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**Gus Lagman**  
AAP PRESIDENT

# High marks for the DPWH!

I had a very informative conversation with Secretary Rogelio "Babes" Singson of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), after his department and AAP were awarded a trophy each by iRAP (International Road Assessment Program) during the conference held at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on April 29, 2015. This second iRAP award granted to the DPWH and AAP was in recognition of the continuing efforts by the two organizations in making Philippine roads safer.

The following are some of the things I learned about the recent accomplishments of the DPWH, in addition of course to the usual construction of new roads and bridges and the maintenance of old ones:

1. The department assessed a second 3,000 kilometers of Philippine roads and is also now upgrading them to make them safer for motorists.
2. Where it could, the DPWH has been constructing loading/unloading bays along our highways so buses do not block traffic along the carriageways when they load/unload passengers.
3. It re-blocked some parts of EDSA, but only applied asphalt cover on the car lanes, leaving the bus/truck lanes concrete, thus avoiding the eventual wavy surface caused by heavy vehicles on asphalted roads.
4. For the same reason, it also made the approaches to fly-overs concrete, with no asphalt cover. Vehicles usually accelerate as they approach bridges and fly-overs and again this can cause wavy surfaces on asphalted roads.
5. Notable among the bridges it repaired is the Ayala Bridge, which, for all intents and purposes, was like constructing a new bridge. It is not only wider than the old one, it is also higher by 0.7 of a meter, thus allowing all the barges that pass regularly along the Pasig River to go unhampered.

**“ This second iRAP award granted to the DPWH and AAP was in recognition of the continuing efforts by the two organizations in making Philippine roads safer ”**

Talking about repairs and maintenance of roads and bridges, I remember that early during his stint at the DPWH, I asked him how he can solve the under-delivery of construction projects of the department. It is common knowledge that, in the past, aside from over-pricing, contractors also use inferior materials and do not follow the specifications to the letter, and so, not long after their "completion", the government ends up spending a lot of money in repairing them.

His answer was so simple that I don't know why his predecessors didn't think of it before. He said that today, when they bid out construction projects, ten-year maintenance is included in the specifications. Simple. You do a poor job in constructing the road, you spend more in maintaining it. You do a good job, you spend less in the next ten years.

We also talked about Metro-Manila traffic and the rising frequency of road crashes involving motorcycles. On this, Sec. Singson said that he observed a solution that was implemented in Taiwan. In major intersections, four painted square blocks, each with a width occupying approximately two lanes and a length of about two cars, are reserved for motorcycles. Only motorcycles are allowed to stop inside those square blocks; and they are only allowed to stop inside those blocks. Motorcycles can only go straight or turn right from there and are not allowed to turn left. Apparently, many of the fatal road crashes occur while they are making a left turn.

So what does a motorcycle rider have to do if his destination is in the area to the left of the road he is on? It's a two-step maneuver. He must go straight first for about 60% of the way and until he gets to the motorcycle block on his right. Then he must go inside that block, turn the motorcycle so it faces his destination, and stay there until the light changes to green, so that he can then cross the road along which he was originally on.

This traffic procedure for motorcycles has apparently saved many lives!

Sec. Singson has recommended that it be tried in Metro-Manila but the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has yet to react to it. If it will make our traffic more orderly and it will save lives, we definitely should try it out. How about it, Chairman Tolentino? **aq**

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Aida Sevilla Mendoza  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# Automakers, Tech Giants and Self-Driving Cars

**A**T the Geneva International Motor Show last March, automakers expressed concern about Silicon Valley's self-driving car project. The car industry leaders were referring to Google's plan to test its own prototype version of self-driving cars on the streets of Mountain View, California, the research giant's hometown.

At a meeting with reporters in Geneva, the chief executives of Daimler (Mercedes-Benz) and BMW pointed out the huge differences between making a smartphone and a car.

Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche pointed out that cars take seven or more years to develop compared with 18 months or so for a new smartphone.

He added that a vast amount of engineering expertise is required to design a car that is safe as well as pleasant to drive and that a tightly coordinated network of suppliers is needed to manufacture cars.

The auto industry's worries about Silicon Valley's preemptive moves stemmed from tech giants Apple and Google's recent bringing to market new dashboard systems that will let a smartphone power and operate a car's center touchscreen for connectivity, navigation and infotainment purposes.

About a dozen carmakers signed up for Apple's CarPlay and Google's Android Auto, thereby allowing the tech giants to shove aside the auto manufacturers' own proprietary systems. Some auto industry leaders are worried that someday, the tech giants or other upstarts could try to build entire vehicles.

As BMW CEO Norbert Reithofer said in Geneva, "Apple is a very strong brand," but "we know how cars are built."

Google has long been testing its self-driving car technology with a fleet of Lexus sport utility vehicles that have driven about a million miles on public roads and continue to log 10,000 miles each week.

Google's own prototype, which looks like a golf cart with doors, is designed to be a fully autonomous car in which people enter, set their destination and relax as the car drives itself.

Traditional automakers are scrambling to advance driverless technology as hands-free driving is predicted to be only months away rather than years.

Limited forms of hands-free driving, or semiautonomous driving, have already arrived. Mercedes-Benz and Infiniti offer "lane keeping" features that allow drivers to take their hands off the wheel for periods of time on straight stretches of road.

Ford offers cars that can pull into parking spaces automatically. The new Chevrolet Malibu has a combination of adaptive cruise control and automatic braking that allows occupants to travel long distances without having to worry about hitting the gas pedal or the brake.

Last March, Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, the maker of high-end electric cars, announced that a software update would give Tesla's Model S sedans the ability to drive themselves, at least part of the time, in a hands-free mode called Autopilot.

This June in the United States, Volvo will launch its newest XC90 whose "pilot assist system," intended for traffic jams, allows the SUV to take over both the steering and the throttle to follow the car in front of it at speeds up to about 35 miles per hour.

In January, Audi's new Q7 SUV will be able to operate itself at up to 40 mph, although drivers will need to touch the wheel every 10 seconds to maintain autonomous driving. General Motors' Cadillac CT7 sedan in 2017 will offer a Super Cruise feature that allows hands-off-the-wheel, feet-off-the-pedals highway driving.

Lane keeping, adaptive cruise control, automatic braking, blind-spot detection, drowsy driver alert system, active park assist, ultrasonic sensors – these and other new technologies are being adapted with sophisticated systems of radar, lasers and cameras to create a vehicle that can drive itself down a highway.

Even if electric cars account so far for only a tiny share of the auto market, it is clear that technologies used to propel cars are in flux. Software is playing an increasing role in helping drivers navigate and avoid accidents.

The risk for automakers is that these technologies will provide opportunities for new competitors to grab a share of the market. The industry does not want to follow the footsteps of personal computer makers, which have been relegated to becoming mere platforms on which software developers run their wares. **aq**

(With reports from *The International New York Times*)

**“ Hands-free driving is predicted to be only months away rather than years ”**

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THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) held its 84th Annual General Membership Meeting (GMM) on April 30, 2015 at the Bahay ng Alumni conference hall of the University of the Philippines, Diliman.



LTO Executive Director Giovanni Gonzalez (center) is welcomed by AAP president Gus Lagman and AAP vice president Johnny Angeles at the 84th AAP General Membership Meeting where he was the guest of honor and guest speaker.

## AAP Focuses on “Working Closely with Government for Safer Mobility” at 84th General Membership Meeting



This year's GMM focused on the theme "Working Closely with Government for Safer Mobility" and was attended by hundreds of AAP members as well as AAP board members, managers and staff.

In his speech as the guest of honor, Giovanni Gonzales, the newly appointed executive director of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), expressed optimism that the LTO and AAP could coordinate more closely to promote safer mobility for all road users.

Gonzales also addressed current issues such as the LTO's "No Registration, No Travel" policy. Responding to protests about the policy, he said that the LTO is only implementing a regulation in Republic Act No. 4146, also known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

The LTO executive director said he would investigate complaints from the public about the delayed release of license plates and driver's license cards. He revealed that the LTO is drafting policy changes in the issuance of drivers' licenses.

Gonzales cited some of the road safety projects done by AAP together with government agencies such as the training of public utility vehicle drivers at the University of the Philippines-National Center for Transportation Studies (UP-NCTS), the participation of AAP in the Department of Trade and Industry's Committee on Harmonization of Vehicle Standards and Regulations and AAP's joining the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) preparing the implementing rules and regulations of RA 10586 a.k.a. the Anti-Drunk and Drugged

Driving Act of 2013 and RA 10642, a.k.a. the Philippine Lemon Law.

To cap his speech, Gonzales promised closer coordination between the government and AAP, especially between the LTO, an agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications, and AAP to improve road safety.

After the speech of Gonzales, the plenary session was called to order and AAP president Gus Lagman presented the club's annual report. The open forum was followed by the canvassing of ballots and proclamation of board members for the year 2015-2016. All the incumbent directors were reelected except for Alberto Malvar, who had expressed his wish to retire and was replaced by Ricardo Guevara.

Before the raffle draw, AAP granted Lifetime Membership Awards to Eduardo de Tavera, and Carmen Paz Ramos in recognition of their loyalty to the club. The AAP Lifetime Membership Award is given to a member whose biological age plus the number of years of his/her membership equals 100. It entitles the awardee to lifetime AAP membership free from the payment of annual membership dues. Tavera, 95, has been a member of AAP for five years while Ramos, 78, has been an AAP member for 22 years.

AAP thanked the GMM sponsors, namely Motolite Marketing Corporation, Smart Driving Corporation, Allcard Plastics Philippines, Inc., Goodyear Philippines, Inc., Federal Phoenix Insurance, FLT Prime Insurance, Camelion Graphics Enterprises Corp. and Polymer Products (Phil.) Inc. **aq**

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**HONDA**

# AAP-LED PGRSP ASSISTS HOSTING OF 2015 GRSP ASIA-PACIFIC ROAD SAFETY SEMINAR

**T**HE Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership Inc. (PGRSP) headed by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) assisted in the hosting of the 2015 Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) Asia Pacific Road Safety Seminar on April 28-30 at the Asian Development Bank main auditorium in Pasig, Metro Manila.

The theme of the seminar was "Bridging the Road Safety Gap" in consonance with the theme of the Third UN Global Road Safety Week this year. The seminar focused on the serious gaps in road safety in countries across the Asia Pacific region. There was also a "SaveKidsLives" activity to reinforce the importance of child road safety, which was the theme of the Global Road Safety Week last year.

Philippine Red Cross Board Secretary Corazon Alma de Leon, the guest of honor, provided insights on why road crashes occur and how they can be prevented. Citing findings from the World Health Organization, de Leon said that the main causes of road crashes are speeding, drunk driving, lack of safety features in vehicles, visual impairment, lack of driver adequacy and for motorcyclists, non-use of helmets.

The other speakers at the seminar were GRSP Chief Executive Officer Dr. Barry Watson, FIA Foundation Chief Executive Officer Saul Billingsley, Toyota Corporate Citizenship Manager Yukio Otani, Total HSEQ and Sustainable Development Manager Abdul Malik, ADB Principal Transport Specialist Jeffrey Miller, Violence and Injury Prevention Technical Leader John Passmore and iRAP Asia Pacific Regional Director Greg Smith.

The delegates who attended the International Road Assessment Program (iRAO) Asia-Pacific Workshop at the same venue also participated in the GRSP seminar to optimize capacity-building opportunities, develop networks to support information, share evidence-based good practices and knowledge on road safety, and stimulate support for the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

The Asia-Pacific seminar has been supported over the years by GRSP through its Global Road Safety Initiative (GRSI) program, with funding assistance this year provided by the FIA Foundation, iRAP, World Health Organization, the Australian Road Research Board, Royal Dutch Shell, Total and Toyota Motor Corporation.



Asian Development Bank (ADB) Director for Transport and Communications Tyrrell Duncan (3rd from left) prepares to greet Philippine Red Cross Secretary Corazon Alma de Leon after her speech at the Asian-Pacific Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) seminar together with GRSP CEO Barry Watson (2nd from left) and International Road Assessment Program (iRAP) Asia-Pacific Director Greg Smith. All four spoke at the GRSP Road Safety seminar hosted by the AAP-led Philippine GRSP after the iRAP Asia-Pacific Workshop held at the ADB main auditorium on April 28-30, 2015.

## AAP AND PGRSP

In one of the workshops, AAP President Gus Lagman, who chairs the Philippine chapter of the GRSP, said that the mission of PGRSP is to become the Philippines' umbrella organization that formulates, enhances, promotes, implements and sustains road safety practices through public and private sector partnerships. The PGRSP envisions Filipinos making road safety a way of life in order to minimize road fatalities and injuries.

Lagman reported that the PGRSP, in partnership with the private sector, has organized activities promoting road safety, such as the distribution of Protec helmets to public school children as part of the SaveKidsLives campaign and Volkswagen Philippines' interactive exhibit on children and road safety at the Manila International Auto Show last April.

PGRSP Secretary General Alberto Suansing, formerly the chief of the Land Transportation Office, said that the GRSP seminar was fruitful in providing relevant information and strategies to address the challenge of improving road safety and promoting road discipline.

Suansing said that the activity entitled "Applying behavioral change theory to road safety" gave basis for programs that PGRSP can develop in pursuit of its goals. **AQ**



Road safety experts, transport specialist, government officials and multisectoral and international development agency executives from the Asia-Pacific region participated in the 2015 Asia Pacific Road Safety Seminar of the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) held at the ADB main auditorium in Metro Manila last April 28-30. AAP heads the Philippine GRSP, which hosted the regional seminar.

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**Go Further**



The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), represented by its president Gus Lagman (center) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), represented by Secretary Rogelio Singson (at left) received the International Road Assessment Program's (iRAP) Star Performer Award for the second time from iRAP Asia-Pacific Regional Director Greg Smith for making roads safer by implementing iRAP's cost-effective methods and technology. Introduced by AAP to the Philippines, iRAP worked together with the DPWH to assess the safety of some 44,000 kilometers of road with funding from the FIA Foundation, World Bank Global Road Safety Facility and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Singson, who was the guest speaker at the 7th iRAP Asia-Pacific Workshop held at the ADB on April 28-30, reported that the DPWH has begun to improve the safety ratings of iRAP-assessed roads in the country.

## AAP and DPWH Receive iRAP Star Performer awards at Road Safety Workshop

**T**HE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) each received the International Road Assessment Program (iRAP) Star Performer Award for the second time, the first being in 2011.

AAP president Gus Lagman and DPWH Secretary Rogelio Singson accepted the awards during the 7th International Road Assessment Program (iRAP) Asia Pacific Workshop last April 29 at the main auditorium of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Pasig, Metro Manila.

On behalf of AAP and DPWH, respectively, Lagman and Singson thanked iRAP Asia Pacific Regional Director Greg Smith for the awards.

The iRAP workshop, which coincided with the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) Asia Pacific Road Safety Seminar, was attended by government engineers, law enforcement and public health officials, road safety experts, transportation specialists, educators, researchers and representatives of NGOs, multi sectoral and international development agencies.

The iRAP workshop gave participants the opportunity to understand the relationship between road design and risks and develop an appreciation of how iRAP tools can support road safety initiatives both nationally and locally. This year, the iRAP workshop focused on training participants in techniques to produce and interpret road safety Star Ratings, including interactive sessions using the Star Rating Demonstrator

The workshop included case studies from countries that have successfully used iRAP assessments to help them guide policy, drive investments in safety and create safer road designs.

There was an interactive session using video data, the Star Rating Demonstrator that explores the scientific basis for road infrastructure, safety improvements and the

effect that different road designs have on risks for vehicle occupants, motorcyclists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

A short open session was also integrated in the workshop on topics such as: using interactive online Star Rating maps to pinpoint high risk road sections; creating a plan for affordable road improvements; and Star Rating new road designs.

During the interactive Star Rating Session, groups were assigned a section of road and used the Star Rating Demonstrator tool to Star Rate the section of the road, identify five potential safety counter measures and determine what the new Star Rating would be if the counter measures were installed.

A series of presentations on topics such as the ADB's road safety demonstration project in Shaanxi, post-construction Star Ratings in the Philippines, national network assessments in Australia, Star Rating designs in India, the highway enhancement project in China and the Star Rating Bus Rapid Transit corridors in Korea were shown. **aq**



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AAP president Gus Lagman and Philippine Veteran Affairs Office military historian General Resty Aguilar (ret) observe Philippine Army troops marching towards Camp O'Donnell during the Capas Freedom March 2015.



Former President Fidel V. Ramos and AAP Travel Chairperson Mina Gabor ride a WWII vintage Jeep.

# Capas Freedom March Honors the Heroes of Bataan Death March

**O**N April 11, 2015, AAP Travel, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) in partnership with the Department of National Defense–Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (DND-PVAO), Department of Tourism, Philippine Airlines, Philippine Tourism Promotion Board, provincial government of Tarlac, municipality of Capas, Philippine Veterans Bank and Globe Telecom held the Capas Freedom March to commemorate the Bataan Death March.



96-year-old World War II veteran Ignacio Mortel.

With the theme “Remember the Sacrifice,” the Capas Freedom March was organized by AAP Travel primarily to honor the 75,000 fallen and surviving Filipino and American soldiers of World War II who were forced to march 88 kilometers from Mariveles, Bataan to Capas, Tarlac after the surrender of Bataan in April 1942. Along the way, the prisoners of war were beaten, tortured and starved, resulting in the death of thousands.

The 2015 Capas Freedom March retraced the final leg of the Bataan Death March, 10.5-kilometers from the train station of, to Camp O'Donell in, Capas, Tarlac.

Around 2,000 led by former President Fidel V. Ramos, who is a retired Army general, joined the 2015 Capas Freedom March including members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, United States Navy Seals, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, families of war veterans, students and civilians from Metro Manila and Capas, Tarlac.

Noted among the participants were AAP president Gus Lagman, AAP Travel chairperson Mina Gabor, 96-year-old WW II veteran Ignacio Mortel, PVAO Administrator Lt. General Ernesto Carolina

(ret.), PVAO Military Historian General Resty Aguilar (ret), Tarlac Congressman Noel Villanueva, Capas Mayor Antonio Rodriguez Jr., Honorary Consul of Philippines to Texas and Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce president Ethel Mercado, Outstanding Filipino awardee Gus Mercado, Veterans of Foreign Wars representative Ralph Liebhader and John Cutter, author of a book on the Death March titled “The Last Man Standing.”

Registration for the Capas Freedom March opened at 4:30 in the morning, with the Philippine Air Force (PAF) Band performing the National Anthem, followed by an ecumenical prayer and morning exercises led by officers of the PAF Training and Doctrine Command. The march started at 5:00 a.m. at People's Park, Tarlac and ended 8:00 a.m. at Camp O'Donnell.

AAP president Gus Lagman said that the event served to educate the younger generation about the significance of the Bataan Death March. “I had a great feeling relating to some young participants, while walking, the story behind the Death March, especially when they said that it was the first time they'd heard about it. If only for that reason alone—the opportunity of inculcating in the youth a sense of history—the event was already worth it,” he said.

AAP Travel head Mina Gabor, who was Tourism Secretary during the Ramos administration, said that “local and foreign military personnel who have fought in a war, family members and friends of veterans, marched together, united as one in remembering the sacrifice of the Bataan Death March heroes.”

Gabor revealed that part of the proceeds of the Capas Freedom March will go to the construction of a concentration camp replica in Capas and provide scholarships for the children of slain soldiers. **CQ**



Left to right: Philippine Veteran Affairs Office military historian General Restituto Aguilar (ret), Capas, Tarlac Congressman Noel Villanueva, former President Fidel V. Ramos and AAP Travel Chairperson Mina Gabor with four young Capas Freedom March participants (in uniforms.)

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Promo period from May 15 to July 15, 2015

Per DTI-FTEB SPD Permit No. 4204 Series of 2015.



# AAP distributes motorcycle helmets to Parañaque school children

AAP recently distributed Protec crash helmets to children in Parañaque who ride to school on motorcycles as passengers. The event in Parañaque was part of the "#SaveKidsLives" campaign in support of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 of the United Nations, Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Foundation and Asia Injury Prevention Foundation. Shown with some of the recipient students are (from left 3rd row) AAP Advocacies Secretary Cynthia Reyes, 3M Sales Manager Rowan Rellosa, MMDA Officer-In-Charge Antonio Pagulayan, 3M Representative John Vallilan, PGRSP Secretary General Alberto Suansing (green polo), FIA Young Driver Ambassador for the Philippines Milo Rivera, AAP Vice President Johnny Angeles, PGRSP Program Coordinator Marte Perez and Parañaque Development Foundation Inc. Executive Director Letty Basilio.

**O**n May 8, 2015, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), which heads and houses the secretariat of the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP), distributed Protec motorcycle helmets to school children in Parañaque City as part of the #SaveKidsLives initiative of the United Nations Global Road Safety Week. It was the second round of helmet distribution done by AAP this year, the first being in Morong, Rizal in March.

With the cooperation of the Parañaque Development Foundation, Inc. (PDFI), AAP donated Protec crash helmets to around 50 children from the districts of Tambo, Dongalo, La Huerta and San Dionisio to ensure their safety when riding motorcycles as passengers.

AAP vice president and advocacies committee chair Johnny Angeles, PGRSP secretary-general Alberto Suansing, PDFI board member Estrelita Neri, PDFI Executive Director Letty Basilio, and FIA Young Driver Ambassador Milo Rivera attended the event to share their thoughts with the children on staying safe on the road.

"This is not just in compliance with the UN Global Road Safety Week entitled #SaveKidsLives, but for the love of our fellow road users, may they be children or adults," Angeles said.

He stressed that helmets save lives. "One reason for using a helmet—whether a half-shell, three-quarters or a full-face helmet—when riding a motorcycle is that it gives you a better chance

of surviving a road crash," Angeles said. "You are three times more likely to survive a head injury than when you're not wearing a helmet. No parent would like their child to be injured, or worse, die in an accident when riding a motorcycle. We are here to help you keep your children safe."

Rivera, a racecar driver who is the 2014 National Slalom Champion, said that AAP and PGRSP were distributing helmets to enhance the safety of children who ride motorcycles as passengers. He quoted Philippine national hero Jose Rizal who said that the children are our hope for the future.

Since 2010, AAP has been distributing for free Protec helmets to school children after former James Bond girl/movie actress Michelle Yeoh, now the Make Roads Safe Global Ambassador of the FIA Foundation, came to Manila to launch together with AAP the Helmets for Kids (HFK) campaign of the Asian Injury Prevention Foundation, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Foundation and Asian Development Bank.

After the helmet distribution in Parañaque, 3M Philippines, a frequent partner in AAP's road safety projects, donated reflectorized stickers to the drivers of tricycles that are used to transport students to school. 3M Philippines representative John Vallilan said that the reflectorized sticker initiative is part of 3M's effort to secure a safer environment for motorists, whether their vehicles have two, three or four wheels. **aq**

#SaveKidsLives

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# DRIVER OF THE MONTH

## PAOLO MANTOLINO



### **When, where and how did you begin competing in motorsport?**

I started competing in amateur motorsport at the Circuit Showdown in 2011. In 2012, I once again competed in Circuit Showdown. Then in 2013, I decided to enter professional motorsport by joining the Philippine Touring Car Championship.

### **What motivated you to compete in motorsport? To choose the motorsport discipline you are competing in?**

Ever since I was a kid, I was really into cars. Every time I saw a nice car and heard the engine roar, it would bring a smile to my face. I was also into video games that involved car racing. That's why I think growing up, I had the urge to compete in car racing. It is also a blessing that my father supports me in my racing career. I can say his support and encouragement is one of the most important factors that motivated and inspired me to compete.

### **Who is your motorsport idol (international and local)?**

Since I am a big fan of Formula One, Michael Schumacher was my number one idol when I was growing up. Next to him, I idolized Fernando Alonso because of his 'Never say die' attitude. In our local scene, the person who I look up to is my teammate last year, Carlos Anton. I admire how he can race any car be it new, old or beat up. He can still get the fastest time of all.

### **Who are your racing sponsors? Your team (tuner, technicians, mechanics, etc.)? What car do you race in?**

I race in a 2007 Honda Civic FD. My team is Ethanworx Racing Team managed by Jon Mark Ong. Mechanics are Joey, Nante and Ga. Sponsors are: Raymond Ronquillo of R33, Mic Rojas of Rota, Jeff Tan of Recaro Philippines, Jeff Roxas Chua, tuner Jayson Ong, Gerald Ching of Buddyclub Philippines, Karina Mantolino of Regine's Salon, Paolo Martinez of The Grip Guys, Marvin Carbreza of Rhinolip Philippines, Zigmund Ng of Fujifast parts, Joseph Castelar of Autoholic Garage and Decal Republic.

### **Please list your achievements (first place or runner-up in which event, date of event, etc)**

2011	2nd runner up in Grid Race A Circuit Showdown
2012	2nd runner up in Grid Race A Circuit Showdown
2013	2nd runner up in PTCC division 2 class
2014	Champion in PTCC division 1 class
2014	Driver of the year.

### **What do you think you can contribute to Philippine motorsport?**

As I am still in my teens, I think I can contribute to Philippine motorsport by educating and bringing in the younger generation to be exposed to professional motorsport. I want to bring back the glory days of our local races like before.

### **How can AAP help you in your racing career?**

I think AAP could help me in my career by helping me promote our local races because by this, we can attract more sponsors which can lead to bigger and grander motorsport events.

### **Do you plan to compete on another level of motorsport or go abroad to train and gain experience?**

Yes, my biggest dream is to compete internationally. It would be a privilege and honor to represent our country. One of my dreams is to compete and win in the Macau Grand Prix.

### **What exercises do you do or what is your workout regimen to be physically and mentally fit for car racing?**

Since car racing requires a lot of cardio, I play basketball as cross training and lift weights to help me cope with the G forces during the races.

### **What advice can you offer to aspiring race car drivers?**

My advice is to never give up on your dream. Also, it is better to do things legally. If you want to race, do it in the race track and not in the streets. If you want to learn the basics of racing, there are a lot of racing schools here in our country. In this way, you can gain the skill of racing professionally. **QA**

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Das Auto.



Volkswagen Philippines' executives John Philip Orbeta, president and CEO (right) and Klaus Schadewald, chief operating adviser, during the Child Safety Initiative launch at MIAS last April 9. Also shown in photo are children from Playshop and CENTEX.

**D**RIVING home almost every night, it has become a routine for this writer to encounter a couple of vehicles that would suddenly hit the brakes and then turn left or right without even bothering to use their turn signal.

In a number of instances, vehicles suddenly materialize from a gap in the center island, cut me off, make an illegal U-turn and speed away.

What is more dangerous is the fact that these instances almost always happen on a section of the road that is unlighted.

Even at my relatively slow speed, I could have hit these vehicles had I been not attentive enough.

Indeed, driving nowadays entails much concentration and oodles of tolerance considering a number of drivers do not demonstrate good driving habits and obey common traffic laws.

Which is why it makes sense to begin at the beginning: teach our young children even if they still have no real understanding of cars, streets or traffic.

At what age can we start teaching our kids about traffic rules and road courtesy? In the recent Manila International Auto Show in Pasay City, Volkswagen Philippines invited toddlers to enjoy its 50-square meter junior driving course area featuring five VW push cars brought from Germany.

#### RODE SAFETY EXPLAINED

These young children rode the pushcarts, and with the assistance of a professional instructor, were lectured on the importance of road safety through visuals such as traffic lights, road signs like Stop, No Entry, School Zone, Pedestrian Crossing, No Right Turn, Left Turn Only, among others.

Correct passenger and pedestrian behaviors were also explained.

After completion of the short driving course, a junior drivers license was issued to each of these successful "drivers".

According to Volkswagen Philippines president and CEO John Philip Orbeta, the idea to this presentation was not just for fun but



LAYOUT of the street network Volkswagen Philippines set up during the recent MIAS

also to let these young children understand that a red signal means stop and the importance of looking in all directions before making a turn.

"Soon, when they grow up and learn the art of driving, they will realize that often, not all drivers follow the signals and that everyone should look carefully in all directions even when crossing with a signal. The rule "Look, Look and Look" (looking to the left, right, and then the left again) is a good drill to remember," he said.

He added that as these children enjoyed the push cars and the various Volkswagen models displayed, it should be great to also let them realize at an early age that driving entails significant responsibility.

# Teaching toddlers basic road safety

By Charles E. Buban



#### PROPER CHILD SEATS

At the same venue, VW Philippines also set up a "child safety corner" that teaches the motoring public—especially those with children—how child seats greatly increase the safety of young passengers.

The child seat corner featured three display units of VW Child Seat Genuine Accessories. These are child seats that allow babies and small children to travel with maximum safety. They are available in three classes:

- for babies from zero to 15 months old
- for children from 8 months to 4 years old, and
- for children from 3 to 8 years old.

These seats are crash-tested and come with official releases from the German TUV (Technical Inspection Association) and various international safety organizations. These VW Child Seats, as well as the whole range of VW models, are available exclusively at all nationwide dealerships.

All VW vehicles are equipped with Isofix, an international standard designed to ensure that a child's car seat can be fitted easily and securely.

Isofix is being adopted worldwide as a safer way to travel with children. The Isofix child seat fixes directly into compatible fittings in a car, creating a secure link.

With Isofix, securing the child's car seat properly is much easier, thus reducing the risk of injury in an accident.

According to the United States' National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics, child safety seats have led to a 71 percent drop in crash-related infant deaths, and a 54 percent reduction in such fatalities among 1 to 4 year olds.

Research has shown that parents who often place their child into an adult seatbelt before they are ready, greatly increasing the risk of a serious injury. Compared with children in dedicated restraints, children in adult seatbelts are more likely to sustain a significant injury.

Riding in a rear-facing seat is particularly important for children because in a crash, doctors explained that the children's heavy heads can snap forward with a force that can break their necks, injure their spinal cords, and cause severe brain injuries. When rear-facing, the safety seat cradles the head and neck, keeps them properly aligned, and spreads the crash forces across the entire body. **QQ**



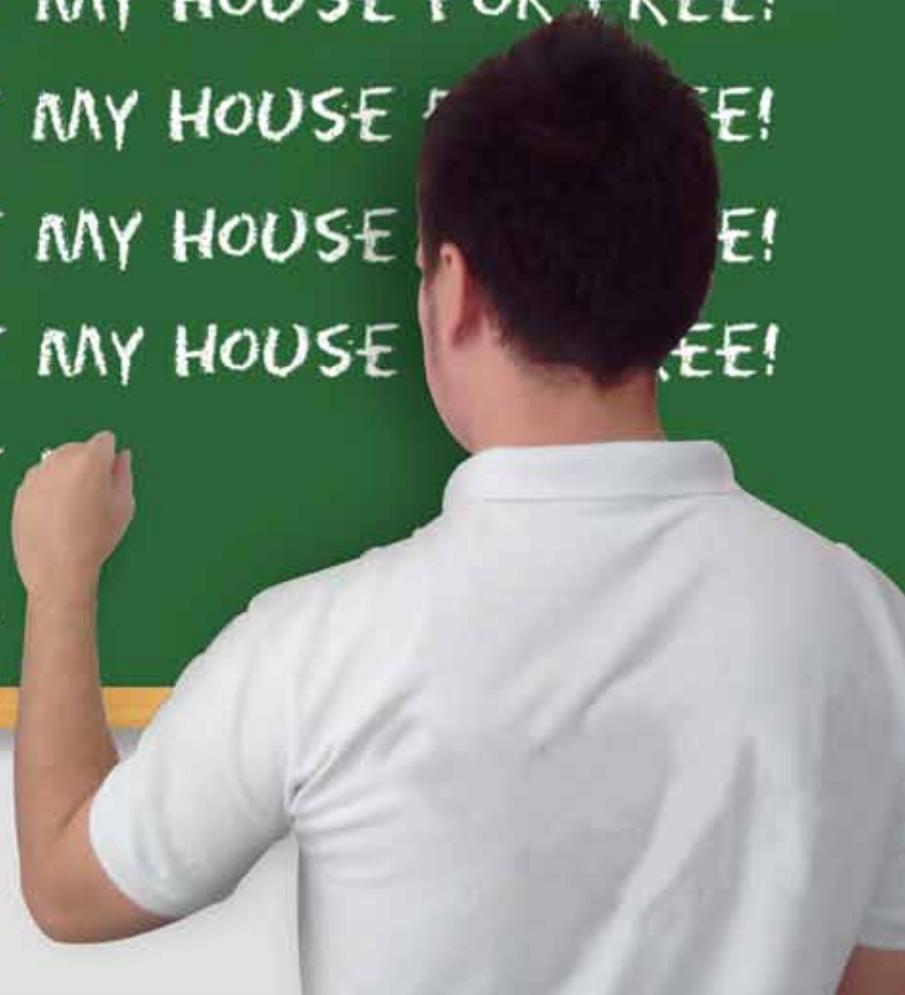
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By Kap Maceda Aguila

# Buttoned up utility



FROM an automotive segment standpoint, the terms “luxury” and “utility” are normally mutually exclusive to each other—until one encounters a Volkswagen Touareg.

First unveiled by Volkswagen in 2002, the vehicle decisively redefined the luxury sport-utility vehicle (SUV) segment with its sterling combination of buttoned-up luxury, flawless hauling ability and potent performance. Named after a nomadic tribe that lives in the Sahara, the Touareg deserves the name in earnest, thanks to its equal adeptness on and off the road. It effectively combines the often dichotomous qualities of brutish power with undeniably premium elements.



**V6 TDI**



Now in its second generation, Volkswagen Philippines' sole luxury sport-ute has benefited from a reduced weight compared with its predecessor (lower by more than 50 kilograms)—translating not just into better agility, but also reduced fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

Meanwhile, its off-roading capability is helped along by short overhangs, a maximum ground clearance of 300 millimeters, wading depth of 580 mm, and 45-degree climbing ability. These are definitely welcome numbers for local motorists who occasionally have to contend with difficult terrain—along with flooding. Indeed, you don't have to seek challenging terrain to benefit from the Touareg's range of abilities.

Volkswagen's proprietary 4MOTION permanent all-wheel drive gives expression to the Touareg's torquey 3.0-liter, turbo direct Injection heart mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission. The numbers are impressive—245ps (at



3,800 to 4,400rpm) and 550Nm (at a low 1,750 to 2,750rpm). With a rated towing capacity of 7,7716 pounds, and 32 cubic feet of cargo capacity with the seat up (double that when folded), the SUV is no pushover. It is a proper

utilitarian vehicle blessed with luxury and good looks. From this elevated, cocooned perch, your worries seem to melt away.

Given these figures, saying that the Touareg is a sporty ride is gospel truth. That also means logic underlies

**NAMED AFTER A NOMADIC TRIBE IN THE SAHARA, THE TOUAREG EARNED THE NAME IN EARNEST VIA EQUAL ADEPTNESS ON THE ROAD AND OFF IT**



Volkswagen's presentation of a subterfuge of the SUV that it calls "Sport Edition." This Touareg assumes a more aggressive gait and stance—courtesy of huge, 20-inch Mallory alloy wheels enveloped by 275/40 R20 Pirellis. A front and rear underride guard imbues a lowered appearance. It is both a looker and a workhorse.

The Touareg badge is the pinnacle of premium qualities in Volkswagen, and the Sport Edition boasts the same accoutrements as its non-Sport sibling—such as Bi-Xenon headlamps with LED daytime running lights, four-corner air suspension that continuously adjusts for maximum comfort and control.

VW has made the Touareg so customizable, in fact, that the driver can adjust ride height with the push of a button. Called Air Suspension, it relies on a button to make a compressor pump air into flexible bellows serving as the Touareg's dampers or shocks. The air pressure inflates the bellows, and raises or lowers the chassis from either axle which in the Touareg's case is an impressive 1.2 meters. The end benefits are ingress/egress ease when the Touareg's ride height is lowered (great for passengers with knee and hip problems), and easier clearance of whatever's in front, below and behind during off-roading or traveling through flooded areas (when the SUV's ride height is raised).

Speaking of clearance, with a raised ride height, the Touareg clears inclines and dips up to a maximum of 35 degrees, which means you can leapfrog over most river crossings. Tweakable suspension settings also take passenger comfort into consideration — much like the Climatronic four-zone AC system.

Such latitude of control is laudable, and the Touareg has them in spades. Depending on utility or even driving mood, the driver can switch between Normal, Comfort, and the aggressive Sport mode for more vigorous, spirited journeys.

Volkswagen is known for safety, and the Touareg is no different — boasting a complement of airbags for the driver, driver's knees, and front and rear passengers. On inclines and hill descents, should you forget to step on the brake pedal when moving from "(N)eutral" to "(D)rive," a Hill Hold function prevents the sport-ute from rolling downwards, and an Auto Hold feature forces the brakes to bite until the electronic parking brake is engaged.

For the parking deficient, the Touareg's Park Distance Control (PDC) has sensors within both bumpers, a reverse gear-activated camera (with viewing within the head unit's monitor) and color-coded icons that follow steering wheel motions (Volkswagen calls 'em Rear Assist) to guide the driver into shoehorning the sport-ute into any parking space.

Creature comforts come via luxe features within, and the absolutely nifty RCD550 touch screen audio system with six-CD changer wired to eight robust speakers.

All told, the Touareg Sports Edition takes the familiar and famous luxury SUV to a higher plane of existence as it plants its sporty stance on *terra firma*.



**THE TOUAREG  
SPORTS EDITION  
TAKES THE  
FAMILIAR AND  
FAMOUS LUXURY  
SUV TO A HIGHER  
PLANE OF  
EXISTENCE AS  
IT PLANTS ITS  
SPORTY STANCE  
ON TERRA FIRMA**

**T**HE Cebuanos are naturally car nuts and racing is definitely a favorite pastime. I am a true-blue Cebuana so I know my province-mates' passion for vehicles. Let's retrace Cebu's love for motorsport for a moment.

Not too long ago, the 1st Philippine Grand Prix was held on December 14, 1969 at the Mactan reclamation area where the late, great Pocholo Ramirez won pole position. I was there, though very young and clueless about what was going on.

Then in the mid-90s Cebu was tuned on to racing on the streets the "legal and safe" way when Mike Potenciano brought his



First Place of Sporting Class Heats 1 and 2 of the 2015 Vios Cup Race 2, Andres Calma racing for Alabang Motorsports (Toyota Alabang, Inc.)

## Vios Cup Season 2: *Waku Doki Takes Cebu*

By Lindy E. Pellicer

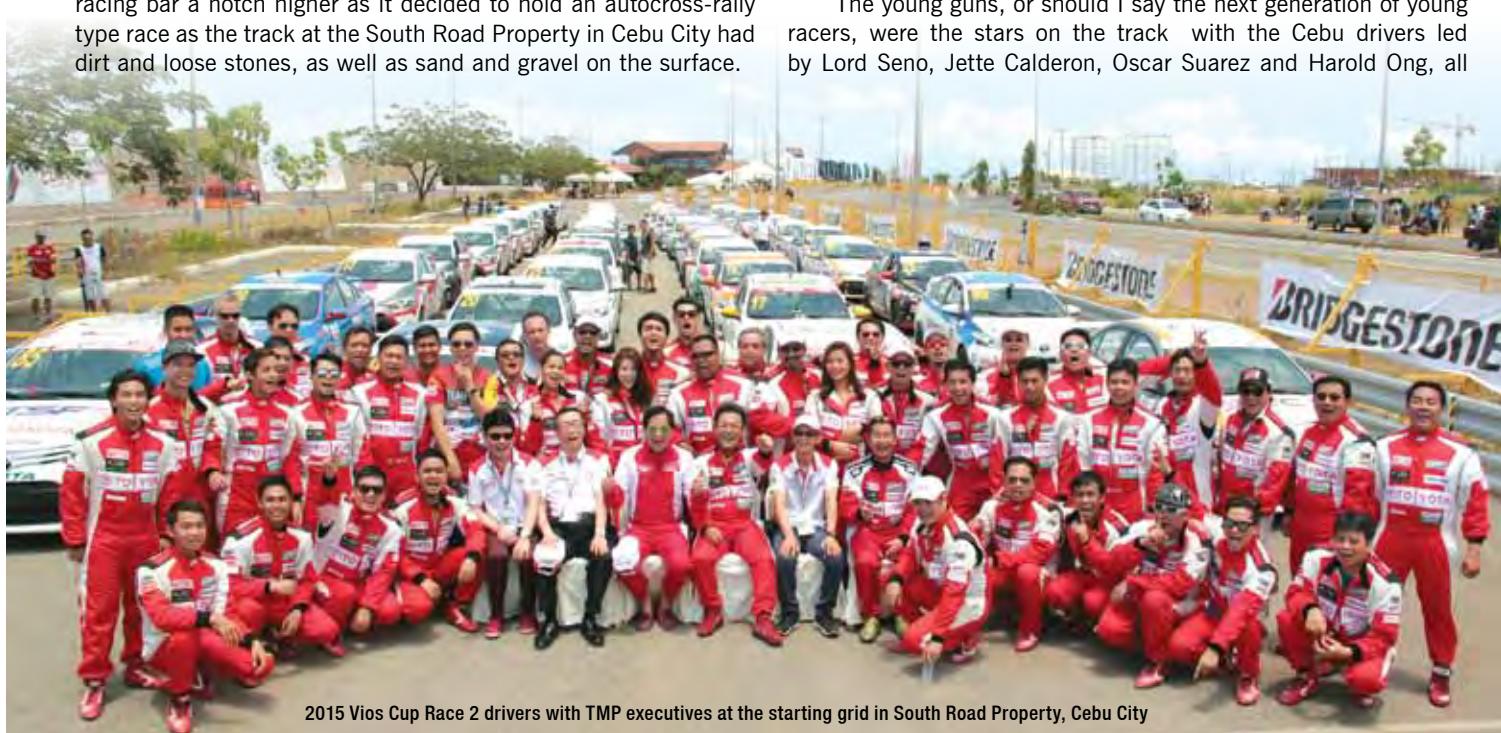
National Karting series around the Philippines. One of the biggest races in terms of participation for the series was in Cebu. This karting series went on until 1997.

After an exhilarating year of closed circuit races for the 2014 Vios Cup, this one-make auto race is back in 2015 with more wheel-to-wheel action. After the first leg at the Clark International Speedway on March 21 and 22, Toyota Motor Philippines set the racing bar a notch higher as it decided to hold an autocross-rally type race as the track at the South Road Property in Cebu City had dirt and loose stones, as well as sand and gravel on the surface.

A total of 44 teams were in the grid with four teams and five drivers from Cebu. The Cebuanos were all revved up, but the very calm and collected Andres Calma from the Alabang team took pole position and ruled the Toyota Vios Cup Cebu Race.

Andres is the only son of former Philippine Basketball Association great Hector Calma and Ines Ortiz, a mestiza from Cebu.

The young guns, or should I say the next generation of young racers, were the stars on the track with the Cebu drivers led by Lord Seno, Jette Calderon, Oscar Suarez and Harold Ong, all



2015 Vios Cup Race 2 drivers with TMP executives at the starting grid in South Road Property, Cebu City



Photos courtesy  
of Toyota Motor Philippines



Drift King Keiichi Tsuchiya behind the wheel of the LEXUS RC-F performing an exclusive drifting exhibition before his Cebu fans.

stoked to compete in the 1.6-kilometer street race.

Calma scored the best time of 1:12,759 , while Allan Uy trailed him with 1:13,161 for second honors and the third placer was Victor Buensuceso with 1:13,875.

Luis Gono—who was overall champion in the 2014 season—didn't perform as expected when he posted 1:13,962 for the fifth spot.

Sorting out the class racers, Dominic Ochoa placed sixth with a time of 1:14,140 while the seventh spot went to Bobby Domingo who clocked 1:14,229. The flamboyant Raymond Ronquillo settled for eighth place with 1:14,37, while budding racer Jette Calderon was ninth with 1:14,372 and followed by Carlos Loinaz who placed 10th with a time of 1:14,372.

The gods were certainly smiling on radio DJ and TV host Sam Y.G.'s side as he took a wheel-to-wheel victory in the first race of the promotional and celebrity class with an unbelievably quick time of 1:15,715.

The crowd drawers were the celebrities who did their fair share of racing, like showbiz hunk Derek Ramsey. He made the girls scream their hearts out every time he drove by. Ramsey took the



**2015 Vios Cup Race 2 Celebrity Drivers pose before the awarding ceremony at Cebu City**

second best time with 1:18,104, while actor Paolo Rodriguez came in third with 1:18,346.

Meanwhile, the “phenomenal” Phoemela Baranda—whose fighting spirit was unbreakable—was the fastest female racer of the bunch with 1:18,576. Jasmine Curtis Smith, who only learned to drive the stick while in training, was certainly the most improved driver in skill and in attitude. Who knows, she might just dethrone Phoem Baranda if she continues to drive in future races?

Other celebrity drivers were TV host Jinno Rufino, Brazilian actor Fabio Ide, and actress Kylie Padilla who, by the way, also just learned how to drive stick during training for the Vios Cup.

The Toyota Vios Cup boasts of the largest grid in Philippine motorsports history. It is designed for non-professionals, making it a platform for first-time racers.

Toyota Motor Philippines, event organizer Tuason Racing School, and Automobile Association Philippines marshals did their best to make sure that the Vios Cup races remain safe at all times.

The Toyota Vios Cup 2015 was held in partnership with Bridgestone and ROTA, and supported by Motul, TRD, Denso, Brembo, AVT, OM and TRS. 

(from left) IPC Executive Vice President Mr. Takashi Tomita, Former IPC President Mr. Nobuo Izumina; IPC Senior Vice President for Sales Mr. Arthur Balmadrid



# Off-Roading 101 with the 2015 Isuzu D-Max

**W**OULD you prefer a vehicle with a smaller engine displacement with higher torque or one with a larger engine but with less power?

Pickup enthusiasts are shaken up by Isuzu Philippines Corp.'s (IPC) decision to bring in its 2015 D-Max pickups mated with a smaller 2.5-liter engine that has more torque but with subdued horsepower compared with its 3.0-liter predecessor.

The top-ranked LS variant and standard LT 4x4 variant get 134 horsepower and 320 Nm of torque compared to the previous model's 146 hp and 294 Nm torque.

To drive home its point, IPC organized a test drive for the new D-Max 4x4 and 4x2 in Pampanga. It's noteworthy that the event was not limited only to the race track in Clark, Angeles. A rugged terrain course was built as well so as to complete the driving experience for the new D-Max variants.

During the off-road feat, driving the D-Max LS 4x2 M/T on the obstacle course proved its torque advantage, especially when climbing a 60-degree slope. With a slippery, loose surface, the D-Max LS negotiated the wall-like approach with ease, requiring very little pressure on the accelerator.

The additional 26Nm torque of the new 4JJ1-TCX also required less effort when traversing the vehicle over huge mounds and dips before the track hit the riverbed that had about two inches of water, thanks to the rains during the previous night.

The off-road trail starts with a 10-foot drop that would have made any driver fear that the pickup would flip over. With hands



firmly gripping the steering wheel and just letting the pickup roll down by itself and not stepping on the gas pedal, the D-Max trudged on without any episode.

It went through elephant holes, right-hand camber and articulation ramps that all highlighted the pickup's dependable suspension and high ground clearance. Again, the D-Max LS cruised through all of these with only little gas pedal pressure while the stick was locked most of the time on second gear.

Rolling on big 215/70 R15 Bridgestone rubbers, the four-wheel traction of the D-Max was consistent.

Add to this the safety features of the new D-Max LS, like a four-star rating for Adult Occupant Protection (AOP) and Child Occupant Protection (COP) categories from the ASEAN NCAP.

Parking will no longer be worrisome as the D-Max comes equipped with a reverse parking sensor. With minor facelifts, the 2015 D-Max LS still represents beauty and brutality with its new design projector headlamps and LED combination rear lights, and custom bed liner with Isuzu logo.

After all the excitement, no one wanted to drive through the "boring" paved circuit track, as participants know fully well that the D-Max will not yield to any obstacle, come hell or high water.

The new D-Max 4x4 LS A/T is priced at P1,487; 4x4 LS M/T at P1,428,000; 4x2 LS A/T at P1,206,000; 4x2 LS M/T at P1,154,000; 4x4 LT M/T at P1,178,000; LT-X M/T at P935,000; LT M/T at P872,000; while the single cab M/T is at P712,000. **aq**

**T**HE Manila International Auto Show 2015 held from April 9 to 12, 2015 showcased 22 brands, including the teaser preview of the Lotus via video collaterals in the Autohub booth. The auto show also launched, debuted, or previewed a record 33 new models.

Tech-savvy visitors to the auto show certainly had their fill of technological innovations—from both the participating manufacturers/dealers and allied industry suppliers. Here are eight of the more notable high-tech highlights:

### 1 BYD's eco-friendly sports car Qin.

Pronounced as “chin,” this plug-in hybrid compact sedan has a range of 70 km (for the all-electric drive) and a hybrid electric power train that can extend the car’s range to a distance similar to that of a conventional gasoline-powered vehicle. The Qin was designed from



By Tessa R. Salazar  
Photos courtesy of Alvin Uy

## Spotted:

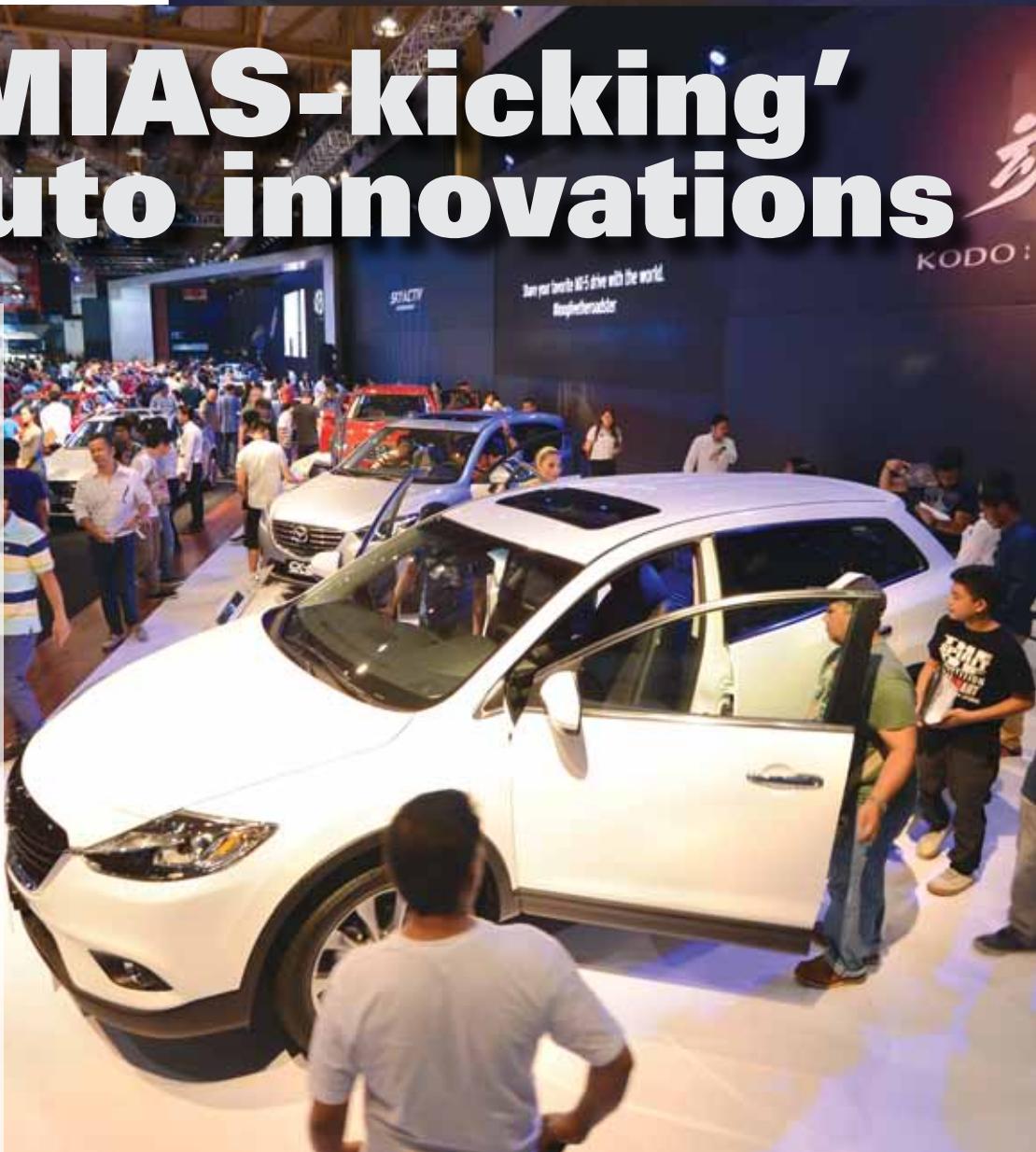
# 8 'MIAS-kicking' auto innovations

the ground up as a dual-mode hybrid, unlike existing internal combustion cars that were adapted to hybrids.

On paper, the Qin can accelerate from 0 to 100 kph in 5.9 seconds. Its fuel consumption is a jaw-dropping 50 km/liter, a maximum speed of 150 kph in pure EV mode (that jumps to 185 kph when the gasoline engine kicks in), and 300 horses tucked into its compact hood. All that power can be harnessed by merely plugging the unit to a regular 220v outlet. Charging the car for 8 hours costs a measly P100.

### 2 H2O Technologies' Salamander.

The country's first-ever amphibious tricycle had its public launch at MIAS 2015. The Salamander has two prototypes: One runs on an electric motor, the other on a gasoline motor. Alvin Uy, one of the show's organizers, quoted H2O Technologies' chair of the board David Ong as saying: “With an average of 20 typhoons and



perennial monsoon rains that expose over half of the country's 42,000 barangays to the dangers of flooding, the Salamander would be the ideal vehicle for commuters as well as local government use."

### 3 Volkswagen Golf GTI.

There's a good reason it's called "the hot hatch that started it all." The Golf GTI has the XDS electronic differential, which

engineered with the full suite of the SkyActiv technology and powertrain.

The all-new second-generation Mazda2 subcompact car, on the other hand, brought the Skyactiv's fuel-efficiency to the fore. The Mazda6 SkyActiv executive sedan and the CX-5 compact SUV were both upgraded with the latest design touches, and infused with the Mazda Connect HMI (human machine interface) system and the most advanced front lighting in the industry.

enhancements with its touchscreen multi-media system with dealer option GPS navigation, tire pressure monitoring system and reverse camera display. The multi-media system is versatile enough to be connected to any media, and at the same time can be linked to any Android or Apple device. On the design side, its exclusive Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution (RISE) body incorporates front and rear crumple zones with reinforced beams to absorb collision forces and direct them away from the vehicle's interior.



improves traction and reduces understeer by selectively applying the brake to the inside front wheel. This feature also helps prevent wheelspin. The XDS is supposed to make the Golf GTI handle like, or better than, a rear-wheel-drive sport sedan. It is also equipped with electronic stability program, traction control, electronic parking brake, rear-assist rear view camera with 8-channel park distance control, driver alert system, and seven airbags (driver, passenger, driver knee, front side and curtain).

### 4 Mazda's SkyActiv technology and Kodo-Soul of Motion design language.

MIAS organizers revealed that nearly all 11 Mazda vehicles on display were either all-new or upgraded. The 2016 MX-5 SkyActiv two-seater roadster had its first Southeast Asian reveal here, and boasts of the Kodo: Soul of Motion design language and

### 5 BMW's take on the MPV.

Under the hood, the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer sports a specially designed front-wheel drive system, a first for the German premium car manufacturer. The drive train layout improves space without compromising power delivery, especially preserving the much-revered BMWdriving dynamics. The luxury MPV is powered by a



lightweight 3-cylinder gasoline engine using BMW's award-winning TwinPower Turbo technology, promoting fuel efficiency and an exciting drive in the great outdoors in equal measures.

### 6 Ford Everest, the smartest to date.

Looking very different from its earlier version, the all-new Everest has a rugged new design and sophisticated electronically controlled all-wheel-drive system. On top of that are first-in-class features, including the SYNC 2, Active Park Assist, and the segment-first Curve Control and Blind Spot Information System with Cross Traffic Alert.

### 7 Mitsubishi's all-new Strada pickup.

Tested in a subsequent ride-and-drive to the rugged mountain province of Ifugao, the all-new Strada offers more technological

### 8 The "Knight Rider KITT" Pontiac.

It was the iconic "welcoming machine" seemingly conditioning all MIAS visitors at the main entrance that this most recent edition of the international auto show would take them "back to the future", in a manner of speaking. Its interior, according to owner Mike Barrion (not David Hasselhoff as we half expected), had to be KITT-inspired even from the inside.

**BMW Marketing AVP Karl Magsuci, MMA Chairman Francis Tolentino who was the guest of honor, Worldbox Services, Inc. Founding Chairman Joseph Ang and AAP President Gus Lagman.**

KITT, as many "Knight Rider" fans of the '80s TV series know, stands for Knight Industries Two Thousand, an artificially intelligent electronic computer module in the body of a highly advanced, very mobile, robotic automobile. In a feature in Top Gear Philippines online, author Vernon Sarne quoted Barrion as saying: "Interior modifications included removing and replacing the stock dashboard completely, and installing a KITT-correct dash and electronic components. Lower and upper consoles—complete with switches and LED lights—were also installed. There were approximately 76 switches added inside the replica—not counting the stock switches—all lighting up in various LED colors to replicate the aircraft-like cockpit of KITT. The round steering wheel was also replaced with the gullwing steering from the TV series."

And we half-expected, as well, that a voice akin to Iron Man's Jarvis would greet visitors to MIAS. **AQ**



# Going mobile with the **Honda Mobilio**

Story and Photos by:  
Ron de los Reyes

**J**UST a day after the launch of the all-new Honda Mobilio, Honda Philippines took motoring journalists to a fun summer getaway in Puerto Galera, Mindoro to test drive its newest multipurpose vehicle (MPV).

Filipinos are known to be family oriented, making seven-seater vehicles in demand in the local automotive market. Honda's Mobilio MPV is the brand's entry to this competitive segment, along with the Toyota Avanza, Chevrolet Spin, Nissan Grand Livina, and Suzuki Ertiga.

The media summer getaway highlighted the Mobilio's capabilities as a durable and reliable multipurpose utility vehicle.

HCPI President Toshio Kuwahara led the orientation and media sendoff at Seda Hotel at the Bonifacio Global City. Kuwahara expressed Honda's commitment to the Filipino market as he pointed out that the vehicle is the first of its kind by Honda for the Asian market.

"And with a clear grasp of the local culture, we believe that the all-new Mobilio fits the needs and expectations of the Filipino family in a vehicle and we





are thrilled to be able to finally introduce it locally and see more smiles on the road," Kuwahara pointed out.

From the hotel, the six-car convoy made its way through South Luzon Expressway and STAR Tollway then to the Batangas City port. Throughout the drive, the Mobilio demonstrated its excellent drivability. The car adjusts quickly at both high and low speeds in the highway. Its 1.5-liter i-VTEC engine with Earth Dreams CVT is the most powerful engine in its segment, making the car very smooth and agile even with a lot of passengers and luggage. The Mobilio also has an ECON mode which makes the car fuel efficient and a good fit for the Metro Manila traffic scene.

The car's look was also a crowd-stealer, as Honda designed the car to clearly set itself apart by avoiding a boxy look typical of vehicles in this segment. It is also based on the "Progressive Private Jetliner" concept which offers modern and upbeat styling, innovative technology, generous cabin space, flexible seats and a comfortable sedan-like ride that feels like you are onboard a private jet.

From the port, the convoy took a ferry to Calapan, Mindoro. The ride was a refreshing way to travel to get away from the busy streets of the metro and enjoy the summer season.

 We believe that the all-new Mobilio fits the needs and expectations of the Filipino family in a vehicle. 



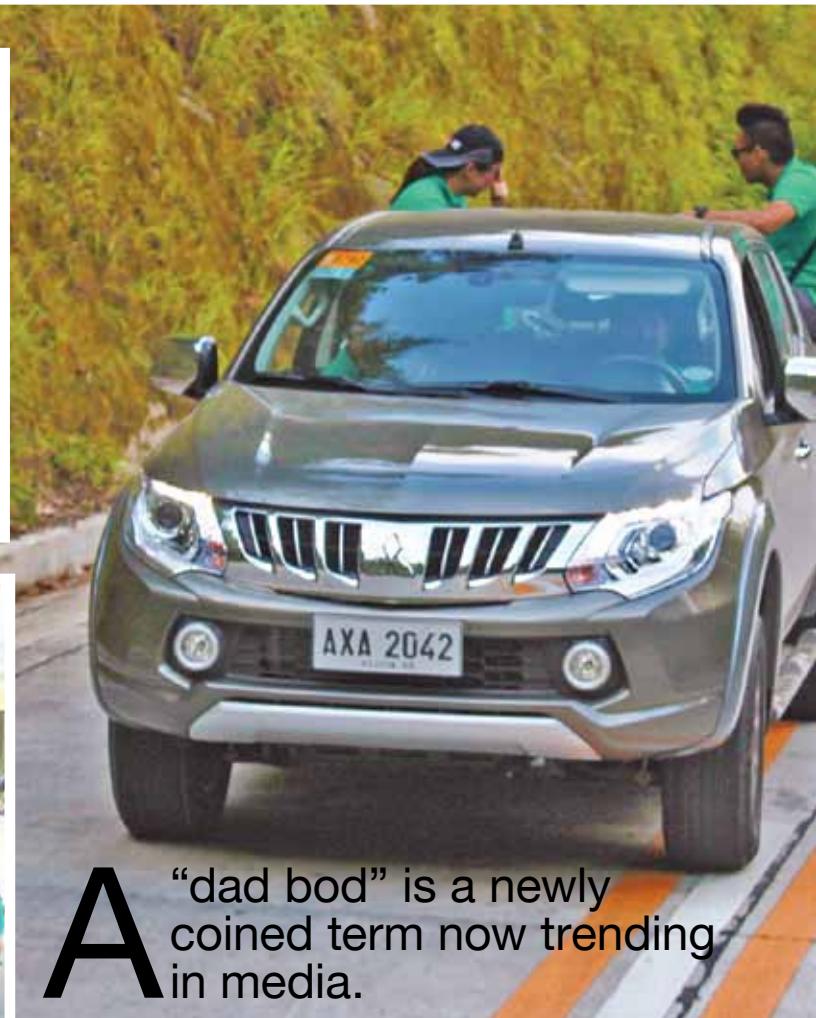
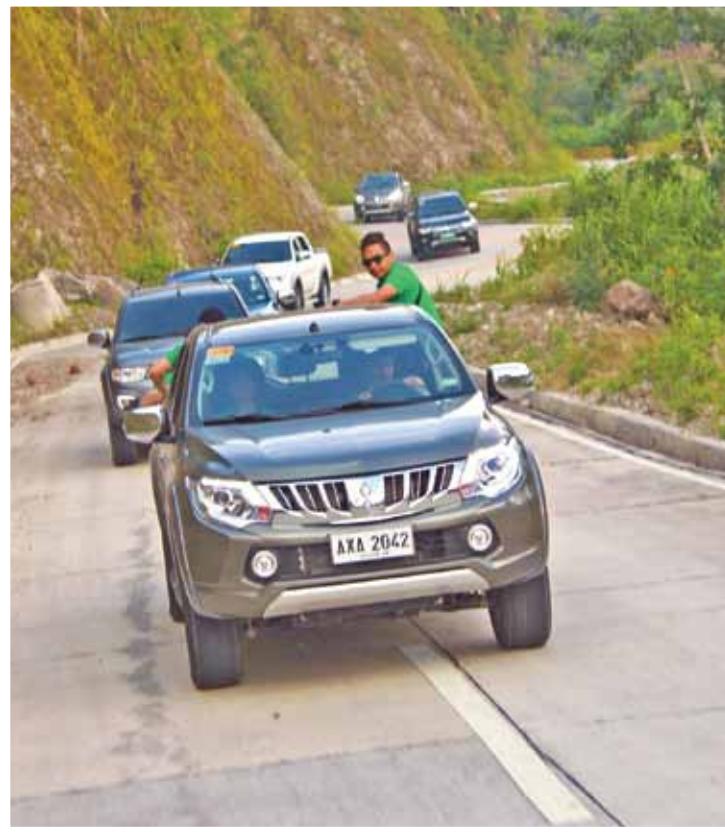
After disembarking, the drive to Puerto Galera was notably more challenging compared with the Manila-Batangas portion of the trip. There were a lot of road twists and turns, thanks to the mountainous terrain. The Mobilio proved its mettle, as it took on any kind of terrain with great ease and control. The car responded very well with the steering wheel, making the transition of every turn precise.

The Mobilio also gave us premium comfort, staying true to Honda's "Man Maximum, Machine Minimum" philosophy. Even when the car is loaded with a lot of luggage, we did not experience any

difficulty in tackling up and downhill roads. The wide leg and head rooms made the whole ride comfortable.

After our 320-kilometer journey on board the Mobilio, we reached our destination in Puerto Galera and decided to unwind with the rest of the group, discussing the drive and the Mobilio's performance before calling it a day. It was indeed a good day to enjoy the scenic island of Mindoro inside a great "Multi-Utility Vehicle".

The Honda Mobilio is definitely the MPV to beat this 2015, and there is no doubt that it will make a lot of Filipino families smile in the future. **AQ**



A “dad bod” is a newly coined term now trending in media.

It was introduced to the world by Clemson University sophomore Mackenzie Pearson as she referred to any man with a physique that's a “nice balance between a beer gut and working out.”

“It's more human, natural, and attractive,” she explained.

For this writer, though, the term refers to more than just the father-like physique. At this certain stage of manhood, true machismo can be measured by embracing fatherhood—wholeheartedly.

According to Indian entrepreneur Naveen Jain, “Being a father has been, without a doubt, my greatest source of achievement, pride and inspiration.”

“Fatherhood has taught me about unconditional love, reinforced the importance of giving back and taught me how to be a better person,” the successful InfoSpace founder pointed out.

Recently, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC) further solidified the true meaning of manliness by travelling for half a day to the northern village of Batad in Ifugao Province to give back to the less fortunate.

Onboard the all-new Mitsubishi Strada, the motoring media—together with Mitsubishi executives—embarked on a tiring yet meaningful journey.

Froilan Dytianquin, MMPC vice president for marketing, said, “Our industry success would prove futile without the grace from society and nature. We owe it to them,” he said.

From the dealership in Balintawak, the eight Mitsubishi Strada pickups with four motoring journalists, MMPC executives and staff in other vehicles set out towards the long northern adventure.



## Who's the Man?

Story and Photos by Ronald Rey M. de los Reyes

# Mitsubishi Tests True Manliness By Giving Back to the People of Batad

My father, sister and I were confident being in front of the convoy as we were behind the wheel of the top-of-the-line GLS Sport V. At its heart is a 2.5 Liter 4 In-Line 16-Valve DOHC Turbocharged (VGT) and Inter-cooled Common Rail Direct Injection Diesel (4D56).

Thanks to this reliable engine, which creates a maximum power of 178 ps/4,000rpm and an improved torque of 400N-m/2,000rpm, cruising along the North Luzon Expressway, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway then to the Tarlac-Pangasinan Expressway was just like a stroll in the park.

All the more did the Strada prove it's trustworthiness as we swooped down hills and climbed up hills with relative ease. With its steady car-like feel, it never failed us whenever we overtook trucks and buses along the Maharlika Highway.

While the tight bends and tricky corners of the Cordilleras were like a children's playground with the Strata's superb handling and stable power. Its electronic dial of the Super Select 4WD-II also came in handy. With these, the 12-hour drive seemingly suggested as if we were just in a joyride towards Tagaytay and back.

Our group was billeted at the Banaue Hotel in Ifugao province. After a heavy dinner, we slumbered into the night to prepare for the long day next morning.

The next day, we awoke to the rays of sunlight and the gentle cool breeze of nature—we were definitely not in Metro Manila.

Soon after breakfast, we headed straight behind the steering wheels of our respective rides and drove for about 30-minutes

on newly paved roads before reaching the saddle where we had to go down and trek on foot to Batad village.

In the village, the Japanese car maker donated supplies and appliances for the school while some of the motoring media were generous enough to perform a short skit to the delight of the kids.

"We are thankful for giving us your heart," said Batad elementary school principal Teresita Halupe. "And you have a very big heart," she enthused.

Aside from the 12-hour drive the previous day, the 45-minute trek on foot towards the village was no joke. To further test our manliness, we even hiked farther downhill to personally see for ourselves the side of the actual rice terrace that needed rehabilitation. One of the reasons for the erosion of the so-called "terraces to the sky" was the widespread infestation of earthworms in the area. These pests drill holes under the ground that cause water to spill out and eventually lead to massive damage to the terraces.

The taxing two-hour trek towards the bottom-point was all forgotten after we had a refreshing dip in the Tappiya Falls. Traversing through the eight kilometers of treacherous walkways before reaching the mystic falls was definitely not for the faint-hearted. This surely served as a refreshing break as we climbed back to headquarters.

Although we may not be as physically fit as we used to be, it took a great degree of masculinity to drive about 400-kilometers up north in a world-class pickup to give a helping hand to our brethren in Batad. Now, that is what you can call "being a man." **AQ**

# Ford's all-new 'pony car' makes a debut



**F**ORD Philippines recently unveiled the iconic all-new Ford Mustang at the Bonifacio Global City.



The sixth generation muscle car continues its predecessors' proud tradition with styling that evokes the essential character of the brand and nameplate with contemporary new style. The vehicle maintains its trademark shark-bite front fascia and long hood with a lower wider stance.

The new version of the car – a favorite since its launch in 1964 with film-makers seeking the archetypal American sports car – will seek to re-establish the Mustang as leader of a niche segment known as “pony” cars.

Pony cars are larger than typical European sports cars but still fast and powerful.

The all-new 2015 model vehicle is a clean-sheet design, retaining key elements like the long hood and short rear deck while integrating new characteristics like a new front fascia, a more steeply sloped cabin and a lower and wider stance. Like its predecessor, the new Mustang also retains the tri-bar taillamps with sequential turn signals.

Inside, the Mustang features an upscale, aviation-inspired cockpit with large, clear instrumentation, improved ergonomics, a roomier cabin and a re-shaped trunk that can accommodate two golf bags.

The vehicle features an aviation-inspired cockpit with smart features like built-in MyFord Touch and SYNC in-car entertainment and connectivity. There are even built-in Track-Apps, that grant owners additional information and control over the vehicle in closed courses.

Powering the vehicle is a choice of a 441 Ps 5.0-liter V8 or a new 314 Ps 2.3-liter four-cylinder EcoBoost. Either one will pair automatic transmission with wheel mounted paddle shifters.

Like the EcoBoost engines seen in other Ford models, it also features direct injection, variable cam timing and turbocharging to produce comparable power. They will be paired to a choice of either six-speed manual or automatic transmissions, driving the rear wheels.

New front and rear suspension systems promise to improve handling, steering and ride. The front features a double ball joint MacPherson strut system while the rear employs integral link independent suspension.

All this performance is governed by selectable drive modes that can adjust steering effort, engine response, transmission and electronic stability control settings. Aids like torque vectoring and launch control, equipped as standard, also add an element of fun to the vehicle.

Keeping traction on the ground is a fully independent suspension system in the front and rear as well as a whole suite of safety aids like traction and stability control with selectable Drive Modes, Blind Spot Information System with cross-traffic alert, to name a few.

For comfort, the vehicle will have new technologies like programmable keys, built-in Track Apps like the Christmas tree starting lights, changeable color gauges and a Shaker Pro audio system.

“The reception we've received for the Mustang is an unbelievable testament to how well-loved this car is,” said Kay Hart, Managing Director at Ford Philippines.

It's actually the first time in the Mustang's 50-year history that this power plant will be sold overseas. “Mustang is definitely more than just a car – it is the heart and soul of Ford,” said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president, global product development.

The 2015 Mustang — which is made in Michigan — will be available in more than 100 markets.

Prices start at P2,499,000 for the 2.3-liter EcoBoost and P2,999,000 for the 5.0-liter V8. **aq**

**“ Mustang is definitely more than just a car – it is the heart and soul of Ford. ”**



## DID YOU KNOW?

WHEN the Mustang was initially unveiled at the New York Motor Show in April 1964, Ford originally expected to sell 100,000 units in the first 12 months. In fact, Ford sold more than 1 million Mustangs in the first 18 months. It took Chevrolet 40 years to reach the same milestone with the Corvette. More than 9 million Mustangs have been sold since 1964.

Ford made four-cylinder Mustangs from 1978 to 1993, including a turbocharged 2.3-liter version from 1984 to 1986. The plan was to sell 10,000 turbo four-cylinder Mustangs in the US per year, but Ford ended up cancelling the model after selling only 10,000 over two-and-a-half years.





# Active Touring for the Avid Tourist

## *The BMW 2 Series Active Tourer Lifestyle Drive in Negros Occidental*

Story: Vince Pornelos / Photos courtesy of BMW Philippines

**T**HERE we were, slicing through the backroads of Negros Occidental in the fading afternoon sun, all of us behind the wheel of the latest automobiles from a brand that represents sheer driving pleasure.

There is, however, something very different about these BMWs. They are all 2 Series Active Tourers—all of which are multipurpose vehicles (MPV) and all of which are front-wheel drive.

We traveled to Bacolod upon the invitation of BMW Philippines to drive the all-new 2 Series Active Tourer. Quite understandably I was anxious about this new model as it goes against many of BMW's core principles, and understandably so. This is the first time BMW had dabbled in a vehicle that drove its front tires and was technically an MPV.

Seeing the 2 Series Active Tourer gleaming under the sun dispelled many of those doubts. Few automakers are instantly recognizable just by looking at the front of the car; one of them is BMW. Those double kidney grille, the headlights, the way the car seems poised to take on the road are unmistakable.

The body is that of a compact MPV, meaning it's larger and taller than a hatchback like the 1 Series but shorter than a wagon like the Touring models.

We set off from the BMW dealership in Bacolod and made our way to some of the province's wide open roads... or so I thought. Being a BMW Lifestyle Drive, the organizers plotted several stops along the route, the first of which was a location that had the remains of a house aptly called The Ruins.

The skeletal remains of the house actually represented a labor of love in Bacolod, as it was built by the original owner for his wife, though it was burned down in the 1940s to prevent it from becoming a garrison for invading Japanese troops during World War II. The Ruins now stand as one of Bacolod's most beloved and visited tourist destinations.

While everyone was enjoying the sights

and the rather animated narration by the tour guide, I took a little more time to get acquainted with the Active Tourer. The doors open with that German air of quality; the leather smells of it, too. Settling into the rather comfortable driver's seat, it's easy to get familiarized with the layout of all the controls. The steering offers a full hold and the center console is neatly arranged and intuitive to use. The same goes for the updated iDrive multimedia control system flanking the automatic gearstick to manipulate the many functions of the LCD screen on the dash.

Negros Occidental is a province known for its sugarcane and plantations, and these are what you can see from the large glass windows of the Active Tourer as far as your eyes can see. When the road opened up even more, we were able to stretch the legs of the Active Tourer.

At the heart of this MPV is a 1.5-liter, turbocharged 3-cylinder motor that makes its compact but peppy presence known. It may be small but it's got what counts: 136 horsepower at 4400 rpm and 162 lb-ft of fuel-saving torque starting at 1250 rpm. The engine combined with a 6-speed automatic and the company's fuel saving tech holds a lot of promise. Overtaking slower vehicles is a breeze, thanks to the performance of the drivetrain. The engine may be small but the Active Tourer is no slouch, as it is able to dispatch 100 km/h from naught in just 9.2 seconds and on to a top speed of 210 km/h.

Out of the straight provincial highways and onto Negros Occidental's twisty mountain roads, the 218i Active Tourer showed us why it deserves the Munich's badge of automotive honor. It may be a front driver but it's handling on these roads defies expectations; the reason is that Active Tourer shares much of its chassis architecture with another BMW subsidiary that specializes in front wheel drive cars: the MINI. As a result the BMW 2 Series

Active Tourer behaves like a fun little hot hatchback instead of a boring MPV, meaning everyone can have a little fun when twisty roads are encountered. Isn't that what a BMW is all about?

As we got closer to our destination, the Punta Bulata Resort in Negros Occidental, what BMW is trying to tell us with the 2 Series Active Tourer becomes just that little bit clearer. Anything they do will be unmistakably their own, and that holds especially true when they change their signature recipe so radically like what they

did with this MPV. This Active Tourer opens up the BMW experience to a potentially wide customer base—one that cares not for rear wheel drive but chooses the vehicle for practicality, efficiency, versatility and all-around usability.

Building an MPV may not be BMW's thing but based on what we've seen and experienced during this scenic and fun drive, the manufacturers of other MPVs can surely take a page from what Munich has accomplished with the 2 Series Active Tourer. **AQ**



# Hyundai i20 Cross Sport and Tucson: A League of Their Own



## i20 Cross Sport

**D**ESIGNED to be the “best of both worlds” choice between a hatchback and a sport utility vehicle, the i20 Cross Sport from Hyundai opens up new territory in the local automotive scene.

Coming in two engine types, the 1.4 Kappa Petrol and a 1.4 U2 CRDI diesel engine, both engine variants are mated with five and six-speed manual transmissions, respectively, with an optional automatic transmission available for the 1.4 Kappa Petrol engine variant.

Sporting a 170 millimeter ground clearance, the i20 Cross Sport sits higher than other subcompact hatchbacks in the market, and its rugged image is further enhanced by its skid plate, roof rails and side mouldings and claddings.

Other features of note include a multi-function steering wheel with tilt and telescopic adjustment, rear AC vents, and a 60:40 rear seat configuration for added utility. **aq**



## Tucson

**H**YUNDAI also plans to emerge as among the top competitors in the highly popular compact SUV segment with the launch of its all-new Tucson. Longer and taller than its predecessor, the Tucson boasts a bold new design with refined proportions, flowing surfaces, sharp lines and the newest generation hexagonal grille, which has become Hyundai's brand signature.

Slanted square-type wheel arches and a modified A-pillar create a dynamic side profile, while wedge-shaped LED lights and reflectors complete the all-new Tucson's sleek exterior. Wheel design choices range from the basic 17-inch to 18-inch alloy wheels.

Inside, the interior is upgraded with added space, and a cleaner dashboard. The all-black interior sports power-adjusted seats, together with heating and ventilation features for added comfort.



The Tucson's body frame has been reinforced with Advanced High Strength Steel to improve rigidity, with an AHSS coverage rate that makes it the toughest in its class.

The SUV has also been updated with new features such as Hill-start Assist Control and a Tire Pressure Monitoring System as well as vehicle stability management and Advanced Traction Cornering Control.

Also new to the Tucson is its new 7-speed double clutch transmission which is expected to improve fuel efficiency. Preliminary previews indicate that the Tucson's R CRDI E-VGT diesel engine has also increased its power output from 177 to 186 horsepower, a 5% increase from the previous model. **aq**



# Road-tripping with your pet



**C**AR travel with your pet dog or cat isn't quite as easy as opening the door and commanding, "hop in." From safety concerns to motion-sickness treatments, here are the best ways to prep your pet for the ride.

What could be better as you drive than the wind in your hair and your furry best bud at your side? But whether you're planning a road trip or just a few errands, safety comes first. There are the same risks for your pet as for a child roaming freely in the car. Plus, cats and dogs can suffer anxiety or physical unease in the vehicle. With some safety tips and training, though, your pooch will be ready for the road.

## BUCKLE UP

It's tempting to let your pet sit on your lap or ride in the passenger seat, but this is incredibly dangerous—as is letting a dog ride with its head out the window. Dogs should be restrained in the car while cats are best put inside a carrier. They can distract you from driving, and if you stop short or get into an accident, they can be seriously injured or worse. (Their hurtling mass can also hurt human passengers.) Studies show that backseat harnesses may be the best form of restraint; the safety of crates is still being tested.

## GO FOR A TEST DRIVE

"Even before you get in the car, get your dog used to the restraint." If you'll be using a crate, start feeding your pet and giving it treats while the crate is still inside your home. After a few days, move the crate into the car, and again, feed and treat. Advance to driving to a place where your pet loves to go, like the park.

## QUELL THE QUEASIES

Some pets get carsick. Sometimes they vomit or have diarrhea, but they might also whine, pace, pant or drool. To keep your dog or cat from vomiting, don't feed it for three to four hours before travel. Your vet can also recommend carsickness medication. And during pit stops, never leave your pet alone in the car with the windows up. If your car is in the sun, it can get warmer than expected and overheat your pet.

## HAVE GEAR, WILL TRAVEL

Before you head out on the highway, you should pack a few items to help your dog feel like it never left home such as its favorite toy, bed, feeding plate or blanket.



# TOYOTA



## Toyota Records One Million Sales Since Start of Operations

In April 2015, Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) sold a total of 9,467 units. This brought the automotive company to break the one million sales mark. Based on the most recent Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (CAMPI) report, Toyota recorded 1,000,468 units sold since it started operations back in 1989.

The well-loved Toyota Tamaraw FX, Revo and Innova combined sales total to 268,065; while the Corolla and the Vios have contributed 213,325 and 157,347, respectively, to Toyota's one million sales in only less than three decades.

As one of the major players in the local automotive manufacturing industry, Toyota has sold a total of 615,899 units of locally manufactured vehicles, all produced in its previous Bicutan assembly plant and Santa Rosa facility in Laguna.

In a statement, TMP President Michinobu Sugata said: "Achieving this one million sales milestone is a great accomplishment for our company and the local automotive industry. We initially forecast that this breakthrough will only be realized in the second semester of the year, but because of our continued strong sales, we achieved this feat three months ahead of time. Toyota Philippines' one million sales milestone has been made possible in just 27 years, through the loyalty and trust of our customers and the strong partnerships and linkages we have

forged with all our stakeholders. Truly, we owe this achievement to them. We, at Toyota, put to heart that achieving more than one million sales only means that we have already generated more than a million customer smiles. While this delights us, it further fuels us to serve our customers more fervently by consistently providing better products and services through our 47 dealers nationwide."

"As the company reaps the fruits of its successes, TMP seriously takes on its commitment in driving the Philippines toward social and economic development. Aside from economic contributions through investments, taxes and duties paid, as well as stable employment generated, Toyota remains committed to invest in people and technology, as well as actively implement corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in the areas of health, education, environment, and community service. On top of making our customers smile, we also want to put a smile on the faces of many Filipinos by giving back to society," Sugata added. **aq**





# Hyundai opens new logistics center

**H**YUNDAI Asia Resources Incorporated's (HARI) newly inaugurated Hyundai Logistics Center (HLC) was recently inaugurated by the company's top executives.

Located in Calamba, Laguna, the Hyundai Logistics Center serves as a stockyard and inspection area for its vehicles before being distributed to its dealerships or picked up by customers. The 10-hectare site previously housed a textile factory.

Now with a new lease as a logistics center, it was built to answer the call for sustainable development and paves the way

for an eco-friendly work environment, upholds the well-being of employees, and catalyzes growth in both the automotive and property development sectors.

The HLC has already received a special certificate from the Philippine Green Building Initiative for having design standards equal to that of "Kamagong", which is the highest distinction for green buildings. Among its green features are green roofs, solar panels and water recycling facilities.

The Hyundai Logistics Center is the new home for all Hyundai cars, featuring innovative

facilities to take care of a Hyundai vehicle, from initial preparations to thorough inspections of the engine, electrical circuitry, interior cabin, and body paint. It features facilities like a Complete Built Unit (CBU) Receiving Area, Preparation Area, Buy-off Area, Parts Warehouse, Global Dealership Space Identity model showroom, and even a chapel for its employees.

The HLC will soon undergo Phase 2 with additional structures like the Hyundai Academy training facility, Center for Climate Change and Hyundai Car Museum. **AQ**

## Honda breaks ground in Manila Bay

**H**ONDA Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) recently conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for its newest car dealership, Honda Cars Manila Bay. Soon to rise along Bradco Avenue, Aseana Business Park, Parañaque City, residents and customers working around the area will enjoy more convenient access to Honda's products, services and facilities.

With a land area of 3,000 sqm, Honda Cars Manila Bay is strategically located in the booming and the next Central Business District (CBD) area in Manila, the Aseana Business Park. This dealership will offer the latest Honda product line-up and vehicle service facilities for preventive maintenance and general repairs. Honda Cars Manila Bay will also be the first dealership to have the Honda Museum, which will showcase Honda's world history from its origin to the present product technologies and development.

The Honda Museum will also display a collection of its popular and latest products such as automobiles, motorcycle and power products to name a few. Honda Cars Manila Bay is another fulfillment to HCPI's promise to bring its products and services closer to its customers.

Honda Cars Manila Bay is the sixth branch under Honda Cars Makati, Inc. (HCMI) group of dealerships, other branches are located in Makati, Pasig, Alabang, Shaw and Global City.

The groundbreaking ceremony was headed by Mr. Toshio Kuwahara, President and General Manager of HCPI, Mr. John Philip Orbeta, Chairman and President, Ayala Automotive Holdings Corp and Mr. Emmanuel Aligada, Deputy CEO, Ayala



Photo shows (from left) RAdm. Josefino Solidum (BRADCO), Masanao Kataoka (HCPI), Maj. Gen. Maximo Caro (BRADCO), Emmanuel Aligada (HCMI), Congressman Eric Olivarez, Toshio Kuwahara (HCPI), John Philip Orbeta (HCMI), Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez, Satoshi Nishimiya (HCPI), Delfin Wenceslao (BRADCO), Arch. Edwin Gumila, and Louie Sta. Maria (HCMI).

Automotive Holdings, Corp. and President & COO, HCMI. Distinguished guests from Parañaque local government office also graced the event, Honorable Congressman Eric Olivarez, City Mayor Edwin Olivarez and Vice Mayor Rico Golez and the officers from BRADCO Properties: Mr. Delfin Wenceslao, President; Major General Maximo Caro, Executive Vice President and Rear Admiral Josefino Solidum, Executive Vice President. **AQ**

**Move Up To  
The Next Level!**

# Third generation Kia Sorento soars to new heights in SUV prestige and style

**T**HE next level is here—more powerful, more refined.

A higher level of quality is what the all-new Kia Sorento offers to a discerning, upscale market.

Already well-loved and popular, the all-new Kia Sorento kicks things up a notch with sophisticated styling from the outside, a modern luxurious interior, and improved performance under the hood.

And in the Philippines, an excited, SUV-loving market will soon experience what the next levels of prestige and style are all about through Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), the exclusive distributor of Kia Motors vehicles in the country.

Building on the success of its predecessor, the all-new Kia Sorento retains its sleek profile but is enhanced by its shell's increased length, reduced height, and extra width giving the Kia SUV a bolder-on-the-road presence.

It also retains the hallmark long bonnet and characteristic wide D-pillar but now with a lower roofline, higher beltline, and swept-back shape for that distinctive, muscular stance.

Kia Sorento's prominent front incorporates long, wrap-around projector headlamps as well as a larger, more upright tiger-nose grille with an elegant three-dimensional diamond pattern.

Led by Kia's Namyang design studio in Korea and with significant input from the brand's Frankfurt, Germany, and Irvine, California design studios, the exterior was particularly styled to achieve a refined look, deserving of a longer and closer glance while on the road.

Going inside, an overall theme of "modern and wide" is evidently seen.

Kia's European design team based in Frankfurt took the lead in styling the all-new Sorento's cabin, giving it an ambiance of luxury.

The horizontal layout of the instrument cluster, interior trim, and the wrap-around dashboard which extends into the door trims are proof of Sorento's genuinely premium interior space.

Harmony and natural flow—these are the inspirations behind the Kia Sorento's smoothly-styled design curve in the doors and elegant contours of the dashboard.

Even the advanced on-board technology inside follows a visually pleasant appearance while still getting the job done.

A range of multimedia options will provide an immersive audio setup. A 3.5" mono LCD screen displaying pertinent trip computer information like fuel consumption and vehicle range will help you navigate in ease. A Smart Power Tailgate that automatically opens when the key is "sensed" in close proximity will give you convenience instantly. Kia Sorento definitely offers practicality housed in sophistication.

Completing the height of refinement are the soft-touch leather seats and high-quality trim that envelopes Sorento's cabin.

Other than what one sees, the true test of "next level prestige" comes with the all-new Sorento's intangibles—comfort, safety, and confidence.

Find comfort in the Sorento's versatility in space. The third generation model now sports an increased exterior dimension and extended wheelbase creating generous additional space inside.

Take advantage of increased headroom for occupants in all three rows and a 40/20/20 second row split folding for a variety of seating options. Luggage capacity is increased by 17.5% for the 7-seater Sorento.

When going for the next level in road trips and city commutes, safety and performance should be a priority.

Kia engineers focused on strengthening the all-new Sorento's body shell structure

and improving noise, vibration, and harshness (NVH). Feel safe and be safe with significant improvements made to its steering, suspension, and body shell.

There is deliberate stability even in high speeds, agility in handling response, and greater control in steering that make the all-new Kia Sorento the confident choice among the sporty vehicle segment.

To match the consumer's rising expectations, Kia Sorento's driving experience will also feature an upgraded 2.2L in-line, 4-cylinder, DOHC, 16-valve CRDi engine that offers greater mid- and low-range torque, smoother response, and reduced engine noise.

And with a DYNAMAX™ all-wheel drive system in place, a higher level of stability and confidence are achieved even in poor driving conditions or low-grip surfaces.

Moreover, the Sorento's driving characteristics can be matched to current driving conditions and convenience features can be customized to your liking.

With a flick of a switch, drivers can readily access the Drive Mode Select System fitted to an automatic model. Take advantage of steering assistance modes such as Normal for day-to-day cruise driving and Sport for a more engaging drive. The 6-speed, A/T variant also offers an Eco mode that reprograms shift points of the transmission to achieve optimum fuel economy.

When it comes to all things prestigious and stylish, Kia's newest generation SUV really ups the ante. And with these enhancements found inside, outside, and under the hood, moving up to the next level is clearer than ever, as long as it's with the all-new Kia Sorento.

The all-new Kia Sorento EX AWD is available in all Kia dealerships nationwide. Check out [www.kia.com](http://www.kia.com) or [www.facebook.com/kiainthephilippines](http://www.facebook.com/kiainthephilippines) for more updates on how to get to the next level with Kia Sorento. **AQ**



# Enjoy more miles with your car



To make your journey more efficient, safe and enjoyable, here are some tips from Volvo to maximize fuel efficiency and keeping you and your loved ones in one piece.

- **Use your senses.** Look around. Survey the road ahead and keep your eyes open on the road behind.
- **Stay awake.** Do not drive if you're tired. If you feel tired, pull over and take a short break to rest and regain alertness.
- **Drive according to the conditions.** If road conditions are hazardous, reduce your speed accordingly.
- **Use your phone only when it is safe.** A driver's first responsibility is the safe operation of the vehicle. Avoid distractions and pay attention to the road at all times.
- **Give yourself reaction time.** Allow sufficient room between yourself and the car in front. Watch the car in front pass a certain point in the road and then count three seconds – if you get there before three, you're driving too close.

#### ECO DRIVING GUIDE FOR BETTER FUEL CONSUMPTION:

- **Accelerate in an efficient way** – accelerate quickly, but without pressing the acceleration more than halfway.
- **Brake in an eco-friendly manner** – cars with automatic transmission handle engine braking automatically.
- **Use eco-friendly climate settings** – climate control (especially AC) is a large energy consumer. Restricting use to only when necessary and disabling when otherwise can reduce fuel consumption.
- **Automatic transmission** – use gear position (D) and let the car automatically shift between the various gears to achieve fuel consumption. Try to avoid gear downshift at acceleration by pressing the accelerator smoothly.

- **Choose the right eco-friendly speed** – higher speed results in more air resistance and therefore higher fuel consumption. The best overall fuel consumption is achieved in top gear with minimum vehicle speed, which is typically in the range of 80kph.
- **Keep the car in good shape** – always present the car for servicing and maintenance as instructed in the owner's manual.
- **Plan your trip** – planning both the optimum route to drive and the time necessary to cover the distance results in steadier driving speeds and shorter distances. Plan the route to avoid busy roads.
- **Plan your driving routine** – drive smoothly and in an eco-friendly way with consideration for other road users. With good foresight, you can avoid unnecessary braking.
- **Make efficient stops** – avoid longer idling and act according to the local traffic regulations. Switch off the engine during longer waiting periods, without endangering other road users.
- **Optimize the tire pressure** – drive with the correct tire pressure and check it regularly. Choose an eco-friendly tire pressure for best results. See the tire pressure table in the owner's manual. Choice of tires can affect fuel consumption. Your dealer can provide you with information on appropriate tires.
- **Avoid unnecessary cargo** – when the car's weight increases, so does fuel consumption. Try to avoid unnecessary cargo; load carriers, a roof box and a trailer negatively affect the car's aero dynamics and weight, leading to higher fuel use. Avoid driving with optional accessories when they are not in use. **QQ**

## Petron bags Anvil Gold Legacy Award

ONLY two years after bagging the Anvil Hall of Fame Award, industry leader Petron Corporation marked another milestone as it bagged the Gold Legacy Award from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) for its Vision Petron Art Collaterals. Petron, one of only three awardees, was recognized at the 50th Anvil Awards for its consistent wins over the years. The Anvil is the symbol of excellence in public relations in the Philippines.

Petron has won nine Excellence and one Merit Award for its Vision Petron Collaterals, a set of printed materials that accompany every Vision Petron National Student Art Competition. In 2001, its first set of collaterals depicting indigenous Filipino games, earned the very first Bronze Award of Excellence from Anvil. It won during the same year the Bronze Anvil from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

Apart from the Anvil Gold Legacy Award, the market leader also earned Silver Awards for the Vision Petron 2014 Program and the Vision Petron 2014 Folio. The 2014 Vision Petron

competition, themed "Lakbay Panata—My Journey, My Pledge," produced a record 2,827 entries submitted in the various competition categories. Now celebrating its 15th year, Vision Petron is a multi-awarded annual art competition for students enrolled in colleges and universities all over the country.

Formerly Art Petron, the program evolved into Vision Petron in 2011 to accommodate more art media, such as t-shirt art design and video-making, in addition to painting and photography.

Meanwhile, Petron's trademark Lakbay Alalay motorist assistance program also earned a Gold Anvil Award in the Specialized Public Relations Program: Advocacy Campaign category, and a Silver Anvil Award in the Public Relations Program Directed at Specific Stakeholders: External Consumers category. Lakbay Alalay is the country's longest running motorist assistance, and is entering its 30th year of public service.



Petron received one of three Anvil Gold Legacy Awards for being a Hall of Fame awardee in the 50 years of the Anvil Awards for its Vision Petron Art Collaterals.

As the only and biggest Filipino fuel refiner, Petron has a deep understanding of the needs of Filipino motorists, and takes pride in its capability to formulate world-class products. Petron now has the largest service station network in the Philippines with about 2,200 stations nationwide. These range from mega stations with many convenience facilities and partner establishments located along the expressways, to small, strategically-located micro-filling stations in remote, rural locations—all designed to bring Petron closer and more accessible to Filipino motorists from all walks of life. **QQ**

# REDEFINING GRANDNESS

**O**UTSTANDING, impressive, distinguished – these are words that come to mind when “grandness” is being talked about.

Conversely, these are words thrown around by motoring pundits and enthusiasts when the Kia Grand Carnival made its global debut at the 2014 New York International Auto Show.

Kia's completely redesigned midsize multi-purpose vehicle comes to Philippine shores with heightened anticipation. Already loved by many, Kia Grand Carnival goes beyond customer expectations of how a “family van” should perform.

With the all-new Grand Carnival, Kia delivers exceedingly well.

A new level of sophistication is evident in its European-inspired design. With a distinctive grille, aerodynamic side molding lines, a modern wide stance, and cab-forward design, the Kia Grand Carnival possesses a style that turns heads anywhere.

Its smarter features also enhance the premium look of the Kia Grand Carnival.

The smart tailgate mode automatically lets users open and close the tailgate with their smart key in close range— useful and very efficient for when hands are full. Another clever detail is the power sliding door on the second row that can be opened with just a flick of a switch.

High priority is placed on practicality without sacrificing the all-new Grand Carnival's upscale appearance. Hence, there is more front shoulder room, greater leg room in all rows, and a higher hip-point to improve outward visibility for drivers despite having no significant change in overall height and width.

The all-new Kia Grand Carnival is a sight to behold on the road.

Kia Grand Carnival redefines space with its exceptional interior volume providing vehicle owners with ample passenger and cargo room, along with a quiet and comfortable cabin. With the 7-seater Kia Grand Carnival, items of all shapes and sizes will fit its cargo room, thanks to seat folding variations.

Kia did not stop at extending interior space for passengers and driver; it made sure

that every ride aboard the Grand Carnival will also offer relaxation, convenience, and state-of-the-art necessities.

An elegant cockpit with chrome and wood accents welcome the driver to take charge and fully appreciate the beauty of driving.

The wide, horizontal slanted, center console prominently features a 3.5" OLED type multi-information display. This high-visibility display provides pertinent trip computer information graphics such as speed, distance, fuel consumption, and outside temperature among others.

Moreover, an auto light control that instantaneously adjusts headlamps to exterior levels of light and an active eco system that auto-controls engine, transmission, and air

Discover a new standard in MVP comfort and refinement with the Kia Grand Carnival

leg room clearance, snug seating, and flexibility, expect a satisfying trip day in, day out.

One of the most technologically advanced vehicles in its MPV segment, the Grand Carnival's driving performance is underlined by effortless power, precise handling, and innovative safety features.

Under the hood, Kia Grand Carnival features a lightweight R 2.2 liter inline 4-cylinder, CRDi diesel engine that uses a nitrogen oxide reduction catalyst to regulate emissions while featuring a highly efficient variable-geometry turbocharger and intercooler.

The Kia Grand Carnival has advanced, high strength, steel that increases impact resistance and body rigidity and contains airbags for the driver and front passenger in



conditioner are all conveniently accessible.

The console also includes a multimedia system with AUX and USB plugs that make drives more enjoyable and more personalized than ever.

All these cutting-edge tools and key driver controls are within reach from the steering wheel remote controls to ensure minimum distraction and maximum function.

Luxurious interior colors and trim in grey two-tone leather comes in an easy-to-clean, stainless seat technology, too, making it a true first-rate look.

An independent, three-zone full auto climate control allows everyone with the freedom to adjust air conditioning as one sees fit.

With USB charger outlets, large center console, cooling glove box, 6-speaker sound system, and sunroof combined with spacious

case of collisions.

Celebrate top-notch style and performance in a vehicle that the whole family will delight in.

Taking everything into consideration, Kia's new generation MPV brings forward an outstanding vehicle performance, impressive interiors, and a distinguished exterior look.

Kia Grand Carnival truly pushes the envelope in MPV comfort and refinement. At the end of the day, these things point to just one thing— grandness.

The Kia Grand Carnival is available in nine exterior colors – Clear White, Snow White Pearl, Bright Silver, Platinum Graphite, Aurora Black Pearl, Formal Deep Blue, Sky Beige, Titanium Brown, and Black Berry.

Visit a Kia dealership near you and have grand and prestigious drives with the Kia Grand Carnival, available nationwide. 

# Caltex provides the Ultimate Engine Protection with its Latest Havoline Engine Oil Products

**C**HEVRON Philippines Inc. re-launches one of its oldest and most celebrated product brands, Havoline. This brand re-launch includes a complete refresh of the product labels, an exciting road trip campaign and the introduction of 3 new products in the market namely; Havoline ProDS Fully Synthetic ECO 5 SAE 5W-30, Havoline Synthetic Blend SAE 5W-30 and Havoline Super 4T Synthetic Blend SAE 10W-40, which will be available in selected Caltex stations, auto supply stores and car workshops.

Michelle Sayat, Marketing Manager - Lubricants added, "Drivers today want to protect what really matters - the investment they made in their vehicles and its performance. Our latest introduction - Havoline with Deposit Shield Technology, provides a proven solution that helps to maintain engine performance, preserves engine life, while maximizing fuel economy. The new labels complement and give a fresh and eye-catching look along with a modern packaging design. As technology progresses and our customers continue to explore and purchase different vehicle types they can be assured that Havoline's engine oils are developed to address the needs of all drivers so they can enjoy their journey better."

## Havoline with Deposit Shield Technology

The advanced additives in Caltex Havoline with Deposit Shield Technology work with each other to protect the engine. It works immediately upon contact with moving parts of the engine to deliver a protective coating that effectively shields engines from deposits, metal-to-metal contact, corrosive agents and the extreme temperatures of combustion. This layer of protection works hard to maintain a clean, smooth running engine for optimum protection and performance.

The new labels design focused on the benefits of protection and showcases the rebranding of Havoline fully synthetic range. Havoline brand's promise to "Protect What Matters" is reinforced by the larger shield icon on the label and the new fully synthetic range underscores the professional level of protection that the brand offers through its Deposit Shield Technology.

These latest additions complement the rest of the Caltex Havoline product line, recognized by drivers as the leading motor oil brand with innovative breakthrough technology since it was introduced in 1904.



## Drive to Protection: Tune up for the Ultimate Roadtrip

In line with the re-launch of Havoline in the country, Chevron Philippines Inc. is running a road trip campaign to educate consumers on Havoline's 4 pillars of protection: Protect your Investment; Protect Fuel Economy; Protect Engine Performance; and Protect the Environment. It also aims to communicate that Havoline helps keep vehicles in tip top condition, ready for the Ultimate Road-trip this summer season.

Havoline® ProDS Fully Synthetic ECO 5 SAE 5W-30, Havoline Synthetic Blend SAE 5W-30 and Havoline Super 4T Synthetic Blend SAE 10W-40 will be sold at all Caltex stations and retails at ₱2,468.84, ₱1,480.00 and ₱244.00 respectively. For more information on Caltex and its products, visit [www.caltex.com/ph](http://www.caltex.com/ph). **aq**



## Caltex Launches its Proven Techron Technology in a Concentrate Form

**C**HEVRON Philippines Inc. announces the launch of its patented Techron Concentrate Plus (TCP) fuel system cleaner in the country.

For the first time in the Philippines, motorists will have a direct way to access the benefits of Caltex's patented Techron technology, a scientifically proven formula to clean vehicle engines running on gasoline, ensuring optimal performance for motorists, by offering it in concentrated bottle form.

TCP is an effective and easy-to-use solution. Through its uniquely designed packaging, motorists are able to conveniently add a bottle of TCP into their vehicle's nearly empty tank before their next fill up. In just one tankful, it cleans engine deposits and protects the entire fuel system, restores lost power and performance, and helps reduce emissions while maximizing fuel economy.

### CALTEX'S BOROSCOPE TESTS IN THAILAND

Caltex had conducted a boroscope test in Thailand in 2013, examining the effectiveness of TCP

in the Southeast Asian market. The test had revealed the harmful effects that lower quality gasoline have on motor engines, while highlighting the cleaning proposition of Caltex's Techron Technology as the ideal solution for motorists. The boroscope test utilized a specially designed camera to examine the interior of a vehicle's fuel system to inspect the cleanliness of critical engine parts.

Using a Karl Storz Endoscope (boroscope), Chevron engineers took photos of intake valves and ports (via fuel injector hole) and rated them using a Co-operative Research Council (CRC) Intake Valve Deposit (IVD) rating system, where a score out of 10 was assigned, with 10 denoting a perfectly clean valve.

Techron has been proven to be efficient at keeping intake valves cleaner based on the boroscope tests conducted on a total of 232 valves from 30 vehicles in Thailand. Tests conducted on four 2008

Japanese sedans had revealed an average score of 8.1 out of 10 prior to using TCP. After using TCP, these four cars achieved an average score of 9.9 out of 10.

### CALTEX'S TECHRON® TECHNOLOGY

Backed by over 30 years of research and development, Caltex has a strong heritage in pioneering the clean proposition for vehicles. Techron® contains a unique ingredient, polyetheramine, which has been designed to clean fuel system deposits and prevent them from re-forming.

Lower quality fuels can leave harmful deposits in the gasoline engine that accumulate over time, causing the vehicle to stumble during acceleration, knock or lose power, especially for older vehicles. However, with TCP, motorists are now able to counteract these deficits, and may immediately feel an improvement in their vehicle power and drivability, with just one bottle.

Techron Concentrate Plus will be sold at all Caltex service stations at suggested retail price of P450.00. For more information on Techron technology, visit [www.techron.com](http://www.techron.com). **aq**



## NISSAN BRINGS IN VIRTUAL-TO-PRO RACING COMPETITION: The First GT Academy In The Philippines

NISSAN Philippines, Inc. (NPI) is the newest participant of the virtual-to-pro racing competition, the GT Academy.

GT Academy gained prominence since its inception in 2008. Now on its seventh installment, this globally played competition sees an expansion in the form of the new GT Academy Asia, in which Philippines will be pitting against other Asian countries including Japan in the battle to become the GT Academy Champion.

"With the launch of GT Academy in the Philippines, we at Nissan offer an exciting opportunity for Filipinos to emerge as a breakthrough talent in the racing world," said Antonio Zara, President and Managing Director of Nissan Philippines, Inc.

With GT Academy, any player who can prove their driving skills in the world of video games can compete in a real racetrack. The GT Academy International Champion 2014 Ricardo Sanchez flew in all the way from UK to attend the launch. After winning last year's competition, Ricardo's racing career took off after he joined Nissan's elite motor sport team, the NISMO, to run the coveted tracks of the prestigious Dubai 24-Hour race in January 2015.

"We are looking forward to discovering even more new stars in 2015. Anyone in the Philippines who thinks they have what it takes should give GT Academy a go. Not everyone can win, but the experience is hugely rewarding at every stage of the competition," said GTA Global's Managing Director Laurence Wiltshire.

For the schedule of live events and updates on the GT Academy Philippines, please visit [www.facebook.com/NissanPhilippinesInc](http://www.facebook.com/NissanPhilippinesInc).



### **THE SHIFT FROM GAMER TO RACER**

GT Academy takes skilled Gran Turismo 6 players and turns them into professional racers in five stages.

#### **First Gear: The Recruitment (April - June)**

Thousands of hopefuls will be narrowed down to the top 20 gamers to be determined by time trials taking place behind the wheel of GT pods during live racing events.

#### **Second Gear: National Finals (July)**

The National Finals will determine top 6 Filipino players who will go to the next round and go bumper-to-bumper with the best Gran Turismo drivers in Asia.

#### **Third Gear: The Race Camp Week (August)**

Players will be tested on their strength, stamina, mental agility and driving skills against Asia's best at the Silverstone Racing Circuit in UK.

#### **Fourth Gear: Driver Development Program**

The emerging GT Academy Champion in Asia will join other GT Academy winners in a rigorous training under the wing of professional coaches and racers at the Silverstone Racing Circuit in UK.

#### **Fifth Gear: Graduation**

After passing the Driver Development Program, graduates will receive their International C License, allowing them to compete in a prestigious racing event anywhere in the world.

# Caltex gives Robinsons Rewards Card members more fuel discounts and shopping savings

**R**OBINSONS Rewards Card (RRC) members will enjoy earning more points not only when they shop at their favorite Robinsons stores but also when they fuel up at Caltex. RRC members can now use their points to redeem P1 discount for every one liter fuel purchase at participating Caltex stations nationwide. Every five liter gas up earns a point which means that the more customers fuel up at Caltex and shop at Robinsons, the more points for fuel and shopping savings.

Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI), marketer of Caltex fuels and lubricants, teamed up with Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc. (RRHI), the second largest multi-format retailer in the Philippines, to create a unique offer that allows customers to quickly and continually add value to their purchases by getting a variety of fuel and shopping rewards through their RRC.

Because of this loyalty program partnership, motorists now have more reasons to choose Caltex. Customers can save more on fuel costs when they purchase Caltex with Techron plus the five benefits of maximized power, improved fuel economy, lower emission, smoother drive and reliable performance.

In addition to fuel savings, RRC members will also enjoy big discounts in their shopping and grocery purchases as points earned at participating Caltex stations can be redeemed at any of 1,180 Robinsons stores nationwide which include Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Selections, Robinsons Easymart, Robinsons Appliances, Handyman, True Value, AM Builders' Depot, Toys "R" Us, Daiso Japan, Topshop, Topman, Dorothy Perkins, Miss Selfridge, Burton Menswear, Warehouse, River Island, Shana, G2000, Shiseido and Benefit.

Customers can avail of this benefit by signing up for RRC membership at any Robinsons stores for P150 only.

CPI values the patronage of its customers by giving them access to top loyalty programs in the market. Last year, CPI partnered with Jollibee Food Corporation's Happyplus program which continues to grow in memberships. Happyplus will run alongside the Robinsons Rewards Card loyalty program and customers can choose which of the rewards program they want to use.

"Caltex has been in the Philippines for over 75 years. Throughout this time, the Caltex brand has remained relevant to Filipino motorists because we are able to support their changing lifestyles and needs. This partnership allows us to uniquely reward thousands of motorists and shoppers for their loyalty to Caltex and Robinsons. We are truly proud of this long-term relationship with Robinsons Retail Holdings Inc." said Peter Morris, Chevron Philippines Inc., Country Chairman and General Manager for Philippine products.

Robina Gokongwei-Pe, president and COO of RRHI, said "We at Robinsons Retail are always looking for new ways to delight our customers and give them a better customer experience. That is why we are very happy to partner with Chevron Philippines Inc.'s, Caltex service stations to expand the acceptance of Robinsons Rewards beyond stores operated by Robinsons. This will be a welcome development to over 800,000 members of the Robinsons Rewards Card. With more than 700 Caltex service stations nationwide, we are very honored to have Chevron Philippines as our first external partner for Robinsons Rewards."

For more details regarding the new loyalty program, visit <http://www.caltex.com.ph> and <https://www.facebook.com/RobinsonsRewardsCard>. 



## MMPC stages Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge

**P**UTTING the Mitsubishi Mirage, Mirage G4, and their class-leading features to the test yet again, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation conducts the first-ever Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge. Celebrity team leaders with two other college student teammates form six teams of three to go against each other in the hopes of winning and being dubbed as the first Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge Champions. Celebrity team leaders include the beautiful actress, Ellen Adarna; rock legend, Rico Blanco; actor and singer, Markki Stroem; volleyball superstar, Gretchen Ho; internet action star, Ramon Bautista; and the lovely Cheats lead singer, Saab Magalona.

Highlighting the fun, practicality, and functionality of the brand, the Mitsubishi Mirage Metro Challenge brings about various challenges that require skill, intelligence, automotive capabilities, and use of the stand out features of the Mitsubishi Mirage and Mirage G4.

Follow the teams and witness them go through the challenges!

The challenge begins on May 9 at the Quezon City Memorial Circle, continues on May 16 at the Bonifacio Global City, and ends on May 30 at SM Mall of Asia. Points earned from each challenge and online votes will be accumulated to determine each team's points.

The champion team takes home P100,000 each with the celebrity's winnings donated to his/her charity of choice. 2nd place non-celebrity teammates receive P50,000 each, while the 3rd place non-celebrity teammates receive P30,000 each. The rest of the non-celebrity team members will receive a consolation prize of P10,000 each.

The challenges have been set and the teams are behind the wheel. Let the games begin! Get updates and help your team win by voting for them every week on [www.newmirage.ph](http://www.newmirage.ph). 



**S**OLAR Transport Automotive Resources Corp., (STAR Corp.), the exclusive distributor of BYD vehicles in the Philippines, announced the launch of its 5-STAR Customer Service Program, a comprehensive customer-centric after-sales initiative to continuously deliver the best brand ownership experience to BYD customers.



BYD BRO Mobile Assist is just a call away for automotive inquiries and basic trouble shooting, mobile assistance and premium home/office services.

# BYD UNVEILS THE 5-STAR CUSTOMER SERVICE PROGRAM

"The 5-STAR Customer Service Program is a result of STAR Corp's deepening understanding of our customers. Over the past year and a half, we've listened to our customers and identified their preferences and even their sensitivities. This program and all its components is a signpost of our long term commitment to our customers so that they enjoy their BYD vehicles well over the long haul," revealed Mark Andrew Tieng, managing director of STAR Corp.

Much thought and careful study have been poured into each aspect of the BYD 5-STAR Customer Service Program so that the excellent technology and innovation that went into the production of every BYD vehicle may be maintained in accordance with the highest standards of excellence.

As such, STAR Corp has set up full-service infrastructure and facilities in the Philippines – operating service centers with a steady and sure supply of Genuine BYD parts and accessories, manned by top-notch service and automotive technicians.

## 5-YEAR SERVICE WARRANTY

With STAR Corp's manufactured-backed 5-Year Service Warranty, BYD car owners are assured of worry-free motoring for many more years than regular warranty coverages. Available at all BYD dealerships, it is a solid testament on the build and quality across the entire range of BYD cars and an assurance of BYD's commitment to total customer satisfaction.

Under the 5-Year Warranty or 100,000-kilometer coverage, whichever comes first, the warranty covers the entire BYD vehicle – from the engine, transmission and all parts.

### THE 5-STAR CUSTOMER SERVICE PROGRAM OFFERS

- 1 5-Year Service Warranty
- 2 Access to Service Technology, Infrastructure & Facilities Manned by Top-Caliber Service & Automotive Technicians
- 3 Genuine Parts and Accessories
- 4 BYD Response Operations (BRO)
- 5 Emergency Roadside Assistance.



STAR Corp. managing director Mark Andrew Tieng (3rd from left), general manager Jose Paolo "Popo" Soriano (1st from right) and the BYD BRO Team

## 24/7 EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

For further peace of mind, STAR Corp's 5-STAR Customer Service Program comes with a FREE one-year emergency roadside assistance package for its car owners through its partnership with the Automobile Association of the Philippines, one of the country's most reliable service providers of emergency roadside service (ERS) assistance.

## BYD RESPONSE OPERATIONS (BRO)

The BYD Response Operations is STAR Corp's unique approach to meet and exceed its customers' expectations and provide the services they need wherever they are. Like a real-life BRO, BYD

will provide that personal and reliable touch, offering expert information, recommendations and solutions to their customers on how to get the best motoring experience from their BYD vehicle.

One of the essential components of BRO is a Service Hotline, (0917) 650-1111 or 533-8888, that customers can call for any inquiry or concern. At the end of the Service Hotline is an accommodating BRO who will readily ascertain the customer's car trouble or situation. BRO shall guide the customer through a step-by-step troubleshooting process until the situation is resolved. And if the concern is a minor technical problem, BRO can easily book the customer for a service schedule.

BRO can even call the AAP on behalf of the customer if an Emergency Roadside Assistance is required by the customer. Once the vehicle is towed to the nearest BYD Service Center, Service staff will provide the customer with further assistance.

And for customers who have no time to drop by the BYD Service Centers for the required maintenance services, BRO can be scheduled for premium home service to work on the customer's car at his home or office, for the ultimate in customer convenience! BRO is initially available during office hours, Monday to Saturday, in Metro Manila.

"Service is indeed a critical success factor for our brand to succeed. And to demonstrate it, we've made our services and facilities more convenient and accessible for our customers to avail of through our BRO Service Hotline and through the BRO Mobile Assist. So if our customers can't bring their BYD vehicles to the dealership, then we will bring the dealership to them," concluded Tieng. **aq**



# Zero Downpayment for Your Dream Car

**N**OW is a great time to get your dream car. BAIC makes it easier for you to get that dream car with its Zero Downpayment Promo.

Available up to July 15, 2015, you can drive away with your choice of the BAIC A1 hatchback or sedan at zero downpayment. The A1 is available in either a 1.3 or 1.5 liter 4-cylinder in-line, DOHC gasoline engine.

"We are happy to give Filipinos this golden opportunity to afford their own car through our zero down payment promo. You only pay for the insurance, registration and chattel mortgage fees and the 20% down payment is on us!" said George Chua, president and

CEO of Bayan Auto, the exclusive distributor of BAIC vehicles in the Philippines.

"The BAIC A1 may be the better alternative for those considering getting their dream car now, as it is an award winning vehicle from a Fortune Global 500 company and fully backed by a 3-year / 100,000 km warranty to ensure your pleasant driving experience", Chua added.

Named as winner in the compact car segment of the 2014 China Initial Quality Study (IQS) released by J.D. Power Asia Pacific, the recognition is a testament to the quality and reliability of the model. The recognition shows that the comprehensive

vehicle quality of BAIC A113/A115 has been acknowledged by consumers and has become the most trustworthy model in the compact sedan category.

Since its introduction in the market, the A113 / A115 has more than exceeded consumer's expectations on performance, design, new features, innovative and intelligent technology, and safety.

Drive away with your BAIC A113 or A115 at zero downpayment. Visit the BAIC Showroom at 2232 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati or call 893-1312. **QQ**



## SUZUKI EXPANDS NETWORK WITH EAST AVENUE DEALERSHIP

**S**UZUKI Philippines Inc., the only integrated motorcycle and automobile company in the country, officially opened its first 3S automobile dealership along East Avenue in line with its aggressive expansion efforts. The new dealership, which is Suzuki's 31st 3S dealership in the Philippines, will offer Sales, Spare parts, and Services. Suzuki Auto East Avenue is a one-stop shop that can now provide a complete array of Suzuki services to motorists around the Quezon City area.

Suzuki Auto East Avenue first displayed its merchandise in December 2014 and officially started selling in January 2015. Suzuki's newest 3S outlet is strategically located near the main building of the Land Transportation Office on East Avenue.

"The past year has been very successful for Suzuki Philippines and we want to continue our growth by making our cars and services more accessible to our target market. We are expanding our company's reach by increasing the number of our 3S dealerships and giving our clients easier access to different locations that could cater to any of their automobile needs," said Suzuki Philippines President Hiroshi Suzuki.

For more information about Suzuki Philippines and its automobiles, please visit [www.suzuki.com.ph](http://www.suzuki.com.ph) and on [www.facebook.com/SuzukiAutoPH](http://www.facebook.com/SuzukiAutoPH). **QQ**

# HOLIDAY PACKAGES

## Domestic Tour Packages



### DAVAO 3D/2N

For as low as **P4,300.00** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until further notice.



### PALAWAN 3D/2N

For as low as **P4,100.00** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until December 2015.



### CEBU 3D/2N

For as low as **P3,300.00** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until February 2016.



### BORACAY 3D/2N

For as low as **P6,800.00** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until March 2016.



### CORON 3D/2N

For as low as **P8,800.00** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until March 2016.



### BOHOL 3D/2N

For as low as **P2,800.00** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until March 2016.

## International Tour Packages



### BANGKOK 3D/2N

For as low as **USD 85** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until October 2015.



### SHANGHAI 4D/3N

For as low as **USD 75** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until November 2015.



### TOKYO 4D/3N

For as low as **USD 608** per person

Based on Twin Sharing  
Land Arrangement Only. Valid until September 2015.

RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND SUBJECT TO ROOM AVAILABILITY. RATES ARE NOT VALID DURING PEAK AND HOLIDAY SEASONS.

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## AAP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

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



The National Auto Club

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

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

AAP offers its members the following exclusive benefits:

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

### Additional Products and Services:

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

\* Not available in some offices

\*\* Outsourced

### EDSA Office

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

Emergency Roadside Service Hotline: (632) 723 0808



- 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)



NEW THINKING.  
NEW POSSIBILITIES.



FACT:

THE ACCENT IS THE ONLY  
DIESEL-POWERED MODEL IN ITS CLASS.

NO EQUAL.



**ACCENT**

We, at Hyundai, pride ourselves in setting the bar higher. There's no greater competition than one's own. And this statement couldn't be truer than in the Accent.

You've got a diesel-powered guarantee ready to give you as much as 56.47km/liter.\* Nowhere else can you find this much efficiency in its class that comes in both sedan and hatchback.

If it's diesel efficiency you're looking for, there's no other competition. The Accent is the only one you need.

**56.47 KM/L\***  
FUEL EFFICIENCY RATING  
ABOUT 53 centavos\*\* PER KM  
UNMATCHED FUEL RATING & SAVINGS  
UNEQUIVOCALLY DIESEL-POWERED  
1.6-liter CRDI VGT Engine  
Maximum Torque of 26.5 kg-m  
at 1,900-2,750 rpm  
SMOOTH GEARSHIFTS  
6-Speed M/T & CVT  
Effortless gear shifting makes for better, more responsive power delivery  
FUEL-SAVING STEERING  
Motor Driven Power Steering (MDPS) Lessens steering load on the engine for better fuel economy

\*Fuel efficiency rating is based on the Hyundai Live Brilliant Test Drive Accent Eco-diesel Edition in Cagayan de Oro, May 2014, conducted by Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), official distributor of Hyundai automobiles.

\*\*Based on diesel prices pegged at Php 30.00, March 2015.

Visit your Hyundai dealership today and check out the unequivocal diesel efficiency of the only one: Hyundai Accent.



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