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DECEMBER 2013

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THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES



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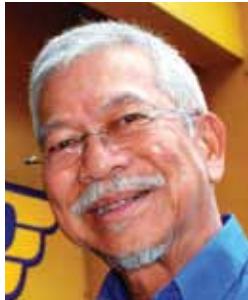


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**Gus Lagman**  
AAPPRESIDENT

# "Kotong Cops"

We were to meet a couple one Saturday afternoon to have *merienda* at the Rockwell Center, but they uncharacteristically arrived quite late. Ramon, the husband, was very apologetic, but explained that they often have to contend with "kotong cops" when they traverse C-5 and EDSA. On that particular day, they again had to.

This couple retired from Los Angeles and now resides in Tagaytay where they have a house. They also bought a small condo unit near the Mall of Asia so they don't have to rush back to Tagaytay every time they come down to do some shopping or visit friends.

"What do you mean – contend with kotong cops", I asked. "Well", he said "these cops – traffic enforcers, actually - prey on vehicles, like ours, that run on diesel".

His explanation went something like this: The traffic enforcers will stop you (they're in uniform); one of them would ask you to alight, then get on the driver's seat to rev up your car. Another cop who has positioned himself near the exhaust pipe would then say that your vehicle is smoke-belching.

You protest and tell them that your car passed the emission test when you registered it. Their response would be that those results are only good for three months.

You continue protesting and they'd tell you that they'll do the testing right there to prove that they're right. Then they'll ask you to line up behind the cars nearby supposedly all waiting for the test equipment to arrive.

Now, if you're in a hurry because you'll be late for an appointment, what do you do? Wait for the test equipment, which will probably never arrive? Or, take the easy way out even if it's against your usual ethical behavior?

Repulsive, isn't it? And frustrating. The situation doesn't really give you much choice.

Let me backtrack a bit to the time when I hadn't heard the above-mentioned story. Many of us motorists would see,

almost every day, buses, trucks, even jeepneys with tailpipes spewing black smoke. When we do, we would always think, "Why aren't the police apprehending them?"

When I therefore notice a group of traffic enforcers stopping vehicles, I would think, "Ah, the cops are finally doing their job!" That was my impression ... until I heard the above story about what really happens on those occasions.

I have a few questions regarding this issue that I'd like to ask the concerned agencies:

1. This is the first time I'd hear the statement that the emission test results when you register your car are only good for three months. Perhaps somebody from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) can enlighten AAP on this, because if this were so, we might as well scrap this testing requirement.
2. I understand that one has to be accredited by the DENR to be able to perform emission testing officially. Are the traffic enforcers who apprehend the vehicles DENR-accredited?
3. Unless you're on a race track, you would hardly drive your car at full throttle. And at today's fuel prices, not even at near-full throttle. When you stop the car and rev up the engine hard, with no load, chances are the smoke that will come out initially would be sooty. Do the traffic enforcers know this and intentionally use the knowledge to entrap motorists?
4. Isn't this a classic case of "barking up the wrong tree"? The smoke-belching buses, trucks, and jeepneys are not apprehended; but private vehicles are.

I know this is quite petty when compared to the PDAF scandal, but it is only so in terms of the "bribe" amounts involved. On the other hand, it can be a major irritant to hundreds of ordinary motorists who might have missed important appointments as a result of this corrupt practice.

As there is still the case of real smoke-belching vehicles, AAP is therefore willing, as usual, to sit down with the concerned government agencies to look for a solution that will eliminate this opportunity for corruption, yet get vehicles that pollute the air off our roads. **QQ**

**“ AAP is therefore willing, as usual, to sit down with the concerned government agencies to look for a solution that will eliminate this opportunity for corruption ”**

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CREW

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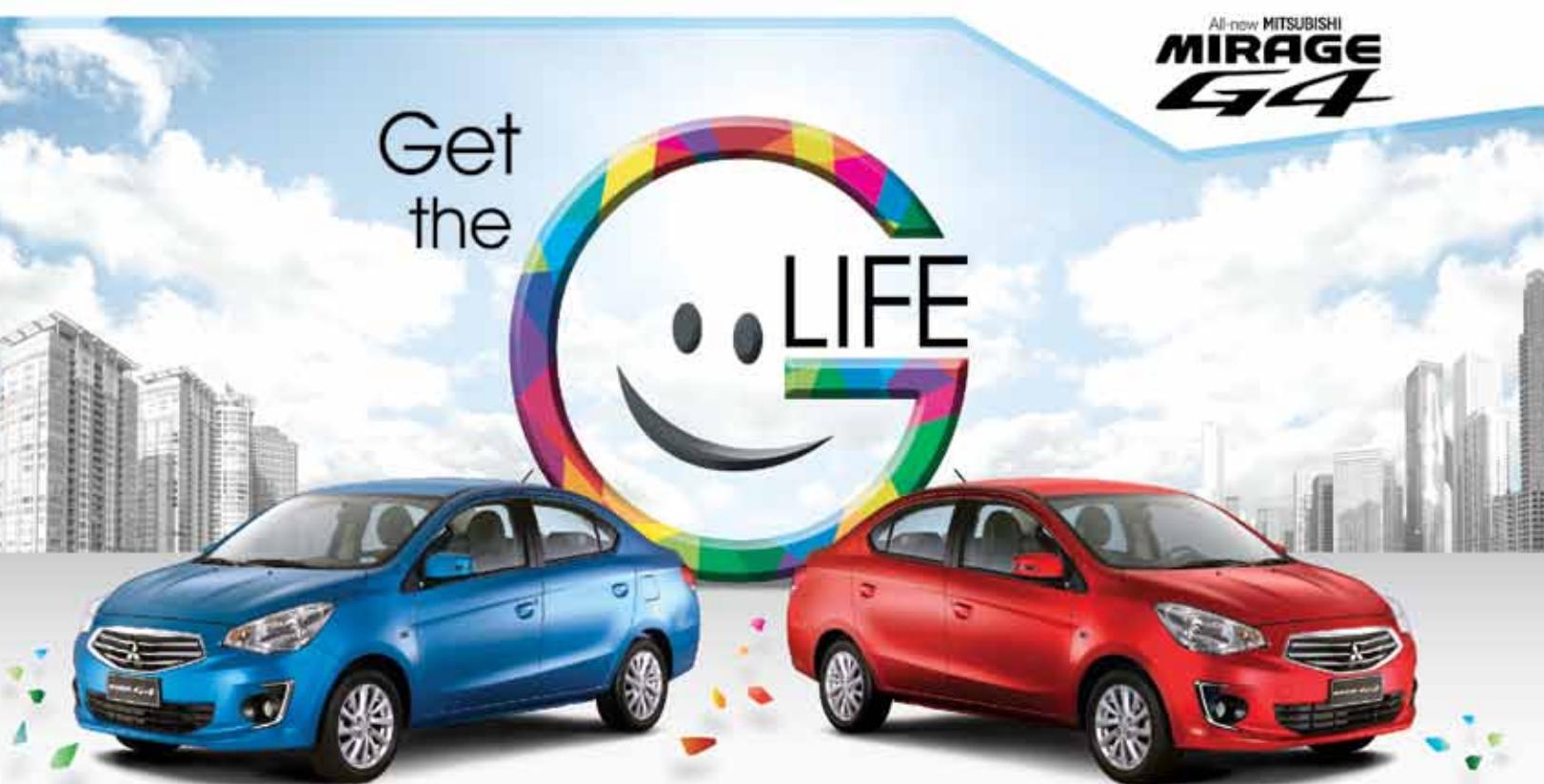
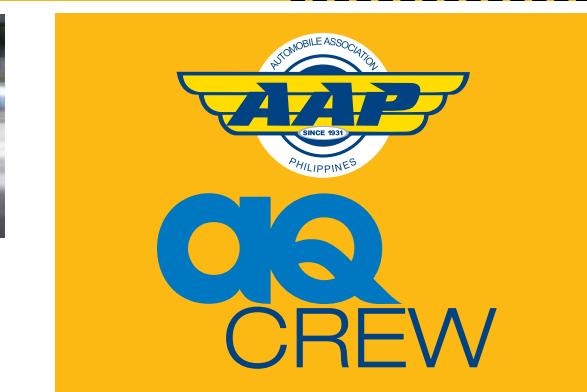
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Aida Sevilla Mendoza  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## Peace and Mercy Mild in Christmas Motoring

**P**EACE on earth and mercy mild" is the third verse of one of the most popular Christmas carols, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." How I wish "peace" and "mercy mild" would permeate Metro Manila traffic during the holiday season!

You would think that the joy and goodwill engendered by Christmas would bring about increased road courtesy, observance of traffic regulations and the basic rules of driving safely. But no, the opposite of peace and mercy mild takes place when aggressive motorists show no mercy to other road users in their obsession to stay ahead of the pack. The danger of road rage and "an accident waiting to happen" rises when alcohol has been imbibed or other drivers refuse to cede their turf to aggressors. The result is anarchy on the road, gridlock and chaos.

The sad truth is that when you show "mercy mild" on the road by giving way to others, not blowing your car horn in anger when someone cuts across or into your path (a bad habit of motorcycle riders) and patiently allowing jaywalkers to cross the street even if there is a pedestrian lane nearby, the whole world takes advantage and abuses your kindness. And you end up being late for your appointment, not to mention having frazzled nerves.

Since more intensive traffic volume is inevitable during the Christmas shopping season, the only way to stay calm and peaceful is to hit the road extra early. If it usually takes an hour to reach your destination or place of work, give an allowance of two hours. Find out what other routes you can take instead of jampacked major thoroughfares like EDSA and C-5.

**“Indeed, driving during the Christmas season can be a pleasant experience if you use common sense, stay alert and know when to practice “mercy mild.””**

Avoid the routes taken by cargo trucks going to and from Port Area. Avoid streets along which several shopping malls, schools and/or bus terminals are located. Naturally, avoid roads that are undergoing repair.

When you are tailgated by an aggressive driver, this is the time to practice "mercy mild" by moving aside and allowing him or her to overtake. Then you can resume driving peacefully.

When you are driving and see a bus stop or jeepney stop up ahead, stay in the lane farthest from these loading and unloading stations. Avoid driving behind a mega-taxi, a taxicab or a jeepney as these public utility vehicles suddenly stop anywhere to load or unload passengers. When it comes to passenger buses, avoid driving in front of one as buses sometimes "lose" their brakes and ram into the vehicle in front. Driving behind a bus is less risky as many bus drivers are aggressive and bully their way through, thereby clearing a path for you.

The rule of leaving extra early for a destination also applies when you have to go to a supermarket, shopping center, bank, restaurant, office tower or hospital. Not only do you avoid the traffic buildup going there, you also get to choose a conveniently located parking slot.

Dealing with a traffic policeman or deputized traffic enforcer can be a stressful experience, although most are polite and upright when they apprehend erring motorists. Avoid all contact with traffic cops by strictly following traffic regulations, especially the coding ordinance, and watching out for hidden road signs that entrap unsuspecting motorists such as "No right turn on red light" and "No U-Turn."

Indeed, driving during the Christmas season can be a pleasant experience if you use common sense, stay alert and know when to practice "mercy mild." ☺

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An AAP flatbed truck is loaded with relief goods for typhoon Yolanda survivors.

## AAP employees pitch in for Yolanda relief ops



AAP employees volunteered to repack relief goods purchased with cash donations

In the wake of the destruction brought by typhoon Yolanda (international code name Haiyan) to central Philippines, the management of AAP and AAP Lingkod— together with AAP employees—rallied together to raise funds to help in the relief operations for the typhoon-struck provinces of Leyte, Negros, Samar, Cebu and others.

The AAP relief fund drive was able to collect more than P275, 000 from individual donations, corporate funding and pledges which was then used to purchase relief goods such as canned goods, noodles, water, medicine and toiletries.

Supertyphoon Yolanda is one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded in history, comparable

to the 1991 typhoon Thelma in which 5,100 people died. Official records from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council have put the death toll due to typhoon Yolanda to over 5,000 people as of November and is expected to rise as more information come in from the different provinces.

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# AAP Sends Motor Sport Manager to FIA's Emerging Leaders Program

**T**HE Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) of the FIA took place last October 14-18 at ESADE Business School in Barcelona Spain and was attended by 20 mobility and sport automobile club executives from Mexico, Croatia, Malaysia, Macedonia, Australia, Bangladesh, Catalonia, Albania, United Arab Emirates, United States and The Netherlands. The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) sent Motor Sport Operations Manager Mark Desales to the ELP.

The Emerging Leaders Program builds on the knowledge, experience and diversity of the FIA family by developing leadership skills and providing broader strategy, innovation and advocacy perspectives for promising individuals

"The experience and learning I got in representing AAP at the program was very helpful," Desales said afterwards. "It's a good management toolkit that I can use to help our club in further development, execution and implementation of new ideas, plans, and models for us to be more competitive in the market and grow our membership and commercial business aspects."

Desales added that AAP can use some of the ideas pitched in by representatives from other clubs such as the Smart Fuel Program, Car Sales, Insurance Sales, Expand Membership Partners and Rewards Points in order to retain and increase membership.

Desales said he found the five-day program very informative. "We were thoroughly taught and trained to maneuver our respective clubs to meet our main objectives. New ideas, platforms and strategies were also derived from the program to enhance our skills, as young leaders, to overcome competition, create new business plans and models and exercise good leadership aside from developing character, interpersonal skills, good decision-making and managerial ability."

In a statement released by the FIA University, FIA president Jean Todt said: "Unlike big corporations, the FIA is not a homogenous entity but rather a federation of sport and mobility clubs with varied interests. We want to help our clubs be stronger in these times by giving them access to the best strategic capacity building education. Initiated as a Mobility project, I think there is real potential to extend the FIA University into the work of our Motor Sport Clubs."

AAP is the only member in the Philippines of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the Paris-based governing body for motor sport worldwide and the federation of 227 national motoring and sporting organizations in 132 countries. **aq**



AAP Motor Sports Operations Manager Mark Desales (5th from right) with executives from other automobile clubs during the FIA University Emerging Leaders Program October 14-18, 2013 at the Esade Business School in Barcelona, Spain.

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## AAP senior officials and track side marshals undergo FIA officials safety training

THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP)'s senior officials and track side marshals took part in an Officials Safety Training Program practical training session last November 9-10 conducted by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) at the Clark International Speedway. CAMS is an FIA Institute-approved Regional Training Provider. Project Head and AAP Motor Sport Operations Manager Mark Desales scheduled the training in time for the second leg of the Philippine Touring Car Championship (PTCC) so that the CAMS trainers could observe how the local marshals administer actual races.

This Officials Safety Training Program was made possible by a grant from the FIA Foundation's Motor Sport Safety Development Fund, which was established in 2008 as a charitable fund to help improve safety, training and education in motor sport worldwide. The FIA Institute manages the programs of the Fund on behalf of the FIA Foundation and one of these programs is the Officials Safety Training Program under which this activity was conducted.

CAMS started the program last year under the auspices of AAP with the goal to fully qualify participating Philippine motor sport officials to officiate at international events. Before the practical training, the officials were given several assessments and training sessions about leadership, team building, communication systems, protocols and techniques, events planning and management and incident management, among others.

When asked to comment on the training, Bebot Reyes, chief steward during the PTCC series and one of AAP's senior officials, said: "We learned a lot from the training with CAMS. We applied everything we learned from them during the PTCC race, like the right execution of flag signaling, incident handling, basic communication procedures and most importantly, safe operation."

"The marshals did a fantastic job! We're very impressed," David Mori, one of the CAMS trainers said right after monitoring the PTCC race administered by local officials and marshals. He said he noted a

massive improvement from the last race they saw compared to this one. "Not only with the facilities but also in the marshals' knowledge, the marshals' confidence – they are really impressive," Mori added.

After listening to Mori's observations, Lawrie Schmitt and Tony Thorne, the two other CAMS trainers, also agreed that the marshals are really performing well. "They definitely benefited from the training," Schmitt said. Thorne pointed out that "the more racing they do, the more opportunities they get to do the flagging, use their radios for communication, the better they will become. If you do something more frequently, you get better at it. More opportunities like this will make them better."

AAP Motor Sport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque declared that AAP aims to continuously improve PTCC - the premiere circuit event in the country – with the help of CAMS trainers who have had considerable training in other countries for Formula One. "I am encouraging you guys to go to AAP and get your driving licenses and be an FIA-accredited racer," he told the participants. "We issue FIA-accredited licenses and aside from that, AAP has a lot of resources you can use."

After getting a "thumbs up" from the CAMS trainers, AAP is hopeful that local motor sport officials will soon qualify to officiate at international events as the country gets closer to obtaining the Progress Towards Excellence accreditation standard from the FIA Institute.



AAP Motor Sport Committee chairman Mandy Eduque (seated, leftmost) with AAP senior officials and track side marshals and CAMS trainers at the FIA Officials Safety Training, Nov. 9-10, 2013, Clark International Speedway.

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## COMING UP:

## ASIA-PACIFIC DRIVE TOURISM CONFERENCE OF AAP AND DOT

**A**S conceptualized by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), Drive Tourism is a homeland-appreciating activity whereby individuals or groups hit the road in their motor vehicles to explore the myriad attractions of their own country.

One of the ongoing Drive Tourism programs of AAP is caravanning. In this program, instead of driving straight to a destination, the caravan participants move through a tourism highway that allows them to see many attractions in between the start and end destinations. Moreover, Drive Tours are organized according to themes such as culture and heritage, water sports or culinary adventure for a fuller, more focused travel experience.

Drive Tourism is geared towards getting the members of AAP, many of whom own two or three cars, to visit the various Philippine attractions in their vehicles. So far, AAP Travel, a fully owned subsidiary of AAP, has organized six Drive Tourism caravans: Subic-Clark, Cavite-Batangas, Ilocos Norte, Rizal, a Fly-Drive Caravan to Negros Occidental and Laguna last September 21.

To promote Drive Tourism, AAP Travel will present the Asia-Pacific Drive Tourism Conference and Exhibition on January 30-February 2, 2014 at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center. This conference will be co-presented by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in partnership with the Departments of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) with AAP Travel and the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) as organizers.

Jean Todt, president of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), Michelle Yeoh, FIA Ambassador for Road Safety and Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. will be the guests of honor during the opening ceremony.

In the morning of the first day of the conference, transport ministers of various Asia-Pacific countries will talk about innovative and sustainable programs promoting road safety. Dinner will be hosted by the DOT and will be themed The Mabuhay Night. On the second day, foreign tourism ministers or their representatives will talk about tourism strategies and programs focused on saving the environment. The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) will host the lunch during which they will present their latest projects. On the third day, member clubs of FIA-Region 2 (Asia-Pacific) will talk about their tourism and mobility product innovations. The conference will

by MINA GABOR

Director, AAP and President, AAP Travel



conclude with a Chinese New Year-themed fellowship lunch.

Meanwhile, the Exhibition, which will be opened by Michelle Yeoh, will have three themes – the Auto Plaza, Travel Village and Market Place. The Auto Plaza will serve as the showroom of participating car manufacturers. One of the highlights of the Auto Plaza is a special car auction. Special travel packages will be sold at the Travel Village while travel and car accessories and gadgets will be offered at special discounted prices in the Market Place.

In conjunction with the Exhibition, an International Kite Festival is planned in SBMA, ditto a Dream Car Parade on Saturday, Feb. 1 and a Celebrity

Vintage and Classic Car Parade on Sunday, Feb. 2.

The centerpiece of the Drive Tourism Conference is the Children's Subic Road Safety Park which will be opened by Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez and Michelle Yeoh with officials of the DOTC, DILG, DPWH, Department of Education and SBMA. The park is designed to meet both the theoretical as well as practical aspects of training on road safety. Its mission is to inculcate in the minds of children road safety values and to improve their knowledge, skills and behavior as road users.

AAP Travel will announce more details about the first Asia-Pacific Drive Tourism Conference and Exhibition in the coming weeks.

**Theme:**  
**Saving Lives, Saving Costs, Saving the Planet**  
in support of the U.N. Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020

**SUBIC BAY EXHIBITION & CONVENTION CENTER**  
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, OLONGAPO, PHILIPPINES

**January 30 - February 2, 2014**

**EVENT FACT SHEET (LOCAL)**

<b>Exhibition</b>	January 28, 2014 - January 30, 2014
<b>Opening</b>	January 30, 2014 (2:00pm)
<b>Event Proper</b>	January 31, 2014 - February 2, 2014
<b>Egress</b>	February 2, 2014 (7:00pm onwards)

**Conference**

<b>Opening</b>	January 31, 2014 (9:00am)
<b>Event Proper</b>	January 31, 2014 - February 2, 2014

**Networking Activities**

<b>Opening Cocktails</b>	January 30, 2014
<b>Mabuhay Night</b>	January 31, 2014
<b>Fellowship Night</b>	February 1, 2014
<b>Chinese New Year Luncheon</b>	February 2, 2014

**EVENT HIGHLIGHT**

Launch of the Subic Road Safety Park

**Thursday** January 30, 2014 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Who Can Exhibit**

- Government Agencies
- GOCs
- Automobile / Car Companies (Manufacturers & Importers)
- Automobile Clubs & Groups
- Automobile Spare Parts/Accessories Manufacturers/Suppliers
- Motorsports Groups
- Traffic Management Groups
- Insurance Companies
- Banks, Financial & Credit Card Companies
- Tourism Boards
- Tourism Councils
- Travel and Tour Operators
- Air, Land and Sea Transport Services
- Trade Associations & Accessories
- Arts and Handicrafts
- Fast Food Companies
- Snacks Companies
- Electronics

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Subic International Kite Festival**  
Marvel at the skies over Subic Bay as hundreds of kites with varying sizes, shapes and colors fly around.

**Banawe Caravan**  
Be awed at one off UNESCO's World Heritage sites as AAP visits the terraces of the Igaoan, where you can witness a distinct beauty and appear and immerse into the Igaoan's rich heritage and culture.

**Dream Car Parade**  
With the motorcade of vintage, classic and modern cars with celebrities

**Demos/Clinics**  
Understand the importance of Road Safety through simulations.

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**ALTA FAIRS & EXHIBITS**

**Exhibition Zoning**

**1. Auto Plaza**  
**2. Travel Village**  
**3. Market Place**

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## AN EVENTFUL WEEKEND AT CLARK WITH THE 2nd LEG OF 2013 PTCC SERIES AND FIA OFFICIALS SAFETY TRAINING

**N**OVEMBER 9-10, 2013 was an eventful weekend for motor sport enthusiasts at the Clark International Raceway when the second leg of the 2013 Philippine Touring Car Championship (PTCC) and the FIA Officials Safety Training took place.

At the opening ceremony, AAP Director and Motor Sport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque said: "I congratulate you all for being here and for being so enthusiastic about racing. We are here in partnership with JP Tuason because we want to bring Philippine Touring Car Championship series to a bigger audience. We consider the PTCC the premiere circuit event in the country and in order to keep improving it, today we have three gentlemen from the Confederation of Australian Motorsports who have had considerable training in other countries for Formula One. They're here for our second year of training the local officials to bring Philippine motor sport to international standards."

In the PTCC event, Carlos Anton of Ethanworx Racing Team dominated and swept all four races, defeating rivals Joey Pery of Forex/Motul Racing Team



The 2013 Philippine Touring Car Championship (PTCC) drivers with the CAMS trainers, AAP senior officials, track side marshals and muses at Clark International Speedway, Nov. 9-10, 2013. AAP Motor Sport Committee chairman Mandy Eduque, in a white cap and white shirt, is standing in the second row, third from right.

and William Tan of Promethium/2GO Racing Team. Tough Gear/Bosch Racing Team's Milo Rivera, entering the PTCC for the first time, showed that he can compete with the country's top circuit drivers by scoring two podium finishes. Rivera was nominated by AAP to the FIA Institute's Young Drivers Excellence Academy in Sydney, Australia last October and was appointed Motorsport Ambassador afterwards to share what he had learned at the Academy with local aspiring race drivers.

Rounds 5 and 6 gave William Tan a chance to seize the third and second posts, but mechanical problems forced him to retire, allowing Pery and Rivera to move forward and clinch the second and third spots,

respectively. Meanwhile, in the Division 2 (150hp) class, newcomer Paolo Mantolino gained the number one spot against Alan Arguelles while. Walter Zamora finished second and third place, respectively in the two rounds.

In the Division 3 (100hp) class, brothers Paul and Edmund Anguluan of Shift Motorsport Racing fought for the top spot against Bjorn Ongtiaobok of Tuason Racing School and Circuit Showdown's Edwin Rodriguez,. The 2013 PTCC Series is organized by AAP and promoted by the Philippine Race Car Drivers, Inc., co-presented by Kumho Tires, Tierra Marketing, Forex, Promethium, Velocity Motors and powered by Speedlab, Honda Cars Kalocan and Aeromed Ambulance Transport.

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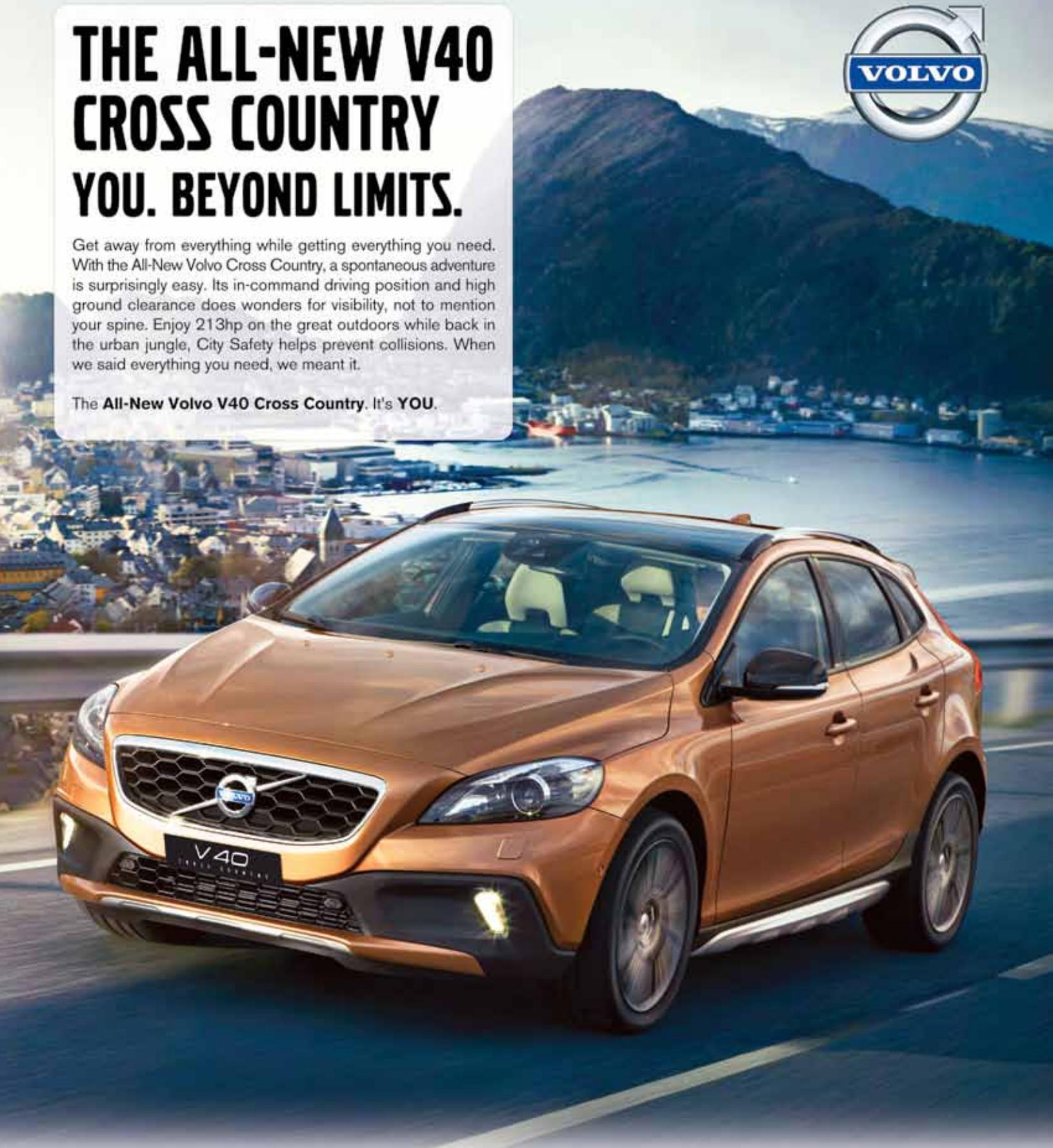
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by Tessa R. Salazar

**L**IKE bees, the motoring world's most prominent players will swarm to this country in 2014. Italian, French, Scandinavian, German, British, American, Japanese and Korean manufacturers, importers and distributors will either introduce new models, or refresh already established brands. The complete roster is not yet cast in stone, though. But based on the "buzz" that has been circulating in the hive, we can make out a few models that would be a shoo-in for 2014.

### 2014 Road Landscape

# WHAT WHEELS MAY COME



Isuzu mu-x



Honda Fit



Volvo XC60

*The Future is here.*

**BYD**  
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**S**olar Transport and Automotive Resources Corp. (STAR Corp.) - authorized Philippine distributor of BYD Auto China Ltd. Co. - officially presented its initial model line-up to guests and the motoring media during a grand launching ceremony held at the One esplanade in Pasay City last Sept. 27, 2013.

Unveiled at the venue were the BYD L3, BYD F5 Suri and the BYD S6, which is currently the car maker's flagship vehicle.

The BYD L3 is a "C" segment sedan that is available in two variants: The L3 1.5 Liter GS-i, which is equipped with in-line 4 16 Valve, SOHC, fuel injected, gasoline engine with DCT (Dual Clutch Transmission); and the BYD L3 1.5 Liter GL-i with in-line 4 16 valve, SOHC, fuel injected, gasoline engine mated to a five-speed M/T.

The BYD F5 Suri, meanwhile, is also a "C" segment passenger car, which

boasts of the company's world-leading Remote Driving Control Technology, TID power assembly (turbo charged + direct injection + dual clutch transmission), intelligent devices and exquisite workmanship.

Convenience of having the Remote Driving Technology lies in the F5 Suri allowing drivers to see the car move little by little from the parking place, avoiding any impact with vehicle in front or from behind. The remote control can be used from a distance of 10 meters as when it rains you can command your F5 Suri to come closer to you just by pressing the control keys.

This technology was awarded as the Best Leading Science and Technology in the 2012 Beijing Auto Show, where BYD's current automotive products were launched on the world stage.

The S6 is BYD's first independently designed SUV, which attained a monthly sales of over 15,000 units in December 2011, earning the award of China's "SUV of the Year" - the highest honor in China's automotive industry in 2012.

The vehicle is available in two variants: The S6 2.4 Liter, which is powered by a gasoline-fed, in-line 4 16-valve engine (Mitsubishi 4G69) with MPI Fuel Injection by Bosch mated to a five-speed A/T and two-wheel drive, and S6 2.0 Liter in-line 4 16-valve with MPI Fuel Injection by Bosch with five-speed M/T and two-wheel drive.

Both variants, which received 5-Star ratings in the C-NCAP crash tests, are fitted with a dual mode sun roof, ABS, EBD, dual front airbags, side airbags, curtain airbags, parking radar, with reverse camera, leather upholstery, 7" multi-touch screen monitor, DVD player, nine speakers and smart key. The 2.4 Liter S6 variant comes with cruise control.

BYD, which stands for Build Your Dreams, is the leading-edge provider of green energy technologies that specializes in IT, automotive and new energy industries.

Each automobile is gaining recognition all over the globe for their build quality and world-class technologies. BYD's automotive business also made the news when world-renowned entrepreneur Warren Buffet invested in the company.

STAR Corp., which was founded in December 2012, will be establishing its dealer networks through out the Philippines.

BYD models are priced at, P 1,158,000 S6 5 - speed A/T 2.4L/ P 928,000 S6 5 - speed M/T 2.0L/ P 1,018,000 F5 Suri 5 - speed A/T 1.5L/ and for the entry level L3 model, priced at P 598,000 while the L3 GL-i 5 - speed M/T 1.5L / P 718,000 L3 GS-i 5 - speed A/T 1.5L.

STAR Corp. team, is spear headed by Mr. Mark Andrew Tieng (Managing Director) Ms. Anna Marie Tamauco (General Manager), Mr. John Correa (Nat'l Sales and Marketing Manager) and Mr. Ruben Emilano (Nat'l After-Sales Manager). You can visit STAR Corp. at 312 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City and you can reach us at 533-8888.

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Toyota Aqua G Sports



Lexus RC300h

PGA Cars, the Philippine distributor of Audi, Porsche, Lamborghini and Bentley, has revealed that its 2014 models would include Audi's new A3 sedan, Audi's RSQ3 SUV, Porsche's new Macan SUV, Porsche's 911 GT3, Porsche's 911 Turbo, and Lamborghini's new V10 Coupe, which is a Gallardo successor, revealed Amado del Rosario, PGA Cars director. Two other cars set to enter the country are Bentley's new Flying Spur ultra luxury limousine, which Del Rosario said would be previewed this November, and Bentley's Continental GT V8S ultra luxury coupe for 2014.

Autostrada Motore Inc. reveals that the company is set to introduce the 2014 Ferrari 458 Speciale California, and Maserati's all-new Ghibli diesel. Autostrada Motore, whose showroom is in Bonifacio Global City (BGC), is the importer-distributor of Ferrari and Maserati.

Autostrada Motore chair and president Wellington Soong also distributes the Jaguar and Land Rover brands. He added that in 2014, the new Jaguar 2.0L XJ (gasoline), 2.0L XF (gasoline), 2.2L XF (diesel), and an all-new Range Rover Sport will be introduced. On Oct. 3, 2013, Jaguar Cars introduced the F-Type at the Jaguar Lifestyle Centre at BGC. The two-seater convertible sports car is bent

on attracting a younger Filipino market, and continues the sporting bloodline dating back over 75 years.

CATS Motors Inc shares new Mercedes-Benz cars that will be introduced in 2014: The S-Class (S 500, S 400 and S 400 hybrid); A 45 AMG; CLA 45 AMG; and CLA-Class (CLA 250). CATS Motors Inc who also distributes brands Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge, is scheduled to introduce Dodge RAM 1500.

Wraith, a new version of the Mini, and a new Rolls Royce sports car are also expected to set rubber here in 2014. Willy Tee Ten, president and CEO of Autohub Group of Companies and president of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Manila, is mum on more details, but does add that the Wraith may arrive earlier than expected.

"The Rolls-Royce Wraith was introduced this year in other countries. Our first unit is arriving next month (December 2013)," he quipped.

Lexus unveiled the new "RC" model coupe at the recent Tokyo Motor Show. The LF-NX Concept vehicle, which was recently unveiled at the Frankfurt motor show, was also shown in Tokyo.

Lexus Manila marketing services officer Carlo Chungunco said that both are yet to be confirmed if they would be

marketed in the Philippines.

"While the RC is an all-new sports coupe added to the Lexus line-up, it is already being showcased in production trim and is based on the LF-CC Concept car. We are quite excited to see it in the flesh and we are very much hoping that it arrives in Philippine shores when production starts for the model," Chungunco said.

The LF-NX is a concept vehicle for a compact SUV, slotting below the RX in the Lexus line-up. All-new and in concept car form, it showcases the dramatic design language inherent in all modern Lexus vehicles, and is an indicator as to where Lexus is going in terms of design and styling.

He added: "As of the moment, we have no ideas yet on which cars will be arriving and when they will be here, but if the 2013 Tokyo Motor Show is any indication of future possibilities for Lexus, we are quite excited for the two all-new models in our lineup."

#### TOYOTA'S ATTENTION GRABBER

Among the many models that Toyota has showcased at the 43rd Tokyo Motor Show, the Toyota Aqua G Sports is quite the attention-grabber. It has been described at the Motor Show as a "fun-to-drive, sports-conversion compact hybrid sports car with powerful,



Peugeot 208 GTi



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sleek and inspiring styling and excellent fuel efficiency."

The vehicle has been fully tuned by Gazoo Racing to offer a wider range of consumers a taste of racing and the joy of driving. The market version of the Aqua G Sports is scheduled for launch in the Japanese market in late November. Gazoo Racing lets test drivers participate in the development of ever-better cars by racing them.

#### VOLVO REDESIGNED

Viking Cars, the official distributor of Volvo, will be revealing a redesigned XC60 and S60. Although Viking Cars still does not have the details of local specifications, the S60 2014 model is said to have a new dynamic design, accentuating the car's sporting nature. The "sporty feel is emphasized by new, comfortable sport seats and the new Sensus Connected Touch system with unique on-line possibilities."

Volvo reveals that its S60 will have a fuel consumption down to a "class-leading 3.9 l/100km and CO2 emissions of just 103 g/km in the Volvo S60 D2."

Notable features include the new pedestrian and cyclist detection technology with full auto brake, which is equipped with an advanced sensor system that scans the area ahead. If a cyclist heading in the same direction suddenly swerves out in front of the car as it approaches from behind and collision is imminent, there is an instant warning and full braking power is applied.

The technology also detects if a pedestrian steps out onto the road in front of the car. If the driver does not respond in time, the car can automatically activate the brakes.

The S60 features an upgraded City Safety system. This system is active at speeds up to 50 kph. The car automatically brakes if the driver fails to react in time when the

vehicle in front slows down or stops - or if the car is approaching a stationary vehicle too fast.

The Volvo XC60 2014 model also has the City Safety system and the new pedestrian and cyclist detection technology, and is Volvo's best-selling model. Expect a more urban twist on the exterior of this 2014 version.

The design team has increased the XC60's road presence by emphasizing its horizontal lines, which visually connects the car directly to the road.

#### CHEVY'S WISHES ANSWERED

The Covenant Car Company Inc (TCCCI), exclusive distributor of Chevrolet in the Philippines, said that it has recently launched three models already answers its "wish list" for 2014: The Spin, Malibu, and Trailblazer 2.8L AT 4x2.

Lawyer Albert Arcilla, TCCCI president and managing director, said that "Chevrolet Philippines has been very fortunate to launch two important new models and one new variant of a current model recently at the Motorama and this may already be an answered wish that came early for us. These are important models that will participate in significant and large segments in the CV categories."

Arcilla added that for 2014, his team is looking forward to "variants of the current models to augment the lineup, as part of Chevrolet's effort to serve more keenly the varying subsegments within the major segments, whose customers' needs and preferences may be more specialized."

However, Arcilla also adds that "We cannot deny that the C7 Corvette Stingray is at the top of our wish list. While we have such sporting cars as the Camaro, the ultimate performance Chevrolet is the best expression

of the brand's considerable technological capabilities and long sporting heritage.

"Going more down to earth, our wish includes vehicles that have the flexibility and ruggedness to tackle not just everyday challenges, but also unforeseen difficulties. The recent calamity brought home the point that the family's regular car, SUV, or van may one day be the single most important appliance that preserves safety and even human life. We are hoping to work together with our principals for more vans and 7-seater SUVs to buttress our lineup that can best serve the needs of the public," Arcilla declared, referring to the transport needs of evacuees and survivors of the recent supertyphoon Yolanda that destroyed much of Central Visayas on November 7 and 8.

#### FRENCH CONNECTION

French car manufacturer Peugeot offered a sneak peak of its 2014 models at the Auto Focus Motor Show, displaying the Peugeot 208 GTi, and the Peugeot Expert Tepee.

The 208 GTi is expected to "shake up" the sporty B segment, as it adds its qualities of comfort, multi-role ability and spaciousness in a distinctly chic package. The 8-seater Expert Tepee, designed for the family, has been described as "a unique vehicle identified by its modern styling, which suggests both quality and dynamism. Its large, bright interior encourages you to go on that long trip you've been meaning to take."

Dong Magsajo, marketing and communications director of Eurobrands Distributor Inc, Peugeot's official distributor in the Philippines, said both vehicles were "mere preview vehicles at the auto show, and not yet really made available publicly. We can't reveal their prices yet."

The new Peugeot 208 GTi, the natural evolution of the legendary 205GTi, is fitted

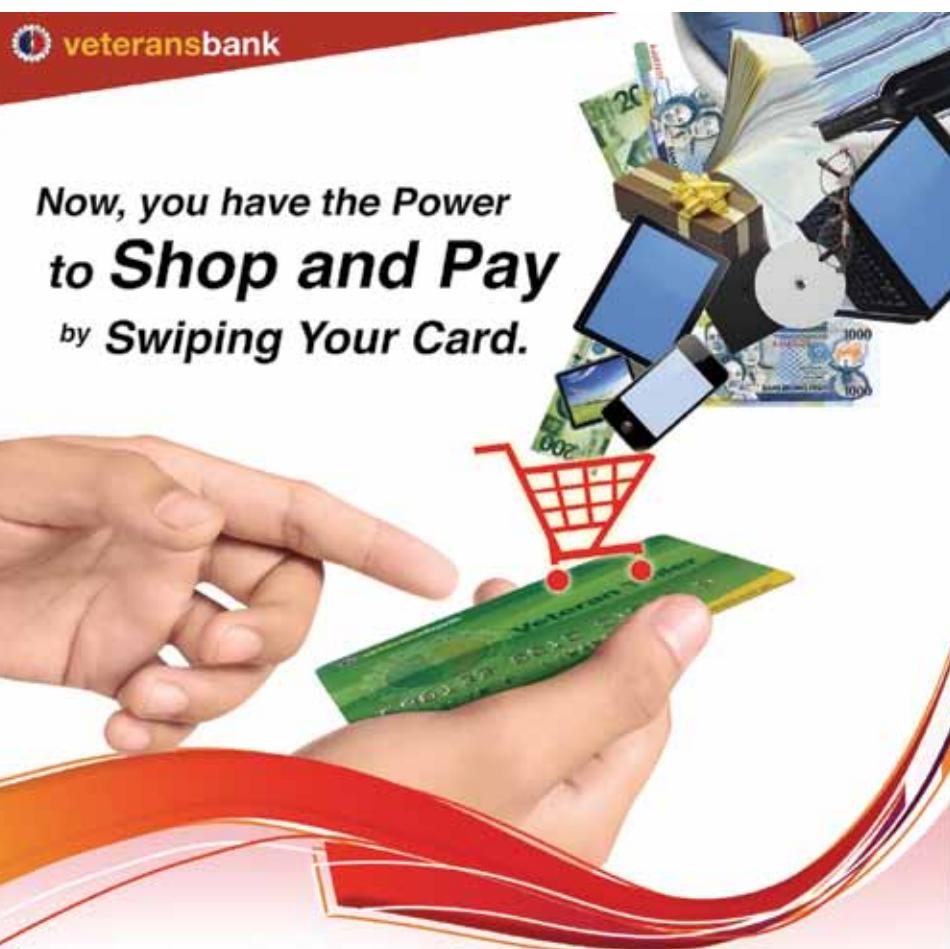
# New Libera Album Launched in the Philippines

**L**IBERA, the chart-topping London boys' choir, has recently released their newest album in the Philippines late October of this year as part of the choir's partaking in the Philippine-UK Friendship Week led by the Chairman of British Alumni Association of the Philippines and Philippine Veterans Bank, Roberto de Ocampo, OBE. The album, which de Ocampo is credited as producer, is entitled: Angels Sing – Christmas in Ireland, features beloved Christmas carols, old and new, sacred and secular, joyful and tender – all recorded live in the radiant ambience of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh, Ireland.



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with 205/45 tires, 17" diamond carbon wheels, with Storm paint and matte varnish, and house 302mm ventilated discs at the front and 249mm discs at the rear cooled by dynamic air intakes, and provide controlled and incisive braking.

The 1.6 THP 200bhp gasoline engine expresses itself through a reworked exhaust system. Coupled with a manual gearbox with six close-ratio gears, the engine delivers with gusto. With its maximum torque of 275Nm and its maximum power of 200bhp, the 208 GTi accelerates from 0 to 100 in less than 7 seconds.

The Expert Tepee has a 2.0-liter HDi with Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) that churns out 163hp and 340Nm of torque at



Porsche 911 Turbo S



Honda NSX Concept

2,000RPM. This engine is coupled with an automatic transmission. It has front airbags, four-wheel disc brakes, ESP and ABS, plus a speed limiter and cruise control.

#### BMW'S SECRET CARDS

One of the most prominent German brands is tight-lipped when it comes to its local plans.

Asian Carmakers Corporation (ACC), the official importer and distributor of BMW in the Philippines, did bring in on Oct. 3 with the BMW 3 Series Gran Turismo. Another BMW GT, however, has been mentioned in various car magazines (with spy shots to boot) as early as 2011. In December 2012, UK car magazine What Car? did dare write, "It is likely to be called The BMW 1 Series Gran Turismo, and would be due on sale in 2014."

That particular car was known as the BMW Concept Active Tourer, the concept car that previews BMW's first front-wheel-drive model production version due 2014. It was described as "a practical hatchback with a tall body, in the same mold as the Mercedes-Benz

B-Class and Volkswagen Golf Plus." What Car? also added that at 435cm long, and 156cm high, it has almost identical proportions to the B-Class; 3cm shorter than the current BMW 1 series hatchback, and 10cm taller."

Another cat raring to go out of the bag is the BMW 4 Series (a BMW 4 Series Cabriolet has been spotted at the Tokyo Motor Show). BMW also revealed the 4 Series Convertible at November's Los Angeles Auto Show. ACC is yet to confirm, or deny, its availability in the country in 2014.

#### 'VISUALLY ENTERTAINING' FOR MAZDA, VOLKSWAGEN

Mazda Philippines CEO Steven Tan also refused to mention the particular cars Mazda intends to introduce in the Philippines, but said the new cars his team wishes to see in 2014 "should be more beautiful and exciting to look at, and be amazing to drive. Of course, they should also be more fuel efficient and produces less harmful emissions."

He explains, "There will be more cars on the roads of Manila. If we can't do anything

about the congestion, at least we should try to populate the roads with cars and SUVs that are visually entertaining, and contribute less pollution. They need not be faster, nor more powerful, but they should be great to drive and delightful to sit in. They should visit the gas station less because they can go further between stopping for fuel. Wishful thinking? Not really. We are so looking forward to 2014."

The Philippine offices of Toyota, Honda Cars, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Motor Image (Subaru), Asian Carmakers Corporation (BMW), Nissan and Isuzu chose not to reveal their 2014 list, but the recent Tokyo Motor Show held November 20 to December 1 at the Tokyo Big Sight gave a sneak peek of their future global lineup, which might as well be in the Philippines 2014 and beyond: The Toyota FT-86 Open concept (based on the rear-wheel drive 86 sports car), Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle); Honda N-WGN, Nissan Teana, Suzuki iV-4 (compact SUV), Mazda CX-5 25S L Package (4WD) and Isuzu mu-x; The new BMW X5, the all-new Range Rover, Porsche 911 Turbo S, Lexus RC300h, Jaguar F-Type R Coupe, Volkswagen's Beetle Racer, Golf R, BMW 435i, BMW 4 Series Cabriolet, Honda Fit (Jazz), Honda Vezel hybrid, Mazda Atenza, Subaru Levorg, Volvo S60 R-type, Nissan NV350 Caravan, all-new Mini, and Volkswagen Golf R.

Arnel Doria, head of marketing and sales of Automobile Central Enterprise Inc. (Acei), the Philippine distributor of Volkswagen, said: "We have lined up several models for next year. But we have just started actual sales of Tiguan, Touran and Touareg diesel variants recently. Announcing the next models might dampen the impact of these three models. But definitely, the gasoline variants of these three will be arriving in the first quarter of 2014."

His wish list includes the iconic Beetle and the Golf. **aq**

# First Automobile in the Philippines 1900 Woods Electric Motor Vehicle

By Richard Wilhelm. B. Ragodon



A graphic artist's rendition of the first horse-less carriage (Luneta, 1901)

**W**HEN December of 1900 was coming to an end, the Philippine-American War, which began on February 4, 1899, was not yet over. There were still clashes in the northern provinces of Luzon. However, Filipinos, in pacified areas like Manila and Southern Luzon, were slowly familiarizing themselves with soldiers of the new occupational forces. Many, if not all, had started in attending to their own businesses. Likewise, the pious ones during the month were already attending Misa de Gallo masses and were anticipating a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

While these events were happening, the US Army had secretly imported to the Philippines the first horseless carriage or automobile on or about December 19, 1900. Purchased for the Signal Corps, the initial vehicle was an electric powered one manufactured by Woods Motor Vehicle Company of Chicago, USA. For the next three weeks, an armysergeant, who had a background in engineering, tested the unit and made rounds inside the corps headquarters at Nozaleda Street (now Taft Avenue). The initial unit was used in transporting officers, personnel and various telegraphic, heliographic and other messages transmitting equipment needed by the department. Additional units were imported anew to accommodate other requirements.

The electric vehicle was equipped with two motors giving 6.5 horsepower to run forty eighth (48) kilometers (Luneta, Manila to Calumpit, Bulacan) with one charge of batteries. There were electric lights in the side lanterns and foot

warmers in the interior of the body. The car was designed for use on any and all streets and runs at speeds that vary from 4.8 to 19.2 kilometers an hour. In comparison, the speed of a horse-drawn tram or travia was 3.5 kilometers per hour.

The US Army, after successful testing the unit in a tropical setting, presented the first horseless carriage unit ever in the country to the general public. For the first time, Filipinos were able to see the vehicle in the evening of January 9, 1901 at Luneta. Manileños, who were already familiar at and even rode in steam powered train and tram (Travia de Vapor) since the 1880s, flocked to Luneta to witness the historical event.

The grand arrival was reported in the January 11, 1901 edition of the *Manila Times* daily English newspaper. The arrival of the much anticipated late 19th century transportation related invention paved the way for the entrance of other cars (electric, gasoline and steam) by late -1901. **aq**

READY TO GRAB MARKET SHARE:

# The Chevrolet Spin



by AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA

**Y**OU see them almost everywhere — compact-size, affordable multipurpose vehicles (MPVs) that can seat seven. At present, the compact seven-seater MPV segment is dominated by Japanese brands such as the Toyota Avanza, Nissan Livina, Isuzu Crosswind, Mitsubishi Adventure and Suzuki APV. But soon you will see more of an American compact MPV called the Spin.



READY TO GRAB MARKET SHARE: THE CHEVROLET SPIN &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;

**EIGHT REASONS.**

After test-driving the petrol Spin for a week, I can cite eight reasons why it is poised to grab market share in the affordable compact MPV segment:

1. The segment-setting six-speed A/T not only boosts fuel efficiency, it optimizes the power characteristic of the 1.5 liter engine for the best performance;
2. Being the longest and widest in its class, the Spin is touted by TCCI as offering 23 configurable seating positions plus 32 storage areas for cups, gadgets, water bottles, folders and other small items;
3. The cargo capacity is huge, increasing from 162 liters when all seats are in place to 710 liters when the third row seat is folded and maximizing to 1,688 liters when both the second and third row seats are tumbled;
4. Unlike some other entry-level compact MPVs, the interior of the Spin is well-insulated, eliminating noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) from the cabin and providing occupants a quiet, comfy ride;
5. The Spin is equipped with high-tech infotainment features that are usually found only in premium-priced cars, such as Bluetooth connectivity for your phone and music device that allows hands-free call conversations and wireless audio playlist shuffling;
6. The whole vehicle is efficiently and evenly cooled by individual ventilation systems for the second and third row seats;
7. The fully independent front and semi-independent rear suspension is tuned to guarantee carlike riding comfort without diminishing handling and responsive control and
8. The sleek, rather burly design of the Spin gives it a commanding presence and distinguishes it from the aging utilitarian look of the competition.

**IMPRESSIVE.**

Although the engine of the petrol Spin gets noisy when you push it to highway speeds, I heard no wind noise, no rattles or squeaks inside the cabin or coming from the suspension. This reflects a level of build quality that is impressive for the segment. The Spin feels reassuringly solid once you begin driving it even though, as a car enthusiast, you may long for more power from the engine. In the LTZ models, dual front airbags and ABS with electronic brake force distribution (EBD) on the brakes (front discs, rear drums) are standard equipment.

Bottom line, all the above plus Chevrolet's five-year warranty program or 100,000 kilometers, whichever comes first, makes the Spin a top pick in the affordable compact, seven-seater MPV segment. **CQ**



The compact MPV market segment is lucrative, consisting mainly of the families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and first-time car buyers. Considering the growing demand for entry-level compact MPVs, auto industry observers were not surprised when an American brand, Chevrolet, entered the fray with the Spin in August 2013. Despite its U.S. badge, the Spin is actually a global car since it was designed in Brazil by General Motors with inputs from the ASEAN and it is manufactured in Indonesia. The Spin is built on a bigger variation of the platform of the Chevrolet Sonic, a subcompact that is sold in the United States as well as in the ASEAN. This explains the almost carlike ride quality of the Spin.

**BIGGER, WIDER.**

What sets the Spin apart from rivals like the Avanza is that it is bigger and wider so that it is almost as large as Toyota's midsize MPV, the Innova. Moreover, the Spin comes with two engine choices: one is the 1.3 liter, 4-cylinder, common rail direct injection (CRDI) turbo diesel whose basic variant, the LS, carries an introductory retail price of P798,888 until December 15, 2013 while the higher-spec LTZ costs P908,888, although it has a 5-speed manual transmission only like the LS. The diesel Spin produces 73.97 hp and 190 Nm/1,750-2,500 max torque, which is considered one of the highest torque ratings in its class.

The petrol Spin, which I test-drove, is powered by a 1.5 liter, 4-cylinder DOHC



16-valve dual VVT-I ECOTEC engine mated to a six-speed automatic transmission (A/T) with manual mode option. Packing 107.51 hp and 141 Nm peak torque, the gasoline-fed Spin is retailing for P838,888 until December 15, 2013. The repeated use of the number "8" by The Covenant Car Company, Inc. (TCCI), the Philippine distributor of Chevrolet cars and parts, in pricing the Spin is unnecessary in my opinion if they are after the good luck that "8" brings, according to feng shui.

# ISUZU READY TO SLUG IT OUT FOR PICKUP SUPREMACY

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

**A**FTER years of seeing its rivals dish out new and more enticing pickup truck models, Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) is again stepping into the arena armed with the second-generation D-Max that has grown both in terms of size and sophistication.

"Of course, the market will be looking for the latest and the best, which is why Isuzu designers have sculpted the all-new D-Max's larger body into an aerodynamic, almost coupé-like shape that expresses sporty sophistication," said IPC president Nobuo Izumina as he welcomed a group of motoring journalists who joined the media test drive from Iloilo City to the town of Malay in the province of Aklan two weeks ago.

Izumina added that with the all-new D-Max, IPC could now offer unrivaled

attributes that the market will appreciate. "Few vehicles like the pickup trucks are perfect for many Filipinos in the countryside. That's why these haulers have perennially been a bestseller in the provinces where this type of vehicle is expected to perform so many things."

Indeed, with so many first-generation D-Max roaming the streets of Iloilo City, one could readily notice how the new one has grown in size. The all-new D-Max is now longer by 26 centimeters (at 5.295 meters), wider by 6 cm (at 1.85 m), taller

by 6 cm (at 1.795 m). Its wheelbase is now longer by 4.5 cm (at 3.095 m) while ground clearance has increased by 1 cm (at 23.5 cm). Even the wheels got bigger: The LS 4x4 variant, for example, now sports 17-inch wheels while the LS 4x2 and LT 4x2 have 16-inch wheels.

#### SUPERTOUGH LOOK

With many Filipinos using pickup trucks for leisure as well as work, the all-new D-Max continues its tradition of looking supertough. But this latest model

has fresher, car-like detailing—flared wheel arches, sharper headlights that now follow the lines of the bodywork, a bigger Isuzu logo on the front grille—that helps the all-new D-Max stand out against its rivals.

Interestingly, the new front design isn't just superficial: Driving around 260 kilometers from Iloilo airport to Caticlan port in Aklan (via Passi City, Mambusao and Kalibo), this writer noticed that wind noise was less noticeable. This only proved the claimed refinement in the aerodynamics that Isuzu designers did when it tapped the services of Japan Railway Technical Research Institute (the very same organization responsible for designing the Bullet Train) to help bring the coefficient of drag to just 0.47 or 5 percent better than the previous D-Max.

According to Izumina, drivetrain performance has improved significantly considering the 3-liter engine is now paired to a new five-speed automatic transmission that is also equipped with a sequential shift. This feature allows the driver to hold a gear when the pickup is going downhill (for more stable engine braking), or when overtaking and the vehicle needs more power. It also has a fifth gear that comes in handy when cruising on the highway and don't want to waste fuel.

#### EFFICIENCY

"We are building pickup trucks for someone who requires toughness as well as efficiency. While they want features that would enable them to traverse tough mountain roads or flooded streets or carry all sorts of loads, we noted that owners would also want a pickup truck that could bring family members and friends safely and comfortably to far off destinations," said Arthur Balmadrid, IPC senior vice president for sales.

During these long drives, one should be glad to know that this latest Isuzu pickup offers a modern exterior design (the deep mahogany-hued leather seats on the top variant blend in perfectly), which is backed



up by a fairly spacious and decent cabin. It has 10 cupholders and 15 storage compartments for those who need to bring numerous small items, food and beverages.

Not expecting on a pickup truck with a body that is bolted to rigid ladder frame chassis, the ride of the all-new D-Max was surprisingly less jittery when compared with the previous generation.

According to IPC product development head Joseph Bautista, a new suspension system was fitted to the front—Independent double wishbone with coil springs and gas shock absorbers—as well as to the rear—long-span leaf springs—to achieve a more supple ride.

It was also comforting to know that this second-generation Isuzu pickup is already equipped with antilock brakes (helps prevent wheel lockup during emergency braking situation), electronic braking system (sends extra force to the rear brakes to compensate), and brake assist (adds pressure to the brake when stopping suddenly). Add to the fact that the all-new D-Max has a wider track, the pickup stayed planted on its wheels even during hard cornering.

Listening to Izumina as he formally concludes the event at the beach front area of Discovery Shores Boracay resort, this writer realized that IPC has just shown everyone that it's now ready to slug it out. The new model is a quantum leap forward for the Isuzu brand and represents a pretty interesting package that is worthy to be taken into consideration. **QQ**





Text and photos  
by Dino Ray V. Directo III

# BYD sets sight on the domestic market



**W**HOMO would have thought that the boy who grew up customizing his cars and toured the auto show circuit would someday become the head of an automotive company? That, in a nutshell, best describes Mark Tieng, managing director of BYD Star Corp., exclusive distributors of the Build Your Dreams (BYD) Automobile of China.



BYD recently presented its initial model lineup in a grand launching ceremony held at the One Esplanade in Pasay City.

With Tieng leading the night's festivities, the most recent addition to the Chinese invasion unveiled the BYD L3, BYD F5 Surui and the company's flagship vehicle, the BYD S6 SUV.

Considered a minority in a market dominated by Japanese players, BYD is set to carve a profitable slice of the consumer pie in their own unique way. "All our variants are made with high-quality materials and have high-tech features that make them comparable with other brands. All our models have standard



remote keyless entry and exit system with a proximity sensor for start/stop functions. BYD is also committed to becoming a major player in the domestic market by assuring top quality cars and the availability of complete parts and after sales service," said Tieng, during an exclusive interview with the young executive at its showroom on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City.

BYD has since evolved from being a car battery manufacturing firm into a leading-edge provider of green energy technologies that specializes in information technology, automotive and renewable energy industries.

BYD's automotive business made headlines around the world when US billionaire-entrepreneur Warren Buffet invested in the company. "As one of the top brands in China, we are proud to say that BYD vehicles are used as taxis in key cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Due to BYD's durability, it is now a primary mover in the public utility segment. The company assures its own quality by maintaining a stringent IQS10 Quality Standard. This process involves monitoring a batch of samples within a 90-day test period. Defects should not be found in more than 10 units for every batch of 100 cars," explains Tieng.

The BYD F5 Surui is another "C" segment passenger car, which boasts of remote driving control technology. This system allows the car owner to automatically switch on the air-conditioner, start it, move it forward and back, turn left and right, and travel at a restricted speed—all by itself—without the driver inside the vehicle. This is all made possible by a press of a button on a remote control

## WORLD-CLASS VEHICLES

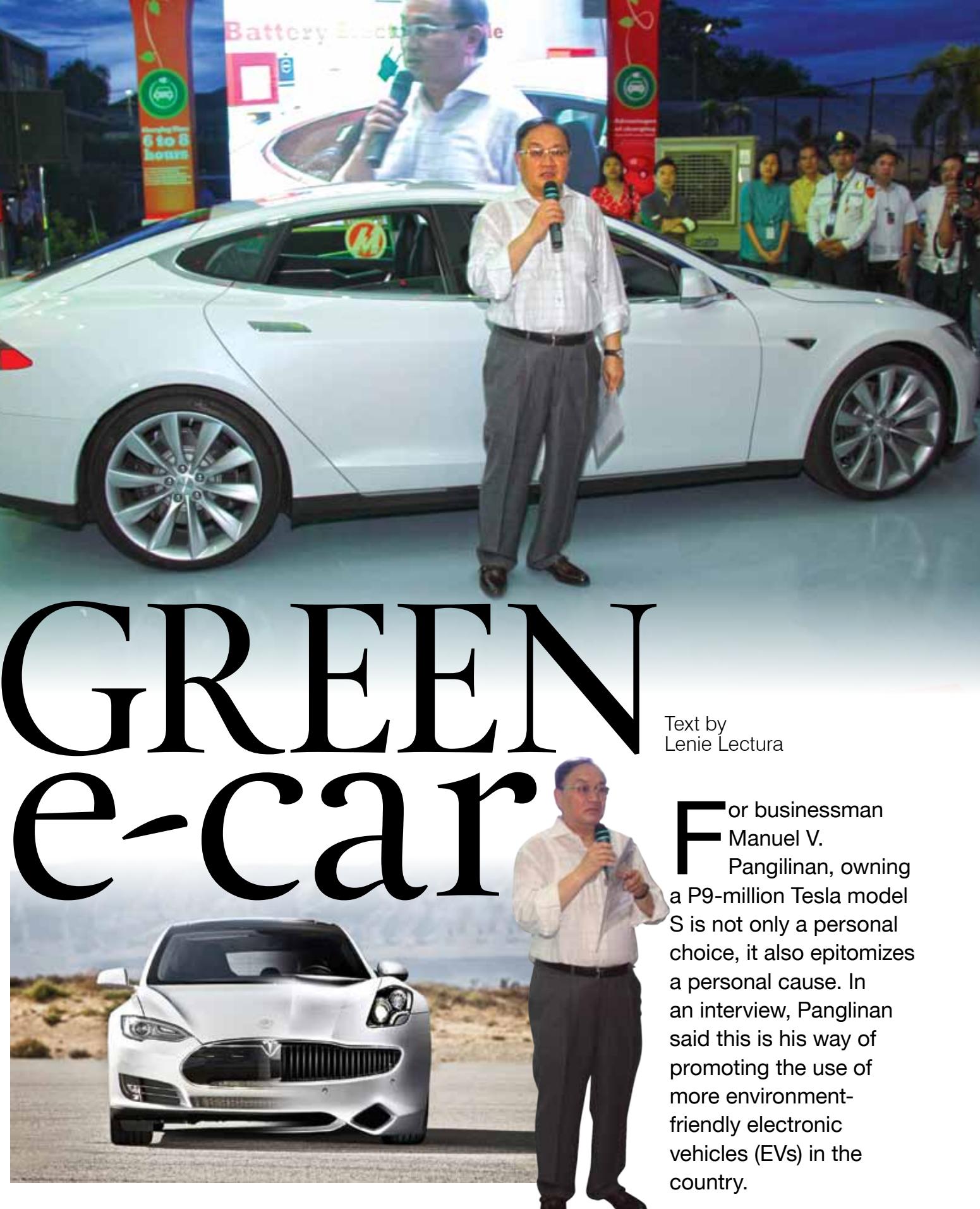
The BYD L3 is a C-segment sedan that is available in two variants: The L3 1.5-liter GS-i, which is equipped with L4 16-valve, SOHC, fuel injected, gasoline engine (BYD483QA) with DCT (dual clutch transmission); and the BYD L3 1.5-liter GL-i with L4 16 valve, SOHC, fuel injected, gasoline engine (473QE) mated to a five-speed M/T.

The BYD F5 Surui is another "C" segment passenger car, which boasts of remote driving control technology. This system allows the car owner to automatically switch on the air-conditioner, start it, move it forward and back, turn left and right, and travel at a restricted speed—all by itself—without the driver inside the vehicle. This is all made possible by a press of a button on a remote control

device. This system was awarded the Best Leading Science and Technology in the 2012 Beijing Auto Show.

The S6 is BYD's first independently designed SUV, which attained monthly sales of over 15,000 units and accumulated 60,198 units from April to December, 2011, earning it the award of China's "SUV of the Year"—the highest honor in the China automotive industry—in 2012.

Tieng is optimistic that BYD will fare well in the local industry. "As a leading player in the IT industry, expect more cutting edge technology systems from us. I hope the government recognizes the need for alternative fuels and clean technologies so BYD can bring in the E6, BYD's flagship for its Electric Vehicle Technology. BYD is ready to carve its own niche in the domestic market," boasts Tieng. **aq**



# GREEN e-car

Text by  
Lenie Lectura

**F**or businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, owning a P9-million Tesla model S is not only a personal choice, it also epitomizes a personal cause. In an interview, Pangilinan said this is his way of promoting the use of more environment-friendly electronic vehicles (EVs) in the country.



"Besides that fact that it's more affordable than other luxury cars, I like the Tesla e-car because it embodies the future. It foreshadows the increasing use of electric vehicles in the world, including e-jeepneys [e-jeep] and e-tricycles [e-trike] in our country," Pangilinan said.

This pure electric car is manufactured by Tesla Motors, a Silicon Valley-based premium EV maker. Pangilinan is the first to bring this much-vaunted future car into the Philippines to serve as a test subject for planned innovations in the EV charging space. Pangilinan is chairman of the country's largest power distributor, the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

The Tesla Model S is an all-electric four-door released in 2012. It has won numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2013 World Green Car of the Year, 2013 Motor Trend Car of the Year, Automobile Magazine's 2013 Car of the Year, Time Magazine Best 25 Innovations of the Year 2012 award, and Consumer Reports' top-scoring car ever.

Pangilinan said the Tesla S will surely help Meralco promote the use of e-vehicles in the motoring industry. "We want our country to be aware of the advances of clean and green modes of transport. Tesla is a useful start in this direction," he said.

## WHERE TO CHARGE

The top-of-the-line Tesla S comes with a standard three-prong adapter for a 110-to 240-volt outlet with a high 40-ampere power-handling capacity.

In July, Meralco launched the first commercial charging station prototype for EVs in the country called the Meralco eVehicle Power Station.

The first of its kind in the Philippines,

the P1.5-million pilot station is meant to jumpstart activity in the realm of electric vehicles in the country. Pangilinan said Meralco is preparing itself to support the industry's requirements by providing a test bed for business case premises and technical competencies in providing different charging technologies.

Pangilinan said Meralco wants to be instrumental in building the complete ecosystem for EVs in the country.

The EV charging station will feature a Meralco-designed charging equipment. It is expected to service the practical needs of future customers—particularly those serving mass public transport like e-trike and e-Meralco's equipment has the capability to provide partial or sachet-type charging service at an economic price point.

Power can be sourced either from an electric grid or renewable resources such as

is looking at the CHAdeMO interface and communication protocol, which is being proposed as a global industry standard for fast charging EVs.

CHAdeMO is an abbreviation of "CHArge de Move" or charge for moving. This is a play on words for the Japanese "O cha demo ikaga desu ka," which translates in English to "How about some tea?"—the same time it takes for CHAdeMO-equipped vehicles to charge, which is around 30 minutes or less.

Another interface being considered is the Combo Connector fast-charging technology that is backed by automakers like Ford, GM, Audi, Porsche, Volkswagen, BMW and Daimler. This facility integrates multiple parts into a single vehicle inlet, so customers have the flexibility of charging at most of stations, including their own homes, regardless of the source of power.

*It is the first to be brought into the Philippines by Pangilinan, chairman of the Manila Electric Co., to serve as a test subject for further innovation in the EV charging space.*

"Our chairman, Manny V. Pangilinan, has provided all of us at Meralco the mandate and the guidance to make a bright and energy-smart future possible," said Meralco President Oscar Reyes. "This includes, as an integral part, the prospect of driving an e-vehicle and charging in a smart grid-integrated EV power station. The prototype is a product of both hard work and promise. We will be ready if the market is there, and customers demand this service." The future indeed looks so much more exciting. **QQ**





# BMW ignites driving passion

Text and photos by Dino Ray V. Directo III

**A**SIAN Carmakers Corp. (ACC), the official distributor of the BMW brand in the country, has raised the bar in the highly competitive sedan segment with the launch of its latest 3-Series Gran Turismo variant. Built from an innovative design concept that combines the brand's dynamic styling, sporty aesthetic appeal, plus the versatility and practicality of a touring sedan, this GT version exudes driving fun and performance.

"The new BMW 3-Series GT boasts of the qualities of a sports sedan but, at the same time, offers immense practicality and extra space that can be used in a myriad of ways, making it the only model of its kind today," explains Maricar Parco, president of ACC. Generous interior space allows the passengers in every seat of the 3-Series Gran Turismo to sit back and enjoy an impressive feeling of space and unbeatable freedom of movement. The interior is complemented by its design forms, color scheme and materials, which creates a lounge-style ambience, enabling passengers to enjoy short trips and long journeys alike in relaxed comfort.

## PRACTICALITY AND SPACIOUSNESS

The front and rear passengers all benefit from a seating position raised by 59 millimeters, which provides an outstanding view out and makes entry

*Built from an innovative design concept that combines the brand's dynamic styling, sporty aesthetic appeal, plus the versatility and practicality of a touring sedan, this GT version exudes driving fun and performance.*



and exit significantly more comfortable. Plus, the BMW 3-Series Gran Turismo also offers extra headroom. The increase in space is particularly noticeable in the rear compartment, where a full 70 millimeters of additional legroom over the sedan and touring variants can be enjoyed.

The rear cargo offers 520 liters of space and the opening tailgate makes it easier to load cargo and other personal effects on the rear of the car. The load area also reflects the car's increased dimensions, its 520 liters of boot capacity even outstrips that of the BMW 3 Series Touring by 25 liters.

Practical standard features—such as the 40:20:40 split/folding rear seat bench with folding head restraints and tilt-adjustable backrests (cargo function), and the two-piece parcel shelf—underscore the impressive functionality of the BMW 3-Series Gran Turismo. The large load area can be utilized in many different ways, allowing intelligent space management.

Practical features such as lashing points, multifunction hooks and an underfloor storage compartment make it even more convenient to use, while the LED strips that illuminate the cargo area emphasize the premium quality of the vehicle.

## ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS

The 3-Series GT comes in a four-door package which has frameless windows, a coupé-style downward-sloping roofline and a large, automatic tailgate. Another feature which sets it apart from the 3-Series line-up is the design integration of sporty aerodynamic features such as the active rear spoiler,

which activates to reduce rear lift during high speed driving.

The GT version is also 200 millimeters longer than the average 3-Series and has a 100-millimeter long wheelbase. With a height of 81 millimeters, it is also taller. Patrons of the BMW badge can choose between three models: luxury, modern and sport lineup.

Powering the vehicle is a fuel-efficient, yet powerful 2-liter diesel mill equipped with BMW's patented twin power turbo technology. Engine grunt is transferred down to the four wheels with an eight-speed A/T transmission. "In line with BMW's thrust for a greener mobility, each 3-Series GT runs with our BMW Efficient Dynamics with features such as optimized aerodynamics, auto start-stop function, brake energy regeneration, Eco Pro mode, which allows the GT to significantly reduce fuel consumption and boost efficiency," added Parco.

The 3-Series GT beefs up the BMW lineup in the domestic market and is now available in ACC's network of dealers nationwide. The 3-Series GT retails for P3.89 million. **CQ**



# Mitsubishi launches G4 sedan

Text and photos by Dino Ray V. Directo, III

WITH the Mirage hatchback version selling off the showroom floor like hotcakes, the sedan version Mirage G4 was formally launched for the Philippine market in grand fashion at the SMX Convention Hall of the SM Aura in Taguig. In attendance were Mitsubishi big wigs led by Hiroshi Harunari, executive vice president of Mitsubishi Motors Corp. of Japan and Hikosaburo Shibata, president and CEO of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.



Assembled in Mitsubishi's sprawling facility in Laemchabang Industrial Estate in Thailand, the Mirage G4 is powered by the same three cylinder, 1200cc DOHC-MIVEC engine found in the hatchback version.

The sedan version sports a redesigned chrome front grille, with fog lamps at the bottom end of the bumpers. It has a spacious rear trunk which can accommodate three golf bags and Mitsubishi is offering a slew of Ralliart accessories to jazz up the G4.

"With the success of our Mirage G4 pre-order promo where we received more than a thousand reservations before we have formally launched this newest model, we are expecting that the Mirage G4 will have the same warm market reception similar to its hatchback sibling. The Mirage G4 offers great features and amenities perfect for those who are looking for a practical, stylish and yet eco-friendly sub-compact sedan. As of now we've been getting a lot of positive feedback from those who have already bought the Mirage G4 and those who have test drove the unit during our recent Mitsubishi Fun Camp. We highly believe that the Mirage G4 will significantly contribute towards attaining our sales target for the year and will further reinforce our presence in the sub-compact car segment," said Shibata.

The latest version comes in eight visually cool colors: medium blue mica, pyrenese black, savanna white, majestic red, gemstone grey mica, and cool silver. Mitsubishi also offers four color choices for the GLX variant: majestic red, gemstone gray mica, cool silver and aurora white with the red and blue color versions emerging as



The Mirage G4 is flanked by Mitsubishi officials (from left, back) Masato Sada, EVP of MMPC; Tatsuo Nakamura, Deputy Corporate GM-MMPC; Yoshizumi Kurata, SVP-Machinery Divisionb, Sojitz Corporation; Hiroshi Harunari, EVP-MMPC Japan; Hikosaburo Shibata, President and CEO of MMPC; Junya Masuda, EVP-MMPC; Kazuki Sugino, EVP, CFO and Treasurer-MMPC and Orlando F. Alvarez, Jr. EVP Overall Operations-MMPC.

crowd favorites during the launch. Another plus factor for the Mirage is the availability of genuine Ralliart parts and accessories which would definitely add more excitement to a car that already exudes a clean, dignified and gender friendly design.

Designed to address the need for a practical and yet stylish compact sedan that will perfectly suit diverse lifestyles, the Mirage Global four-door sedan offers great cabin and trunk spaces, class-leading features and amenities providing customers with

an exceptional value for money Mitsubishi plans to carve a respectable niche in the local market by way of its innovative engine technology, clean and practical design and affordability. The Mirage G4 will be offered for P578,000 for the GLX MT, P628,000 for the GLX CVT, while the GLS MT is available for P668,000 and the top-of-the-line GLS CVT is P718,000.

MMPC is assuring a worry-free ownership to every Mirage G4 customer with an extended warranty of five years or 100,000 kilometers, whichever comes first. **aq**



Text and photos by Dino Ray V. Directo III

I have always been a fan of hatchbacks. Compared with sedans, hatchback models look more aggressive and sporty, plus their smaller dimensions allow them ease of use in the urban environment. To entice the consumer market, automotive manufacturers have made modern hatchbacks a practical daily driver that can double as a weekend racer, thanks to innovations in engine technology and suspension systems.



Subaru Impreza WRX STi: Subaru's rally hatchback

Although there are a lot of affordable hatchbacks in the market, this motoring writer has scaled down to four his own bucket list of must-have hot hatchbacks. They range from full blown race car looks to tamed down versions of actual race cars.

First on my list is the Subaru Impreza WRX STi. This iconic boxer engine-powered car continues its ultimate performance and attitude intact for its 2013 version. Available in five- or four-door versions, this Japanese rally machine is powered by a 305bhp turbocharged boxer engine mated to a six-speed manual transmission and Subaru's exclusive multi-mode driver controlled center differential (DCCD), intelligent



Mini Cooper JCW GP: Mini for both on and off the track

*GG Although there are a lot of affordable hatchbacks in the market, this motoring writer has scaled down to four his own bucket list of must-have hot hatchbacks. JJ*

# Hot hatch bucket list



Ford Focus Shelby: Shelby powered Focus

drive (Si-Drive) and a track performance optimized vehicle dynamics control (VDC) system.

The Impreza WRX STi was tested and developed at the famed Nurburgring race track in Germany, which explains its chassis feel, higher rate springs and a more performance oriented suspension system.

Next is a car which has conquered the World Rally Championship (WRC) and made even more potent with collaboration from one of the world-renowned hot rod and race car builder, the late Carroll Shelby. Powered by Ford's latest engine technology called the Eco-Boost, the latest pocket rocket from Shelby is the 252-bhp Ford Focus ST Shelby.

Starting from a basic Focus, Shelby engineers transformed the street car into a mean machine—both on and off the race track—with an upgrade in suspension, brakes, exhaust, wheels and tires, while

still delivering an excellent fuel-efficiency rating. Shelby styling cues sets this car apart from the pack by combining present-day aggressive lines with design points that are uniquely Shelby. Only 500 Focus ST Shelby editions will be manufactured by Ford making the car a must have for car collectors.

My list would be incomplete without the Volkswagen Golf V GTi 2.0 TFSi built by BBM Motorsport from Munster, Germany. Under the hood of this pocket-sized beast is a 336-bhp 2-liter engine developed by BBM tuners. This engine rebuild was made possible by using Audi S3 engine components including a K04 turbocharger, and a turbo mounted exhaust system from Supersprint. The engine performance package is rounded up by a massive double-DIN charge air cooler and a sports clutch by ZF/Sachs PMotorsports.

The VW Golf GTi by BBM rides on a KW Club Sport coil over with adjustable strut bearings and rolls on a wheel and tire combination by TEC-rims shod with semi-slick 18-inch tires. To make the car safer for track use, BBM installed a safety cage by Wiechers, with seat belts and several details adopted for track use. For those who want to level their Golf GI's, BBM will charge you €19,000 for the conversion kit.

Rounding up my list of hot hatchbacks is the British icon Mini John Cooper Works GP version. This limited-edition road car



Volkswagen Golf V GTi: Turbo fed VW hatchback

with track-developed technology is the sportiest and fastest production Mini ever built. To match its looks, this John Cooper Works GP variant is equipped with a four-cylinder 1600cc, 218-bhp twin scroll turbo engine with a rated top speed of 242 km/h. Mini engineers installed an adjustable coil-over suspension, extra powerful six-piston fixed caliper disc brakes and a special 17-inch JCW GP specific alloy wheel shod with semi-slick tires.

The JCW GP Mini can easily be spotted by its distinctive Thunder Gray Metallic finish, with red edging around the hood opening as well as exterior mirror caps and side intakes in the front apron. A John Cooper Works insignia appear on the lower air intake and the tailgate. With a production output of just 2,000 units, this JCW GP Mini brings an authentic race car feel and high level of collectability. **QQ**



# DRIVING FOR THE CUP

Text and photos by Vince Pornelos

**T**HE rain was pouring and the winds were gusting at the Clark International Speedway. The cars were on the grid, engines were revving and the drivers were pumped up.

This was to be the beginning of the Toyota Vios Cup Exhibition Race, the grand return to motorsport by the Philippines' No. 1 automaker.

We've all been learning the intricacies of racing, practicing hard, checking our times and psyching each other out. All this while a storm was brewing—in more ways than one.

## TRYOUTS

News of the Vios one-make race first came out in late April, a racing series that was designed to be a grassroots motorsport program by Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) Corp. with the flagship Vios at the center.

The actual race was set for 2014, but Toyota wanted to kick up the anticipation and interest in the competition by holding an exhibition wheel-to-wheel race featuring select celebrities and guys from the motoring media.



The try-out was simple for both media and the celebrities as they were required to head over to the World of Toyota motor show in August. There, TMP held a series of activities that started the fun—such as qualifying on a race simulator, driving the all-new Vios on a course and performing rather wacky tasks...like scoring a goal with a ridiculously huge inflatable soccer ball.

After that, the qualified drivers of seven media and five celebrities made their way to the Clark International Speedway for a

shootout on the track. Toyota only intended for 10 cars on the grid (five for the media and five for celebrity drivers), but in their generosity, they increased the number of race cars to 12.

The five selected celebrity drivers for the 2013 Toyota Vios Cup Exhibition Race include model Phoemela Baranda, Solar Sports host Jinno Rufino, GMA-7 fan-favorite Aljur Abrenica, Brazilian-Japanese model and actor Fabio Ide, as well as GMA-7 actress Rhian Ramos.

Rounding up the group are seven media drivers with Jeff Reyes (Publisher-*TopGear Philippines*), Iñigo Roces (Motoring Editor-*Manila Bulletin*), James Deakin (Editor-at-large-in-chief-C! Magazine), Botchi Santos (Contributor-*Philippine Daily Inquirer*), Aris Ilagan (Editor-*Balita*), Brian Afuang (Motoring Editor-*Manila Times*) and myself for *AutoIndustriya.com*.

After we all got acquainted with each other, there was talk about how the race would go with such a diverse group of race drivers. One particular conversation between me and Fabio Ide stood out.

The Tuason Racing School (TRS), in my opinion, is the perfect group for Toyota to partner with to train the drivers for this exhibition race as well as for the actual 2014 Toyota Vios Cup.

Personally, my experience with TRS started in 2007, driving a different car and on a very different, more unforgiving track: the now-defunct Subic International Raceway and its non-existent margin for error (read: the walls). Some of the other guys raced with TRS even earlier than that at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Drivers were required to complete at least five Vios Cup practice sessions in the lead up to the race. Each session is to be a progressive effort with a more thorough approach to instruction to things like the racing lines, more meticulous evaluation of our driving, and more focus on-track skills like passing, launching and driving in a crowd.

Since the last time we worked with TRS, our form of instruction usually involved driving the track with an instructor, something that held true for some of the more inexperienced amongst the group such as Rhian, Aljur and Fabio.

For the more experienced drivers, TRS had some new toys to help us improve our times and driving skills. The first was a simple GoPro mounted inside the cabin facing forward. Having in-car video really helped us evaluate our driving, spotting many mistakes that we can replay over and over again, and correct for the next session.

After the video session, instructors fitted the cars with GPS data loggers, clocking our times over each lap and logging our speeds all around the track so we can find out which corners we're slower at and where we're quick.



Drivers were required to complete at least five Vios Cup practice sessions in the lead up to the race.

This tool helped us push in the corners even more, and benchmark our cornering speeds and braking points far more precisely than ever before.

Deakin and Reyes were consistently the quickest of the lot, posting times in the low 1:15's and 1:16's, followed by myself and the hard-charging Santos in the mid to high 1:16's. Baranda, Rufino and Roces were all dicing at the 1:17 range, followed by Ilagan, Bran Afuang, Ide and Abrenica. Ramos was the surprise of the group, consistently improving with each session to the low 1:20's, a feat considering she had to learn how to drive stick at the same time.

With the practice sessions done, it was now time for the qualifying time trials. Given the short track and the need to have room to set quick qualifying laps, the field of 12 drivers were split into two groups of six.

Phoemela out-qualified all of us at 1:16.572, pipping ahead of my personal best at 1:16.598, though it was good enough for 2nd on the grid. Phoem was simply fearless, having spun out thrice during the qualifying session as the rains got a little harder. Reyes will start in third place with a time of 1:16.715, with Deakin in fourth with a time of 1:17.033.

Needless to say, the race is going to be interesting. Personally I found myself in the best position for the start of the race, as the second place qualifier has the inside line into a very, very short run to Turn One of Clark Speedway's west course.

Toyota made the very hard call after investing in the spectacle that was to be the Vios Cup Exhibition Race, only to postpone the race for a later date.

There are still a few months to go and more preparations to be made, but hey, Toyota is out to rekindle massive interest in motorsport. It's a challenging task, but if there's any company that could do it, it ought to be the No. 1 automaker in the Philippines.





## Car Awards Group Inc. completes testing for Car and Truck of the Year Philippines

THE Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI)—the Philippines' premier automotive awards giving body comprised of motoring journalists from various publications and media outlets—has just completed the qualitative and technical testing for the 2013-2014 Car of the Year (COTY) and Truck of the Year (TOTY) Philippines season.

In three days of intensive testing staged at the Filinvest Tent in Filinvest City Alabang, CAGI members evaluated 45 new cars, vans, pickups and SUVs. The test involved a qualitative test drive of various cars eligible for this year's two main awards. CAGI members assessed each vehicle's performance, refinement, comfort along with other important characteristics that are important to car owners and buyers.

On Day One, the Car Awards Group, Inc. tested the updated Ford Fiesta and Ranger Wildtrak, the Chevrolet Colorado,

Trailblazer and Spin, the BYD lineup, the Toyota RAV4 and Vios, the Carens, Sorento and Sportage from Kia, the Volvo V40 and S60 Polestar as well as the Kinglong van.

On Day Two, the members evaluated the Honda CR-Z Mugen, base and Modulo variants, the Subaru BRZ and Forester, the Hyundai Azera and Accent, all variants of the new Isuzu D-Max, the Mitsubishi Mirage G4 and the Foton View Traveller.

On Day Three, CAGI members completed the testing of the Mazda6 and CX-5, various variants of the Nissan Almera, the Mini Paceman Cooper S, additional variants of the Mirage from Mitsubishi as well as the Suzuki Swift Dzire and Alto.

From the scores garnered by these cars, the group will tabulate the results of both the qualitative evaluations as well as the instrumented testing performed by the Technical Testing Team to determine the 2013-2014 Car of the Year and Truck of the Year winners.

## KIA DONATES \$300,000 TO PHILIPPINE RED CROSS FOR YOLANDA SURVIVORS

KIA Motors Corp. and Columbian Autocar Corp. showed support and solidarity with the Philippines as the Korean auto giant donated \$300,000 to help in the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the many provinces ravaged by the super typhoon. Present during the turnover ceremony held at the Philippine Red Cross headquarters were Kia Motors Corp. Regional Office President Tae-Jin Park and Columbian Autocar Corp. Chairman Jose Ch. Alvarez with Philippine Red Cross Chairman Richard Gordon.



## New CR-V 2.0 V Modulo Limited Model Now Available

HONDA Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) is pleased to announce the availability of the new CR-V 2.0 V Modulo Limited Model.

As one of the pioneer models in the SUV category, the CR-V continues to provide car-like drivability and ride comfort, while providing new features and technologies that enhance driving enjoyment and ownership experience of our most valued customers.

The CR-V 2.0 V Modulo Limited Model builds on these qualities by being equipped with genuine Honda accessories that provide added safety, convenience, and design. The rear camera system connected to the intelligent multi-information display (i-MID) provides added safety and convenience by helping the driver park the CR-V Modulo Limited Model even in tight situations with more ease. Up

front, the front fog lights provide added safety and presence. Inside the vehicle, the rear cargo cover provides added confidence by covering your valuables while being easily retractable when not in use.

Finally, providing a unique and bold look to the CR-V 2.0 V Modulo Limited Model is the Modulo front grille. Modulo is Honda's genuine accessory brand and Modulo accessories are developed in parallel with Honda's new car development. This assures Modulo accessories with an optimum level of design, functionality and quality unmatched by non-genuine aftermarket accessories.

The suggested retail price for the CR-V 2.0



V Modulo Limited Model is Php 1,295,000 for the manual transmission and Php 1,345,000 for the automatic transmission. Exterior colors are Urban Titanium, Taffeta White, and Crystal Black. For more information, please visit [www.hondaphil.com](http://www.hondaphil.com) or any of the 29 authorized Honda dealerships nationwide.



## MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES DONATES P500,000 TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

**M**ITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC) sincerely extends its sympathy to the victims of the recent devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit Central Visayas particularly the provinces of Bohol, Cebu and other nearby. The calamity took the lives of hundreds of individuals and irreparably damaged a lot of the historic and tourist spots in the region.

As a sign of its genuine compassion and as a humble effort to provide assistance to the casualties of this natural catastrophe, MMPC donated Five Hundred Thousand Pesos to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). On the occasion of the formal launch of the

Mirage G4 at the SMX Aura Convention Center, MMPC President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Hikosaburo Shibata and MMPC Executive Vice President Mr. Junya Masuda turned-over the check donation to Gov. Corazon de Leon of the PNRC.

Mr. Shibata emphasized that MMPC is always ready to provide humanitarian assistance and actively do its role as a responsible corporate citizen. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is one of the three guiding principles that the company adopts. He also stressed that CSR is an integral part of their existence as a corporate citizen. "We at MMPC hope that this amount will help the PNRC provide immediate aid to those affected by the calamity",



Mr. Shibata said. "MMPC will further strive not only in bringing quality vehicles in the country but also in helping and enriching the nation in every best way that it can" he added.

## Turtle Wax Philippines launches next-generation ICE Premium Car Care Products

**W**ILKSTARK Marketing Corporation, the official distributor of Turtle Wax in the Philippines, launches the next generation Turtle Wax ICE Premium Car Care Products.

ICE® is Turtle Wax's best line up to date. Turtle Wax ICE® Liquid and Spray car wax were first introduced in 2006 and are the first wax formulas that can be safely applied in direct sunlight and leave no powdery residue, unlike typical waxes. Waxing your car has never been this easy because it cuts your waxing time in half — perfect for those who want to keep their car looking new with unsurpassed shine and protection with limited effort.

Ara Dacay, Wilstark Marketing Corporation Senior Vice President stated, "The Philippines is finally ready for Turtle Wax ICE. We are excited to re-introduce this revolutionary product that has taken the international car care market by storm. It is our best wax to date, in terms of shine and protection. We're constantly pushing the boundaries by constantly making innovative products that make life easier for Filipinos. We're thinking of smarter ways to shine."

"Turtle Wax ICE has been very successful in the USA and we want the Philippines to have access to this product. When we originally launched in 2006, we made breakthroughs in the market. We have the best product attributes that none of our competitors have," remarked Dermot Maconaghie, Turtle Wax, Inc. Asia Pacific Regional Manager.



(From left) Mike Deddo, Turtle Wax Inc. Senior Research Chemist; Coley Frucci, Turtle Wax Inc Vice President of Strategic Development; Don Dacay, Wilstark Marketing Corp. VP for Marketing; Ara Dacay, Wilstark Marketing Corp. Senior Vice President; Mario Dacay, Wilstark Marketing Corp President; and Dermot Maconaghie, Turtle Wax Inc. Asia Pacific Regional Manager.

### Turtle Wax ICE Wax

Turtle Wax ICE Wax now come in Liquid, Spray, and Paste formulas. It delivers a long-lasting shine that repels dirt to keep your car cleaner, longer with that freshly waxed appearance. Their secret is that it utilizes the latest in wax chemistry with polymer surface modifiers that provides the deepest shine available with unparalleled slickness versus its competitors.

### Turtle Wax ICE Wash

The ultimate in car washing performance, Turtle Wax ICE Wash has a breakthrough blend of advanced cleaners and conditioners that easily breaks down and removes dirt. It's safe and gentle to even the most delicate car finishes without stripping wax. It also contains special gloss enhancing agents to help maintain your car's fresh waxed look. Moreover, Turtle Wax ICE Wash is biodegradable.

### Turtle Wax ICE Detailer

Turtle Wax ICE Detailer not only keeps your car looking super slick, but also boost its shine to a mirror-like gloss. The spray-on

formula gently cleans while depositing water-beading polymers, so it's perfect for quick touch-ups and keep your showroom shine. Turtle Wax ICE Detailer is also formulated to work with Turtle Wax Liquid Wax to revitalize its durability and protect your paint from the harshness of the road. It will not streak in direct sunlight or hot surfaces, and won't leave any residue on rubber or vinyl trim.

### Turtle Wax ICE Total Interior Care

As for car interiors, Turtle Wax ICE Total Interior Care is an all-in-one product that cleans and protects plastic, soft vinyl, and leather interiors from spots and stains. It also applies a protective barrier to keep your interior cleaner, longer and from fading, drying, or cracking due to harmful UV rays. Plus, it won't leave behind an artificial shine or greasy feel and removes unpleasant odors. Instead of using several products such as a carpet cleaner, upholstery cleaner, and protectant, ICE Total Interior Care does all that.

Turtle Wax's next generation ICE Premium Car Care Products are now available in select mall retail and automotive outlets in the Philippines.



## HARI Foundation, DOST-SEI Launch Hyundai New Thinkers Summit

**H**ARI Foundation, Inc. (HFI), the corporate social responsibility arm of Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc., and the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) launch the Hyundai New Thinkers Summit with the theme "The Power of Youthink: Youthink. Youtalk. Youtransform."

The Hyundai New Thinkers Summit is designed to be a premier local leadership and learning convention where outstanding high school students interact with industry experts and idea generators of the country. For its pilot year, the Summit invites 80 3rd year high school students from 40 pre-selected public high schools in Metro Manila and Regions III and IV to engage in activities and dialogue on Innovation and Climate Science.

The following major topics are slated to inspire and train the student participants to become future leaders and innovators, or "Hyundai New Thinkers." These are:

Climate Science; Youthink, which addresses the "i-Generation" or the new breed of young techies or digital natives; Youtalk, which tackles "Leadershift," or the ability of the youth to take on leadership roles in society; and Youtransform which focuses on "Kin+Ethics," or youth-inspired advocacy and campaigns for nation-building.

Invited to speak about the abovementioned topics are scientists and experts from the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), led by Dr. Aletta Yñiguez, and University of the Philippines and the National Institute of Geological Sciences (UP-NIGS), led by Dr. Carlos Primo "CP" David; ABS-CBN Chief Digital Officer Donald Lim; Ideaspace Founder Earl Martin Valencia; columnist and entrepreneur RJ Ledesma; LloydLuna Communications CEO Lloyd Luna; Synergeia Foundation President & CEO Milwida Guevarra; and Mano Amiga Pilipinas Founder Eleanor Pinugu.



## Bosch at Caltex Sucat Offers Free Car Diagnostics for Motorists

**M**OTORISTS around Paranaque can have worry-free and safe-driving by availing of free diagnostics for their car's computer or engine control unit (ECU) from Bosch at Caltex.

Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI), marketer of the Caltex brand of fuel and lubricants in the Philippines, and leading global automotive technology supplier Bosch offered a free car check-up last Oct. 18 at the Bosch Car Services workshop, Caltex San Isidro Dr. A Santos Ave (formerly Sucat Road), Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City.

The Bosch Car Services workshop at Caltex San Isidro is the first of the five service stations to be put up by Bosch and Chevron within the year as part of their collaboration. Bosch at Caltex will offer reliable diagnosis, maintenance and repairs, and installation and fitting of quality spare parts for all brands of vehicles.

Aside from the free car diagnostic, motorists who will avail of a change oil service at the Bosch Car Service using a 5-liter package of Delo 400/ Delo Gold Ultra or a 4-liter package of Delo Gold Multigrade/ Havoline Fully Synthetic / Havoline Synthetic Blend / Havoline Formula at Caltex San Isidro from October 18-31, 2013 will also receive a Havoline premium umbrella and a Bosch oil filter for free.

CPI Country Chair Peter Morris shares, "We are offering these promos to further highlight the value that our team up with Bosch gives to motorists. With Bosch at Caltex stations, we will deliver the services, motor oils and fuels needed by our customers with discriminating taste."

For more information, visit [www.bosch.com.ph](http://www.bosch.com.ph) and follow Bosch on Twitter (@BoschPH). More information on Chevron Philippines Inc. is available at [www.caltex.com/ph](http://www.caltex.com/ph).



**FOTON**  
EMPOWER YOUR BUSINESS

# Dancing Their Way to Number One

Proving beyond any doubt that the runaway successes of their first two Big Shows wasn't merely a stroke of luck, FOTON's Big Show 2013: Driven by Vision managed to attract over twice as many visitors and generate an equivalent increase in sales/trade-in activities from 2012, while being held at the same venue as last year.



**VIEW TRAVELLER**

**2.8 ISF Cummins Diesel Engine**

Once again occupying Exhibit Hall A plus the front open parking lot of the World Trade Center in Pasay City, FOTON's Big Show 2013 opened with keynote addresses from no less than the Hon. Senator Nancy S. Binay; Hon. Wu Zheng Ping – Economic and Commercial Attaché from the Chinese Embassy; Mr. Huo Yan – Foton Motor Group Director of Brand; and Mr. Zhao "Casper" Ke – General Manager of Light Duty Truck Division, Foton Overseas Business, who gave their respective remarks in between the cheerful and witty banter of hosts Cito Beltran and Nicole Ascensio of General Luna fame. This was followed immediately by an electrifying dance number in total darkness by the All N' One Crew, whose members – several very agile children – wore LED light strips on their bodies to mimic animated dancing figures; a mesmerizing live sand art performance MONICA REGALARIÓ and finally, a surprise song number from the soulful co-host herself, who soon embarks on her solo career.

After being treated to nearly an hour's worth of informative speeches and multi-media entertainment, FOTON finally offered a long-awaited view into the future of high-capacity passenger vehicles with the introduction of the successor to the successful FOTON View Van, the View Traveller – a sleek and modern full-size van with capacious seating for 13 or 14 (depending on configuration), powered by a 2.8 liter Cummins CRDI engine – the largest and most powerful in its class. Essentially the same engine from the game-changing FOTON Thunder pickup truck, it has been tuned to provide locomotive-like torque at low rpm, resulting in unchanged pulling power regardless of the number of passengers. Guests and VIPs took turns boarding the View Traveller, each one alighting with a smile of approval; while dealers expressed eagerness to add this latest member of the already large FOTON family to their respective inventories.



Further down the hall, a FOTON emergency response vehicle – complete with an emergency lifeboat and boom crane – was displayed to the curiosity of the guests. A 15-foot passenger/treatment cabin sits atop a sturdy FOTON Tornado six-wheel truck chassis, with a hydraulic boom crane nestled between it and the front cab. The crane lifts the 15-foot, unsinkable fiberglass lifeboat off the roof rack and into position. It is the first vehicle of its kind and has very practical applications in the advent of the frequent and unpredictable flooding most parts of our country regularly experience.

Other notable vehicles on display were a FOTON fuel tanker, tractor head. Competing for attention later on was yet another dance number – this time in broad daylight – by a Foton wheel loader. At the hands of a specially trained operator, the wheel loader was made to stand on its two front tires and "dance"; bobbing to a Gangnam-Style tune while swinging from its center hinge and alternately shrugging its rear tires, strutting forward and backward to the cheers of onlookers and amazement of passersby. Other pieces of heavy equipment followed suit in a choreographed display of synchronized drifting and lifting maneuvers, lasting almost half an hour all in all.

Back indoors, guests and dealers were invited to attend forums and training sessions on-site, with topics chosen according to relevance to improve efficiency and reduce operating expenses, particularly in fleets. These included Basic Troubleshooting, Driver Responsibility, Driving Safety and Instrument Warning Lights and Signals. A short film on engines and transmissions was also shown for service advisors and maintenance crews.

Finally, a new program called "FOTON Total Care" – a comprehensive package designed to benefit Foton's employees, dealers and customers – was launched and implemented, while the FOTON Car Savers accessory line was also revealed. Foton Total Care revolves around the objective of complete customer satisfaction, something we have not seen from any other commercial vehicle brand before. The Cars Savers line will initially include mats and body accessories to preserve your Foton vehicle's appearance.



With a remarkable new passenger and disaster and rescue vehicles; solid international technical partnerships; comprehensive heavy equipment; aggressive pre-sales to after-sales support and a genuine accessory line, FOTON is clearly bringing top-level products to a value-conscious market and rising the industry ranks as one of its better performing players. Although already evident with the increasing number of FOTON vehicles now plying our roads, FOTON's Big Show for 2013 pointed the fact out with amazing clarity, and was only natural for a company that is, above everything else, Driven by Vision.



Hotline Nos.: (02) 459-2121 / (63) 999-999-9998 / [www.foton.com.ph](http://www.foton.com.ph)

MOTORING NEWS

**VISION PETRON:**

# Lakbay Tagumpay is a journey of success

**U**PLIFTING and inspirational depictions of personal triumphs and milestones marked the winning entries for the 2014 Vision Petron national student art competition, which were honored in awarding ceremonies held last 10 October 2013 at the Old Senate Hall of the National Museum.

In the momentous year of Petron's 80th Anniversary, the theme Lakbay Tagumpay—A Journey of Triumphs and Milestones echoes the corporate slogan "Fuel Success"—shining the spotlight on journeys towards personal success and the essential values of passion, determination and hard work.

Interpreting this year's theme, student artists from all over the country submitted a record-breaking 2,000+ entries in five competition categories, namely: painting (oil/acrylic and water-based media), photography, T-shirt art design, and video-making.

Petron President Lubin B. Nepomuceno remarked, "We believe that the youth plays an essential role in nation-building. Through Vision Petron, we engage them to give their thoughts on relevant issues, use their creativity, and through their art, become catalysts for positive change."

In his keynote speech, indie film pioneer Raymond Red lauded the inclusion of video-making as a new competition category, saying: "Film-making is the medium of the future. It has invaded all of media now. Everyone, regardless of background, is exposed to film."

Holding the awarding ceremony at the National Museum, home of the country's art treasures such as the magnificent Spoliarium by Juan Luna, was seen as a significant move linking a new generation of young Filipino artists to a rich, cultural heritage of Filipino masters who have made a mark in the global art scene.

Renowned luminaries joined Petron in judging the entries, thus making this one of the most prestigious national student art competitions. In the painting category, the board of judges included national artist Abdulmari Imao as chairman, and national artist Napoleon Abueva, Danilo Dalena, Elmer Borlongan, Alfred Esquillo Jr., and Raul Isidro as members.

Fittingly, the Vision Petron program is itself a winner, having garnered the 2013 Anvil Awards Hall of Fame from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), as a communications tool that has won



At the Vision Petron awarding ceremonies, Roman Marcus Abad (center), one of the grand prize winners of the video-making category, with the judges (L-R): Petron Marketing AVP Mary Ann Neri, Raymund Red, Laurice Guillen, and Romy Vitug.

The photography panel is headed by Wig Tysmans, one of the country's top portraitists and commercial photographers, along with George Tapan, Edwin Tuyay, Sonny Yabao, Ernesto Enrique, and Denise Weldon.

The t-shirt art judges were led by Raul Isidro, a respected abstract painter specializing in lithography and printmaking. With him were BG Hernandez, Jay Aldeguer, Justin Nuyda, and Ramon Cruz.

For the new video-making category, the board of judges included FAMAS hall of famer Romy Vitug, Laurice Guillen, Raymond Red, Horacio Severino, and Mary Ann Neri who joined the painting and photography categories as well.

Fittingly, the Vision Petron program is itself a winner, having garnered the 2013 Anvil Awards Hall of Fame from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), as a communications tool that has won

more than five awards of excellence through the years.

Vision Petron is a partnership between Petron Corporation and the youth, both sharing a common advocacy of preserving Philippine art and culture, values, traditions and skills. As a national student art competition, it is open to all talented students enrolled in a regular university or college course, or in tutorial art and photography classes. It is also a venue for filmmakers, musicians, performance artists, art enthusiasts, and all Filipinos to converge and be one through their shared love for Philippine art and culture.

Petron believes that everyone has his/her own unique perspective on things and that this uniqueness can be expressed in so many different ways. This is the inspiration behind Vision Petron — the belief that free artistic expression remains intrinsic to nation-building.



Volvo Car Group at the 2013 Tokyo Motor Show:

## VOLVO CARS RETURNS TO TOKYO with new design language

THE Volvo Concept Coupé was the centre of attention when Volvo Car Group (Volvo Cars) returned to the Tokyo Motor Show this November, as the company introduced its new design strategy to customers and media around the globe. Lex Kerssemakers, Senior Vice President Product Strategy and Vehicle Line Management at Volvo Cars, and Thomas Ingenlath, Senior Vice President Design at Volvo Cars, also attended the event's press days on November 20 and 21.

Volvo Cars attended the Tokyo Motor Show this year for the first time in seven years, a sign of the growing importance of the Japanese market for Volvo Cars and the company's strong momentum in the country. Volvo sales in Japan, so far, this year have been extremely strong, with sales up over 25 percent compared with 2012 and at a level not seen since the late 1990s. Japanese customers have especially warmed to the Volvo V40, which was awarded the prestigious 2013 Imported Car of The Year award by the Automotive Researchers and Journalists Conference of Japan this month.

The rapid transformation of Volvo Cars is also highly evident in the Volvo Concept Coupé, which was first shown during the 2013 Frankfurt Motor Show in September. The Volvo Concept Coupé showcases the capability of the company's new Scalable Product Architecture, as well as the new, highly efficient four-cylinder Drive-E powertrains (formerly known as VEA) that are already now available in six Volvo models.

Volvo Cars' strategy is to use electrification to create the most powerful versions in the Drive-E engine family, taking power figures up into V8 territory. The Volvo Concept Coupé is equipped with Volvo Cars' ingenious plug-in hybrid technology. A high-performance petrol engine teamed with an electric motor on the rear axle gives the Volvo Concept Coupé a total output of about 400hp and over 600Nm of torque.

The Volvo Concept Coupé is the first in a series of three concept cars that demonstrate the new design direction of Volvo Cars and paves the way for the introduction of the All-New XC90 in 2014.

"We are creating a new product portfolio that blends a strong heritage with innovative technology and emotional design. Every core area is brought into a new dimension, also injecting more emotion into the rational properties that are the heart and soul of Volvo," says Lex Kerssemakers.

"The Volvo Concept Coupé shows what you can expect from our new architecture: the confident stance, the proportions and the most prominent design signatures. Even though the all-new XC90 is a different type of car, you will recognize the connection instantly," says Thomas Ingenlath.



## Petron offers "Grab a Porsche" promo

PETRON Value Card holders have another exciting treat in store with the "Grab a Porsche" promo running from November 1 to 30, 2013.

For every P1,000-single receipt purchase of Petron Blaze 100 Euro 4, Petron XCS, Petron Xtra Advance, Petron Super Xtra, Petron Turbo Diesel or Petron Diesel Max AND presentation of a Petron Value Card, the customer is entitled to buy one Porsche toy car of his choice.

Five new sports car models will be available — a red Porsche Carrera GT with remote control, a gray Porsche 918 Spyder with remote control, a Porsche GT3 Cup with racing decals, a black and red Porsche 911 GT3 RS with racing decals, and a blue Porsche Cayman Race with racing decals. The models with remote controls are offered for P240 each, while those with racing decals are available at P180 each.

The Porsche toy cars are 1:32 scale models of the actual cars and are made of high-quality die-cast metal. They have been approved by the Department of Health (DOH) as being safe for children. Each car is a carefully detailed collector's model packaged with a removable base, and are equipped with a sound chip and LED head and taillights.

All five toy cars have enhanced functions such as rev sound with lights, alarm sound with lights, horn sound with lights, as well as pull-back and go action. The remote control can activate all five cars' engine start/rev sound with lights, door lock sound with lights, and door alarm sound.

The Petron "Grab a Porsche" promo is offered at all participating Petron service stations nationwide, exclusively for Petron Value Card holders. The toy car can only be purchased at the participating Petron station where you loaded fuel, or same site redemption only.

To be eligible for this promo, you can apply for a Petron Value Card, which is available to everyone who patronizes Petron products and services. Simply ask for the Petron Value Card at any participating Petron station to get your card on-site so you can immediately start enjoying its perks. For only P100, you get the Petron Value Card pre-loaded with 100 points, which you can use to pay for your fuel purchase. As a reward card, you earn 1-point (with a cash value of P1) for every P250-worth of fuel spend. As a discount card, you get discounts for purchases of Petron Gasul and Petron lubricants, SMC products at San Mig Food Ave., and as much as 70% off from partner establishments. It also offers free personal accident insurance coverage as well as free 24-hour towing and roadside assistance. Terms and conditions apply.

Check out posters and flyers for more information about Petron Value Card rewards and privileges. Also ask for exclusive Petron Value Card rewards and promos every time you fuel up at a Petron service station.

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BIRTHDATE		BIRTHPLACE			
SEX <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	CIVIL STATUS		AGE		
CITIZENSHIP		OCCUPATION			
CONTACT INFORMATION					
HOME ADDRESS					
COMPANY NAME					
ADDRESS					
HOME PHONE		COMPANY PHONE		FAX NO.	
CELL PHONE		EMAIL ADDRESS			
REGISTERED CARS					
CAR	MAKE/MODEL	YEAR	COLOR	PLATE NO. CONDUCTION STICKER NO.	FUEL TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL
1 <sup>st</sup>					
2 <sup>nd</sup>					
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES					
<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE <input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR ASSOCIATE	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE CORPORATE / GROUP MEMBERSHIP: NO. OF CARS _____ <small>*Submit photocopy of the car registration (D.R and C.R)</small>			
MEMBERSHIP FEES					
	Regular 1-year	Regular 3-year	Associate 1-year	Associate 3-year	Corporate / Group 1-year
NEW	P1,500	P3,300	P1,200	P2,500	P700
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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.

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- 24/7 Road Safety Call Center
- Travel Assistance
- Club Activity Discounts

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\* Not available in some offices

\*\* Outsourced

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## GOLDEN RULES FOR SAFE DRIVING



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

(Source: FIA)



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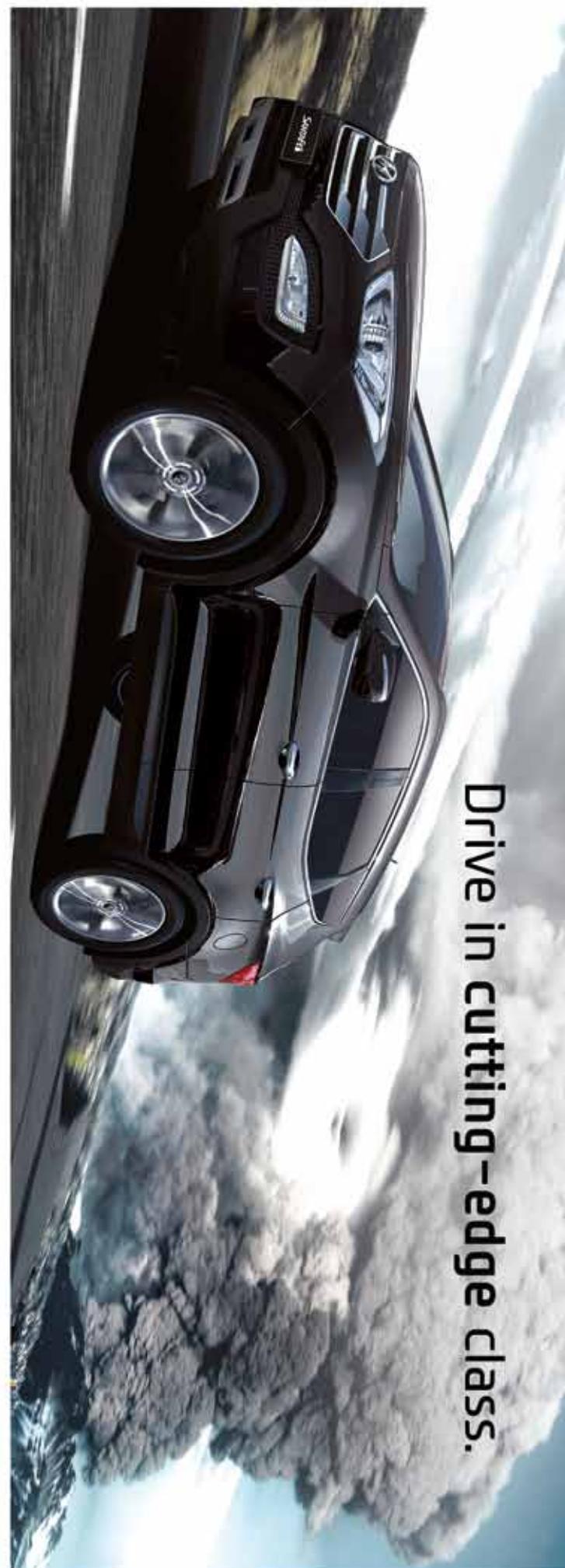
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