Spacious, comfortable, and luxurious, the new Panamera is also all about cutting-edge technology that would put others in its weight class to shame. Immediately obvious is the massive 12.3-inch touchscreen that functions as a central PCM control and display unit. Catching the attention is the excellent, high-definition display screen – showing footage of the 360-degree cameras to help you navigate better by seeing the world around in beautiful, crisp rendering.

There might be a difference in opinions over what the best seat in the Porsche Panamera Executive model is, as the rear seats – while not having the breadth of control as the front – simply pamper you rotten. It is, as Porsche correctly submits, a lounge.

The much-mentioned “Porsche Intelligent Performance” paradigm is in full expression in the vehicle, as it features, among other developments, a thoroughly redesigned cockpit (formally called the Porsche Advanced Cockpit) with touch-sensitive glass surfaces supplanting traditional buttons. A centrally mounted tachometer is an homage to the historic 1955 Porsche 356 A. Instead of analog instrumentation, the Panamera takes motorists and their passengers to the future with high-tech accoutrements and appointments such as a couple of seven-inch high-definition displays, and 12.3-inch



Immediately noticeable are the touch-sensitive glass surfaces which elegantly supplant the traditional buttons of yore. Cocooned within a showcase of technology and great ergonomic planning and execution, the Panamera driver and passengers alike can expect a memorable ride that should redefine the luxury sedan segment.



touchscreen with navigation, Apple CarPlay capability, and new voice control system.

Rear passengers can also luxuriate in the newly developed Porsche Rear Seat Entertainment (RSE) – which renders the “lounge” a convenient high-tech workplace or entertainment venue. Two 10.1-inch, high-resolution, non-reflecting touchscreens attach to the backrests of the front seats and, get this, can also be detached for use outside the vehicle. Yes, they are two fully functional tablets.

While luxuriating, one should not ever forget that this is a Porsche. On Cape Town’s excellent thoroughfares, my Taiwanese co-driver (an amateur racer, too) tested the responsiveness and robustness of the 3.0-liter V6. Executing jackrabbit starts, the Panamera piled on the Gs with abandon, even as we felt secure about staying put on terra firma. Surely, life can’t get much better while ensconced in this inspiring vehicle from Germany. **QQ**

This tradition of visiting seven churches is said to be started by Saint Philip Neri – an Italian priest who was known as the third apostle of Rome after saints Peter and Paul – around 1553. He and a few friends would gather before dawn and set out on their “Seven Churches Walk”. These walks became very popular and began to attract others.

In the Philippines, the general practice is to visit seven churches either on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday and recite the Stations of the Cross in them. The pious and able would double the number of churches to 14, while the infirm and elderly usually visit only one or a handful. Until the 1970s, people recited all 14 stations in every church, but the more recent custom is to pray two stations at each church.

Some of the more devout carry a cross to and from different churches. An offering is usually made at each church and to the poor as a form of alms giving. To accommodate the faithful, many Catholic churches during Holy Week (April 10 to 16, 2017) remain open until midnight.



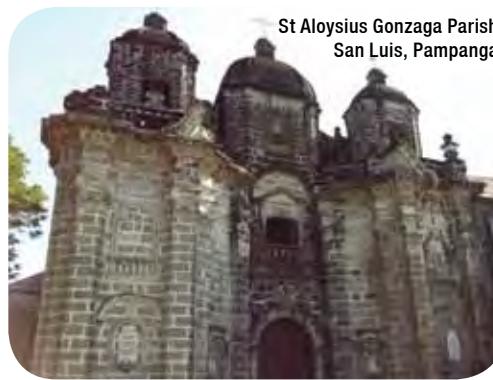
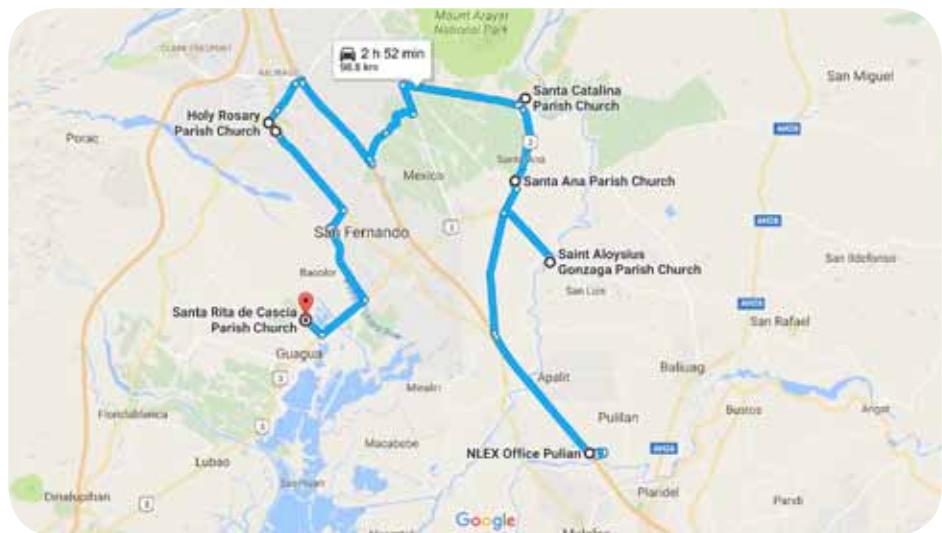
View of Mt. Arayat

Pampanga is a noteworthy area to practice Visita Iglesia. The province's name, La Pampanga, was given by the Spaniards who encountered natives living along the banks (*pampáng*) of the majestic Pampanga River. Its creation in 1571 made it the first Spanish province in Luzon. It became one of the richest Philippine provinces as Manila and its surrounding regions became dependent on Kapampangan agricultural, fishery and forestry products as well as on the supply of skilled workers. As a result, the residents of the Pampanga towns built impressive churches for everyone to admire and appreciate.

7 churches to visit in Pampanga

PHOTOS
BY ARMIN A. AMIO

THE Seven Churches Visitation – also known as Visita Iglesia – is an ancient pious Roman Catholic Lenten tradition to visit seven churches on the evening of Holy Thursday. Here, the faithful visit several churches – sometimes seven, sometimes 14, sometimes no set number – to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in each church.



St Aloysius Gonzaga Parish
San Luis, Pampanga

The **San Luis Gonzaga Parish Church**, also referred to as San Luis Church, is a 19th-century Baroque church located at Brgy. Poblacion, San Luis. The parish church is dedicated to Saint Aloysius Gonzaga. The church facade is predominantly Baroque in style with the roughness and heaviness of its looks although some hints of Renaissance style can be found in the details of its twin belfries.

The church of the **Parish of St. Anne in Santa Ana** is made of stone and bricks. The heritage building was constructed by Fr. Ferrer in 1853 and completed by Fr. Lucas Gonzalez using adobe stones from Meycauayan City, Bulacan and wood from Betis and Porac, Pampanga. The church is 58 meters (190 feet) long, 14 meters (46 feet) wide, and 13 meters (43 feet) high. It has a massive 1857 hexagonal four-storey bell tower that features blind and open recesses, keeping with the symmetry of the façade. It ends in a balustrade dome topped by a cross. A parish convent was built in 1866 by Fr. Antonio Redondo.



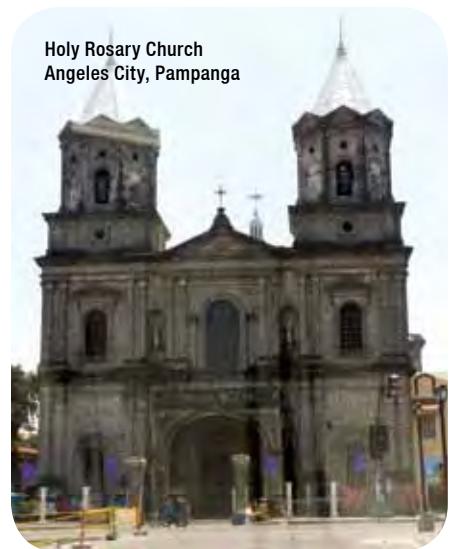
Santa Ana Parish Church
Santa Ana, Pampanga



The **Santa Catalina de Alejandria Church**, also referred to as the **Arayat Church**, is Renaissance-style edifice. Since its initial construction during the late 1700s, it has been subjected to major alterations and changes such as the addition of decorative ornaments and reliefs and repainting works. The Renaissance-style facade is characterized with its frontal arcade on the second level and Celtic-like cross windows on the sides. Another feature is the pediment with its axial feature of a blind pointed archway framing a small semi-circular arched window placed underneath a super imposed gabled plane. An image of Santa Catalina is located at the portico of the church while a separate antique image is located at the main altar. A bell tower is at the left side of the church.



Santa Catalina Church
Arayat, Pampanga



Holy Rosary Church
Angeles City, Pampanga



St. Andrew Church
Candaba, Pampanga



Carmelite Monastery
Angeles, Pampanga

The **Holy Rosary Parish**, fondly called by locals as “Pisambang Maragul” (“Big Church”), stands at the epicenter of the old Culiat town, now known as Angeles City. The church has recently been recognized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as a national historical site. It was said to have been built by forced labor system, known as “polos y servicios,” which was imposed by the Spanish colonial government from 1877 to 1896.

The **San Andres Apostol Parish Church**, commonly referred to as **Candaba Church**, is a 17th-century, Baroque church located at Barangay Pescadores. The church measures 60 meters high, 13 meters wide and 13 meters high. The facade and bell tower are dominated by a series of vertical lines and recesses.

The **Carmelite Monastery** is a popular church to visit in Angeles City. This home of the Carmelite nuns in the province bodes well for some of prayer and reflection. It is believed that wishes will be granted when you offer three white roses and say your wishes and intentions just before lighting a candle.



Sta. Rita de Cascia
Parish Church, Sta.
Rita, Pampanga
CREDIT: rcaf.com

The **Santa Rita de Cascia Church** in the town of Santa Rita was erected in 1838 by Fr. Francisco Royo and completed by Fr. Juan Merino in 1869. It is 55 meters long, 13 meters wide, and 10 meters high. It has a large and well-lit transept with a solid brass façade that features baroque characteristics. A four-storey bell tower is on the left side of the church that houses five heritage bells – the Señora de la Cornea which was installed at the belfry in 1869; the Dolorosa bell in 1878; and the bells of Virgen de Lourdes, San Jose and Santa Rita—all installed on May 20, 1911. The bells announce to the townsfolk various events—from weddings, processions, feasts, floods, fire, deaths, the Angelus, and even the end of the daily 8 p.m. recitation of the rosary. In this small town, the agunyas (the sound made by the bell) for the dead is gender-specific. The Santa Rita bell announces the death of a man, while the Dolorosa does so for a woman.

While Catholics mainly practice the Visita Iglesia as a pious custom, it can also be an opportunity for family get-togethers and sightseeing. **AQ**

4 DESTINATIONS FOR THOSE LONG WEEKEND HOLIDAYS

By Joyce Reyes-Aguila

THE days have begun to stretch longer. That's our cue to hit the road.

Summer time should never be wasted by staying indoors. The lure of watching sunsets by the beach, enjoying nippy mornings atop mountains, and the lure of uncommon dishes waiting to be savored are more than enough to make anyone go on a trip around the country. The limitless travel choices and a myriad of different adventures in the Philippines are borne by what go-to travel site [lonelyplanet.com](#) calls our “sprawling cities” and “thousands of inviting islands.”

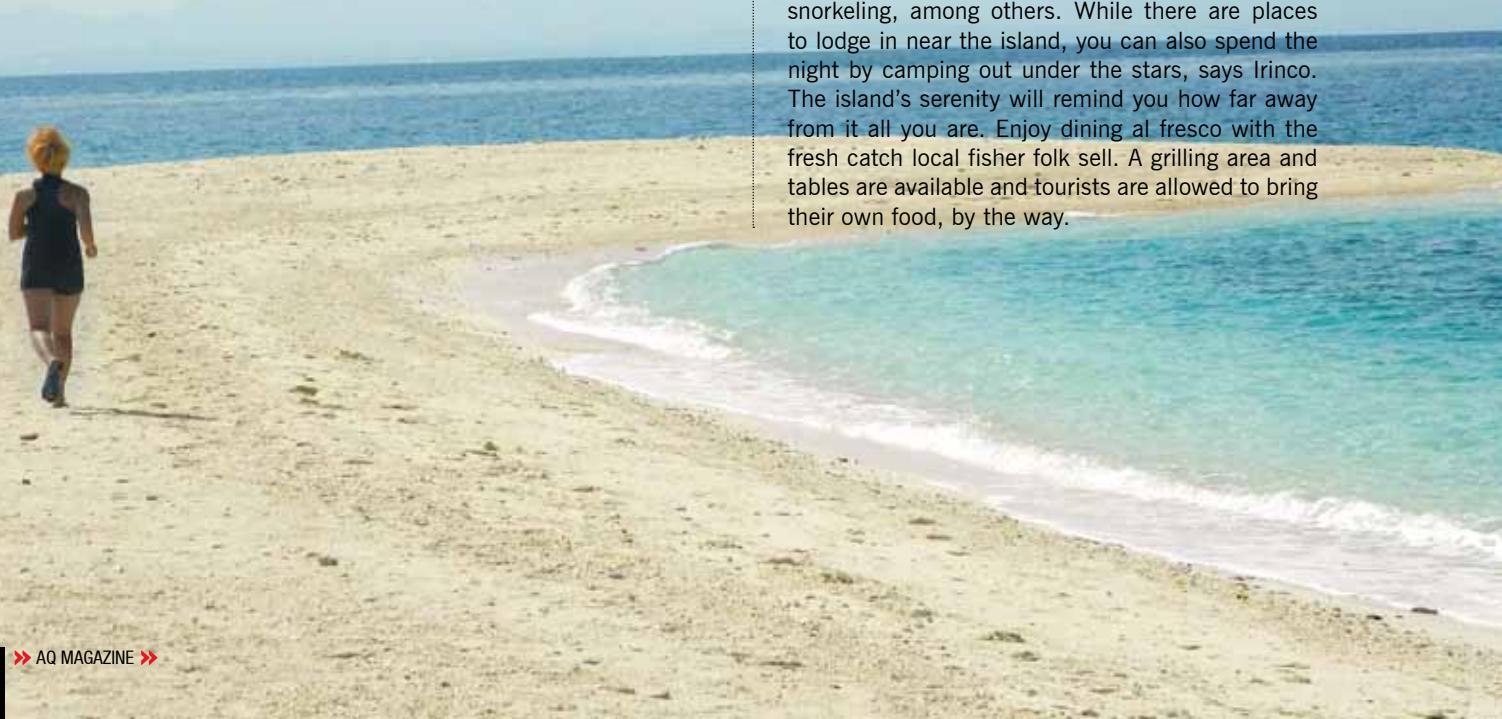
To add to the mix of your bucket list of places to go in the country, AQ reached out to travel and outdoor enthusiast group Off the Grid Adventures (OTGA) to inspire you to aim far beyond a cup of coffee in popular Tagaytay City. “Travelers are always on the lookout for emerging destinations,” says OTGA co-founder Vera Irinco. “They are more digital savvy and rely on online reviews when they plan for their next travel. Always, they value experience; they are open to being experimental and tend to seek out the new.” The outdoor group plans and sometimes accompanies adventure seekers on culture trips, sky and water adventures, and hiking trips. Here are some destinations OTGA suggests. Don’t forget to take selfies at these places.



Kalanggaman Island, Leyte

KALANGGAMAN ISLAND.

This emerging beach destination in Palompon, Leyte is gifted with long, white sand bars and azure waters. After reaching Leyte via plane, transfers via land and water will take you to the uninhabited island. Soak under the sun and enjoy activities like kayaking, scuba diving, aqua-biking, and snorkeling, among others. While there are places to lodge in near the island, you can also spend the night by camping out under the stars, says Irinco. The island’s serenity will remind you how far away from it all you are. Enjoy dining al fresco with the fresh catch local fisher folk sell. A grilling area and tables are available and tourists are allowed to bring their own food, by the way.





Sabang Beach, Baler, Aurora

Puerto Princesa
Underground River, Palawan

BALER, AURORA.

Why not try surfing this summer at its birthplace in the country, Sabang Beach? A five-hour ride from Manila will take you to this historic place that enlists Museo de Baler, the Church of Baler, Aragon's House, and Aurora Quezon's ancestral house as some of the must-stops. Make time for the Baler Eco Strip Ermita Hill, OTGA recommends, and see chapels with views of the Pacific Ocean, the Baler Bay, Baler Town, and the Dimadimalangat islet. Whether you spend the whole day at the beach or touring, stop by the Baler Surfing Grill or any of the resorts along Sabang Beach for a slew of dining options.

BATANES.

Literally away from it all, many have discovered the magnificent offerings of this scenic group of islands. Flight schedules are limited, so be sure to plan your trip and length of stay very well. Not to be missed when visiting is the so-called Marlboro Country, locally known as Racuh-A-Payaman, where one can enjoy fresh air with a spectacular view of the place's hills, cliffs, and shores. Batanes is also home to a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Chavayan Stone Houses, that can be accessed through a boat ride to the Sabtang Island. All houses have been kept in their original state for more than 100 years, with only rooftops being maintained. Here, the handcrafted products of the native Ibatans are also showcased at the entrance. The islands' remaining church, the Chavayan church, can also be visited. While on the island, stop at the Nakabuang Beach and its white sands and distinctive geographical formation. For your gastronomic pleasures, have coffee at the Bunker's Café, pizza at Casa Napoli, or seafood dishes at Fundacion Pacita.



Marlboro Country, Basco, Batanes

PALAWAN.

Dubbed as the "last ecological frontier" in the country by its local government website, Palawan is rich in both forest and marine wildlife. Known globally for its natural beauty, this province is home to the National Marine Park (a UNESCO Heritage site) and the Puerto Princesa City Subterranean River National Park, one of the longest rivers in the world (Heritage site). Palawan is also proud of its Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary and El Nido Managed Reserve Protected Area that are home to exotic and endemic species of animals, as well as the famous Tubbataha Reefs. After exploring, visitors can relax on its world-class beaches, including Honday Bay, Coron, and El Nido. There are several carriers that offer flights to any of Palawan's four airports; travel via water is also an option. Once there, shuttles can take you to Puerto Princesa or El Nido. Great food stops include the Vietnamese Village, ShabuShabu Feast at Ipil Suites, and the Honey Nougat at La Terrasse Café for an unforgettable dessert experience. **AQ**

THE compact executive sedan segment is packed with choices – a nightmare for carmakers, a boon for consumers who are now spoiled for choice. Audi engineers welcome the challenge with inspiration and determination as they have vastly improved the already impressive A4 into what it is now. Last year, the A4 secured two additional

feathers in its cap: “Car of the Year” honors from the What Car? Awards, and inclusion on the “Best Cars” list for the middle-size category of Auto Motor und Sport. What these and other accolades bestowed upon the Audi A4

mean is that the car deserves not just a look but a whole lot of love. Here are 10 more reasons you’ll be enamored with the all-new Audi A4.

10



Reasons to Love The All-New Audi A4

1 SAFER THAN EVER

Safety is always a top tenet for Audi engineers in every car they conceptualize, and such is the case in the Audi A4. In fact, the A4 so excels in this regard that it is a “Top Safety Pick +” of the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) – earning the rating through five grueling crash tests that challenged both the engineering and design features of the A4.

2 BIGGER AND BETTER

The new A4 is almost two inches longer than its predecessor – space that’s comparable, in fact, to the previous A6. Couple this with lower seats and enhanced legroom and headroom, the Audi A4 has never before offered more comfort and space.

3 120 KILOS LIGHTER

Using Audi’s Ultra Lightweight Technology, the new A4 is now 120 kilograms lighter than the model it replaces. Weight reduction means improved driving performance and better fuel consumption – it is in fact 21-percent more frugal than its predecessor.

4 GREAT MOTIVATION

You choose what you want under the hood – a 2.0-liter turbo diesel or a 1.4-liter TFSI gasoline engine. Either offers a generous 150hp of power, with the diesel churning out a whopping 320Nm of torque.





5 TECH GOODIES APLENTY

5 Audi's famed Virtual Cockpit – heretofore solely available in more expensive models – now makes it to the sedan line up with the new A4. The new cockpit is able to display all vehicle information plus navigation which can also be transferred to the eight-inch display located at the center of the dashboard. Simple and intuitive, Audi's MMI can connect to your mobile with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto via Bluetooth.

6 SMARTER THAN THE REST

6 The Audi A4 has an intelligent park assist system that allows for a totally hands-free experience. Park assist lets the vehicle steer itself into a spot – easing the burden off from the driver's shoulders.

7 BETTER LOOKING

7 With flat surfaces and sharper lines, the new A4 assumes a distinctively sportier look. It is elegantly put together as the front and rear fascia elegantly match. Capped off by the much-imitated Audi LED headlights, the new A4 will definitely catch people's attention.

8 QUALITY INSIDE AND OUT

8 The A4's interior speaks of the highest quality for luxury sedans in the market today. Not only does it boast ergonomic design excellence, but an incomparably impressive selection of materials as well. The A4 has a full leather interior with aluminum accents, complemented by classy ambient interior lighting on the TDI variant that serves as reminder that this is not just any other sedan.

9 SPORTIER YET MORE COMFORTABLE

9 Enhanced with Audi Drive Select, the driver can choose between four different driving modes ranging from comfort for the daily commute, to sport mode for more dynamic performance. Audi's S-tronic gearbox also allows for faster, smoother gearshifts that gives power on demand.



10 PRACTICAL FOR THE EVERYDAY DRIVE

10 Whether for the average daily urban commute or for fun drives out of town, the all-new A4 delivers the best of both worlds. With its full complement of new technology and cutting-edge design, the A4 gives you all the reasons for you to love it.

Turbocharged, cleverly designed, well-appointed, and solidly built, the Audi A4 is getting even more recognition this early in the year with a trio of prestigious honors: "Top Safety Pick +" again from the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (US), "Best Executive Car of the Year" from What Car? Awards UK, and "Best Buy" winner from Kelly Blue Book in the USA. Clearly, the compelling compact executive sedan from Ingolstadt is rightfully getting love from all around.

To test drive or view the award-winning Audi A4, call Audi Philippines at 09178139064 or visit the Audi showrooms located in Greenhills, Global City and Alabang. 



Rev up your trips this year with Suzuki's exciting lineup of bestsellers

WHETHER it is a quick escape to the renowned mountains of Baguio, a surfing adventure in La Union, a long drive to the historic Fort Ilocandia or a mere stopover in Tagaytay, you will find your perfect road companion in Suzuki vehicles.

COMPACT CAR = FUEL EFFICIENCY

With 3 of its vehicles making it to the top 5 Overall Gasoline Category chart of DOE's Euro-4 Fuel Economy Run last year – namely the Suzuki Celerio CVT 29.14 km/L (1st Place), the Suzuki Ciaz A/T 27.94 km/L (3rd Place) and the Suzuki Celerio M/T 27.70 km/L (5th Place) – pioneer compact car manufacturer Suzuki Philippines is able to reinforce its commitment to boost Filipinos' love for travel.

Designed to deliver exceptional performance that are nothing short of elegant and comfortable, the leading Japanese car maker presents once again their top-grossing fuel-efficient vehicles just in time for the upcoming breaks.

YOUR ALL-AROUND COMPANION

Designed to deliver quality-driving experience at greater fuel savings compared with other vehicles of the same caliber, the subcompact sedan Ciaz is your best companion for both daily use and long drives.

The car model's numerous awards since being introduced to the local market in the first quarter of 2016 is testament to this.

The Ciaz bagged the Best Subcompact Car in the 2016 CAGI Car of the Year Awards, the Best Subcompact Sedan in the 12th C! Awards and Compact Sedan Best Value for Money in the Auto Focus Media's Choice Awards. Aside from these, the recently rolled out subcompact sedan was bequeathed the "Best Fuel Rating Award" under the Sedan-Gasoline Category during

Department of Energy (DOE) Fuel Economy Run conducted last year.

Available in three variants, namely the GL Manual Transmission, GL Automatic Transmission and premium GLX, Suzuki's latest subcompact sedan is equipped with exceptional features and best-in-class fuel efficiency, Suzuki's latest subcompact sedan earned favorable market response across Asian markets that are looking for practical yet out-of-the-box driving experience.

Along with elegant exterior design and redefined interiors, the Ciaz is definitely a force to be reckoned with.

THE MORE, THE MERRIER

Invite more family and friends to a road trip in the roomy 7-seater Ertiga! Deemed to have the Best Value for Money in the MPV category during the Auto Focus Media's Choice Awards, this multipurpose vehicle (MPV) is also a Life Utility Vehicle (LUV) and is much bigger than other vehicles in Suzuki's product portfolio.

Combining the agility of a compact car and the spaciousness of a family car, the Ertiga will surely come very handy during outings. Its sleek yet comfortable interiors will provide passengers with the convenience and entertainment necessary for long drives.

The Ertiga, which exudes elegance, boasts a keyless push start system, user-friendly multimedia Android touchscreen, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and USB connectivity with handsfree.

FOR THE ADVENTURE-SEEKERS

Successfully moving from the sidelines to being Suzuki's best-selling vehicle of 2016, the all-time favorite Celerio brought the Japanese car brand to a whole new level last year after being awarded with Best Fuel Rating under the Over-All Gasoline Category in last year's DOE Euro 4 Fuel Eco Run.

One of Suzuki's vehicles powered by a fuel-efficient engine and patented Total Effective Control Technology (TECT), the Celerio enables confident driving, making it the best buddy for budget-friendly trips. In addition to its sleek interiors, the model offers top-of-the-line features and a more spacious cabin and luggage space.

The Suzuki Celerio best fits the younger generation who wants vehicles with a general sporty feel. Available in various exciting colors, the Celerio is without a doubt the constant companion you are looking for!

SEAMLESS AND SWIFT DRIVING

All-time favorite, the classic Swift targets the sporty and adventure-seeking Filipino. Its ability to deliver smooth and seamless driving has made the famous hatchback popular among the younger generation since its release in the market in 2004 until its upgrade in 2010.

Equipped with a relatively spacious cabin and sleek interiors packed with a touchscreen entertainment system, the Swift is undoubtedly one of the best travel companions you will ever have! 



Mitsubishi presents first PH-made Mirage G4 to President Duterte

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC) has started the local production of the Mirage G4 in its 21-hectare plant located in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. The Mirage G4 is the first vehicle that is manufactured locally under the Philippine government's Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy (CARS) Program.

MMPC was granted the opportunity to present the first Philippine made Mirage G4 to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in a ceremony held at Malacañan Palace. Heading the presentation were Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) President and CEO Mr. Osamu Masuko, Sojitz Corporation Vice Chairman Mr. Shigeki Dantani, and MMPC President and CEO Mr. Yoshiaki Kato. The ceremony was well attended by government officials, diplomats and executives as this occasion marks a significant milestone not only to Mitsubishi Motors but as well as to the local automotive industry and to the Philippine economy. Witnessing this milestone were honorable Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez, Department of Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, DTI Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo, DTI Assistant Secretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba, Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Charito B. Plaza, CARS Program Director, Romulo Manlapig, Deputy Chief of Mission of Japan Embassy, Atsushi Ueno, MMPC's executives and business partners.

The local production of the Mirage entails additional job opportunities to both MMPC and local parts suppliers. Some of the local parts suppliers will also take advantage of technology transfer from their foreign partners for the overall improvement in operations, efficiency and quality. With

the start of the production of the Mirage G4 and the Mirage hatchback in May, MMPC aims to manufacture 20,000 units at the end of the year. The new stamping plant is also set to start operation in January 2018 which is expected to even increase further local content and boost production volume of MMPC by 50%.

With MMC's sincere commitment and trust to the Philippine government and on the CARS program, MMC has already invested 4.3 billion pesos for the production facilities and equipment required for the localization of the Mirage models. In his message, Mr. Osamu Masuko expressed his confidence to the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, "under the strong leadership of His Excellency President Duterte, there is big potential of economic growth in this country". He also added that the automotive industry with its broad base, high quality labor force and strong support through the government's development policy, will contribute more to the progress of the Philippine economy.

The Philippines is one of the most important markets for Mitsubishi Motors Corporation. Given the state-of-the-art production facilities and processes, the additional investment and the Filipino workmanship, MMPC is highly confident that the Philippine made Mirage G4 is of the same global quality. MMPC President and CEO Mr. Yoshiaki Kato mentioned that "The Mirage being one of MMC's global car model, and now being produced in Sta. Rosa plant brings forth pride to both MMPC employees and local parts suppliers. As a next challenge,



we have to step up our Quality Cost Delivery programs to be competitive with other MMC production facilities."

The localization of the Mirage models will further enhance MMPC's performance with the robust demand for these passenger cars. MMPC aims to fully contribute to the steadfast growth of the automotive industry and the Philippine economy. **aq**





Caltex opens newsite in Nueva Vizcaya's agri trading center



CHEVRON Philippines Inc. (CPI), marketer of the Caltex brand of fuels and lubricants, recently inaugurated its newest Caltex service station at the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal – Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (NVAT-APTC) located along AH26, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya.

The 6.8-hectare NVAT-APTC is the biggest trading center in the Cagayan Valley area where produce such as fruits and vegetables coming from Nueva Vizcaya, Benguet, Bontoc, Ifugao and Quirino are sold. The new Caltex service station assures traders and farmers bringing their produce to the NVAT-APTC of the continuous supply

of quality and safe fuels of Caltex with Techron.

CPI Country Chairman Peter Morris noted that it will help boost trade as the province's produce makes its way to various areas in the country. "The opening of NVAT-APTC as a prime trading hub signals more robust growth for the province's economy. Living in a mountainous province, farmers and traders can now fill up with high quality fuels to keep their engines safe and clean, and boost their livelihood," Morris said.

CPI's opening of more Caltex stations in strategic locations around the Philippines is part of its unwavering commitment to

provide motorists convenient access to clean, quality, and Euro 4-compliant fuels. The newly opened Caltex service station in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya is a welcome addition to Caltex's growing retail service station network across the country.

Caltex fuels, which include Caltex Silver with Techron, Caltex Platinum with Techron, and Diesel with Techron-D, are all designed to deliver lesser emissions, greater performance and cleaner engines. **AQ**

Chevron to keep Olive-Ridley sea turtle nesting area protected

Multiple Olive-Ridley sea turtles have begun to nest as a result of Caltex brand marketer Chevron Philippines, Inc. (CPI)'s San Pascual coastal clean-up during the annual Week of Caring (WOC) held every September.

With two sea turtle nest sightings along the San Pascual coastline to date, CPI has been ramping up efforts to ensure that nesting grounds stay protected at all costs. Guards on duty have gently combed the surface sand over the nesting sites while taking extra care not to disturb the eggs, fenced the areas, and kept the sites safe from tidal waves.

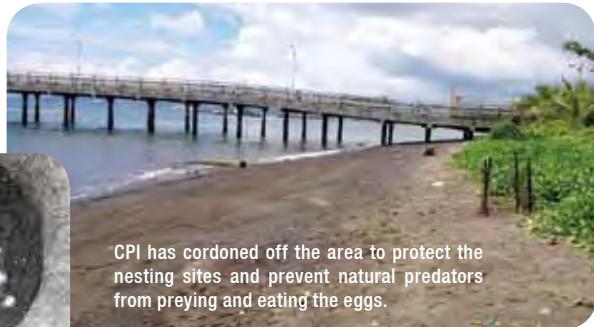
CPI likewise continues to closely monitor two possible nesting sites near the causeway. It already enclosed the sites to prevent natural predators including monitor lizards or "bayawak," stray cats and dogs, and even rodents from preying and eating the eggs. Guards also vigilantly keep close watch on the possible nesting sites to maintain enclosure integrity. CPI expects the turtle eggs to ripen and the hatchlings to mature and rise to the ground surface within two months.

Guards handling the nesting areas have all undergone Marine Sea Turtle 101 training by the Philippine Global Programme of Action with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB).

The San Pascual nesting activity is the latest since the nesting



Olive-Ridley sea turtle nestings have been spotted along the San Pascual coastline a few weeks after CPI employees held a coastal clean-up activity as part of their annual Week of Caring program.



CPI has cordoned off the area to protect the nesting sites and prevent natural predators from preying and eating the eggs.

activity along the Lagnas River shoreline in 2013. A "talishay" tree marks the area where Olive-Ridley sea turtles have laid their eggs.

"We are extremely elated with the success of our recent coastal clean-up, thanks to the continued support of the local community and CPI employees who have exhibited true volunteerism.

We are committed towards preserving the Batangas coastal area as a declared marine sanctuary for Olive-Ridley sea turtles, and we will constantly safeguard these eggs, through our strengthened protection efforts," Peter Morris, CPI Country Chairman, said.

About 200 CPI employees and over 100 town residents and students from San Pascual, Batangas joined the annual coastal clean-up, which removed a total of 514 garbage bags or 2.5 tons of worth of rubbish from the area. The coastal clean-up is the final activity of this year's five-day WOC program, which included school facilities improvement, road safety education, and art therapy session. This is the ninth edition of the WOC, which advocates volunteerism among CPI employees and business partners. **AQ**



Toyota Again Named the 'World's Most Admired' Motor Vehicle Company by FORTUNE

TOYOTA was once again named by Fortune as one of the "World's Most Admired Companies" and named the No. 1 Motor Vehicle company for the third consecutive year in an annual ranking. Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" list recognized Toyota as No. 34 among the Top 50 "All-Star" companies surveyed.

Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" list is widely acknowledged as the definitive report card on corporate reputation and is based on company surveys and industry peer ratings from senior executives, directors and industry analysts. For each company, the survey measures nine attributes considered critical to a company's global success, including quality of products and services, social and environmental responsibility, global competitiveness, and value as an investment, among others.

"Toyota is proud to be listed once again as among the world's most admired companies," said Jim Lentz, Toyota Motor North America chief executive officer. "This recognition honors the commitment of our team to continuous improvement and exceeding customer expectations. Together, we at Toyota are leading the industry in creating the future of mobility and are making a positive difference in the world through safer, greener and more fun driving experiences."

“Survey Ranks Toyota as No.1 in Industry for Third Consecutive Year”



A showroom-stock Mazda 2 SKYACTIV hatchback survived a grueling eight-hour race to win the Manufacturer's Cup of the 2016 Philippine Endurance Challenge. Driven by seasoned racer Clifford Certeza, along with Bermaz Malaysia marketing professional Ian Khong and motoring journalist Iñigo Roces, the Team Bermaz Mazda-run sub-compact completed a total of 160 laps, two more than the its nearest competitor.



Mazda Wins Manufacturer's Cup Trophy in 2016 Philippine Endurance Challenge

"This is truly a race won not only with a superior car and talented drivers but also through the efforts of a solid team of passionate Mazda Philippines employees who devoted their time and effort to this race," shared Steven Tan, President and CEO of Bermaz Auto Philippines (BAP), the exclusive distributors of Mazda vehicles in the country.

"The Mazda2 SKYACTIV is continuously proving to be an excellent platform for grassroots racing," adds Tan. "With its SKYACTIV-engineered suspension, chassis and engine it managed to capture this year's Division 3 100-horsepower class in the 2016 Philippine Touring Car Championship with Edwin Rodriguez at the helm. Now, even in purely stock form, complete with seats and all trimmings, it has again endured the extremes of a pure racing environment to come out as a worthy platform to celebrate driving."

Aside from its sharp and nimble handling, which allowed it to finish the 8-hour race with only one set of tires, the Mazda2's famed fuel-efficiency likewise played a crucial role in extending its time on the track. "Our strategy was to maximize the range available to the Mazda2's standard fuel tank," says Tan. He explains, "Staying out longer on the track gave the team an advantage during the closing stages of the race as it allowed our winning car to build a two-lap gap over the competition."

Team Bermaz Mazda fielded two Mazda2 cars for the race. Car number 17 was the 2016 PTCC championship-winning Mazda2 Division 3 racecar piloted by PTCC Champion Rodriguez, BAP General Manager for Customer Service Ramil de Vera, and Press and Customer Relations Manager Mikko

David during the PEC race. The second car, number 18, was an all-stock Mazda2 manual transmission-equipped hatchback with Certeza, Khong and Roces taking the car to the finish.

The Team Bermaz Mazda pit crew was composed of Bermaz Auto Philippines Technical and Service Field Specialists as well as Filipino Bermaz Malaysia technicians, all of which regularly perform evaluations on customer cars. Parts availability was also crucial as wear and tear components were kept in stock for the race. Tan adds, "It is but natural that we make use of the skills and talents of our BAP employees and Bermaz technicians. This experience not only elevates the company personnel's skillset but it also provides an excellent outlet of their passion towards the Mazda brand. It allows us to live and breath the Jinba Ittai experience which is inherent in every Mazda vehicle that our customers drive."

Team Bermaz Mazda likewise provided logistics support to the Automobile Association Philippines PEC race campaign and its pool of AAP Motorsports Development Program scholars who drove another Mazda2 in this year's endurance race. The three-car complement of Team Bermaz Mazda and AAP-MSDP completed a total of 345 laps around the 4.2-kilometer circuit.

The eight-hour PEC race began at 8:50 in the morning at the Clark International Speedway with 29 cars on the grid. Composed of four divisions encompassing various car set-ups, the annual race once again proved to be a true test of equipment reliability, driver skills, teamwork and strategy. A total of 123 drivers drove in the race with all but five cars seeing the checkered flag. **aq**



ONE of the best pickup truck models available in the Philippines is now poised to become the next vehicle sensation as it gets even more appealing via the introduction of a new variant.

Isuzu Philippines Corporation (IPC) has unveiled the new 2017 Isuzu D-MAX X-Series, which with its host of substantial equipment upgrades evolves into the perfect lifestyle vehicle for young and dynamic families. Unveiled on January 27, 2016 at the Bonifacio Global City Amphitheater, the new variant is the latest in the D-MAX's awesome X-Series line.

"There is no denying that the Isuzu D-MAX is an ideal vehicle for leisure activities and is also a highly capable workhorse. With the arrival of the new D-MAX X-Series, the model now addresses the lifestyle mobility requirement of active and urbane families too. So now, no other pickup truck available in the local market can offer



Isuzu Philippines introduces new D-MAX X-Series

the combination of utility, reliability, versatility and high style that the D-MAX X-Series does," said IPC President Hajime Koso.

The new D-MAX X-Series comes with features that raise the vehicle above other pickup trucks in the market. In front, the D-MAX X-Series is characterized by a gunmetallic radiator grille that is brightened up by a bold, red Isuzu badge. Complementing this is a functional front skirt that is also highlighted by red striping.

The aerodynamics package continues over to the rear of the D-MAX, where the special X-Series side skirt, mounted toward the bottom edge of the truck's bed, and cargo spoiler fitted on top of the bed, create a sleek, modern style that also contribute to vehicle performance. Further enhancing the D-MAX X-Series' aesthetics and efficiency are the newly designed, two-tone 18-inch alloy wheels, which also add to the sporty character of the vehicle.

Inside the D-MAX X-Series are even more sophisticated features. Matching the red accents on the exterior are the red stitching on the black leather material covering the seats, as well as the special X-Series badges displayed on the front seats. Boosting the masculine flavor of the interior are the piano black trim on various surfaces.

As it is available exclusively for the D-MAX 3.0L 4x2 model, the D-MAX X-Series is powered by Isuzu's 4JJ1-TC (HI) diesel

engine that's equipped with a Variable Geometry System (VGS) turbocharger and intercooler. This inline-four, 3.0-liter, Common Rail Direct Injection diesel engine produces maximum power of 163 PS @ 3,200 rpm and 380 Nm of torque @ 1,800 – 2,200 rpm. Guaranteeing power and fuel-efficiency for the engine is either a 5-speed automatic transmission with sequential shift, or a 5-speed manual transmission.

The D-MAX 3.0 LS 4x2 M/T during the Fuel Economy Run held by the Department of Energy in May 2016 emerged as the most fuel-efficient vehicle in the country, registering a fuel consumption rating of 38.46 kilometers per liter. The result topped by a considerable margin the 70 vehicle models entered into the testing by 21 automotive companies operating in the Philippines.

"Isuzu Philippines sold 3,966 D-MAX units in 2016, with deliveries rising 27.3 percent when compared to the model's sales result in 2015. This growth, which is in lockstep with the pace of commercial vehicle demand in the country, was fueled largely by the continuous upgrades that the D-MAX has received. The introduction of the new X-Series line is meant to sustain the

D-MAX's upward trajectory," Koso said.

For the 2017 edition of the X-Series, Isuzu partnered with a leading sports performance brand, Under Armour, to treat its buyers extra special. Every purchase of the D-MAX X-Series comes with a selection of Under Armour products that surely fits their active lifestyle. Customers can choose from a collection of sports polo, streaker or cool switch shirts; Golf towel, sports cap, sack pack and duffle bag.

"Aside from its already sporty looks, Isuzu collaborated with Under Armour to create a special X-Series collection sports apparel and items which are ideal for those buying this limited edition D-MAX variant. We picked this brand because it embodies the same characteristic of the X-Series which is tough and active" Koso added.

The D-MAX X-Series is available in three exciting colors — Splash White, Venetian Red and Cosmic Black — and is priced between P1.260 million for the D-MAX X-Series MT and 1.330 million for the D-MAX X-Series AT. Making the deals even more exciting is that for every purchase of the D-MAX X-Series, assorted gear from renowned global apparel brand Under Armour will be given to members of the family. **QQ**



BMW is the premium mobility provider for the ASEAN 2017 Summit

THE Philippines is hosting the 30th and 31st ASEAN Summits and related meetings in 2017.

Asian Carmakers Corporation (ACC) was recently awarded by the Philippine Government as the official premium mobility partner of the 2017 Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) Summit 2017. As courtesy to the visiting dignitaries, ACC, the official importer and distributor of BMW in the Philippines will provide over 300 specially commissioned BMW 7 Series, BMW X5, and BMW 5 Series vehicles for ministers and leaders from the ten ASEAN member-nation and dialogue throughout the year-long summit.

Executive Secretary Salvador Campo Medialdea together with ACC President Maricar Parco signed the contract to formalize the ACC's designation as the premium vehicle provider at the Kalayaan Hall of Malacañan Palace. ASEAN 2017 National Organizing Council (NOC) Director General for Operations Marciano Paynor, Jr. and ACC Chairman Emeritus Gov. Jose Ch. Alvarez witnessed the private ceremony.

"We are truly honored to play an integral role in the ASEAN 2017. As the preferred premium vehicle provider for ASEAN Summit 2017, we strengthen our commitment to support government projects that drive economic growth and social progress for the benefit of the local automotive industry, the Filipino people, and the Asia-Pacific Region," said Alvarez.

With this year's theme, "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World", the ASEAN 2017's thematic priorities include people-centered initiatives, peace and stability, maritime security and cooperation, inclusive and innovative-led growth, ASEAN resiliency,



Executive Secretary Salvador "Bingpong" Campo Medialdea and ACC President Maricar Parco shake hands after signing the Memorandum of Agreement, formalizing BMW as the official partner for the 50th ASEAN Summit. ASEAN 2017 National Organizing Council (NOC) Director General for Operations Marciano Paynor Jr. (extreme left) and ACC Charman Emeritus Gov. Jose Ch. Alvarez (extreme right) witnessed the private ceremony at the Kalayaan Hall of Malacañan Palace.

and ASEAN as the model of regionalism . Apart from ministerial meetings throughout the year, leaders of the 10 ASEAN member-states which includes Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei will be joined by ASEAN dialogue partners, namely the US, Japan, South Korea, and China. **AQ**



ACC President Maricar Parco handed a BMW miniature to Executive Secretary Salvador "Bingpong" Campo Medialdea as a sign of commitment to support the government's projects, programs, and activities planned throughout the year-long summit.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines intensifies its Strada lineup with 2017 Strada GLS 2WD

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) took the challenge of spicing up its game in the pick-up segment with the introduction of an additional variant, the Strada GLS 2WD. Known for possessing the power and reliability of a traditional pick-up while having car-like comfort and ease of handling, the new Strada makes exploring outdoors more convenient and enjoyable.

The Strada GLS 2WD is now equipped with the 4N15 MIVEC (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing Electronic Control) Clean Diesel engine and is available either in 6-speed manual or 5-speed automatic transmissions. Last year MMPC introduced the 4N15 MIVEC Clean Diesel equipped Strada GT 4WD variants and was chosen as the Best 4WD pick-up in the Truck of the Year Awards of the Car Awards Group, Inc. Features of the new Strada GLS 2WD variants are as follows:



ENGINE & TRANSMISSION

The new Strada GLS 2WD brings forth a new level of performance as it is equipped now with the 2.4-liter MIVEC Clean Diesel engine. The new MIVEC Clean Diesel maximizes power through its Variable Geometry Turbo at the same reducing fuel consumption and emissions with its variable valve timing and lift system, the only one in its kind in a diesel engine. Power output is rated at 181PS at 3500 rpm and 430 Nm of torque at 2,500 rpm. The new MIVEC Clean Diesel engine keeps the Strada GLS eco-friendly without sacrificing its speed and power which enthusiasts demand in a pick-up.

Complementing the new MIVEC Clean Diesel engine is the new 6-Speed Manual Transmission and 5-Speed INVECS-II Automatic Transmission with Sports Mode. The 6-Speed Manual Transmission lets the driver feel in total control of the vehicle with its wide gear ratio and highly efficient clutch operation. Meanwhile, the 5-Speed Automatic Transmission lets the driver handle the vehicle with ease without sacrificing sportiness with the Sports Mode feature which lets the driver shift up or down with a flick of the lever for sporty, spirited driving.

EXTERIOR

The Strada GLS 2WD variant is given a New Dark Chrome Grille and a New Design Side Step Plate, giving it a classier look while still upholding its sportiness. The variant is also equipped with Power Side Mirrors in chrome with

integrated LED turn signals and power fold function. It also shows off a Foglamp-Integrated Daytime Running Lights and Rear Foglamps. To complete the whole package of sportiness, 17-inch Alloy Wheels are equipped to the new Strada variant.

INTERIOR

Complementing the sporty exterior of the Strada GLS 2WD variant, the Black High Grade Fabric Seats give the Strada a high-class look on the inside. The new seats, combined with the class-leading legroom of 1,745mm, make travelling cozy for all occupants with its enhanced leg support, greater side support, stable body-hugging fit and deeper center trim. Also contributing to the roominess of the Strada is the J-Line design. With the J-Line design, the seating position of the second row seats is improved, making the Strada the top in its class when it comes to riding comfort. This variant also sports a 4-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel mounted with audio and cruise controls. Magnesium alloy paddle shifters are also equipped to the steering wheel (for GLS A/T variant only).

SAFETY FEATURES

Aside from the undoubtedly powerful engine and sporty appearance, the Strada GLS 2WD also boasts first-class safety features as it is equipped with Anti-Locking Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) and Mitsubishi Motors' proprietary RISE (Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution) Body Construction. The RISE body structure's crumple zone ensures the safety of all passengers by effectively absorbing collision force and dispensing crash energy from all directions, thus completely protecting the interior cabin from the impact.

PRICING AND WARRANTY

Maintaining the outstanding value for money proposition, the new Strada GLS 2WD is available at all Mitsubishi Motors authorized dealership at a Net price of P1,215,000 for M/T and P1,295,000 for A/T. **qq**



Mercedes-Benz V-Class: As Large as Life

V may be the last letter in order in the expanding Mercedes-Benz alphabet but it surely is not the least in terms of passenger preference.

In fact, it is the biggest one with the three-pointed star emblem as it could carry up to eight passengers and more items at the same time.

The multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) showcases a unique concept, combining the functionality of a van with the outstanding features of a Mercedes-Benz saloon. This way, the V-Class redefines what the segment is all about. Here are the unique features that make it the Mercedes-Benz that is as large as life.

EXPRESSIVE EXTERIOR

There is an obvious interplay of striking lines and soothing surface areas going on in the frontline. The powerful front end complements unparalleled design, which indicates that this MPV blends functionality and attractiveness in the fascinating Mercedes-Benz style.

The overall aesthetics of the exterior makes the V-Class a truly remarkable and breath-taking eye catcher. This makes it a stylish choice if you want to travel in style whether in a family getaway or a business trip.

SPACIOUS INTERIOR

With its size comes ample space inside, providing more room not just for a greater number of passengers but also for whatever you would need to take with you and your group in a trip. No less than high-end materials facilitate overall interior comfort.

There are cozy single seats in the rear. Additionally, there are three-seater bench seats as options in the rear of the first and second seats to convert the vehicle into an eight-seater MPV. Those seats can even be folded down if there is a need for more load space.

IMPRESSIVE AGILITY

The spacious interior is paired with outstanding agility as V-Class maximizes comfort and driving dynamics. It is simply powerful as it is agile—a simple formula resulting to ideal torque on the road.

Set the speed and let its engine do the rest. The MPV impresses with its 7G-TRONIC Plus and three high-torque 4-cylinder diesel engines for superior handling, efficient fuel consumption, and extraordinary riding comfort. Perfect balance is further facilitated by its AGILITY CONTROL suspension with selective damping system.

SETTING A STANDARD IN SAFETY

As a trendsetter of its segment, the V-Class is equipped with a number of assistance and safety systems that can provide support in all driving situations. This is of course in line with Mercedes-Benz's tradition in leading the way to overall safety. 



HARI FOUNDATION, INC. AND GAWAD KALINGA: CLOSE TO A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP IN DISRUPTION FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

THE key to a sustainable corporate social investment lies in identifying one's sense of purpose and, from there, grow one's work to benefit both business and society. This was the key message of HARI Foundation, Inc. (HFI) President Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo at the Plenary Session of the 4TH Global Social Business Summit of Gawad Kalinga (GK), held at the Hyundai Center for Green Innovation (HCGI) at the GK Enchanted Farm in Angat, Bulacan. Summit theme was "Social Market: Disruption for Shared Prosperity Now." The HFI president addressed some 700 participants from 20 countries.

Ms. Agudo detailed on how education in climate change founded on the Filipino value of Bayanihan is HFI's current thrust, and how GK had helped HFI flesh out and develop this CSR core through their close to 10 years of solid collaboration. She likewise pointed out that the Summit venue itself, HGCI, which was inaugurated in 2013, stands as a symbol of Hyundai and GK's shared vision to educate the youth and other sectors of Philippine society in environmental stewardship as a key pillar to building sustainable communities.

The Summit showcased the experiences of GK partners from the private sector in developing markets for inclusive growth that



HARI Foundation President Fe Perez-Agudo

would match the government's efforts bid for sustainable peace and prosperity. The Plenary Session had noted business leaders talking not only about the progress of their respective advocacies, but also about nurturing the concept of "disruption for shared prosperity" within their families. **QQ**



The groundbreaking ceremony of the Hyundai Trucks & Buses dealership soon to rise in Calamba Laguna. From left to right: Florencio Morales Jr., Barangay Captain of Bo. Real, Calamba Laguna; Ladislao Avila Jr., EVP & CFO, Finance & Trade Support Services Cluster, HARI; Numeriano Cortez Jr., SVP, Trade Operations & Development Cluster, HARI; Richard Lee, Chairman Emeritus, HARI; Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, President and CEO, HARI; Cesar Areza, Chairman and President, Hyundai Trucks and Buses Calamba; Lolita Areza, Vice President, Hyundai Trucks and Buses Calamba; Junho HA, Manager, CV Asia & Pacific Regional Headquarters, Hyundai Motor Company; Jimmy Fernando Trazo, VP, Commercial Trade Division, HARI; and Carlos Soriano, General Manager, Hyundai Trucks and Buses Calamba.

HYUNDAI BREAKS GROUND ITS NEW COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DEALERSHIP IN LAGUNA

HYUNDAI Asia Resources Inc. (HARI), the Philippines' official distributor of Hyundai vehicles, in partnership with the Areza Group, recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Hyundai Trucks & Buses dealership. Hyundai Trucks & Buses Calamba is expected to be open for business by June 2017.

The addition of commercial vehicles to HARI's product line-up completes HARI's offering to the market, as well as making them the leading provider of world-class and cost-effective customer mobility and payload solutions.

HARI's partnership with the Areza Group continues to stand the test of time.

In 2001, HARI was appointed as the official distributor of passenger cars in the Philippines by Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) of South Korea. Just a year after, the Areza Group became their first Hyundai dealership in South Luzon. Now, the Areza Group has become the pioneer dealers of Hyundai commercial vehicles in the country.

Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, HARI President and CEO said, "Ang Areza Group ang aming napiling katuwang sa pagpapaunlad sa kalakal ng Hyundai Trucks & Buses dito sa Laguna. And with the Areza Group's vast network of businesses deeply rooted here, I know that Hyundai is in very good hands."

Besides serving as the hearth of the

Areza Group's businesses, Calamba is known as the richest city in the CALABARZON region. The city has successfully become the stomping ground of large logistic companies, agri-based industries, electronic companies, BPO firms, food processing plants, and major real estate. Laguna being the home of the Hyundai Logistic Center and the Hyundai Assembly Center adds icing on the cake.

"Together, we are stepping up to be the lifetime partner of Filipino businessmen as we open new venues for driving the ascent of the Philippine economy. "Gusto ko, kaya ko, sama-sama tayo sa pag-asenso," Perez-Agudo said in closing. **QQ**

FOTON CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND 2017 DEALER APPRECIATION IN ONE NIGHT



APART from the car and truck brand's 10th year anniversary in the country, FOTON Philippines also celebrated its 2017 Dealer Appreciation Night held last January 31, 2017 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

With the theme "Creating Connections, Expanding Potentials", the event served as the company's expression of gratitude and recognition of achievements of its dealers who all shared relevant contributions which led to FOTON's apparent development in its position in the automotive industry.

"It has always been rewarding and fruitful years for FOTON Philippines. All our achievements could not have been carried through successfully without our combined relentless efforts in achieving a common goal," exclaimed FOTON Philippines President Rommel Sytin.

Sytin reminisced and shared how challenging the business' first few years were. "I recall selling about less than 100 units in one year. Those made me think if I really made the right decision."

"But I had to persist. I remained to be optimistic. And so, just like the earlier 9 years, we forged ahead and kept on conquering it all," proudly exclaims Sytin.

In line with its FOTON's apparent success through the years, Sytin took advantage of the special gathering to extend his gratitude to FOTON's supportive financial institutions. "We further strengthen our partnerships with our customers and dealers through the collaborations with our bank partners. We started with baby steps,



but I can confidently say that now, we are able to offer financing schemes in keeping with the big leagues in the industry."

In the ceremony, special awards were presented to qualified participants who attained target sales and provided commendable customer satisfaction through their offered services. Out of 23 dealerships, the night's most prestigious honor – the Overall Champion - Dealer of the Year Award, was bagged by FOTON Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija.

From its outstanding performance in 2016, FOTON Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija has guaranteed commendable service to their clients which also made them clinch more major trophies such as Sales Team of the Year and Dealer of the Year for NCR/Luzon. On the other hand, FOTON Cagayan De Oro was awarded Dealer of the Year for Visayas and Mindanao. Clinching the Rookie of the Year award was FOTON Quezon Avenue.

FOTON, now a member of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI), also announced the beefing up of its Gratour line up with the addition of multi-purpose vehicles and mini trucks to its 7-seater minivan offers. Sytin also added, "We have managed to retain the top 2 spot for Light Duty Trucks surpassing other brands because of its durability,

reliability and affordability translating to brand confidence. While for Light Duty Trucks, taking off as a Euro 2, conventional type engine is now shifting to OBD Electronic Controlled ECU's with Common Rail Direct Injection, Euro 4 compliant."

The company's expansion becomes more evident as FOTON is expected to open new dealerships in Cordon, Isabela; Puerto Princesa, Palawan and La Union.

"Expect that my team and I will strengthen all partnerships we have now to connect our aspirations and maximize each and every potential there is." closes Sytin. **QQ**



McLaren-Honda unveils the New MCL32



MCLAREN-Honda unveiled its new machine, the McLaren-Honda MCL32, prior to its winter testing at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, for the upcoming 2017 FIA* Formula One (F1TM) World Championship. The Honda RA617H, 1.6-litre V6 turbo engine with ERS, has been decreased the weight and lowered the centre of gravity to improve the balance of the car, while generating more output out of the ICE (internal combustion engine). And the power unit will be fitted into the MCL32 for the 2017 season.

The MCL32 follows in the evolutionary footsteps of its two immediate predecessors, MP4-30 and MP4-31, but has been overhauled in every area as the design team has looked to capitalize on a series of new aerodynamic regulations introduced for 2017.

For more information about the McLaren-Honda MCL32 unveil visit <http://www.mclaren.com/formula1/> **aq**

Honda partners with Jollibee in "Scratch 2 Win a Honda BR-V" campaign

HONDA Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI), Honda's automobile business unit, shares the joy of winning an All-New BR-V seven-seater SUV to Jollibee Drive-Thru customers with "Scratch 2 Win a Honda BR-V" campaign, which will run from February 1, 2017 to April 30, 2017.

With the All-New BR-V's positive reception in the Philippine market, HCPI gives Jollibee Drive-Thru customers a chance to bring home the country's newest affordable seven-seater SUV through this exclusive partnership. This partnership serves as a channel for Honda and Jollibee to embody their same vision of providing joy to Filipino families across the country by giving away the perfect vehicle for families always on the go.

To join the "Scratch 2 Win a Honda BR-V" campaign, all Jollibee Drive-Thru customers with a single receipt purchase worth Php 200 will be qualified to receive one scratch card. Only one scratch card will be provided for every transaction.

One winner will bring home the grand prize, which is the top-of-the-line All-New BR-V 1.5 V Navi CVT variant, while four winners will bring home the All-New BR-V 1.5 S CVT variant. Aside from these, customers will get a chance to win some of their Jollibee favorites. **aq**



Petron launches 'HTP' line for high performance



PETRON unveiled its newest line of vehicle lubricants and fluids, the High Temperature Protection (HTP) series recently.

The current HTP line-up of products is comprised of the Automatic Transmission Fluid (ATF) Premium HTP, the Brake Fluid HTP DOT 4, and the Grease HTP Lithium Complex and scientifically formulated to deal with stressful conditions associated with operating under extreme heat.

The ATF Premium HTP is used for automatic transmissions which acts as a coolant, and cleans and protects metal surfaces. The synthetic lubricant has a higher viscosity index, which virtually has the same thickness even in higher temperatures.

It also has better oxidative and thermal stability, helping it resist sludge formation and alterations even under extreme heat and oxidation in use.

The Brake Fluid HTP is rated DOT 4 (DOT stands for the US Department of Transportation) which means it has a higher dry boiling point of 230 degrees Celsius as opposed to the 205-degree limit of brake fluids that are one DOT rating lower.

While the Lithium Grease Complex is used to lubricate ball bearings, hinges and latches, preventing any excessive friction and protects the parts from rust and corrosion. The Lithium Grease has a 260 degrees Celsius dropping point which is higher than the 190-degree level of previous versions. **aq**



Volvo Cars' 90 series cars receive safety, powertrain and connectivity updates including Android Auto

VOLOV Cars, the premium carmaker, has announced several important updates to its 90 series cars, delivering new safety, powertrain and connectivity updates.

The Swedish carmaker's smartphone integration offer, which already includes Apple CarPlay, will now come with Android Auto functionality in Volvo's large driver interface.

"Volvo Cars is the only car maker with a split screen interface that allows you to use both your smartphone functionality and your in-car features without changing views. This is primarily a safety-related feature, designed to make our interface the easiest to use on the market. In the same way our Over-The-Air update capability means that you will always have the latest map updates at hand," said Dr Peter Mertens, Senior Vice President Research & Development at Volvo Car Group.

Delivering seamless smartphone integration that covers mainstream smartphone operating systems, Volvo's 90 series cars will also now feature a clever Over-The-Air navigation update system, which ensures that the car always has the latest maps on-board.

SAFETY

Volvo Cars has also applied its safety thinking to the connected car, delivering two new connected safety systems that will make their debut in the XC90, S90 and V90 - Slippery Road Alert and Hazard Light Alert which use the cloud to share safety-critical data between cars.

"Today's Volvos contain many safety sensors. We believe that sharing safety-related information – whether around conditions or hazards on the road ahead is a thoughtful and useful way to use the information the car is already gathering," added Dr Peter Mertens. "With Connected



Safety, Volvo Cars is helping to define a completely new type of road safety system."

Volvo Cars' Scalable Product Architecture, on which the 90 series and coming 60 series will be built, means that new safety systems can be added across the range of cars built on the platform with little or no delay.

Slippery Road Alert increases the driver's awareness of both current road conditions and those on the road ahead, by anonymously collecting road surface information from cars further ahead on the road and warning drivers approaching a slippery road section in advance.

Hazard Light Alert forewarns drivers of vehicles that have activated their hazard warning lights on the road ahead, providing

the driver with enough time to slow down. This is particularly useful on blind corners and over the crest of hills in the road. These two new connected safety systems will go live in Sweden and Norway initially with a planned roll-out to other markets.

POWERTRAIN UPDATES

In addition to delivering updated connectivity and safety, Volvo Cars has also added several new Drive-E powertrain variants, delivering an attractive balance of fuel economy and drivability. The D3 4-cylinder diesel engine coupled to a new manual 6-speed transmission will deliver fuel economy of 4.3 l/100 km in the S90 with emissions down to 114 g/km CO₂. A new automatic 6-speed transmission coupled to the D3 will deliver 114 g/km CO₂ and 4.3 l/100 km. The D3 will also now be available with All-Wheel Drive in selected markets.

DESIGN

This 90 Series model update sees in the introduction of a new exterior color, Maple Brown on the S90 and V90. The updated models will go into production in mid-November.

The new Volvo S90 has just been officially launched in the Philippines. **AQ**



LUXURY British brand Aston Martin has officially unveiled the all-new DB11 in Manila.

The first product launched under the company's 'Second Century' plan, DB11 is the bold new figurehead of the illustrious 'DB' bloodline and an authentic, dynamic sporting GT in the finest Aston Martin tradition. With the vehicle unveiled for the



“The launch of the DB11 rightfully places Aston Martin as a leading brand in the ultra-high luxury segment in the Philippines”

Aston Martin DB11 makes official debut in Manila



first time in the Philippines recently, the DB11 has already garnered much attention in the market.

On its Manila debut, Patrik Nilsson, President of Aston Martin in Asia Pacific, said: "We are excited to unveil DB11 in the Philippines. As the first all-new 'DB' model since the introduction of the DB9, we are already experiencing significant demand for DB11, demonstrating the strong affinity for Aston Martin in this market."

The DB11 showcases a fresh and distinctive design language, pioneering aerodynamics and is powered by a potent new in-house designed 5.2-liter twin-turbocharged V12 engine. Built upon a new lighter, stronger, and more space efficient bonded aluminium structure, DB11 is the most powerful, most efficient and most dynamically gifted DB model

in Aston Martin's history. As such, it is the most significant new Aston Martin since the introduction of the DB9 in 2003.

Heralding a new design era for Aston Martin, DB11 is the latest landmark in a remarkable aesthetic journey; one that gave us icons such as the DB2/4, DB5 and, most recently, the DB10 developed specifically for James Bond. DB11 re-imagines the relationship between form and function with a series of fresh design signatures.

Innovative aerodynamics play their part in this aesthetic revolution with clever management of airflow both over and through the bodywork aiding stability while preserving the DB11's uncluttered surfaces.

Like every Aston Martin, the heart of the DB11 is found beneath the bonnet, though unlike any Aston Martin before it, the DB11's heart is a 5.2-litre twin-turbocharged V12.

Designed in-house this new engine develops 608PS and 700Nm of torque, making DB11 the most powerful production DB model ever. Naturally, it's the most dynamic and most accelerative too, with a top speed of 322km/h and a 0-100km/h time of just 3.9sec.

Speaking at the launch event, Aston Martin Manila's President and Chairman, Mr. Marc Tagle said: "Two years ago we brought the brand to the Philippines, and since then these beautiful, luxurious British sports cars have graced our roads as unmistakable and peerless icons. And today, the Aston Martin that everyone's been waiting for has arrived. The launch of the DB11 rightfully places Aston Martin as a leading brand in the ultra-high luxury segment in the Philippines, and we are delighted with the strong order bank we have on this model." **AQ**

Tokyo Metro Exhibits for the First Time at the Travel Tour Expo 2017

In 2016, the number of visitors from the Philippines exceeded 300,000 for the first time, reaching a record of 347,800 (an increase of 29.6% compared to the previous year), indicating an active market for travel to Japan.

Tokyo Metro held its first display at the TTE with the aim of increasing awareness among as many people in the Philippines as possible that Tokyo has a subway called the Tokyo Metro in Tokyo, a city with many attractive tourist spots.

There are many fascinating Tokyo Metro stations including Ginza, Omotesando, Asakusa, Shibuya, Shinjuku and Ikebukuro. The objective is to convey the fact that reasonably-priced, comfortable and safe travel throughout Tokyo is possible by using (1) the Tokyo Subway Ticket, an unlimited ride ticket, to visit its many interesting stations, (2) the free Wi-fi available at all stations, (3) "Welcome Board" from which convenient subway-related information can be acquired at major stations, and (4) the ticket information offices at which any questions can be asked.

The main services that Tokyo Metro offers to visitors to Japan are as follows.

1. TOKYO SUBWAY TICKET

The Tokyo Subway Ticket allows for unlimited travel on all 13 lines of the Tokyo Metro and Metropolitan Subway.

It comes in three types: valid for 24 hours (800 yen), for 48 hours (1,200 yen) and for 72 hours (1,500 yen). These tickets can be purchased at locations including Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Tokyo Metro ticket information offices and some Big Camera stores.

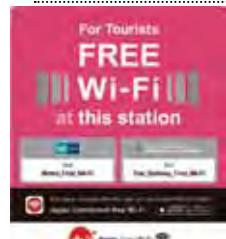
Travel that would normally cost 1,190 yen is 390 yen cheaper with a 24-hour ticket!



2. FREE WI-FI

Free Wi-fi can be used at all stations on the Tokyo Metro.

Tokyo Metro stations are convenient for looking things up during travel or uploading memorable photographs to social media. Preparations are also underway to make it possible to use free Wi-fi within subway cars.



3. WELCOME BOARD

Welcome Boards have been installed at 14 stations that are used by a large number of foreign guests. These boards show information



related to subway tickets, route guides for major tourist spots and route maps containing tourist spots. You can see how to get to your destination station as well as how much it will cost and how long it will take in a glance.

Stations with Welcome Boards: Ueno, Shinjuku, Asakusa, Tokyo, Ikebukuro, Shimbashi, Akihabara, Ginza, Roppongi, Omotesando, Shibuya, Meiji-jingumae (HARAJUKU), Shinjuku-sanchome, Oshiage (SKYTREE)

4. TICKET INFORMATION OFFICES

Ticket information offices have been installed at Ueno, Ginza, Shinjuku, Omotesando and Shibuya stations. At these offices, you can ask any questions that you have; for example, how to use the Tokyo Metro and areas around the station.

You can feel free to ask questions as there are always staff present who can speak English.

SsangYong Philippines now with FREE 3-year PMS and 5-year warranty

DRIVE different with SsangYong's new deal! SsangYong Berjaya Motor Philippines, the exclusive distributor of Korean-made SsangYong vehicles in the country, announces an all new program to keep all locally sold SsangYong vehicles in tip-top condition.

Drive worry-free as you drive different with FREE parts and labor for periodic maintenance service for up to three years or 60,000km (whichever comes first). Every brand new SsangYong vehicle also now comes with a five-year vehicle warranty as standard.

The value-added package applies to ALL SsangYong vehicles sold from November 2016 onwards. SsangYong owners may visit their respective dealerships and have their vehicles serviced, from the first 1,000-km check up to 60,000-kms or within the period of three years, whichever comes first, free of charge. In addition to this offer, SBMP guarantees that older generation SsangYong vehicles sold locally are also being accepted for servicing in their Quezon Avenue and Cebu dealerships.

"Our dealerships are prepared and



equipped to provide parts and accommodate service requests for early and late model SsangYong vehicles," says Dave Macasadia, Managing Director of SsangYong Berjaya Motor Corporation. He adds, "Our aim is not only to provide Filipinos with high quality affordable cars, but we also strive to deliver total customer satisfaction by ensuring top-level service to make owning a SsangYong vehicle a pleasing experience. The implementation of the three-year free PMS and the extension from two-years to five-years warranty is a good start in achieving this goal."



Autostrada opens doors to exclusive Ferrari-Maserati Service Center in Makati

AUTOSTRADA Motore, official importer of Ferrari and Maserati in the Philippines, delivers full service to its clients with the newly renovated service center located at 3904A Quingua Street, Makati City, just few minutes away from the BGC.

"Our work doesn't end when a client buys a car and drives out of the showroom," said Wellington Soong, Chair and President of Autostrada. "We make sure that our clients enjoy every driving experience with different Ferrari and the Maserati model variants. The after sales and service aspects are very important and we are committed to deliver the best in service support to all of our clients."

The Ferrari-Maserati Service Center has been renovated according to Ferrari and Maserati's latest guidelines on equipment, workmanship, and services. The facility boasts of four lifters, two service pits, five open work bays, two clean rooms for the assembly, official diagnostics equipment issued by Ferrari and Maserati, and factory-trained and certified technicians.

Within the 1,000 sqm facility is a special lounge area for clients where they can wait while servicing of their cars is being done, office spaces for staff to be able to respond to any inquiry and concerns on-site, as well as training and conference rooms to conduct the web seminars.

Autostrada technicians are trained at various training centers around the world to provide best in technical experience. With the most exclusive and advanced technology authorized by Ferrari and Maserati, all the work performed at the facility use genuine parts and dedicated diagnostics so that the vehicles are repaired and maintained to the highest level for maximum performance, reliability and safety.

Ferrari offers a 7-year maintenance service for every vehicle sold since 2010, which is the most extensive program in the industry as well as the factory Power warranty extension for up to 12 years.

Maserati vehicles come with 3-year service maintenance program, and three-year commercial warranty, which has the possibility to be extended for up to five years. **AQ**



Chevron caps off 2016 with a bang, foresees more growth in 2017

CHEVRON Philippines Inc., marketer of the Caltex brand of fuels and lubricants, looks forward to more milestones in 2017 after wrapping up a fruitful 2016 marked by retail expansion, new and strengthened partnerships, and more customer value rewards propositions.

Chevron opened 31 new Caltex sites in 2016 to improve motorists' access to clean and quality Euro4-compliant fuels and lubricants. These include sites in Negros Occidental and Bacolod; Davao Region; Cavite; and Manila. All in all, Chevron has close to 700 retail sites across the country, and it continues to expand its nationwide presence.

Chevron also strengthened and formed new partnerships last year as part of its commitment to keep up with motorists' changing lifestyle needs. Caltex opened its 80th 7-Eleven convenience store in its San Mateo, Rizal retail site in May. It also forged a new partnership with Landers Superstore, the newest membership superstore chain offering high-quality, imported and local products, including grocery items, electronics, apparel, health and beauty products, and home items. As part of this partnership, Landers Superstore card holders can avail of exclusive discounts and privileges at the new Caltex site inside Landers Superstore compound in Paco, Manila. Shoppers can expect similar perks in more Caltex stations as Chevron expands its partnership network.

"Our aggressive retail service station expansion, strengthened partnership network, and loyalty promotions were fueled by our resolve to enhance our relationship with Filipino motorists. We will continue to look for more opportunities to address motorists' needs while adding value to our products and services this 2017," said CPI Country Chairman Peter Morris.

Chevron has rewarded loyal patrons through tie-ups with partners such as Robinsons Rewards Card (RRC), HSBC Credit Card and the Jollibee group of restaurants. RRC and Jollibee Happy Plus cardholders earned double points after gassing up at participating Caltex stations during the Holy Week. Motorists who gassed up at participating stations during the Undas season were also able to avail of promotions such as the Liter Lottery Promo, which entitled winning motorists to get a full tank for free when the liter meter matched their vehicle's license plate number. Caltex, together with RRC, gave away a brand new Lexus NX 200t and a year's worth of fuel to one lucky customer during the Christmas season. One lucky motorist was also able to erase up to P1 million HSBC Credit Card balance last Christmas.

2017 is sure to be filled with new and exciting promotions that should give dedicated Chevron customers reasons to look forward to gassing up in Caltex and further enjoy their journeys. **AQ**

AAP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION				
<input type="checkbox"/> MR. <input type="checkbox"/> MS. <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. <input type="checkbox"/> CONDUCTION STICKER NO.
1 st				<input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL
2 nd				<input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL
NOTE: Private, light and non-commercial vehicles only				
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES				
<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> MOTORSPORTS		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL			
<input type="checkbox"/> PDP	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE GROUP	NO. OF CARS _____	Please checkmark if you are applying for PDP and/or GVP	
PAYMENT MODE				
Paid PhP _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card		
<input type="checkbox"/> BPI's check free payments Visit www.bplexpressonline.com or call 89-100				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pay through Banco de Oro (institution code J0136) 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"/> TERS <input type="checkbox"/> RDL <input type="checkbox"/> PUP <input type="checkbox"/> SALES		
BRANCH: _____	COTIERS _____	
AAP I.D. NO. _____	AMOUNT PAID _____	O.R. 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
- 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

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

MAIN OFFICE

AAP Tower, 683 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City 1111
Tel: (632) 705 3333
Email: info@aap.org.ph
Website: 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
BLAZE 100 OCTANE
EURO 5

**THE COUNTRY'S ONLY 100 OCTANE GASOLINE.
500% CLEANER THAN EURO 4.
A FIRST FROM PETRON.**

Specially formulated with TriAction Advantage
to give you Better Power,
Better Mileage, and Better Engine Protection
vs. Standard Fuels.

UNLEASH THE BLAZE WITHIN.



COMMUTE + COMFORT

MEET THE SUPER 15-SEATER.

The Hyundai Grand Starex Super Express is engineered to provide convenience to drivers and passengers. Enjoy the cabin versatility, comfortable 15-seating capacity, and double sliding doors for easy entry and exit.



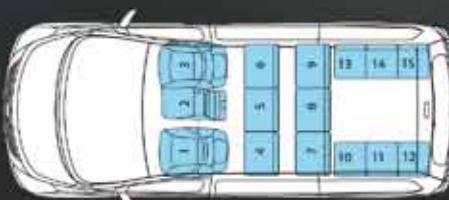
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