



VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 1
MARCH 2015

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Gus Lagman
AAP PRESIDENT

Saving lives through “pedestrian shelters”

Worldwide

“1.3 million people are killed on the world’s roads each year. Road crashes kill more people than malaria. Fifty million are injured, many disabled as a result. 90% of these casualties occur in developing countries. It is the No. 1 cause of death of young people worldwide. (A child dies every three minutes.)”

If these numbers do not upset you, then nothing will. This very serious problem stares us in the face that we truly have no choice but to keep on looking for ways to mitigate it.

“On 19-20 November 2009 the government of the Russian Federation hosted the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety. Requested by the UN General Assembly, the event represented a historic opportunity to make progress on tackling a leading cause of death and disability. As many as 1,500 participants including ministers; representatives of UN agencies, civil society organizations and private companies attended the meeting which was opened by President Dmitry Medvedev.”

As a result of this, the UN declared 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. Soon after, the Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) also launched its own FIA Action for Road Safety in support of this initiative. Part of this is the release of its “10 Golden Rules” on Road Safety. In addition, the FIA Foundation started funding many road safety projects of affiliated automobile clubs worldwide.

“On 10 April 2014 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on ‘improving global road safety’. The resolution was sponsored by the Government of the Russian Federation and co-sponsored by dozens of other countries. Among key decisions, the resolution welcomes the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the Second Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in 2015; encourages the inclusion of road safety in the post-2015 development agenda; invites WHO to continue monitoring progress in the Decade of Action; and requests organization of the Third UN

Global Road Safety Week in 2015 on children and road safety.”

In May 2015 during the Third UN Global Road Safety Week, the UN will deliver the Child Declaration (with hashtag #SaveKidsLives) to local and global leaders.

Philippines

The statistics in the Philippines show that a child suffers death or an injury every 6 minutes; 96,000 in a year. Understandably, most of these incidents occur near schools.

Equipped with this knowledge, AAP decided to propose and support a nationwide improvement of road conditions around schools (perhaps, in large, densely-populated cities, initially). In this regard, AAP believes that the installation of “pedestrian shelters” would be an effective way of reducing the casualties. “Pedestrian shelters” are islands constructed halfway across pedestrian lanes.

With this device, a person or a child, who is about to cross the street will not have to execute the usual rule of “look left; look right; then look left again”. This rule is not so easy to do especially in busy streets and worse, in busy highways. A person crossing the street only has to look left and when free of oncoming vehicles, can then cross up to the “shelter” or island halfway to the other side. From there, he only needs to look right before crossing and when free of oncoming vehicles, can then cross the street all the way.

Certainly, much safer. But how should this be implemented?

Perhaps the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) should first look at the schools with large population bases, then figure out where a “pedestrian shelter” should be installed. Budgets can come from the Road Safety’s share in the Road Users Charge that vehicle owners pay every time they register their vehicles. This share is roughly P800 million a year. Part of the budget may have to be spent on the expropriation of some properties as the roads/streets will have to be widened in the areas where the “shelters” are to be constructed.

Road Safety has been AAP’s main advocacy and in this and the next few years, “SaveKidsLives” would be its focus. AAP will provide all the support that it can muster to assist the DPWH in the implementation of this life saver. **AQ**

“ AAP believes that the installation of “pedestrian shelters” would be an effective way of reducing the casualties. “Pedestrian shelters” are islands constructed halfway across pedestrian lanes. ”

18

COVER STORY**Driver's Drive - 6 Epic Road Trips****WHAT'S INSIDE**

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Make Motoring Fun | Gus Lagman |
| 4 | Road Savvy | Aida Sevilla Mendoza |
| 6 | AAP Club News | Pampanga Office Moving to a New Home
AAP Holds Topping Off Ceremony for Tower
AAP Travel Organizes Capas Freedom March
AAP Honors Top Race Drivers
Meet Our Driver of the Month
Bill of Rights for Taxi Passengers
Notice of General Membership Meeting
Membership Renewal via Text, Save Kids' Lives |
| 17 | Features | Visit the Philippines Year 2015 |
| 18 | | Driving to Paradise and Back |
| 24 | | March from Death to Freedom |
| 25 | | Honda Accord takes Baguio |
| 28 | | PGA World of Super Cars |
| 30 | | Enter the Volkswagen Golf GTI |
| 32 | | Porsche World Roadshow 2015 |
| 34 | | What to expect from 2015 F1 season |
| 36 | | Honey we shrunk the SUV |
| 37 | | Automakers vow not to give up on weak-selling electrics |
| 38 | | Vehicles Fit for the Pope |
| 39 | Motoring news | |



26

FEATURES

Driving Around Ilocos Norte with the Nissan Navara


dq
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Aida Sevilla Mendoza
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Not More Than Two Seconds

In 2013, the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) set a new voluntary guideline for the automotive industry: any single interaction of a driver with a car's connectivity system should not take more than two seconds. In that time, the NHTSA pointed out, a car can travel 176 feet at 100 kilometers an hour.

This guideline shows increasing safety concerns over the proliferation of new technologies in a modern motor vehicle's dashboard that control functions like the radio, air conditioner, safety and driver assistance systems and above all, connectivity and Internet services.

A bewildering array of infotainment touchscreens, buttons and knobs may distract the driver too often or for too long, distraction that can end in a fender bender or fatal road crash.

As a result, automakers are scrambling to find ways to integrate smartphones and online services into cars without increasing driver distraction and frustration. The much-anticipated new XC90 SUV of Volvo, for example, will feature a connectivity system that has a nine-inch touchscreen and only eight control buttons to minimize misinterpretation.

Chrysler's positively reviewed Uconnect has an 8.4-inch touchscreen but the controls are simple and unembellished

Meanwhile, Ford Motor Co. opened a research center last January in Palo Alto, California, in the heart of Silicon Valley. Work at Ford's Silicon Valley lab will include developing a "smart mobility" plan over the long term, plus Sync 3, the next generation of the company's in-dash connectivity system using software from QNX, a Canadian software systems company.

Other car manufacturers have opened research and development centers in Silicon Valley recently, including Honda, which opened a

research lab in 2014 and a developer studio to encourage the writing of apps that can work in cars.

Mercedes-Benz in 1995 was the first to open a research center in Silicon Valley. In 2013, Mercedes-Benz opened a larger R&D center in Sunnyvale. BMW, General Motors and Nissan-Renault also have research labs in the area.

But automakers are not the only ones fast-tracking the development of advanced, user-friendly connectivity technologies. Tech giants Apple and Google are bringing to market new dashboard systems that will let a smartphone power and operate a car's center screen, everything from navigation to communication to music apps, all constantly talking to the cloud – and to the driver.

Google's operating system, Android Auto, is about to debut in American cars while Apple's CarPlay, developed for iPhone users, has about 200 engineers working on it and on electric vehicle technology. Aside from Android Auto, Google has been working on driverless cars, which it foresees will be used by the public within five years.

In a few months, dealerships around North America will begin selling vehicles capable of running Android Auto, Apple CarPlay, or both. Both systems have been designed with apps on the screen that can be done in two seconds or less – in a quick glance, touch and eyes back to the road.

To minimize driver distraction, streaming video and most social media will be blocked. Texts can be sent only with voice commands. Google and Apple have taken steps to make voice recognition succeed so that a user's voice is easily understandable while inside the car and consumers can speak as they normally do to issue voice commands.

About two dozen carmakers have signed up to offer Android Auto and Apple has teamed up with roughly the same number of brands, many of which will offer both systems. But not all automakers are willing to surrender their dashboards to the tech giants. Toyota has no plans to adopt Android Auto or Apple CarPlay in the United States, preferring to use its own in-house proprietary platforms.

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

“ Automakers are scrambling to find ways to integrate smartphones and online service into cars without increasing driver distraction and frustration. ”

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AAP-PAMPANGA MOVING TO A NEW HOME

THE Pampanga office of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) will soon have a new home this year.

AAP Membership Services Manager Necitas Zornosa said that the AAP-Pampanga office will move into Robinson's Starmills before the end of the first half of 2015. The AAP office will be near the satellite office of the Department of Foreign Affairs inside the mall.

Prior to the move, the AAP-Pampanga office was located at Unit 11 Shell Northwalk Complex 2, Jose Abad Santos Avenue (Olongapo-Gapan Road).

According to Zornosa, the AAP-Pampanga office is expected to bring in more members and still provide the same services such as issuance of AAP membership, the Philippine International Driving Permit (PIDP), comprehensive motor vehicle insurance, and emergency roadside service.

She also said that they are expecting an increase in their membership and PIDP since the area is very visible and caters to a wider market.

"The fact alone that it is inside a well-known commercial establishment and just beside the satellite office of the DFA indicates that we can expect a good number of walk-in clients," she said.

For their part, AAP President Gus Lagman and AAP Director/Membership and Administration Committee Chair Jacinto Mantaring expressed optimism that the club would attract more members at its new location.

"We would make available to those residing outside Metro Manila the benefits of AAP membership. With more members, we can therefore

provide our services to more motorists," Lagman said.

"We would also be able to tap more members in promoting our advocacy, especially road safety. I understand the new location is very near the DFA office. This means that Filipinos who have just secured their passports will find it convenient to also apply for the International Driving Permit," Lagman added.

Lagman also said that the move of the AAP Pampanga office is one way of tapping areas around the country for members.

Meanwhile, Mantaring said, "The Robinson's mall is an easy address to locate and we have the opportunity to reach out to the thousands of daily passport applicants in the DFA office adjacent to ours, to serve them with the International Drivers' Permits, travel, and insurance needs."

"It will be a lot of savings in money, effort, and time for them that we are there instead of them having to come to Manila. We are not saying this will be our only office in Pampanga. We may choose to have another elsewhere to focus on motorist services," he added.

Lagman and Mantaring said that they are eyeing more offices to be put up outside Metro Manila, but this would have to be studied yet by the AAP board of directors.

"Opening more offices outside of Metro Manila depends on needs, to fulfill the reality of our being THE National Auto Club as well as our need to improve services to our members and the public. For example, we may open an office soon in La Union. **aq**



For more information, please contact AAP via email at info@aap.org.ph or visit our website at <http://aap.org.ph/>.

AAP Holds Topping Off Ceremony of New Tower

THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) recently held the topping-off ceremony of its new 10-storey building at 683 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City, directly across the AAP Goodyear Auto Care Service Center.

Called the AAP Tower, the building is designed with all the amenities of a mid-rise commercial development with 100 basement parking slots. The total floor area of 10,468 square meters includes four levels of flexible retail space and seven levels of office space plus two elevators and an escalator (up to the third floor.)

With 100 percent backup power and energy-efficient floorplates, the AAP Tower will be fully operational 24/7. AAP is processing PEZA registration so that tenants can enjoy tax holidays and incentives.

AAP President Gus Lagman said that building the AAP Tower would not only provide members easier and more convenient access to

the AAP, it will also help to finance the national auto club's various operations via the enhanced leasing values in the area. The AAP Tower, located between Broadway and Gilmore Street, is adjacent to the Gilmore-Aurora Blvd LRT 2 station and a few minutes away from EDSA and Greenhills.

During his brief remarks after the topping-off rites, Lagman said that Carlos P. Romulo and Jorge Vargas, the founders of AAP (then known as the Philippine Motor Association) in 1931, would never have imagined that the club would get this far.

Aside from Lagman, AAP directors Jacinto Mantaring, Jr., David Arcenas and Aida Sevilla-Mendoza participated in the topping-off ceremony, along with AAP Lingkod general manager Jose Mundo and Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) secretary-general Alberto Suansing. Also present were executives of construction managing group Jose Aliling &



AAP recently held the topping off ceremony of its 10-story building at 683 Aurora Blvd. Quezon City headed by AAP Directors (left) David Arcenas, Augusto Lagman, Jacinto Mantaring, Aida Sevilla-Mendoza and AAP Lingkod's General Manager Jose Mundo.

Associates and real estate firm KMC MAG Group, Inc, the exclusive leasing agency for the tower.

The AAP Tower is expected to be completed by May 2015. For more details, contact (02)500-9717, 0917-5665075 or email aaptower@kmcmaggroup.com or visit the website kmcmaggroup.com/aaptower. **aq**

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AAP Travel Organizes Capas Freedom March 2015 with DOT and DND/PVAO

AAP Travel and the Department of National Defense, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (DND/ PVAO) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) held a joint press conference last February 24 about the Capas Freedom March 2015 at the Bayleaf Hotel in Intramuros, Manila.

AAP Travel headed by AAP Chairperson for Travel and Tourism Mina Gabor, PVAO Military Historian General Resty Aguilar (ret.) and Capas Government Tourism Officer Marissa Vidal urged the media to spread public awareness of the upcoming historic event this April in Capas, Tarlac commemorating the 1942 Bataan Death March.

AAP President Gus Lagman, who was present, declared that AAP fully supports its wholly owned subsidiary, AAP Travel, in helping organize the Capas Freedom March 2015.

Gabor and Gen. Aguilar said that Philippine military personnel as well as families, relatives and descendants of war veterans here and abroad will join the Capas Freedom March on April 11 to honor the heroes of the Bataan Death March.

Gabor, who was the Secretary of Tourism during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, added that they are also encouraging corporate participants to join and revealed that Philippine Airlines will be one of the major corporate sponsors.

She said Ramos, a retired military general, is expected to lead the ceremonies.

The Capas Freedom March this April will be the first commemoration of the Bataan Death March held in the Philippines. Gabor said that for some years now, American war veterans have been organizing their own commemorative event of the Bataan Death March in New Mexico in the United States.

"The Capas Freedom March 2015 will remember and pay tribute to the fallen heroes of the Bataan Death March by tracing the tortuous path they took," Gabor said. "At the same time, it will raise funds for two worthy causes: to build the Capas Concentration Camp Replica and provide scholarships for the deserving children of slain soldiers."

AAP Travel Executive Director Eva Carmona said that the event is open to the public. Registration fees are as follows: student/senior citizen rate P850.00; individual rate P1,050.00, family or group rate with a minimum of five persons P950.00 each and the corporate/associate rate with more than 10 participants P850.00 each. Included in the registration fee are a commemorative t-shirt, dog tag and bib.

The first Capas Freedom March on April 11, Saturday, begins at People's Park, Capas, Tarlac and ends at the Capas Shrine the same day. Assembly and registration time starts at 3 a.m. and the walk ends at 8 a.m. Participants will be entitled to join ancillary activities such as a film showing, historical seminar, jungle survivor course, hot air balloon ride, an obstacle course and a shooting game. **QQ**

AAP President Gus Lagman (left), Tourism Officer of Capas Government Office Marissa Vidal, AAP Travel Vice-President for Operations Eva Carmona (middle), AAP Chairman for Travel and Tourism Dr. Mina Gabor (2nd to the right) and Philippine Veterans Affairs Office and Military Historian General Restituto Aguilar (ret) during the press launch.



For more information and sponsorship opportunities at the Capas Freedom March, email info@capasfreedommarch.com or call AAP Travel at (632) 551.0025, (632) 551.0014, 0917.140.7631 or 0928.507.4288 and look for Eva Carmona, Maricel Quiestas or Michael Quitorio.



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20th Annual Motorsport Awards

2014 DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Touring Car	-	Paolo Mantolino
Karting	-	Roberto Domingo
Drag	-	Jonathan Tiu
Slalom	-	Milo Rivera
4X4 off-road	-	

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(PTCC)**

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1st Runner-up	-	Joey Pery
2nd Runner-up	-	Carlos Anton
Division 2 (150hp) Champion	-	Richmon Dela Rosa
1st Runner-up	-	Joel Portugal
2nd Runner-up	-	Walter Zamora
Division 3 (100hp) Champion	-	Edwin Rodriguez
1st Runner-up	-	Rhaffy Latorre
2nd Runner-up	-	Ivan Kailer Diaz
Rookie of the Year	-	Richmon Dela Rosa

2014 GT SERIES CLASS CHAMPION

GT 300 class champion	-	Dondon Portugal
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2014 NATIONAL KARTING CLASS CHAMPIONS

Cadet Novice	-	Zachary David
Mini ROK	-	Eduardo Coseteng, Jr.
Formula SLNovice	-	William Casequin
ROK Junior	-	Gabriel Cabrera
ROK Senior	-	Roberto Domingo
KF Junior	-	Jacob Ang
KF Senior	-	Roberto Domingo

2014 ASIAN KARTING OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (AKOC)

AKOC Cadet	-	Zachary David
AKOC Mini ROK	-	Flynn Jackes
AKOC Junior	-	Gabriel Cabrera
AKOC Senior	-	Roberto Domingo

2014 VIOS CUP

Over-all champion	-	Luis Gono
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SPECIAL AWARDS

Posthumous Award	-	Ferdinand "Enzo" Pastor
Hall of Fame Award	-	
Appreciation	-	Toyota Motors Philippines
Appreciation	-	Berjaya Auto Philippines



AAP honors top race drivers of 2014

THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) will honor the country's five top race drivers of 2014 at the 20th Annual AAP Motorsport Awards.

The event will be held on April 9, 2015 (Thursday) at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), Pasay City in conjunction with the country's biggest motor show, the Manila International Auto Show (MIAS), on April 9-12 at the World Trade Center nearby.

AAP is the only national sporting association and Philippine auto club affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the Paris-based organization that governs all four-wheel motorsport worldwide.

This year, AAP will render the highest recognition to the winningest drivers in five motorsport disciplines: karting, touring car, drag, slalom and 4X4 off-road.

AAP Motorsport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque expressed his appreciation to race organizers and competitors for another job well done in motorsport last year. "It was a year of safe and well organized races, with all participants doing their best to be more competitive. They made safety their number one concern but still shared a lot of camaraderie in the sport. I congratulate each and everyone who made it to the top in the 2014 season and thank all who supported motorsport events last year."

Further, AAP will also give recognition to different class champions, particularly the Philippine Touring Car Championship Series (PTCC) which is organized by AAP and promoted by the Philippine Race Car Drivers Inc., the National Karting Series, Asian Karting Open Championship (AKOC), GT series and the Vios Cup.

AAP will also give recognition to the late Ferdinand "Enzo" Pastor for his achievements and contributions to Philippine motorsport, the various automobile manufacturers active in motorsport and possibly a Hall of Fame awardee. 





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DRIVER OF THE MONTH



Milo Rivera

When and how did you begin competing in motorsport?

I started my career with go karts, and I remember my debut national race was back in March of 2008, when I was 12 years old. I finished fourth in that race. However, it all started a year before when my cousin celebrated his birthday at a go-kart track. Us cousins and family were racing against each other using the rental karts, and after the experience, I suddenly grew a bigger love and passion for motorsport, even though I was a car lover growing up as a kid. I ended up bugging my parents about racing and I told them that I wanted to take it seriously and start immediately. With their support and their consent, I can say the rest was history.

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

Ever since I was a very young boy, I already had this passion for cars. I'd have tons of hot wheels models and I'd have a car village that I would play with during my play time. I even watched Formula One races with my dad, however it still never entered my head that motorsport is something I would want to take seriously or passionately. As a kid, I grew up with basketball and football (soccer) as my primary hobbies but it was only up to that moment in 2007, during my cousin's birthday party at a go kart track, that racing became my eventual hobby; not just a hobby, but something I took seriously. Racing eventually became more than a passion to me.

Who is your motorsport idol (international and local)?

I have no local motorsport idols, however I consider Michael Schumacher and Ayrton Senna as my motorsport role models not only because of their success, but how they worked hard to achieve such success.

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

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2. 2014 Production Overall National Slalom Champion
3. 2013 1st Leg Champion, GT200 Class, Petronas Philippine GT Championships
4. 2013 Overall 1st Runner Up Slalom King, National Slalom Series
5. 4th Overall- Formula 125 Sr. Category, 2012 Asian Karting Open Championships
6. Champion – Philippine Leg, Asian Karting Open Championships
7. 2012 Philippine International Karter of the Year
8. 2012 KF2 Cup Overall Champion
9. 2012 Overall 1st Runner Up National Karter of the Year
10. 2012 Overall 1st Runner Up Slalom King, National Slalom Series
11. 2010 Novice National Slalom Champion
12. 2009 National Slalom "Rookie of the Year"

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

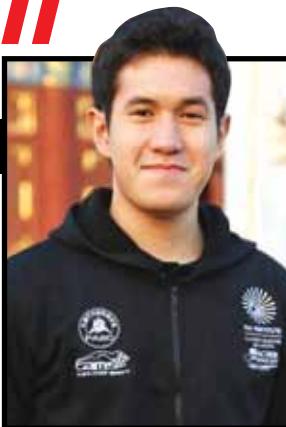
For both Circuit and Slalom racing, I currently race under Tough Gear Racing Team, a small team which is owned by my family. My slalom crew is headed by Fil Gulfin as head tuner while my crew for my circuit racing is currently headed by EdgenDy-Liacco.

Current Major Sponsor: International Pharmaceuticals Inc., under the product name CASINO ALCOHOL ACTIVE (For Slalom Only)

RACE CARS:

Slalom: Toyota Starlet KP61 model

Circuit: Honda Civic FD Model



What do you think you can contribute to Philippine motorsport?

As a Filipino race car driver, and as an FIA Young Driver Ambassador, I believe that I can contribute to Philippine motorsport through various programs and initiatives, where I can even work and partner myself with AAP to produce and develop a huge breed of motorsport pedigree. One thing I would love this country to have is a bigger pool of young world-class drivers that can make it big all over the world. I can also promote road safety and responsibility through these initiatives. But more than anything else, the biggest contribution I can provide is myself, and this is through being the best I can be and taking my career to the highest level I can attain. Everytime I gain recognition for my achievements, the country too is being recognized and awarded. I believe that giving glory and pride to our country is a huge contribution itself to the development and betterment of our country's motorsport scene.

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

Even though I have already competed in several races outside the country during my days in go karts, and also during my two FIA Excellence Academy stints, I still am looking forward to further bolster my racing career. For 2015, I am looking to defend my slalom crown, and at the same time, make it big in the Philippine Touring Car scene. However, I am also trying to make a big step and take advantage of opportunities and invitations outside of the country and maybe move up to single seater racing in Europe. I hope that I will be blessed and fortunate enough to make it to that big stage since up to now, my biggest dream is to reach the pinnacle of motorsport: Formula One. I know it is a far shot, but I will do everything I can to make it happen.

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

To be continuously physically fit for every race, I do strength and conditioning exercises; mostly cardio such as running and swimming. I also do aerobics and some weights for muscle toning. I also have my own regimen when it comes to the mental aspect. I get to do these workouts for a minimum of three times per week. With the demands of both racing and my education, I make sure that I get to make time to accommodate each priority.

What advice can you offer to aspiring race car drivers?

It's all about passion and dedication. For us to reach our goals, not just in racing, but in all aspects of life, we always have to put our 100 percent. It is through hard work and perseverance that our dreams are achieved. In racing, I know everyone wants to come out on top each time, and for us to do so, we definitely have to work extra hard for it; nothing comes easy, especially when everyone else is working hard for it as well. Another thing is passion: we have to love what we do. I know that a lot of people love and want to get into motorsport because they love the speed and the thrill and the whole spectacle of it. I am one of them. However in my case, motorsport became a big love of mine because of what it takes to get to the top: the discipline, the character, the dedication, the consistency. My biggest advice to aspiring race car drivers is to love racing, and work extra hard to make it to the top and be the best you can be, and always remember that whatever happens, win or lose, you should always be consistent with your heart and mind. I love motorsport because it didn't just teach me how to be the greatest race car driver I can be, it also taught me how to be the best person I can be. 



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AAP Supports Proposed Taxi Passenger's Bill of Rights

THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) is all for the proposals in Congress to create the Taxi Passenger's Bill of Rights.

In a letter on February 17, 2015 addressed to Representative Estrelita Suansing, chairperson of the technical working group under the House Committee on Transportation, AAP president Gus Lagman expressed the national auto club's full support for the House bills filed by various congressmen.

Representatives Lucy Torres-Gomez (HB2346); Diosdado and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (HB2669); Angelina Tan (HB3371 and 3503); Sherwin Gatchalian (HB3681) and Estrelita Suansing (HB4016) filed their respective versions of the "Taxi Passenger's Bill of Rights."

Lagman said that the measures, if approved, would "acknowledge the rights of taxi passengers and protect them from schemes made by devious taxi drivers and operators."

"We share the sentiments of Rep. Suansing—as stated in House Bill 4016—that once passed into law, The Taxi Passenger's Bill of Rights would also 'lift up the image of the taxi industry by establishing standards addressing the basic rights of the passenger,'" Lagman stated in AAP's letter.

Further, Lagman requested that when the bills are being consolidated, they should include the proposal of Torres-Gomez regarding the fines to be paid by violators.

"Related to this, our organization would also like to request for the inclusion of Section 8 of House Bill 2346 by Rep. Torres-Gomez—which states that the "Fines paid by the offending parties for violations of this Act shall accrue to a special fund to be held by the LTFRB for the benefit of taxi drivers and operators.

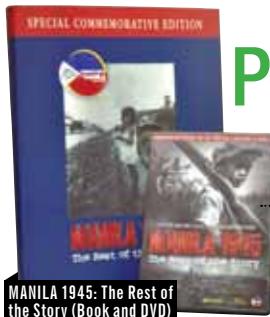


The fund shall be disbursed exclusively for the educational seminars of erring taxi drivers and operators," Lagman asserted.

The Taxi Passenger's Bill of Rights reportedly stipulates that taxi drivers should be licensed, courteous and not under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs. Moreover, the license of the driver should be displayed together with the taxi's plate number, operator name, place of business and contact numbers on the inside door panels of the vehicle.

Once the bill becomes law, a taxi driver is required to accept all fares regardless of the length/ distance of their destination and cease from soliciting or requiring passengers to pay more than what is indicated on the meter. **QQ**

GG The Taxi Passenger's Bill of Rights would also lift up the image of the taxi industry by establishing standards addressing the basic rights of the passenger **JJ**



PVB Launches World War II Documentary *Manila 1945: The Rest of the Story*

MANILA 1945: The Rest of the Story (Book and DVD)

Parsons and Guillermo are however not yet finished in their mission of bringing to our awareness the harsh lessons of that dark chapter of our history and to battle the “collective amnesia” that has pervaded through generations of Filipinos.

Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) has once again partnered with Spyron-AV Manila to bring to Filipino audiences more of the atrocities done to the City of Manila and to its people at close of World War II with Manila 1945: The Rest of Story.

Like its prequel, the *Manila 1945: The Rest of the Story* documentary uses narrations, recordings, and interviews of survivors, World War II veterans, and historians to further tell the story of *Battle for Manila*, the month-long conflict seventy years ago that saw the Japanese military, then on the cusp of defeat, commit horrific atrocities to the citizens of Manila leaving about 100,000 non-armed combatants dead. The city, the so-called “Pearl of the Orient”, also sustained great damage to infrastructure as allied forces coming to liberate it continuously launched bomb and shell attacks to weaken and root out hiding enemy forces.

Interspersing interviews with images and actual footages of the *Battle for Manila*, the film also delved into related aspects of the war including discussions on the role played by Pres. Jose Laurel as President of the Japanese-sponsored Philippine government, the aftermath of World War II, as well as controversial topics on Filipino collaborations with the Japanese by the Makapilis and the KALIBAPI.

Interviews conducted captured the emotional, nostalgic, and sometimes fiery sentiments of those who survived the *Battle for Manila* including Edgar Krohn Jr., Roderick Hall, James Litton, Col. Armando Gataitán (ret), and PVB Chairman Emeritus Col. Emmanuel de Ocampo (ret). In addition the sometimes unified and sometimes differing opinions and perspectives of historians and World War II experts like Dr. Benito Legarda Jr., Dr. Augusto de Viana, Jose Antonio Custodio, Dr. Ricardo Jose, Michael Charleston “Xiao” Chua, Robert Hansen, and Bernard Karganilla make the documentary a springboard for healthy debate and discussion on this emotionally-charged chapter of Philippine history.

Young director Joel Nathan “Bani” Logroño helmed the film and together with his production crew injected youthful vigor into its storytelling and editing to come up with a masterpiece that will captivate younger audiences despite the film’s historical subject.

In this full-length directorial debut by BaniLogroño, the aim of the producers is not to highlight the brutality and suffering brought about by the war but more to celebrate the heroism, the resiliency, and the enduring spirit of our World War II heroes.

PVB and Spyron-AV are hoping that the documentary will inspire today’s generation to never forget the past and learn the hard lessons that war imparts. They believe that Filipinos of today should be proud of their forefathers who have witnessed such atrocities and honor their memories by knowing that who they are right now as Filipinos is shaped by a tragic past.

Working with Parsons, Guillermo, and Logroño on the film were Sylvia Lichauco-de Leon who served as the film’s Executive Producer and Mai Guillermo as Producer.

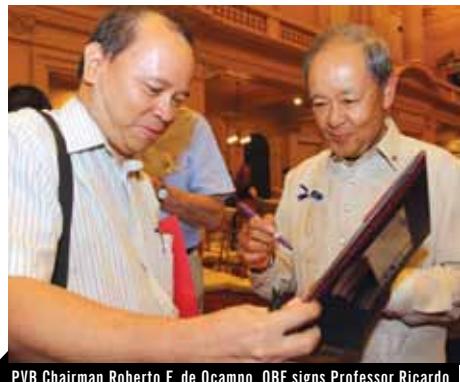
Following the gala premier held at the National Museum,

In 2007, filmmakers Peter Parsons and Lucky Guillermo of Spyron-AV Manila embarked on a documentary project that challenged the nonchalant perspective that many in recent generations had about World War II. That film was *Manila 1945: The Forgotten Atrocities* and it zeroed in on the brutality committed by the Japanese military forces to the people of Manila on the cusp of their defeat at the end World War II in 1945.

PVB and Spyron-AV are embarking on a roadshow for the documentary. Like previous roadshows, the producers of *Manila 1945* will be showcasing it in universities and colleges nationwide. Special screenings are also being planned abroad as well as for special groups from the veterans sector.

Tentatively on calendar for the roadshow is a screening at the Far Eastern University later this month.

Complementing the film is the book form of *Manila 1945*, an elegantly-designed coffee-table book co-published by PVB and AV Manila Creative. Through the book’s narratives, first-hand accounts, and countless war-era photos and images, the story of how the City of Manila suffered brutality, rape, destruction, and death in that month-long conflict in 1945 is told.



PVB Chairman Roberto F. de Ocampo, OBE signs Professor Ricardo T. Jose's copy of *Manila 1945: The Rest of the Story*. Prof. Jose is one of the authors.

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NOTICE OF AAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

84th AAP Annual General Membership Meeting

The 84th AAP Annual General Membership Meeting and Elections will be held on April 30, 2015, Thursday, at the AngBahay ng Alumni, Ramon Magsaysay Avenue, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City. Registration starts at 2 pm.

Nominations to the AAP Board

In preparation for this year's general membership and annual elections, the AAP Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for the 2015-2016 Board of Directors.

Regular AAP members in good standing (with no unpaid obligations) may submit nominations to the Nominations Committee.

The deadline for the submission of nominations is on April 17, 2015.

Nominees should meet the following criteria:

- Must be a regular AAP member for at least one year
- Must be able and willing to devote time and energy to attend meetings and activities of the AAP as a member of the Board of Directors.
- Must send a brief resume to the Nominations Committee, c/o AAP Executive Office, 28 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan City 1500.
- Must be present at the AAP General Membership Meeting on April 30, 2015.
- Must pass the evaluation of the Nominations Committee. The evaluation will focus on the willingness of the nominee to volunteer his/her time and energy to the association.



AAP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL VIA TEXT MESSAGE

AAP aims to help promote a cleaner, greener environment.



STARTING May 1, 2015, membership renewal reminders will be paperless and will be sent to AAP members via a text message.

To continue receiving your membership renewal reminder, please update your contact details by emailing aapmemberships@ gmail.com or accessing info@aap.org.ph or visiting the nearest AAP office. Thank you for sharing AAP's clean, green endeavor. **aq**

SaveKidsLives



AAP recently distributed Protec crash helmets to students of the University of Rizal System who ride to school on motorcycles with their parents. The event in Morong, Rizal was part of the "SaveKidsLives" campaign in support of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 of the United Nations, Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) Foundation and Asia Injury Prevention Foundation. Shown with some of the recipient students are (from left 2nd row) 3M Sales Manager Rowan Rellosa, race car driver Gaby de la Merced, AAP Vice President Johnny Angeles, Campus Director Nancy Pascual, College of Education Dean Anette Pascual and Xenia Canale. **aq**

AS if the scenic natural wonders and colorful local festivals weren't enough to pique the interest of tourists, the Department of Tourism (DOT) promises something bigger and bolder for foreign visitors this year with Visit the Philippines 2015.

2015 is Visit the Philippines Year

The year-long tourism campaign aims to highlight a series of international events, which will be hosted by the country for 2015 beginning with the arrival of Pope Francis himself.

His Holiness, who captured the world's attention with his attempts to bring the Church closer to the people, visited the country on Jan. 15 to 19 for an Apostolic tour to comfort the victims of typhoon Yolanda and meet the faithful in Metro Manila.

Newly-appointed Tourism undersecretary Benito Bengzon, Jr. said hundreds of Catholics from other nations, particularly in other neighboring Asian countries, arrived just to see the Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

Aside from the Papal visit, another major event to watch out for is the Asia Pacific Cooperation (APEC) Leader's Summit in November 2015, which will bring in at least 3,000 delegates from 20 participating countries to discuss regional economic issues.

Bengzon says DOT will take advantage of APEC's international media coverage to showcase the country as a world-class tourist destination. "Since the spotlight is on the country as the APEC host, we will get a lot of coverage. You cannot just look at it in terms of the warm bodies, who will come here to attend the meetings. You have to look at the long-term benefits we will be getting," Bengzon explains. The World Trade Center Association will also hold a similar meeting at its 46th general assembly in Manila in April.

On a more exciting note, the DOT also raised the level of the "It's More Fun in the Philippines" campaign a notch higher as it rolls out the red carpet for international acts like One Direction (March 21 to 22), Katy Perry (May 7), Justin Timberlake (date still to be declared), and the cast of the Broadway rendition of Beauty and the Beast (January), among others.

Visit Philippines Year also has something for the foodies with Madrid Fusion Manila (April), where 400 participating international chefs will meet to cook up a mix of well-loved Spanish and Filipino cuisines. The country will also host the ASEAN Food Conference (June), and the International Food Expo 2015 (May 21-24).

As for the art aficionados, the Philippines will also serve as venue for the Photoworld Asia 2015 (Jan. 29 to Feb. 3), Philippine International Furniture Show 2015 (March 13 to 16), Fringe Manila Arts Festival (February), Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival in Puerto Galera (March 6 to 8), Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival (February), and the Lifedance Sinulog 2015 (January) in Cebu.

Culture vultures will have their hands full with the celebration of the annual Aliwan Festival in Manila, which will bring

which DOT has registered in its website at visitph2015.com.

"Our promise [to tourists] for 2015 is the Philippines will remain very competitive as we continue to try to be the head of the pack," Bengzon says referring to how other ASEAN countries are now taking notice of the country's booming tourism industry.

When asked if DOT will launch the third phase of its "It's More Fun" campaign sometime this year, Bengzon said the public (and the rest of the world) would just have to wait and see. "We have to treat it as a business. We cannot telegraph our moves," Bengzon explains.

This year, DOT released five television commercials of Davao, Boracay, Cebu, Manila, and Bohol, which are the most popular destinations for foreign travelers. He says the promotion campaigns "took the world by storm" and is now slowly dictating



together all the country's fiestas in one venue, the 70th year of the Philippine-American Friendship Day (July 4), and the Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival (July).

Sports junkies will enjoy the 9th Boracay International Dragon Boat Festival (April 23-25) in Aklan, Lanuza Surfing Festival in Surigao del Sur (November), the 6th International Martial Arts and Games (August), the 8th International Martial Arts Competition (date to be announced), and major triathlon events in Cebu, Albay, and Bohol.

But this is just a peek of the long list of events to be held in the Philippines,



the flow of the tourism competition in neighboring Asian countries.

Bengzon, however, urges Filipinos to continue helping in this nationwide tourism endeavor by promoting the country in their own small way this year.

"I would say it's an opportunity for Filipinos to be actively involved in promoting the country as whole and promoting specific activities we have lined up," Bengzon ends.

As for local and foreign tourists, who are already eyeing the Philippines for their vacations this year, DOT has only one advice: Start marking your calendars! **aq**

THE DRIVER'S DRIVE

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

» *6 epic road trips to take on before you throw in the keys*

Single file of 4x4s at the top of the Bilig mountain trail offering a full-circle view of the Kalinga highlands.

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for those who decide to take long, cross-country road trips with their families, instead of taking the easy way out and just book a two-way flight. It's not being impractical and foolish. It's called bonding time, and strong family ties are more often forged on the road on an extended period of time, not when you're all tense, 30,000 feet up in the stratosphere for an hour.

But going on a long, out-of-town drive does entail a special set of driving skills—a set that tests your patience, endurance, wisdom, and reflexes. It certainly isn't like going out on your routine drive to the office on a busy Monday morning. As BMW AG certified product trainer Herbert Grunsteidl once noted, during a 2008 visit to Manila, city drivers who are used to driving in slow speeds eventually become unable to handle faster country driving. The Austrian added that this phenomenon has been observed across the world. City drivers feel at a loss on the open country, not knowing which speed to go on the corners.

The following six cross-country routes are, based on the author's experience, the ultimate in putting drivers' skills to the test. You can be assured of nary a dull moment during these trips. But then, mind you, many of the stretches here are not for the faint of heart. Safety is of the utmost concern, so drivers, a word of caution: If you feel you haven't logged on the necessary hours for driving confidently out in the open country, better take the bus, or the plane, and do your family bonding at some other opportunity.

1 Manila-Laoag City-Pagudpud-Tuguegarao-Manila loop (1,300 km. Minimum time needed to complete: 4 days)

This route takes the driver on some of the best-paved roads and most scenic views in the main island of Luzon. Thanks to an ever-extending-northward expressway system (NLEX for 90 km, SCTEx for 40km, and the TPlex which exits at Urdaneta in Pangasinan as of presstime, for 56 km), reaching the northern Luzon provinces has become faster and less stressful.

Once your tires set foot on the northern provinces of La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, be ready to make frequent stops for pictures and worthwhile activities. The iconic city of Vigan in Ilocos Sur, with its Spanish-era Calle Crisologo is a must-see, and so is the Marcos Museum and Mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

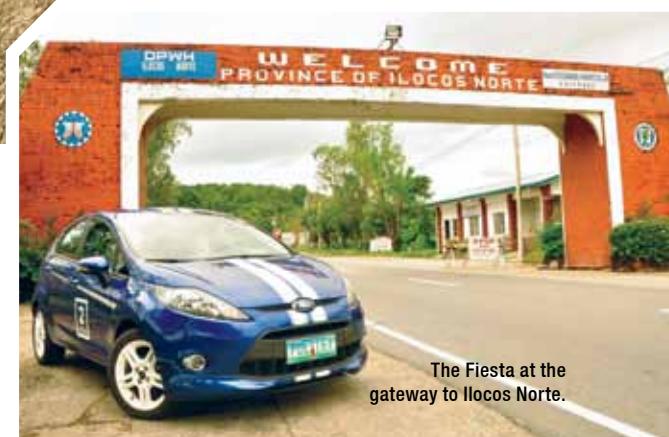
If you've come on a 4x4 vehicle, then head off to Paoay, Ilocos Norte and test your offroading mettle on the coastal town's famous dunes, where the desert scenes of the cult classic "Panday" of screen legend Fernando Poe Jr, La Aunor's "Himala", and the Tom Cruise starrer

"Born on the Fourth of July" were shot.

Or you can just sit back and relax (if you can!) and be a screaming passenger as the skilled offroaders and their hardy 4x4s take you and your family on a dusty roller-coaster ride on the mountains of sand.

The dune ride would most likely tire you out, so it would be ideal to check in at any of the many hotels and resorts in Ilocos Norte. It would be worth checking out the Plaza del Norte Hotel and Convention Center in Paoay, or the more historic (read: more expensive) Fort Ilocandia Hotel in Laoag City. Being the only 5-star hotel in Ilocos Norte, Fort Ilocandia boasts of its heritage, and it shows in the way it has been designed and furnished.

From your hotel, the other attractions of the region are within a 2-hour drive away. You can drop by Batac, Ilocos Norte and line up to view the Marcos Museum and the deposed late president's preserved, refrigerated remains. Then go further northwards on well-paved highways to gaze in awe at the Kapurpurawan Rock Formations (natural) and the 20 windmills in Bangui, each 23 stories high (man-made), so unless you're driving as blind as



The Fiesta at the gateway to Ilocos Norte.

a bat, you won't miss them. Don't forget to pay a visit to the Cape Bojeador Lighthouse (also known as the Burgos Lighthouse) in Burgos, a few minutes before Bangui, for a spectacular view of the coastline of the northwestern tip of mainland Luzon. The lighthouse itself has an illuminating story to tell, being built over 120 years ago, and still works today, albeit on solar power.

Driving eastward along the Pan-Philippine Highway, you will eventually arrive at one of the most photographed bridges in the country—the Patapat Viaduct in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte (anyone who has ever laid a hand on an EZ Map of the Philippines will recognize it at once). This 1.3-km concrete bridge running 31 meters above the sea's edge connects Ilocos Norte to the Cagayan Valley Region.

From there, it's 200 km or so of hilly, twisty driving along the Pan-Philippine Highway's northeastern tip to Tuguegarao City, which can be considered literally the hottest place in the country. It was in this city that the highest-ever temperature was recorded: a scorching 42.2 degrees C on May 11, 1969 (and no, this DID NOT prompt Bryan Adams to record his hot hit "Summer of 69").

Speaking of summer, northwestern and northeastern mainland Luzon experience hotter days than most other parts of the country, so it's best that you restrict your outdoor activities to early mornings and mid-afternoon onwards, and make sure the AC of your vehicle is working properly. And yes, drink lots of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty.

In Tuguegarao, you and your family have the choice to go spelunking (Callao Cave, one of about 300 criss-crossing limestone caves in the massive 100,000-hectare Penablanca forest 24 km from the city, offers an easy spelunking activity for the family, and features a chapel built into the cave) or white water rafting on the mighty Chico River. If it's spelunking you choose, be out before 5 p.m. for the added treat of witnessing thousands of bats flying out

of one of the caves toward the horizon for their nightly

feeding sorties. The Chico River, on the other hand, is 80 km from Tuguegarao, so you better reserve a full day for this wet-and-wild activity. Be warned, though, that white water rafting is not for everyone.

From Tuguegarao, it's another 480 km of driving southwards before reaching Manila. One final, scenic driving treat is at the historic Dalton Pass, right at the border of Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija. It would be ideal to drive there during the daytime to appreciate the 900-meter elevation, where the Caraballo Sur and Sierra Madre mountain ranges meet.

Dining options: The Ilocos regions and Cagayan Valley offer their own unique dishes, but vegetarians (like this author) will find it next to impossible to find a suitable restaurant along the way. So, for those shunning meat and other animal products (for religious, health, and compassionate reasons), it's best to specify with the table attendants, chefs and managers your dietary restrictions so they can adjust accordingly.

Transport costs: Depending on the vehicle you're bringing, and your driving style, your fuel mileage will most likely be between 8 and 15 km per liter. For a distance of 1,300 km, you will be burning up between 87 and 163 liters of fuel. Based on prevailing pump prices of gasoline and diesel (at P45 and P35 per liter, respectively), be ready to shell out up to P7,400 (for gasoline) or P5,700 (for diesel) for the entire trip. For expressway fees, NLEX charges P214 for the Manila to Dau stretch, P104 for the SCTEx stretch from Mabalacat, Pampanga to Tarlac City, and P164 for the TPLEX stretch from Tarlac to Urdaneta, Pangasinan, for a total expressway fee of P482 (one way).

2 Manila-Banawe-Bontoc-Tabuk Manila (980 kms. Minimum time to complete: 4 days)

There are two ways to go to the landlocked province of Kalinga in north-central Luzon: Via the largely uneventful Quirino and Isabela provinces (passing through Santiago City to Tabuk), or the literal

cliffhanger mountain province route (passing through Banawe, Ifugao and Bontoc, Mountain Province, onwards to Tinglayan). This author decided to do it both ways.

From Manila, the road trip is placid from NLEX all the way to SCTEx, and the drive gets pretty interesting and scenic in the Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya portions. But this is just a warmup to the wall of 2,000-meter-high mountains that would greet drivers and their passengers once they enter Ifugao and Mountain Province.

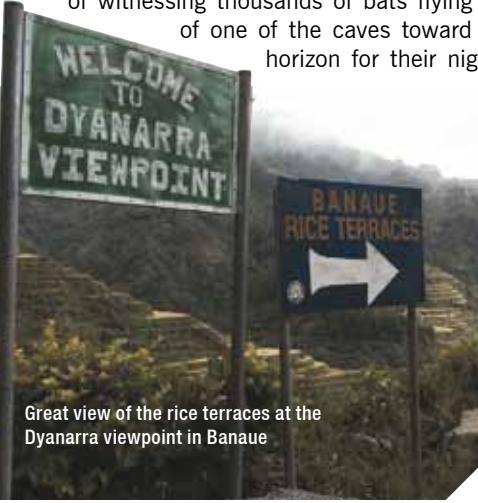
In that 200-km stretch between Ifugao and Kalinga provinces, drivers will make thousands of life-or-death decisions, because, in a very real sense, a wrong turn can cause you to plummet to your doom a thousand or so feet below.

To make the driving even more challenging, the mountainous regions of north-central Luzon is so elevated that micro-climates are created, and any time, without warning, a gray envelop of fog may befall entire stretches of mountain passes, and then cold rain makes the narrow, two-lane roads slippery. In some zig-zag portions, the roads are unpaved. So, if daytime driving here makes you cringe, imagine driving in near-zero visibility in thick fog in the dead of night, on a narrow mountain pass 7,000 feet above sea level. Sweaty palms, indeed! (Oh, and high-beaming your headlights will make matters worse, mind you.)

This author experienced a close call of her own here, on a recent trip to Tinglayan (about an hour from the provincial capital Tabuk) for an outreach project. Even with more than two decades of driving experience behind her, she lapsed into a single split-second miscalculation on a stretch of dirt road that abruptly turned to the left. Good thing she was driving a 4-wheel-drive pickup, so when she overshot the turn because of the poor nighttime visibility, and ended up with the right front tire suspended in mid-air 300 feet above a riverbed, all she had to do was take a deep breath, slide the gear to 4-wheel-drive, and let the other three wheels on terra firma slowly haul her back to safety.

There are no fancy accommodations here, and among the most comfortable lodging places here is the cheekily named Sleeping Beauty Lodge and Restaurant in Tinglayan town. Don't smirk, because the lodge is situated beside a mountain called "Sleeping Beauty", and if you look at it from an angle, why, it does look like a sleeping woman (hint: look for the tell-tale bosom, and the rest of her anatomy will follow).

The province offers more of the wondrous mountainside rice-growing communities commonly associated to Ifugao province—only here the communities, and their terraces, are more unspoilt by modern



Like a Tetris game, the little Prius piece is placed into position inside the roro vessel bound for Batangas.



tourism. Don't miss a trip to Palanah Falls during your stay in Tinglayan, for a spectacular 360-degree view of grassy summits before a 2-hour trek down to the falls via a rice paddy walk.

If you want the place to quite literally leave an indelible mark on you, drive on up to Buscalan Village (around 45 minutes from Sleeping Beauty), walk up a mountain for around an hour, and look for Whang-Od (or Fang-Od), who at 95 is the oldest tattoo artist in the country, and among the last of the tribal "batok" artists (good thing she has passed on her knowledge to her daughter). Be ready to wait, as a long line of customers young and old, native and foreign, often form at her doorstep. There are, ahem, more "highly enlightening" ways to bide your time here. But let's not go there.

The drive back home to Manila, via Tabuk, Cauayan, and Santiago City, is much more straightforward, and will accord you enough easy driving to recover from a harrowing, yet utterly rewarding, mountain drive through the "roof of the Philippines".

Dining options: Depending on your dietary tendencies, it may either be a good or a bad thing that fastfood outlets are

sparse at the mountain provinces, and you really have to take a chance and see what's cooking in any of the humble eateries along this route. Vegetarians may find it easy to get their greens here and have them cooked the way they like it, but do bring lots of in-betweeners (snacks), in case you get hungry at long, unpopulated stretches.

Transport costs: Be ready to burn lots of fuel up the mountain routes, so your mileage at the first stretch could go as low as 5 km per liter. The fuel run can improve on the relatively less-challenging route on the way back to Manila (8 to 15 km/liter). So, be ready to cough up P5,700 (for diesel) or P7,300 (for gasoline) for the entire trip. The expressway fees are: P214 (NLEX-Dau exit) and P104 (SCTEx-La Paz, Tarlac exit) for a total of P318 (one way).

3 Manila-Caticlan-Manila, aka the "Boracay drive" (560 km. Minimum time needed to complete: 3 days)

Would you believe that world-class Boracay Island is only 230 km from Manila, by land? If you take the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) that runs from Manila to Batangas City port, to Calapan in Oriental Mindoro, down to Roxas, and then finally to Caticlan in Panay Island, it all makes sense. Virtually half of the entire trip is done while the car is aboard a roll-on/roll-off (roro) vessel.

If you're not prone to seasickness, and do not become queasy at the sight and smell of less-than-sanitary lavatory conditions of seagoing vessels, then go ahead and roro away. There's not much to see, and do, along the longest stretch of driving on this route (along Mindoro) since you'll be minding the earliest roro you can catch at the southern end of the island (the longest roro trip is from here to Caticlan Port, 5 hours away). Don't fret about leaving your vehicle at Caticlan when you board that pumpboat for Boracay. There are secure pay parking areas at Caticlan with reasonable overnight rates (and you can even request for a car wash while at it).

Some important reminders are in order, though. Make sure your vehicle is in good shape, because you would never want your car to stall inside a roro vessel, blocking

the exit of 20 other vehicles, many with perishable goods that rely on the timely delivery of their wares. Don't forget to bring copies of your vehicle's OR (official receipt) and CR (certificate of registration). The Coast Guard at every port will be looking for them. No papers, no roro ride.

There will be fees to be paid at every port (Batangas Port and Roxas in Mindoro on the way to Boracay; Caticlan Port and Calapan Port on the way back to Manila). Set aside cash to pay for terminal fees, arrastre (which roughly pertains to the service done to load and unload your vehicle and cargo from the ship to the dock, and vice versa), and the Roro fees for the vehicle and the passengers (the driver boards for free).

Dining options: Despite the short driving distance, the trip from Manila to Caticlan may take all of 12 hours, largely due to the waiting time for boarding and unloading the roro, and the slow speed of the vessels. Roro vessels do offer their own mini-eateries, but are limited to sandwiches, junk food, and instant noodles. Of course, you can have everything you've been deprived of once you're on the island that never sleeps.

Transport costs: The last time this author went on a trip to Boracay via the SRNH, her roro fees rang up to a tad over P6,000 one way, excluding fuel expenses. As far as fuel is concerned, the 560-km trip is done on relatively flat lands, so expect good fuel mileages of between 8 and 15 km per liter. Be ready with about P2,500 (diesel) or P3,150 (gasoline).

4 Manila-Marinduque-Manila (440 km, including a 100-km roro trip. Minimum time to complete: 3 days)

There are two routes from Manila to Dalahican Port in Lucena City, Quezon—where the roro vessels bound for Kawit Port in Marinduque Island depart. One is via the slightly shorter South Luzon Expressway, then straight to San Pablo City, Laguna, to Lucena City. The other route is the more scenic Manila East Road that takes the driver and passengers on a hilly ride from Rizal, to Pagsanjan-Cavinti in Laguna, to Tayabas in Quezon, and finally to Dalahican Port in Lucena City.

The Trailblazer stands at the end of the trail, where the Buhi Lake begins in Camarines Sur.



This author, and a convoy of other vehicles for an outreach and storytelling activity in Marinduque, took the longer, more scenic route in 2010.

Marinduque is a small-enough island for a vehicle to circumnavigate. Yet, even if it's just a small component of the MIMAROPA (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) island province group, Marinduque offers its own charms beyond its famous Moriones Festival. For example, did you know that the island is great for a mountain biking tour? And there are natural attractions, too, such as spelunking and island hopping tours.

At a certain location along the coastal road, the prominent Elephant Island and its ultra-exclusive Mediterranean-themed Bellarocca Island Resort and Spa can serve as picture-perfect backdrops.

Dining options: Except in Boac, the province's capitol, there aren't that many well-known dining establishments on the island. So it's better if you arrange your meals to be prepared in the capitol before heading out to other parts of the island.

Transport costs: The roro fees for a class 1 vehicle (3.1- 4 meters long) was P1,700, one way, as of 2011. The actual drive from Manila to Marinduque and back is short, around 340 km, and perhaps another 100-km tour around the island. So, at the usual fuel mileage range of 8 to 15 kph, expect to spend about P2,000 (diesel) or P2,500 (gasoline).

5 Manila-Donsol-Caramoan-Manila (1,250 km. Minimum time to complete: 4 days)

There's something about driving to the southern extremities of the main Luzon island that evokes a sense of danger tinged with excitement. Though the riveting passes of the mountain provinces in central northern Luzon are technically more difficult from a driver's standpoint, the author feels that the real-life driving risks are amped up a notch higher on the notorious Quezon Province, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur highways, due mainly to many devil-may-care bus drivers and unpredictable road conditions.

Still, the constantly-under-construction Pan-Philippine highway that passes through Bicolandia is no deterrent to the intrepid road-tripper. And this author has made numerous trips to Bicol and back, and each time, there is a different driving story to tell. If you can stomach the seemingly interminable 510-km highway run from the SLEX to Sorsogon Province all the way to the coastal town of Donsol, the jump off point to viewing the whale sharks (butanding in the vernacular), the gentle giants of the sea, then that alone is worth it.

But wait, there's much more. Still in Donsol, stay until it's dark near the mangroves, and you will witness thousands

To climb the 'roof of the Philippines', you'll need three powerful beasts



upon thousands of fireflies converging in the trees—a living Christmas tree in summer!

And what's a trip to Bicol without a visit to Cagsawa Ruins in Daraga town in Albay? If the Mayon Volcano weren't so frighteningly restive lately, you could drive up all the way to the foot of probably the world's most perfectly coned active volcano via Tabaco City. Right now, the view in Cagsawa would do.

After admiring the "Daragang Magayon", if the shy volcano does reveal her top to you, it's time to proceed to the island group of Caramoan, to "Survivor" country 165 km from Legaspi City via the picturesque Pacific coastal route passing through Santo Domingo, Malinao, Tiwi, Tigaon, and Lagonoy. The road from Lagonoy to Caramoan has improved considerably so that high-clearance vans can be able to negotiate the twisty, often unpaved roads. But still, to be safe, especially during the rainy season, it would be best to drive a 4WD-capable SUV or pickup.

Caramoan town and its island group have been the choice location settings for the long-running "Survivor" reality TV show franchise. During shoots, much of the islands in use by the cast and crew are off limits to tourists. But in-between seasons, lucky island hoppers will see for themselves why foreigners, especially sun-deprived Europeans, would love to be marooned on any of the islands.

Dining options: Bicolandia is the home of the "gata" (coconut milk), and if there's any foodstuff that rivals the Bicolano passion for their fiery "sili", it's that creamy extract from coconut milk. Like the way they apply their hot peppers, Bicolanos will pour coconut milk on just about anything edible. For vegetarians and vegans, this "gata" culture would sit well with their tastes. Just specify to the waiters and cooks that they'd want their coconut milk purely with vegetables, and nothing else (well, the "sili" is optional).

Transport costs: The SLEX fees from Makati to Calamba are P214 (runs up to P260 if you go up the Skyway), then it's

P25 for the expressway extension, for a total expressway fee of P239 (one way). The driving conditions on this route vary widely, from rolling to flatlands, from well-paved highways to rugged dirt roads, so the mileage will range from 7 to 15 km per liter. At prevailing pump prices of fuel (P35/liter for diesel and P45 for gasoline), this epic trip will cost you anywhere from P6,250 (diesel) to P8,000 (gasoline).

6 Manila to Anilao, Batangas and back (252 km. Minimum time to complete, 1.5 days)

The shortest drive here isn't necessarily the most uneventful. Sure, the 60-km stretch of SLEX and the 42 km of the STAR Tollway from Sto. Tomas to Lipa City helps immensely in making this trip a breeze as far as driving is concerned.

But what makes a road trip to the southernmost tip of Balayan Bay in Mabini worth it is the incredibly picturesque drive along the Mabini-Anilao coastal road, which comprises the final 15-km or so of the drive. There, the ocean to the right is counterbalanced by a hilly view to the left. Throw in a fiery red sunset, priceless! Make sure your SLRs have been fully charged. Did I also mention that Anilao is the best scuba diving spot nearest to Manila? There you go, a sight for sore eyes, over, on, and below sea level. What a winning combination.

Dining options: The numerous resorts, dive spots, and restaurants along the stretch of Anilao cater to foreigners from all over the world. Vegetarians, and other famished customers of various dietary restrictions won't find it hard to dine here.

Transport costs: The expressways fees are 214 (P260 if you go on the Skyway), P25 for the SLEX extension, and P67 for the STAR Tollway, for a one-way total of P306. The fuel mileage is high (9 to 15 km/liter), owing to the fact that much of your drive will be on even, expressway speeds, so expect to consume only between 16 to 28 liters of fuel two-way, for fuel cost of P980 (diesel) or P1260 (gasoline) at the most. **qq**

THE first mental picture one forms of Palawan is usually comprised of pristine islands, crystal blue waters, and clear skies. That's certainly logical, in that Palawan has those in ample supply. What we found pleasantly surprising is that driving from one point of Palawan's elongated island to another can be just as entertaining.

Text and photos by
Jason K. Ang



Kia's Angels

*These vehicles took us
to Paradise and back*





During a Kia ride and drive event in Palawan, we undertook a 235-km journey along twisty, steeply sloping roads that afford a good view of Palawan's mountainous terrain that plunge into sparkling sea.

Our rides for the scenic tour were five Kia vehicles, each with a different personality suited to specific sections of the route. Common to this new generation of Kias are: attractive styling, generous features, and adequate powertrains. The attractive styling is the calling card of Kia president Peter Schreyer, a German designer famous for designing iconic Volkswagen-group cars including the Audi TT. For Kia, Schreyer developed the trademark "tiger grille" for the brand. The sleek designs go well beyond the grille, as the new generation cars have a modern, well-planted stance.

Our journey began in the Sorento, Kia's midsize SUV. With three rows of seats, the Sorento comfortably fits seven. As we were only three in the vehicle, that left 515 liters of cargo space with the third row folded. The Sorento is powered by a 2.2-liter common-rail turbodiesel with 195hp and 436Nm of torque. That torque made quick work of the sharp slopes along the route.

The Rio is the sole passenger car in the group. Although it understandably had to take the unpaved portions at a slower pace, the hatchback in return provided good handling in the switchbacks. The cockpit wouldn't look out of place in a mid-level German car, with a clear, logical layout. Red lighting on the instrument panel and multi-information display reinforces the Teutonic feel. The Rio comes with automatic headlamps and rain sensors, which proved useful when the Palawan squalls dumped torrential rains on our route. The 1.4-liter gasoline engine outputs 106hp and 137 Nm, paired with a four-speed automatic. High levels of grip were provided by the 45-series 17-inch tires.



Palawan is comprised of pristine islands, crystal blue waters, and clear skies.

Looking more like a passenger hatchback but with the space of an MPV, the compact Carens seats seven. Carens is powered by a 1.7-liter turbodiesel mated to a six-speed automatic. The minivan's available features include panoramic sunroof and self-steering parallel parking.

Our personal favorite was the Sportage. With its chunky-looking D-pillar and angular body panels, the compact SUV looks distinctive. It's powered by a 2.0-liter diesel mated to a six-speed automatic. With a meaty 175 hp and 392 Nm on tap, the Sportage lives up to its name.

The newest vehicle in the lineup, the boxy Soul is billed as an urban vehicle but acquitted itself well on the unpaved sections. The second generation of this vehicle boasts more refined styling and larger interior. This time, the Soul uses a 1.6-liter diesel engine with 127hp and 260Nm.

The five Kia vehicles were welcome companions on the tight, challenging drive up to the north of Palawan, and an excellent showcase for the company's new vehicle technology and styling prowess. **aq**



"These men were the flowers of our youth. They typified the courage and loyalty of our race. We can never forget them. We will never forget them. Their heroic sacrifice set a measure of fidelity to our flag and our institutions for this and future generations."

President Manuel A. Roxas, November 30, 1946

Estimated Defenders who reached Capas:

45,692 + Filipinos &
9,300 Americans

Capas National Shrine memorial slab

Marching from Death to Freedom

By Bernard L. Supetran

SEVENTY-three years ago, some 60,000 Filipino-American troops underwent the infamous Death March after the USAFFE surrendered to the Japanese Imperial Army during World War 2 on April 9, 1942.

Under the scorching heat of the sun and extreme conditions, the Fil-Am prisoners of war (POWs) forced to march 55 miles (88km) from Mariveles, Bataan to San Fernando.

From there, they were loaded to jampacked trains to Camp O'Donnel in Capas, Tarlac where they were imprisoned until 1945.

Only 54,000 reached the camp, and between 7,000 to 10,000 along the road in what is regarded as among the worst war crimes in history. Many more POWs died during this incarceration due to famine, diseases and poor sanitation at the camps.

Relive the uncommon valor of the country's freedom fighters in the Freedom March which retraces the last few miles of the fateful event.

Organized by the Department of National Defense - Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, the Province of Tarlac, Municipality of Capas, Automobile Association



Capas Concentration Camp historical marker

Philippines, and AAP Travel, with Philippine Airlines as official carrier, the event is set on April 11 from the People's Park to the Capas National Shrine.

According to AAP Travel president and event organizer Mina Gabor, Freedom March is the biggest annual gathering of marchers to commemorate a historical event to promote freedom, world peace and international goodwill.

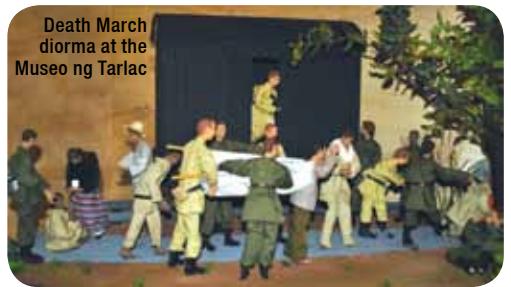
"Local and foreign military personnel who have fought in a war, family members and friends of veterans, will march together united as one in remembering the sacrifice of the heroes," she said.

Proceeds of the project will support the construction of the Capas Concentration Camp Replica and provide educational scholarship to deserving children of soldiers killed in action.

The former tourism secretary said that the march aims to promote



Bataan Death March



Death March diorama at the Museo Tarlac



Train coach used during the Death March

historical tourism in the country, by revisiting historic places and events from a new perspective to help the Filipinos learn from the lessons of the past.

Over the past 25 years, participants in the Bataan Memorial Death March commemorative events has grown to over 12,000 marchers and volunteers across the Asia-Pacific region, honoring the war veterans.

Freedom March is open to the public. For inquiries, log on to www.capasfreedommarch.com, call AAP Travel at 551-0014 / 25, email info@aaptravel.com.



Honda Accord Takes Baguio

By Armin A. Amio



WHAT happens when three college buddies decided it had been decades since they last went on a road trip together?

My two best friends and I suddenly had a bright idea one fine Friday morning to drop everything and go for a quick drive to Baguio. We've been hearing that going up north is much easier now—thanks to new expressways Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway—and we wanted to see for ourselves. With a 2014 Honda Accord 2.4-liter sedan on loan from Honda Cars Philippines, my friends and I headed up North for our version of a quick break.

I took the wheel of the Accord from our starting point in Manila and all the way to Rosario, La Union. We decided that departure time should be around 9 p.m., which is just right after the rush-hour traffic and an hour before the cargo trucks start barreling through the roads, fresh out of the truck ban in the metropolis.

The 10-way power height-adjustable driver's seat made it possible for all of us to tweak the seat according to our build. I wear contact lenses so I'm usually uncomfortable when driving at night. But the Accord's LED dual projector headlights with active cornering lights made night-time driving such a dream.

The sedan hummed through the expressways with its inline 4-cylinder DOHC i-VTEC engine that features the much-vaunted "Earth Dreams Technology." This is such a powerful engine with its rating of 175ps at 6,200 rpm that we all agreed that this was all wasted with the expressways' 100-kilometer speed limit.

We took comfort in the fact that Honda gave the Accord all the bells and whistles in terms of vehicle safety—four airbags, vehicle stability assist, comfortable three-point seat belts for all passengers, you name it.

But what impressed us, safety-wise, was how the Accord behaved when a fuel carrier on the slow side of SCTEX suddenly veered to the left while I was trying to overtake it. With a firm step on the brake, the Accord's anti-lock braking system with electronic brake force distribution and vehicle stability assist kicked in, allowing me to maneuver the car to a safer distance and away from the truck with its sleepy driver.

A friend was made in charge of our in-car entertainment and he came prepared with his iPod that had 1,000-odd albums on file. The device was connected to the Accord's USB connector that allowed us to select which music genre we wanted to listen to.

We also couldn't help but be amazed by the "noiseless" cabin of the vehicle. This is thanks to the Active Noise Cancellation system designed to dramatically reduce low frequency noise in the interior by cutting exterior noise.

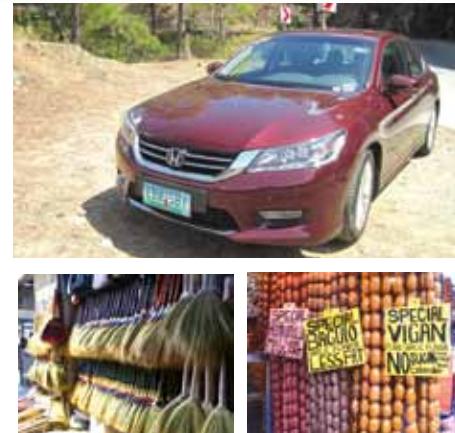
Here, the two microphones in the cabin area capture low-end drivetrain frequencies entering the cabin, and send a signal to the Active Noise Cancellation unit. The control unit then creates a precisely timed reverse phase audio signal that is sent to an amplifier, which powers the door speakers. The system operates whenever the car is running, regardless of whether the audio system is on or off.

Another friend took the wheel of the Accord from La Union since he's more familiar with the road system going up to Baguio.

Steering was precise and body roll was minimal—even unnoticeable—with the MacPherson struts up front and rear independent multi-link coil springs with stabilizer made the ride very comfortable for all passengers.

But we wanted to test the car further. The following day, we decided to steer clear from Baguio's traffic and tourist-packed sights and head off to Ambuklao instead. The pine forest, sunflower-covered mountainsides, and fresh air in Ambuklao used to be what Baguio looked like, say, 40 years ago.

The winding road to that part of the Mountain Province could be tricky for the



uninitiated driver—but not for the Accord. The mid-sized luxury sedan was in its element it negotiated the twisting road to the dam.

Fuel mileage was very impressive too as the fuel indicator barely moved from Ambuklao to Baguio since we agreed to meet with other vacationing friends for lunch at the Hill Station in Casa Vallejo.

For late merienda, our group headed off to Chocolate de Batirol at Camp John Hay for some coffee and *turon*. By the time we went back to the car, dusk had settled. Backing up and parking, however, proved a breeze as the i-MID on the Accord displays the back-up cam. When not in use, the i-MID system displays the audio selector, fuel economy info, and a large clock.

We decided to head back to Manila the next day, but not after ticking off our long shopping list of Baguio must-buys—veggies (French beans, zucchini, broccoli, cauliflower, beets, cabbage, lemons and carrots), *longganisa*, Tantamco ube jam, brooms made from tiger grass, sunflower honey, and fresh strawberries from the Baguio City Market; alfajor, cookies and strawberry jam from Good Shepherd; as well strawberry shortcake from Vizco's. In Pangasinan, we also bought kilos and kilos of fresh mango and chico. The Accord's huge boot took them all in, plus our overnight bags.

So impressed was one friend with the vehicle that he vowed that his next car purchase will be a Honda Accord.

It is small wonder why the Honda Accord is the default choice for a mid-sized sedan. With its generous level of standard equipment, excellent mileage, novel technology features and a reputation for reliability, the Accord has a great deal to offer. **AQ**



Driving around Ilocos Norte with the 2015 Nissan NP300 Navara

Story by Vince Pornelos / Photos courtesy of Nissan Philippines Inc.

MAKE no mistake about it: Ilocos Norte is a road trip paradise.

Incredibly good roads, tasty food (read: garlicky) and a photographic buffet whether you use your smartphone or the latest DSLR, Ilocos Norte is indeed a great destination for those seeking an on-road adventure.

Lately, Nissan Philippines, Inc. (NPI), brought us to Ilocos Norte to re-experience what the province has to offer, all aboard the new generation NP300 Navara pick-up.

HELLO AGAIN, ILOCOS NORTE

This isn't our first time in Ilocos Norte, though this is one of the few times that we flew to Laoag instead of driving up from Metro Manila.

In recent years, the northern provinces of the Philippines have become far more accessible due to the upgrades to the existing road network as well as the opening of new expressways. Of note is the widening of the North Luzon Expressway, the opening of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and more recently the partial opening of the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX). As such, travel times to places such as Baguio, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte have been drastically cut down.

We're actually in town to drive the new generation pick-up from Nissan in the 2015 NP300 Navara. The new third generation NP300 Navara pick-up is a complete redesign over its predecessor, as it features

an all new design with an upscale look as highlighted by the large chrome V-motion grille, the high tech headlamps, masculine design elements and more. It's got a new turbo diesel engine too, one that makes 190 horsepower. This would surely be an interesting drive.

EXPLORING ILOCOS

The order for the Navara drive is actually an economy run which will take us from the Plaza Del Norte to the Bangui wind farm. We may not be big fans of eco runs, but the pace these drives usually entails (60-70 km/h average) means that we have more time to absorb the sights of Ilocos Norte.



New discoveries await in Ilocos Norte



Nissan Philippines President Toti Zara (right) and marketing head SJ Huh with the Navara fleet.

The roads up here are actually quite nice. This province is the birthplace of the late president Ferdinand Marcos, and it's quite clear that his administration (or regime?) pumped in significant funding to build plenty of infrastructure. That's the reason why there are some incredible driving roads here. While we didn't reach as far north to drive it, of particular note is the Patapat Viaduct, a 1.4 kilometer coastal bridge that gives a breathtaking view of the sea to the west.

Long stretches of wide open provincial highways certainly begged many of us to keep up the pace, easily overtaking rural traffic (read: motorized oxcarts, tricycles and overloaded jeepneys). One thing of note is that you do have to be careful when overtaking in the provinces, given that the locals aren't that used to fast vehicles. Seeing corn being dried on the side of the road or right on it is also a common sight.

The turnaround point for our eco run was the Bangui wind farm just south of Pagudpud. Since the last time we visited this place in 2012, the number of the wind turbines has grown significantly. Before there were just a 15 on the beach of Bangui itself, but now there are more turbines to harness one of the most abundant sources of energy on Earth.

PLACES TO SEE, VISIT, AND EXPERIENCE

After a quick break at the Bangui wind farm, the fleet of Navaras made their way to Paoay to conclude the economy run. Realistic figures put the Navara's fuel economy at the 13-15 kilometer per liter mark.

Paoay is the site of a very famous and very old church built in the old Spanish Baroque style back in 1710. The historic San Agustin Church of Paoay was declared a National Cultural Treasure in 1973 and

Fun works.
Traveling around
Ilocos Norte with
the 2015 Nissan
Navara.



The sand dunes of La Paz were no match to the all-new Nissan Navara.

as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993.

There are many other sights to see and visit such as the Malacañang of the North; a former presidential residence during the Marcos administration. There is also a lake nearby, along with the Laoag church with the sinking bell tower in the provincial capitol. There is also the famous lighthouse at Cape Bojeador, though locals say that it's haunted.

Most notably, however, is the presence of sand dunes in Ilocos Norte. There are actually two; the more famous one is in Paoay while the one we went to was in La Paz. It was in the latter that we got to experience the off-roading prowess of the all-new NP300 Navara.

FOOD TO TASTE

It is in Laoag and the many areas of the province can tourists experience some of the unique recipes of the Ilocos region, particularly the tasty *longganisa* (local

sausage), the crispy *dinuguan* (pork blood stew with crispy bits), the *pinakbet* (a local vegetable dish), the *tinola* (chicken soup), and many others.

The markets and stores in the periphery of the church and the plaza sell local handicrafts, souvenir shirts and, most prominently, *cornick* or *chichacorn*; a crispy snack made of corn that was boiled, dried and fried.

Ilocos is also a major producer of garlic and it shows in their cooking as a good chunk of local dishes are garlic enriched, so bring a toothbrush if you wish to partake in a feast. Garlic is also a common sight for persons travelling back to Manila from Ilocos as evidenced by the numerous boxes filled with lots and lots of bulbs.

There are many more activities in the province, but one weekend couldn't possibly cover them all, which is why there is always something to discover in Ilocos Norte no matter how many times you go back. **AQ**



PGA Cars Showcases ‘SUPER PORTFOLIO’

By KAP MACEDA AGUILA
Photos by CHITO GERONIMO

In the rarefied realm of super vehicles, PGA Cars quenches local motorhead thirst with its premium marques Audi, Bentley, Lamborghini, and Porsche.

The general public was able to see just how considerable and impressive this portfolio is via “The World of Super Cars,” PGA Cars’ first-ever exhibit that highlighted the exclusive rides of the aforementioned brands.

Held at the SMX Convention Center in Manila, the show boasted select vehicles that, though distinctly executed, are bound by a common thread of class, style, and performance.

AUDI

The four-ringed Ingolstadt carmaker trotted out Hollywood high rollers such as the classic first-generation S8 V8 that appeared in the 1998 Robert De Niro starrer Ronin. Skipp Sudduth's character “Larry” opted for the S8 as a getaway vehicle. Meanwhile, Jason Statham's famous alter ego Frank Martin has gone for the A8 – Audi's luxurious four-door, full-size sedan – in two Transporter flicks. The A8 packs a punchy 6.0-liter W12 delivering 450hp and 580Nm.

We shouldn't forget Tony Stark's love for Audi supercar R8. Iron Man will be glad to note that Audi Philippines displayed



Audi R8

PGA CARS SHOWCASES 'SUPER PORTFOLIO' ➤➤➤➤➤➤➤➤➤➤

Bentley
Continental GT V8



Lamborghini Huracan



two variants of his fave ride: a 4.2 FSI, packing a naturally-aspirated V8, and the limited-edition R8 GT. Coupled with a larger 5.2-liter V10, the GT musters 560hp, 540Nm, and reaches 100kph in 3.6 seconds. In case you didn't know, the R8 also makes an appearance in Fifty Shades of Grey (as Christian Grey's powerful ride) and Taken 3. Also present in "The World of Super Cars" was the Audi's most powerful production car, the RS6 Avant. Armed with a potent 5.0-liter, turbocharged V10, the RS6 Avant pumps out an impressive 580hp and 650Nm.

Audi's message in "The World of Super Cars" was clear: the design and performance ethos extends to the entire lineup – from the entry-level A1 hatch, to the World Car of the Year A3, the A6 compact executive sedan, the 3.0-liter A7 executive sportback, and even the SUV offerings in the Q3 and Q5. The corporate philosophy of "Vorsprung durch Technik (Advancement through Technology)" suffuses all.

BENTLEY

Crewe, England's ultra-lux brand featured three vehicles in the show. First was the new Bentley Flying Spur, packing a capable 4.0-liter, twin-turbocharged V8. It generates 500hp of power and 660Nm of torque – realized via all-wheel drive and eight-speed quick-shift transmission. It shares engines with the Continental GT V8 – also featured.

Still, the height of luxury (Bentley or otherwise) belongs to the Bentley Mulsanne – actually named after a corner of the Le Mans racing circuit. Craftsmanship and bespoke luxury speaks Bentley all the way on this full-size executive sedan whose interior comfort and features are amply matched by a powerful heart. The 6.75-liter turbocharged V8, mated to an eight-speed automatic, serves up 505hp and a hearty torque rating of 1020Nm.



LAMBORGHINI

The Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy carmaker was duly represented through four of its alluring supercars. The Gallardo successor, Huracan LP 610-4, cutting a svelte and sexy profile, certainly appears to be a worthy replacement for the bestselling Lambo (15,000 units of the Gallardo were sold) which rolled off the assembly plant for a decade before being retired. With a 5.2-liter, naturally aspirated V10, the Huracan serves up 610hp and 560Nm. Also present for the show was the Lamborghini Gallardo Super Trofeo Stradale. Its rear wing is "taken directly from the race car and delivers three times more downforce than the standard Gallardo."

The alpha dog, jet fighter-like Aventador LP700-4 squeezes an incredible 700hp and 690Nm from its 6.5 liter V12, which enables it to reach 100kph in a breath below three seconds. Finally, the Lamborghini Murcielago Super Veloce 670 or LP670-SV, one of only 350 units worldwide, immediately preceded the launch of the Aventador.

PORSCHE

Timeless models from the past and present of the storied Stuttgart's carmaker wowed and thrilled showgoers. The powerhouse lineup was led by the 911 GT3, Macan Turbo, Cayenne Turbo, Cayman GTS, and Boxster GTS.

Of note, too, was the muscular Carrera GT, a 5.7-liter, naturally-aspirated V10 that generated 612hp and 590Nm. The six-speed manual, first unveiled as a concept in 2000, was Porsche's "road car translation of the Le Mans race car" in the 911 GT1.

Year 1975's 930 Turbo took its hallowed place in the exhibit as the pioneer of Porsche's turbocharging efforts. The flat-six, 3.3-liter heart of this looker served up 300hp and 439Nm – good for a standstill-to-100 time of 5.1 seconds, and a top speed of 259kph.

In a release, PGA Cars reports that: "The Porsche brand has always been known for uncompromising driving performance and involvement... Each (car) caters to a different segment of the sports car market, from the more lifestyle oriented (Boxster), to the more hard-core, track-focused driving enthusiast (911 GT3)."

Fans of the four brands were also able to purchase premium, original items from the featured collection of each. Prudential Guarantee and Assurance, Inc., was also at the venue to offer car coverage deals. Proceeds from ticket sales went to two beneficiaries: the Philippine Toy Library, an organization that sets up classrooms filled with toys and caters to daycare centers for children up to seven years old, and the St. Francis School-VSA Arts Philippines, noted for its rehabilitation program for hearing-impaired children.

In a speech at the venue, PGA Cars director Amado del Rosario hinted that we might expect a succeeding show. "This is one of the rare opportunities that you will have all these cars under one roof," he said. "This is just the first time; expect to see more." **QQ**



ENTER *the* GOLF GTI

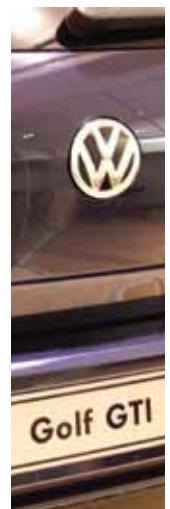


THE Golf has piqued the interest of diehard fans since it first rolled off the Volkswagen assembly line in 1974. Going by various names such as the Rabbit and the Caribe, this hatchback has nonetheless united the motoring world in adulation for its practical yet performance-packed value positioning.

Indeed, the Golf has tucked various industry awards under its belt, such as the 1992 and 2013 European Car of the Year, 2013 World Car of the Year, and even the 2013-2014 Car of the Year Japan (the first imported car to do so, if one must add).

Clearly aware of the clamor for the hot hatch, Volkswagen Philippines pulled out a, well, rabbit from its hat – the most potent Golf variant there is.

"The GTI (Grand Tourer Injection)... was introduced in 1976 on the first-generation Golf. With its unmatched success, it popularized the GTI name and made it synonymous with the Golf GTI brand. Now on its seventh generation, the GTI is the ultimate sportsman within the VW family. It combines technological leadership and uncompromised performance, making it a sustainable sportscar," said Volkswagen Philippines president and CEO John Philip Orbeta in a speech delivered during the nighttime launch at Volkswagen's Bonifacio Global City showroom.



Volkswagen's mighty hatch joins the fray

Text and photos by KAP MACEDA AGUILA

The much coveted GTI comes ready to rumble in its class via a two-liter, turbocharged, stratified injection engine that delivers a maximum of 220ps at 4,500-6,200 rpm, and peak torque of 350 Nm at 1,500-4,400 rpm. Its powerplant is mated to a six-speed dual-shift gear transmission.

With a range of tech candy such as Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Anti-Slip Regulation (ASR), Electronic Differential Lock (EDL) with XDS plus technology, engine drag torque control (MSR), electronic parking brake with auto hold, rear assist rear view camera with eight-channel park distance control, driver alert system, airbags (driver, passenger, driver knee, front side and curtain), the GTI assures safety, convenience, and comfort for anyone ensconced within the its engaging interiors – whether as passenger or driver.

The Golf GTI is nothing if not a looker outside as well, and it comes most effortlessly – almost without even trying. Of course, the GTI package of 18-inch Austin alloy wheels, bumpers, grille, tail lamps, spoiler, and dual tailpipes help things along. Not to mention the bi-Xenon headlamps with daytime running lights.

The proof is in the pudding, of course. And members of the press, as well as the blogging community, were given a chance to get behind the steering wheel of any of three GTIs to experience the hatch on a stretch of the 28th Street cordoned off as a makeshift proving ground. Despite the varying skill levels of participants, Volkswagen Philippines executives were obviously confident enough in the safety features of the Golf.

The GTI indeed has power in spades, but this power is reigned in by other niceties that make it usable and practical. The car mightily lurches forward when the gas pedal is floored, and brakes precisely and smoothly when you step hard on the brakes. The steering is accurate and unflustered at speed. The body cooperates tautly like a go-kart. The sports suspension helps it along in earnest.

Indeed, Orbeta declared that the GTI is “for people who love driving, love the feel of a responsive performance vehicle. At the end of the day, the GTI is a sports car.”

The Golf GTI comes in Onyx White Pearl, Tornado Red, Night Blue, Limestone Grey, and Deep Black Pearl colors, and is priced at P2.29 million. **AQ**



A Cayenne SUV displays its mettle in a bit of off-road action.

Tracking Porsche's supercars



Text and photos by KAP MACEDA AGUILA

THE immutable fact is that all Porsches, while perfectly content to roam everyday roads—some even off it—are bred on the racetrack. Each vehicle earns its badge on the proving ground of the famous Nürburgring’s 20-kilometer Nordschleife (“North Loop”). Thus, the best way to experience a Porsche is to track the vehicle.

That’s exactly what the good folks at Porsche Philippines served up for existing and potential clients, as well as members of the motoring media, at the sumptuous Clark International Speedway. The much-vaunted Porsche World Roadshow (PWRS) is actually a global marketing campaign to push the Stuttgart brand via a real experience behind the wheel and on various surfaces.



A gorgeous Boxster stands ready before the festivities begin.

For while it is an exceedingly indulging pastime, ogling Porsches can get frustrating very quick; for the simple reason that the temptation can prove overwhelming. At some point, you will want to get your hands on the supercar. You need a tactile experience—hands on the wheel, foot on the gas pedal, and butt on the driver’s seat.

The PWRS is facilitated by Porsche-certified instructors who have the enviable task of flying around the world to introduce people to the latest and best in Porsche—from the ideal driving position to cutting-edge technology. Principally, Porsche is a vehicle built to go fast. “Porsche is synonymous to racing,” said



PGA Cars chairman Robert Coyiuto Jr. welcomes the media delegation to a day of everything Porsche.



This short-throw gear shifter spells fun for all of the Porsche models included in the Porsche World Roadshow.

instructor Dario Garcia. "Everything we do is drawn from the racetrack."

Our batch of eager participants was divided into five groups, each guided by an instructor to separately put the Porsches through their paces—on paved roads, on the track, and even off road. It was a dizzying, otherworldly experience to move from one steering wheel (22 in total) to another—from a 911, Boxster, Macan, Cayenne then a Panamera and Cayman. The new 911 (or 991) is a particular beast of a car. On an entirely new platform—only the third since the original 911—the iteration is the first 911 to use a lot of aluminum. That makes it lighter, even if it is actually bigger, than the previous model.

From its virtues and poise on real-world, everyday situations, we were able to push the machines around the Clark International Speedway. The immensely robust engines helped the Porsches frolic, even as technological wonders such as the PSM (Porsche Stability Management), provided a shell of protection for overeager drivers and those with lesser abilities.

According to Porsche, the PSM "automatically maintains stability and traction even at the limits of dynamic driving performance. Sensors continuously

monitor the direction, speed, yaw velocity and lateral acceleration of the car. Using this information, PSM is able to calculate the actual direction of travel at any given moment. If the car begins to oversteer or understeer, PSM applies selective braking on individual wheels in order to restore stability."

Among other benefits, Porsche's slew of acronyms helps ensure that the supercar is never "too much" for a driver. In a past PWRS staged in Taiwan, this writer was able to interview Porsche instructor and test driver Nick Edwards, who shared: "Not only do we have safer and more stable cars, but they have accessible performance," he insisted. "This is always a big problem if you buy a very expensive sports car but you can't drive it because it's unsafe."

PWRS highlighted various salient aspects of the Porsche performance: acceleration, handling, slalom ability, braking, and cornering. Again, the carmaker is obviously confident about its tech that we were all allowed to hurl a mid-engine Boxster through a slalom course of cones. Thing is, the Porsche will not panic even you do—and that's a beautiful thing to behold and be a party to.

It's much like, well, coming home. **AQ**



Some 20 Porsche vehicles are made available for participants.



thesupercarkids.com

Things to watch in the new F1 season

WITH everyone looking to challenge Mercedes this year in Formula One, former world champions Sebastian Vettel and Fernando Alonso will do so with new teams.

Here are some things to look out for in the upcoming season, which began in Melbourne, Australia on March 15:

BEST OF ENEMIES

Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg went into last season on about as good terms as any teammates can be at a top team, yet the inevitable pressures of fighting each other for the drivers' championship strained their relationship to near breaking point.

A collision between the pair at the Belgian Grand Prix forced Hamilton out of the race and left Rosberg 29 points clear at the top of the standings and seemingly headed for the championship. However, Hamilton responded by winning six of the seven remaining races to earn his second career title.

Preseason testing indicates Mercedes will continue to excel into the new season, at least in the early part, so another Hamilton vs. Rosberg title showdown looms.

Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo was the only man to take race wins off Mercedes last year, and the team is banking on an improved Renault engine to narrow the gap to Mercedes, but faces an uphill task to surpass the silver cars.

Ferrari, too, will be hoping for better things with the arrival of four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel, but it also has a lot of ground to make up in terms of engine development.

F1 fans would have been hoping for a broader mix of title contenders, but will likely have to settle on another intra-team battle. Rosberg will feel it is his turn this year, but can ill afford to give way to Hamilton, who thrives on confidence.

PATIENT WAIT

On paper, the combination of McLaren, engine supplier Honda and two world champion drivers in Alonso and Jenson Button promises much.

McLaren won half of its eight constructors' titles with Honda, which is returning to the sport in 2015 after six years.

Alonso, having made way for Vettel's arrival at Ferrari, is also making a McLaren reunion, after one unhappy season with the team in 2007.

He and Button have competed in more than 500 F1 races between them, and are both drivers renowned for getting the most out of underperforming cars. That's a strength they may need to draw upon more than ever before as Honda plays catch-up on the design of the complex V6 hybrid-power engines.

Preseason testing exposed a slew of predictable teething problems, and things got even worse when Alonso suffered a concussion in a crash. The lingering effect of the concussion means he will sit out the season-opening race in Australia, to be replaced by Kevin Magnussen.



Formula One now wants to force the sport's stars to stick with iconic helmet designs.



F1 HAS A NOSE JOB

After the major technical changes of 2014, when the sport ushered in its complex new engines, this season will have relatively minor alterations to the rules governing cars and racing.

The most apparent change is a return of noses tapering down to a low front wing, as the high fronts of recent years have been outlawed. It may have created a lot more work for aerodynamic designers, but is much more aesthetically pleasing.

The restriction on pit-driver communication will be stepped up this year, with teams forbidden from sharing technical data like settings for fuel use. In a sport where exploitation of loopholes can often be the difference between success and failure, expect to see teams sailing close to the wind on that one.

The late afternoon start times for several races have been moved forward in response to the crash of Jules Bianchi last year in Japan. The French driver suffered severe head injuries when crashing into a trackside mobile crane in gloomy and wet conditions late in a race that finished near dusk.

Bianchi remains hospitalized in critical condition.

COLOR CO-ORDINATION

A year after introducing individualized driver numbers, Formula One now wants to force the sport's stars to stick with iconic helmet designs.

The proposed rule would severely restrict the number of design changes to helmets each season, to make drivers more identifiable both at the track and on

television. The plan still has to be ratified by the World Motor Sports Council.

Sebastian Vettel regularly changed his helmet design when he was at Red Bull, with some innovative displays, and was not the only one to do so. Chopping and changing designs attracted interest, sparked discussion on social media and brought in some short-term sponsorship boosts, but for the watching public it also caused confusion as to which driver was which.

Some drivers have already grumbled about curbs on self-expression and restraint of trade, but the broader interest of fans and the sport seem likely to win out.

Bigger numbers on the cars could be the next step to helping fans.

MIND THE MANOR

Manor, the team that has raced under the names Virgin and Marussia in its five years in Formula One, is making a late bid to join the 2015 championship.

After sitting out the closing races last season with huge debts, the team looked to be following Caterham onto the long list of failed F1 ventures.

However, new ownership in the form of Stephen Fitzpatrick, head of the Ovo energy company, has arrived, chief creditor and engine supplier Ferrari has been appeased and the team is hastily preparing for the season ahead.

It has named Will Stevens — who drove in the final race of 2014 for Caterham — as one of its two drivers. No second driver has been named yet, and the late resolution of its 2015 entry and absence of preseason testing makes its claims of being ready to race in Melbourne seem very ambitious.

Teams can miss three races in a season without penalty, meaning Manor has until the Bahrain Grand Prix — the fourth race of the season — to be up and running. (AP) AQ

FRANKFURT, Germany — In Europe, SUV now stands for: Shrinking Utility Vehicle.

An array of small sport utility vehicles were displayed at the recent Geneva International Motor Show. Automakers are piling into the segment as one of the best hopes for growth in a still-weak European market.

Consumers like the higher seating, easier entry and perceived greater freight-carrying capacity. Auto makers like the fact that they can build an SUV body on the same mechanical platforms and modules they use for



Geneva Motor Show

Honey, we shrunk the SUV



Hyundai Tucson



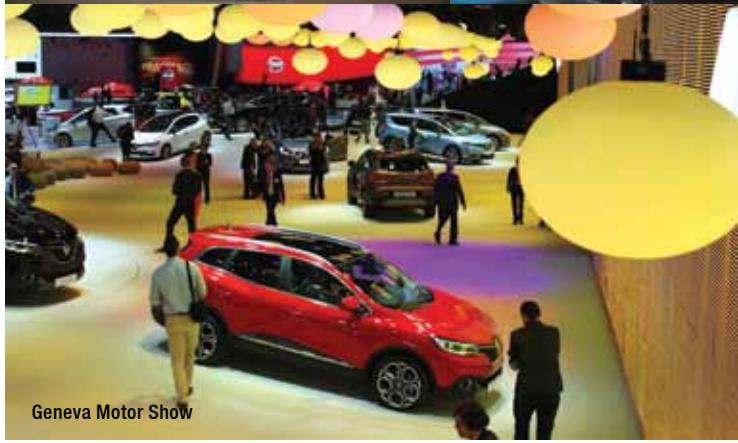
Honda HR-V



QX30 CONCEPT



Renault Kadjar



Geneva Motor Show

compact cars, saving money on development costs.

The key in Europe has turned out to be putting the vehicles on platforms originally built for compact or small mid-sized cars. They're generally less than 177 inches long, or smaller than a Honda Civic, which measures 179.4 inches.

Compact SUVs have gained in popularity globally, but they're really getting attention in Europe. The smaller size helps with narrow streets and tight parking in European cities that made full-size SUVs

less practical for many people, and a little politically incorrect as well for the more environmentally-conscious. The recently lower price of gasoline will not hurt, although gas remains painfully expensive in Europe compared with the United States due to high taxes.

At the Geneva show, among the top new contenders were the Renault Kadjar, which blends the more rugged SUV style with cues from cars and station wagons, such as a lower roofline and comfortable interior, in a small, 4.45-meter package. The Kadjar (pronounced KA-jar) is headed for the European market this summer and China after that, with Renault saying it's too early for price information.

Hyundai's redesigned Tucson has grown slightly but is only a fraction longer at 176.2 inches.

In the higher priced realm, Infiniti showed off its QX30 concept vehicle, which keeps the higher stance of an SUV and uses carbon fiber cladding and large 21-inch wheels with milled aluminum spokes. Infiniti says the design is intended to make occupants feel safe and protected; it has a pronounced front bumper and a large skid plate to protect the rear.

The QX30 aims at one of the problems of the segment's popularity: how to distinguish one's entrant from all the others. The QX30, which will be introduced as a production vehicle in

2016, tries to do this with bold styling; it has sharp metal curves and flares that stand out.

"We want to come to the market with a different offer," said Francois Goupil de Bouille, Infiniti's vice-president for Europe, Middle East, Russia and Africa. "So what we are going to do is come with a striking design."

In the smaller, compact category, Honda is offering its new H-RV, which goes on sale in Europe this summer. It blends a basic hatchback configuration with SUV styling such as cladding and bold creases in the body metal; the company says it has added acoustic insulation to the wheel arches and floor to make riding in it less noisy.

Chinese newcomer Qoros unveiled its 3 City SUV, a crossover that for now is headed for China only.

Analyst Tim Urquhart at IHS Automotive say these new models are further evidence that European car buyers are shifting away from classic sedans and hatchbacks in favor of SUV body styles.

"It's signaling a bit of a sea change which has been happening in the European market for the better part of a decade now, a gradual shift from passenger car-style body types, your conventional sedans and hatchbacks, and more toward these SUV and crossover sort of vehicles."

"They use existing power train technology and existing passenger platform architecture. You raise the ride height a bit, use some funky SUV styling cues, and you've just created a different genre of vehicle," he said. "You're extending your range in a cost-effective manner, in a way that's exciting to consumers."

The market for the smaller versions "continues to have huge growth potential" even as more and more carmakers pile into it, as they did with big SUVs years ago. The field is already getting crowded with vehicles such as Nissan's Qashqai and Juke and Opel's Mokka. Small SUV sales in Europe are expected to triple from 1.1 million to 3.2 million annually over the next decade, IHS Automotive predicts. That's even as small and midsize car sales show only stable sales, rising from 4.7 million units to 5.3 million.

Europe's car market needs the boost as its economy slowly heals from a financial crisis. (AP) AQ



Geneva Motor Show



BMW i3 Urban Compact

Automakers vow not to give up on weak-selling electrics

TOP automakers are vowing not to give up on weak-selling electric vehicles — even as they unveil an array of powerful luxury cars with conventional engines aimed at a growing global market.

BMW AG CEO Norbert Reithofer said at the recent Geneva International Motor Show that his company cannot do without battery-powered vehicles such as its i3 urban compact.

"In the future, electric drive vehicles will be in demand," he said, adding that the Munich-based automaker could not meet its targets to reduce emissions without them.

Only about 75,000 of the 12.5 million vehicles sold last year in Europe were electrics or hybrids. Still, auto companies have sunk billions into developing alternative propulsion vehicles over the long term due to government requirements to limit vehicle emissions and with an eye to restrictions on autos in China due to heavy air pollution. The European Union requires companies to average 95 grams of CO2 per kilometer for their new cars by 2021, down from a limit of 130 grams per kilometer this year.

Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche said hybrids combining internal combustion and batteries were "truly attractive cars that represent the best of both worlds" and serve as a bridge to future no-emissions vehicles. Daimler introduced a rechargeable plug-in hybrid of its C-class sedan at the show.

Zetsche cautioned, however, that the long-life batteries needed for electrics to conquer the market are at least five years off.

The calls to keep developing alternative-drive cars come even as high-end luxury cars take pride of place at this year's Geneva show. Lamborghini, Ferrari, Audi and McLaren all are unveiling high-speed machines costing hundreds of thousands, while Daimler has the Maybach Pullman stretch limousine, which will go on sale for north of 500,000 euros (\$561,000).

Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn stressed his company's commitment to new technologies even as the company's Lamborghini brand showed off its Aventador LP 750-4 Superveloce, a sleek beast of a sports car with an enormous 750 horsepower and a top speed of over 217 mph (350 kph). It puts out 375 grams per kilometer of CO2.

Volkswagen also unveiled a concept sport coupe that's hybrid-driven and can reach 150 mph. It emits only 46 grams of CO2 per kilometer.

Auto executives were cautiously optimistic for sales this year in China, the United States and Europe — the three sales pillars for export-oriented German carmakers. Expectations are tempered by worries over Russia's conflict with Ukraine and economic difficulties in Brazil, another key market. (AP) AQ



Daimler Plug-in Hybrid
C-Class Sedan



Aventador
LP 750-4
Superveloce



Maybach Pullman Stretch Limousine

WHEN the Catholic faithful lined the streets in Manila to catch a glimpse of Pope Francis during the historic apostolic visit on January 15 to 19, 2015, he rode on two vehicles custom-designed by Filipinos.



The first one, which was used when he arrived from Sri Lanka on January 15, was based on a white Isuzu D-Max pickup.

The rear portion of the double-cab was taken out to make the vehicle more spacious for the Supreme Pontiff and his party, usually Manila Archbishop Jose Luis Cardinal Tagle to his right and Monsignor Mark Miles, who served as his interpreter during the visit.

Gencars Inc., a company owned by businessman and former Ambassador Antonio Cabangon-Chua and which operates Isuzu dealerships in Makati, Batangas and Laguna, provided the said vehicle.

Following the well-researched design by Maru Almazora of Almazora Motors, the plain white Japanese pick-up was transformed into a vehicle fit to carry around the city the Head of the Vatican State and the Catholic Church.

The two-cab auto was altered into a single cab to accommodate the Pope's chair, which was made from Italian leather and two more seats for his companions. Since His Holiness refused a bulletproof car, all sides of the Popemobile were open with only a shield made of plexiglass in front to protect the Pope from the elements. Sturdy railings were also attached to the sides of the vehicle for the Pope and his security personnel to grip while the car is moving.

The Pope's coat of arms was also emblazoned on the vehicle with a banig design which adds a Filipino touch to it.

Another commendable feature of the Isuzu Popemobile is the recessed overhead lighting, which allowed the people to see His Holiness even at night. This proved very useful as Pope Francis' arrived in Manila at around 5 p.m. and it was already dark when the motorcade made its way to the Apostolic Nunciature in Taft Avenue, Manila.

Pope Francis was said to be so impressed by the Isuzu D-Max Popemobile that he invited the family of Cabangon-Chua on January 18 before he met the youth

crucifixes – sculpted by renowned artist Ramon Orlina – are affixed on both sides, near the Pope's coat of arms.

The pope rode this Popemobile to Rizal Park where over six million gathered to hear him celebrate mass, now recorded as one of the world's biggest papal gatherings.

The Popemobiles were all designed according to the specifications of the Vatican, said Bishop Ruperto C. Santos of the Diocese of Balanga, who also chairs the committee on transportation for the papal visit.

"It is according to specifications of the Vatican, visible for all and accessible for the



Isuzu D-Max Popemobile being inspected by Swiss guards

Vehicles fit for the Pope

representatives at the University of the Santo Tomas.

"Beautiful, beautiful car," the Pope was quoted as telling the former Philippine envoy to Laos and his immediate family.

The said Isuzu D-Max popemobile is now in the Vatican to be used by the pontiff for his other visits.

JEEPNEY POPEMOBILE

The second Popemobile, meanwhile, is styled after the nation's iconic, flamboyant and much-loved "jeepney" minibus – from the long bumper with steel "bull bar" up front to the stainless steel strips adorning the sides and even the checkered plate metal step at the rear. It uses a trusty diesel engine, complete with authentic rumble, mated to a five-speed floor-mounted manual shift.

It had no doors, after the pope told local organizers he did not want a bulletproof vehicle so he could reach out and touch his followers. Interior surfaces are trimmed in white leather, including the side-grab bars and the roof liner.

Entrance is located at the rear of the vehicle, with a folding rear step covered in red carpet that unfurl to the pavement. The passenger compartment is an airy three-seat space, with the papal seat front and center.

Although the sides of the vehicle are open, cold air is blown out of a pair of vents flanking the papal seats. Electric fans, another common jeepney feature, help cool down the cabin. Mounted on the left side of the passenger compartment is a collection of rosaries from the Vatican. Two glass

Holy Father to go down and meet our people. It is simple which defines the nature of his holiness, simplicity and availability to all people, especially the simple and ordinary," Santos said

The design and construction of both Popemobiles were monitored and supervised by the Swiss guards assigned for the Philippine visit.

All Popemobiles had the SCV1 vehicle registration plates. All official state vehicles of the Vatican begin with the letters "SCV" (acronym of the Latin Status Civitatis Vaticanae or Vatican City State).

OTHER VEHICLES

A third one, which was used in Tacloban, was actually the Popemobile used by His Holiness when he visited South Korea in August 2014 for the World Youth Day. It was a converted utility vehicle by Kia and was specifically flown in to serve as a third vehicle for Pope Francis for his Philippine visit.

The pope also rode in a Volkswagen Touran during his apostolic visit to the country. Volkswagen Philippines provided two units of the vehicle for the duration of His Holiness' engagements in the country. After the papal visit, one of these two vehicles was donated to a church beneficiary that Pope Francis has identified.

No matter which Popemobile was used during the visit, one thing is for sure. Those vehicles were perhaps the most photographed automobiles in this part of the world. **aq**

Hyundai Motor partners with Shell for global lubricants business

HYUNDAI Motor Co., South Korea's largest automaker, has established a new five-year global business cooperation agreement with Royal Dutch Shell plc, the international energy and petrochemicals business. The agreement, signed on this week means that Shell retains its status as an officially recommended lubricants supplier for Hyundai vehicle worldwide.

The agreement forms part of Hyundai Motor's efforts to maintain the highest standards of customer satisfaction for its aftersales products and services. As well as safeguarding the supply of superior-quality lubricants to Hyundai dealers, the two companies will collaborate on aftersales-related marketing initiatives.

Shell will also work with Hyundai engineers on developing new lubricant formulations and other technical innovations that meet the needs of Hyundai Motor's expanding range of vehicles. This activity will support the company's ongoing efforts to maximize product quality and durability, as well as reduce fuel consumption and emissions.

Tak Uk Im, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Hyundai Motor commented: "This agreement with Shell is broad in scope, supporting the needs of our global aftersales supply chain, as well as giving rise to new technical collaborations and joint marketing initiatives. The common factor in all of these activities is our desire to maximize customer satisfaction in aftersales. Shell will be a leading partner for us as we implement and enhance our aftersales strategy over the coming years, helping to drive the qualitative growth of the international Hyundai business."

Roger Moulding, Vice President of Shell Global Marketing and Global Key Accounts, said: "This agreement means we will continue

Hyundai Motor Company & Shell International Petroleum Company Ltd.
Global Business Cooperation Agreement

January 28, 2015



to supply and jointly develop high-quality motor oils for Hyundai customers underpinned by Shell's technology leadership. It allows us to create value for both parties through deeper collaboration - be it in products, aftermarket services, marketing or technology. By leveraging the strengths of the two global brands, we aspire to offer Hyundai customers the best aftermarket care and service experience around the world."

Hyundai Motor and Shell are also collaborating on the race track. In 2014 Hyundai Motorsport and Shell became technical partners in the FIA World Rally Championships. In fact, in its debut year the Hyundai Shell World Rally Team exceeded the modest targets it had set for the season. The team secured a memorable 1-2 in Rallye Deutschland; scored podiums in three events – Mexico, Poland and Germany; and took 12 stage wins along the way.

Ford Philippines Goes Further with Ford Forza Triathlon Team

FORD Philippines officially introduces its partnership with triathlon team, Ford Forza.

Triathlon is a versatile multi-stage sport that tests athletes in the form of swimming, cycling and running. The Ford Forza partnership showcases the personality and lifestyle match of the Ford vehicles with the fast-growing multisport.

"We at Ford are very passionate about our class-leading and built Ford tough vehicles that match various lifestyles. We found a very compelling association with team Ford Forza, whose members are just as passionate, capable and versatile with the sport and the various lifestyles that they represent," said Minnie Valencia-Bustamante, vice president for marketing and sales, Ford Philippines.

The Ford Forza Tri Team includes; actor, singer and host, Matteo Guidicelli; degreed nutritionist, Giorgia Guidicelli; businessman, Gianluca Guidicelli; actor, professional race car driver and model, Ivan Carapet; private investment banker, Ranvel Rufino; social media influencer, fitness advocate and model, Divine Lee; actor, host and blogger, Victor Basa; commercial director, AF Benaza; college student



and race car driver, Stefano Marcelo; college student, Claudia Tagle; marketing manager, Kristie Onglatco, professional athletes, Elmo Clarabal and Philip Duenas; businessman, Jose Merdino Lim and TV host and senior sports correspondent Dyan Castillejo Garcia.

"The Ford Forza Tri Team was created by a group of professionals who are passionate about the sport and the triathlon lifestyle. Our advocacy is to help aspiring Filipino athletes who lack the financial capability but possess the potential to be winners," said Gianluca Guidicelli, team captain of Ford Forza.

Team Ford Forza will soon compete in triathlon events in Albay, Subic, Cebu, Bohol and Camarines Sur, as well as abroad including,

Vietnam, Taiwan and Arizona.

"We're honored to partner with a company that embodies the same values that the team stands for. Ford's support to the team will enable us to go further in our advocacy and our races, and we are truly proud to carry the Ford brand as we compete in triathlon events both locally and internationally," added Guidicelli.

Catch the Ford Forza team at the following events; Century Tuna 70.3 on March 8 at Subic Bay, Full Ironman in Taiwan on April 12, 70.3 in Vietnam on May 10, Regent Food 5150 in Subic on June 7, Challenge in CamSur on June 14, Cobra Ironman 70.3 in Cebu on August 2, Safeguard 5150 in Bohol on November, Full Ironman in Arizona on November 14.

Kia Sportage ranks highest among small SUVs in 2015 J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability Study



SPORTAGE



- Top honor reinforces brand's continued commitment to craftsmanship
- Dynamic and capable crossover earns Kia's first-ever Vehicle Dependability Study (VDS) award
- Sportage's VDS award follows two consecutive Initial Quality Study (IQS) awards for the model in 2013 and 2014

J.D. Power 2015 Vehicle Dependability Study (VDS) has ranked the Kia Sportage as the leader in the Small SUV category, marking the first-ever VDS award in the brand's history. The industry-wide study examines problems experienced during the past 12 months by original owners of three-year old vehicles (2012 model year). Overall dependability is determined by the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100). Thus, a lower score reflects a higher long-term quality level. The Sportage ranked first in a field of seven contenders with a score of 129 PP100. This latest recognition for Sportage follows the model's two consecutive J.D. Power Initial Quality Survey (IQS) awards in 2013 and 2014.

"We believe the results of the J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability Study demonstrate Kia's on-going commitment to quality and obsession with craftsmanship in building our world-class products," said John Crowe, vice president, service & aftersale operations, Kia Motors America (KMA). "The Sportage is a clear example of how far the entire Kia model line-up has progressed, and this kind of quality is tangible evidence of our long-term strategy to enhance the Kia ownership experience."

VDS measures the long-term quality of vehicles, including new technologies and features currently available to buyers. It includes 32 nameplates and 228 models, covering 177 specific problem symptoms grouped into eight major vehicle categories.

In photo: Mr. Anthony Cheng, HCCL President, Mr. Toshio Kuwahara, HCPI President and General Manager, parents and son of the winner, Leigh Anne Nagata, winner of the Honda Brio and Dr. Michael Tan, HCCL Executive Vice President



Raffle winner brings home an all-new Honda Brio

HONDA Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) turned over an All New Honda Brio to Leigh Anne Nagata whose name was picked out from a thousand entries to Honda's Drive the Holiday Spirit raffle promo last December 2014, held at Honda Cars Calamba (HCCL).

Nagata, a mother of two and a business owner in Laguna, decided to purchase a Jazz 1.5 VX CVT at Honda Cars Calamba last year. Few weeks after her newly bought Jazz was delivered to her, she picked up a call from her Sales Consultant and gave her the news about the winning a brand new car. "My husband and I were at a business retreat when she (Sales Consultant) called me and told me that I won a brand new Brio!

I thought she called up the wrong person so I asked my husband to call her again to verify. And yes, it was true!" said Nagata. The All New Brio will be used as Nagata's daily car for errands and bringing her son to school. "The Brio seems like a perfect car for my activities. It looks very easy to drive too, like the Jazz, which will now be my husband's car", she added.

HCPI's President and General Manager, Toshio Kuwahara who

personally gave the keys to Nagata shares, "It is a wonderful experience that we are able to share this moment with Leigh Anne and the Nagata family. We thank them for choosing Honda and we wish them more happy memories with their two Honda hatchbacks."

Kuwahara was joined by Anthony Cheng, Honda Cars Calamba's President and Dr. Michael A. Tan, Executive Vice President during the occasion.

Honda Cars holds Drive to 25 Raffle Promo

Per DTI-IV-A Permit No. 01-029, Series of 2015

TO show appreciation to its customers, Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. After-Sales Service launches Drive to 25 Raffle Promo which runs from February 9 to March 31, 2015.

Simply avail of any service at an authorized Honda dealership or Service Center nationwide, including the Free 25-point Check-up service to be entitled to receive raffle coupons.

Customers stand to win any one of these 25 prizes each month:

Two Sony Bravia 32-inch LED TVs	Five Sony Multi-function Emergency Radios
Two 16gb iPad Minis	Five Sony Headphones
Five Sony Xperia M	Six Asimo Dolls

Consolation prizes of 25 gallons of Honda Genuine Oil and 25 Sure Save Topaz vouchers are also up for grabs.

Aside from availing of any service, customers can get more coupons with every P5,000 spending at the dealership. Moreover, by going to the dealer at their appointed day and time, customers will receive 2 bonus raffle coupons.

First draw will be on March 10, 2015 for the February participants; second draw will be on April 15 for the March participants.

For more details, visit www.hondaphil.com or any authorized Honda dealership nationwide.



R-Design Volvos: Art in Motion

Volvo Philippines features six driven personalities

FORMALLY introducing the R-Design S60 and XC60 variants in the country, Volvo Philippines staged the first ever Volvo Night of the Arts where six of the country's most influential and esteemed personalities are honored. Held at the newest venue for artistic expression – SOMA at the Green Sun – on 10 February 2015, Volvo pays tribute to the life and works of these respected individuals.

It's always about people

Joanne Rae Ramirez, the late Jose "Pocholo" Ramirez, Raymond Lauchengco, Rolando Laudico, Ramon Orlina and Randy Ortiz. What do these six have in common? Certainly not just having "R"s in their names. To Volvo, these exemplary people embody the same characteristics of the Volvo R-Design models.

Coming from different artistic backgrounds, they each have displayed boldness and passion that has driven them to levels of excellence in their respective fields. Similar to Volvo's R-Design models – a breed of more dynamic and performance-packed variants with enhanced sporty design inside and out — these innovators have blazed trails that have shaped the landscape up to this day.

Volvo has always been about people. They are the ones that drive our cars and thus, we build cars with people in mind. It is with this philosophy that Volvo has moved forward and continues to work towards Vision 2020 – a future where no one is injured or killed in a modern Volvo. Along with the development of new technologies comes the continuous improvement of how Volvos perform, feel and look. And that is why you see Polestar-powered and R-Design Volvos on the streets today.

Style and Substance

Joanne Rae Ramirez is the epitome of a true lady of style and substance. With her elegant carriage and soft-spoken ways, the current Editor-in Chief of

People Asia Magazine shines in the field of communication arts with her sharp wit and charismatic way with words. Having a love for writing at an early age, her dream of becoming part of the journalism world became a reality when she graduated from the University of the Philippines and joined Star Monthly Magazine. After cutting her teeth in the publishing business, she then tried her hand and broadened her horizon by becoming part of, and eventually becoming executive editor, of the Presidential Press Staff. Returning to the Philippine Star, Ramirez gracefully rose from the ranks, now having a weekly column called People and spearheading one of the country's most influential lifestyle magazines People Asia. Displaying characteristics of the R-design Volvos – beautiful curves, practical details and intelligent controls like the Volvo Sensus — this loving wife and mother, continues to shine like a star in her own field with her exquisite blend of beauty and brains.

Built with a racing heart

Much like the Volvo R-Design models that are built with more power and dynamism, the late Jose "Pocholo" Ramirez is a legend in the world of motorsports. With a passion for life, he led a colorful and bemedalled career spanning 45 years. Known to close friends as Tito Poch, he has blazed the trail and has brought glory and pride to the Philippines. The first Asian driver in the ASEAN International Rally, Ramirez won several titles including Slalom Driver of the year on 1967 and '68. He has participated



and won in local and international racing events including the Macau, Singapore, Malaysian, Indonesian, and Penang Grand Prix. He was also the long-time co-host of the long-running Motoring Today and was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the Automobile Association of the Philippines. A man fuelled by his love for the art of motion, Pocholo Ramirez lives on in the hearts of those who admire, respect and love him.

Music to the ears

Just like the steady hum of the dynamic engine and the low growl coming from the R-design chrome dual exhaust pipes of the exciting new S60 and XC60 R-Design models, Raymond Lauchengco's voice both soothes the nerves as well as tickles the heart.

Starting at the tender age of 12, singer, actor, stage performer and director Raymond Lauchengco has proven his mettle in the performing arts. An accomplished recording and concert artist with musical roots in theatre, he has reached superstar fame in the hugely popular film Bagets. He has also appeared in several stage productions including Rama at Sita where he was nominated for Best Actor in a Musical, television shows, and movies. He has released eight successful studio albums, the latest of which — The Promise — was launched in 2014 and has performed in over 25 countries. Among his many accolades and distinctions, he has represented the country in the prestigious Tokyo Music Festival in 1987 and received the Aliw Award for the



Best Concert Collaboration. Lauchengco has also conceptualized and directed several major local and international concerts and events and in late 2014, directed the Asian Football Confederation's 60th Anniversary Gala and Awards Night, which was televised in 47 countries. On his spare time, he even dons the hat as Kusinero Raymond and plays doting husband to his lovely wife and two adorable kids.

The Rebel

With added visual volume like the gorgeously sculpted alloy wheels, sport pedals, unique blue digital instrument cluster and personalized interior LED lighting; the R-Design variants are not your usual Volvos. Pumped up with more exterior and interior design cues and injected with more power and dynamism, the R-Design variants gives you a taste of a different breed.

Touted as The Rebel in today's culinary scene, Chef Rolando Perez Laudico serves up a feast for both the eyes as well as the palate. Armed with formal studies here and abroad, he does not just stop at what is familiar. Instead, he pushes the boundaries and dishes out a fusion of international and Filipino dishes that is a gustatory delight. Combining his passion for good food and his training from the Culinary Institute of America, he has emerged as an esteemed chef that established Chef Laudico Bistro Filipino (Fine Dining Modern Filipino), Chef Laudico Guevarras (Heritage House Filipino Buffet), Chef Lau's Pugon Roasters (Fast Good Brick Oven Roasts), and Chef Laudico Culinary Services (Catering, Consultancy and Product Development). He even gained more local and international fame with his endorsements and television stints such

as being a judge in the internationally acclaimed franchise Master Chef and Junior Master Chef. His culinary creations inspire the senses much like the R-Design Volvos encourage you to take control of the wheel and go beyond what is expected.

Sculpted to move you

Starting out as an architect, Ramon Orlina is synonymous to glass sculpture as Volvo is to safety. His works of art are similar to Volvo's efforts in making the new S60 and XC60 R-Design more imposing, with sinuous curves and undulating lines – making the cars look like they are moving even when standing still. Just like his glass obras, modern Volvos inspire the use of superlative adjectives that denote excellence. They are works that is as gripping as the superb handling of the new S60 and XC60.

Known the world over as a glass artist, Orlina has a multitude of awards and recognition tucked under his belt. Among his many awards are the ASEAN Awards for Visual Arts in 1993, the Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award for his accomplishments in the field of Visual Arts in 2006, the Gold Medal of Merit Award bestowed by the Philippine Institute of Architects, in his recognition of his outstanding works in the field of Architecture and Visual Arts in 2012, the Rotary Golden Wheel Award in Arts and Culture and the People of the Year Award in 2014. Internationally, he has won the "Mr. F" prize in the 1999 Toyamura International Sculpture Biennale in 1999 and the First Prize in the Sculpture Category of the II Bienale International del Baloncesto en las Bellas Artes 2000 in Madrid, Spain as well as numerous Honorable Mentions in international competitions. His masterpieces

in glass place him, in International appraisals of the art, among the gurus Dale Chihuly of the US and Bertil Vallien of Sweden. He has a significant body of outdoor and monumental works amongst which is a 10.32 meters high, cast bronze and glass sculpture for the University of Santo Tomas called "QuattroMondial" that was unveiled in January 2011. In December 2013 a private art museum that includes a sculpture garden/amphitheater called Museo Orlina in Tagaytay City.

Designed for you

With every stitch and seam speaks of high quality and craftsmanship that was born out of the promise to design for people. Volvo's design philosophy of beautiful practicality is evident in every nook and cranny of a Volvo, from the ergonomic seats that hug you, the allergy-tested interiors or to the natural, authentic materials used to make you more comfortable.

Randy Ortiz' design story is similar in which he has revolutionized the way men's wear are created. A leader in the fashion industry, he is also touted as the king of colors and prints, marrying fresh elements with classic designs to come up with fabulous pieces that has commanded the runway and wowed the crowd. A visionary in the field of fashion design, he has since moved on to carve a name for himself in women's wear, bridal fashion and accessories. His creations have seen local and international runways and recently, have staged his 20th anniversary fashion show entitled Aspirer. As president of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines from 2002 to 2005, he was instrumental in realizing the organization's role in introducing Filipino design to the global market as well as boosting the local fashion industry by supporting up and coming young designers.

Art in Motion

Creating beautiful experiences is natural for Volvo. Therefore, in every car that comes out of the Volvo stables, one can expect that every minute detail has been carefully thought of, intricately designed and built with you in mind. A unique Volvo trait, we first ask what you need and then use our technical skills to make your life easier, safer and more beautiful. Form follows function, and when you design a car inside and out with people in mind, it looks naturally beautiful. Designing cars around people has led to many innovations over our 86-year history. From the patent-free three point seatbelt that we invented to the groundbreaking City Safety technology, we have successfully combined art and motion to give you a truly satisfying ride and drive.





The latest Range Rover Evoque boasts of innovative technologies

L RPhils. Motors, Inc., the exclusive distributor of Land Rover vehicles in the country, announced today the local availability of the new and improved Range Rover Evoque.

One of the most successful Land Rover vehicles ever made, the Range Rover Evoque, makes a further leap forward with the introduction of a host of new technologies. These enhancements lower fuel consumption by up to 11.4 percent and reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 9.5 percent - depending on model - and bring a range of new comfort, convenience and connectivity features.

In addition to the new technologies, there are detail changes to the Evoque's exterior, new colour options for the interior, four new alloy wheel styles and a new style of Land Rover badge on the grille, wheel centres and tailgate.

"The Range Rover Evoque has proven to be hugely successful and the latest model is destined to have even greater appeal. We are thrilled to be moving the Evoque on to the next stage. It is no doubt, the unbeatable choice for customers seeking the ultimate in compact SUV vehicles," said Marc Soong, Executive Director of L RPhils. Motors Inc.

Customers will benefit from newly-available features, including: a new 9-speed automatic transmission, new driveline technologies, seven new driver assistance features and detail design enhancements inside and out.

The Range Rover Evoque's ZF-9HP automatic transmission is among the world's first 9-speed units fitted to a passenger car. It has an ultra-fast response

time, described by ZF as "below the threshold of perception" and an adaptive shift programme that quickly matches the driving style. With a wide spread of ratios and improved efficiency, the new transmission delivers improved economy, reduced emissions, enhanced performance and greater comfort.

Another feature, Active Driveline, is the world's first 'on demand' four-wheel drive system which enhances agility and improves fuel efficiency by operating in front-wheel drive only during steady-state driving at speeds above 22mph. The new system monitors vehicle dynamics and automatically reconnects four-wheel drive (within 300 milliseconds) whenever it is needed. Active Driveline also features Active Torque Biasing with electronic-Diff (e-Diff) technology to distribute torque between the rear wheels, optimising traction and stability. Active Driveline will be available initially on the Si4 petrol engine.

In addition, a Torque Vectoring by Braking feature, available across all powertrains, further enhances agility and safety by redirecting torque between all four wheels to counteract understeer. It features in both the Active Driveline and the Evoque's standard four-wheel drive system.

For the latest model, the driver assistance capabilities of Evoque are significantly enhanced by the introduction of features including: Park Exit (to automatically exit parallel parking bays), Perpendicular Park (to position the car centrally in parking bays), Closing Vehicle Sensing and Reverse Traffic Detection (to warn drivers of oncoming traffic).



ABOUT LAND ROVER:

Since 1948 Land Rover has been manufacturing authentic 4x4s that represent true breadth of capability across the model range. Defender, Freelander, Discovery, Range Rover Sport, Range Rover and Range Rover Evoque each define the world's 4x4 sectors. Land Rover products are currently sold in approximately 180 global markets.

Kia introduces new mascot crew "Enzy and friends"

KIA Motors has created a new way to reach out to its youth and family audiences, with the introduction of fun and friendly mascots known as Enzy and friends. These characters were created with the youth in mind, and inspired by Kia's own brand personality – vibrant, distinctive, and reliable.

There are five characters in all: Enzy, Razy, Aqu, Tory, and Laito, each one representing an automotive and natural feature. The main character is Enzy, the engine monster who creates fire with his large strong hands the color of Kia Red. Razy, the radiator monster, creates wind and possesses distinctive inventing skills. Aqu is the fun little washer monster who works with water, while the vibrant pink figure is Tory, the battery monster who can generate electricity with her hands. Finally, Laito is the bright headlight monster who gives out light from his eyes. These five friends come together to make a reliable and hard-working crew just like the parts of a car work together to get bigger things moving along.



Kia will introduce Enzy and his friends through its PBA team, Kia Carnival, starting with the game tonight against Barangay Ginebra San Miguel. An Enzy mascot will accompany the team to its games and its exciting new commercial will air soon during TV spots. Enzy's crew will also appear at the helm of Kia's upcoming youth marketing program in the Philippines.

Toyota Motor Philippines starts 2015 strong

BASED on the most recent CAMPI report, the number one automotive company in the country, Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP), starts 2015 strong with 8,709 units in January garnering a 46.7% share of the automotive market. The said manufacturing-automotive company experienced a 23% increase versus its sales last January 2014 outpacing the industry's growth of 19%. The robust sales performance can be attributed to the continuous high demand for its locally manufactured models the Innova and Vios as well as other vehicles in Toyota's strong line-up.

Moreover, TMP's luxury brand Lexus, recorded its highest sales in a single month with 67 units sold and now is the #1 luxury brand in the market. With a 91% growth versus the same period of last year, this only shows that there is more to come for Lexus this 2015.

In a statement, TMP President Michinobu Sugata stated "It is encouraging that Toyota started the new year strongly. Coming from a good performance last month, we are optimistic that demand will continue to be favourable because of positive economic outlook and confident consumer spending."



e-Pass Celebrates Return to BPI Express Online with Promo



RELOADING the e-Passon www.bpiexpressonline.com is back! The company behind this electronic toll collection service recognizes that to truly signify convenience, it is essential to partner with a top bank like BPI. This renewed partnership was marked with a two-month raffle promotion where those reloading were given the chance to win Acer gadgets. The picture shows (from left) third place winner Jennifer Paulino, e-Pass representatives Anne Machuca, Arlo Espino, and Rene Banzon, grand prize winner Miguel Nanawa, third place winner Ernesto Perez, representative of second prize winner Alfredo Andaya, and third prize winner MarlounSejera. Not in photo is second prize winner Aida Floresco.

Information about the e-Pass and its use on the Skyway and South Luzon Expressway are detailed on www.epass.com.ph. Per DTI-FTEB SPD Permit # 4281 Series of 2014.

PETRON FUELS & ENGINE OILS



The Perfect Match for Your Ride



As the only and biggest Filipino refiner, Petron has a deep understanding of the unique driving conditions on Philippine roads, and Petron takes pride in formulating products that will deliver optimum efficiency for Filipino motorists. For the growing two-wheel market, Petron has the right fuels and engine oils that are the perfect match to bring out the best in your ride.

Engine oils are essential to ensure efficient engine operation. 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.

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. With these special considerations in mind, Petron Sprint 4T is 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 Sprint 4T oils are offered in

different viscosity grades and quality levels to cater to different operating conditions, and have been uniquely formulated to be among the best in the market.

Petron Blaze 100 Euro 4: Meets European Quality Standards is a revolutionary fuel formulated to unleash the full potential of high-performance engines. As the only Euro-4 compliant fuel with 100-octane rating, it delivers powerful performance while meeting stringent emission standards. It is formulated with a fully-synthetic additive, organic combustion enhancer, and friction modifier that provide outstanding engine performance, improved fuel economy, and reduced emissions.

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.

Optimize your ride. Use only Petron Sprint 4T with your preferred Petron gasoline.

Rolls-Royce to develop new vehicle

An all-new Rolls-Royce model is on the drawing board, said company chairman Peter Schwarzenbauer and CEO Torsten Mueller.

In an open letter, which they both personally signed, they described the new vehicle as a high-bodied car, with an all-new aluminum architecture, that offered the luxury of a Rolls-Royce in a vehicle that can cross any terrain.

"Many of our discerning customers have urged us to develop this new car – and we have listened. At Rolls-Royce Motor Cars we are uniquely focused on the desires of our customers and are driven by our own thirst to innovate. So we challenged our engineers and

design team, led by Director of Design Giles Taylor, to create a different and exceptional new car," the two executives wrote.

Since the launch of Phantom in 2003 which marked the beginning of the renaissance of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the company has set a new benchmark for what a super-luxury car should be – unique, hand-crafted, beautiful and rare. Twelve years later, after the introduction of successful new models like Ghost and Wraith, Rolls-Royce stands proudly at the pinnacle of British luxury manufacturing, confirming its custodianship of this precious marque.



Last month, Rolls-Royce was reported to jump into the highly competitive SUV market by offering a completely new all-terrain vehicle.

Rolls-Royce follows BMW, Porsche, Mercedes-Benz and other high-end carmakers into the lucrative SUV market.

It did not announce a target date for production or the cost of the vehicle.

LET US ALL JOIN THE 10.5KM MARCH WITH OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, NGOs, COLLEAGUES IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT TO COMMEMORATE THE **BATAAN DEATH MARCH** AND

REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE

JOIN

CAPAS FREEDOM MARCH

04.11.15

Part of the proceeds of this march will go towards the **Construction of the Concentration Camp Replica** and provide **Educational Support to the Children of Slain Soldiers**

**Historical Seminar | Jungle Survival Course
Obstacle Course | Film Showing
Vintage Car Display | Hot Air Balloon Ride
and Others**

Gun Starts:
PEOPLE'S PARK, TARLAC

March Ends:
CAPAS SHRINE, TARLAC

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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 <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	CIVIL STATUS		AGE		
CITIZENSHIP		OCCUPATION			
CONTACT INFORMATION					
HOME ADDRESS					
COMPANY NAME					
ADDRESS					
HOME PHONE	COMPANY PHONE	FAX NO.			
CELL PHONE		EMAIL ADDRESS			
REGISTERED CARS					
CAR	MAKE/MODEL	YEAR	COLOR	PLATE NO. (CONDUCTION STICKER NO.)	FUEL TYPE
1 st				<input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL	
2 nd				<input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL	
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES					
<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE GROUP	<input type="checkbox"/> MOTORSPORTS		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-YEAR ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL	NO. OF CARS	Growth Membership Registration & Renewal		
MEMBERSHIP FEES					
	NON-DRIVING MEMBER	DRIVING MEMBER	DRIVING MEMBER REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION AMOUNT PAID	NON-DRIVING MEMBER REGISTRATION
Annual Fee	P2,000	P2,500	P1,500	P1,200	P6,000 <small>Non-Driving Member Registration & Renewal</small>
3-year Fee	P5,000	P6,000	P3,750	N/A	N/A
PAYMENT MODE					
Paid PhP <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> BPI's check free payments <small>Visit www.bpicexpressonline.com or call 89-100</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Pay through Banco de Oro (Institution code #0136) <small>Upon teller's validation, BDO payment slip serves as your official receipt</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Check Payment (payable to Automobile Association Philippines) <small>Date: _____ Bank: _____ Account No.: _____</small> <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: _____	CR. NO.: _____
INSURANCE NO.: _____		



The National Auto Club

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

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

AAP offers its members the following exclusive benefits:

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

Additional Products and Services:

Philippine International Driving Permit
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 Other Non-life Insurance Coverage
 AAP Autocare Service Center
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* 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 Super Xtra Gasoline 91 octane is a quality gasoline with a special additive that cleans and protects important parts of your car's engine.

Petron Xtra Advance 93 octane is the proven efficient fuel that has gas-saving boosters and fully synthetic detergents that keep the engine clean and make you go for the extra miles.

Petron XCS 95 octane is the triple action premium gasoline with the complete combustion system that provides smooth engine response, superior engine protection and optimal fuel efficiency.

Petron's first premium-plus gasoline with 100 octane that meets the European fuel quality standard compatible with Euro 4 vehicle technology. With its excellent fuel quality combined with an advanced additive system, you get the benefits of a powerful performance from an efficient and enviro-clean fuel.

The only Petron diesel with an advanced additive technology designed to deliver maximum performance in high speed diesel engines. Your powerful vehicle deserves only a powerful fuel.

The high quality diesel with enhanced cleaning technology that delivers improved fuel economy and cleaner emissions for longer engine life.

NISSAN

Innovation
that excites

THE ALL-NEW NISSAN NP300 NAVARA

It's not just a pickup. It's a step up.

The NP300 Navara comes with multi-link suspension – a first in its class. That means it's a smoother, more comfortable ride than any pickup out there. If you're thinking of what pickup to get, it's not a tough decision.

This elegant beast is the smart choice.

Tough. Smart.



J.D. Power Asia Pacific 2014 Philippines Customer Service Index (CSI) Study[™] Highest in Customer Satisfaction with After-sales Service among Mass-Market Brands

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Disclaimer: Nissan received the highest numerical score among auto manufacturers in the proprietary J.D. Power Asia Pacific 2014 Philippines Customer Service Index Study[™]. Study based on 1,733 new-vehicle owners who purchased their vehicles between February 2013 and May 2013 and took their vehicle for service to an authorized dealer or service center between August 2013 and May 2014. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February–May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit www.jdpower.com/corporate.