



HOW TO GET  
A RACING LICENSE

Inside

# aq

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES



VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 2  
JUNE 2014

**AAP  
GOES TO  
ORIENTAL  
MINDORO**



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**Gus Lagman**  
AAP PRESIDENT

# Subway's the answer to Metro Manila traffic

I was recently interviewed by a TV news reporter who asked just one question: "The car manufacturers and distributors are forecasting increased sales again this year. Considering that Metro Manila is not really adding more roads, what's going to happen to our traffic situation?"

Good question, I thought, and it's one that many of us have often asked ourselves. With the increasing number of cars on the roads, what will happen to our traffic situation? The answer is obvious...it can only get worse.

On the other hand, while it is cause for very serious concern, I said restricting the acquisition of cars, as the interviewer was hinting, may not be a justifiable solution at this time. To do so would not be fair to the commuting public since the government is not offering a viable alternative transport system. What we have in Metro Manila is outdated and inconvenient. The closest to the ideal is our light-rail transit system. But it is still sorely inadequate compared to the kind of modern rail systems that we see in other big cities. The rush-hour queues are very long and, worse, they extend beyond the sheltered part of the stations. They go all the way to the ground-level sidewalks outside the station! The commuters use them only because there isn't a better choice.

But the LRT/MRT system is not an acceptable facility for everybody. Unlike in other cities where even top-level executives and businessmen use (even prefer) their mass transit systems, not so here. In fact, even low-level corporate managers will not find queuing up in our MRT appealing. What more the

higher-level executives? They therefore have to seek their own solution...and that is, to save up to buy a car.

It's true that in some cities restrictions are imposed by the government on the acquisition of cars. Singapore, for instance, restricts access to some parts of the city and even raffles off the right to buy a car. But this city-state provides a very efficient subway system. In combination with an efficient and safe taxicab network, regular commuters do not really have to acquire their own vehicles to get around town. I heard that in Tokyo, a person is

not allowed to acquire a car unless he can prove that he has parking space for it in or near his residence. But then, Tokyo has one of the most efficient mass transit systems in the world. Both countries have overhead trains and subways.

I understand that there is also a pending bill at the Lower House of Congress that proposes an increase in the registration fees on a person's cars beyond the first two. But considering that a person can use only one car at a time, there is no point in limiting his car purchases. It would also be difficult to enforce the law as the person can easily register the additional cars in the name of his wife and/or children; or in the name of his company. At least 25% of a car's price is tax and then there is also the Road User's Tax, isn't the motorist being taxed enough?

Adding another P5,000 or P10,000 will not deter a car owner who can easily afford a P1-million car from buying an additional vehicle; and again, the government has not yet provided an efficient and convenient alternative, so why penalize the taxpaying motorists for that?

Congress should, therefore, look for more acceptable solutions to Metro-Manila's traffic problem.

To my mind, the only long-term solution to Metro Manila's transportation problem is a heavy rail transit system...underground.

Even with the modern TBMs (tunnel-boring machines) it will still probably take three to five years to operationalize just one line, and so, for this reason, we must start now! Using the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) scheme, government finances need not be drained. What's more...digging and constructing underground will not disturb ground-level traffic the way overhead structures do.

We only have to look at other heavily populated metropolises in the world to know that subways are the answer to our transport problems. Tokyo, Hong Kong, New York, London, Paris, Moscow, etc.—they all have subways and so they don't bother restricting the acquisition of private cars. In these cities, the commuters themselves decide that taking the subway is more convenient for them.

An underground rapid transit system had first become a reality in London in 1863. In New York City, the first line opened in 1904 and the entire system was finished in 1908. It's now 2014, more than a century later, isn't it time we focus on this solution? **AQ**

**"The only long-term solution to Metro Manila's transportation problem is a heavy rail transit system...underground."**

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Aida Sevilla Mendoza  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## The Quiet Technology

**R**ECENTLY, I got to test drive the latest iteration of a compact car that was touted as bristling with cutting-edge technology. Imagine my surprise and disappointment when I heard a thump coming from the trunk whenever I stepped on the brake pedal or drove slowly over a road hump. I opened the trunk, but it was empty save for the spare tire under the cargo floor and the jack inside a compartment on the right side of the trunk. The spare tire and the jack were securely attached to their respective storage places, so they couldn't have caused the thumping noise.

Was it a defective shock absorber? A loosely mounted rear tire? The distributor promptly replaced the car with another brand-new unit, but it also annoyed my ears with an occasional thump coming from the back. Whatever caused the thumping sound, it affected my appreciation of that model car which has a price tag of well over a million pesos.

The incident reminded me of an article I read in *The Wall Street Journal* last January in which the author, Jeff Bennett, notes that the more auto makers succeed in muting sounds coming from the outside, such as engine and road noise, the more drivers hear the irritating little squeaks, rattles and drones on the inside. So car manufacturers are going to new lengths to quiet their vehicles' interiors.

Whereas before a hushed, quiet ride used to be a bragging right exclusive to luxury cars and a sign of a car's refinement, nowadays the quest for quiet has trickled into more mass market vehicles, Bennett points out. More owners are bringing in their new vehicles for repairs after hearing noises, even when nothing is operationally wrong. This hurts the perception of a car's quality while driving up warranty costs for auto makers.

In the United States, the problem has given rise to quiet labs popping up around the car industry, Bennett writes. One is

the sound-testing facility in Troy, Michigan that cost Mahle Behr more than a million dollars to develop. It includes two acoustic rooms built on shock absorbers to stop noise from bleeding in through the ground. In one of these rooms, the skeleton of a car cockpit is connected to a massive air chamber while a tripod-mounted microphone records and measures every sound to which an acoustic validation manager listens. Then he reviews visual representations of the sounds on the computer to target problems.

So far, the Mahle Behr team has compiled a database of more than 1,000 noises ranging from low, throaty rumbles to a high-screching whistle or chirp tone. They use the database with computer software to help identify which sounds need muffling and which noise levels the human ear does not like and therefore has to be turned down.

Another way to overcome sounds is to mask them, Bennett reports. In the 2013 Ford Fusion Hybrid and the 2014 Cadillac ELR, "active noise-cancellation" technology electronically draws information from ceiling-mounted microphones to detect and zap unwanted exterior and interior sound. When microphones pick up the sounds of the ELR's gasoline engine kicking in after the car has ceased silently running on electric, a microprocessor sends out a bandwidth of low frequency through the car's audio system to cancel out that noise.

Noise cancellation engineers say the day will come when a car owner can flick on a "white noise" option. But there are sounds that are welcome, like the "thump" of a closing door or lock that conveys the quality of the vehicle. Lockmaker Kiekert AG, which supplies latch systems to brands like Mercedes-Benz and Bentley, has an acoustic lab in Wixom, Michigan where thousands of different door locking sounds have been recorded from its own products and those of its competitors. Bennett quotes Kiekert's U.S. operations vice general manager, Mike Hietbrink, as saying: "A high-frequency sound you get from metal hitting metal is usually perceived as bad because the tingy sound is annoying to the human ear. A lower sound like a closing bank vault is considered more acceptable."

Indeed, the growth of the noise cancellation industry underscores what both the auto industry and consumers believe: the quieter the interior of a car is, the better must be its quality. **aq**

**Both the auto industry and consumers believe that the quieter the interior of a car is, the better must be its quality.**

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# You need a racing license to compete in local motorsports

THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) is the sole motorsports authority in the country and is the only group affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the world governing body for motor sports.



## REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- Medical examination
- ECG (new applicants)
- Two pieces of 2x2 and 1x1 colored pictures
- For circuit, certification from AAP accredited racing schools: Tuason Racing School and Edgen Dy-Liacco
- For karting, certification from the Philippine International Karting Association (PIKA)

AAP issues both international and national competition licenses to all motor sport competitors in all six disciplines—Circuit, Karting, Slalom, Car Rally/Rally Cross, 4WD/Off Road racing.

AAP also sanctions all sporting events under its affiliated clubs. As the sole four-wheel motor sports authority in the Philippines, AAP Motor Sports' primary role is to ensure safety in all aspects at each sporting event. **ao**

## AAP PROPOSES CREATION OF A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

DIVING a bus or truck requires more skills and aptitude than driving a small vehicle like a car or jeepney. To drive a large commercial vehicle safely, one must be properly trained and pass a test geared to higher standards.



Recently, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) published in the newspapers a Request for Information inviting the public to submit suggestions on how to improve the process of issuing the driver's license so as to weed out applicants who are not qualified to drive a motor vehicle safely. The LTO held a forum on the subject last May 15 which was attended by transportation industry stakeholders and the Automobile Association Philippines.

At the open forum, AAP Vice President and Road Safety Chairman Johnny Angeles suggested that a fourth driver's license, the Commercial Driver's License (CDL), should be added to the three existing driver's licenses (Student, Non-Professional and Professional). Angeles pointed out that the State of California in America developed the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety program that issues the CDL to make roads safer for all road users. A professional driver can

obtain a CDL by taking and passing a test that exceeds federal standards since it takes special skills and aptitude to safely operate large trucks and buses. A CDL is proof that the driver has the skills and aptitude to drive a large commercial vehicle.

The following categories are considered as a commercial motor vehicle: (a) has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, (b) a combination vehicle with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds; if the trailer(s) has a GVWR of 10,001 or more pounds; (c) tows any vehicle with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more; (d) tows more than one vehicle or a trailer bus; (e) has three or more axles (excluding three-axle vehicles weighing 6,000 pounds or less gross); (f) any vehicle (bus, farm labor machine, general public paratransit vehicle, etc.) designed, used or maintained to carry more than 10 passengers including the driver, for hire or

profit, or is used by a non-profit organization or group; (g) any size vehicle which requires hazardous material placards or is carrying material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR; and (h) transports hazardous wastes.

Angeles said that the LTO should consider the CDL because of the many road crashes involving trucks and buses driven by those who do not have the training and skills to drive large vehicles safely.

In addition to the CDL, Angeles suggested that a professional driver should undergo: (1) Red Cross training on First Aid, rescue and response procedures in emergency situations since the driver is usually the first person present in an emergency; and (2) drug testing, including those applying to renew their license. Angeles expressed optimism that with the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013, there will be less road crashes. **ao**

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- from Magallanes to Alabang (SOMCO), Alabang-Calamba-Sto. Tomas Expressway (ACTEX).
- Within 25 km road distance from AAP offices at Alabang, Cebu City, Davao City, Lipa City, and San Fernando, Pampanga.

ERS is available 24/7, with an average response time of 30 minutes to 1 hour, weather and traffic conditions permitting.



## TransSport Show



AAP Vice president Johnny Angeles (2nd from left) with Sophie Delos Santos (leftmost), Senator JV Ejercito, Atty. Raymond Zorilla (2nd from right) and other guests cut the ribbon at the 23rd Trans Sport Show held at SMX MOA last May 22, 2014.



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- A brief description of the problem with their vehicle

Extra charges for services which are in excess of the allowed interventions are P500 per non-towing intervention or P50 per towed kilometer, subject to a minimum P500 charge. Travel distances for interventions or tow pick-ups beyond service areas will be included in the extra charges. **aq**

# 24/7 WORRY FREE DRIVING



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**AAP Travel**, the wholly owned subsidiary of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT), organized a three-day tour touted as "Oriental Mindoro Cruise-Drive Caravan: Escaping the Urban, Sailing the Southwest, Enjoying a Road Trip Adventure to Paradise" on May 1-3, 2014. Most of the participants, including AAP President Gus Lagman and his wife, Tess Lagman, Edgar and Beth Tam, Helen So and her family are veterans of previous AAP Travel caravans and brought their friends and families to experience the Mindoro escapade.

## **AAP Travel** Organizes Cruise-Drive Caravan to Oriental Mindoro



Caravaners pause for a photo op in front of Benilda ng Bancuro Resort & Restaurant before leaving for the next tour destination.



Caravan participants enjoy their leisure time at the falls, river and hanging bridge of Lantuyan while waiting for lunch to be served.



Caravan members' group photo at the Puerto Galera mark as a souvenir

A horizon between the calm sea and the blue sky

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Puerto Galera's Pandang Gitab Dancers entertain the participants while dinner is being served

The caravaners took the Supercat fast ferry from Batangas City to Calapan, where they were welcomed by the province's tourism officials, a marching band, a police escort and the Motorcycle Riders Club of Oriental Mindoro. During the next three days, the caravaners visited the province's tourist attractions and cultural heritage sites: the ruins of the Bancuro Church in Naujan, which was built in the 17th century; the Lantuan River and Hanging Bridge in Baco at the foot of Mount Halcon; the Tamaraw Waterfalls in Puerto Galera and the Iraya-Mangyan Village where the Mangyans weave baskets, handbags and mats.

Along the way, the caravaners ate, played or stayed overnight in resort hotels: the Benilda ng Bancuro Resort and Restaurant in Naujan, Marco Vincent Dive Resort and Fridays Boquete Beach Resort. They also visited the Infinity Resort and Restaurant of Mon Rocamora who joined AAP Travel's Ifugao Drive Tourism Caravan last February together with 1st District Provincial Board Member Paul Luna. The Rocamoras and Luna were the ones who persuaded AAP Travel head Mina Gabor, who is concurrently an AAP director, to bring the next caravan to Mindoro, their home province.



Participants enjoy the banana boat ride

Luna and Naujan Town Mayor Mark Marcos were the local government officials who welcomed and feted the caravaners, making sure that the visitors were treated to Mindoro's best dishes and delicacies. Before the participants parted ways, some of them shared their comments about the tour. *Business Mirror* Travel Writer Benjamin Layug said: "I have been to Mindoro so many times but the AAP Oriental Mindoro Cruise-Drive Caravan was a real eye opener, not only showing the beauty of the province but also the cultural diversity of the people. Our immersion with the Mangyan community was a nice touch. May they do many more caravans of a similar nature, kudos to AAP Travel for a job well done."



A Mangyan shows off Mindoro's local products to the caravan participants

**G G AAP Oriental Mindoro Cruise-Drive Caravan was a real eye opener, not only showing the beauty of the province but also the cultural diversity of the people.** **S S**


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# AAP Sanctions the 2014 Toyota Vios Cup



30 cars lined up at the start of the 2nd 2014 Toyota Vios Cup

**AAP** Motor Sports sanctioned and calendared the 2014 Toyota Vios Cup held last May 24 at Clark International Speedway. Thirty Toyota Vios cars represented by various Toyota dealer drivers, privateers, motoring media and selected show business celebrities competed for the top spot at the culminating round of the 2014 season. AAP, under a Memorandum of Agreement with the Tuason Racing School, will officiate the series to ensure that it is conducted according to the best standards of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). **AQ**



AAP Motor Sport Operations Manager Mark Desales (2nd from right) welcomed showbiz personalities who went to the AAP office to apply for competition driver's licenses to qualify them to drive in the Toyota Vios Cup race. Photo shows (from left) Fabio Ide, Jinno Rufino, Rhian Ramos and Phoemela Barranda.

## AAP Turns Over FIA Grade 4 License to Clark International Speedway



AAP Motor Sports Operations Manager Mark Desales (left) turns over the FIA Grade 4 license to Nelson Gayola, Corporate Communications Manager of Clark International Speedway. (Photo by Christopher Kho of Time Attack Manila)

As the National Auto Club that is the sole representative in the country of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the Paris-based governing body of all four-wheel motor sports worldwide, the Automobile Association Philippines recently turned over the original copy of the FIA Grade 4 license of Clark International Speedway to Clark track management. The FIA approved the Clark circuit as a Grade 4 licensed track that can hold international events limited to Grade 4 track requirements. The FIA Grade 4 license was the result of a joint effort of Tom Pastor of the Philippine Formula Autosport Foundation Inc. and Johnny Tan of Clark Race Track Management. **AQ**

## Insurance products and services for members

MEMBERS are automatically insured under the AAP Accident Protection Plan. The AAP membership comes with a free personal accident insurance worth P300,000 for Regular Membership and P200,000 for Associate Membership, through Federal Phoenix Assurance Co., Inc.

The AAP Accident Protection Plan provides 24/7 worldwide protection to the insured person for a period of one year from the effective date of membership of the insured. (Except for unprovoked murder and assault and sabotage and terrorism in the following areas: Lanao del Norte and del Sur, North and South Cotabato, Zamboanga del Norte and del Sur, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Sulu Archipelago and Basilan)

Moreover, the personal accident insurance may be extended to your immediate family members. If you are single, you can extend the personal accident insurance to your parents ages 70 years old and below and/or your unmarried and unemployed brothers/sisters/children ages 1 to 23. If you are married, you can extend the personal accident insurance to your spouse and parents ages 70 years old and below and/or your children ages 1 to 23.

Regular members can get five certificates equivalent to P1.5 million accidental death and disablement (AD&D) benefit. The immediate family member can get a maximum of five certificates or equivalent to P1 million AD&D benefit for spouse and parent(s) and one certificate or equivalent to P200,000 for children, brother(s) or sister(s). Extended family members and domestic household helpers may get a maximum of two certificates worth P100,000 per person.

In addition, FLT Prime Insurance allows AAP members who own vehicles 10 years old and above, including vintage cars, to apply for comprehensive insurance coverage. Under this program that is available exclusively to AAP members, FLT PRIME has two major divisions of auto insurance coverage. The first one is physical or material damage coverage which protects the insured from loss or damage to the car itself. The second one is casualty coverage referring to liability and personal accident coverage afforded under the motor car policy. **AQ**

## KNOW MORE ABOUT VETERANS BANK'S HOME LOAN FREE HOME!

### Q. What is the Home Loan Free Home?

**A.** Home Loan Free Home is a 20-year housing loan product from Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) whereby successful loan applicants will get a chance to get their home for free because of the product's innovative cash-back guarantee.

### Q. How does the Home Loan Free Home work?

**A.** Interested individuals simply have to apply for the 20-year housing loan offer of PVB and upon approval of the loan they'll automatically be eligible for the cash back guarantee provided they meet the product terms and conditions.

### Q. Who are qualified to avail of the Home Loan Free Home?

**A.** Home Loan Free Home is open to individuals who are planning to avail of housing loan for any of the following purposes:

- Refinancing of existing mortgage
- Purchase of a residential house or condominium
- Purchase of a vacant lot
- House construction (staggered releases)
- Home improvement or renovation

It is also open to all homeowners with existing mortgage loans with other banks as well as for all new home-buyers including those purchasing residential house and lots, townhouses, or condos.

### Q. How much would be the possible loan amount for this product?

**A.** The maximum loanable amount will be as follows:

- 80% of appraised value of land and improvements
- 80% of appraised value for condominiums
- 60% of appraised value on vacant residential lots

### Q. What is the interest rate for the Home Loan Free Home?

**A.** The interest rate for the Home Loan Free Home is 8.25% p.a. for the first 5 years. Thereafter, the interest rate will be subject to re-pricing every 5 years. The interest rate we offer for this product is quite competitive!

### Q. Why is PVB offering this 20-year housing loan?

**A.** PVB believes that owning a home need not be a burden to a family hence the bank has launched this product which offers homebuyers to get their home but also serve as an investment.

### Q. How can we avail of the cash back guarantee?

**A.** To be eligible for the cash back guarantee, or the 100% return on your principal loan, the

borrower must meet the following conditions:

- No late or lapsed payment of amortizations and other dues including all insurance premiums (MRI, fire/lightning/earthquake/AOG) for the duration of the term
- No pre-termination or pre-payment of the housing loan
- The loan is fully paid at the end of the term including all insurance premiums
- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the mortgage loan agreement
- Opening/maintenance of a PVB savings account for the monthly amortizations

Failure to meet any of the above conditions will mean the forfeiture of the borrower's chance for the cash back guarantee.

### Q. If we have more questions about the Home Loan Free Home promo ...?

**A.** For more questions about the Home Loan Free Home promo, please feel free to get in touch with the Home Loan Free Home team via the following channels:

Website: [www.pvhomeloans.com](http://www.pvhomeloans.com)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PVBHomeLoanFreeHome>

Twitter: [@PVBHomeLoan](#)

Email: [freehome@veteransbank.com.ph](mailto:freehome@veteransbank.com.ph)

Via phones (only available Mondays-Fridays during business hours)

### Landlines:

- (02) 902-1600
- (02) 902-1700
- (02) 857-3800

### Mobile Numbers:

- 0917-5516782 (Globe)
- 0998-9588782 (Smart)

### Toll-Free Numbers:

- 1-800-10-8573822 (PLDT subscribers only outside of Metro Manila)
- 1-800-8-9021622 (Globe subscribers only outside of Metro Manila)

### Q. 20 years is too long for a housing loan, is there another housing loan product available for me?

**A.** Yes! PVB offers competitive interest rates for housing loans for up to 15 years! Please call us to know more about our other housing loan products and let us help you customize a housing loan that's just right for you!



I WILL REALLY GET MY HOUSE FOR FREE! \*

I WILL REALLY GET MY HOUSE FOR \*

I WILL REALLY GET MY HOUSE FO \*

\*Terms and conditions apply.

Better believe now than be sorry. 

902-1600 / 902-1700 / 857-3800 / Mobile: 0917-5516782 (Globe) / 0998-9588782 (Smart)  
Toll-Free: 1-800-10-8573822 (PLDT subscribers only) / 1-800-8-9021622 (Globe subscribers only)

[www.pvhomeloans.com](http://www.pvhomeloans.com) [@PVBHomeLoan](#) [facebook/PVBHomeLoanFreeHome](http://facebook.com/PVBHomeLoanFreeHome)

# Use credit cards with care while traveling

**W**HETHER you're going on a road trip on the nation's freeways or a jet flight across the world, chances are you'll be using a credit card on those travels.

Before you depart, here's a roundup of some good-to-know credit card travel tips.

**CALL BEFORE YOU GO:** Especially if you're traveling overseas, it's always wise to alert your credit card company. Otherwise, if you start charging purchases in, say, Canada, your credit card company will likely flag those transactions as suspicious. They might try contacting you by phone to verify the transactions. Or they could simply freeze your card, playing havoc with travel plans.

To avoid those scenarios, pick up the phone and call your issuer, using the number on the back of your card. Many card issuers let you do the same thing online. Log onto your account and look for "travel notification" or a similar tab, where you can fill in the dates and countries where you'll be traveling.

"We strongly encourage our customers to contact us when traveling, whether they're in the middle of a trip or about to leave," JPMorgan Chase spokesman Rob Tacey said in an email.

In some cases, he said, the company notifies its frequent travelers that it's not necessary to notify the company in advance, because it's already aware their card is often used far from home. But generally, it can't hurt to call your credit card issuer and alert it of impending trips.

**KNOW THE NUMBERS:** Keep a copy of your card's toll-free customer service numbers with you, separate from your wallet, in case you need to report a loss or theft. Bury one in your luggage; send a copy to a friend or family member, just in case it's needed.

Also, many travel experts recommend carrying two credit cards, keeping one as your backup in case your main card is lost or stolen.

**GET YOUR FREEBIES:** Many consumers aren't aware of little-known benefits that come free with their credit cards, said Ed Perkins, a longtime SmarterTravel.com writer, based in Ashland, Oregon. Depending on the card and the issuing bank, the perks can range from free referrals if you need a lawyer or doctor in a foreign country (the referral is free, not the professional services) to hotel room upgrades.

Among the best freebies: Coverage for lost or damaged checked baggage, up to \$500 beyond what you might receive from the airline. Most US airlines will cover up



to \$3,400 in cases of lost baggage, said Perkins, but certain items are excluded, including cash, family heirlooms or expensive technology, such as computers.

"If you packed an expensive camera in your checked baggage, some cards will cover up to \$250 per lost item...it's not a lot, but it can make a difference," Perkins said.

The biggest benefit, said Perkins: Coverage for damage to a rental car. If the damage occurs in the US, the credit-card reimbursement is generally secondary coverage that kicks in after you file a claim with your insurer. If it's an overseas rental car, which usually isn't covered by US insurance, the credit card coverage may be your only option to recoup the cost of damages.

"It's one really big-dollar benefit. It can amount to hundreds of dollars," he noted.

Some card issuers also offer small amounts of compensation for delayed flights.

In all cases, to find out what your card covers, read the fine print in your service agreement or look it up online.

**MINIMIZE FEES:** Most credit cards add a 1-percent to 3-percent currency conversion fee to the cost of any purchase outside the home country. Some cards, however, have eliminated it entirely. If you have more than one credit card, you might want to check the fees and use the one with the lowest foreign transaction fee.

When traveling overseas, you will likely be hit by ATM fees when you're getting cash withdrawals in local currency. There are a couple ways to minimize these fees, which can be as high as \$5 per transaction.

- Call your card issuer to ask if it has partnerships with bank ATMs in other countries.
- Use a debit card from a credit union, which tends to have lower fees than a bank card.
- When doing ATM cash withdrawals, get large amounts so you're not making

frequent ATM stops and incurring fees.

In general, Perkins recommends using a debit card to make cash withdrawals (because of lower fees compared with most credit cards). For large purchases, like hotel stays, car rentals, shopping, etc., he says, use your credit card.

And Perkins noted: At all costs, avoid going to a currency exchange office or airport kiosk, which typically charge high currency conversion fees.

**CHIP OR NO CHIP?** If your credit card has been around a while, it's probably not imbedded with a microchip, a security feature that makes it harder for cyberthieves to steal your credit card info.

In most cases overseas, "a standard old [magnetic-] striped card will work most of the time, in most places," said Perkins, who uses both chipped and non-chipped cards and rarely encounters a problem. He said certain situations, such as trying to use a self-service gas station or ticket kiosk, may cause a card to be rejected.

Overall, "If your bank offers the option of getting a chipped card, I recommend it because it decreases the chances of running into a problem."

**PAY BILLS IN ADVANCE:** Don't forget to pay off credit card bills before leaving, so you don't come home to unanticipated late fees or other penalties. Especially if you'll be gone for an extended period, you can pay your monthly bill ahead of time or set up an online automatic payment.

**CHECK YOUR LIMITS:** If you'll be charging lots on your trip, be sure you've got enough available credit on your card. Let's say your card has a \$1,000 limit and you exceed that while renting scuba gear. Your card transaction could be denied or you could get hit with penalties on your next bill. To avoid those unpleasant surprises, contact your card issuer now about raising your credit limit. Otherwise, monitor your travel spending so you don't go over the card limit. **MCT**

**Active Park Assist**

Active Park Assist uses an ultrasonic-based sensing system and Electric Power Assisted Steering to position the vehicle for parallel parking, calculate the optimal steering angle and quickly steer the vehicle into a parking spot. Drivers can operate the system with touch of a button and without ever touching the steering wheel. Compared with competitive systems, Active Park Assist is easy to use and requires less driver interface. Ford's Active Park Assist also works in both uphill and downhill parking situations. As Ford introduces Electric Power Assisted Steering in more vehicles, it will be able to offer Active Parking Assist in more models.

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**ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL**

With more and more expressways being built, cruise control is starting to become a mainstay in many vehicles. This feature, however, is just for maintaining a constant speed when driving on the highway so the driver can take his or her foot off the accelerator pedal. Adaptive cruise control takes that to another level altogether.

Using radar sensors up front, a vehicle equipped with adaptive cruise control sustains the selected speed but will automatically slow down the car when the car senses a slower vehicle ahead. An example of this would be the Chrysler 300C, as it is able to maintain a set distance to the vehicle ahead in terms of car lengths. It allows for further convenience on the highway and increased safety.

**TWIN SCROLL TURBOCHARGERS**

In car-speak, having a turbocharger is arguably the best and most effective way to produce more power by utilizing exhaust gases to spin a turbine to force more air into the engine.

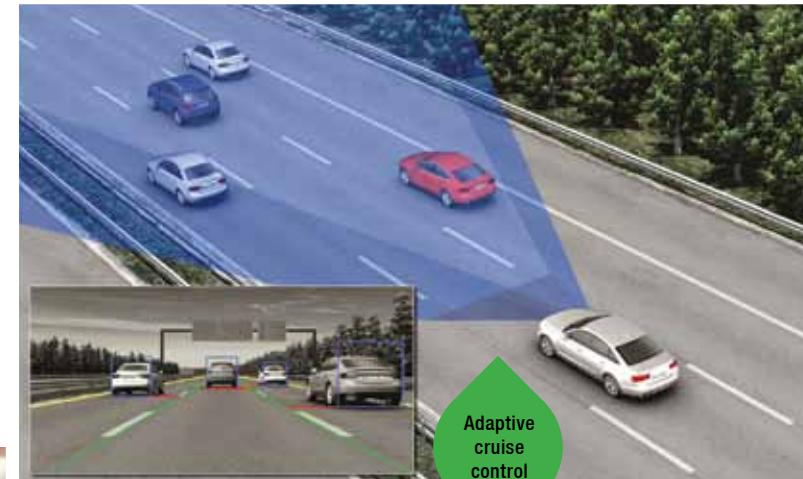
Turbos, however, are prone to two conditions: turbo lag (sluggish performance) at lower RPMs due to the lower exhaust pressure and a kick at higher RPMs that may be difficult to control. Twin scroll turbochargers take care of that.

A common feature on turbocharged BMWs and Minis, the twin scroll turbo systems use two exhaust gas inlets and two nozzles, where one is smaller for quick response and the larger for peak performance. The setup uses the exhaust manifold to separate the channels for cylinders allowing exhaust gases to flow freely. This set up minimizes turbo lag for improved all-around performance, not to mention it makes the car easier to control at high RPMs.

**GASOLINE DIRECT INJECTION**

Back in the day, gasoline and air used to mix in the ports of the intake manifold either through a carburetor or fuel injectors. It's inefficient as it typically results in wasted, unburnt fuel—you know, that black soot that forms in your combustion chamber. Gasoline direct injection solves all that.

Direct injection itself is not new, as it has been a common feature on most diesel engines. Instead of injecting fuel into the manifold or the ports, DI sends a highly pressurized mist of gasoline into the combustion chamber directly. This way the fuel is shot into



Adaptive cruise control



Mitsubishi Twin Scroll Turbochargers

the chamber where it mixes with the intake air; the fuel is more finely measured and finely misted so that there as little wasted or unburnt gasoline. The result is better efficiency and better overall power.

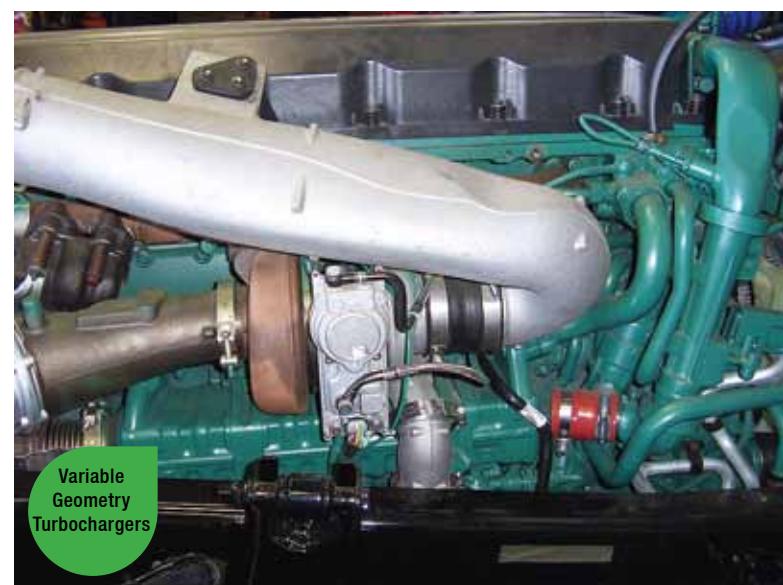
Engines that have gasoline direct injection (GDI) include the SkyActiv-G motors of Mazda, some BMWs, Audis, Mercs, among others.

**VARIABLE GEOMETRY TURBOCHARGERS**

As with twin scroll turbochargers, a variable geometry turbo works to minimize lag, maximize power and power delivery.

Instead of having two inlet ports for the exhaust to drive the turbines, a variable geometry (also called variable vane or variable nozzle) turbo works by altering the angle of attack of the intake blades, allowing the turbo to generate more pressurized air for the intake at lower RPMs and ease off gradually at higher RPMs. The result of having a variable geometry turbo is that it provides more consistent power all throughout the power band and torque band, making for a more powerful engine enabling, say, a VGT 2.5-liter engine to take over the duties of a 3.0 liter with a regular turbo.

VG turbos are common in top spec variants of diesel-powered cars and SUVs. Such examples include the Hyundai Accent CRDI, the Toyota Fortuner, the Mitsubishi Montero Sport and their derivatives.



Variable Geometry Turbochargers



BMW iDrive

**HUMAN/MACHINE MULTI-MEDIA INTERFACE**

A common technology upgrade on most luxury vehicles is the advent of unified multimedia control systems. These devices, usually in the form of a knob or a small cluster of pads and hat switches, aim to reduce the number of buttons in a car's dashboard by consolidating them into one control system.

Some examples include Audi's MMI, Mercedes-Benz's COMAND APS, BMW's iDrive and more recently the Mazda3's multi-media control system, whereby the control of the central screen's display allows the driver to manipulate the many features and settings in the vehicle. The radio, DVD (if applicable), navigation, lighting settings, alarm settings, audio settings and other functions are all actuated by a cluster of buttons and knobs just behind the shifter.

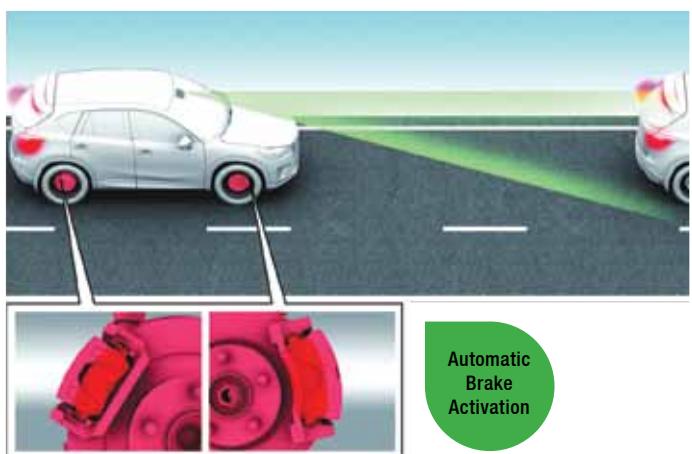
**SMART KEY**

Regular keys with a remote attached are so yesterday.

A common feature of high end models and top spec variants, smart key transponders. These enable a driver to just keep the key in his pocket and unlock the doors either by pressing a button or grabbing the sensor-equipped handle. The car can be started when the driver depresses the brake pedal and presses the ignition button.

The benefits of these smart keys (also known as proximity keys), apart from the convenience of not having to pull out an actual key to start the car), enable a driver to keep his or her hands free in opening the car's doors or trunk; a useful feature when carrying loads of groceries. Some proximity keys even have buttons to start the car remotely, thereby cooling the cabin down as you walk to it in the parking lot.

The best advantage of these kinds of keys is the added security, particularly during carjackings. Should it ever happen to



Automatic Brake Activation

you, you can just hand over the car without a fight but with the key still in your pocket. The crook (thinking the key is in the ignition) will drive away, not knowing that these devices typically shut down a car after running a fair distance. You can then proceed to the nearest police station.

**AUTOMATIC BRAKE ACTIVATION**

Driving in the city is, to say the least, tricky and distracting. A driver has to monitor so many things all happening at the same time around him and chances are something will catch you out. Auto brake activation seeks to provide an extra safety net.

First pioneered by the safety experts at Volvo, these systems work best in urban environments, particularly when the speeds

are below 30 km/h. Sensors and cameras in front of the car can detect another car ahead and bring the car to a complete stop if it senses that the driver has failed to respond. More advanced versions can even detect pedestrians as well. This feature has hit the mainstream with the Ford Focus in 2012 called Active City Stop.



Smart key

**AUTOMATIC START/STOP**

Regardless of how efficient or how low an engine's displacement is, when stopped at a set of traffic lights any vehicle's fuel efficiency drops down to zero kilometers to every liter and that's a fact. Auto start/stop systems seek to alleviate that.

The principle is similar for all vehicles that have this feature: when you're stopped either at an intersection or even in traffic, the engine cuts out automatically when you fully depress the brakes but still retains the A/C's blower, radio and other electrical functions. When you lift your foot off the brakes, the engine will immediately restart and you can drive off. The obvious effect is that the engine will not be consuming any fuel while stopped.

This feature is available on SkyActiv-equipped Mazdas, BMWs with Eco-Pro functions, hybrids like the Toyota Prius and the Honda CR-Z.

**HIGH TENSILE STEEL**

It sounds basic, but the arrival of vehicles that were built using more advanced materials is one of the most important innovations in automotive technology. This is most evident in the growing use of high tensile boron steel in the construction of the body.

The advent of boron steel, a material that can match the tensile strength of thicker, heavier 'regular' steel. The effects are immediate; by using boron steel in critical areas, carmakers can reduce the weight of a car significantly. A lighter car means better acceleration and better fuel efficiency. Also the stiffer steel allows for better handling and better overall performance.

Again, the more common examples of vehicles that use high tensile steel include Ford (Focus, Fiesta, EcoSport) as well as Mazda (CX-5, Mazda6, Mazda3).



Dual Clutch Transmission

**DUAL CLUTCH TRANSMISSION**

Of course no list of advanced auto technologies would be complete without dual clutch transmissions (DCT). Unlike regular torque converter automatics which achieve two-pedal convenience by using hydraulics and consuming more fuel for driving comfort, a dual clutch is more similar to a manual transmission in terms of power delivery and efficiency.

A DCT is essentially two gearboxes in one housing; one gearbox has the odd numbered gears (in a 6-speed gearbox: 1, 3, 5 and Reverse) while the other has the even numbered gears (in a 6-speed gearbox: 2, 4 and 6). Each set of gears has its own clutch; when, say, 3rd gear is engaged in clutch A, both second and fourth gears are being spun up in anticipation of a shift in clutch B. When the next gear up or down is selected, the change is quick and instantaneous on the other clutch.

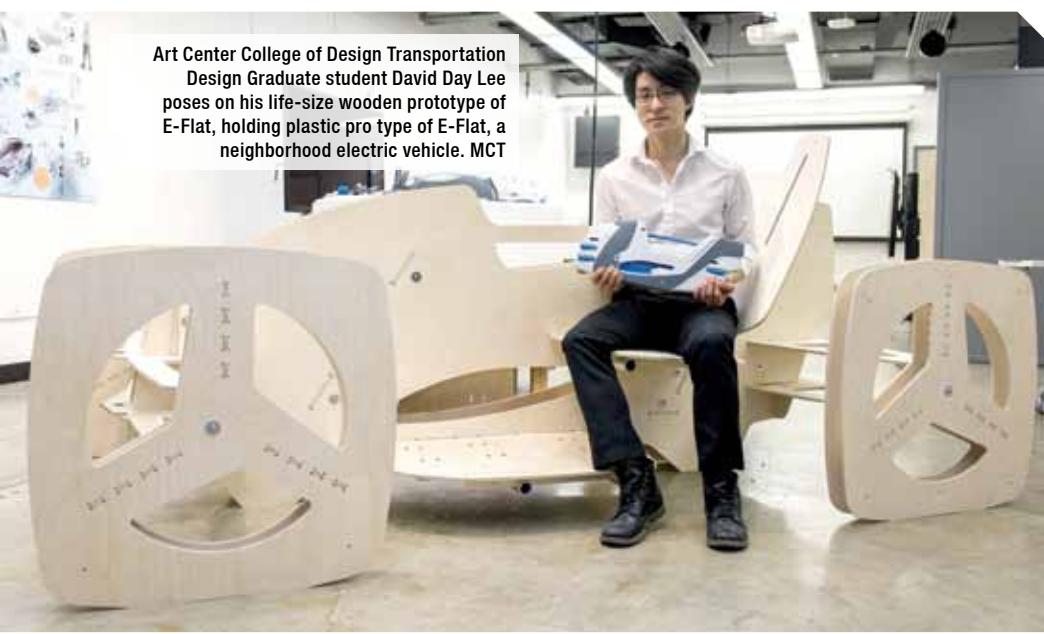
The advantages of DCTs include better power delivery, better fuel efficiency, little power loss and instant shifting; it's like driving a manual but with two pedals only. The two disadvantages (in general) are the greater complexity of the system and the overall roughness of the shifts in traffic when compared to a regular automatic.

As you can see, automotive technology has certainly come a very long way since the inception of the car over a century ago. There are still plenty of technologies that corporations and innovators are looking into like autonomous driving, alternative fuels and other such tech, so expect those to hit the market one way or the other in the near future.

We're still a long way off from mainstream applications of hovering or flying automobiles that history thought we would be driving by now, but these technologies may come eventually. For now, one thing is certain: there's plenty of room for improvement for the internal combustion engine and the cars it propels. **AQ**



High Tensile Steel



**Art Center College of Design Transportation Design Graduate student David Day Lee poses on his life-size wooden prototype of E-Flat, holding plastic pro type of E-Flat, a neighborhood electric vehicle. MCT**

## WE DESIGN JOURNEYS: Auto designers aim to go beyond sedan vs. coupe

CARS should be more like smartphones: socially engaging, highly customizable and simple to use, yet technologically sophisticated.

At least that's how David Day Lee sees it.

Lee in April became the first student to receive an advanced degree from Art Center College of Design's graduate transportation design program. He was one of 12 students, the rest of whom are still enrolled in the nascent course of study encouraging critical thinking about how people and products move around.

"There's a shift happening in how cars are understood," said Lee, a Korean American who was raised in Japan and is now applying the paper-manipulation principles of origami to auto design. "In the past, cars were seen as a packaged product you were supposed to receive in full. There was no room for your involvement. We're in an age where customer values are shifting from 'give me a finished product' to 'give me something that I can co-create.'"

During the April 17 graduate show, Lee displayed various concepts to demonstrate his idea of "innovation in the hands of many," or collaboration between vehicle manufacturers and their end users. Unlike students graduating from the bachelor's transportation design program, who showcased their ideas with clay models

and sketches, Lee had crafted a full-size wooden replica of his E Flat platform, which orients a vehicle's chassis vertically, rather than horizontally, to enable a greater variety of vehicles using the same basic platform—from cars to motorcycles to trucks.

He had also built a small-scale plastic model of a highly customizable vehicle called the Maker Series that could allow car buyers to design the exterior and interior shapes of their vehicles and to locally manufacture them with 3D printers and other rapid prototyping technologies.

"We like to say we design journeys rather than products or vehicles," said Geoffrey Wardle, director of advanced mobility research at Art Center in Pasadena, California.

Three years ago, the school's president charged Wardle with crafting the curriculum for a graduate transportation design program that would "think beyond cars" to address the future of mobility, including trains, planes, public transit, cargo transit—even space travel.

Already, Art Center's 250-student undergraduate transportation design program is esteemed as one of the most important automotive design schools in the

world. Its graduates are routinely snatched up by major automakers worldwide.

The new graduate level program moves students beyond the fanciful sketches and car styling of the undergrad program to generate real-world mobility solutions, including the New York City Taxi of 2030 designed by current graduate students Cody Casale, Tejesh Goregaonkar and Ali Kaldirim.

The students from three countries—the US, India and Turkey—collaborated on a taxi concept designed to reduce the carbon footprint of the city's 12,000 cabs. Each year, the city's taxi fleet drives 772 million miles, spewing 54 million tons of greenhouse gases in the process, the students said.

"We wanted to address all the problems the existing vehicles had and try to find solutions and create a better overall experience for the passenger and driver," said Casale, 27.

Inspired by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's real-world competition to create a cleaner taxi fleet—a competition that was awarded to the Nissan NV200 last year—the 2030 taxi is a 25-mph electric vehicle that seats the driver in an elevated position at the vehicle's rear and its passengers in front of a plate glass window that enables sightseeing. The front window telescopes up and over the taxi body to enable wheelchair access with a retractable ramp. The side doors slide on rails, instead of hinging out into traffic.

Another team of graduate design students, including the one woman enrolled in the program, are leveraging the same taxi design but making it autonomous.

Both groups of students are likely to graduate next year.

"The focus is not just on the automotive industry," Wardle said. "Rather than think about it in terms of products, how are we as consumers of personal mobility going to relate to our automobiles? We don't think it's just going to be the current ownership model. It's going to be more about car share and accessing the automobile on what I call a total mobility package option where we are buying journey miles rather than buying a car. These are the sorts of scenarios we're interested in with the future of the auto industry."

"It's going to be a fuzzy boundary between the static built street and moving transportation as we get new forms of personal mobility," Wardle added.

With the new graduate program, he said, "We're interested in the whole of transportation and how it fits into the built environment." **MCT AQ**



# Ford SYNC: Play it again, Samantha

By ARMIN A. AMIO

Photos by IGOR MAMINTA for Ford Philippines

**A**DVANCES in connectivity and voice recognition technologies have made it natural for vehicle companies to design cars that can be controlled by voice.

US automaker Ford has the SYNC, which is a factory-installed, integrated in-vehicle communications and entertainment system that allows users to make hands-free telephone calls, control music and perform other functions with the use of voice commands. The system consists of applications and user interfaces developed by Ford and other third-party developers, and runs on the Windows Embedded Automotive operating system designed by Microsoft.

Ford first announced the release of SYNC in January 2007 at the Detroit International Auto Show. SYNC was released into the retail market in 2007 when Ford installed the technology in 12 Ford group vehicles (2008 model) in North America. The first-generation SYNC, however, received a lot of flak from reviewers, particularly the clunky interface with the MyFord Touch dashboard system.

It was in 2010 when the newly released Fiesta introduced the SYNC technology in the Philippines, but this is actually a more simplified version called Voice Activation Technology. It does not have Internet connectivity—like in the US market—maybe because the country's broadband network is still not stable enough to support the Sync.

Voice Activation Technology allows the car owner to control and tune the radio, iPhone, a USB drive with MP3

## Voice commands

- Phone
- USB/iPod
- Call <name>
- Help/Cancel



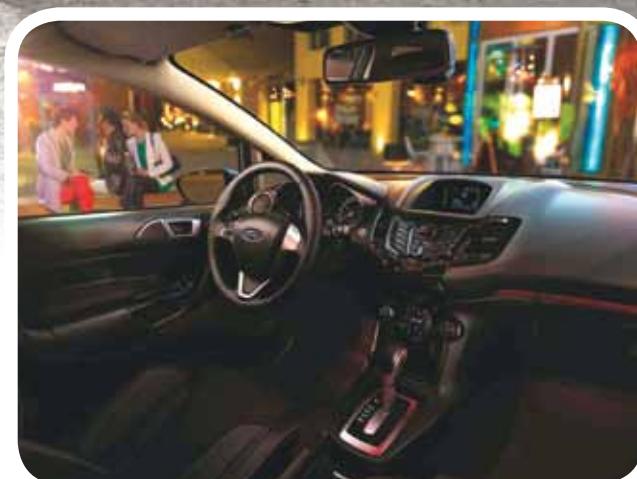
music, tablet or smartphone connected via Bluetooth. Common brands such as the iPhone, Samsung, LG, Lenovo, Nokia (now Microsoft Devices,) and even Philippine brands such as MyPhone, StarMobile, etc. can be paired with the Ford system.

Pairing is quick and very easy and you can even control your media playback using the embedded controls on the steering wheels. Users can browse through music collections by genre, album, artist, and song title using voice commands. A small unidirectional microphone, which is situated just above the rear-view mirror, picks up all the voice commands.

New technology was added to the second-generation SYNC in which text messages received by the driver can now be "vocalized" by a digitized female voice device named "Samantha." The text message function also has the ability to interpret approximately 100 shorthand messages, such as "LOL," and will even read "swear words," and although it does not decipher acronyms, it can read emoticons.

This overhaul also replaces some of the longer, more difficult voice commands with shorter alternatives. When "Samantha" cannot understand your command, she will say so ("I can't understand this command").

When making calls, all you need is to say a name and SYNC will automatically call the number from the system's phonebook. No need to flip through your smartphone's



The system consists of applications and user interfaces developed by Ford and other third-party developers, and runs on the Windows Embedded Automotive operating system designed by Microsoft.

contact list, your phonebook is automatically downloaded to the SYNC system.

All these fun tech features are embedded in an equally fun car. The Ford Fiesta Sport+ with the 1.0L EcoBoost engine offers the all the performance of a conventional 1.6-liter four-cylinder petrol engine, with significant improvements in fuel economy and carbon dioxide emissions, in a small package.

This subcompact also features technologies usually found in larger, more expensive vehicles. The keyless entry with push-button start system unlocks the car when you pull the door handle, as long as the key fob is in your pocket or bag. Simply put your foot on the brake, press the start button and drive away. The hill launch assist feature stops the Fiesta from

rolling downhill for the few nerve-wracking seconds it takes your foot to leave the brake and press the accelerator.

The electronic power assist steering knows how fast you're going, and adjusts the "weightiness" of the steering wheel for optimum control. It even adapts to road conditions and strong winds to keep you safely on track. It only activates when you need it, effectively saving you fuel. Rain-sensing wipers turn on automatically and adjust their speed for heavy or light rain while auto headlights also turn on as soon as they sense there's not enough light so you can see what's ahead.

How's that for a fun car? The five-door Ford Fiesta Sport+ with the 1.0L EcoBoost engine is priced at P898,000 at Ford showrooms nationwide.



# Honda Civic: Now sportier than ever

**T**HE local arm of Japanese carmaker Honda recently unveiled a new version of its flagship Honda Civic, now with a sportier-than-ever feel.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI), Honda's automobile business unit in the Philippines, has shown to the media and to the public the refreshed version of the Civic, upgrading the vehicle a few notches.

Toshio Kuwahara, HCPI President and General Manager, said: The new Civic embodies "a complete package that offers spirited driving performance and technologically advanced features that are encased in sportier styling."

"Ever committed to creating new values to meet the dynamic needs of our valued customers, we at Honda have worked hard to improve our products," he said.



Text and photos by FORT MANAHAN

automatic transmission and is said to deliver a maximum power output of 155 ps at 6,500 rpm and 141 ps at 5,500 rpm respectively.

Available in three variants, HCPI has offered factory-installed accessories to its models, such as the Mugen and Modulo aero kits.

"With our strengthened partnership with M-TEC Co. Ltd, known for its MUGEN

The updated version of the Civic is reinforced by the three major characteristics: sporty design; advanced features in fuel economy, entertainment and safety; and fun with dynamic driving and handling.

The new Civic still comes in 2.0 and 1.8-liter SOHC i-VTEC engine, which are both mated to a five-speed



accessories and Honda Access Asia and Oceania Co. Ltd, makers of Modulo accessories which are designed and developed in parallel with the development of Honda vehicles, we are pleased to present to you, the new Civic packaged with factory-installed genuine accessories carefully chosen and designed to match the Civic's monoform body," Kuwahara noted.

Standard for the mid-grid variant would be the Modulo kits while for the top-of-the line, the Mugen accessories.

With this, the new Civic sports a refreshed exterior styling that is more dynamic, aggressive and sporty," Kuwahara added.

For the 2.0 EL MUGEN Civic, the vehicle is fitted with a sports grille, front under spoiler, rear under spoiler, side under spoilers, wing-type trunk spoiler and a MUGEN emblem.

On the other hand, the 1.8 E Modulo variant, has the Modulo front under spoiler, rear under spoiler, side under spoilers, wing-type tailgate spoiler, and Modulo emblem and a new honeycomb grille with noticeable single bar chrome accent, which it also shares with the base variant 1.8 S.

Both the Civic 2.0 EL MUGEN and 1.8 E Modulo sport fog lights, chrome handles and power retract side mirrors with integrated side turn lights.

The 1.8 Modulo sits on 16-inch three-dimensional, multi-spoke alloy wheels, while the 2.0 EL MUGEN is on 17s.

On the inside, the new Civic shows how technologically-equipped the vehicle



is while maintaining the excellent driver-centric ergonomics.

The sporty side would be experienced even if your hands stay on the wheel. Its paddle shifters are meant to provide superb driving pleasure of using a manual transmission. At a more relaxed pace, drivers could use the cruise control feature added on the new Civic.

Honda also added to its interiors a new 7-inch touch screen display info/entertainment system in their bid to minimize the use of buttons, making it easier to operate while "radiating a premium feel."

The 7-inch touch screen display audio has the hands-free telephone (HFT) and audio streaming via Bluetooth.

Seen in the new Civic are the different ports such as auxiliary, 2 USB slots, and the new HDMI port that lets you connect and mirror your smartphone on the touch screen display audio.

For safety features, the new Civic is fitted with driver and passenger SRS airbags and anti-lock braking system (ABS) with electronic brake-force distribution (EBD).

The 2.0 EL MUGEN variant comes with additional safety features such as side airbags, side curtain airbags, vehicle stability assist (VSA), child seat anchors, and driver and front passenger seatbelt reminder; earning it a 5-star Asean New Car Assessment Program (ASEAN-NCAP) safety rating.

Both the 2.0 EL MUGEN and 1.8 Modulo variants are now equipped with a multi-view reverse camera that is capable of displaying three views (normal, wide, and top down).

The new Civic comes with a price tag of P978,000 for the base model (1.8 S), Ph1.118 million for the midgrid, (1.8 E Modulo) and P1.368 million for the 2.0 EL MUGEN.

The Civic is available in five colors—Modern Steel Metallic (for 2.0 EL MUGEN and 1.8 E Modulo), White Orchid Pearl (2.0 EL MUGEN and 1.8 E Modulo, additional P20,000), Carnelian Red Pearl (1.8 variants only), Crystal Black Pearl (all variants) and Taffeta White (1.8 S only). **aq**



# From Manila to Baler with the Mazda3



By VINCE PORNELOS

language, hence the strong resemblance to the current Mazda6. The body features details that convey motion like the creases and lines along the sides, the wide and low stance, and the sporty design details, among others. Both sedan and hatchback models are offered by Mazda—although I would prefer the 4-door sedan to get coupe-like proportions. Top-spec models get things like the larger wheels and rear ducktail spoiler, among others.

The cabin is what surprised many of us because of the very obvious level up, in terms of quality, materials and feel. The seats are perfectly shaped and offer plenty of support. The dashboard will surprise even the most vigorous dashboard rappers and knockers. Anything and everything that your hands will touch like the steering, shifter, switches and all else in between are great to the touch. The only thing missing is a bit more rear knee and leg room.

We've always thrown about the idea that Mazda is aiming to compete against the likes of BMW, but now we can say for certain: Mazda has its own iDrive. The new man-machine multimedia interface system is simply excellent, more to the point it's intuitive if you've had a chance to use

Mazda is on an almost unbelievable roll in the Philippines. Ever since Berjaya Auto Philippines took over the brand in the country the Mazda brand has seen a renewed vigor with new SkyActiv models like the Mazda6 and the CX-5. It's a stark contrast to just over two years ago when the brand known for zoom-zoom had a bit of gloom-gloom.

And then came this: the all-new 2014 Mazda3. It's fresh from Japan, ready to compete and preparing itself for its own set of awards... but we're getting ahead of ourselves.

## THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

The 2014 Mazda3 that was launched by Berjaya Auto Philippines is actually the third generation of the Mazda3 line. Unusually, the Mazda3 is also the third model that makes full use of the brand's Kodo design

BMW's iDrive or Mercedes's COMAND APS. The usual features are standard like USB input, vehicle settings and such.

Overall the third generation Mazda3 is a great package right out of the box. GPS is available for the 2.0R models along with a pretty neat jet fighter-style Heads-Up Display (HUD).

Of course the 2014 Mazda3 is much more than just mere style and high tech gadgetry and we'll tackle that later. In the meantime: Tower, this is "Ghost Rider" requesting a fly-by...

## THE DRIVE

We were briefed on the car and the drive we were about to take. The route involved a mix of expressways, provincial highways and various other roads, but what I really looked forward to are the long and challenging sequence of curves that cuts through and around the mountains heading to Baler.

Apart from the anticipation of entering that road, we were also told that our car for the drive up was to be the Mazda3 2.0R Sedan.

This was bound to be an interesting drive indeed.

**ZOOM-ZOOM FROM THE START**

After boarding and settling into the 2.0R sedan, we headed out onto the North Luzon Expressway for our northerly and then easterly drive.

The Mazda3 2.0R is a bliss to drive on the highway. Smooth, confident and capable, the open road gives you the enjoyment to stretch the Mazda3's nice legs—a little too much enjoyment for some, but that's another story.

Being an R, this particular Mazda3 has got a pretty potent 2.0-liter engine. At 155 PS, the 2.0R won't blow you away in terms of horsepower, but what it does is offer the complete package; the full SkyActiv package, that is.

Mazda (particularly the Mazda3) was already known for zoom-zoom, but not so for fuel economy. SkyActiv wishes to change that.

SkyActiv entails four main things: engine, transmission, body and chassis. All those main elements of the car have been optimized for improved fuel economy and efficiency by giving the car less weight, less resistance, less drag and all the other factors that affect consumption. Mazda has engineered SkyActiv to make little gains in every aspect of the car which, when it's all added up, combines for some impressive numbers.

Given that we were part of a convoy and maintained a steady speed, we thought we should zero the trip and fuel computers. When it was my stint behind the wheel, with speeds not generally friendly for fuel eco runs (100-120 km/h, or overtaking speed) the Mazda3 2.0R registered 8.5 liters per 100 kilometers; that's 11.8 kilometers to the liter.

The Mazda3 1.5V performed equally well on the highway at 14.9 km/l under similar conditions. Again it's impressive, given that lower displacement variants have a knack for delivering higher consumption on the highway; a trade-off against (generally) lower consumption in city traffic.

When we have some more time with the 2.0R and 1.5V models in the city later on, we'll test how they really perform in terms of everyday fuel economy; of particular interest will be the iStop (auto start stop) and iEloop (regenerative braking) technologies.

## LET THE FUN BEGIN

After a few hours of waiting in the back seat (the Mazda3 really could use some more legroom) and the passenger seat, it was my turn behind the wheel... just in time for the long, challenging roads up, around and down the mountains into Baler. This should be fun.

Utilizing the paddles on the 2.0R (the 1.5V has them too, FYI) we start to take on the roads. What really was impressive was how the Mazda3 managed its weight even with three aboard. Body control and roll mitigation -by my estimation- felt like it was best in the class.

The Mazda3 changed directions and managed weight transfers on these roads like it was second nature. Stomp on the brakes and the 3 controls it, never feeling like it was going to put a foot wrong or step out uncontrollably into the shoulder or (gulp) down the ravine and the mountains. The car was quick and confident; given some good driver training, you can really have a lot of fun with this chassis.

The engine and transmission combination was the most impressive by far. The previous generations (at least the ones offered for local sale) had to make do with 145 PS in the 2.0R and an inefficient 4-speed automatic. Not this time.

The new Mazda3 2.0R gets a far better 155 PS while the 1.5V versions get 112 PS; both of which are significant improvements over the previous 2.0R and the 1.6V/1.6S models respectively. What's even more impressive is that all models get a much better (not to mention apt) 6-speed automatic and paddle shifters.

Acceleration in the 2.0R is profoundly improved but, more importantly, having more gears to choose from gives the Mazda3 better control over the mountain passes. The 1.5V (which we drove on the way back, 2 days later) was equally impressive despite being down by 35 PS.

If we enthusiasts had our way, however, we would relish the idea of a Mazda3 with the same 2.5 liter SkyActiv engines that the model's US counterparts get... such an engine would really make this drive Baler truly exhilarating.

## OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

If you thought we were impressed with the all new Mazda3, you're right. The 2014 Mazda3 indeed sets the standard for driving pleasure in the compact class; so much so that this latest generation can truly be considered a sport compact car.

Mazda Philippines really has a contender in the all-new 3; a car that will probably have us reaching for its keys far more times than the rest. 



If there's one car brand in the Philippines that needed a shot in the arm for the longest time, it's Nissan.

In the past few decades Nissan's operations have been split with passenger cars were manufactured and/or sold by Nissan Motors Philippines Inc. (NMPI) while the commercial vehicles side (in general) have been under the custodianship of Universal Motors Corp.

We can't even begin to describe how confusing it was in having two operations for one brand, both of which were tugging every which way but one. Not anymore.

Enter Nissan Philippines Inc. (NPI), the new national sales company for the Nissan brand. Headed by Kenji Naito and a new team, the new company will get full support from the parent



Altima Interior



Sylphy Interior



By VINCE PORNELOS

## *Driving the 2014 Nissan Sylphy and Altima*

# The return of the two suns with Nissan Philippines, Inc.

company, Nissan Motor Ltd. in their goal of raising the brand's presence, prestige and ultimately market share, in the Philippines.

Two models were chosen by NPI to herald the brand's return—the 2014 Nissan Sylphy and the 2014 Nissan Altima. NPI recently invited members of the automotive media to the Clark International Speedway to try out these two new automobiles at the Nissan Spin event.

### HELLO SYLPHY

For the longest time Nissan's maintstay in the Philippine C segment has been the Sentra. Now the Sentra name has been retired in the Philippines in favor of something new: the Nissan Sylphy. No, not Selfie.

For all intents and purposes, perhaps it's better if we call it by its code: the B17 Sylphy. The B17 is actually the seventh generation of the Sentra/Sylphy line and it's made in Thailand.

Style-wise, you can tell this is leaps and bounds ahead of the previous Sentra 200. Mind you, the Sentra 200 was a decent

machine, but it just didn't catch on as it should have. The look of the new Sylphy is indeed striking given that front end, the proportions and the rear. All around, the Sylphy looks good, and has some neat design details to boot.

Open the doors and again the car impresses; it actually feels like you've bought a car one category higher in price and size. The materials feel of quality. The buttons feel great to the touch. The wheel is great to hold. Everything feels like they're very well sorted out. Of course, this being a wildly hot summer day, the A/C lives up to Nissan's legendary coolness.

Nissan actually had three different Sylphys available to drive on the full version of Clark International Speedway: an entry level 1.6 liter with a 5-speed manual gearbox, a midrange 1.6 liter with Nissan's new CVT system as well as the top spec 1.8 also with a CVT.

Driving all three cars in quick succession, it's easy to distinguish the differences in spec and performance. This isn't a full test

drive; rather it is a sample of how the Sylphy performs at the limit. Off the line, the obvious choice is the 1.8 liter CVT, a car that elicits a neat note when pushed. The 1.6 liter Sylphy, with its 5-speed gearbox or the CVT, is surprisingly light on its feet.

Body control is good for all models and the brakes work very well given the heft of the cars. The manual gearbox is a little too light for feel if you ask me, but the CVT works just fine and even has a sport mode that holds the 'gears' just a little longer than normal for spirited driving.

What is common amongst all is that they are clearly oriented towards better comfort (suspension, NVH and seats) rather than outright handling and performance; that's probably the reason why I feel so relaxed driving around the circuit than I do with most other cars. Just to give you an idea, the Sylphy is probably softer sprung than the 2014 Toyota Corolla Altis and 2014 Honda Civic. In comparison, cars like the 2014 Ford Focus or the newly-launched 2014 Mazda3 would probably outpace the Nissan.



Nevertheless it's a far better showing from Nissan, especially when you compare the Sylphy to the Sentra 200 that was marketed a while back. The 2014 Sylphy offers a very comprehensive and very attractive package; these and more in one comfortable machine.

### HELLO ALTIMA

In all honesty we have always found the previous two generations of the Teana to be a bit odd in their own respective ways. Mind you these two models were pretty decent, but they had some features that somewhat boggled the mind. The 2014 Altima should change things up a bit.

Launched at the Filipinas Blue Leaf in Pasay a few months back alongside the Sylphy, the 2014 Nissan Altima promises to deliver much in revitalizing the Nissan brand; it is, after all, the new flagship vehicle of the company here. Design-wise, the 2014 Altima is as striking like its slightly smaller brother. Unlike the Sylphy, the Altima is shipped from Nissan's facility in the United States.

Settling inside the Altima, it's easy to realize that the cabin is indeed impressive. The top spec variants get a powerful 3.5 liter V6 along with a CVT and large, GT-style paddleshifters. There wasn't really much time to appreciate the features given the quick nature

of the test drive, but what we can immediately tell was that the front seats are probably the best in the class for driving comfort; they were developed by Nissan and NASA to distribute a person's weight evenly. No exaggeration; it's a significantly improved seat.

Firing up that large V6 up ahead emits that signature growl of Nissan's VQ series engines. At full throttle from a standstill the Altima squats down and applies as much power to the tarmac of Clark Speedway's main straight. The brakes work hard to scrub speed given the heavy executive saloon. Ditto for the suspension; it's best to remember this is a comfortable cruiser rather than a sport sedan.

The transmission operates flawlessly in maintaining smooth acceleration all throughout, though at some points I opted to use the paddles on the 2014 Altima to have better control of the ratios in the corners. What I did notice was that the rear end feels different from many other saloons in its class; the reason being (by my understanding) is the unusual suspension arrangement that has a bushing halfway through a lateral control rod.

While great for comfort, the rear suspension does allow a minute level of play that, when pushing the car through the corners, gives an unusual feeling midway through; it's most

evident when the Altima gets a little unsettled when I clipped the kerbs.

After that point, I decided to just slow the car down a bit and cruised around the course, enjoying the smooth ride and drive. Judging by the ride, the 2014 Altima could very well be the best in the class, something that I would verify later on in a separate test drive.

### THE RIDE TO BEAT

Just like that, the laps were over. While I did enjoy the time on the track, it was clear that Nissan's 2014 Sylphy and 2014 Altima do not really belong on a circuit, and that's perfectly fine. Their intended customers probably won't take them to a racetrack anyway; that's what the 370Z and the GT-R are for (hint hint).

The 2014 Nissan Sylphy and the 2014 Altima both belong on urban streets where comfort is the priority and on the open expressways where smoothness and refinement are what you need. All these and more in two strikingly designed packages.

Are these the shots in the arm that Nissan has needed? Only time (and the market's response) will tell. What is sure is that more vehicles are on the way from NPI and that makes for some very exciting years ahead for the brand. **qq**



# VOLKS TECH

By Jason K. Ang

**V**Olkswagen considers technology to be key to its success. This is borne out not just in slogans such as the Audi brand's Vorsprung Durch Technik or Progress Through Technology, but in practice as well. The Volkswagen Group is the world's largest private sector investor in research and development, racking up more than €9.5 billion in 2012. A team of over 40,000 works on improving fuel efficiency and reducing emissions. That budget has resulted in cars such as the XL1, a production car that can travel 111 kilometers on a liter of fuel.



VW Polo is small and solidly built. It felt stable on the slalom course.

The other cars in the VW stable also benefit from the application of advanced technology. This technology can be found in each of the brand's starting six: the Touran MPV, Touareg and Tiguan SUVs, as well as the Jetta, Polo, and Beetle passenger cars.

On offer for all the vehicles, save for the Beetle, is the latest in diesel technology. VW calls it Turbo Direct Injection (TDI). TDI uses a high-pressure system, the common rail, to deliver fuel directly into the cylinders through a nozzle. The turbocharger feeds more air to allow better combustion. VW claims low noise and emissions using their latest diesel tech.

Gasoline-engined VWs also benefit from turbocharging, in the guise of Turbo Stratified Injection (TSI). Using direct injection and supercharging, more power and torque are

squeezed out of even small-displacement engines, like the 1.2-liter (104hp) and 1.4-liter (158hp) Beetle.

To make the best use of engine power and torque, Volkswagen offers a dual-clutch gearbox system called Direct Shift Gearbox (DSG). DSG allows nearly simultaneous engagement of one gear as disengagement of another, providing seamless power. The DSG takes the place of a conventional automatic in the Beetle and Touran.

Helping to keep VWs on the road even in extreme situations are 4Motion permanent four-wheel drive system. 4Motion detects slippage and is able to transfer torque to wheels with more grip. Meanwhile electronic stability program can selectively brake and apply steering correction to help keep the car

pointed where the driver intends.

Comfort doesn't take a back seat as VW employs adaptive chassis control on the Touareg. This allows the driver to adjust damper settings from comfort to sporty, according to the demands of the road.

For the future, Volkswagen is developing a new platform called Modular Transverse Matrix that will be used by multiple brands from Audi to Seat, Skoda, and Volkswagen. The platform can be adapted to various tracks and wheelbases, and fitted with different engines. The reported benefit is that advances in safety and efficiency can be quickly fitted to cars from the Polo to the Passat. **aq**



Volkswagen's saloons at high noon: Jetta and Polo, both in turbodiesel guise

## How VW is advancing automotive technology



VW Jetta cockpit is a serious office for the business of driving

**K**AOHSIUNG, Taiwan – Who's laughing now?

Surely not the naysayers or closed-minded purists who eventually choked on their negativity when super sports car marque Porsche first broached the idea of putting out a sport utility vehicle a dozen years ago. The mid-sized Cayenne turned out to be the catalyst to reverse flagging sales for the Stuttgart-headquartered carmaker—effectively taking it from financial doldrums into previously unrealized sales peaks.



Obviously, you can't fault Porsche from thinking you can't have too much of a good thing. It also makes perfect sense to expect that a lower price point is a sensible path towards more robust sales figures.

The new Porsche Macan thus has everything going for it. Along with the enviable winning livery, the brand-new "concentrated," "urban," and "intensive" five-door, all-wheel-drive, compact SUV is quite the looker, too. Significantly smaller than the Cayenne, the Macan naturally settles into its role as, according to Porsche, the first sports car in its segment.

Even at first glance, the Macan is not a retooled or shrunken Cayenne (for your reference the Macan is 75 mm shorter in height, 57 mm narrower, 165 mm shorter in length). Porsche Asia Pacific's sales and marketing training manager Daniel Kalai says the vehicle actually draws inspiration from the 918 Spyder the iconic 911. "It's a very important DNA for us," Kalai underscores. "Porsche makes sure that its strong, sporty DNA is in this car." Platform-wise, the Macan shares front and real axles with the Audi Q5.

Three variants of the Macan—all assembled in Leipzig, Germany—are available: S, S Diesel, and Turbo. The Macan S is armed with a potent three-liter, V6 bi-turbo good for 340 hp and 460 Nm. The Macan S Diesel comes with a three-liter, V6 turbodiesel heart that pumps 258 hp and a torque-y 580 Nm. The alpha dog Macan Turbo serves up 400 hp and 550 Nm, along with plenty of leftover attitude and spunk.

Without a doubt, the sterling numbers are best appreciated from behind the steering wheel. Getting the privilege to put a Macan S and Macan Turbo through their paces across southern Taiwan's scenic countryside to and from Kenting National Park, we quickly learn that the Macan clearly loves to stretch its legs. Though we weren't able to try out the car's launch control, there's plenty of naked ambition raging under the hood that translates into tangible performance when your foot hits the accelerator.

There's a lot of Porsche tech that dwells in this machine as well.

For starters, it is the first in the Porsche SUV family

# Tech-savvy Macan joins Porsche SUV party



Text and photos by KAP MACEDA AGUILA

to receive electro-mechanical power steering that allows precise, responsive driving in any condition. Standard in the Macan Turbo (and as an upgrade for other variants) are bi-xenon headlamps that feature "static and dynamic" cornering lamps, via the Porsche Dynamic Light System PDLS. The lamps swivel towards the inside of a bend for enhanced visibility, even as a static auxiliary assembly switches on for even better performance. The so-called PDLS Plus ups the ante even further by constantly adjusting the beam in conjunction with oncoming traffic, and broadens the swath of the light when approaching a junction.

Also available as an option is the Porsche Car Connect (PCC) that enables remote information access and even control via iOS or Android-platform smartphones. Among other niceties, owners can now "call up vehicle data and display the vehicle's position," as well as activate its central locking system.

The Macan also showcases a range of active and passive safety systems common to Porsche vehicles. A camera-based lane-departure warning system monitors markings on both sides of the lane, and performs steering interventions at speeds upwards from 60 kph. The feature can be manually deactivated depending on driver preference. Meanwhile, drivers can more confidently change lanes as the vehicle monitors traffic behind the



vehicle and negates blind-spot challenges. Visual signals appear in the side mirrors to warn the motorist.

A start-stop feature shuts off the engine at speeds of 2 kph and below for decreased fuel consumption, and automatically restarts it when you lift off the brake pedal. The feature may be disengaged as well.

Another useful touch is the Macan's "coasting" feature that allows it to glide on neutral as the driver lifts his foot off the accelerator at speed. The PDK decouples the engaged gear, helping realize fuel savings of up to a liter per 100 kilometers. The Macan also boasts compliance with Euro 6 emissions standards, and can muster, by Porsche's reckoning, up to 16 kilometers on a liter of diesel and almost 11 kilometers to an equal amount of gas.

The Macan's PTV (Porsche Torque Vectoring) Plus applies brake pressure to the inside rear wheel when braking aggressively on turns, even as additional rotational pulse is distributed to the outer rear wheel. The measure provides direct steering action while increasing cornering dynamics and driving stability. The Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) system lets the driver tailor the damping according to conditions.

The Porsche ethos is apparent within the Macan's plush interiors as well. Legible controls, classy and simple gauges make it a model of understated luxe. Flanking a big circular analog tachometer that redlines at 7,000 rpm are a speedometer that goes up to 300 kph and a multi-function (a high-resolution, circular 4.8-inch VGA) on the right to display a sundry of other information such as fuel economy, and even a map.

The steering wheel—also based from the 918 Spyder's—features "ergonomically positioned shift paddles and additional multi-function buttons." The center console is all business as well; it slopes forward and clusters key buttons in groups for easier access.

Porsche's acceleration times for the Macan lend credence to its sports-car cred. The Macan S reaches 100 kph in 5.4 (5.2 with the optional Sport Chrono package) ticks, the diesel variant in 6.3 (6.1 with Sport Chrono), and the Turbo in 4.8 (4.6 with Sport Chrono). Top speed for the three are 254 kph, 230 kph, and 266 kph, respectively.

All told, the Macan is definitely another tempting, compelling treat; the new entry point to Porsche's growing stable of mean, sporty, and tech-filled machines. **aq**



# A primer on automotive emissions

## QUESTION:

I've heard you refer many times to the emissions produced by automobiles. Could you please elaborate on them? What emissions are produced, and what I can do to reduce them?



## ANSWER:

**T**HE four main automobile/light truck emissions are hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Hydrocarbon emissions are basically unburnt fuel. These can be gasoline vapors escaping the fuel tank, and the results of incomplete combustion. Vehicles built since 1970 attempt to collect, store, and burn such vapors. Vehicles built since 1996 take things quite a bit further with tighter containment, leakage monitoring and on-board refueling vapor recovery. Exhaust hydrocarbons occur when the engine is too cold to insure complete combustion; the air/fuel mixture is incorrect; a compression or mechanical fault occurs; or the ignition system fails to deliver strong spark at exactly the right time. The catalytic converter cleans up HC, CO and NOx, but can't be expected to work miracles when an upstream fault is severe. Catalytic converters also need to be hot to function properly.

Carbon monoxide is produced when there isn't sufficient oxygen during the combustion process. This can be caused by something as simple as a dirty air filter, a fuel system fault, or a miscalculation by the engine management system. CO is a dangerous gas, as it is odorless and colorless. You should never operate an internal-combustion engine in an area without sufficient ventilation.

Oxides of nitrogen are produced when the combustion process reaches the upper end of desired temperature. Combustion can be cooled slightly can be done by reinserting inert exhaust gasses and carefully managing ignition timing and valve operation. Post-combustion

treatment occurs within the first bed of the catalytic converter. In sunlight, HC and NOx combine to create ground-level ozone, the main component of air pollution. It should be noted that ozone in the upper atmosphere is a good thing, blocking harmful rays of the sun.

An engine that runs perfectly produces mainly CO<sub>2</sub>, water, unchanged nitrogen and traces of other things. We actually look for high CO<sub>2</sub> production as a sign of a healthy engine. CO<sub>2</sub> is a greenhouse gas, so we need to find other ways to propel our vehicles if we are to help reduce global warming.

The most important steps you can take to reduce emissions are performing periodic, recommended maintenance; consolidating trips, which cuts down on cold starts; maintaining recommended tire pressure, which ensures safer operation and saves fuel; properly handling and storing gasoline; and promptly resolving the cause of a "check engine" light. **MCT** **aq**



## Happyplus members earn more points with Caltex gas ups

**T**HIS summer fuelling up has become more filling for over 1 million Happyplus card members who will earn Happypoints on their fuel purchases from over 500 Caltex stations nationwide.

Using the Happyplus card, every P100 fuel up at Caltex will get 1 Happypoint which is equal to P1. The easy-to-accumulate Happypoints can be redeemed for food products in any participating Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich and Red Ribbon outlets nationwide. For example, a single or cumulative fuel purchase of P1,000 earns 10 Happypoints which a motorist can already redeem for a free Vanilla Cone Twirl from a Jollibee store. Motorcycle riders can also join as even fuel purchases below P100 earn a fraction of a Happypoint. This means an P80 gas-up earns 0.80 Happypoints—no minimum purchase amount required. Gasoline and diesel purchases made via cash, credit, debit, StarCard or StarCash are qualified to earn Happypoints. The more you gas up at Caltex, the more free food products.

Happyplus cardholders can avail of this benefit for up to P20,000 per month of fuel purchases.

To become a Happyplus member, membership kits are available for P100 in Caltex stations, Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich, Red Ribbon stores nationwide. A Happypoint can also be acquired for every P50 food purchase in Jollibee, Chowking,



Greenwich and Red Ribbon. For more details, visit <http://www.caltex.com/ph/promotions/caltex-happyplus-card-loyalty-program> or <http://happyplus.com.ph/caltex/>.

This Happyplus rewards promo is a partnership of industry giants Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI), marketer of Caltex fuel and lubricants, and Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC), owner of Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich and Red Ribbon brands, to provide customers with the most enticing fuel and food rewards.

"The Happyplus loyalty program between Chevron and JFC brings our markets and customers together. We are honored to partner with a well-loved Filipino brand that shares Chevron's core of values of people, partnerships, and performance. JFC's market leadership combined with Caltex quality fuel and lubricants create a

synergy that motorists and consumers will find compelling," said Chevron Philippines Inc. Country Chairman Peter Morris.

"Today, it is with great pride that I share with you that together with our partnership with Chevron, we are able to give back again and expand the benefits our Happyplus cardholders can enjoy. At the end of the day, the heart of this program is our customers and I would like to thank Chevron for giving us the opportunity in further bringing the joy of eating to everyone," said JFC Chief Operating Officer Ernesto Tanmantiong.

CPI already partnered with JFC in a free Jollibee treats promo in October and November 2013 that were a huge success among motorists. Before this, CPI signed a memorandum of agreement with JFC to build Jollibee stores in Caltex stations.



From left: Arnel Reniedo – Caltex Brand Manager, Chevron Philippines Inc.; Jeff Enriquez – Retail Partnerships Specialist Philippines Products, Chevron Philippines Inc.; Yen Roxas – Manager, Asia Pacific Investor Trade Class and Retail Partnerships, Chevron Philippines Inc.; Peter Morris – Country Chairman, Chevron Philippines Inc.; Ernesto Tanmantiong – Chief Operating Officer, Jollibee Foods Corporation; Dondi Gomez – Chief Marketing Officer, Jollibee Foods Corporation; Ed Pasion – IM Loyalty Program Head, Jollibee Foods Corporation and Apol Gacad – Loyalty Operations Officer, Loyalty Programs Group, Jollibee Foods Corporation and Charlene Bautista – IM Digital Marketing Specialist, Jollibee Foods Corporation.



# THE FOTON VIEW TRAVELLER MORE THAN A CONTENDER



Within just one month of its public launch at the Foton Big Show 2013: Driven by Vision, FOTON's latest commercial vehicle, the View Traveller, made enough of a positive impression on the member-judges of the Car Awards Group, Inc. to take home the highest award for a vehicle in its segment: The Car Awards Group Best Van for 2013-2014.

Unveiled publicly last October 25 at the 2013 FOTON Big Show, the View Traveller qualified for the early November testing schedule organized by the country's only independent automotive testing body. Composed of over two dozen of the country's most experienced and respected motoring journalists - from automotive magazine and newspaper motoring section editors, to motoring TV and radio show hosts, to motoring website owners - the Car Awards Group, Inc. or CAGI has tested and awarded new vehicles in various segments since 2004, culminating with the award for Car of the Year - Philippines, which is selected from the individual category winners.

Built in a state-of-the-art and environment-friendly assembly plant in WEIFANG City, Shandong Province in northeastern China, the View Traveller is the next evolution of the original View Traveller, itself a popular choice among small to medium enterprises and passenger shuttle operators. The View Traveller distinguishes itself from its predecessor with a new body built on an entirely new platform; and a world-class engine from technical partner Cummins, makers of the most durable and reliable diesel motors in the world.

Producing 130hp and 280Nm, this new turbocharged diesel powerplant quickly and quietly moves the View Traveller along the road, even when fully weighed down with passengers and their luggage. The interior volume has been maximized to provide long-range comfort for all passengers equally, not just those in front. High-capacity vans frequently suffer from limited space, or legroom, between rows, but with an

overall length of 5.38m and width of 1.92m, the View Traveller addresses this problem right from the assembly line. "Surprising leg room, even in the back rows," observed CAGI tester Mika Fernandez-David, COO/Assistant Publisher and Motoring Editor of *Gadgets Magazine*; while CAGI Vice-President for Internal Relations and Daily Tribune-Motoring Section Head Bam S. Olivares noted that the View Traveller's cavernous interior makes it "A van that could fit more than one family". With seating for 15 occupants, the View Traveller can easily accommodate two families of seven. Almost all of the vehicle's full-size seats recline; allowing passengers to nap while in transit, or simply lean back at a more relaxed angle. Other seating configurations will soon be available.

The View Traveller's suspension has been meticulously calibrated to provide a better ride than most van owners will expect. With 170mm of ground clearance, the front independent double wishbone and torsion bars soften the View Traveller's ride, while the rear leaf spring suspension assures a high payload capacity before bottoming out. "It rides more comfortably than a Toyota Grandia", said Christopher "Beeboy" Bargas, CAGI tester and Associate Off-Road Editor for Top Gear Philippines; high praise coming from an authority on the subject of ride comfort and vehicle stability.

Apart from being the longest and widest in its class, the View Traveller is taller than most vans, with an overall height of 2.285m courtesy of its extended roof. This enables passengers up to 5'5" to stand straight inside the cabin while boarding or switching rows. "It's big and has a lot of space. Plus you'll be surprised it feels like a car when you drive it", mentioned CAGI tester Ronald de los Reyes, Associate Producer of Auto Review and a columnist for Interaksyon. The View Traveller's car-like quality is a result of diligent engineering and thorough testing. "I got to test the View Traveller on FOTON's multi-surfaced test track in China and the input required to operate it was pleasantly light - from

the steering, to the pedals, to the shift lever. The ride was also very compliant over the bumpy portions of the track", said CAGI tester Steven Edward Yu, Editor-in-Chief of Brand magazine, Motoring writer for *BusinessWorld*.

"Apart from its space for 15 passengers, the View Traveller also represents a highly practical and economical mode of commercial transport if the seats are removed", Yu added. The View Traveller's 130hp/280Nm Cummins ISF 2.8 16-valve turbocharged, Bosch-CRDI engine is the perfect powerplant for the View Traveller's robust, 2255kg body and is capable of returning fuel consumption values between 13-18 kilometers per liter, minimizing fuel costs to owners and operators alike. Furthermore, FOTON's broad service network and quick response time ensures that these engines perform constantly at peak efficiency.

Priced very competitively against its rivals at PhP1.299M, the versatile and frugal View Traveller is an excellent value-for-money proposition that is only made more attractive with the inclusion of standard equipment such as load-adjustable halogen headlamps, fog lamps, MP3/CD-capable audio system, four speakers, power windows, a high-mounted third brake light, keyless entry and central locking. Furthermore, the View Traveller raises the bar for Chinese vehicles by offering the same safety features found on its Japanese and Korean counterparts: Bosch ABS+EBD, dual SRS airbags and individual 3-point, pre-tensioner seat belts. All these come with every FOTON View Traveller at no extra cost.

To check out the FOTON's best and biggest van to date, visit your nearest FOTON dealership or call the **FOTON hotline (02) 451-2929 or 0999-9999998** to schedule a viewing or possibly a test drive and see for yourself why the "Car Awards Group Inc. Best Van for 2013-2014" winner will win your hearts as well. Visit their website at [www.foton.com.ph](http://www.foton.com.ph)

## MOTORING NEWS

**A**SIAN Carmakers Corp. (ACC), the official importer and distributor of BMW in the Philippines, recently launched the third generation of the world's most successful Sports Activity Vehicle (SAV) to the Philippine market—the All-New BMW X5.



## All-new BMW X5 sets new benchmarks for driving pleasure

The pioneer of the SAV segment and globally best-selling car in its class, the BMW X5, is entering a new chapter in its successful history. The third-generation X5 sees BMW once again setting the benchmark for powerful design, interior spaciousness and luxury, versatility, driving pleasure, efficiency and innovative equipment features.

"This year, the Boss of all SAV's is back to assert BMW's superiority when it comes to executing unmatched joy, whether you're on or off the road. The all-new BMW X5 is an all-around package designed to meet even the most exacting and varied demands," said Maricar Parco, ACC president. "The reintroduction of the BMW X5 to the Philippine market further showcases our commitment to continue innovations to provide the sheer driving pleasure that is unmistakably BMW. It is for this very reason that BMW remains number one in the segment not only in the Philippines, but in the world as well."



Gov. Jose Ch. Alvarez, ACC Chairman, Maricar Parco, ACC President and Glen Dasig, ACC Executive Director beside the All-New BMW X5 Design Pure Excellence.

"First introduced to the global market in 1999 and in the Philippine market in 2002, the BMW X5 is the pioneering vehicle that forever changed the face of the luxury SAV segment. The introduction of this new type of efficient driving dynamics led to others in the market following suit, but none coming close to the original. Over the years, the BMW X5 has continued to evolve into a versatile SAV that exudes the same commanding presence as those on top. Like a Boss," added Parco.

The all-new BMW X5 features a new exclusive design in both interior and exterior. Enhanced body lines and a luxurious cabin ambiance distinguish the all-new BMW X5 from its predecessors.

"The third generation of the iconic BMW X5 features the marriage between the ruggedness and functionality of an SUV, and the dynamism and luxuriousness of a typical BMW vehicle," said Glen Dasig, ACC executive director for sales and marketing. "The all-new BMW X5 showcases the most premium comfort for both driver and passenger, with an interior finish made of the highest quality materials, an exclusive and relaxing ambiance and other innovative comfort-

enhancing functions. The vehicle also exudes an even more commanding road presence with sharper body lines, a wider rear and an overall more muscular design, turning heads and catching eyes wherever it goes."

Signature BMW design features combine with undeniable presence, robustness and versatility to lend BMW X models their distinctive appearance. The proportions of the new BMW X5 are defined by a short front overhang, long wheelbase, upright A-pillars and the short distance between the front axle and instrument panel. The particularly muscular design of the BMW kidney grille, set within the triangle of the twin circular headlights and front foglamps, and the bumper's X-shaped contour lines also mark it out as a member of the BMW X model family. The new BMW X5 models are equipped with xenon headlights.

"We at ACC are very proud and excited to reintroduce the Boss of all luxury sports activity vehicles to the Philippine market," said Parco. "With the all-new BMW X5, we are taking luxury and dynamism to a higher level, once again surpassing our own benchmarks and setting a new standard in the luxury SAV segment."



The Boss is back with the launch of the All-New BMW X5, third generation of the pioneer in the Sports Activity Vehicle (SAV) segment.



## Tops Fortune's Global Most Admired List

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company has been recognized as the world's most admired motor vehicle parts company by Fortune magazine.

Goodyear topped the list of leading companies from around the world in five of the nine key attributes evaluated: people management, use of assets, social responsibility, long-term investment and product/service quality.

"This recognition is a credit to the hard work of 69,000 Goodyear associates around the world," said Richard J. Kramer, Goodyear chairman and chief executive officer. "It validates the success of our strategy roadmap and serves as a meaningful mile marker on our journey toward creating sustainable value," he added.

Started in 1983, the Fortune Most Admired list is considered "the definitive report card on corporate reputations." It uses a rigorous assessment by nearly 4,000 executives, board directors and securities analysts to determine a company's overall reputation by evaluating innovation, people management, use of assets, social responsibility, management quality, financial soundness, long-term investment, product/service quality and global competitiveness.

The full list and related stories appear in the March issue of Fortune, which is available on newsstands and online at [www.fortune.com](http://www.fortune.com).

Goodyear is one of the world's largest tire companies. It employs about 69,000 people and manufactures its products in 52 facilities in 22 countries around the world. Its two Innovation Centers in Akron, Ohio and Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg strive to develop state-of-the-art products and services that set the technology and performance standard for the industry. For more information about Goodyear and its products, go to [www.goodyear.com/corporate](http://www.goodyear.com/corporate).

# Volvo XC60 passes new milestone

**S**ALES of the Volvo XC60, Volvo Car Group's best-selling model since 2009, passed the 500,000-unit mark in April. It has taken the model only little over half a decade to reach this milestone.



The XC60's excellent sales performance is another indicator of Volvo Cars' strong growth in recent years and future potential. The model, which has been on sale since 2008, has steadily seen its sales volumes increase since its introduction. In 2012 the XC60 breached the 100,000-mark for the first time with 106,203 units sold, while in 2013 over 114,000 units were sold. During the first four months of 2014 Volvo Cars sold 41,920 XC60 units, an increase of 24.2 percent compared with the same period in 2013.

"With the XC60 we have shown that we have the ability to compete on equal terms with our German rivals like BMW and Audi, and it gives us strength to do the same with future models," said Alain Visser, senior vice president marketing, sales and customer service at Volvo Cars. "This is a car that is not only a success today but will continue to be one in future."

The destination for the 500,000th XC60 was the United States. The US is also the market that has sold the most number

of XC60s (so far around 73,000 units), closely followed by China with around 70,000 units sold, and then Germany, Sweden and the UK.

There are several reasons for the success of the Volvo XC60, Visser said. Part of the explanation is that the car came at the right time, while it also carried forward the confidence that was built up with the success of the XC90.

"Most of all, the XC60 is a timeless model and a very good representation of what Volvo's brand stands for," Visser said. "The ability to personalize the model with a wide range of accessories has also been an important factor in its success."

"I see no reason why more of our models won't sell just as well," Visser said. "For example, we are confident that the V40 will achieve over 100,000 units sold during this year and I see that as just one more step on the journey toward our long-term goal of selling 800,000 cars annually."



**H**ISTORY was made at the Sydney Motorsport Park as the Philippines' very own Vincent Floirendo placed third in the Coppa Shell category at the Australian leg of the Ferrari APAC Challenge 2014.

Floirendo is the first Filipino to accomplish a podium finish in the highly competitive racing series.

Max Blanchard finished first in the Pirelli pro classification, while Philippe Prette took the top spot in the Pirelli classification for experienced drivers. David Tjiptobiantoro clocked the fastest time in the Coppa Shell race for newcomers in both races.

The Ferrari Challenge has been one of the most successful one-make racing series in the world. Over 2,400 drivers of 48 nationalities in 1,600 Ferrari



## Podium Finish for Filipino Racer at Ferrari APAC Challenge

Challenge cars have competed in these races since 1993. This year, the Ferrari Challenge Trofeo Pirelli will run across three series in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. For the Asia Pacific region, other contenders are from Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea.

"We applaud Vincent for his amazing third place finish in the 458 Challenge. The Filipinos can excel in international racing, Vincent's success is further proof of that. May he continue to inspire others to participate in motor sports. We are behind him all the way," said Marc Soong, executive director of Autostrada Motore Inc., the official importer and distributor of Ferrari cars in the Philippines.



## Mitsubishi celebrates 100,000th unit Adventure Production and Sales Milestones

**M**ITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) recently reported that the Mitsubishi Adventure, a locally manufactured utility vehicle achieved both the 100,000th production and sales milestones. These milestones are a truly remarkable achievements in the local automotive industry.

MMPC started to produce the Mitsubishi Adventure in October 1997. The Adventure was then introduced to the market in January 1998 and instantly gained market acceptance. And with full-year sales from its introduction, MMPC was able to top overall industry sales in 1998. Total Adventure volume sold from January 1998 until April 2014 is now at 100,300 units.

The Mitsubishi Adventure was designed to respond to the needs of every Filipino family. Mitsubishi Motors developed this model to be an ideal vehicle for the Filipino family given its size, features, affordable price and low running cost. Throughout the years, continuous features and quality improvement were undertaken in MMPC's desire to exceed its customer's expectations. To date, the Adventure remains to be a significant model in MMPC's product line up and as well as in the Philippine market. In fact, the Adventure has been a consistent top ten bestselling model in the Light Commercial Vehicle category. And with its versatility the Adventure has also been a choice vehicle of small to medium enterprises and has proven its reliability that considerably made it a business workhorse.

The celebration of Adventure 100,000-milestone is also equally important for the total automotive manufacturing industry as well. The sustained good demand for the Adventure is substantially contributing to the employment in the country through its direct and indirect workers. The local parts content of the Adventure is one of the highest in the industry at 47%. This only means that the existence



From left: Masato Sada- EVP- Manufacturing, MMPC; Junya Masuda – EVP Marketing, MMPC; Hikosaburo Shibata – President & CEO, MMPC; Dra. Olga Abellanosa – Cainta Municipal Administrator; Marissa Concepcion- CAMPI Secretary General; Ramon Vicente Kabigting- PACCI Exec. Director; Kazuki Sugino- EVP, CFO and Treasurer, MMPC; Orlando F. Alvarez, Jr- EVP – Overall Operations, MMPC. and Hon. Mayor Casimiro Ynares III – Antipolo Mayor.

of this model not only benefits the company but also extends to local parts suppliers.

As a way of thanking its valued customers for their continued patronage on the Adventure, MMPC has also announced an attractive offer for all brand-new Adventure buyers. Until June, MMPC and its dealers will provide as much as P100,000 savings on the Adventure (GLX model). Aside from the significant discounts, all customers who will purchase a brand new Adventure will receive a limited edition windshield sun shade and also will automatically qualify in the raffle for a chance to win P100,000 cash. Ten lucky Adventure customers will win in the raffle.

The Ferrari Challenge is dedicated to non-professional drivers in different classifications: the Trofeo Pirelli, Trofeo Pirelli Pro, Coppa Shell and for the first time this year, the Gentlemen Cup for drivers over 50 years old.

The 46-year old businessman and family man, who originally hails from Davao, is no stranger to the race track. Mr. Floirendo is two-time Driver of the Year of the Yokohama Philippine GT Championship Series, winning the championship in 2011 and 2012. He is also a veteran racer in karting, circuit and Formula 3 competitions.

Also making its debut in this series is the 458 Challenge EVO, a package of aerodynamic improvements such as Manettino dial, CCM2 Brakes, dual clutch gearbox and more. All the Ferrari 458 Challenge cars for the competition must have the EVO Kit. Cars will be produced in Italy and flown directly to the race track in Asia.

SUZUKI Philippines, Inc. (SPH), the only integrated motorcycle and automobile company in the country, releases the official pricing for the two latest compact car models – the Suzuki Ertiga and the Suzuki Swift 1.2.



**SUZUKI ERTIGA: BRINGING THE BEST IN DESIGN, COMFORT, POWER, AND SAFETY**

The Ertiga, which Suzuki dubs as a Life Utility Vehicle (LUV), is a seven-seater automobile that combines the compactness and maneuverability of a hatchback, the style and comfort of a sedan, and the space and stature of a sport-utility vehicle. Ideal for families and business executives, the versatile Ertiga features a 1.4-liter engine displacement, maximum power of 95Hp at 6,000 rpm, and a maximum torque of 130Nm at 4,000 rpm. Ertiga will be available in four different variants: the Ertiga GA M/T which is priced at P619,000, the Ertiga GL M/T at P712,000, the Ertiga GL A/T at P752,000 and the Ertiga GLX A/T at P812,000.

Both automobile models will be available in all Suzuki dealerships nationwide in July. Colors for the Suzuki Ertiga are Serene Blue, Firebrick Red, Granite Grey, Dusky Brown, Superior White, and Silky Silver while the Swift 1.2 will be available in Blazing Red, Glistening Grey, Silky Silver, Pearl Arctic White, and Midnight Black.

For more information about Suzuki Philippines and their automobiles, visit [www.suzuki.com.ph](http://www.suzuki.com.ph) and like them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/suzukiautoph](https://www.facebook.com/suzukiautoph).

## Suzuki Ertiga, Swift 1.2 Prices Announced



**SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2: LIVING UP TO ITS NAME IN A MORE AFFORDABLE PACKAGE**

The Swift 1.2 is a new variant that promises even better fuel efficiency while retaining most of what people loved about the Suzuki Swift. Designed to appeal to the wider audience, particularly the young professionals and first-time car owners who love the sporty style of this subcompact car, the Swift 1.2 boasts a maximum output of 87 Hp at 6,000 rpm and a maximum torque of 114 Nm at 4,000 rpm given its 1.2-liter engine displacement. Swift 1.2 will be available in manual and automatic transmissions variants and will be priced at P608,000 and P648,000, respectively.



## PETRON formulates fuels for Filipino motorists

delivers powerful performance while meeting stringent emission standards. It is the premium plus gasoline of choice with 90% less sulfur and 50% less benzene, for high-end, high performance vehicles.

**PETRON XCS:** Complete Combustion System is a 95-octane high-quality premium gasoline formulated with an additive technology based on organic combustion enhancer for quick engine response, excellent engine protection, and optimal fuel efficiency.

**PETRON Xtra Advance:** Go for the Xtra Miles is the proven efficient fuel generally recommended for all types of gasoline vehicles. This regular grade 93-octane gasoline is formulated with performance additives that provide engine cleanliness and efficient combustion.

**PETRON Super Xtra:** Super Xtra Saver is the regular priced quality gasoline of PETRON. It has 91-octane rating and contains a multifunctional detergent additive that cleans harmful engine deposits and protects the fuel system from corrosion. It provides clean engine, good fuel economy, smooth run under stop and go conditions, and reduced emissions—perfect for Filipino motorists on a budget.

**A**s the only and the biggest Filipino fuel refiner, PETRON takes pride in its capability to formulate world-class products for Filipino motorists. Having served the fuel needs of the country for more than 80 years, PETRON has a deep understanding of the driving conditions on Philippine roads, with its R&D team constantly creating fuels that will deliver optimum efficiency for every type of vehicle. Whether you are driving a luxury sports car, a family van, a cargo truck, a motorcycle or a public utility vehicle, PETRON has a fuel designed to meet your motoring needs with the best value.

### GASOLINE FUELS FOR ALL TYPES OF VEHICLES

**PETRON Blaze 100 Euro 4:** Meets European Quality Standards is a revolutionary fuel formulated to unleash the full potential of high performance vehicles. It is the only Euro 4 compliant fuel with 100-octane rating, and

### HI-TECH DIESEL FUELS

**PETRON Turbo Diesel:** High Performance Diesel is a technologically-advanced fuel, enhanced with robust multifunctional additives designed to unleash the full power and

maximum performance of today's modern and sophisticated diesel engines. It has high ignition quality and combustibility that maximize fuel energy conversion for maximum engine power and efficiency.

**PETRON Diesel Max:** Above All Diesels is a diesel fuel with robust and multifunctional additives designed to provide improved fuel economy and reduced emissions. It has the ability to maintain and improve fuel injection system cleanliness through unsurpassed detergency characteristics.

### ALTERNATIVE FUEL

**PETRON Xtend AutoLPG** is liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) primarily used as an alternative fuel for automotive vehicles. It helps reduce fuel and maintenance costs, with cleaner exhaust emissions. This is most widely-used by taxi operators who have equipped their units with an AutoLPG conversion kit for a dual fuel system.

### LARGEST SERVICE STATION NETWORK

PETRON now has the largest service station network in the Philippines with over 2,000 stations nationwide. These range from mega stations with many convenience facilities and partner establishments located along the expressways, to small, strategically-located micro-filling stations in remote, rural locations—all designed to bring PETRON closer and more accessible to Filipino motorists, from all walks of life.

## PETRON engine oils designed for local needs

**A**s the only and biggest Filipino refiner, PETRON has a deep understanding of the unique driving conditions on Philippine roads, and its R&D team takes pride in formulating products that will deliver optimum efficiency for Filipino motorists.

Engine oils are essential to ensure efficient operation of gasoline and diesel engines. They have two primary functions: to minimize friction and to prevent wear on the moving parts of engines. In addition, engine oils also act as a coolant, protect metal parts from corrosion, and prevent formation of engine deposits.

While all engine oils perform basically the same function, how well a particular product does so is determined by its quality, notably the components that go into the oil blend. PETRON engine oils, which are specially formulated to enhance the performance of all types of engines based on local conditions, have been subjected to international laboratory testing to meet world-class benchmarks.

PETRON Ultron Gasoline Engine Oils contain the Thermal Stress Stabilizing System (TS3) that keeps the oil stable even at extreme temperatures, providing ultimate protection from engine stress while maintaining superior engine cleanliness. PETRON Ultron oils have undergone widely-accepted international engine tests to demonstrate its excellent performance on engine stress protection, engine cleanliness and thermal stability.

PETRON REV-X Diesel Engine Oils are formulated with the Dynamic Cleaning

Technology (DC Tech), which provides excellent engine cleanliness and engine protection for long drain performance and longer engine life. It meets and exceeds the stringent requirements of international engine tests designed for diesel-fed vehicles. PETRON REV-X engine oils were tested for engine cleanliness and engine protection. An actual Volvo VDS-2 field test was also conducted to demonstrate the longer and extended drain performance of PETRON REV-X engine oils.

PETRON Sprint 4T Motorcycle Oils are designed to meet the unique performance requirements of four-stroke motorcycles. Unlike passenger cars, motorcycle engines require lower oil volume, have higher power output, and operate at higher engine speeds. PETRON Sprint 4T oils are formulated with Thermal Control System (TCS) to enhance the oil's thermal and oxidation stability, which are critical for motorcycle engines due to their unique operational requirements.

All PETRON engine oils are offered in different viscosity grades and quality levels to cater to all types of engines operating under various conditions. What makes PETRON engine oils stand out are the unique formulations that have been designed by Filipino engineers who best understand the needs and requirements of the local market.

Defend your engine's life by choosing the PETRON engine oil that is best suited for your car and driving requirements.



KIA'S  
SHOT AT  
HISTORY

## Columbian Autocar Corporation gears up for PBA hoops action with Team-Naming Contest

WITH basketball as the unopposed favorite in Philippine sports, it was no surprise then when Asia's first play-for-pay pro-league, the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), received calls for more brands wanting to join the league.

News of Columbian Autocar Corporation's (CAC) intent to join PBA began making the rounds in sports and automotive media early March. The reports immediately got fans of the brand and of the sport talking and finally, there was confirmation that three teams signified formal interest to join the Association's 40th season.

By April 10, 2014, history was made as the PBA Board of Governors, led by Commissioner Atty. Angelico "Chito" Salud, gave the nod of approval to three new teams, including CAC, the exclusive distributor of Kia Motors in the Philippines.

Now, CAC and Kia are full steam ahead on their preparations and many activities heralding this memorable undertaking.

CAC is launching Choose the Name, Win the Game — a team-naming contest that will determine Kia's PBA team name.

Fifteen (15) shortlisted entries with the best and most appropriate names for Team Kia will also be rewarded with a 5-day trip to Los Angeles, California, USA to watch a 2014-2015 NBA game, live!

Starting May 16, the public can start submitting their proposed Team Kia names at [www.NameTeamKia.com](http://www.NameTeamKia.com). Names will be judged by CAC executives based on Originality, Creativity, Impact, and Appropriateness to Kia's brand image.

As a special treat to their loyal fans, Kia vehicle owners will be allowed to submit two (2) names per Kia vehicle, giving them more chances to win this amazing basketball experience!

Kia is no stranger to basketball promotion having been an Official Automotive Partner of the National Basketball Association (NBA) since 2008. Kia has also presented the NBA year-end Performance Awards

including MVP, Rookie of the Year, Most Improved Player, Defensive Player, and Sixth Man Award. Locally, Kia's exclusive distributor, CAC, has been an active proponent of other sports programs such as an annual football festival tagged as Kia Cup and the sponsorship of the Philippine Azkals.

Following PBA's continuous rise in gate attendance, TV ratings, and popularity nationwide, Kia joining the PBA was a plausible move after all.

Moreover, CAC is also celebrating its 20th year in the automotive industry and it is definitely an opportune time for the brand to venture into the country's biggest sporting league. CAC President, Ginia R. Domingo, shares, "Being in the business for two decades is no easy feat but our task of bringing Kia closer to people and, in turn, bringing a different driving experience does not stop. Kia in the PBA is just the start of how CAC's next 20 years will be—more vibrant, more surprising."

Kia is no stranger to basketball promotion having been an Official Automotive Partner of the National Basketball Association (NBA) since 2008. Kia has also presented the NBA year-end Performance Awards



## CHEVROLET PHILIPPINES LAUNCHES YOU Trailblazers Campaign

**F**OR the roads you need to take and the paths you want to make, Chevrolet Philippines-The Covenant Car Company, Inc. (TCCCI) launched the YOU Trailblazer campaign. The "bowtie" brand commissioned director Paul Soriano and his production house TEN17P for this campaign. The YOU Trailblazer TVC can now be watched if you log on to [www.chevrolettrailblazer.com.ph](http://www.chevrolettrailblazer.com.ph). The campaign aims to showcase and promote the vehicle that personifies every hardworking, thrill-seeking and fun-loving Filipino—the Chevrolet Trailblazer. Chevrolet designed and built this power-packed mid-sized SUV to be the perfect companion that every Trailblazer would desire for its durability and dependability.

### YOU early risers and dream chasers

The YOU Trailblazer campaign features Filipinos who aim to be the best at everything they do—be it work, sports or any other endeavor. They aim to be trailblazers in their own fields. And Chevrolet Philippines believes that trailblazers deserve a robust and reliable companion that will help them get through life's challenges.

With a century of experience in the automotive industry, Chevrolet has mastered its craft and designed a vehicle suited for the hero in every Filipino. Equipped with the improved Duramax turbo-diesel engine, the Chevrolet Trailblazer can now produce 200hp of power at 3,600 rpm and 500 Nm of torque or pulling power, making the Trailblazer the most powerful in its class, and setting the benchmark in the mid-SUV segment. This powerpacked vehicle is the perfect partner for steep climbs and rough roads, while capable of transporting heavy loads and cargo.

### YOU life savers and smile makers

Growing up in a family-oriented culture, Filipinos treasure their loved ones

above all else. Knowing that fact, Chevrolet designed this SUV to answer all your safety concerns and worries. The Trailblazer was designed to provide comfort and convenience without neglecting safety. It is equipped with features like, airbags, hill descent control, rear park assist sensors, anti-lock brake system, panic brake and hill-climb assist that will assure you and your family of a well-protected journey for the new memories and smiles that you need to make.

### YOU thrill seekers and view finders

For a culture that treasures lifelong friendships and bonds with friends, nothing could be more perfect than traveling or going on road trips together in one dependable vehicle that can seat the whole troop. The Chevrolet Trailblazer's got all the space your barkada needs for that spontaneous outing. It has the room space that can seat a group of seven, adjustable and foldable seats for additional luggage, and a MyLink system to wirelessly connect mobile devices to a built in entertainment system perfect for the group's music jams

during the road trip. It is also fitted with independent suspensions that go over road imperfections to keep you and your friends comfortable throughout the long ride.

To provide Chevrolet clients more peace of mind pursuing their dreams, seeking new sights and sounds, and creating fun-loving and long-lasting memories with their friends and families, Chevrolet Philippines is offering the first 10,000-kilometer preventive maintenance service and one-year motor car insurance for free when you buy your Chevrolet through a PBCOM Autoloan program from May 10 to July 31, 2014! The award-winning Chevrolet Trailblazer offers a special warranty that covers the vehicle for three years plus a two-year extended warranty for the power train or 100,000-kilometers, whichever comes first. Chevrolet also provides its new clients with free three-year 24/7 roadside assistance. By dialing 751 CHEV (2438), owners may avail of the following services—vehicle support, personal assistance and information service.



## Toyota Motor PHL breaks sales record

**T**HE No. 1 car company in the country has once again made history in the automotive industry by recording 9,132 units in a single month last May.

Coming from two consecutive months (March and April) of selling more than 8,000 units, Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) proved that it can go even further by breaching the 9k sales mark last month.

Compared to its registered performance last May of 2013, TMP's sales grew by 47 percent, representing continuous high demand for all its models. This strong sales level was again made possible because of the continued strong performance of its best-selling vehicle in the country, the Vios, with recorded sales of 2,080 units. Moreover, this performance was further strengthened by other top-selling Toyota models such as the mini hatchback Wigo recording 926 units, 18-percent higher versus the previous month.

The Fortuner, on the other hand, also registered high sales growing by 47 percent versus the previous month with 1,721 units

sold. Likewise, the locally manufactured Innova, the all-new Corolla Altis and the Hilux are the brand's other top-selling vehicles that have contributed to this sales milestone. On a year to date basis, Toyota Motor Philippines registers a growth of 35.4 percent versus the first five months of last year with accumulated sales of 40,062 units as of May 2014.

TMP President Michinobu Sugata said: "Having to reach more than 9,000 units in a single month is indeed a breakthrough performance by the company. Our continued thrust of satisfying our customers with the best products and services has indeed bore



its fruit as revealed by the numbers. With such results the past months, it likewise inspires us as a team to continuously find ways in serving our customers even better."

He also added that, "Coming from two consecutive months of an 8,000 unit sales level, it overwhelms me that our customers' support to our brand has led to our record sales last month. Moreover, this is the very first time that any car brand has experienced such high level. Looking at how things are going, we at TMP, expect that this strong demand is expected to continue because of the positive economic outlook and the good reaction from the market with regards to our newly launched models such as the Corolla Altis, Yaris, Innova and the Wigo. Moreover, our best-selling Toyota model, the Vios, continues to be a favorite because of its overall great value and reliable performance."





## Maserati Ghibli unveiled at the 23rd Trans Sport Show



**A**UTOSTRADA Motore Inc., the official importer and distributor of Maserati in the Philippines, launched the highly anticipated Maserati Ghibli at the 23rd Trans Sport Show at the SMX Convention Center.

Making inspirational motoring more accessible, Maserati's new four-door sports executive sedan combines breath-taking design with exceptional handling qualities and outstanding performance.

"The launch of the Ghibli marks a turning point in Maserati's rich history. It is the first time in 100 years that the luxury Italian brand presents two four-door sedan models simultaneously," said Mark Soong, Executive Director of Autostrada Motore Inc.

The Ghibli provides a cornerstone in Maserati's plan to build 50,000 cars a year by 2015. It is the second model after the flagship Quattroporte to be manufactured to new benchmark quality standards in Maserati's new state-of-the-art production facilities in Grugliasco close to Turin.

Both versions of the petrol range, Ghibli and Ghibli S, feature a new-generation twin turbocharged 3.0-liter V6 engine and an 8-speed ZF automatic transmission. With its power output of 410 hp the Ghibli S races to 100 km/h in 5.0 seconds and reaches a top speed of 285 km/h. The Ghibli delivers 330 hp, a top speed of 263 km/h and acceleration of 0 to 100 km/h in 5.6 seconds.

The new Ghibli shares parts of its core architecture, its chassis, its suspension architecture, the V6 engine and the ZF 8-speed automatic transmission with the flagship limousine Quattroporte. It is,

however, 173 mm shorter in the wheel base and 291 mm shorter overall, as well as 50 kg lighter.

Dynamic and precise handling is guaranteed by the car's perfectly balanced 50:50 weight distribution while the sophisticated suspension system and limited slip differential make every ride even more enjoyable. Achieving five stars on the Euro NCAP crash test, the Ghibli provides peace of mind for all occupants.

While the Ghibli features all classic Maserati design traits, its exterior emphasizes its determined personality.

The outline of the body reflects a coupé-like philosophy for the four-door sedan, while there are noticeable feline hints around the Ghibli's grille and headlights.

The pronounced grille draws a line back to the iconic A6 GCS of the 1950s. The shape of the headlights converges onto the Trident symbol, with every angle designed to attract the eye to Maserati's legendary marque.

The distinctive C-pillar delivers much of the Ghibli's coupé-like stance and hosts the classical Saetta Maserati logo, carrying on a tradition dating back to 1963. The side

profile is dominated by a swage line that runs from the three unmistakable Maserati air vents behind the front wheels and finishes in the rear lights themselves.

With its long wheelbase, a total length of 4.97m and wide tracks, the Ghibli demonstrates a perfect blend of sportiness and elegance that is second to none in its class.

The Ghibli enters the E-segment of the sports premium market with a tangible advantage in cabin craftsmanship and detailing. It also sets itself apart with a unique, cockpit-inspired dashboard design that perfectly matches its sporty and youthful character without compromising on the highest level of refinement and sophistication.

Key elements such as the 8.4-inch Maserati Touch Control and the fine Poltrona Frau leather finish underline the cabin's timeless sporting character. Optional features include the 15-speaker Bowers & Wilkins high end audio system, WLAN-based WiFi and a wide range of customization options that cater for the most demanding individuals.

**A**s the urban jungle expands, small cars are today's choice for smart city driving. Now with the Grand i10, Hyundai reworked its popular, multi-awarded small car to zip you through the tightest spots in style. Hyundai's first subcompact hatchback is off to a grand start, showing that there's art to city driving.

The newly-rolled-out Hyundai Grand i10 already proved its motoring chops with a series of awards, such as the 2014 Indian Car of the Year (ICOTY); Compact Car of the Year of Auto Car India; Car of the Year of CarBuyer (UK); and Best City Car of What Car?, the UK's biggest and most comprehensive car buyer's guide.

## Hyundai Grand i10: There's Art to Smart City Driving

### GRAND EXPECTATIONS

What's behind the Grand i10's winning streak?

It all begins with "chic icon," Hyundai's new design concept for the Grand i10. In the Hyundai design language, "chic icon" is a refinement of the iconic elements of the mini city car. For starters, the Hyundai Grand i10 is 80 millimeters longer and 65 millimeters broader than its predecessors. And its new sporty, dramatic lines are neatly packaged in one five-door hatch.

The handsome front, refined rear, and sporty profile blend seamlessly to project iconic style and grandness that are not usually present in your regular subcompact hatchback. The hexagonal grille, the Hyundai family of vehicle's landmark design, along with bigger and brighter headlamps, a wide windshield, and fog lamps cut a spirited figure of a good friend who's ready to take you places.

The next generation i10 won't disappoint your fashionista sensibilities either as it comes in quirky new color choices of Red Passion, Golden Orange, Aqua Blue, Wine Red, Twilight Blue, Star Dust, Silky Beige added to the standard Sleek Silver, Pure White, and Phantom Black.

### YOUR GRAND LIFE SPACE

Strictly speaking, the Hyundai Grand i10 is a subcompact but it speaks volumes

### YOUR GRAND i10

Hyundai's first grand subcompact hatchback is a definite choice for in-city and out-of-town drives. Designed to turn heads in terms of style and reliability, it's now here in the Philippines to make every journey with family and friends a work of art.

#### HYUNDAI DEALERSHIP INTRODUCTORY PRICES:

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grand i10 1.0 E 5MT – P518,000 | Grand i10 1.0 S 4AT – P588,000 |
| Grand i10 1.0 S 5MT – P558,000 | Grand i10 1.0 L 4AT – P658,000 |
| Grand i10 1.2 L 4AT – P688,000 |                                |



more than just listening pleasure. The four-speaker system allows everyone on board to enjoy music on equal volume. What's more, the Grand i10 has a USB slot, an Auxiliary input and iPod connectivity with Bluetooth capability for you to play music your way.

And because safety is Premium, you will be pleasantly surprised that this small car is packed with grand safety features. The Anti-lock Braking System adds to the car's stability by preventing it from skidding and enabling stable braking. It also restricts wheel lock-up during panic braking for better maneuvering during emergency situations.

Front disc brakes allow for safer stops and road grip while braking. The Grand i10 has dual airbags and a High Mount Stop Lamp fitted at the rear to make the car more visible if you need to make sudden stops. The rear wiper and washer keep a clear view from behind, especially when the rains start to pour again.

### GRAND PERFORMANCE

The Grand i10 is equipped with reliable power and handling. You have two gasoline engine choices in 1.0-liter and 1.2-liter displacements that provide fuel efficient performance for both city and long out-of-town drives. The 1.0-liter engine delivers a maximum power output of 66 ps at 5500 rpm and maximum torque of 9.6 kg-m at 3500 rpm for quick drives around town. The 1.2-liter compact powerhouse, on the other hand, churns a maximum power output of 87 ps at 6000 rpm and a maximum torque of 12.2 kg-m at 4000 rpm for longer stretches. This is one small car that guarantees stability during long drives because it is equipped with a MacPherson Strut-type suspension system with Coupled Torsion Beam Axle that can handle high speed without fuss.



Hon. Irwin Tieng, Representative, BUHAY Party List; Deputy Speaker Henedina R. Abad, Representative, Batanes; Hon. Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay, Representative, Makati City, 2nd District and Principal Author of HB 2316; Hon. Mark A. Villar, Chairperson, Committee on Trade and Industry and Principal Author of HB 4334; Hon. Jose L. Atienza, Jr., Representative, BUHAY Party List; Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Representative, BUHAY Party List; Mr. Rommel Juan, President, Electric Vehicle Association of the Phils., and Mr. Mark Andrew Tieng, Managing Director, BYD Philippines (STAR CORP)



Hon. Mark Villar  
Chairperson,  
Committee on Trade  
and Industry  
Principal Author  
of HB 4334

## BYD takes “Green Dream” to Congress

TODAY, the world is beset by many challenges one of which is the issue of mobility. People are reliant on their ability to move around. As a result, more and more of them are driving to work, school or the grocery. This need, however, comes with a price—emission of Green House gases, rising fuel cost, and traffic.

In cognizance of these, Solar Transport and Automotive Resources Corp. (STAR Corp.)—authorized Philippine distributor of BYD Auto China Ltd. Co.—has officially launched its “Green Agenda”, which is aimed at promoting low emissions and offering high mileage alternative fuel mobility solutions to mitigate climate change, in order to free Filipinos from their dependence on fossil fuels and provide measures for economic stability.

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

“Green technology, particularly electric vehicles, is the way of the future. And BYD will continue to pursue the green dream,” said Mark Tieng, managing director of STAR Corp. “We look forward to the day when eVehicles can occupy a portion of the nation’s highways and roadways and a future when green car space is the norm rather than the exception.”

To jumpstart its advocacy of providing vision and leadership for a sustainable Philippines by bringing in a roster of forward thinking, green mobility solutions and providing the gold standard in green business operations and services to the Philippine market, BYD showcased the e6, the world’s first long range, pure electric vehicle on May 27 during Meralco’s Annual Stockholders Meeting, where it attracted plenty of interest.

The BYD e6 is powered by the proprietary BYD Iron Phosphate (or “Fe”) Battery, which is fire-safe, completely recyclable and



Hon. Mark Villar, Chair on the Committee on Ways and Means, test drives the BYD e6 with Hon. Lito Atienza, Representative, BUHAY Party-List (front passenger seat), as Hon. Mar-del Abigail Binay, Representative, Makati City 2nd district and author of HB 2316, and Mr. Mark Tieng, Managing Director of STAR CORP, Philippine distributors of BYD, look on from behind.

fuel consumption and toxic emissions of 10 private cars? Just imagine the impact on our environment...and our future. If there is a legacy that we can leave, let it be a sustainable future for the coming generations,” Tieng emphasized.

“This is why we welcome the initiatives of Meralco providing end-to-end energy solutions such as its plan to build a charging station for eVehicles, which is a first step in creating tomorrow’s sustainable cities that will be cleaner and greener. We also laud the foresight of Senate and Congress for creating Senate Bill 2856, also known as the Alternative Fuel Vehicles Incentives Bill, and House Bill 387, otherwise known as the Electric, Hybrid and other Alternative Fuel Vehicles Incentives Act of 2013, which will pave the way for the entry of eVehicles on our roads,” Tieng added. “We intend to help these efforts by pushing for our ‘Green Agenda’, if you will, in the Philippines.”

BYD is committed to developing new green energy. It has developed solar farms, battery energy storage stations, electric vehicles, LED and other green energy products. In the future, BYD will continue to lead the new energy revolution and help more countries in the world to get rid of oil pollution problems, which will benefit all mankind in the long run.

AAPtravel

## HOLIDAY PACKAGES

### DOMESTIC TOUR PACKAGES

|   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>DAVAO 3D/2N</b>  | <b>PALAWAN 3D/2N</b>  | <b>CEBU 3D/2N</b>   | <b>BATANES 3D/2N</b>   | <b>EL NIDO 3D/2N</b>  |
|   |   |   |  |   |
| Land Arrangement: Valid until Dec 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 3,100</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until Dec 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 2,600</b> per person, twin share       | Land Arrangement: Valid until Oct 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 4,350</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until further notice<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 10,090</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until May 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 3,400</b> per person, twin share |
| <b>BORACAY 3D/2N</b>  | <b>BANAUE 4D/3N</b>   | <b>CORON 3D/2N</b>  | <b>ILOCOS 3D/2N</b>  | <b>BOHOL 3D/2N</b>  |
|   |   |   |  |   |
| Land Arrangement: Valid until Mar 2015<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 3,400</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until further notice<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 6,540</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until Oct 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 3,600</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until further notice<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 4,600</b> per person, twin share  | Land Arrangement: Valid until Oct 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 6,600</b> per person, twin share |

### INTERNATIONAL TOUR PACKAGES

|   |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>KUALA LUMPUR 3D/2N</b>   | <b>SIN SOUTHEAST ASIA ON DIAMOND PRINCESS</b>   | <b>BALI 4D/3N</b>   | <b>SINGAPORE W/ UNIVERSAL STUDIO TOURS 3D/2N</b>   | <b>BANGKOK 3D/2N</b>   |
|   |   |   |  |  |
| Land Arrangement: Valid until Oct 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 4,905</b> per person, twin share | Sailing Date: October 22, 2014<br>RATE STARTS AT <b>PHP 41,355</b> per person, twin share       | Land Arrangement: Valid until Dec 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 8,685</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until July 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 8,325</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until Oct 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 3,510</b> per person, twin share  |
| <b>HONGKONG 3D/2N</b>   | <b>SHANGHAI 4D/3N</b>   | <b>JAKARTA 4D/3N</b>  | <b>BEIJING 4D/3N</b>   | <b>SINGAPORE W/ LEGOLAND ADVENTURE 3D/2N</b>   |
|   |   |   |  |  |
| Land Arrangement: May - July 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 4,185</b> per person, twin share      | Land Arrangement: Valid until Feb 2015<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 3,375</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until Dec 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 9,585</b> per person, twin share | Land Arrangement: Valid until Feb 2015<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 3,510</b> per person, twin share  | Land Arrangement: Valid until July 2014<br>FOR AS LOW AS <b>PHP 8,460</b> per person, twin share |



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## AAP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

| PERSONAL INFORMATION  |  |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MR. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS. <input type="checkbox"/> MRS.  | LAST NAME  | FIRST NAME                               | MIDDLE NAME                                 |   |   |
| BIRTHDATE   |  | BIRTHPLACE                               |   |   |   |
| SEX<br><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.<br>(CONDUCTION STICKER NO.)                           | FUEL TYPE   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>   |  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> GAS<br><input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL |   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>   |  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> GAS<br><input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL |   |
| MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES   |  |  |   |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR  | <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL        | <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE GROUP | <input type="checkbox"/> MOTORSPORTS        |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR REGULAR   | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL | NO. OF CARS                              | Growth Membership<br>Registration & Renewal |   |   |
| MEMBERSHIP FEES   |  |  |   |   |   |
|   | NON-DRIVING MEMBER                                   | DRIVING MEMBER                           | DRIVING MEMBER<br>REGISTRATION              | REGISTRATION<br>AMOUNT PAID                                     | NON-DRIVING MEMBER<br>REGISTRATION                                      |
| Annual Fee  | P2,000   | P2,500                                   | P1,500                                      | P1,200  | P6,000 <small>Non-Driving Member<br/>Registration &amp; Renewal</small> |
| 3-year Fee  | P5,000   | P6,000                                   | P3,750                                      | N/A   | N/A   |
| PAYMENT MODE  |  |  |   |   |   |
| Paid PhP<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cash Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card<br><input type="checkbox"/> BPI's check free payments<br><small>Visit www.bpicexpressonline.com or call 89-100</small><br><input type="checkbox"/> Pay through Banco de Oro (Institution code #0136)<br><small>Upon teller's validation, BDO payment slip serves as your official receipt</small><br><input type="checkbox"/> Check Payment (payable to Automobile Association Philippines)<br><small>Date: _____<br/>Bank: _____<br/>Account No.: _____</small><br><input type="checkbox"/> Bancnet Online Payment (for online Applications only) |  |  |   |   |   |

| DATE   |                     | APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE |                    |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| FOR AAP USE ONLY   |                     |                       |                    |
| SOURCE: <input type="checkbox"/> REG <input type="checkbox"/> CRS <input type="checkbox"/> RDL <input type="checkbox"/> PDP <input type="checkbox"/> SALES | BRANCH: _____       | STAFF: _____          | AMOUNT PAID: _____ |
| AMOUNT PAID: _____   | INSURANCE NO: _____ | CR. NO: _____         |                    |



The National Auto Club

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

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

AAP offers its members the following exclusive benefits:

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

### Additional Products and Services:

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

\* Not available in some offices

\*\* Outsourced

### EDSA Office

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

Emergency Roadside Service Hotline: (632) 723 0808

## GOLDEN RULES FOR SAFE DRIVING



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

(Source: FIA)



# No matter the driving condition, there's a Petron fuel custom fit for your car.

'WITH UNIQUE WORLD-CLASS  
ADDITIVES

'ACCURATE FUEL VOLUME EVERY TIME  
YOU GAS UP

'HANDLED AND TESTED METICULOUSLY  
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

PETRON



XTRA  
ADVANCE



Petron Super Xtra Gasoline 91 octane is a quality gasoline with a special additive that cleans and protects important parts of your car's engine.

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- Full-time (On Demand) 4WD System with Lock Mode
- Ventilated front disc brakes
- 2.0-liter R eVGT engine – a 3rd generation CRDI engine that delivers maximum power of 177 ps at 4000 rpm and maximum torque of 40 kg-m at 1800-2500 rpm



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