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Gus Lagman
AAPPRESIDENT

Understanding the LTFRB

MOST motorists who negotiate EDSA on a daily basis complain that there are far too many buses that ply this road. They also say that this situation is the one big reason why there is always heavy traffic along this main thoroughfare. Worse is—according to those I've talked to—the buses are usually only 30% to 40% full.

Another complaint is that everytime these buses swing out of their lane after loading or unloading passengers, they almost always block another two lanes, even if only temporarily. Several of these occurring in all the bus stops along the route, can start those huge traffic build-ups. Motorists notice that traffic eases up, even for a very short distance, right after these bus stops. Choke points, they truly are.

An open secret—it seems we have accepted this as a fact of life—is the existence of many “colorum” buses. Some estimates say that half of the buses that ply EDSA are “colorum.” They add that the reason all attempts to get them off the road have failed, despite the ningas cogon campaigns in the past, is that most of them are owned by former police and military generals.

In a long conversation with a legitimate bus operator (yes, Virginia, there is such a thing), I asked how they can make money when most of the time, the buses are only 30% to 40% full. He explained that what we probably fail to observe is that they would, on the other hand, normally be full on the trip back. His lament though—and he did mention this a few times during the conversation—is that traffic enforcers do not apprehend provincial buses which pick up passengers on EDSA. That is not supposed to be allowed. Once they leave their terminals, they should go non-stop until they're out of the city. And by the way, he added, they are clearly marked as “provincial buses.”

We've had many meetings with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, or LTFRB, which regulates the operation of ALL public utility (PU) vehicles. In collaboration with the UP National Center for Transportation Studies and sponsored by Toyota, the LTFRB and AAP run regular 3-day (re-training) seminars for PU vehicle drivers. In fact, all drivers who get involved with road crashes MUST go through this seminar before they would be issued back their driving permits. We also had an LTFRB director as guest in AAP's last Usapan episode.

Through our close association with this government agency, we have learned quite a few things, some of which, the ordinary motorist may not be aware of:

1. The LTFRB has no police powers; hence its personnel cannot apprehend “colorum” buses, provincial buses that pick up passengers within the city, or even erring PU drivers. About the only authority it has over PU operators is the renewal, or non-renewal, of franchises.
2. The agency cannot even withhold vehicle plates as these are issued by the Land Transportation Office (LTO). The same with the professional licenses of drivers.
3. When they run campaigns against “colorum” buses, they have to be deputized by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), which has the sole authority to apprehend drivers.
4. The office has only ONE vehicle assigned for enforcement. (AAP loaned one vehicle to the LTFRB which, despite inquiries over the years, can no longer be located.) and
5. It is terribly undermanned—it only has 400 people NATIONWIDE! Now we understand why nobody answers when we dial the “How's my driving” number.

An in-depth review of the LTFRB's operation is obviously badly needed. But while that is being planned, there are three points that we would like to bring out for the Department of Transportation and Communications' consideration:

1. Revisit a study that they started recently—that of installing radio frequency IDs on PU vehicles and on their plate numbers. With a combination of fixed and hand-held “readers”, traffic enforcers would be able to apprehend “colorum” PU vehicles, PU vehicles which do not display their own official plates, or which are out of their approved routes.
2. Consider giving the LTFRB limited police powers, then set a deadline for the agency to get rid of “colorum” PU vehicles.
3. Perhaps the LTO can pass on the physical issuance of vehicle plates and professional licenses to the LTFRB, even if the procurement of these items and the maintenance of the main database of plates and licenses are retained by them.

AAP can also help. We recently renewed our offer to run the “How's my driving” call center. We will look for sponsors from the private sector to augment whatever little budget the LTFRB has. AAP will soon sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the DOTC regarding the operation of driving simulators for the training and testing of professional drivers.

There are many more things that we, motorists, can do to help, but first we must understand what the real problems are. **QQ**

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Gus Lagman**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**
Armin A. Amio**WRITERS**
Jason K. Ang
Kap Maceda Aguilal
Vince Pornelos**GRAPHIC DESIGN**
Danny Hernando**AAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Augusto C. Lagman
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The Power to Surprise



Aida Sevilla Mendoza
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Is The Car of the Future Here?

YOU begin to think that the car of the future is here when you read the news that driverless cars were legalized in California last October. Plus they were already legalized in Nevada and Florida before California. Then there was the recent Reuters photo showing a Nissan prototype that parked itself automatically. Based on the Nissan Leaf electric car, the self-parking car was demonstrated at an electronics show in Chiba, Japan.

But self-parking technology is already commercially available in some automotive brands and models. Although we live in a Third World market where driverless cars and all-electric vehicles are not available and probably won't be for many, many years, it's good to know what's in store for motorists in the future, especially automotive innovations that will make driving substantially safer and easier.

Some of the innovations that make motoring safer for all road users are already offered in high-end brands that are imported CBU (completely built up) and sold locally, such as the Pedestrian Detection with full auto brake, Collision Warning with auto brake, Driver Alert Control, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Information System and the City Safety standard that lessens or avoids low-speed rear-end impacts by automatically braking the car if the driver is driving too fast towards a stationary object. These innovations are either standard or optional in Volvo vehicles.

In the 2012 Ford Focus, Escape and Explorer, the optional Active Park Assist with electronic sensors and electronic power assisted steering parks the car with almost no driver input. The third-generation Toyota Prius Five has an optional advanced technology package that includes dynamic radar cruise control, pre-collision system, lane keep assist and advanced parking guidance. The 2012 Lexus LS460 and LS460L offer an optional advanced parking guidance package for thousands of dollars more.

The sixth-generation BMW 3 Series launched this year offers numerous assistance systems such as optional parking assistance. In some Mercedes-Benz models, the Parktronic's ultrasonic sensors in the front and rear bumpers provide signals and illuminated displays to help the driver navigate tight parking spots.

But these advanced technology options are nowhere as dramatic as the driverless car, a.k.a. autonomous vehicle, robotic car, automated automobile or self-driving car, a concept that has been experimented with by General Motors, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen and Audi aside from

universities and an agency of the United States Defense Department. Mobile robotics R&D is led by Google, the Web search engine based in California, which in 2010 equipped six Toyota Prius hybrid cars and an Audi TT for a successful 250,000-kilometer driverless car testing program on roads in California. Each driverless car had a "human chaperon" to override the software in case it stalled, plus another Google employee monitoring the equipment from the front seat.

The Google researchers claim that driverless car technology can eliminate human error, the leading cause of accidents, and thereby cut in half the frequency of road crashes aside from transforming car sharing and reducing car usage, which in turn results in less air pollution and less dependence on foreign oil. They envision the creation of a new "highway train" in which future cars are controlled by computers to drive in tight convoys at high speeds, preventing accidents and improving fuel economy.

Meanwhile, the fully electric battery-powered plug-in car seems to have lost its promise as the car of the future. Critics say that electric vehicles (EVs) are too expensive (\$41,000 for the Chevrolet Volt, \$33,000 for the Nissan Leaf), take too long to recharge (eight hours for the Leaf) and don't provide enough driving range (about 160 km after a full charge) to be practical for most consumers and the mass market.

The EV's marketability was not helped any when a Volt caught fire and the battery packs in three others ignited weeks after a crash test conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Eventually, after a congressional investigation of the Volt in Washington and GM's vow to make the necessary safety improvements, the NHTSA cleared the Volt of any safety risk. After this, GM suspended production of the Volt for five weeks. Sales of the Leaf, meanwhile, remain sluggish.

The disappointing sales of battery-powered cars made by GM, Nissan, Renault and Tesla have shifted the focus to plug-in hybrids, which can travel short distances on battery power alone and switch to gasoline or diesel for longer trips and can be fully recharged in a little over an hour. While carmakers have not entirely dropped plans to develop EVs, many like Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche are now focusing on plug-in hybrids as a mass market product and as a viable alternative to reduce greenhouse gases.

Yet the plug-in hybrid cannot be called the car of the future because it is already present. Toyota, the acknowledged pioneer and leader in hybrid technology, began selling the Prius Plug-in last March 2012 at selected dealerships in 15 launch states in the U.S. In 2013, the Prius Plug-in will be available in all other states.

So in answer to the question: Is the car of the future here? One may answer, "Not quite yet." **AQ**

"They envision the creation of a new "highway train" in which future cars are controlled by computers to drive in tight convoys at high speeds."

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Beyond the call of duty

Our family would like to thank AAP for rescuing us during the Habagat-induced flashflood in Cainta on Aug 8. After the rains that lasted for hours on end, our house got flooded and the water level in our street reached almost waist level.

Since more rains were expected, we decided to call AAP to tow our car which was in the garage, with half a wheel under water. Although we didn't expect immediate assistance—thinking that AAP would be inundated with calls for assistance during these times—to my surprise I was told that we were fourth on the waiting list. Not long after, the AAP tow truck was at the gate of the subdivision. But there was a problem. Some parked cars are already blocking the way to our place.

Subdivision residents often park their vehicles in known elevated places when heavy rains come. This time they completely blocked access, locked their vehicles and went home, and gate guards couldn't do anything about it. I pleaded with the AAP driver to take us out instead if our car couldn't be towed. I waded through the water and personally talked to the driver and his companion. I told them we were senior citizens and already had a harrowing experience during Typhoon Ondoy. They were very accommodating and one of them even volunteered to go with me and help carry some of our things. We waded back to the house and back to the tow truck and were safely evacuated—myself, my wife, the maid plus our small dog. We were dropped off at my son's place in Mandaluyong. We could only heave a sigh of relief. That night rains continued to fall over Metro Manila, worsening the situation. We would definitely have been worse off both physically and emotionally if not for those generous and kindhearted guys from AAP.

I do not remember their names but I am sure they will be somehow rewarded because helping out people in need is already in their blood - I don't believe our case is an isolated one. It also says a lot about AAP itself and is reflective of the training and orientation your people in the field receive, not to mention the professionalism and efficiency wherein roadside emergency services are carried out.

By the way any contact with AAP over the years—whether it be with an operator, collector or field personnel—has always been a pleasant experience.

Thank you again and more power to you and all your staff,

Julius Magdangal
Imperial St.
Vista Verde Executive Village PH 9
Cainta, Rizal



THANK YOU for your letter Mr. Magdangal. AAP personnel, including the drivers who assisted you — ARLO BALDISIMO and SAMMY ESPEJO, are urged to go beyond the call of duty in helping the members. We are glad that we were able to lend a hand to you and your family during that terrible event. Rest assured that we will continue work harder to aid our members. — AQ Editors



Going for medium-sized vehicles

I recently received Vol 3 issue 3 of AQ, and I commend you on the articles on road safety. I especially like the references to driver attitude.

On page 29 you recommended that teenagers be given older and bigger cars, yet on page 30 writer Vince Pornelos wrote "...there are always drawbacks to going for an old hand-me-down..." and then focused on "small cars."

However, depending on the type of vehicles one is sharing the roads with, and the speeds one is usually traveling, new small cars tend not to be safer than large old ones. The bigger the vehicle the more protection one has. As a matter of physics, when a large object collides frontally with a smaller one, the more massive one continues traveling forward but at a slower speed, while the smaller one is forced to reverse direction. This means occupants of smaller vehicles tend to be subject to larger deceleration forces than the occupants of heavier vehicles.

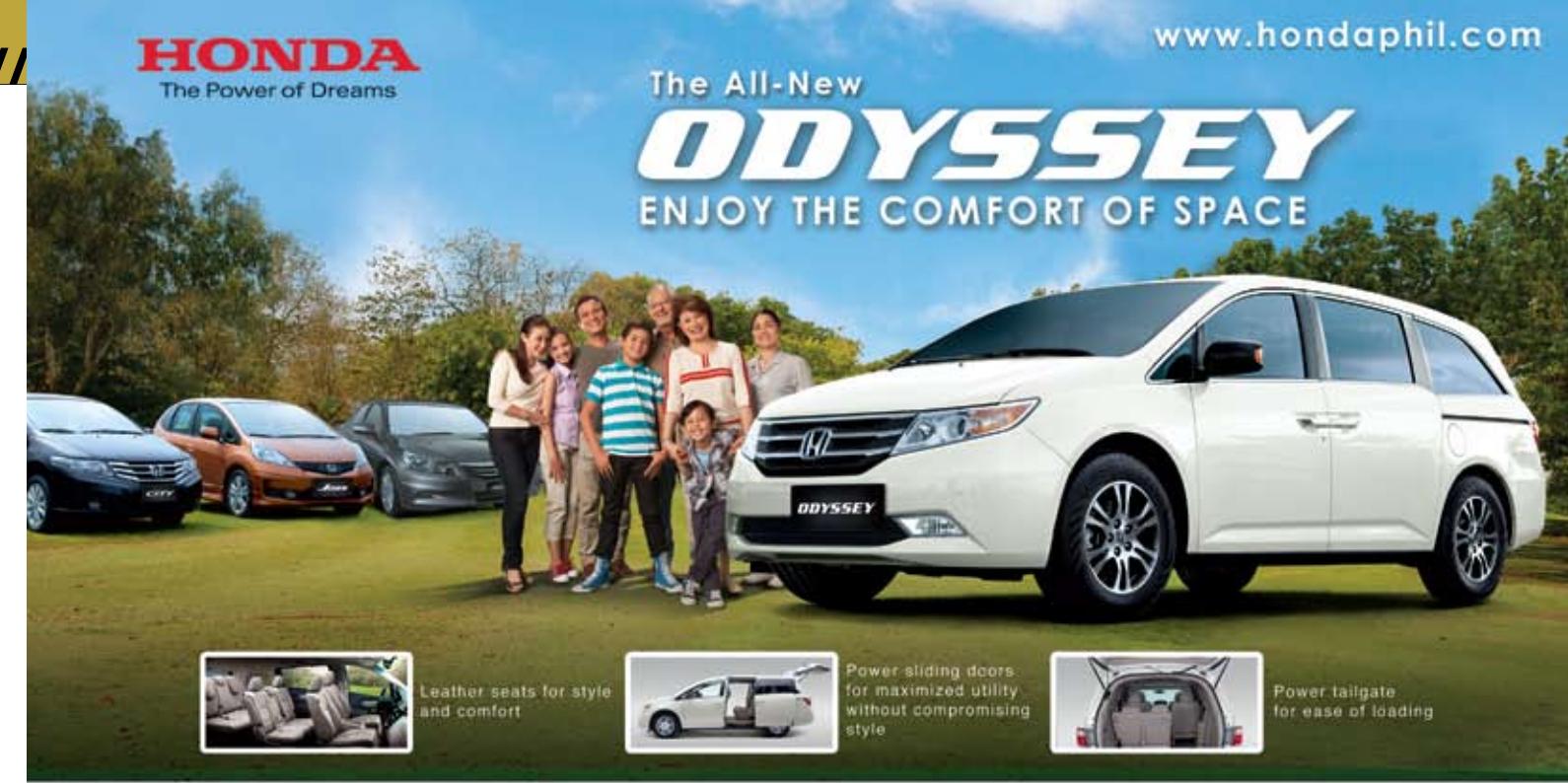
We cannot all go around driving tanks, but medium-sized vehicles could be safest for all. If the roads were dominated by bicycles, as China was decades ago, riding bicycles would be best for overall road safety.

Regards,
Colin den Ronden
Caloocan

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We welcome letters from our members. Just email to AAPQuarterly@gmail.com or info@aap.org.ph. Published letters get to win prizes.

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Road Traffic Safety Training for PUV drivers



THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies Foundation, Inc. (UP-NCTSFI) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement on Road Traffic Safety for all Public Utility Vehicle Drivers at the LTFRB-Central Office, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Under the agreement, the LTFRB

shall formulate and enforce policies in the implementation of training courses for all public utility vehicle drivers (PUV) on road safety and clean air awareness. The AAP and UP-NCTSFI will do extensive studies and research on public transportation, provide facilities and materials and conduct road safety training seminars and a clean air awareness campaign through tri-media programs meant for PUV drivers.. **aq**

Although similar activities were carried out in the past by the LTFRB together with concerned government agencies and transport groups in fulfillment of its mandate to ensure public safety and the convenience of the riding public, it hopes that this agreement will more effectively address the rising number of road crashes, particularly those caused by unprofessional, inefficient and negligent PUV drivers. **aq**

AAP Travel to host tourism and mobility summit

THE first Asia Pacific Tourism and Mobility Conference and Exhibits will bring some of the world's prime movers in motor sports and tourism to the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center on November 28-30, 2013.

Spearheaded by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) Travel, the project supports the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 by gathering together products, technical know-how and specialists to share their best practices and experiences on achieving economic efficiencies and simultaneously educate all stakeholders on green mobility.

The event's theme "SAVING: Lives, Costs, Planet" aptly describes its mission of helping achieve the UN Decade of Action's targets to save, over the next 20 years, up to 5 million lives and prevent 50 million injuries through the implementation of effective road safety measures. At the same time, the conference aims to

help save the environment with the use of new technologies.

"SAVING Lives, Costs, Planet" hopes to build strong partnerships among various local and national government agencies and the private sector in the Philippines and the Asian region as well.

Renowned experts from the international motoring world have been invited to speak on the challenges and opportunities of urgent global concerns and programs to tackle these. Aside from the conference and exhibits, other exciting activities are lined up for the delegates, exhibitors and the consuming public. World-class entertainment and production numbers that will showcase Filipino talent are in store during the course of the three-day event.

AAP Travel is a wholly owned subsidiary of AAP, the national auto club and only Philippine affiliate of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile. **aq**



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For more information on how Shell does its share to help deliver the world's energy needs in economically, environmentally and socially responsible ways, visit www.shell.com.ph/sdinaction and www.shell.com/futureenergy.



LTFRB, Bus and Truck Operators Tackle Road Safety at 2nd Usapan AAP

THE 2nd Usapan AAP, a monthly roundtable forum where government and private sector individuals involved in promoting road safety meet the press, was held on October 24, 2012 and had as panelists Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Board Member Atty. Al Parreño representing LTFRB Chairman Jaime Jacob, Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines (CTAP) president Rupert Bayocot and De la Rosa Bus Lines CEO Rosauro de la Rosa with *Philippine Star* columnist Cito Beltran as moderator.

The panelists, the media present and AAP officers tackled the topic "How the LTFRB Bus Operators and Truckers Can Work Together to Improve Road Safety," a timely theme due to the rapidly increasing frequency of road crashes involving buses and trucks. The press raised questions about the franchising requirements of the LTFRB, the National Certification and Salary System of bus and truck drivers, accident prevention measures, "colorum" out-of-line buses illegally plying EDSA, the proposed Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system for buses and the accessibility of government agencies to motorists.

AAP president Gus Lagman offered AAP's help in manning LTFRB's hotline call center which, according to Parreño, receives an average of 396 calls per day. Parreno admitted that the LTFRB cannot respond to all the calls since they only have one hotline. Lagman said that AAP

had earlier proposed a hotline project to the Department of Transportation and Communications, but unfortunately nothing came of it. "So now we in AAP are willing to handle a call center together with the LTFRB to respond to motorists' concerns and complaints," he said.

Lagman added that AAP is willing to help the LTFRB in reporting and/or apprehending buses and trucks that violate franchise and traffic regulations. Making motoring safe and pleasant is AAP's foremost advocacy, Lagman said, and this is one reason why AAP launched the monthly Usapan AAP forum.

Also present at the 2nd Usapan AAP was Leonardo "Dodo" Macapagal, operator of G Liner which is recognized as the oldest operating bus company in Metro Manila. Macapagal complained about a provincial bus line operating out-of-line without a franchise on the G Liner's route and

appealed to the LTFRB to take action on the "colorum" vehicles' illegal operations.

"We take pride in the fact that we are now the third generation running this bus company and we already have our fourth generation on board ready to take over when we feel like we're already getting old," Macapagal said. "So we ask the government's help as they too should do their part in improving the traffic and franchising system here in Metro Manila."

Usapan AAP concluded with Parreño's assurance that the LTFRB is studying all possible means to effectively remove out-of-line buses from EDSA. Emcee Cito Beltran thanked everyone present and commented, "This Usapan is unique and dedicated to address the motorists' concerns, dedicated to the motoring industry and media. So please continue to invite us, the government agencies and the private groups, we are now in the position to carry the message." **aq**



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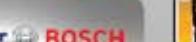
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2012 PTCC Season Blasts Off

THE 2012 season of the Philippine Touring Car Championship Series (PTCC) blasted off last November 3 and 4 at the Batangas Racing Circuit with the country's top circuit drivers competing for the chequered flag.

In the Division 1 race, William Tan got top awards by winning three races against qualifying pole sitter Enzo Pastor, who suffered car problems during the race. In the Division 2 race, Leo San Juan surprised everyone with a 2-3 win using his Nissan Sentra but Jeff Borja made the round 3 win after a fantastic start over rivals Jon Mark Ong and newcomer Douglas Maningding.

Meanwhile in Division 3, novice driver Alan Arguelles topped the three races, beating rival Allen Macaraig whose car faltered during the afternoon race.

With the new race format for this year using a horsepower cap in each division, it was easy to determine scrutineering results as all cars had to pass the dyno test after each race using Speedlab's Dynapack machine. "It was an interesting 1st leg race series as we applied the new race format and new set of technical rules in partnership with Speedlab," Mark Desales of AAP Motorsports said. "It made scrutineering a lot easier since after each race, the top three cars in each division had to pass specific horsepower and torque reading

tests before being declared eligible for the win. Some cars did not pass the dyno check and were disqualified, giving other drivers the chance to win. The dyno check on finishes will automatically determine the positions after each race".

At the opening ceremonies, AAP Motor Sports Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque gave the opening remarks followed by the Oath of Sportsmanship led by 2010 Driver of the Year awardee Joey Pery. Jay Javier of Kumho Tires, the official tire and co-presenter of the 2012 PTCC Series, delivered the welcome remarks,

The 2012 PTCC is organized by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) and promoted by Philippine Race Car Driver's Inc. (PRCDI) and co-presented by Kumho Tires in partnership with Tiarra, Seaoil Extreme 97, 2GO Travel, Forex, Promethium, Velocity Motors, Honda Cars Kalookan and Aeromed Ambulance Transport.. Rounds 4, 5 and 6 are scheduled on December 1 and 2 at Clark International Speedway.

For more information, please call AAP Motorsports at tel. no. 655 5889 loc. 823. **AQ**



1ST LEG RESULTS: QUALIFYING TIME TRIAL

DIVISION 1 (200hp)	DIVISION 2 AND 3 (150 and 100hp)
1st Enzo Pastor	1st Jeff Borja
2nd William Tan	2nd Leo San Juan
3rd Joey Pery	3rd Jon Mark Ong
4th Dwight Kevin Carlos	4th Douglas Maningding
5th Arnel Carlos	5th Allan Arguelles
6th Dondon Portugal	6th Bayani Vargas
7th Uly Maningding	

ROUND 1

DIVISION 1 (200hp)	DIVISION 2 AND 3 (150 and 100hp)
1st William Tan	1st Leo San Juan
2nd Dondon Portugal	2nd Jon Mark Ong
3rd Dwight Kevin Carlos	3rd Jeff Borja
4th Uly Maningding	4th Douglas Maningding
Arnel Carlos - DNF	5th Alan Arguelles
Joey Pery - DQ	6th Allen Macaraig
Enzo Pastor - DQ	7th Bayani Vargas

ROUND 2

DIVISION 1 (200hp)	DIVISION 2 AND 3 (150 and 100hp)
1st William Tan	1st Leo San Juan
2nd Dwight Kevin Carlos	2nd Jon Mark Ong
3rd Enzo Pastor	3rd Douglas Maningding
4th Arnel Carlos	4th Jeff Borja
5th Uly Maningding	5th Alan Arguelles
6th Joey Pery	6th Allen Macaraig
Dondon Portugal - DQ	
Joselu Romero Salas - DQ	

ROUND 3

DIVISION 1 (200hp)	DIVISION 2 AND 3 (150 and 100hp)
1st William Tan	1st Jeff Borja
2nd Arnel Carlos	2nd Douglas Maningding
3rd Dwight Kevin Carlos	3rd Leo San Juan
4th Enzo Pastor	4th Alan Arguelles
5th Dondon Portugal	5th Allen Macaraig
6th Joselu Romero Salas	6th Bayani Vargas
Jon Mark Ong - DNF	

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AAP President Gus Lagman receives a Star Cash Card from Caltex Government Relations & Communications Assistant Manager Ning Ignacio.



AAP Travel Organizes Drive Tour Caravan to RIZAL

AUTOMOBILE Association Philippines (AAP) Travel successfully organized a caravan to drive and explore the art and nature destinations of Rizal province on November 17, 2012.

Attended by AAP directors, members, friends, and media, the caravan, the fourth in AAP's series, was called "Rizal: A Visit to the Philippine Cradle of Art and Nature." The caravan flagged off early morning from the Caltex station at EDSA corner Connecticut St., Greenhills since Caltex was the fuel sponsor.

Participants first visited Flor's Garden,

the sanctuary of birds and butterflies, followed by the refreshing Daranak falls.

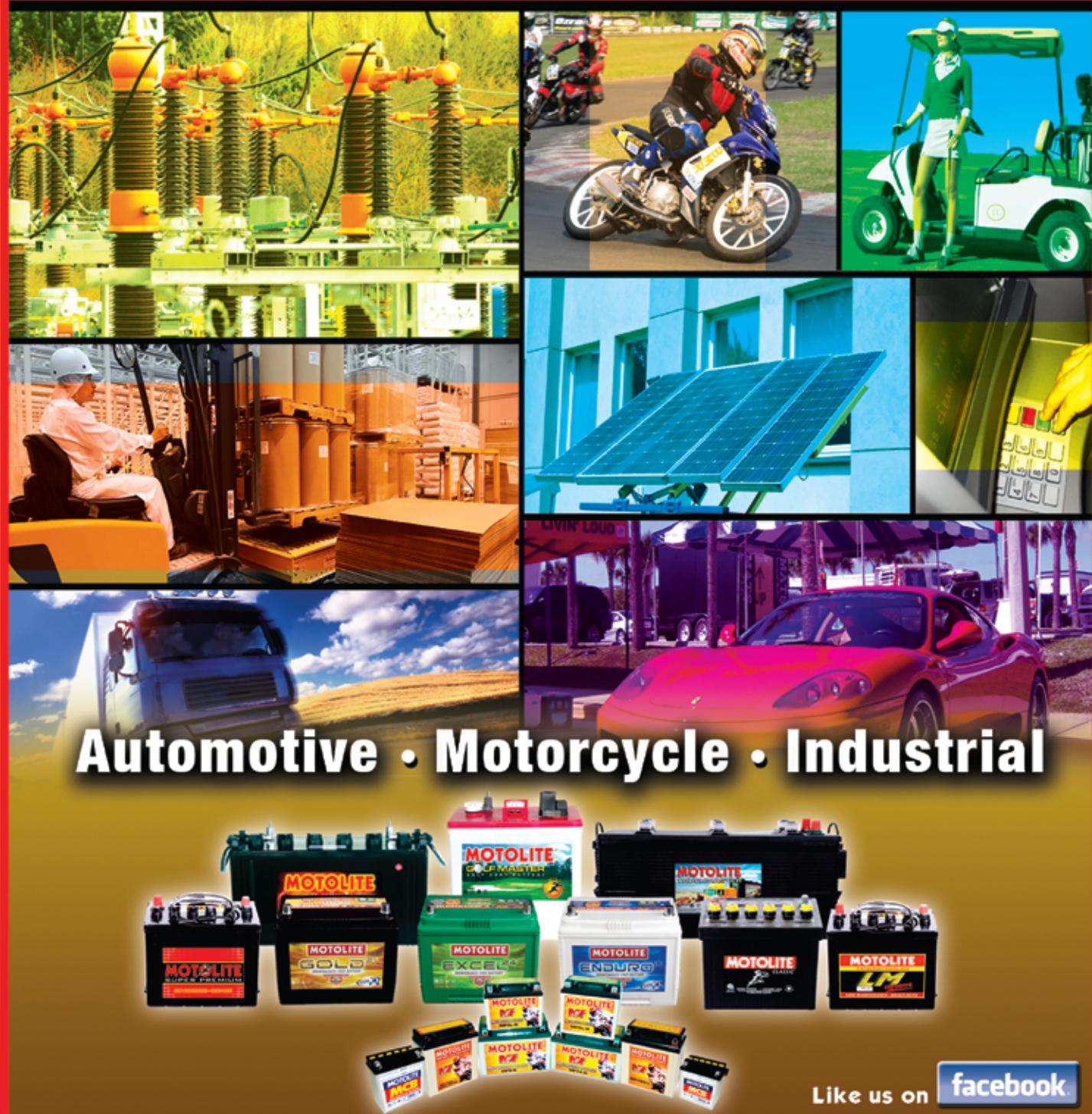
After the visit to nature sites, the caravan proceeded to the over 300 year-old Baras Church, and then headed to the Thunderbird Resort for lunch. Afterwards, a travel back in time to the years Before Christ as they visited the famous Binangonan Petroglyphs—a cultural

landmark as these "artworks" were dated to have been engraved in the year 3000 B.C..

As part of the centennial birthday celebration of the Rizal native Carlos "Botong" Francisco, the caravan drove to the eminent murals of Philippine National Artist for Visual Arts along the streets of Barangay Poblacion in Angono.

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Many caravan participants were pleasantly surprised and impressed by the attractions that Rizal has to offer



Next, the participants admired the numerous oeuvres in the Blanco Family Museum and the world-class decorations at the Yab design studio. Antipolo Church was the last stop before the caravan returned to Metro Manila.

Many caravan participants were pleasantly surprised and impressed by the attractions that Rizal has to offer because Philippine tourism is often associated with destinations far from Manila.

Headed by AAP Director and former Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Mina Gabor, the Rizal caravan was co-organized with DOT Region 4 and sponsored by AAP, Caltex, Aeromed, Thunderbird Resort and the local government units of Rizal, Angono, Baras, Antipolo, and Tanay. **aq**

About AAP Travel

AAP Travel is a subsidiary of Automobile Association Philippines (AAP). It offers individual and group travel products and services to leisure and corporate clients who wish to travel within or outside the country. Products and services offered are package tours, land tours, caravan, hotel accommodation, airline tickets, car rental, travel insurance and visa assistance.

AAP is a non-stock, not-for-profit organization committed to the general welfare of motorists in the Philippines. It is the country's biggest and oldest existing auto club with 40,000 members nationwide. It was founded in 1931 and formerly

A sister organization is the American Automobile Association (AAA), a federation of 51 independently operated motor clubs throughout North America. It is a not-for-profit member service organization with more than 51 million members.

Traffic of which the Philippines is one of the contracting parties. In 2004, both merged into the FIA, the world's largest auto club federation and governing body for four-wheel motor sports worldwide.

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) is a non-profit association established to represent the interests of motoring organisations and motor car users. To the general public, the FIA is mostly known as the governing body for many auto racing events.

A sister organization is the American Automobile Association (AAA), a federation of 51 independently operated motor clubs throughout North America. It is a not-for-profit member service organization with more than 51 million members.



When Thinking of Investments, Consider a Time Deposit

WHEN people think about investments, several things come to mind – stocks, bonds, treasury bills, real estate, and others. But another form of investment that seldom comes just as easily as the aforementioned ones is a time deposit.

A time deposit, especially with a reputable and stable bank, is one sure way to reap a future financial windfall.

While time deposits or TD's are indeed deposit products, unlike regular savings deposits, a TD often has a higher interest rate. The rates differ according to the type of time deposit and the norm is the longer the deposit stays with the bank, the better the interest rate. This is the downside though of a TD: it cannot be withdrawn just as easily as that of a regular savings deposit. It has to stay with the bank for an agreed period or "term". After the term, the principal amount can be withdrawn with the accrued interest, or, if the depositor chooses, it can be held for another term. In addition, interest rates may also be driven by market factors.

However, unlike investing in the stock market, or worse, gambling your money away at the casino or betting on horses, a time deposit in a reputable bank is probably the safest way for an individual to save and grow his or her money.

However, before rushing off to save your hard-earned money in a TD, there are several factors to consider first.

Mr. Jesus Vicente Garcia, Executive Vice-President and Branch Banking Group Head of Philippine Veterans Bank advises individuals to look beyond the interest rate when shopping for time deposit products. Individuals should also consider the bank's reputation and understand that not all time deposit products are alike. They should also read the fine print and understand all the terms and conditions of the time deposit product before signing the dotted line, so to speak.

MAXIMIZED RETURNS ON A LONG-TERM TD INVESTMENT

Philippine Veterans Bank, a commercial bank with a network of 60 branches nationwide, offers time deposit products with terms of 30 to 360 days. But for the past couple of years, it has also been offering individuals a long-term time deposit product that will deliver a financial windfall at the end of five years: Maxi-Return Time Deposit.

"Our Maxi-Return Time Deposit is one of three long-term TD products currently offered by the bank that offers maximized return on your investment," said Mr. Garcia. "And this is because of the 5% interest rate we can give you."

LONG-TERM TIME DEPOSITS STILL ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT OPTION

Since Veterans Bank launched its long-term time deposit products two years ago, the market response has been overwhelming. According to Mr. Garcia, the bank achieved its target of hitting Php 2 billion for its long-term time deposit products last year.

This year, despite the economic slowdown globally, Mr. Garcia still believes that TD products will still be an attractive investment given that the Philippine market has experienced an uptick of late.

"People, especially those looking for long-term financial rewards, will still look at time deposit products that will be offered by banks," said Mr. Garcia. "And I still believe that with 5% interest and free accident insurance incentive, our Maxi-Return TD will still be foremost in their minds."

Indeed time deposit products will be a success mainly because people will always want to secure their future and are always looking for a safe yet enriching investment.



Reward yourself with **Php 128,371.18***
with a **Php 100,000 time deposit today.**

5%+



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Php 1,000,000	Php 283,711.62
Php 5,000,000	Php 1,418,557.93

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BUYING a car is not only a spur-of-the-moment decision. It needs plenty of research work to stay within your budget just to find a car suitable for your needs. Thankfully, a wide array of car loan options is available to buyers.



Auto loan 101

Each bank needs a different set of requirements as well as qualifications in approving car loan applications. These include the car's model year (banks have set limits for second-hand vehicle purchases), car brand, location, capacity to pay, downpayment and monthly amortization. The general rule is the loan amount should be equivalent to a maximum of 30% of the borrower's monthly income. A co-borrower may be required if the loan amount is higher than the borrowing capability of the primary debtor.

The market for auto loans is very competitive. Banks and financing institutions outdo one another in trying to get a prospective borrower to take a loan from them. It's best for the prospective car buyer to shop around and get the best deal possible.

LOAN REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- at least one-year employment (if company owner, business must be operational for at least 2 years and with positive income for at least one year)
- 21 to 65 years old
- good credit standing
- overseas workers need a co-borrower based in the Philippines with a signed Power of Attorney
- foreigners must be married to a Philippine national

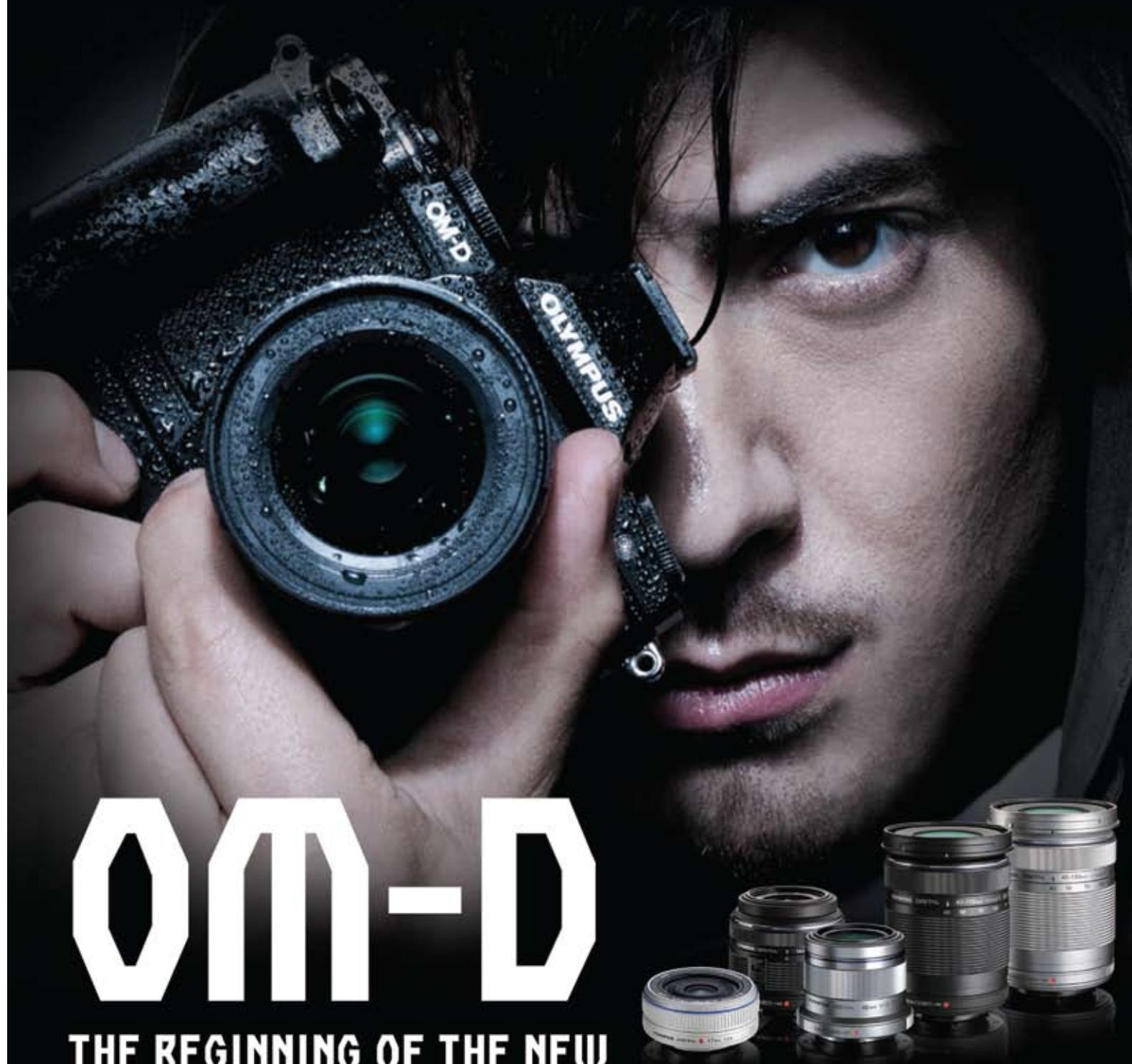
DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- latest pay slip
- latest bank statements
- income tax return
- certificate of employment
- government-issued IDs

COMPANY OWNERS NEED TO PROVIDE:

- DTI/SEC registration
- 6-month bank statements
- audited financial statements

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LUGGING around a big, heavy camera often takes the joy out of traveling. It's not possible to "walk in the park" when a bulky camera is hanging from your neck. Purists, however, would contend that a good travel photo needs a professional camera. Point and shoot and smartphone cameras often don't do justice to those wonderful sites when traveling.



Perfect travel companion: OLYMPUS OM-D

Thankfully, Olympus has come up with the OM-D, a new-generation system camera that has the micro four-thirds standard. It is compact and lightweight, made of magnesium alloy and enhanced with dust-/splash-proof capability. It features a 16.05-megapixel new Live MOS Sensor and TruePic VI image processing engine so you can take high image quality photos, similar to those taken by professional cameras. The excellent noise reduction capability enables still image shooting sensitivity as high as ISO25600. The dynamic range has been expanded for more faithful reproduction of a wide brightness range.

Also unique to the OM-D is its electronic viewfinder that enables real-time checking of various shooting condition as well as the world's first five-axis image stabilization feature to compensate for camera shake of any kind during both still photo and movie shooting.

The FAST AF system in the OM-D sets a new benchmark for the industry once again. Olympus has also solved the problem of moving object tracking capability with a newly developed 3D Tracking AF system. Now, quick and accurate focusing is possible with any subject, whether it's standing still or burning down the track.

In all, the Olympus OM-D is designed for serious camera buffs who want to make full use of interchangeable lenses and shoot photographic masterpieces by looking into the viewfinder, without having to worry about the weather or environmental conditions. Sand, sun, sleet, or snow, OM-D is a camera that's always ready to go.

The Olympus OM-D sells for P 56,750 (body only) and P62,750 (body with kit lens) with partners and resellers of Red Dot Philippines, the distributor of Olympus cameras in the country. The Philippines' Sweetheart, Erich Gonzales, is Olympus cameras' brand ambassador. **aq**

FIA Heritage Museums: Driving the past to the future

Tis often said that in order to see the future one must look at the past. The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) has drawn up a list of museums all over the world so current and future generations can get to see the motoring legacy in various countries.

Compiled by the FIA International Historical Commission (IHC), the showcase museums are located in 33 countries, covering Europe, North and South America, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. The commission is a specialized entity in FIA dealing with the non-sporting side of the historic vehicle movement. The attributions of the CHI include: studying the various historical aspects of the automobile in order to identify, collect, enrich and protect the records relating to the history of the automobile at international level; helping to set international definitions and standards relating to the different aspects of historic



vehicles with a view to harmonization of existing national definitions and standards; monitoring national and international legislation in order to preclude measures which could adversely affect the use of historic vehicles on public roads or could adversely affect their preservation as objects

of rich cultural and historical significance; assisting and advising all FIA member organizations in their activities relating to historical cars, their preservation and enjoyment; working in close cooperation with the Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens (FIVA) to achieve the goal

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and to ensure the safeguard and heritage of the historic movement.

The commission identified automobile museums and special collections all over the world. The aim is to provide practical information on as many automobile museums as possible for motorists, travelers, historic vehicle enthusiasts, and motoring enthusiasts in general.

The IHC has created a Museums Working Party to compile a list which is now made available on a dedicated microsite (www.fiaheritagemuseums.com). The site lists more than 180 museums around the world displaying historic vehicles from cars and trucks to motor bikes, buses, trams and trains... and even tanks! It's a unique reference site, not just for vintage and classic vehicle lovers, but also for motorists and tourists.

The US has 15 museums in the website, including the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Pennsylvania which stands in honor of one man's journey to become an auto industry giant. The spectacular collection, which spans more than a century, showcases the achievements of the company Chrysler founded and the importance of these vehicles in creating today's society.

There is also a Model T Automotive Heritage Complex in Dearborn, Michigan. The "T-Plex" has a couple dozen cars from the "brassy" era—not all of them Fords with pictures of people who worked there. The Ford Piquette Avenue plant is well preserved and largely unchanged from its original 1904 appearance. The exterior of the building is immediately recognizable as the same building shown in early photographs—still in its original red brick, complete with

original fire escapes and windows.

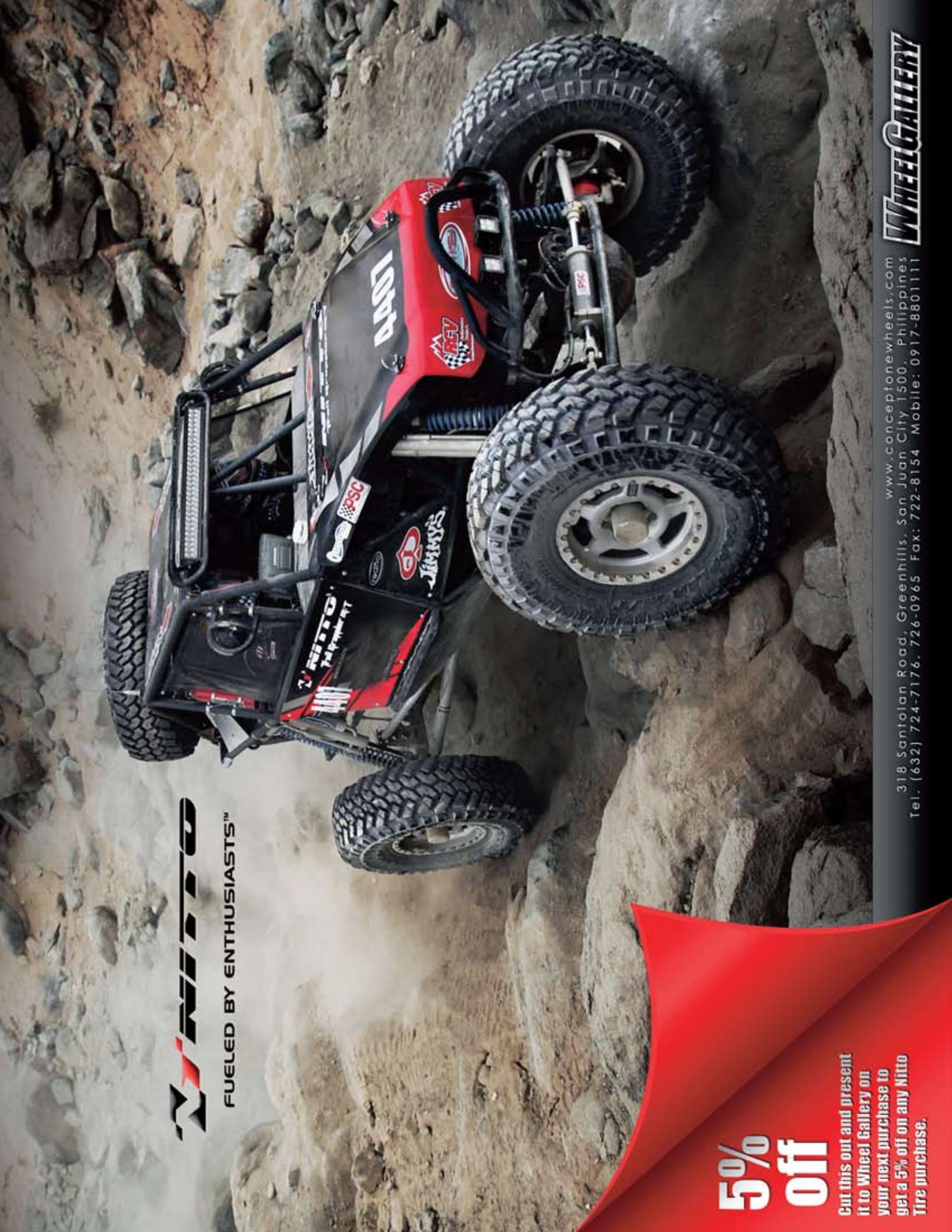
In Japan, there is the Toyota Automotive Museum in Aichi-ken while South Korea's contribution is the Samsung Transportation Museum in Gyeonggi province which displays a collection of over 700 world-famous pieces including 50 cars, 15 motorcycles, bicycles, horse-drawn carriages, and other transportation-related articles such as vehicle prototypes, parts, hood ornaments, souvenirs and artwork.

Italy has the Umberto Panini Collection in Modena which offers rare and unique Maserati cars and motorcycles. It is a private collection, started by the Panini brothers, today owned by the Panini family and kept intact. Germany has 20 museums listed in the site ranging from collections of old and rare Porsches, Volkswagen, Mercedes Benzes, Audis, to name a few. **aq**

THE JET ON THE HIGHWAY

By the 1950s the internal combustion piston engine seemed dated to many automakers. To an engineering-driven company like Chrysler, the gas turbine—with less vibration, fuel flexibility, and fewer parts—had great appeal. Although Chrysler solved many of the turbine's drawbacks as an auto engine, the cheap-to-build piston engine, with its good response and relative economy, was still more practical. Chrysler's turbine experiments stretched over three decades.

Compiled by the FIA International Historical Commission (IHC), the showcase museums are located in 33 countries, covering Europe, North and South America, Asia, Australia and New Zealand



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New Year, New Metal The Cars of 2013

TEXT by Vince Pornelos / PHOTOS: Press

ANOTHER year is upon us, and like any new year, car manufacturers are coming out with more exciting models to further expand the market and provide the needs of today's car shoppers.

Year on year, every new model from every brand gains numerous improvements, more new technologies, more features, better designs and other bits all around. For this issue of **AQ Magazine**, we take a look at the upcoming models set to arrive in the Philippines, as well as models that are being prepared for their global debuts.

If you're not yet excited, you should be. There's a lot coming our way, regardless what car class—compact, SUV, sports cars, etc—you're interested in.

AUDI

Audi has a lot in store for 2013, after a strong 2012 with models like the Q3, A1 and A6. Apart from the usual special editions and upgrades/uploads, the brand with 4 rings will be launching the all new A3. The new model is much improved over the old model that has been on sale since 2004.

Called the Typ 8V within the Audi circle, the new A3 gets a new range of engines, and comes in various body styles such as



a 3-door hatchback, though until next year, it will continue as the Type 8P platform for the 5-door versions. Audi will also reportedly offer a 4-door sedan version to fully slot in under the larger A4.

Engine choices would include a 1.4-liter TFSI (turbo intercooler, direct gasoline injection) with 122 PS, a 1.8-liter TFSI with 180 PS, as well as 1.6-liter TDI (turbo diesel) and 2.0 TDI versions.

BMW

BMW's 2013 is still shrouded in a lot of mystery. An M3 is reportedly in the works by BMW's elite M Division, set to rival the C 63 AMG of Mercedes and based on the new 3-Series. Judging by how good the current 3-Series is, it won't be a surprise to see how BMW M can raise the bar.

What's truly interesting about BMW next year is a rumored all-new model in the X range: the X4. As the number states, the X4 would slot in between the X3 and X4, giving BMW's customers a broader range of choices in the market. Given the reception towards BMW's niche models like the 6-series Gran Coupe and the 5-series Gran Turismo, market reaction to the rumored model will be interesting.

That's not all, as there are plenty of reports surrounding a 2-Series and a 4-Series. Of course, as time progresses, we will know more what BMW truly intends for the coming year and beyond. There are no official or actual photos online, but a quick search would reveal various artist digital renderings as to what they could possibly look like. Still, time will tell.

CHEVROLET

Chevrolet Philippines has had an interesting 2012, launching models like the Sonic, the Colorado, Orlando and Trailblazer. 2013 is more about Chevrolet in the US as the brand that bears Louis Chevrolet's bowtie

is getting ready for two possible all new models: the Chevrolet SS and the Chevrolet Corvette C7.

Both cars are, of course, made in the USA for the USA and will be powered by new small block V8 engines. The C7 will be the powerful supercar beater as it always was, while the SS -before just a badge denoting Super Sport- will be an all new performance sedan from Chevy. The SS will make its debut at the 2013 Daytona 500.

CHRYSLER

What could be in store for Chrysler? Locally, Chrysler's operations are handled by CATS Motors, and have been performing well despite only selling the 300C and Town & Country minivan under the brand. In the US, they've already launched the Chrysler 200 sedan, and while it is still unclear whether it will be arriving here, there is a good possibility that it could.

Chrysler, however, is also working on something new: the Chrysler 100. The compact car, actually a hatchback, was caught testing in various areas. Based on the Dodge Dart, the Chrysler 100 expands the brand's model portfolio into new territory; unsurprising as Fiat—itself a small car specialist—now owns 58.5% of Chrysler.

DODGE

Also distributed by CATS Motors, Dodge—like Chrysler—is expanding its model line-up with more variety. Locally, Dodge sells the Durango, as well as the Challenger, Journey and Charger, among others. In the US, Dodge has just launched the Dart; a compact sedan powered by engines that range from 1.4 liters to 2.4 liters. The 1.4-liter engine is the more interesting motor, as thanks to turbocharging, it produces 160 PS.

Another interesting model is the newly launched Viper in the US. Unlike before, the Viper is no longer named under the Dodge

brand, as it is now branded under SRT, or Street and Racing Technology; the elite performance division of Chrysler. The 2013 SRT Viper gets an 8.4-liter V10 engine, and is capable of 640 horsepower.

FERRARI

The prancing horse is also keen on expanding its model lineup, and has begun a revolution of its models in the past few years, starting with the California, 458 Italia, 458 Spyder and FF.

Next year, Ferrari Philippines, under the distributorship of Wellington Soong and his automotive group, is set to launch the Ferrari F12berlinetta, the official replacement of models like the 599 series of grand touring cars. The F12berlinetta is powered by a 6.3-liter V12 engine capable of 740 horsepower which, when launched, will make the Ferrari the most powerful, officially sold car in the country, surpassing even the Lamborghini Aventador LP700-4. The F12berlinetta grand tourer can seat four.

That's not all that's in store for the Ferrari brand, as Ferrari SpA is reported to be working on the replacement for the famed Enzo, the next successor in the supercar line that began with the F40. So far, it's unofficially referred to as the F70, and is expected to have a hybrid system similar to the Kinetic Energy Recovery Systems found in its Formula One cars to supplement the 6-liter V12 engine. It is expected to generate 120 horsepower to add to the over 800 hp figure that the V12 will produce.

FORD

Ford has had a great 2012 as it saw three major launches for the brand in the all-new Focus, the all-new Ford Ranger as well as the official debut of the Mustang in the country.

2013 promises more of the same, as the most likely launch from the brand will

be the EcoSport compact crossover. Based on the Ford Fiesta, the EcoSport made its debut at the New Delhi Motor Show in India earlier in 2012. Manufactured in Chennai, the upcoming EcoSport is touted to be the replacement for the long, long-selling Santa Rosa, Laguna-made Ford Escape. It is smaller than the Escape, but comes with many modern features and technologies, including Ford's award-winning 1.0L EcoBoost engine.

There have also been rumors surrounding the new Ranger T6-based Everest SUV for next year, but there are still no indications if it will be ready by then or by 2014, if at all.

HONDA

The Honda brand has bounced back strong from its problems in 2011, launching numerous models in 2012 such as the Odyssey, Pilot, CR-V and Civic, as well as updating existing models like the Jazz and City.

2013 could bring in the ninth generation of the flagship Accord, replacing the 8th-generation model that was sold since 2008. Like the previous generation, the new Accord will be powered by either a 2.4-liter Inline-4 or a 3.5-liter V6 with the acclaimed VCM system that shuts down up to three cylinders for better fuel economy. The new 2.4-liter will be derived from the Earth Dreams line of engines for better fuel efficiency.

What was unusual for Honda was the quick facelift of the Civic, following the response from the press and customers. The face-lifted Civic was just released online very recently.

HYUNDAI

Hyundai has had a great 2012, launching models like the Eon, the updated and upgraded Genesis Coupe, as well as the all-new Santa Fe.

What can we expect in 2013 from Korea's top brand? Perhaps the Hyundai Veloster will make its official debut in showrooms, but most likely Hyundai's 2013 will focus on updates for its best-selling models like the Tucson, Accent and Grand Starex. There is also the possibility that with the discontinuation of the large Veracruz SUV, Hyundai Philippines could bring in the long wheelbase version of

the all-new Santa Fe.

The second-generation Hyundai i30 is also a possibility for 2013.

JAGUAR

Over the past few years, Jaguar has overhauled its lineup with two new models in the XF and XJ. Now, it has an all-new model in the F-Type.

The 2013 F-Type comes as a convertible model to compete with the likes of the Ferrari California and Porsche's drop-top variants. The V8- or V6-powered convertible can be specified for 300 horsepower or up to 495 horsepower, with the latter being able to sprint to 100 km/h in just 4.3 seconds. The F-Type also comes with many of Jaguar's latest technologies, and takes inspiration from the C-X16 concept Jaguar unveiled a few years back.

LAND ROVER

Land Rover's 2012 figured heavily on the stylish Range Rover Evoque. 2013, however, could focus LR on the all new Range Rover. Like the previous generation, the new Accord will be powered by either a 2.4-liter Inline-4 or a 3.5-liter V6 with the acclaimed VCM system that shuts down up to three cylinders for better fuel economy. The new 2.4-liter will be derived from the Earth Dreams line of engines for better fuel efficiency.

What was unusual for Honda was the quick facelift of the Civic, following the response from the press and customers. The face-lifted Civic was just released online very recently.

Range Rover's air suspension.

Locally, Land Rover and Range Rover are sold by LRP.

LEXUS

Lexus has had quite a 2012. Lexus Manila is just three years in operation, and already it has made quite an impact in the Philippine luxury auto scene. In 2012, it launched three models with the all-new ES350, the GS450 hybrid and the GS350 F-Sport, as well as the spindle-grille versions of the RX and LX SUVs.

Currently, Lexus has just begun selling the heavily updated Lexus LS sedan to customers. The flagship sedan comes with many improvements, including the updated spindle grill design.

Also, another model expected in 2013 (perhaps even 2014) is the all new IS sedan. The IS (which stands for Intelligent Sport) is currently undergoing testing and prototyping after being spotted by various spy photographers. The IS is set to make its debut at the upcoming Detroit motor show in January. The design and features are still unclear, but expect the design to draw inspiration from the LF-CC concept car that Lexus unveiled a while back.

MAZDA

Mazda's presence in the Philippines will be making the biggest change yet, as the distributorship will be transferred from Ford Group Philippines to Berjaya Automotive with the opening of the new year.

The model lineup will remain, though



NISSAN

Nissan holds the distinction of having two distributors/manufacturers in the country in Universal Motors Corp. or UMC (for commercial vehicles) and Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. or NMPI (for passenger cars). There have been reports as to whether UMC will bring in the Nissan Juke, but it is still speculation at this point. NMPI however, will be launching the all-new Almera subcompact sedan in 2013.

The Almera will be aimed at the market dominated by models like the Vios, Accent and City, and is set to be NMPI's bread and butter model when launched next year.

MERCEDES-BENZ

Mercedes has had a challenging 2012, with sales affected by many exterior factors. However, the brand introduced a few models this past year including the all new SL roadster while CATS Motors, the distributor of M-B, celebrated its 20th anniversary.

For 2013, there's a good possibility that expect more powerful AMG models like the SLS roadster, as well as the Black Series versions of the AMG models like the C 63. The CLC is the expected all-new model for next year, though there is still no indication as to which quarter the car will be launched.

Mercedes will also be launching the A-Class as well as the upcoming S-Class in 2013. The flagship S-Class is currently undergoing testing.

MINI

MINI's 2012 was quite interesting, as it launched some great models in the new MINI Coupe and Roadster variants.

2013 looks equally promising, but in the larger sense. MINI in the Philippines, under British United Automobiles, could be getting ready to launch the larger Clubvan and the Paceman versions. Both models will have the same 1.6-liter petrol engines with the S models getting the turbocharged versions.

MITSUBISHI

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.'s direction in 2012 was primarily a thrust at the passenger car segment, with the 1.6-liter version of the Lancer as well as the launch of the Mirage city car.

2013 will continue their focus on the passenger car segment with the Mirage and Lancer, though its display of the all-new Outlander crossover as well as the iMiEV have led to speculations about whether both will be officially sold in 2013.

SUBARU

By the time you read this, Subaru would have launched the all-new BRZ, its version that was derived from the joint project with Toyota that brought us the 86.

2013, however, promises bigger things for Subaru, as the WRX and STI versions are reported to be in the works for the Impreza. The famed rallye-bred cars are set to make a comeback, though as to when exactly is still unannounced.

Also, for the BRZ, Subaru is also working on a turbocharged version to bump its power output up to 280 horses. Also, the all-new Forester will be launched in 2013.

TOYOTA

Toyota Philippines has had a stellar 2012, as it saw the launch of a near complete line up for the brand. In 2012 alone, they launched the revitalized Yaris, Vios, Land Cruiser and Innova, while the Fortuner and Hilux received vital upgrades with new 2.5L turbo intercooler engines. 2012 also saw the launch of the all new Avanza MPV, their second hybrid in the Prius C, the all-new Camry and, of course, the 86.

Next year, Toyota is making preparations for new models, as two of their cars are being readied for their global or regional reveals. First off is the all new Toyota RAV4. The pioneer of the compact crossover class has seen its lead diminish in the face of competition from Honda, Hyundai and Kia. There is no word or official photos yet on the particulars surrounding the upcoming RAV4, except that it will be based on the new Camry's platform, and could be using the same 2.5-liter inline-4 engine.

In the rumor mill, however, is the Toyota Vios; the country's undisputed best-selling model. The current Vios has been on sale since 2006, and given the typical model cycles, 2013 is about right for a next generation model. Details are sketchy, but given Toyota's mantra—Moving Forward—expect better efficiency, better space and more practicality from the market leader.

VOLVO

Volvo's global operations have had a challenging 2012 overall, as the brand missed sales targets in 2012 leading to the dismissal of its then CEO, Stefan Jacoby.

For 2013, expect Volvo Philippines, under Viking Cars, to bring more of what are touted to be the safest vehicles in the market, with advanced safety tech like City Safety and Pedestrian Safety.

Volvo's all-new model for 2013 will be the V40 5-door hatchback, recently launched at the 2012 Geneva Motor Show. The new model features similar engines from the now discontinued C30, while the EcoBoost engines from Ford are expected as well. **AQ**



**“ The new
Mirage earns
styling points
for a newfound
panache that
bestows it a
more modern,
sleeker poise
”**



Mirage manifests anew

Text and photos by KAP MACEDA AGUILA



THAILAND—As an angry sun beat down its asphalt face, the Bira International Circuit in Pattaya was also ablaze with four-wheeled action. But you could have made a valid argument that the spirited talk among motoring scribes was even hotter.

Round after round, car after car, Filipino scribes took the wheel and put the cars through the paces. All three badges of the subcompacts were familiar, though none of the models had formally hit the Filipino roads. Well, probably one of them—and that was a lifetime ago.

Anyway, enough of the mystery already; we drove the Nissan March, Honda Brio, and the much-talked about all-new Mitsubishi Mirage. Unless you've been hibernating under a soundproof hood the past few months, you know by now that Mitsubishi will be bringing in the familiar model back to the streets where its illustrious progenitor had been.

The formerly boxy Mirage, of course, is positively an icon itself—but a few rungs below the legendary Lancer and Galant in terms of recall. Not a few avid industry watchers and car lovers (this one included) had been excited over news of the Mirage's impending arrival, and the first-hand experience was positively some piece of wish fulfillment.

The new Mirage earns styling points for a newfound panache that bestows it a more modern, sleeker poise. Inside, it's pleasantly

roomy and styled beyond its price point. There's even a start/stop button. A wide range of tasty colors (eight, and with spiffy names, too) also ensure a healthy amount of character and uniqueness—Lemonade Yellow Metallic, Pop Green Metallic, Majestic Red, Medium Blue Mica, Savannah White, Cool Silver Metallic, Eisen Gray Mica, and Pyrenes Black.

The event organizers put a little damper on the activity though, as participants were advised to keep to a torturous pace of 80 kph in the name of safety. Still, a handful of us were able to zoom the Mirage above 100 kph without incident or reprimand. Indeed, the small car proved extremely capable and willing to be thrown around corners at speed. This type of performance was surprising considering the 1.2-liter, three-cylinder MIVEC power plant.

The unexpected sprightliness is helped along in no small way by a weight reduction program. Depending on variant, the Mirage comes in a lowest-in-class 865 and 885 kilograms—representing 7 percent off the scales. Lower rolling resistance and drag coefficient (0.29) don't hurt, either.

One good thing leads to another, and all the effort towards efficiency pays off with a claimed consumption figure of 21 kilometers per liter.

Mitsubishi positions this contemporary iteration of the Mirage as a “five-seat hatchback for a global market,” and their “global entry model.”

In Thailand, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation SVP for Treasury and Marketing Orlando Alvarez Jr. shared his excitement over the shipping the Thailand-assembled car to the Philippines. “It will send a strong message that Mitsubishi’s back in the passenger car segment,” he said over a welcome dinner hosted by Mitsubishi Motors (Thailand) Company Limited.

“With its features, attractive styling, and superior fuel economy, we believe that the launch of the Mirage will help us all to boost our sales and market shares in the segment,” he continued.

Indeed, this new reincarnation of the Mirage is a winsome, attractive study on what an everyday car should be—and should do. There's no reason to believe the Mirage won't be anything but a hit. **qq**



TEXT and PHOTOS By Jason K. Ang

Fun to Drive, Again

Toyota's new 86 is a true sports car for the discerning masses

TOYOTA has been a massively successful car company, and after some rough patches, is now getting its groove back. Key to this is the company's recognition that driving and cars must be fun. Its slogan for the most recent Tokyo Motor Show was "Fun to Drive, Again." The embodiment of the new approach is its new sports car, the 86 coupe.

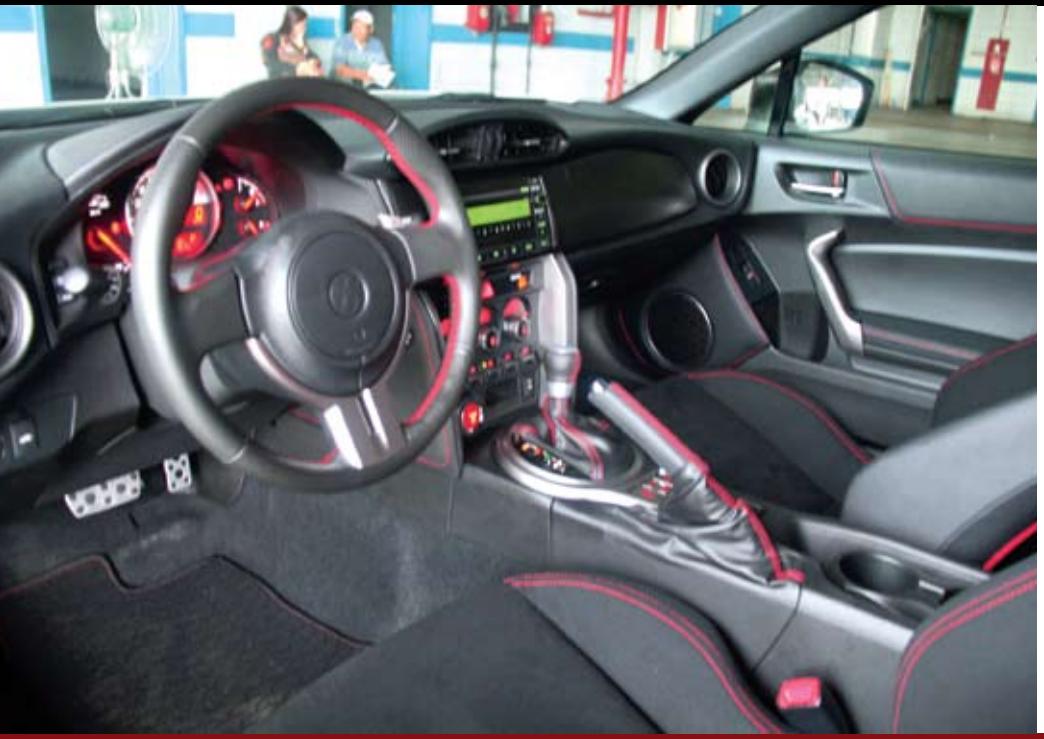
The sports car all but faded from Toyota's lineup after the late 1990s, as the company concentrated on building cars that sold in the hundreds of thousands and millions. Its halo car became the hybrid Prius, the very antithesis of a sports car. When Akio Toyoda, grandson of the man who founded the company, took over the reins as CEO, he ordered the construction of a new sports car to once again be their image leader. A car enthusiast and amateur racer, it must have bothered Mr. Toyoda no end that the world's No. 1 car manufacturer had no sports car in its lineup.

Building a new sports car from scratch must have been daunting, for Toyota then turned to a company it had just bought 16.5 percent of, Subaru. Though Subaru's bread and butter were also sedans and station wagons, the rambunctious DNA of its rallye-bred Impreza racing cars were embedded in each one of its cars. The two came to an agreement, with Subaru doing the engineering work and manufacturing, while Toyota would be in charge of the styling and product planning. The big T would foot the bill, and would get to sell its version, called the 86, first.



After numerous international and local teasers, we found ourselves in a hangar at the Subic International Airport, anticipating some seat time behind the most important Toyota vehicle in years. We didn't have to wait too long, as we entered to the sound of screeching tires as the team of drift racer David Feliciano was circling the track with four 86 cars in white, red, dark blue, and black. A camera crew's pickup truck was shadowing the action, along with a hovering miniature helicopter.

No doubt about it—the drift team was playing with the cars. Sliding them, spinning



Corolla, and shifting at maximum revs is painless, too. Also available is a six-speed automatic model, with paddle shifters. A Torsen limited-slip differential puts the power down to the rear wheels.

The 86 uses a conventional steel chassis, weighing in at 1275kg. The car's weight target no doubt made a larger body and more usable back seats improbable. Brakes are large 15-inch discs at the front, 14 at the rear. The car rides on 215/45 R 17 tires.

What makes the 86 worth all of the hype, and more, is that it is designed to be accessible to almost anyone in the market for a new car. The entry-level manual-transmission model retails for P1,550,000. A host of performance upgrades will be waiting courtesy of TRD and others, but it functions quite well out of the box, no tweaking needed.

The best part of the 86 is its balance. Thanks to its lightweight construction and low center of gravity, the 86 feels immensely



them in donuts, drifting them on the rain-slicked tarmac. The drivers got out of the cars, with large grins under their helmets.

The 86 is a textbook Japanese sports car. Within the 4240mm length is a classic profile: long hood, boomerang-shaped roof, and short rear deck. Although the tail looks like a hatchback, the car actually has a trunk and fixed backlight. The rear haunches feature hints of the 2000GT and classic Celica, with its appropriately pronounced fender flares. Twin tailpipes flank a triangular light cluster incorporating the reverse lamps and rear foglamp. The front has a modern beady-eyed stare highlighted with LED eyebrows. A subtle crease runs along the fenders and across the hood, allowing the front section to display shades of color as the different pieces catch the light.

Inside, the 86 is all-business, with a pleasantly tight cockpit. The seats are heavily bolstered both at the base and the seatback. The tachometer sits front and center of a simple three-gauge instrument cluster. The steering wheel is nearly vertical, as befits a true sports car.

At the heart of the 86 is a horizontally-opposed four-cylinder engine—aka, a boxer. Naturally, you might think, since this is a Subaru-engineered car. Yet this is not just

because it is Subaru's signature engine configuration. Subaru has always touted the boxer engine, thanks to the layout of its cylinder block and heads, as one that results in a lower center of gravity. That may have been a nullified advantage in an Outback or Tribeca, but does it pay dividends in the 86. With the engine positioned only 460mm from the ground, the car has a lower center of gravity than all of its rivals, including the markedly low-slung Mazda MX-5.

That engine is a normally-aspirated unit, for reasons of quick response and willingness to rev. It pays off handsomely, as the 86's boxer spools up very quickly. The 7500-rpm redline allows the car to stretch its legs without having to row through gears frequently. On a short section of airport tarmac, we would run out of road in third gear even before the engine hit its maximum. Toyota quotes a 0-100 km/h time of 7.6 seconds and a top speed of 226 km/h for the manual car.

Despite the lack of a turbo, the 2.0 liter unit produces maximum 197hp and 205Nm. The gearbox is a slick-shifting six-speed manual, supplied by Aisin and reportedly sharing parts with the Lexus IS-F's. Clutch action is light and feels linear. It's as easy to launch from standstill as a

stable and willing to change direction with a twist of the steering wheel.

The initial target for Toyota Motor Philippines is 80 units (perhaps 86?), which will undoubtedly be snapped up as this is being printed. As such, the sales figure is insignificant compared to the 40,000 or so units that TMP will move this year. The revenues may be insignificant, but the effect the 86 has on the rest of the Toyota lineup will be invaluable. It's no wonder that Toyota, including TMP, is such a big effort to launch this car. The 86 is a car made to lift Toyota out of its reliable but dull image, a dream machine amongst all the practical vehicles.

If you're willing to scrape up a little more cash, and tell the kids to bear the nonexistent space in the back (they will surely love the 86), there's no reason why you can't buy this car instead of a Camry. It offers all the thrills of a European machine three times its price. Being a Toyota-Subaru construct, all it needs to continue to run will likely be fuel and air, apart from the occasional inexpensive oil change. What is likely, though, is that the car will be attractive as a secondary vehicle, a Sunday driver that beats the heck out of an offroader or a rickety used exotic. Your savior from motoring boredom has arrived. ☀

THE STORM EDGE *Santa Fe*

Text by AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA



Text by
AIDA SEVILLA
MENDOZA

WHEN the news spread that Hyundai Motor Co. was coming up with a completely restyled third-generation Santa Fe, some people wondered how South Korea's biggest automaker could possibly improve on the stunning beauty of Fluidic Sculpture, its current design theme.

Fluidic Sculpture is so futuristic that it has catapulted Hyundai way above the competition in terms of design language. It makes the cars of rival brands look so yesterday. It is a major reason why Hyundai cars like the Genesis, Sonata and Elantra have been winning Car of the Year and other awards all over the world.

Significantly enough, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc., (HARI), the Philippine distributor of Hyundai vehicles and parts, chose not to introduce the 2013 Santa Fe via an extravagant launch event. HARI had so much confidence in the latest iteration of Hyundai's mid-sized SUV that it merely rolled the all-new Santa Fe into dealers' showrooms and then placed a print ad in the leading national broadsheets to announce its availability. The ad carries the words "Storm Edge" in capital letters to identify the 2013 Santa Fe as the harbinger of the next evolution of Fluidic Sculpture.



Indeed, with a substantially chromed grille and eagle eye projector headlights dominating the front end, the new Santa Fe looks sharper-edged and more confident than ever. But the third gen is not limited to gorgeous Storm Edge styling inside and out, it also offers good performance and driveability. The 2.2-liter DOHC common rail direct injection (CRDi) diesel engine with eVGT (electronic Variable Geometry Turbocharger) mated to a 6-speed Hi-Matic transmission packs 194 bhp @ 3800 rpm and max torque of 436 Newton meters @ 1800-2500 rpm. For a turbo diesel engine, it accelerates smoothly and runs quietly even when pushed.

Definitely a soft roader, the Santa Fe has impeccable road manners and a firm, comfortable ride with virtually no NVH (noise, vibration, harshness.) For a midsize SUV, it handles well although some body lean is noticeable when negotiating corners.

The suspension system consists of MacPherson strut in front and a multilink type at the rear. When the road is slippery and the going gets rough, the Traction Control System and Electronic Stability Program function together to maintain grip. Downhill Brake Control guarantees surefootedness and no brake fade even when the Santa Fe has to descend several thousand feet. The Santa Fe claims the shortest braking distance in its class due to its large brakes: on all four alloy wheels: ventilated discs in front, solid discs at the rear.

The new Santa Fe is longer, wider and lower than the outgoing model, thereby making the cabin among the most spacious in the midsized-SUV class. Three rows of seats can accommodate seven including driver, although the split/foldable 50,50 third seat is suitable for children only. The driver's seat has electric 2-way lumbar support while the second row folds 40/20/40 and can recline or slide forward to increase legroom. The trunk is big enough to carry four golf bags and luggage since it has a 537-liter capacity when all seats are in place that expands to 1,632 liters when the second and third row seats are folded. Door and front seatback pockets, cup holders, 12-volt power sockets, a deep center console and glove box are welcome interior conveniences.

The cockpit looks more elegant and better crafted than the outgoing model's with upscale instruments under a curved binnacle, soft touch materials and satin chrome details. A Flex Steer button on the steering wheel allows the driver to adjust the electric power steering to Comfort, Normal or Sport. The Push Start button, active ECO indicator light, 7-inch TFT LED color screen with reverse camera, audio and climate control displays and trip computer, a cool box, cruise and audio remote controls on the steering wheel, a

dual aircon system with cluster ionizer and a radio/CD player with MP3, Bluetooth, USB and AUX inputs, four speakers and two tweeters complete the interior picture. The electric-folding outside mirrors fold automatically when you turn off the ignition.

The new Santa Fe's safety features include two front airbags, ABS with Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Electronic Stability Program, Smart Key (proximity) locking, cornering lamp and rear assist parking system.

Summing up, the 2013 Santa Fe matches refined, futuristic Storm Edge design with solid build, fine craftsmanship, good driveability and performance, excellent ride quality, versatile, spacious passenger and cargo room plus cutting-edge amenities and convenient features. The premium 4WD diesel R-eVGT model with 6-speed AT has leather seats, a panoramic glass roof, 19-inch alloy wheels, HID headlamps and costs P2,228,000 while the lower-specc'd 2WD variant of the same is priced at P1,768,000. **aq**



“ The Santa Fe claims the shortest braking distance in its class due to its large brakes: on all four alloy wheels: ventilated discs in front, solid discs at the rear ”



Optimum ride in KIA OPTIMA

FINALLY, the Kia Optima is here. After whetting market appetite when it was previewed at the 4th Philippine International Motor Show in August, Columbian Autocar—authorized distributor of Kia vehicles in the country—says the mid-sized sedan will soon be available officially at the Kia dealership.



Initially, the 2.4-liter variant with a six-speed, paddle-shift-equipped automatic gearbox with the Active ECO system that optimizes all the drive train elements to deliver significant fuel savings, dual airbags, fully automatic air-conditioning system, keyless entry, engine start/stop button, and panoramic sunroof will be made available to the Philippine market. The tag price for this car is about P1.48 million.

At first look, the Kia Optima looks luxuriously and futuristically European. Its sharp, dynamic lines crease the body, and there's a confident air to its looks. The interior is very sporty with leather appointments.

Technology-wise, the Optima offers Bluetooth connectivity which lets the driver call contacts without taking his hands off the

steering wheel. It also has an auto cruise control which maintains the vehicle's speed constantly, thus enhancing fuel economy.

The exterior is well-loaded with static bending HID lights that increase visibility when cornering, synchronizing with the turns of the steering wheel to light up more of the road, LED daytime running taillights and signal lights that enhances car safety, hill-assist control, 18-inch alloys that are fitted with large 17-inch (320/28t) disc brakes for powerful braking, low-profile tires and parking sensors. The front safety power windows stop and wind down when an obstacle is sensed.

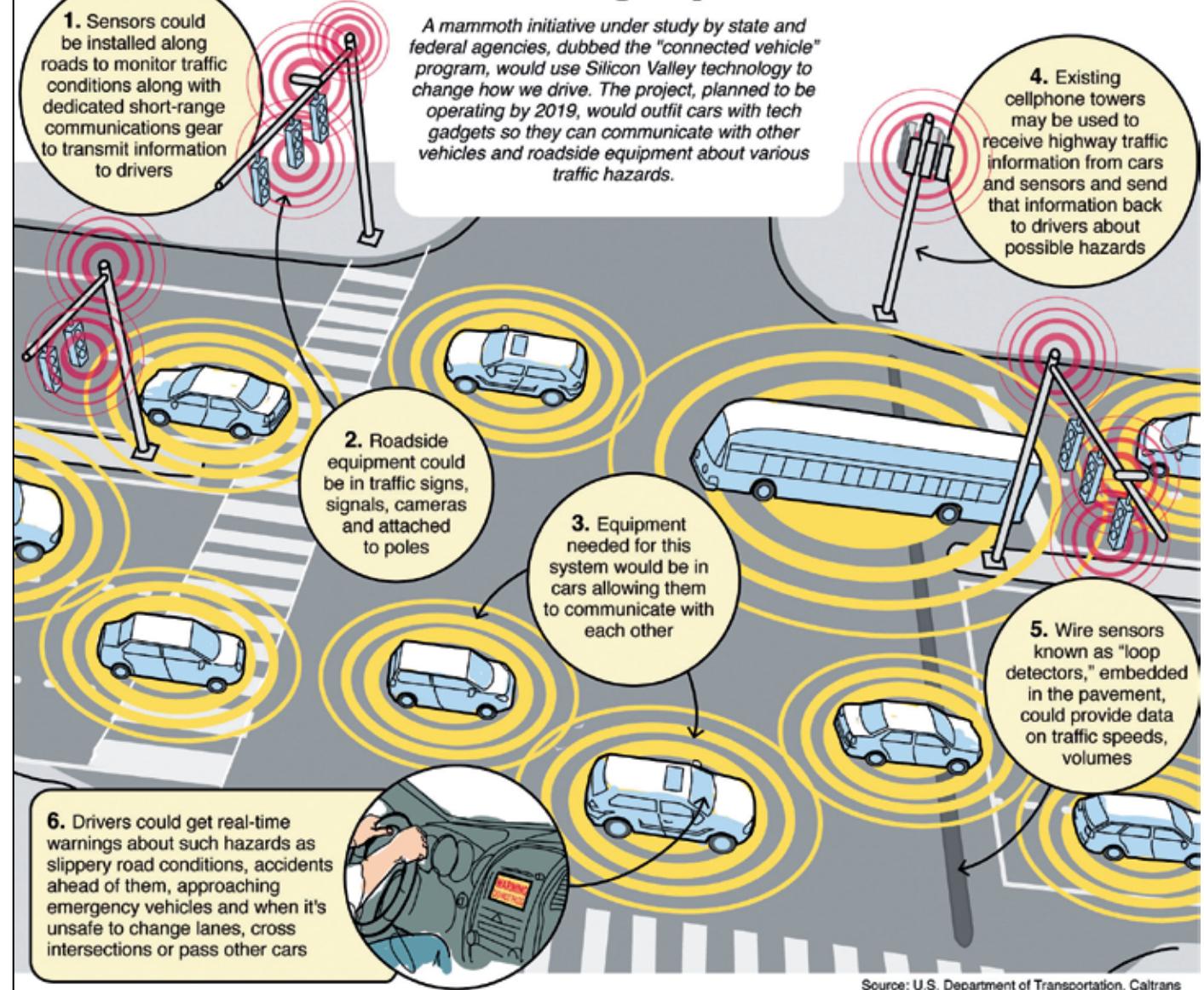
Whether one is into technology, Optima will surely awaken ones' desire to be into the technology trend of the future. Don't be left out. **AQ**

“ The Kia Optima looks luxuriously and futuristically European. Its sharp, dynamic lines crease the body, and there's a confident air to its looks. ”

Engine Specs:	Theta II 2.4 MPI engine
Type :	CVVT
Displacement :	2,359 cc
Max. power :	178 ps @ 6,000 rpm
Max. torque :	22.3 kg•m @ 4,000 rpm
Fuel tank capacity:	70 liters
0 - 100km/h :	9.5 sec
80 - 120km/h :	6.6 sec



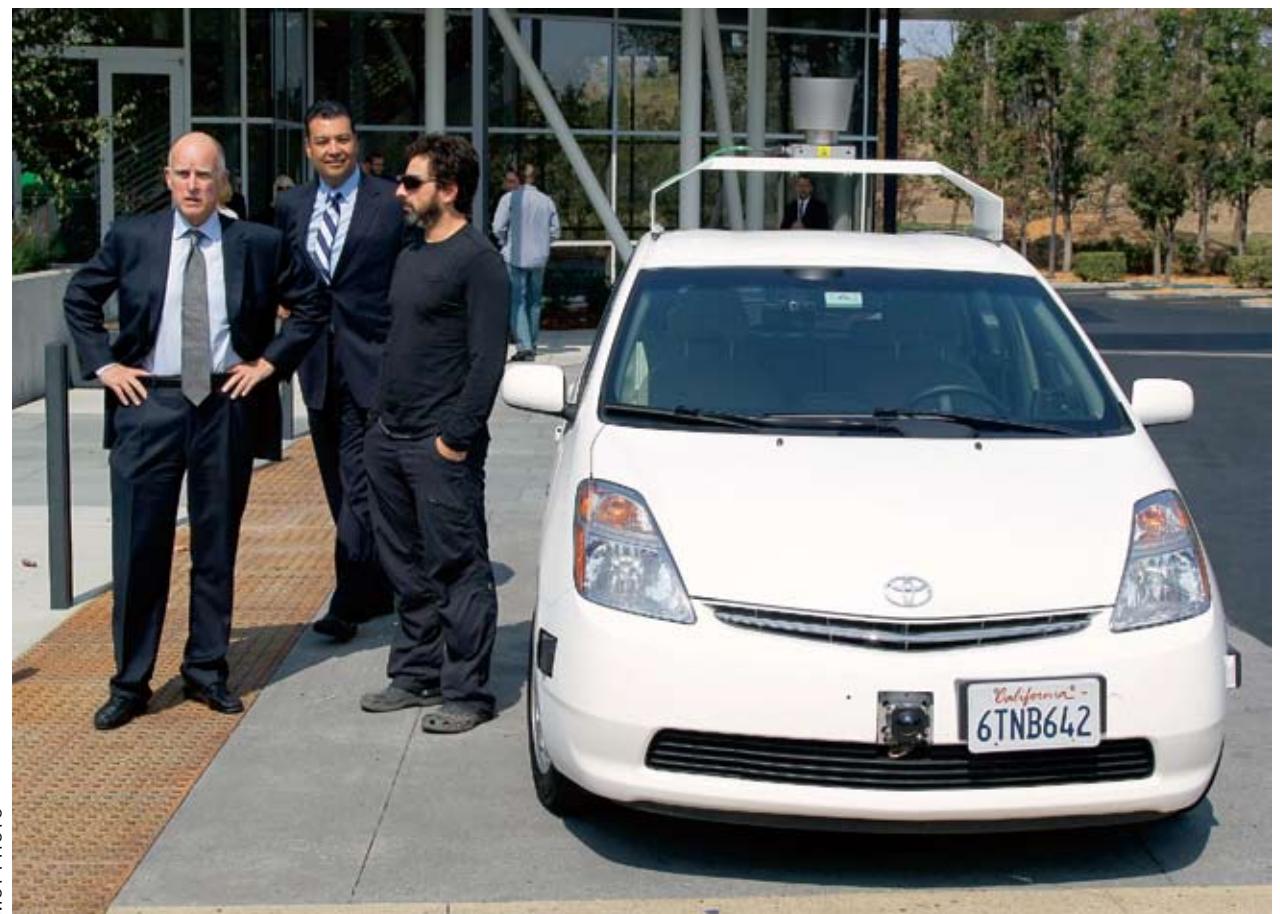
A safer driving experience



'Connected' cars would aim to keep drivers in the loop

By STEVE JOHNSON
Reprinted from San Jose Mercury News

WHILE Google's self-driving car is getting heaps of attention, a lesser-known effort that would employ cutting-edge technologies to make regular automobiles safer is fast gaining traction.



PROTOTYPE of a "connected" passenger car.

Under the "connected vehicle" program being developed by federal and state officials, cars, trucks and buses bristling with gadgets would wirelessly communicate with each other as well as with traffic signals, pavement-embedded sensors and other road equipment.

Drivers then would get automatic warnings about everything from slippery bridges and accidents in their paths to cars racing at them through red lights and lane changes they should avoid because another vehicle is next to them.

Some carmakers already have equipped vehicles with gadgets to alert drivers to potential collisions.

But those devices only spot nearby hazards, among other limitations.

By being electronically alerted about hazards, transportation officials believe, drivers could slow down or otherwise maneuver to avoid them. And if an accident did happen, it might be possible to instantly relay key information about the mishap to emergency personnel. That could include where it occurred, how fast the vehicles were traveling, if air bags were triggered and the passengers' medical histories in case they were injured.

Another option being considered is to enable the system to warn blind pedestrians when it's unsafe to cross streets.

Although details on how this would work have yet to be decided, connecting cars, stop lights, highway cameras, pavement sensors and other traffic-related gear would likely require an array of new products, including microchips, routers, servers and software.

It's unclear how much of that would need to be installed along streets and highways. Some experts believe it would have to be extensive, while others contend cars could be made smart enough to spot dangers and warn other vehicles in their vicinity—possibly via cellphones—without needing much information from roadway equipment.

Potentially troublesome issues to be resolved include how to warn drivers without dangerously distracting them, how to prevent hackers from disrupting the system, and how to standardize the different gear that automakers and government agencies might use so it all functions seamlessly.

Another concern is what such a system might cost. Experts have been vague about that. But the tab for just upgrading the microcontroller chips in traffic signals nationwide could total more than \$400 million, according to a study by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

A Clemson University group has

proposed partly covering the cost by charging businesses a fee to send advertisements to connected cars. But if the system works as intended, many experts believe, it could save money by averting most of the 6 million crashes that happen annually at a cost federal authorities estimate at \$230 billion.

The project also could be a boon to some tech companies.

Intel Corp. "is actively working with the auto industry to make the connected car vision a reality today," said the chipmaker's spokeswoman Krystal Temple. Intel recently created a \$100-million fund to study connected-car technologies and opened an automotive engineering site in Germany. One of its vice presidents sits on a federal advisory committee for the proposed system.

Another company helping car companies and others plan for the effort is Cisco Systems, which makes routers and other information networking gear. The concept could represent a \$2-billion to \$6-billion revenue opportunity for the company, according to Helder Antunes, Cisco's managing director of smart connected vehicles.

Because of the social benefits that would result from linking motorists, experts believe this will accelerate faster than most people think.

US, university test cars that can communicate

ANN ARBOR, Michigan—In a few weeks, about 2,800 cars, trucks and buses will start talking to each other on the streets of Ann Arbor, Michigan, in a giant experiment that government officials are hoping will lead to safer roads.

Wireless devices will allow the vehicles to send signals to each other, warning their drivers of potential dangers such as stopped traffic or cars that might be blowing through a red light. They can even get traffic lights to turn green if no cars are coming the other way.

The US Department of Transportation and the University of Michigan are hoping the year-long, \$25-million project generates data that show the devices can cut down on traffic crashes. Officials say eventually this could lead to the devices going in every car. About 500 vehicles with the devices are now on the roads. That will rise to 2,800 in about six weeks, officials said.

More than 32,000 people died last year in US traffic crashes, down 1.7 percent from 2010. The number of crashes has fallen in recent years as automakers added safety devices such as air bags, antilock brakes and stability control, which helps drivers keep cars under control in emergency situations.

But officials said 80 percent of crashes in which the drivers aren't impaired by drugs or alcohol could be prevented—or the severity reduced—if cars could talk to each other.

When the technology will make its way into cars and trucks everywhere is unclear. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has the authority to order the devices placed in all new cars, but US officials said they'll have to study the data

before making any decision. The data will be available in about a year.

In a demonstration at the Transportation Research Institute, a Volkswagen GTI equipped with a device got a signal that a car up ahead of it had braked. The warning allowed the GTI driver to slow down before seeing the brake lights on the car in front of him. The device also warned the GTI driver at a stop sign that another car was about to speed through the intersection.



10 years, Sweatman said.

"I think this is going to kick everything off," he said. "This is going to move everything forward."

Automakers have been adding safety devices such as blind-spot warning detectors that warn a driver if there's a car in an adjoining lane, and radar-activated cruise control that can slow cars down if they're approaching an object too fast. The experiment should help tie them together, officials said.

In February, Ford executive chairman Bill Ford called for just that in a speech to a mobile electronic device conference in Barcelona, Spain. He said the mobile device industry should join with automakers and governments to develop connected car technology to solve looming congestion and safety problems around the world. **aq**

FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



HTC Windows Phone 8x

Best. Gifts. Ever



Philips Fidelio L1

HOLIDAY help is finally here. Find the perfect unique gift for everyone on your holiday shopping list. From great budget finds, to stocking stuffers, to that special something for that special trendy pacesetter, techie fan, travel aficionado or sports buff in your life, we're bringing you the best presents of the season. Get a jump on your shopping with AQ's top gift picks.



Sony Internet TV



Apple iPad mini



Huawei E5836



Samsung Note 2



Gucci backpack with flap



Ripple wheel alloys

TECHIE GIFTS

WHEN shopping for gifts for techies, it doesn't always come down to knowing what the hottest and most popular electronic and computer gadgets on the market are. Although it helps to know what's hot, techies pride themselves on being unique, and being one step ahead of the general public. What else would interest tech enthusiasts than the latest tablet from Apple, the iPad mini; Sony Internet TV, HTC Windows Phone 8x; and the Huawei mobile router so he is his own personal WiFi spot wherever he goes.

FEATURES

MW Michael Wong
by Rimowa cabin trolley



Pacsafe body bag



Olympus PEN mini E-PM2



AVT PN-504



Puma Time FAAS 200

Nike+ Sportwatch GPS



Shakedown alloy wheels



Mizuno JPX 800 driver



Nintendo wii U

GIFT GUIDE

TRAVEL GIFTS

IT'S starting to look a lot like Christmas. And so the scramble is on to find the right gift for your favorite traveler. As you prowl stores, browse brochures and scour the Internet for ideas, keep this in mind: the last thing you want to do is buy something that is cumbersome or so offbeat that what you think is perfect will be stuffed into a drawer or closet. Travelers would definitely keep the AVT portable GPS with pre-loaded advanced Philippine map exclusively developed by iNAV, Olympus PEN mini camera, so-safe Pacsafe bag and reliable Rimowa luggage.



SPORTY GIFTS

LOOKING for a personalized gift for a sports fan? We've handpicked a few gifts for any sports fan, no matter what sport they enjoy. What would be better than the newest Nintendo wii U for those cold mornings when you don't want to get out of the house, Puma Time watch to monitor training, Nike+Sportwatch GPS, a Mizuno golf iron or even Shakedown alloys from Wheel Gallery.



Mizuno JPX 800 driver



Nintendo wii U



IT'S A BRILLIANT LIFE WITH ONE HYUNDAI CLUB!

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the official distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines, brings rewarding experiences for its customers through the One Hyundai Club (OHC). As the first distributor-based car loyalty program in the country, OHC magnifies the brilliance of mobility through its wide and exclusive range of privileges and rewards for Hyundai customers. Through OHC Life in Style, Hyundai provides its customers with new experiences and values beyond their expectations.

Since its launch last January, OHC Life in Style continues to stage lifestyle events for OHC members that cater to a wide variety of interest and passion. Dedicated to deliver brilliant journeys for customers, One Hyundai Club further strengthens Hyundai's commitment to go beyond performance, design and technology, to become the most beloved automotive brand.

Join One Hyundai Club and experience the Hyundai lifestyle for yourself! Live the life. Live it in style.

JOURNEYS



COOKING 101 FOR MOTHERS

International School for Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management (ISCAHM), Quezon City
One Hyundai Club moms, together with the entire family, learned kitchen secrets and whipped up a delectable gourmet feast.



FASHION CONFIDENTIAL FOR WOMEN

Paire Cocktails & Pastries, Quezon City
The career-oriented women of One Hyundai Club spruced up their appearance to create a confident and stylish impact.



PICTURE PERFECT

Gymboree, Manila Polo Club, Makati City
It was a fun mix of laughter, play and learning captured by the camera for the adorable OHC kids who posed for photos with the entire family.



JIU-JITSU 101

BAMF Mixed Martial Arts Center, Sucat, Parañaque
One Hyundai Club families showed their prowess at combat as they hit the gym and prepped up to face real-life danger.



THROUGH THE LENS

Cafe Lago, San Pablo, Laguna
One Hyundai Club shutterbugs mastered the art and science of photography and translated brilliant moments into photographs.



SPA FOR DEUX

The Spa, Rockwell, Makati City
One Hyundai Club couples took a breather from their everyday life to relax and enjoy a refreshing Zen afternoon experience.



REWARDS

Taking home some of the most brilliant prizes and lifestyle experiences, these One Hyundai Club members bagged away exciting Hyundai Rewards as they shared their life's most memorable moments with their Hyundai.



January: Spa Treatment
Winners (L to R): Alvin Pantoja & Joza Umali
Prize: Spa treatment for two



February: Romantic Valentine's Getaway Treat
Winner: Harold Aguila
Prize: 3-day/2-night accommodation for two at Boracay Tropics



March: Gadget Giveaway
Winner: Mario Sarmiento
Prize: Blackberry Curve 8520 Smartphone



April-June: Vacation Getaway
Winner: Angelo Redoblado
Prize: 3-day/2-night accommodation for two at Dos Palmas Island Resort and Spa



Major improvements for the new KIA SORENTO

KIA'S hugely successful Sorento unveiled for the first time in the Asia Pacific region at the 2012 Philippine International Motor Show last August received a host of significant improvements in this new model. Significant changes include a re-engineered bodyshell, enhanced powertrains, improved ride, handling and refinement, additional convenience and safety features, plus a fresh, new look for the exterior.

"Since its introduction in 2009, the second-generation Kia Sorento has achieved more than 620,000 sales around the world. This success came after the global sales of almost 900,000 units achieved by the original 2002 Sorento which was a 'landmark' vehicle in the history of our brand, starting the process of changing public perception of Kia as a maker of small cars," commented Thomas Oh, Kia's Executive Vice President & COO of the International Business Division. "We have given very careful attention to feedback from owners, and the new Sorento is not just a cosmetic exercise, but a major step forward for our popular SUV."

"We're very excited to finally launch the new Kia Sorento," said Ms. Ginia R. Domingo, CAC President. The Sorento has always been one of the favorites of Kia advocates that's why we worked really hard to bring the redesigned model as soon as possible. The driving experience in the new Sorento will definitely be a step up from its predecessors. The cabin is refreshingly quiet, allowing both driver and passenger to enjoy short and long trips."

STYLING & DESIGN

Motivated by a desire to echo the stronger structure within the new Sorento, Kia's designers developed new front and rear bumpers with vertical-axis fog lights, a new front grille and headlamps with LED positioning lights, and a new tailgate with reshaped LED combination lamps.

The new Sorento comes in five colors: Clear

White, Bright Silver, Aurora Black, Temptation Red and Mahogany Brown.

COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Kia's engineers were determined that the new Sorento would boast even better refinement than the second-generation model. The stiffer bodyshell structure and new vibration-damping subframe mountings are an excellent foundation for minimizing NVH (noise, vibration and harshness). Further measures taken to reduce NVH include lining the engine bay bulkhead with all-new, three-layer, noise-lowering materials and fitting a new sound insulator to the transmission tunnel.

Vibrations through the cabin floor have been reduced by 5% and through the steering wheel by 4%. Idle noise level is down from 46 to 43 dB (diesel), while cabin noise during a 110 kph (68 mph) cruise is cut from 65 to 63 dB – making the new Sorento one of the quietest vehicles in its class.

ENGINES

Kia's new Sorento has a 2.4-liter Theta II MPI 176ps gasoline engines and the 197ps R2.2-liter Variable Geometry Turbo diesel engine.

TRANSMISSIONS & DRIVETRAINS

Every new Sorento model features a six-speed transmission (manual or automatic), while buyers are offered a choice of 2WD (front-wheel drive) or 4WD (four-wheel drive) – depending on model – carried over from the previous model.

MMPC receives ECOSWITCH recognitions

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) receives recognitions in the recently concluded 2012 ECOSWITCH Awards. MMPC was awarded ECOSWITCH Planet Award for Energy Efficiency and was also given the ECOSWITCH Certification Award.

Early this year, MMPC joined the Green Philippines Islands of Sustainability (GPIoS) Project.

The GPIoS is one of the four SWITCH projects implemented in the Philippines. It is funded by the European Union with the intention of generating economic profit by simultaneously increasing resource efficiency and minimizing environmental impact among companies. The GPIoS Team conducted its initial and final assessments in May and August 2012, respectively, for on-site consultation and validation of performance.

MMPC's energy conservation efforts include reduction of heat-run time of generators, upgrade of air compressors from local to central control, inspection of air lines and repair of air leaks, limiting of air-conditioning temperature to within 24-26°C, turning off unnecessary lights and equipment during break periods or when not in use, optimization of materials delivery frequency, deletion of unnecessary parts, and replacement of fluorescent lights with LED. Other projects include decontamination of hazardous paint cans using recycled solvent, improvement of solvent application method, and use of returnable racks. Such programs helped cut production or maintenance costs and increase the company's economical and ecological efficiency.

Although the Awarding Ceremony marks the end of the second phase of the program, MMPC shall continuously improve its environmental performance. More green programs are being conceptualized as a demonstration of MMPC's sincere commitment towards working on the preservation of the environment. Green Procurement, Green Dealerships, rehabilitation of the capacitor bank, installation of waterless urinals, rainwater recovery are among these. MMPC believes that effective management of the environment entails team work, it envisions cost-saving projects that would help its suppliers, dealers, and customers manage their own emissions, as it manages its own. As the company takes pride in its new endeavor, everyone is challenged to contribute to a greener future.



TMP Executives hand out to Gawad Kalinga (GK) a PhP 1 Million donation garnered from the ticket sales of this year's Toyota Classics. In photo are (from L - R) Dr. David Go, President of Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation (TMPF); Mr. Alfred V. Ty, Vice Chairman of Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP); Mr. Yasumori Ihara, Senior Managing Director of Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC); Mr. Jose Luis Quiñena, GK Executive Director; Hon. Arlene Arcillas, City Mayor of Santa Rosa, Laguna; Mr. Michinobu Sugata, President of TMP; H.E. Wilhelm Donko, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria; and Mr. Rodolfo Rivera, GK Santa Rosa Area Head.

Toyota donates to Gawad Kalinga

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) recently staged the 15th Toyota Classics on November 13 at The Cultural Center of the Philippines. The sold-out concert was enjoyed by classical music enthusiasts during the one-night special performance. The concert for a cause featured the world-renowned Vienna Chamber Orchestra, conductor Mr. Joji Hattori, multi-awarded guitarist Mr. Soichi Muraji and our very own Mr. Audie Gemora and Ms. Joanna Ampil.

This year's concert generated a total of P1 million in ticket sales, which was donated to the Toyota-City of Santa Rosa-Gawad Kalinga Village Project. On top of ticket sales proceeds, TMP also announced that it will add another P 1 million to make the total donation amount to P2 Million. In a statement during the concert, First Vice President for Marketing Raymond Rodriguez said, "Due to the overwhelming support given to this event for a good cause, Toyota Motor Philippines will be adding another P1 million to the donation."

The Toyota-City of Santa Rosa-Gawad Kalinga Village is a project of Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, the City Government of Santa Rosa, Laguna and Gawad Kalinga. Toyota is currently supporting the construction of houses in this GK village and it remains steadfast in its commitment to continue developing this community in Santa Rosa, Laguna.



TOYOTA SETS NEW RECORD IN OCTOBER

TOYOTA Motor Philippines (TMP) finished the month of October with another record-breaking performance.

This was the second time this year (after July's 6,258) that the manufacturer has registered a milestone sales level. Based on the most recent CAMPI report, TMP tallied 6,946 units, the highest any manufacturer in the country has ever registered in a single month.

During this record breaking run, several models in the Toyota line-up have also outperformed its best sales output since its introduction. The Toyota Vios sold a total of 1,659 units, the Innova with 1,521 and the Fortuner

with 1,339 units. The locally manufactured Vios continues to strengthen its position as the best-selling model in the country while the Innova is still the most preferred commercial vehicle of choice by the buyers.

With all these accomplishments in the past 10 months, Toyota is poised to win its 11th consecutive Triple Crown taking the No. 1 spot in the passenger car segment (17,068 units, 44.9% market share), commercial vehicle segment (36,047 units, 40% market share) and overall sales. Toyota's year-to-date sales of 53,115 units reflects a growth of 17% compared with last year's performance

and garnered a share of 41.9% of the market.

In a statement TMP President Michinobu Sugata said: "Since TMP started its operations in 1988, it has been our sincere wish to provide Filipino with the best products and services possible. This record-breaking sales performance is indeed a testament to the trust and loyalty our customers have shown throughout the years. I would like to thank the public for none of this would be possible without them. Their confidence in our brand inspires us to continuously give our best and move forward to serving them even better."





Bigger, better and EMPOWERED

HUNDREDS of businessmen were impressed with FOTON's powerful machineries and Power Deals* that bred huge savings, amazing rewards and spectacular freebies in their event last October 19 to 21, 2012, at the World Trade Center, Main Hall A, with the theme "Empower Your Business."

FOTON's The Big Show was hosted by Ms. Bianca Roque, a seasoned video jock from the country's Number One Music Channel, Myx, who entertained the guests and provided substantial information about the vehicles on display. Dazzling performances from the Go Girls fueled the excitement and suspense, as the Guests of Honor finally opened the curtain. This significant act by Mr. Rommel Sytin, President of the Asia Automotive Group, Inc., together with Ms. Virginia Torres, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications and Chief of the Land Transportation Office, Councilor Wu Zheng Ping of the Chinese Embassy, and Mr. Steven Sun, Foton Director for Southeast Asia not only signaled the opening of the Big Show; it also unveiled the first FOTON electric jeep.

Aside from offering superior equipment, Foton has also obtained ground-breaking

achievements in providing environmental transport solutions including natural gas, hybrid and pure electric products. The company has long understood that the climax of the industrialization of new energy vehicles around the world is both a trend and a positive countermeasure against climate and environmental issues. As one of the earliest Chinese enterprises to be devoted in the industrialization of new energy vehicles, Foton Motor brings Science into its development strategy and collaborates with global technological partners for the development and application of various new energy technologies. Hence, spotlights were also focused on the Foton E-truck, one of the exhibit's phenomenal attractions.

Although it is not yet meant for mass production and selling, the FOTON E-truck showed that the company has long understood that the climax of the industrialization of new

energy vehicles around the world is both a trend and a positive countermeasure against environmental issues. In the commercial vehicle industry, it is one of the pioneers in the R&D and its manufacturing. During the Beijing Olympics in 2008, thousands of FOTON's hybrid buses served as the official transport of the delegates. At present, these hybrid buses as well as FOTON's full electric garbage compactors are being used in the city of Beijing. FOTON Philippines hopes that our own government will push through with its efforts and will soon give full blast support for green technology in the automotive industry. Such sense of environmental responsibility and conscientiousness was enough to inspire reflection and thinking from the nodding audience.

The event was filled with POWER DEALS* like the trade-in activity, pick-a-prize discounts, free gadgets and accessories for the FOTON vehicles, heavy machinery test driving that was exclusive only to Foton Philippines, and on-site bank financing and insurance application that made it easier for their customers to acquire the FOTON vehicle of their choice.

Indeed, FOTON is a responsible and earth-friendly game changer. FOTON's reliability, attention to detail, and focus on dealers truly make it the perfect business partner. Want to be empowered? Invest in Foton for the Filipino!



THE big boys of the Petron basketball team have caught the "Passion for Porsche" fever! In photo are (L-R): Chris Lutz with the red Porsche Cayman and the silver Porsche Cayenne; Danny Ildefonso holding the white Porsche GT3 RSR available starting December 1; and JunMar Fajardo with the blue Porsche Panamera and the black Porsche Carrera.

These Porsche collectible toy cars are offered in the "Petron Passion for Porsche" promo, which runs from November 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013. For every P1,000-worth of Petron Blaze, XCS, Xtra Unleaded, Turbo Diesel or Diesel Max purchase, a Petron customer can avail of a Porsche collectible toy car for only P180.

As part of the Petron Collectibles Limited Edition items, the Porsche toy cars are 1:32 scale models of the actual cars, and are made of high-quality metal die cast. Each car is a carefully detailed collector's model packaged with a removable base. Enhancing its sports car feel are additional functions not found in other scale models. The toy cars in the Petron Porsche collection are equipped with a sound chip and LED head and taillights. The cars produce a realistic revving engine sound, as well as horn and car alarm sounds. The car doors can be opened, which trigger the car alarm and flashing head and taillights. The Petron Porsche toy cars also have pull-back action so you could indulge your racing dreams.

The "Petron Passion for Porsche" promo is offered at all participating Petron service stations nationwide, and is valid for all cash and credit card transactions. The toy car can only be purchased at the participating Petron station where the customer loaded fuel, or same site redemption only.

PETRON PASSION FOR PORSCHE
The big boys are out to play!



Honda Recognizes Green Dealers

HONDA Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) recognizes four dealers from HCMI Group, namely Honda Cars Alabang, Makati, Pasig and Shaw as Certified "Good" Green Dealers in simple ceremonies held in each respective dealerships.

No less than the President and General Manager of HCPI, Mr. Tatsuya Natsume, handed the certificates and plaques of recognition to Mr. Reginald See, Branch Manager of Honda Cars Shaw; Mr. Galileo Dolendo, Branch Manager of Honda Cars Pasig; Mr. Luisito Augusto Santamaria, Branch Manager of Honda Cars Makati; and Ms. Doreena Pacannuayan, Branch Manager of Honda Cars Alabang. Mr. Ramon Zialcita, General Manager of HCMI Group, Mr. Manny Aligada, Deputy-CEO and Mr. Rufino Luis Manotok, CEO of the Ayala Automotive Holdings Corp. joined the officers of Honda Cars Alabang in witnessing the awarding ceremony.



GREEN DEALER PROGRAM

In line with the Global Honda Environmental Initiatives, the Green Dealer Program was first launched in 2008 and is part of HCPI's environmental activities towards helping in the preservation, conservation, and protection of the environment. The Green Dealer Certification process covers the 3 factors that contribute to the total compliance of the program - Waste Management, Basic Safety and Use of Personnel Protective Equipments and Compliance with Legal Requirements. HCPI expects the Good Green Dealers' further involvement in pursuing the next step which is the Best Green Dealer title that involves compliance to other activities such as Energy and Water Conservation Programs, Chemical Handling and Control and Contribution to the Local Community.

Petron brings two lucky ladies to watch the F1 Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi

TWO very lucky ladies spent the recent holidays watching the spectacular Formula One Grand Prix live at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi from November 2-4, 2012.

Cheryl Lancero of Dasmariñas, Cavite, and Catherine Liwag of Sampaloc, Manila, both businesswomen, were two of the thousands who joined the Petron "Blaze Your Way to the Grand Prix" promo. Running from July 15 to September 15, 2012, the promo was open to all Petron customers who used their MasterCards to purchase P2,000 worth of Petron fuels, Petron lubricants, or Petron Gasul from participating Petron stations, and registering a unique code in the official Petron Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PetronCorporation).

Lancero and Liwag are the second batch of grand draw winners for a free F1 trip, this time to the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Each one won a free trip for two inclusive of tickets to the three-day Grand Prix event, access to concerts after each race, access to pit stops, round-trip air fare, hotel accommodations for five days/four nights, fully-paid meals, travel insurance, and an F1 survival kit.

Minor winners who each earned a Petron Value Card with P10,000 worth of fuel were: Andrew Powell Lee, Romeo Titong, Don Jose Romulo Davies, Joy Cristine Juan, Evelyn Joy Cua, Michael Lu, Ernest Carlos Jr., Karen Arambulo, Ma. Natividad Operario, and Graziella Fajardo.



Petron "Blaze Your Way to the Grand Prix" promo sends off the winners for the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. (L-R): Kristine Lim, Petron brand associate; Billy Centeno, Petron cards trade manager; J Clavio, Petron cards executive; Cheryl Lancero, winner; Catherine Liwag, winner; Ailea Zialcita, Mastercard vice-president; William Herrera, Red Rock Travel vice president; and Butz Tenchavez, Petron local station marketing assistant.

Meanwhile, the twenty lucky winners who were able to treat their friends to the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix-Manila Viewing Party last November 4, 2012 were: Isidro Albano, Nina Lou Santiano, Edwin Lim, Nanette Ramos, Stanley Cheng, Brigida Azcueta, Prospero Cabornay, Peter Trinidad, Melanie Casuela, Christopher Sio, Raulitos Ignacio, Aberto Miguel Espanola, Jerry Hawson, Teofilo Ponce Jr., Jose Dennis Lakampuenga, Teresita Chan, Benedicto Maralit, Amiel Domingo, Sharon Estrella, and Helen Palabrica.

A partnership with Mastercard and Business Mirror, Petron's "Blaze Your Way to the Grand Prix" promo consisted of three minor draws and two grand draws with a total of 30 winners of Petron Value Cards pre-loaded with P10,000 each; 40 winners to Grand Prix Races viewing parties in Manila; and two grand draw winners each for the Singapore and Abu Dhabi Grand Prix races.

Chevron and Bosch Partner to Provide Premium Car Care for Motorists in Southeast Asia

Memorandum of Agreement Inked to Open 500 Bosch Car Service Workshops in Five Key Caltex Retail Markets

D RIVERS in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Cambodia will have another reason to enjoy their journey as Chevron and Bosch come together to offer customers premium car care services for all of their motoring needs. The mutual exchange of world-renowned automotive know-how, together with energy-efficient technology, will see the roll-out of Bosch Car Service workshops and retail shops at 500 CaltexTM stations across the five countries over the next five years.

Chevron, marketer of international energy brand, Caltex, and Bosch a leading global supplier of automotive parts and diagnostic equipment, will tap on each other's respective technical expertise and customer base. The Bosch Car Service workshops at Caltex service stations will provide services to multi-brand vehicles offering diagnosis, maintenance and repairs. Caltex Lubricants and Bosch Automotive Aftermarket products and parts will also be sold at Caltex service stations where Bosch Car Service workshops are located.

"A multitude of factors contribute to an enjoyable driving experience and maintaining one's vehicle tops the list. Our partnership with Bosch demonstrates the commitment from both companies to provide customers with the best experience on the road. Our motorists will benefit from the combination of Bosch's automotive engineering expertise and our long-standing energy efficiency solutions," said Peng Xiaofei, Vice President, Asia Pacific Products, Chevron. "We look forward to this collaboration with Bosch and believe this will be the start of a strong and fruitful partnership."

"With the expansion of the Bosch Car Service footprint across Southeast Asia, motorists will appreciate the accessibility of a diverse range of reliable, quality automotive maintenance and repair solutions with the proximity of Caltex service stations," said Martin Hayes, President of Bosch in Southeast Asia. "Furthermore, our Bosch Car Service network partners can look forward to new business opportunities and a great diversity of product offerings backed by a global network, long-standing experience and world-class technical



(From left) Thumbs up from Martin Hayes, President of Bosch in Southeast Asia and Peng Xiaofei, Vice President, Asia Pacific Products, Chevron as they seal the collaboration to open 500 Bosch Car Service Workshops in five key Caltex retail markets in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Cambodia.

competencies in the automotive sectors from both companies."

This new regional partnership will see Chevron and Bosch working together to house 500 Bosch Car Service workshops at Caltex service stations in five years.

A Bikers' Affair



MEMBERS of various motorcycle clubs came in droves to celebrate the first anniversary of the Alliance of Road Users and Motor Advocates Society (ARMAS), an association of select motorbike groups in the Philippines. More than 500 ARMAS riders from across the country trooped to the Paranaque City Hall from a Caltex gasoline station in Sucat road via a motorcade, which served as the event highlight. As its co-sponsor, Caltex, marketed by Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI), offered free motorcycle services, which included its high-quality Havoline lubricant products. In the photo are the ARMAS bikers, led by its president Rodrigo Cruz (6th from left), flanked by CPI's brand specialist Chai Mendoza and Ning Ignacio, assistant manager for policy, government and public affairs

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: LAST		FIRST	MIDDLE
BIRTHDATE (MM/DD/YYYY)		BIRTHPLACE	
SEX:	CIVIL STATUS:		AGE
<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> SEPARATED	<input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE PARENT	<input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED
CITIZENSHIP:	OCCUPATION:		
<input type="checkbox"/> FILIPINO <input type="checkbox"/> FOREIGNER	<input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYEE: ○ SELF-EMPLOYED ○ GOVERNMENT: ○ PRIVATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor <input type="checkbox"/> Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> Manager
	<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESSMAN <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESSWOMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHERS	
HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:		MONTHLY SALARY RANGE (* THOUSANDS):	
<input type="checkbox"/> ELEMENTARY <input type="checkbox"/> HIGH SCHOOL	<input type="checkbox"/> COLLEGE	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 21-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 41-60 <input type="checkbox"/> 61-100 <input type="checkbox"/> 100-UP
INSURANCE COMPANY:		AVAILLED INSURANCE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHERS	<input type="checkbox"/> MALAYAN	<input type="checkbox"/> CTPL <input type="checkbox"/> TRAVEL	<input type="checkbox"/> COMPRE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHERS

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOME ADDRESS		
NAME OF BUSINESS		
OFFICE ADDRESS		
HOME PHONE	OFFICE PHONE	FAX NO.
CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	

REGISTERED CARS

CAR	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	COLOR	FUEL TYPE	<input type="checkbox"/> PLATE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL	<input type="checkbox"/> CONDUCTION STICKER NO.
1 st							
2 nd	MAKE	MODEL	YEAR	COLOR	FUEL TYPE	<input type="checkbox"/> PLATE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL	<input type="checkbox"/> CONDUCTION STICKER NO.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE	<input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATE CORPORATE / GROUP MEMBERSHIP: NO. OF CARS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> THREE-YEAR *Submit photocopy of car registration (O.R and C.R)		

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT AAP?

<input type="checkbox"/> LEAFLETS/FLYERS	<input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS/RELATIVES	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHERS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> NEWSPAPER AD	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES	

PAYMENT MODE

Paid PhP _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card
<input type="checkbox"/> BPI's check free payments Visit www.bplexpressonline.com or call 89-100		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pay through Banco de Oro (institution code # 0136) Upon teller's validation, BDO payment slip serves as your official receipt		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Payment (payable to Automobile Association Philippines) Date _____ Bank _____ Account No. _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Banynet Online Payment (for online Applications only)		

DATE

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

FOR AAP USE ONLY

SOURCE: <input type="checkbox"/> REG	<input type="checkbox"/> ERS	<input type="checkbox"/> RDL	<input type="checkbox"/> PIDP	<input type="checkbox"/> SALES
BRANCH _____	OTHERS _____			
AAP I.D. NO. _____	AMOUNT PAID _____			
INSURANCE NO. _____	O.R. NO. _____			



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Cebu Office

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Davao Office

G/F Abiva Bldg., McArthur Highway, Matina, Davao City
Tel: (63.82) 299.49.61 to 62

Lipa Office

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Tel. (63 43) 784.7972 / (63 43) 784. 7998

Makati Office

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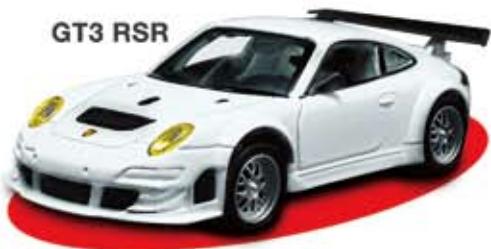


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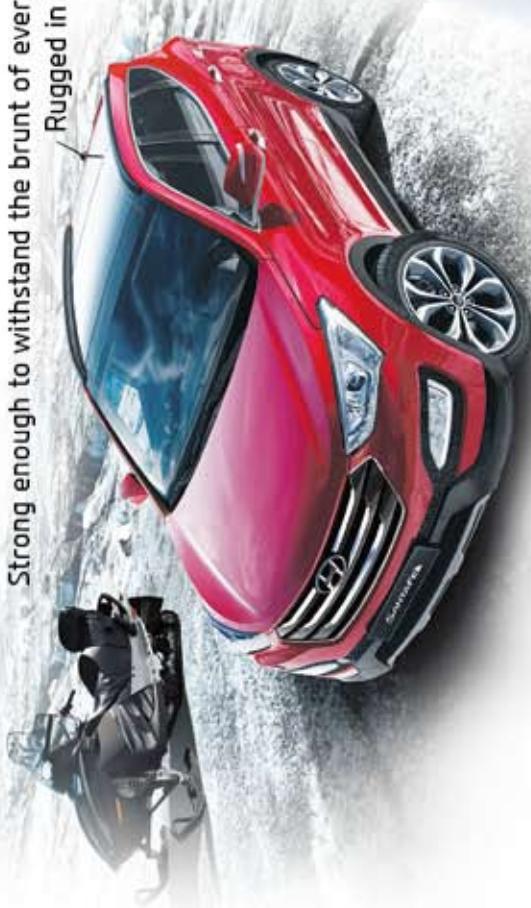
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