



aap



THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1



Travel Photography
Tips from
Master Lensman
George Tapan

NORTHERN EXPOSURE



AAP takes members and guests on a caravan in Ilocos Norte

Zooming to
Zambales



TOP 5 HEALTHY MUNCHIES GADGETS
& MUST-HAVES ON THE ROAD



Philippine Adventures of
a British sports car



DRIVEN

Chevy Traverse
Suzuki APV





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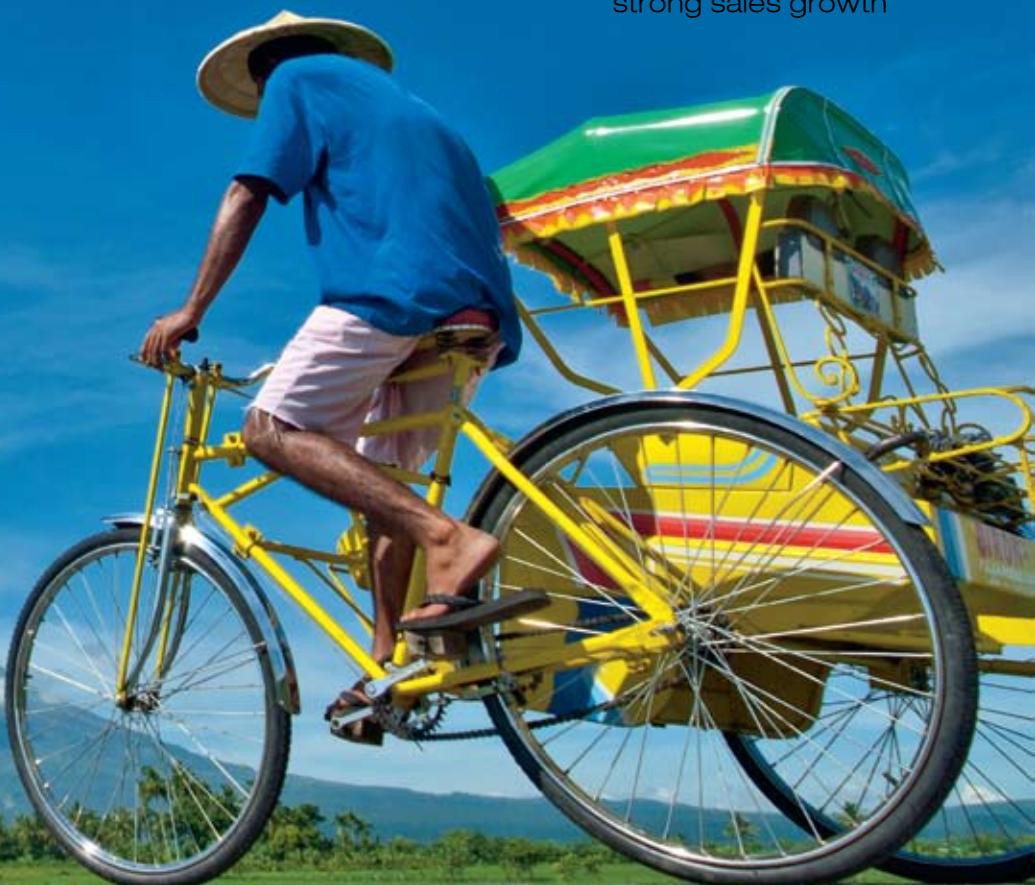


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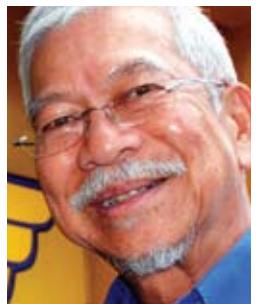
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Gus Lagman
AAP PRESIDENT

Driving Around The World

I'd like to share with our readers some funny experiences I had driving in other countries.

NEVADA, UNITED STATES. My wife and I, with our two daughters, left Las Vegas early one morning to go to the Grand Canyon. It was a very long drive and after about three hours, I started feeling drowsy. To break the monotony, I would speed up beyond the limit for a few seconds, then slow down again; speed up, then slow down again. And then it happened – a police car with flashing lights was chasing us.

I pulled to the curb and while the cop was approaching our car, I remembered the story a friend of mine told me. When he was apprehended by a traffic cop and told about his violation, my friend responded in very fast Spanish that he couldn't understand a word of English. After a couple of minutes of this comical exchange, the cop gave up and let him go.

I was tempted to pull the same trick – talk to the cop in fast Tagalog and pretend that I didn't speak English -- until one of my daughters, 12 years old at the time, woke up and said, "What's going on, Dad?"

I mailed a check for the \$28 fine – a dollar for every mile beyond the speed limit.

NEW YORK CITY. The closest thing to driving in Manila is driving in New York City. Oh, did I feel so at home! Until my experience one morning.

I knew I could only park in front of the hotel up to 7:00 a.m., but unfortunately, I overslept by 15 minutes. I rushed down to the lobby, out of the main entrance ... and immediately saw what I was hoping I wouldn't see - a traffic ticket on my windshield!

We were scheduled to fly out of New York that day for Los Angeles, then to Manila the next day, so I had no time to settle the fine. In fact, I completely forgot about it until six months later when I received

a letter from the City of New York demanding payment of the fine. "How were they able to trace me?" I wondered.

But of course! It was a rented car and my home address was in the rental company's files. I had to ask a brother in the US to settle it.

INDONESIA. It was a short-lived event for my partner, Guing Alcantara, and me. when we joined the 1976 Darma Putra Rally in Indonesia -- a run from Jakarta to the easternmost city of the island, then back to Jakarta. We only got as far as Bogor, 50 km from flagoff, because of an oil pump problem. Indeed, not one of the Filipino entries finished the rally.

Anyway, driving a left-hand-drive car on the left side of the road was not too difficult on straight roads, but could be challenging on mountain roads where there were few vehicles.

If you think 150 kph was fast, actually at that speed, half of the cars were passing us! When Porches, Benzes, BMWs, even the large Citroen sedans passed us, it felt like we were standing still.



Meeting one around a bend on the zigzag could confuse the Filipino driver as to whether to pull the car back to the left lane (our lane), or pull it to the right lane (as in the Philippines).

This is why Hong Kong rally drivers who joined Philippine rallies would always stick a note on their steering wheels that said, "KEEP RIGHT!", to remind them to pull to the right when surprised by an oncoming car.

FRANCE. I once drove from Nice to Paris, with overnight stops in Marseilles, Geneva, and Avignon. The scenic route along the Mediterranean coast is probably one of the most beautiful drives in the world, as pretty as what we see in movies filmed in southern France.

Along the Autoroutes (expressways), I would cruise at 150 km per hour. I maintained that speed so that we would reach our next stop in two hours, 300 km away. While I could have driven faster, I was worried that if we had a breakdown, we would be delayed as we would have to communicate with locals who may not speak a word of English.

If you think 150 kph was fast, actually at that speed, half of the cars were passing us! When Porches, Benzes, BMWs, even the large Citroen sedans passed us, it felt like we were standing still.

SPAIN. We drove from Cordova to Sevilla in three cars, but for some reason, I got separated from the other two when we entered the city. After exchanging text messages, we found out that we were actually on the same wide avenue. They told me to just drive forward and I would surely see them. After a kilometer or so without finding them, I texted the others again.

Turns out I was one kilometer ahead of them, as I was in front of them when we started! ☺

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Aida Sevilla Mendoza
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Why AAP Is Going Into Tourism

FOR many years now, the board of the Automobile Association Philippines has been planning to expand the touring services it offers to its members. While Touring is one of the seven mandates of AAP, it was limited to providing members and the motoring public with timely information on road conditions, accommodations and tourist attractions of various destinations.

After the failure of an online travel planning project called justGO! Drive Philippines to take off, AAP Director Mina Gabor, the former Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary, who chairs the club's Tourism Committee, began organizing the AAP Caravan series in 2010 to encourage members, friends and their families to get to know their own country's historical, cultural and ecological attractions aside from strengthening family bonds and renewing friendships.

The first AAP Caravan on May 29, 2010 attracted more than 100 participants and toured the Clark Freeport in Pampanga and the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales. The second AAP Caravan on November 27, 2010, powered by Petron Blaze 100 and co-organized by the Department of Tourism, the provincial governments of Cavite and Batangas, the municipal governments of Taal and San Nicolas and Casa Punzalan Hotel and sponsored by AeroMed and Microtel Hotels and Resorts, explored Cavite, cradle of the Philippine Revolution and Batangas, land of the *barakos*.

The third AAP Caravan, fueled by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and spearheaded by Ms Gabor with the cooperation of Region I local government officials and Region I DOT Director Martin Valera, saw 37 motor vehicles carrying over 100 participants to Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, gathering signatures for the Decade of Action for Road Safety Pledge along the way. The Ilocos Norte Drive Tourism Caravan established several firsts: it was AAP's first three days-two nights trip (November 25-27, 2011) and it was the first caravan to be joined by foreign diplomats—the ambassadors of Brunei, Greece, Malaysia and Pakistan traveling in convoy in their own cars.

GG The objectives of AAP Travel and the ISST jive with the green mobility program of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, (FIA) of which AAP is the only member in the Philippines. **JJ**

The ambassadors enjoyed the tour of the Solid North so much that they urged Ms Gabor to organize another tour exclusively for the diplomatic corps.

The success of the AAP Caravans has prompted the AAP board to step up its plans to develop further the club's Touring services. AAP aims to open AAP Travel in the first quarter of the year to be headed by a professional manager under the guidance of Ms Gabor, who on her own with other partners established the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) in Subic in March 2011. The objectives of AAP Travel and the ISST jive with the green mobility program of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, (FIA) of which AAP is the only member in the Philippines.

The FIA, based in Paris and founded in 1904, is a non-profit organization that brings together 227 national motoring clubs in 132 countries on five continents and represents over 100 million motorists and their families. Aside from governing all four-wheel motor sports worldwide including Formula One and the World Rally Championship, the FIA upholds the interests of its membership in all international matters concerning automobile mobility and tourism.

Some years ago, the FIA merged with the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT), remaining the dominant partner and promoting freedom of mobility, affordable, safe and clean motoring and representing at international bodies such as the United Nations and the European Union the rights of consumers when traveling by automobile.. Many automobile clubs, such as the American Automobile Association and the New Zealand Automobile Association operate big travel departments. The FIA encourages its member clubs to be active in tourism so as to promote environmentally sustainable mobility and eco-tourism.

By the year 2015, the Philippines expects to welcome six million tourists as the Asia-Pacific region is projected to be the next tourism growth area. Indeed, tourism has become a potent force and important stimulus in the economic and social development of emerging nations like the Philippines, Ms. Gabor points out. The explosion of the motoring population over the last few decades has increased the FIA's emphasis on tourism by automobile, including camping and caravanning and the attendant environmental and road safety concerns.

With the AAP Caravan series, the opening of AAP Travel and AAP's plan to build campsites, your National Auto Club is not only contributing to the development of our country's tourism industry, but also promoting environmentally sustainable mobility to help mitigate the impact of climate change.



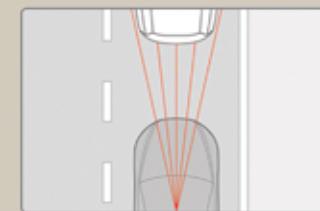
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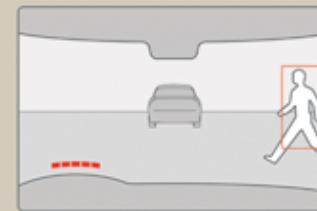
2.0L POWERSHIFT

203HP | 300NM | 15.2KM/L



2.0L TURBODIESEL

163BHP | 400NM | 22KM/L



3.0L T6

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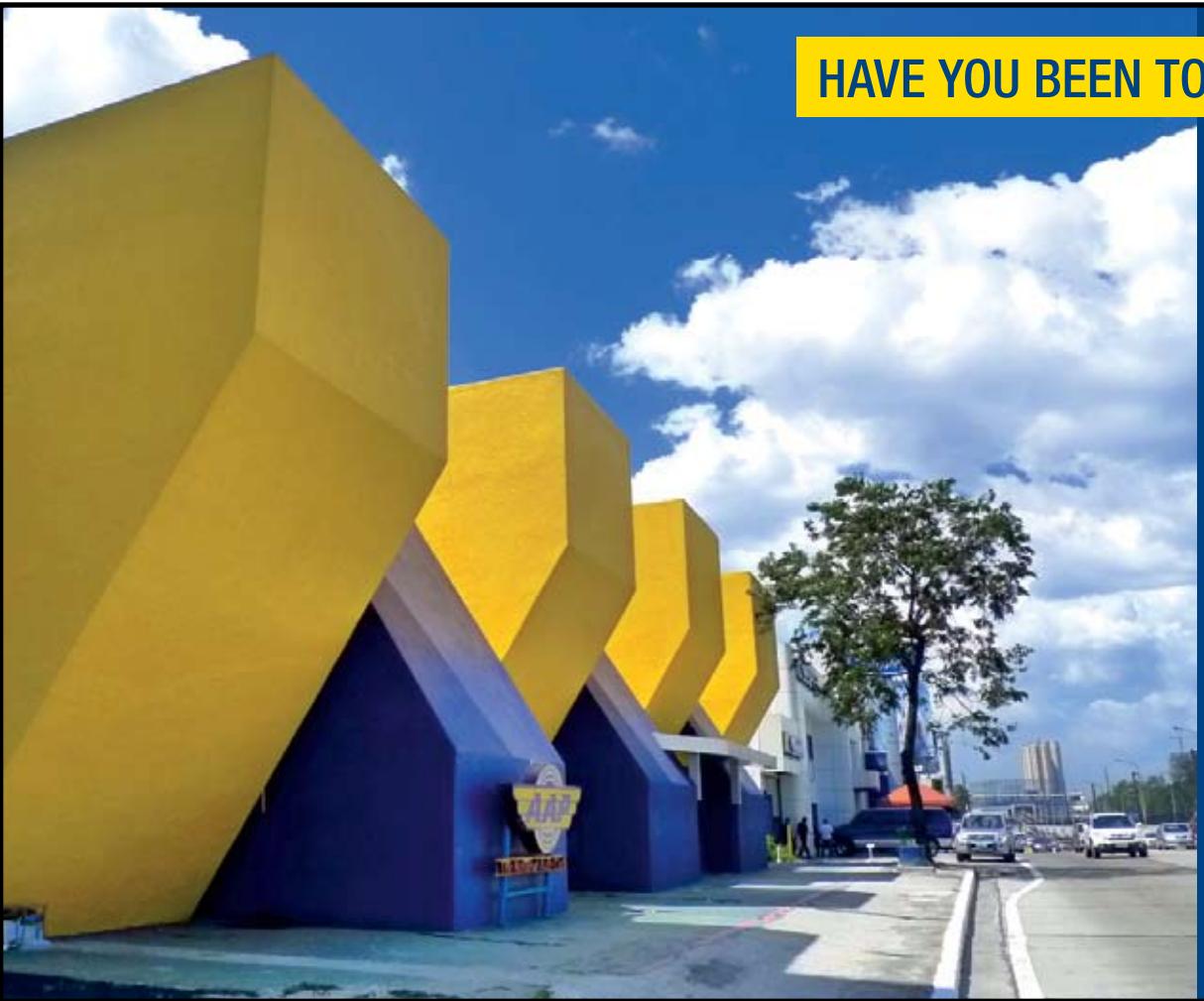
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HAVE YOU BEEN TO AAP LATELY?

YOUR National Auto Club moved to its new headquarters last year. Located on the Greenhills, San Juan part of the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA), next to the Ford and Mercedes Benz (CATS) dealerships, the new AAP headquarters is a landmark in itself -- a product of architectural ingenuity and is solid as a rock. It is owned by the Pacific Office Machines. From outside, the building looks like a sculpture or a stock of Lego blocks. You won't miss it since it now sports AAP's yellow-and-blue colors. In case you need directions in going to the new headquarters, please dial the new hotline (02) 655.58.89.

AAP reiterates opposition to e-tagging of private motor vehicles

RECENTLY, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) announced that the electronic tagging of public utility buses will proceed now that the mayors of Metro Manila have approved it. In this context, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) reiterates its opposition to the e-tagging of privately owned motor vehicles.

On March 1, 2010, AAP filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking to intervene in the case filed by Bayan Muna Party-List, et al against the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) project of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), Land Transportation Office (LTO) and STRADCOM Corporation. The AAP petition opposes the electronic tagging of privately owned motor vehicles under the said project.

In its petition, AAP asserted that AAP members stand to be directly injured or have actually been injured by the implementation of the RFID Project. AAP prayed that the Supreme Court (a) nullify the RFID Project; (b) declare the two Memorandum Circulars of the

DOTC and LTO and the RFID Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between LTO and STRADCOM as invalid, unconstitutional and ultra-vires; (c) order the DOTC and LTO to reimburse the RFID fees collected; and (d) to permanently enjoin the RFID project.

AAP asked the Supreme Court to stop the RFID project on the ground that it is unconstitutional as it violates a car owner's right to privacy. In its Resolution dated January 12, 2010, the Supreme Court issued a Status Quo Ante Order directing the temporary halt in the implementation of the RFID project.

LTO records indicate that roughly 30 million pesos are due for refund to some 85,537 motor vehicle owners who paid the P350 fee when they registered or renewed

the registration of their cars starting in November 2009.

AAP's opposition to the e-tagging of private motor vehicles is part of the club's road safety campaign, which has been a priority commitment of AAP since it was founded as the Philippine Motor Association in 1931. At that time, "The promotion of rights and privileges of all motorists for better and safer motoring" was declared among the objectives of the newly organized auto club. In pursuit of this objective, AAP board members paid a courtesy call on MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino in mid-2011 to offer the club's cooperation with MMDA projects and activities that seek to improve road safety and traffic conditions in Metro Manila.

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CALTEX



DOTC holds road safety forum, promotes 'I Swear' campaign

THE Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) recently organized a forum on its 'I Swear' campaign, its contribution to the decade-long Philippine Road Safety Action Plan.

Held at the Philippine National Police (PNP) Multipurpose Center in Camp Crame last Feb. 22, the forum gathered leaders of different sectors in making the Road Safety pledge.

Relatives of victims of road accidents were also present to share their family's experience in coping with the loss.

Fernando Alcantara, father of an Ateneo Grade School student who perished in a road accident in February 2009, said his family is still scared to cross the street. He said it took him and his family members three years before they could recover from the incident.

Also present in the forum was University of the Philippines (UP) professor Roland Simbulan, widower of journalist Chit Estella-Simbulan who was killed when

a bus rammed the taxicab she was riding in Commonwealth Avenue last year.

"Accidents could have been avoided if we only checked our brakes before driving, if we followed speed limits and if traffic enforcers enforced the rules. Road safety must be instilled in the communities, schools and other sectors of society," Simbulan said.

In the afternoon, the participants toured an improvised road safety park inside the hall, not a garden-like area but an exhibit of all local road safety initiatives.

Hundreds of initiatives and action plans were posted on the wall of the park and were later announced in the forum so participants could help in disseminating them. Among those posted was the desire



of participants to have a harmonized database of road crashes in the country.

The event was supported by the AAP, Volvo, the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP), A1 Driving, National Center for Commuter Safety and Protection, Motorcycle Riders Course, Young Street Smarts Club, Safe Kids Philippines, Highway Patrol Group, and Shell.



INSURANCE COMMISSION AND PIRA APPROVE MOTOR CAR TARIFF RATE INCREASE

AAP members renewing their membership have been inquiring about the sudden increase in their total motorcar insurance premium payment compared to what they used to pay.

AAP and its partner insurance providers (Federal Phoenix Assurance Co. Inc., Malayan Insurance Co. and FLT Prime Insurance) explained that the Office of the Insurance Commission, which regulates the premiums for the mandatory Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) and Property Damage coverage, approved the request by the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (PIRA) for an increase of 50 percent in premiums. The increase took effect December 5, 2011.

Meanwhile, all other rules and regulations related to Property Damage in the Motorcar Manual of rates will remain in force.

AAP members are encouraged to call 855-5889 local 822 for more details regarding CTPL and Property Damage insurance coverage.



The National Auto Club



AAP-Goodyear Autocare Center offers free fuel

The AAP-Goodyear Autocare Center at 682 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City offers as much as P1,000 worth of free fuel when you buy Goodyear tires.

This is Goodyear's year-end bonanza extended until March 31, 2012.

CALL 723 0808 for details





MADE TO MOVE

2012 Chevrolet Traverse

STORY & PHOTOS:
Vince Pornelos

WHEN it comes to SUVs, the American brands really are the ones to beat. They've been making them nearly as long as the automobile itself, with Chevrolet being one of the early pioneers with the Carryall Suburban back in 1935.



Today, however, the SUV landscape has changed. The arrival and immense popularity of crossovers have not just changed how SUVs are perceived, but how they are built as well. As expected, Chevrolet adapted to the changing market, and now the brand that bears Louis Chevrolet's iconic bowtie carries one of the most extensive SUV lineups in the market with various classic, body-on-frame SUVs (Suburban, Tahoe) and crossovers as well.

This is the latest model to join the line up: the Chevrolet Traverse.

When I first heard about the Traverse, I initially thought it to be the replacement for the long-running Chevrolet Trailblazer. When I saw it, however, it was a different story.

The main story about the Traverse is its size. It's really long, measuring well over 5 meters at 5207mm, 1991mm wide and 1788mm tall. It's nearly 200mm longer than the new Explorer, the new Durango or even the Land Cruiser. The wheelbase is long too, coming in at 3020mm. Even the Chevrolet Tahoe is slightly shorter compared to the Traverse, making it one of the biggest crossovers around.

In the style department, the Traverse does look modern. It gets the Chevrolet family face with the split grille. The headlamps are a little reminiscent of the Prado, while the side profile reminds me a bit of the Montero Sport. The rear end is a bit plain, though, and I feel the taillamps don't match the headlamps as they usually do in most other vehicles. Nevertheless, it doesn't look out of place in today's market, and does have the commanding presence expected of the Chevrolet brand.

Inside, the first thing you really notice is the abundance of room. It comes as no surprise, as the immense length of the vehicle does afford plenty of space for 8

people (in a 2-3-3 seating format) and ample legroom for all. All while leaving plenty of room for cargo. I actually had my dad (he's 6'0") sit in the third row without any complaints about knee, leg and head room. The accessibility of the 3rd row is a little strange, as it folds in an unconventional manner and slides forward. Either way, the Traverse scores good points when it comes to cabin space and passenger seating.

On its own, the Chevrolet Traverse comes pretty loaded with plenty of features. An in-dash, DVD, CD, MP3, iPod-capable audio system with Bluetooth for your phone and satellite navigation is standard, as well as the usual suite of power assist for steering, windows and mirrors. Safety is a top priority for the Traverse as it gets 6 airbags, HID, foglamps, anti-lock brakes, stability and traction control, giving the Traverse top marks in various safety tests held by the NHTSA.

The engine is pretty good, too. Powering the Traverse is a new 3.6 liter V6 from Chevy; the same, impressive V6 found in the Camaro RS. Of course, the Traverse is no Camaro, but it's nice to know you have power when you want it.

Nail that throttle and the V6 really comes to life. The Traverse lunges forward with plenty of gusto; after all, the engine has 281 horses and 359 newton meters available at your right foot's disposal. Handling that power is a 6-speed automatic transmission, giving the Traverse's V6 a good set of ratios to maximize.

For economy, it's decent. In city streets with moderate to heavy traffic, the Traverse's powertrain returns 5.2 km/l (fully loaded) and 9.8 on the highway. Those figures aren't exactly record-breaking, but being able to do it with a full cabin (for the city figures) is pretty decent.



SPECIFICATIONS

MAKE:	Chevrolet
MODEL:	Traverse LT FWD
ENGINE:	3.6-liter DOHC 24-valve V-6 Direct Injection
MAX OUTPUT:	281 PS @ 6300 rpm
MAX TORQUE:	359 Nm @ 5200 rpm
TRANSMISSION:	6-speed A/T

Safety is a top priority for the Traverse as it gets 6 airbags, HID, foglamps, anti-lock brakes, stability and traction control, giving the Traverse top marks in various safety tests done by the NHTSA.

Unlike Chevy's SUVs of old like the Trailblazer and Suburban, the Traverse is the brand's first large SUV that is actually a crossover, meaning the old body-on-frame construction has gone out in favor of the more modern unibody construction. It's a front-wheel-drive crossover SUV unlike the Suburban, Tahoe or Trailblazer, so don't expect much off-road ability. An all-wheel drive model is available, but is still meant for smooth dirt roads rather than hardcore off-roading.

The suspension is fully independent, and handling is decent for its size. Don't expect sporty handling in the corners, as it is a very heavy SUV. It's fine to drive around



town, though its length does make parking a challenge; thankfully the rear camera makes it a bit easier.

The odd thing about the Traverse is its ride comfort; it's much stiffer than expected. Having driven the Suburban and Trailblazer before, the Traverse is not as comfortable as either of them. It's strange because normally when a manufacturer transitions to crossover construction, the ride comfort typically improves. The suspension, body and even the relatively stiff nature of the seats tend to transmit a noticeable amount of the road's imperfections up to the passengers. Other reviews of the Traverse in the U.S. say it has a pliant ride, but perhaps with our far less than perfect roads, it seems to have bitten more than it can chew.

Needless to say, I was expecting a lot from the Chevrolet Traverse, especially given its price tag (PhP 3,088,888). The great engine and excellent space are good points for the Traverse, the style and interior design are relative to the customer, but I do feel the ride comfort and the features need quite a bit of work.

However, if you do need to move more than what the usual 7-seat SUV can handle, the Traverse might just be right for you. **AQ**



AAP HONORS 2011 TOP RACERS

THE Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) will honor six top race drivers in the 17th Annual Motorsports Awards on March 30, 2012 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City.

The event is being held in partnership with the country's biggest motoring event, the Manila International Auto Show that is scheduled on March 29 to April 1 at the World Trade Center Manila.

AAP, the sole four-wheel motorsport governing body in the country is the only National Auto Club affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the Paris-based authority on motorsports worldwide.

This year, AAP will give the highest recognition to four top drivers in drag, slalom, hillclimb and karting as two of the six disciplines under the AAP banner, namely touring and 4X4 off-roading, have not yet chosen their respective best drivers.

AAP motorsports chair Mandy Eduque expressed his appreciation to all race organizers and competitors for another job well done in last year's races.

"It was another year of safe and well organized races. All competitors made safety their number one concern," he said.

AAP will also award class champions of the 2011 National Karting series and the 2011 GT Series.

2011 DRIVER OF THE YEAR AWARDEES



Slalom
Noel Rivera



Hillclimb
Carlos Anton



Karting
Stefano Marcelo



Drag
Martin Manalo

PHILIPPINE GT SERIES AWARDEES



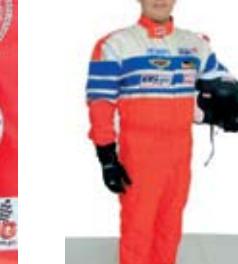
GT 300 Class Champion
Vicente Floirendo



GT 200 Class Champion
Dwight Kevin Carlos



GT 130 Class Champion
Dean Joson



GT 100 Class Champion
Marc Peter Thomann

NATIONAL KARTING

Cadet Class Champion
Raymond Cudala

Mini Rok Class Champion
Carl Pollington

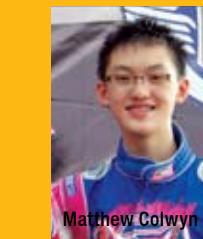
Formula SL Novice Class Champion
Sacha Marie Feliciano

Formula SL Expert Class Champion
Joseph Marwin Rojo

ROK Novice Class Champion
Matthew Colwyn Chan

ROK Jr. Class Champion
Franco Victor Reyes

ROK Sr. Class Champion
Stefano Marcelo



FIA Approves Grant To Train Filipino Motor Sport Officials

THE Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the governing body for all four-wheel motor sports worldwide and the federation of 227 national motoring and sporting organizations from 132 countries, recently approved the application of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) for funding to upgrade the training of local motor sport event officials.

AAP director and motor sport committee chair Mandy Eduque said that the grant of 117,992 euros will come from the FIA Institute, which administers the Motor Sport Safety Development Fund (MSSDF). It is one of only a few grants given by the FIA annually since 2008 to National Sporting Authorities (NSAs) around the world who submit motor sport-related project proposals for funding that are evaluated and deemed worthy of support.

Tracing the history of the MSSDF, Eduque said that the MSSDF was created by then FIA president Max Moseley, using the 100 million euros fine that the FIA collected from the McLaren Formula One team after investigating the McLaren-Ferrari dispute

during the 2007 F1 season. The MSSDF has three components: the Facility Improvement Program, Young Drivers Safety Program and the Officials Safety Training Program. The FIA grant to AAP comes under the latter program.

AAP applied for a grant under the Officials Safety Training Program in anticipation of the possible inclusion of the Philippines in the V8 Supercar Series in 2013, Eduque asserted. The V8 Series, which originated in Australia, has expanded globally and is now the third most popular motor sport series in the world after F1 and NASCAR. In 2012, the V8 Supercar Series will be held in China, Dubai and Texas. The organizers are working to bring it to the Philippines in 2013.

Eduque said that to make sure that local motor sport officials would be up to the challenge of officiating at the V8 Supercar Series come 2013, AAP applied for a training grant. While the skills of Filipino motor sport event officials are adequate for local events, they need to be upgraded to world-class

standards for the V8 series'

AAP applied for the grant in partnership and with the assistance of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports (CAMS), AAP's counterpart NSA in Australia. CAMS, one of a few around the world accredited by the FIA as a Regional Training Provider, will conduct the training program in the Philippines this year. "The fact that it was CAMS who, in only one year, trained local Indian officials for the first Formula One race in India in 2011, is a testament to their training acumen," Eduque pointed out.

AAP thanks the FIA Institute for the grant and looks forward to working together with CAMS throughout 2012 to implement the training program. "Not only will it develop the ability of Filipinos to officiate at world-class international events such as V8 Supercars, in a broader sense the FIA grant will redound to the benefit of Philippine motor sports as it will assure every Filipino competitor the same high level and standard of officiating as in the highest strata of motor sports worldwide," Eduque concluded.



NOTICE OF AAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTIONS

81st AAP Annual General Membership Meeting

THE 81st AAP Annual General Membership Meeting and Elections will be held on April 26, 2012, Thursday, at the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, Ramon Magsaysay Ave., University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City. Registration starts at 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for nominations to the AAP Board

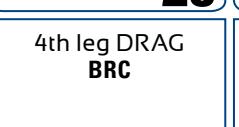
In preparation for this year's general membership meeting and annual elections, the AAP Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for the 2012-2013 Board of Directors.

AAP members in good standing (with no unpaid or unsettled obligations) may submit a nomination to the Nominations Committee. Nominees should meet the following criteria:

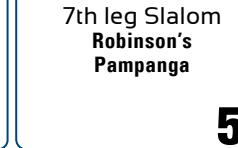
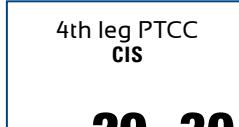
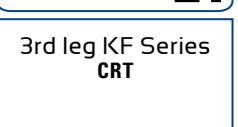
- Must be a bona fide AAP member for at least one year.
- Must be able and willing to devote time and energy to attend the meetings and activities of the AAP as a member of the Board of Directors.
- Must send a brief resume to the Nominations Committee, c/o AAP Executive Office, 28 EDSA, Greenhills San Juan City 1500. The deadline for submission of nominations is April 16, 2012.
- Must pass the evaluation of the Nominations Committee. The evaluation will focus on the willingness of the nominee to devote his/her time and energy to the Association.
- Must be present at AAP's general membership meeting on April 26, 2012.

AFTER THEIR ELECTION, THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHOOSE AMONG THEMSELVES THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND CHAIRPERSONS OF NINE COMMITTEES.

2012 MOTOR SPORTS CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1st leg DRAG CIS  28	1st leg KF Series CRT  4-5	2nd leg Hillclimb Manila 2nd leg Slalom SM Sucat 4 	4th leg Hillclimb Manila  1	6th leg DRAG CIS  5	3rd leg GT BRC 2nd leg RallyX E.K. 5th leg Slalom Robinson's Sta Rosa 2-3 
2nd leg DRAG BRC  18	3rd leg DRAG CIS  10	5th/6th leg Hillclimb Samat 1st leg GT BRC 14-15 	5th/6th leg Hillclimb Samat 1st leg GT BRC 14-15  14-15	1st leg RallyX E.K. 4th leg Slalom Robinson's Nova 6  16-17	7th leg DRAG BRC  9
1st leg Hillclimb La Union 1st leg Slalom Robinson's Nova 19  19	1st leg Karting CRT  17-18	5th leg DRAG BRC  21	2nd leg GT CIS  12-13	2nd leg GT CIS  16-17	4th leg Kartin CRT  16-17
3rd leg Hillclimb La Union  25	3rd leg Slalom Cabanatuan  22	1st leg AKOC Malaysia  19-20	2nd leg AKOC Macau 1st leg PTCC BRC 23-24  23-24	2nd leg AKOC Macau 1st leg PTCC BRC 23-24  23-24	8th leg DRAG CIS  30
4th leg DRAG BRC  31	2nd leg Karting BRC  28-29	3rd leg AKOC Boomland  26-27	3rd leg AKOC Boomland  26-27	3rd leg AKOC Boomland  26-27	8th leg DRAG CIS  30

2012 MOTOR SPORTS CALENDAR

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
3rd leg RallyX E.K. 6th leg Slalom SM Sucat 8  8	4th leg RallyX E.K.  4	5th leg GT BRC  8-9	9th leg Slalom Robinson's Nova 7  7	7th leg Karting CRT  10-11	12th leg Slalom SM Sucat 2  2
4th leg GT CIS  14-15	7th leg Slalom Robinson's Pampanga 5  5	8th leg Slalom SM Southmall 9  9	6th leg GT CIS  13-14	5th leg AKOC Thailand 6th leg PTCC BRC 17-18  17-18	4th leg KF Series CRT  8-9
3rd leg AKOC / 2nd leg KF Series CRT  21-22	5th leg Karting E.K.  18-19	6th leg Karting CIS  15-16	4th leg AKOC Macau 5th leg PTCC BRC 20-21  20-21	11th leg Slalom Robinson's Nova 18  18	
2nd leg PTCC CIS  28-29	3rd leg PTCC BRC  25-26	4th leg PTCC CIS  29-30	10th leg Slalom SM Sucat 21  21	Rally Sprint E.K.  26	3rd leg KF Series CRT  26-28



Family Matters

2012 SUZUKI APV TYPE-II SGX



WE always had a bit of a soft spot for the Suzuki APV. Unique in its arrangement and very value oriented in price, the APV has always provided a good alternative to those who desire more from a vehicle for the family.



SPECIFICATIONS

MAKE:	Suzuki
MODEL:	APV Type-II SGX
ENGINE:	1.6-liter SOHC 16-valve Inline 4
MAX OUTPUT:	91 PS @ 5750 rpm
MAX TORQUE:	127 Nm @ 4500 rpm
TRANSMISSION:	4-speed A/T

Strictly speaking, the Suzuki APV Type-II is not a new car. The Type-II moniker has been around since they instituted a mid-cycle model makeover a few years back. One thing you do notice about the design is that it looks pretty good, and modern. They've replaced the bulbous look of the original APV with a sleeker design for the Type-II to meet the standards set by more high tech, more expensive minivans being sold in Japan.

Compared to its primary competition like the Innova, Crosswind, Adventure and Grand Livina, the APV has a seating arrangement for 2 in front, 2 in the 2nd row and 3 in the last row (most of the others have a 2-3-2 arrangement). The middle row has captain's seats so you can just enjoy the ride, while a center aisle affords access to the back seat. All the seats are very comfortable, staying true to the concept of the APV: a living room on wheels.

Of course, there are plenty of power and convenience features all around. Dual airconditioning makes for a very comfortable drive even in our hot, tropical climate. Power windows, steering, locks and an automatic transmission are standard for the

SGX model. They have added an optional AVT audio video DVD system with satellite navigation and dual headrest monitors, making sure entertainment is well and truly taken care of.

As a drive, the APV Type-II feels like a compacted van. The driving position is quite upright, with the engine, a 1.6 liter SOHC 16-valve gasoline motor just underneath. It produces just 91 horsepower and 127 N·m. I do wish it had a decent small displacement common rail diesel engine, but as it stands, the APV does relatively well as the engine has been tuned for better low and mid end torque. Don't expect to take it up and beyond highway speeds, as it does get noisy inside at 100-120 km/h. You can do more, but we wouldn't recommend it. Around town, the APV works fine and efficiently.

The APV Type-II still occupies that unique position in the market, and at PhP 810,000 (SGX, though the DVD is an extra cost) it does function well for what it was intended to do. There are newer competition out there, but if you need a comfortable micro van made for the Filipino family, the APV Type-II is an option well worth considering.

All the seats are very comfortable, staying true to the concept of the APV: a living room on wheels. „

ZOOMING TO ZAMBALES

Island adventures in a Mazda6

STORY & PHOTOS: Vince Pornelos



Zambales isn't a party beach like Boracay, Galera or Subic; it's more remote, isolated and quiet compared to the other popular places. The waves are stronger, thanks to Zambales being exposed to the South China Sea, making it a haven for beginner and first-time surfers. What the place has are several pristine, uninhabited islands that make for perfect daytrips either with the family or with a group of friends.

The drive up isn't one to be taken lightly, but I'm sure the Mazda6 is more than up to the task. Launched in 2010, the new-look Mazda6 is a fast, nimble executive car. Unlike others in its class, the Mazda6 is probably one of the best grand tourers, and on this trip, we'll be putting it to the test.

Bags packed and ready to go, we took the Mazda out. It's always been a great car to drive on city streets -- comfortable and smooth. Now, however, we're on the open North Luzon Expressway, maximizing all 170 horsepower from the 2.5-liter engine to make some good time.

Since the completion of the SCTEx a couple of years back, much of the traffic has been diverted to the new dual carriageway. The drawback to the SCTEx, while you do travel faster, you will have to travel further, as the entry point into the SCTEx is all the way in Clark, not to mention the extra toll fee. On this trip, I chose instead to try the old route into Subic on the way to Zambales.

We got off at the San Fernando Exit, and headed on to Subic. The old route has certainly cleared up compared to the time before the SCTEx, and has also become wider and better maintained. Here you can truly stretch the legs of the Mazda in

EVERYONE needs an adventure once in a while.

Sure, during summer many people head on out to places like Subic, Boracay, Puerto Galera or Baguio. For those who desire a little bit of adventure, perhaps Zambales and its many pristine islands could be just what you need.

between the towns unlike before. They also built a new concrete bypass road that goes around the town of Lubao, the previous cause of so many holiday bottlenecks due to the numerous tricycles, buses and jeepneys that stop at will there.

Once at Dinalupihan, we had two choices of road to take: the shorter leg of the SCTEx or the original route that winds through the mountains leading up to Subic. I chose the former, preferring to pay a little extra by entering Dinalupihan and ending up directly in Subic.

One thing you really notice in the North, especially when taking the new system of expressways, is the tollgate overload. It's like hopping from one box office to another, and long queues do tend to form up. Nevertheless, once past it, you realize how much time you've saved compared to the old days when you really had to overtake a lot of cars on the two-lane blacktop.

Subic really serves as a great pit stop on a trip like this. The abundance of duty free stores makes shopping truly convenient, with a great variety of imported products at very cheap prices. With the trunk loaded up

on roadtrip supplies and consumables, it's time to hit the road again.

Inside the former US Navy base you really have to pay attention to every single road sign, lest you're dying to have a run in with the SBMA Police. Once out of Subic, you're on the open road again, heading up alongside the coast into Zambales. It does stay clogged for a while, then you begin to hit the provincial highways again.

The Mazda6 really feels like it was made for roads like these -- long, wide open stretches of brand new tarmac with several turns tossed in for good fun. Of course, you do have to keep your speed in check, as there are a few clearly marked dangerous curves en route.

The views out the window are simply spectacular. Recent rains have brought out a lush green from the surrounding fields, making for a very picturesque view on a cloudless sky. This is perfect driving weather for convertibles like the MX-5, but the Mazda6 is great too, and believe me, for the duration of the trip the sunroof will remain open.

At a certain junction, you have to

make a choice. Head left, and you'll end up in Pundaquit, Zambales. There are many resorts here, though the most popular is Punta De Uian, thanks to a certain telenovela that chose the place as a primary filming location. Like I said earlier, Zambales is dotted with many pristine locations and over in Pundaquit, you get two: Capones Island and Anawangin Cove.

Capones Island is accessible by a quick boat ride. The uninhabited island is known for its white sand beaches and a historic Spanish lighthouse built back in the 1800s. Anawangin cove is another such location, but unlike Capones, it's on the mainland. It's only accessible either by a quick boat ride or a six hour hike up the mountains.

For this trip, however, I took the road heading further north. After about another hour and a half, you end up in Candelaria; the very edge of the Province of Zambales. This is actually the jump off point for another pristine island in Zambales: Potipot.

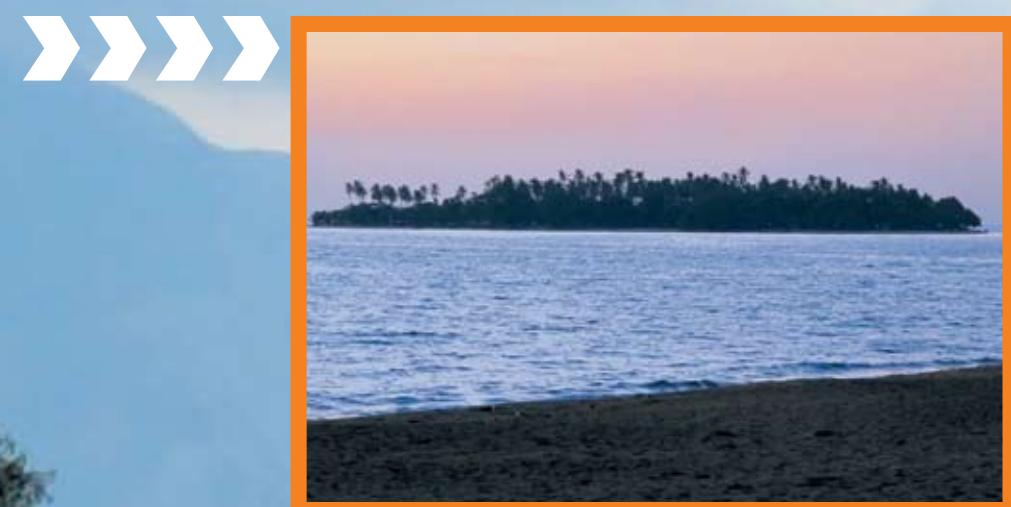
A small, uninhabited island, Potipot is unique for its proximity to the shore and for the pristine beaches that surround it. A daytrip to the island is, like everything else in this area, very cheap, with boat rides that cost about Php 500. You can camp on the island if you wish, though don't forget to take any garbage with you to keep the island clean for other visitors.

The drive to Candelaria from Manila takes about 4 to 5 hours depending on your speed and the number of pit stops you take, while Pundaquit takes about 3 to 4 hours. There are so many resorts to choose from, all of which are very affordable; PhP 1400 to PhP2500 per night.

You can't go wrong with a trip to Zambales. All you need is the right car, an iPod full of music, plenty of food and drinks for several nights and days of fun in the sun. **aq**



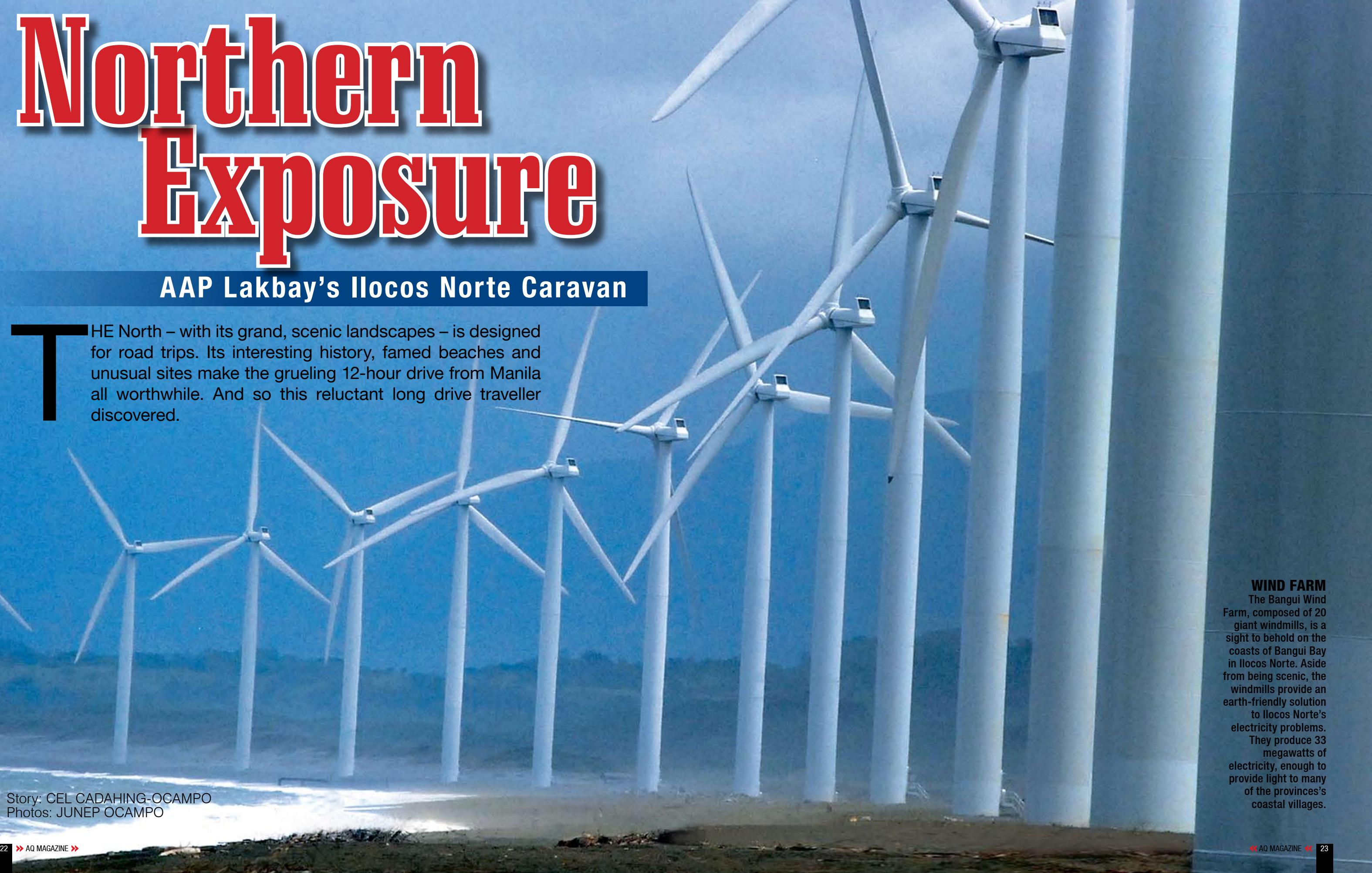
" The Mazda6 really feels like it was made for roads like these -- long, wide open stretches of brand new tarmac with several turns tossed in for good fun "



Northern Exposure

AAP Lakbay's Ilocos Norte Caravan

THE North – with its grand, scenic landscapes – is designed for road trips. Its interesting history, famed beaches and unusual sites make the grueling 12-hour drive from Manila all worthwhile. And so this reluctant long drive traveller discovered.



WIND FARM

The Bangui Wind Farm, composed of 20 giant windmills, is a sight to behold on the coasts of Bangui Bay in Ilocos Norte. Aside from being scenic, the windmills provide an earth-friendly solution to Ilocos Norte's electricity problems. They produce 33 megawatts of electricity, enough to provide light to many of the provinces's coastal villages.

Story: CEL CADAHING-OCAMPO
Photos: JUNEP OCAMPO



MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE
The AAP Ilocos Norte Caravan promoted not only tourism but also road safety. Left photos show the Caravan's start at Shell Tabang station; a stopover in Lingayen where a Road Safety Pledge signing ceremony was held; another brief stop at the San Fernando, La Union capitol for a talk on road safety issues; and the participating cars on a convoy. The author's vehicle, a Mitsubishi Montero Sport, had a photo-op on Lingayen Bay.

My husband and I have discussed so many times how the Saud Beach in Pagudpud looked so inviting in pictures, but the idea of a long drive was enough for both of us to drop the discussion and never seriously plan a trip to the great North.

Just when we totally forgot everything about Pagudpud came an invitation to join a caravan that would bring us not only to the popular beach in Ilocos Norte but also to the other towns and cities along the way. We suddenly found ourselves one sunny morning in late November tucked in a shiny Mitsubishi Montero Sport and driving along 37 other vehicles whose occupants were all looking forward for a long exciting drive.

Organized by the Automobile Association Philippines, specifically by its Director and Tourism Chair Mina Gabor, the AAP Ilocos Norte Caravan was the third of its kind but by far the longest at three days. Aside from almost 100 AAP members, four dignitaries, namely Malaysian Ambassador and Mrs. Datu Seri Dr. Ibrahim Saad, Pakistan Ambassador and Mrs. Mohsin Razi, Greek Ambassador Polyxeni Stefanidou and her husband, and Brunei Ambassador Malai Halimah Yussof, joined the convoy.

The tour started at the NLEX Tabang Shell station with a Ford Everest SUV as the lead car. It was a sight to behold to see the cars careen in one neat formation, yes, including the Mercedes-Benz S350, a Volvo S80, a Nissan Teana 350XV, and a Toyota Grandis that bore the ambassadors.

First stop for the group was the amazing Pangasinan Provincial Capitol Complex in Lingayen, which could easily put any city hall in entire Metro Manila (if not the Philippines) to shame. A well-organized complex, it placed all essential government offices side by side. Its surroundings are elegantly landscaped and cleanliness in the area is obviously strictly observed.

Even more impressive is the Sison Auditorium in the complex where the taking and signing of AAP Road Safety Pledge took place. The dainty woodwork that frames the walls of the auditorium speaks of the craftsmanship of the locals. The chic auditorium glittering with so many chandeliers could rival the ballrooms of the country's five-star hotels.

As everyone was busy preparing for the program to begin, my husband and I sneaked out to check out the other buildings in the complex. Our adventure brought us to the President Hotel built in honor of Pangasinan's favorite son, former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Owned and operated by the local government, the hotel boasts of a swimming pool, a putting green and a driving range. It also has a direct access to the very long stretch of Lingayen Beach. Unfortunately the strong waves at the beach seemed too menacing



for swimming; it appeared to be perfect for surfing, though. Nonetheless, the uninterrupted view of splashing waves and the fine gray sand were a perfect background for the photos of our red Montero Sport.

The price for President Hotel? It's the punch line. An overnight stay for two would cost less than P1,000.

After Pangasinan transport leaders and government officials led by Vice Governor Jose Calimlim Jr., Provincial Administrator Rafael Baraan and AAP Treasurer Jacinto Mantaring signed the Road Safety Pledge, the AAP Caravan was off to its next stop, La Union.

Going to the La Union Capitol, which is nestled atop a hill in the city of San Fernando, was an adventure in itself as some cars in the caravan got lost only to be found again by the two Ford Fiesta sweepers. The group was welcomed by Gov. Manuel Ortega and Vice Gov. Aureo Nisce who headed the Road Safety Pledge along with Provincial Board members, transport groups and DoT Region 1 Director Martin Valera.

Then the group was on the road again.

It was already dark when the caravan reached vintage Vigan. Though I have been to Vigan several times already, it was only this time that I was able to take a closer look at this heritage town at night. The Vigan Cathedral was all adorned for Christmas and so was the plaza in front. Decorative lights illuminated the entire area.

Fatigue was starting to show its face among the drivers when the group finally reached Laoag, Ilocos Norte, where everyone was



VIGAN AND LAOAG
The AAP Caravan reached the heritage town of Vigan an hour after sundown, after more than 10 hours on the road. They arrived in Plaza del Norte Hotel in Laoag City for a well-deserved rest. Early the next morning, it's off to the Ilocos Norte Capitol for another round of road safety pledge signing ceremonies.



greeted by an enthusiastic dance group that kept all of us tired travellers entertained as we partook our dinner.

After traversing 463 kilometers, nothing else was more interesting for the group than the bedrooms of the well-appointed Plaza del Norte Hotel. There was no more after-dinner chitchats. Everyone simply wanted to recharge.

Breakfast was an entirely different story. The dinning hall of the hotel was abuzz with all sorts of tales. There was occasional laughter as drivers shared how they got lost after following a car mistaken to be part of the convoy, or how they missed a turn and arrived too late for dinner. Suddenly, how fast or how slow cars moved became hot conversation topics. Undoubtedly, these were the things that make AAP road trips a unique experience.

The second day started with another signing of the Road Safety Pledge in front of the Laoag Capitol. Then the caravan was off to Kapurpurawan rock formation in Burgos town which, in my opinion,

could be considered one of Ilocos Norte's best-kept secrets.

Kapurpurawan is a natural rock formation sculpted by strong waves. It's called Kapurpurwan for being white (the word "puraw" means white in Ilocano). From afar, the formation appeared as if it had emerged straight from a sci-fi movie, with the rock on top like a space ship about to take off.

We reached the rock formation by going down a rough road about a kilometer from the Burgos highway. At the end of the road, we walked a good five minutes further down to sea level. There were soldiers waiting to assist us at the site. Apparently, the Ilocos Norte provincial government had arranged such security measures to ensure the safety of the group.

Atop the rock formation, the wind was truly crazy. I had to hold on to the crevices just to remain on my feet. It felt like anytime I would be swept away by the howling winds. But I had to admit that it was one of the most unique tourist spots I've ever been to. I'm



From afar, the formation appeared as if it had emerged straight from a sci-fi movie, with the rock on top like a space ship about to take off.



NATURAL & MAN-MADE WONDERS

The Kapurpurawan Rock Formation in Burgos, Ilocos Norte, is a natural wonder that can be viewed closely after driving down an unpaved road and walking for about 5 minutes. From there, the AAP Caravan proceeded to the Bangui Wind Farm, this time to appreciate a man-made marvel that is both scenic and functional.

**MARCOS' LEGACY**

A dinner for the AAP Caravan was hosted by no less than Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos at her father's house, the Balay Ti Amianan, which is considered as the Malacañang of the North. The Balay Ti Amianan is the only house designed by former President Ferdinand Marcos. Here, AQ Editor-in-Chief Aida Sevilla Mendoza posed by the 20-seater dinner table.



sure the other travellers felt the same way, too, as they all braved the violent breeze just to be able to pose for their cameras. How often do they get to experience such a thing, anyway?

From there we moved to the Bangui Wind Farm, about four kilometers away. The Bangui Wind Farm is composed of 20 windmills of wind turbines that supply some 33 MW of electricity to several Ilocos Norte towns. The windmills line the gusty shore of Bangui Bay. After grabbing some miniature windmills sold by the locals and posing for photographs, we again climbed back to our vehicles, this time to have lunch at the famed Saud Beach in Pagudpud.

Saud Beach was as serene as it was in pictures. Its white sand



may not be as sugary as Boracay's but its turquoise waters were as clear, though not as calm. Since it was off-season during our visit, there were just a handful of people on the beach. I was told that during nighttime, one could enjoy gazing at the unobstructed view of star-studded sky while walking on the beach.

Pagudpud Mayor Maja Sales hosted our lunch in her family-owned Saud Beach Resort, which has the best view of the beach. The gracious mayor congratulated the group for having reached Pagudpud, the northern most tip of Luzon. She gave everyone a certificate as proof of such a feat.

On the way back to Laoag, the group had a short stop at the

San Nicolas Church and the Marcos Mausoleum. Dinner was extra special as it was held at the Balay Ti Amianan, or the Malacañang of the North, hosted by no less than Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee Marcos, the daughter of the North's most famous leader, former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Located on the shores of Paoay Lake, Balay Ti Amianan was the official residence of the late President. According to Imee, it was the only house that her father designed and built. Except for its size, the house was surprisingly very simple. The wooden walls, flooring and furniture made it homey and warm.

Rain poured on the third day of the caravan; the scheduled activities -- sand boarding and 4WD at the La Paz sand dunes and bird-watching in Paoay Lake -- had to be cancelled.

My husband and I took advantage of the lull to go to the market for our pasalubong shopping. Part of our shopping list were abel iloco blankets, longganisa, and the most requested bagnet. After a lot of haggling with the vendors, we went out of the market satisfied with our loot. We're ready for the long drive back to Manila.

Since the third day was a Sunday, the rest of the caravan members attended Mass at the world-famous Paoay Church before dropping by Currimao town to view some coral formations. They had their afternoon snack at the Buluarte farm of Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson but the governor was not there to welcome them.

As for me and my husband, it was a straight journey to Manila, stopping from time to time for food and rest. We got home way past dinnertime. Our escape to the Great North was grueling, all right, but all the unexpected discoveries made everything worthwhile.

Until the next AAP caravan! ☺

**PAGUDPUD**

The Saud Beach in Pagudpud is the AAP Caravan's ultimate reward for driving hundreds of kilometers. Here, the town's mayor hosted a lunch and a time for fellowship. The author took the chance to explore the beach.



BEYOND POINTING AND SHOOTING



Travel Photography tips from Master Lensman
George Tapan

TRAVEL photography has become a well-loved pursuit of both professionals and hobbyists. When you have a fantastic scene at the other end of your lens, the need to capture that moment is inevitable. And with digital technology right at the palm of your hands, it becomes easier to take photos and share it to the rest of the world.

Words by LUCCI C. CORAL
Photos by GEORGE TAPAN



WINNING SHOT

This photo by George Tapan which he titled "Into The Green Zone" won the top prize in the Places category of the National Geographic Photo Contest 2011. Taken while he was stranded in Onuk Island, Balabac, in the south of Palawan, the photo was shot during a rainy day. The strong wind created a nice flowing effect on the hair of the lady. The rain, which stopped in the far distance, created the rainbow in the horizon. The fisherman in the background is looking for turtles. Tapan called it the "photographer's moment," where he was at the right place, at the right time, with the right subject and background, and with a camera on hand to take the shot. Tapan is finishing his book on Palawan which will be released early next year. He says Onuk island beach is shallow for about 200 meters from the shore and is more beautiful than the beaches of Boracay.

However, some travel photographs stand out above the rest. And this does not rely on the sophistication of the camera, but on the artistic eye of the photographer. The art of composition is that point when the photographer takes all elements inside one frame and take that shot.

And for this issue of AQ, we give you expert tips from internationally-awarded travel photographer, George Tapan, on how to create perfection with the click of a shutter. His

photos have graced the covers of international magazines and among his myriad awards and accomplishments, he was recently recognized by National Geographic for having the best photo in the category of Places.

More than simply showcasing beauty, his travel photos have played a big role in influencing positive change in Philippine tourism. Here are some travel photography tips from the expert:



KNOW THY DESTINATION.

You have to know about the place you are going to so you'll have a weapon when you get there. A camera is just a tool, anybody can have a camera, what's important in a travel photographer is that you are always prepared for both the expected and unexpected.

WAIT FOR THE PERFECT TIME.

When I look into my frame and I feel that something would happen to make my photo better, I wait for it. Would the cloud formation change? Would an airplane fly into my frame? When those moments happen, I take my photo.

THE RULE OF THIRDS IS NOT MADE TO BE BROKEN

Composition-wise, never place a subject in the middle of your frame. Make sure that the person does not cover the beautiful background.

MAKE IT TIMELESS

Make sure that when you take photos, don't include advertisements and commercials into the frame because these would date it. These would show which era the photo was taken.

USE FLASH IN SUNLIGHT

When your subject is strongly backlit with harsh sunlight, it is advisable to use the flash to give light to the subject's face.

SCALE IS IMPORTANT

Placing people and other moving living things into the frame adds life to the photo. It also provides scale, showing how magnanimous or minuscule the elements in the photo are.

CREATE BEAUTY

Good photographs are not just taken, it sometimes have to be created. I art direct my photos. I beautify it more by placing some additional elements and make it into what I have envisioned it to be.

PHOTOSHOP IS NOT SYNONYMOUS TO GOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Editing a photo too much can make the place unreal, which is not good for photography. It alters the viewers' perception.

“ The art of composition is that point when the photographer takes all elements inside one frame and take that shot. ”

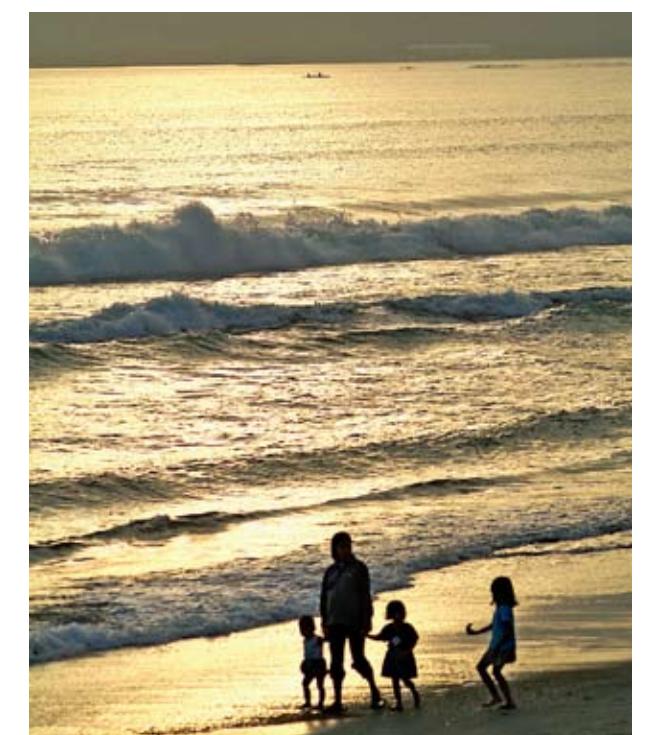
Travel photos are not meant to be edited, it is supposed to be taken with all the beautiful elements given by nature and the people around it.

RESPECT YOUR SUBJECT

When taking photos of people in different places, it is still best to ask permission to have their photos taken. Ego has no place in photography. What is important is that the people of the place have accepted you and welcomed you in their territory. Then you can take beautiful photos.

CHOOSE YOUR UNIQUE ANGLES

It is best to choose an angle to yield a shot which is beyond the usual postcard look. When I take photos, I go away from the bunch of my photographer companions and look for a spot where I can take uniquely beautiful photos. 



ADVENTURE



Text and photos by PETER SMITH

A British Sports Touring Car's Story

I was born nearly 65 years ago, on Wednesday, 16 April 1947, to be exact. On that day many sports cars like me were born in the factory of the M.G. Car Company in Abingdon-on-Thames, a lovely quiet town in Berkshire Oxfordshire. M.G. has produced cars which are renown the world over. The majority of which were sports cars; in addition many saloons built have been noted to be lively.



THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

The classic MG touring car owned by Briton Peter Smith has gone to all kinds of roads. Here, it carries its equally adventurous boss and his wife, Nena up the slopes of the Angat River after a day of sightseeing.

In the period to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 some 14,000 sports cars were produced including 3,400 which were the T-Series TA and TB. From 1945 to 1949 exactly 10,000 TCs were built mainly for the North American market - not only to satisfy that market but for the M.G. Company to earn valuable foreign currency to help Britain rise from the ravages of the War. The last T-Series models were the TD and TF built between 1949 and 1955; some 39,600 being built.

I was christened TC2577 because I am an M.G. TC and because I was the 2,326th to leave the factory -- but that is another story.

It is not clear when I came to the Philippines although from official documents it would appear to be not earlier than the late fifties. In 1962 I became part of the family of Bart Silayan who loved me greatly. He used to take me for Sunday picnics in the grounds of the University of the Philippines Diliman. These picnics I enjoyed very much because I could watch children playing hide and seek and those games which are of a past era.

Bart gave me some exciting adventures by racing me at such places as Subic. In the '90s, I have pictures that show me with some of my relatives who are also in the Philippines. From all accounts, we had some great times together.

You will see that in those days I wore cream but soon after Bart passed me on I was painted British Racing Green to match my green radiator. Most of my photographs here already show me in my new colours. Oh, I like my photo in Barrio Barreto in Subic where I posed facing the sea.

I have been driven just 7,000 miles since my colour was changed and I enjoy my new life.

A BOUT a couple of years ago I was taken to Angat Dam for a picnic (I do like picnics). Although entry was denied I was shown the Dam from a range of hills that overlook the Angat River and Dam. The road leading to the river was just like what I had experienced in UK - some twists and turns and ups and downs. The photograph I rather like is me climbing out of the basin after the picnic. The track was

rough and steep - my relatives are used to time trials on rough tracks.

I reckon one of the best roads I and my relatives prefer is that which leads from Marikina to the Sierra Madre Hotel and beyond to Tanay via Daranak Falls and return via Antipolo. I love the twisties and the ups and downs. Recently I was taken on that route in reverse - Oh! how I enjoyed it! There is one Army check point near the Sierra Madre Hotel which has a layout that on one occasion nearly caused me to have more than a paint job.

Now that reminds me of my run with the Vintage Car Club of the Philippines to Cloud 9, which is between Marikina and Antipolo. The short climb up to Cloud 9 from the main road and the return thereto was an exciting experience never to be forgotten! This is a good point to mention that I join other cars of the Vintage Car Club to enjoy Sunday road runs.

I am driven oftentimes with the windscreen laying flat on my bonnet - I reckon that makes me look really sporty. That is why I was made - in the tradition of the M.G. motto "Safety Fast". I must point



ON AND OFF THE TRACK
The MG has been driven on the race track, too. Here, Peter Smith and companion try out the Subic International Raceway when it was still operational. Photo at left shows the MG with Nena Smith admiring the view of the Angat river. Photo on the lower part of this page shows the MG having some R&R at Barrio Barreto in Subic.

“ I have been driven just 7,000 miles since my colour was changed and I enjoy my new life. I will describe some of my adventures in subsequent emails. ”

out that I and my fellow M.G.s subscribe to the statement that M.G. is the Marque of Friendship.

I have been to Subic on five occasions and I have enjoyed every moment. I remember well a once in a lifetime adventure when I was joined by a Datsun Fairlady (owned and driven by a keen sports motorist - Steven Flor) from the Metro to Subic Raceway to participate in the last race meeting there. We travelled together to San Fernando thence to Layac and Subic. For our return to the Metro we went our separate ways via the SCTEx. I took but four hours! Remember I am an old car!

I have been driven around the Metro from Monumento to C3 to Tondo to Delpal Bridge then to C5 etc.

I am hoping that one day the authorities will allow me to have a few practice laps during the lunch break at Clark!

For the record I have four cylinders with a total 1250 cc. I drink Petron Blaze



“ It really is a pleasure to be with my relatives of whatever age and other sports cars. ”

100 (no ethanol) because it enables me to run smoothly and speedily.

I have travelled 7,000 odd miles and I return about 25 mpg [Imperial gallons]. I am serviced by two men who I have known for at least 20 years each. Chie takes care of my mechanics and Fred of my electrics. Both these men subscribe to the old traditions. They are extremely reliable and honest.

WHAT a lovely morning! I have not travelled the highways and byways of the Metro since last Sunday. Quite out of the blue the roadmakers arrived with all their plant to re-block, I think that is the right word, about 100 metres of one side of the road. The road has been closed to me for four whole

days with more days in prospect.

This situation has brought thoughts of other parts of my story - so far untold.

To my knowledge there are four close relatives of mine in or around the Metro. There is the red one, the cream one, the blue one and the black one. In my knowledge they spend most of their lives in their garages. Sad really because we would all make a very fine quintet. You see, I am told that sports cars like me are meant to be driven rather than being coddled in some quiet place. Remember I will have my 65th birthday on 16 April 2012 -- I shall be an old age pensioner or as they say here a senior! I have heard it said that age is just a number!

In my case I seem to spend more time outside the garage, which is neither

heated non-airconditioned, than inside. I just enjoy being driven around the Metro. Wherever I go, there are folks who are happy to see me. I hear all sorts of human beings saying such words as 'ganda', 'nice car', 'wow', 'galing' - I know not what they mean but all around are happy to see me! Even bus drivers, jeepney drivers and taxi drivers are happy to see me. Humans wearing uniforms of different styles and colours are interested, too, but for different reasons.

I have been to Angeles to attend meetings of the Pampanga Classic Car Club. There I would meet a beautiful but younger relative, an M.G. TD. It really is a pleasure to be with my relatives of whatever age and other sports cars. I have travelled many miles in the company of a

Singer 4AD, younger than me -- how lucky can I get! I have followed the cream TC for a short distance to meet a green Triumph TR2 for breakfast one Sunday morning. I must not forget my enjoyable road trips with the Fairlady.

I rub shoulders with cars belonging to members of the European Car Club of the Philippines. In fact on one occasion the Club insisted that I should be displayed inside the Venice Piazza during a Festival it had organised. There I met a red MGB -- oh so young -- it was parked next to me!

There are so many tales I could tell about trips to Tagaytay, the Union Jack Tavern, MOA, Intramuros and Fort Santiago, Island Cove but sadly I'm running out of petrol. **qq**



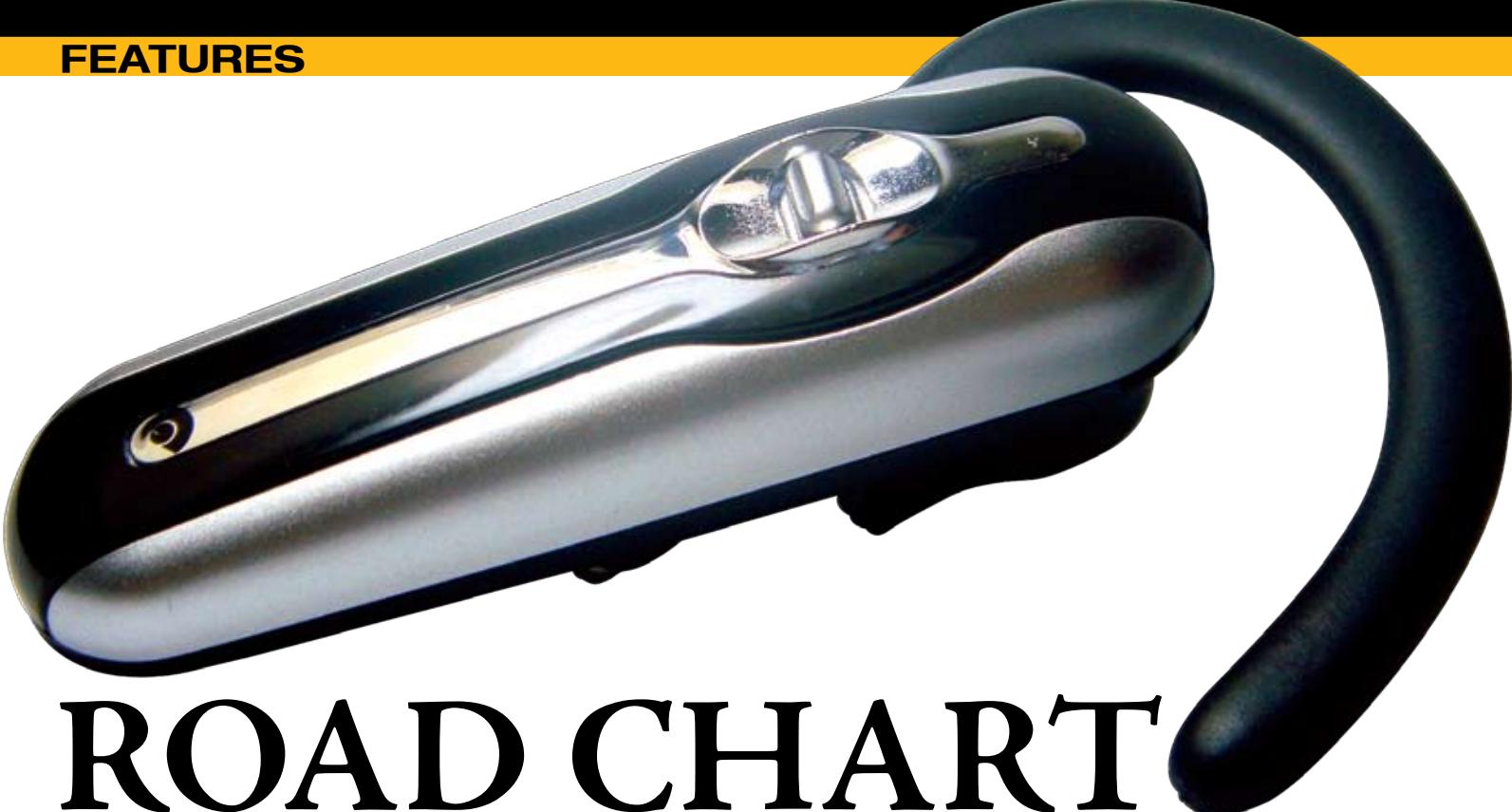
HAVE WHEELS, WILL DRIVE
Here are some of the MG's truly memorable experiences in the Philippines. Top left photo shows the touring car as if posing by a checkpoint along the twisties of the Marikina-Laguna-Quezon (Marilaque) road in Rizal province. In Pililia, Rizal, school children couldn't resist getting close to the classic sports car. Top right photo and photo at left show the MG's front grille and the car in action during AAP's Drive Caravan in Clark Field.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PETER Smith is now retired from UK. He has been interested in cars since his childhood days. "It's a boy thing, I suppose," he says. He has owned an XK140 FHC and has served as marshal of motoring events. He and his Filipina wife Nena now usually go around on board the MG. The couple joined AAP's three Drive Caravan tours in Clark, Batangas and Ilocos. Though he's been driving on the "wrong side" of the road for over a quarter of a century, Peter refuses to make any comments about the driving culture in the Philippines. "Those in barongs should don the clothes of the ordinary person and be with the bus driver and jeepney driver whilst they are on the job. By so doing they will become acquainted with the challenges that these people face each and every day. Those in barongs will then be in a much better position to take steps to correct some habits," he says.





ROAD CHART TOPPERS

Here's a list of the things you gotta have to enjoy the fullness of your roadtrip experience.

**TOP
5**

HEALTHY MUNCHIES ON THE ROAD

THE long road beckons our jaws to look for something to munch and boredom sometimes requests for sugar to be injected into the bloodstream. And while we are so used to grabbing junk food at convenience stores in gasoline stations, it wouldn't hurt to pick something good for the body for that road trip. Here are some healthy munchies that you can grab while on the go

1 A Cooler of Fruits

Fruits are rich in a lot of healthy goodness and they are refreshing as well. Before heading to the road, pack a cooler of our favorite fruits which you can easily grab whenever you feel the need to munch on something. This could help keep you awake for the long road travel.

2 Healthy Burrito

Drive-thru fast food chains are dedicated to provide comfort food. However, loading up with its high-cholesterol content may not give you much comfort in the long run. If you're heading on the road, try a healthy burrito for a change. And if you're passing through The Columns at Ayala Avenue, try the tasty but guilt-free burritos of FaBurritos (like mango salsa). This wrap could easily fill you up in your journey.



**TOP
5**

ROADTRIP GADGETS

YOUR well-planned roadtrip gets more fun when you have these gadgets by your side.



3 Mobile WiFi

Traveling becomes stressful when someone in the office consistently asks for reports, presentations, and other updates to be e-mailed. When such instance occurs, having a wireless wifi lets you take a break, work a little, then go back to the bliss of vacation.

4 LED Road Flares

When you encounter a car accident in the middle of the night, that immediately places you in danger of speeding vehicles. Having LED flares or a bright flashlight on your car roof could warn approaching vehicles to avoid that side of the curb.

5 Bluetooth Headset

When there's a call you can't miss receiving, the bluetooth headset gives you freedom to still drive with both hands. Unlike loudspeaker handsfree options which would require you to raise your voice and concentrate on listening, the bluetooth headset lets you hear it clearly and speak in a normal tone.



3 Grilled Chicken Sandwich

Chicken fillets are taken from the least fatty portion of the chicken and grilling it would further reduce the amount of cholesterol. You can make your own grilled chix but if you don't have the time and if you're passing through Glorietta, you can try Heaven and Eggs' Grilled Chicken Sandwich which is served with chips and vegetable sticks.

4 Salad Pizza

Hands down, salads are healthy. However, some may find it hard to eat this bunch of leaves and other healthy bits while on the road. So the lovely solution to this dilemma? Get a salad pizza! If you're passing through Pasig, try Al Dente Ristorante Italiano's Bacon Ceasar Salad Pizza.



5 Healthy Chips

The chips industry may have seen the growing health-consciousness in their customers so we now got a variety of healthy snacks that we can take on the road. You can find these healthy chips at the native snacks stores our favorite stop—the gasoline stations. You can also grab some California Crunch Cassava Chips at the supermarket or the low-fat high-protein Soyami Soya Chips at Fitness First.



PRACTICAL ROADTRIP MUST-HAVES

**TOP
5**

HERE are times when little things matter greatly. Having these practical things in your car when traveling makes you prepared for the unexpected.

1 Umbrella

With the erratic changes in Philippine weather, a sunny morning during summer does not assure you of clear skies for the rest of the day. It is always advisable to bring an umbrella just in case rain pours and you need to rush to a gas station restroom or change a flat tire.

2 A Trash Container

Have a trash bag, even just a plastic bag in the car so you can pool in your garbage in a proper bag and not be thrown all over your interiors.

3 Dish Towel

Rough roads may sometime lead to drink spills or car sickness. It is always advisable to have dish towels handy whenever undesirable fluid spills on your well-loved car seats.

4 First-aid medicine

You'll never know when cramps and migraine would attack. Having a first aid kit with painkillers and other meds could alleviate your discomfort and gets you back on enjoying the roadtrip.

5 Music

For long road travels, having a variety of CDs or a long playlist on your i-Pod is one of the best boredom busters. This could help liven up the driver when everyone else sleeps on the road or it could also amplify the fun by having a selection of familiar tunes to sing along to.



VOLVO S60 TURBODIESEL NOW AVAILABLE Outrace fuel expenses with powerful sports sedan

VOLVO Philippines proudly introduces the S60 D3 Turbodiesel - a powerhouse that drives you to push the limits without worrying about fuel costs. Low emissions, 400Nm of torque, and quick, sure power ensures immense driving pleasure while you enjoy fuel efficiency of up to 22Km per liter. The single turbocharged engine will infuse your drive with the composed feeling of being in control in all situations without compromising on the fun of driving.

Aside from the standard City Safety feature, the S60 also features a pedestrian avoidance technology that uses a digital camera and radar to constantly scan the road ahead and warns you when it identifies shapes as people who are at risk in front of your car. More importantly, the system will employ full brake force to stop your vehicle – if you don't react in time. Volvo calls this Collision Warning with Full-Auto Break and Pedestrian Detection, but you can simply call it another Volvo world-first.

Excellent road handling is also achieved with the enhanced Dynamic Stability and Traction Control (DSTC)

system. Along with the Advanced Stability Control (ASC) and Corner Traction Control (CTC), DSTC help prevent fishtails and spinouts. ASC monitors the car's behavior with high precision to further enhance stability in sharp curves and with rapid lateral movements. CTC by torque vectoring also helps the car pivot around bends with more grace by braking the inner wheel and redistributing engine torque to the outside wheel. It also improves acceleration when turning onto a road with faster traffic. Active Bending Lights with Dual Xenon technology also expand your vision range by 230% when driving in the dark and provides considerably improved illumination around bends at night.

Driving the dynamic S60 makes your heart race with exhilaration and is further pumped up by interior systems that make you a focused – and therefore, better – driver. Volvo's new driver-control interface called Volvo Sensus, allow you to conveniently explore the hi-tech features of your car and personalize them to suit your needs. All information is displayed on a high-resolution 5" or 7" color screen, which can also display the phone, park

assist camera, DVD, digital TV, among others. Everything is conveniently controlled using the ergonomic steering wheel controls -- so you can keep your attention on the traffic and your hands on the steering wheel. Above the crisp sound reproduction of the High Performance audio components, the S60's High Performance Multimedia System's audio level provides a full 7" integrated Multimedia color screen. This transforms your Volvo to a complete platform for the latest in-car entertainment, communication and navigation technology. For example, you can watch DVD films or terrestrial TV broadcasts when the car is stationary. Bluetooth® and USB/iPod® connectivity further adds to the versatility of this system.

Locally available in four different engine variants, the one you choose will define a major part of the experience ahead. Some engines favor high performance while other favor high mileage, but all of these petrol and diesel engines deliver instant power and smooth running while state-of-the-art technology makes the most of every micro-drop of fuel.



S60 2.0L D3

Engine	: 2.0 Liter, 5 Cylinder Turbodiesel
Horsepower	: 163 @ 3500rpm
Torque	: 400 @ 1500-2750rpm
Top Speed	: 215 kms./hr.
Transmission	: 6-speed Geartronic
Standard Retail Price	: PhP3,095,000.00

WHICH S60 ENGINE IS GOING TO START YOU UP?



S60 1.6L T4

Engine	: 1.6 Liter 4 Cylinder Turbocharged petrol engine
Horsepower	: 180 @ 5700rpm
Torque	: 240 @ 1600-5000rpm
Transmission	: 6-speed Powershift
Top Speed	: 225kms./hr.
Standard Retail Price	: PhP 2,795,000.00

S60 2.0L Powershift

Engine	: 2.0 Liter, 4 Cylinder turbocharged petrol engine
Horsepower	: 203 @ 5300rpm
Torque	: 300 @ 2200-5300rpm
Top Speed	: 230 kms./hr.
Transmission	: 6-speed Powershift
Standard Retail Price	: PhP2,995,000.00



S60 3.0L T6

Engine	: 3.0 Liter, 6 Cylinder Twin-Scroll Turbocharged petrol engine
Horsepower	: 304 @ 5600rpm
Torque	: 440 @ 2100-4200 rpm
Top Speed	: 250kms./hr.
Transmission	: 6-speed Geartronic
Standard Retail Price	: PhP3,795,000.00



PNP Chief
Bartolome with
Volvo Officers



Volvo Philippines supports DOTC Road Safety efforts

Volvo safety technologies contribute to safer roads

TRUE to its promise of safety, Volvo Philippines supports the Road Safety Forum organized by the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) held on February 22, 2012 at PNP Multi-Purpose Center, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

DOTC, as part of its direction in support of the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2011-2020 (PRSAP) and the United Nations declaration of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (DARS), has put together a multi-sectoral forum / workshop on road safety to strengthen the partnership between the government and the private sector in reducing road accident fatalities. The aim is to make a collective effort in implementing the Projects, Activities and Programs (PAP) contained in the PRSAP and summarized under the acronym I SWEAR.

Volvo Vision 2020: A future where cars don't crash

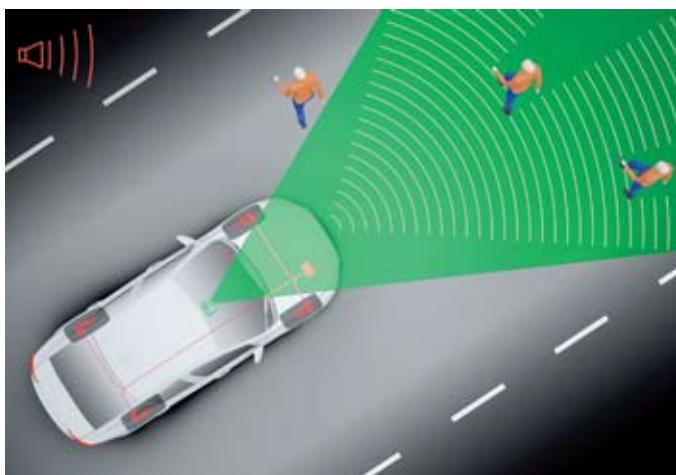
For decades, Volvo has created cars that encourage people to enjoy life and help protect it in the event of an accident. Many of the most important car safety innovations are the hallmark of Volvo, and hundreds of thousands of people all over the world can say they're still alive thanks to Volvo ingenuity. This includes the three-point safety belt invented by a Volvo safety engineer named Nils Bohlin in August 1959 and fitted in a Volvo PV544. It has since then been shared by Volvo to the world.

At the core of every Volvo is state-of-the-art technology that helps ensure 100% Volvo safety. This people-centric technology is designed to support the driver and help protect the occupants in an accident – without taking the fun out of driving. Volvo's aim is to that by year 2020, no one will be injured or killed in a Volvo. That is why Volvo continues to work with governments and non-governmental organizations around the world to get car safety on their agendas. Of course, this will not happen overnight and Volvo recognizes that it will take years of innovation and cooperation

to create cars that don't crash. But a lot of technology and know-how already exist. For example, Volvo's City Safety technology which is considered to be one of the most significant technological breakthroughs in collision avoidance.

Volvo Pedestrian Detection Technology Simulation

In support of DOTC's program, Volvo Philippines has conducted a Pedestrian Detection Crash Simulation where the latest sports sedan model, the All-New Volvo S60



T6, drove straight into a pedestrian dummy and automatically braked to avoid hitting it. This demonstration successfully proves Volvo's latest preventive safety technology can actually save lives in the event of an accident between cars and pedestrians.

Locally available in four different variants including a fuel-efficient turbodiesel engine, the Volvo S60 is equipped with City Safety as standard -- a feature that allows Volvo cars to automatically brake or help mitigate a collision with the car in front. Volvo also extended its dedication to safety by protecting road users through pedestrian avoidance technology. Using a digital camera and radar to constantly scan the road ahead and warns you when it identifies shapes as people who are at risk in front of your car, this system will employ full brake force to stop your vehicle – if you don't react in time. Volvo calls this Collision Warning with Full-Auto Break and Pedestrian Detection, but you can simply call it another Volvo world-first.



Going beyond performance, design and technology, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) challenges itself to deliver its customers' desire for beyond ordinary values and experiences. Through its Modern Premium philosophy, Hyundai not only distinguishes itself as an automotive brand that cares beyond its customer's mobility experience, but also powers their unique lifestyles.

With the launch of the One Hyundai Club (OHC), the first-ever distributor-based car loyalty program in the Philippines, HARI creates new lifestyle experiences for its customers. Offering an exclusive range of privileges and rewards, HARI sets another milestone with One Hyundai Club Life in Style.

According to HARI President and CEO, Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, "With the One Hyundai Club Life in Style, being a One Hyundai Club member is magnified in ways beyond the ordinary, and enlarges the mobility experience, such that it's no longer just a way to motor, but a way to live, enjoying the utmost in life."

With its unveiling on January 14, 2012 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City, the OHC Life in Style event enables members and guests to witness lifestyle-themed fashion shows, performances from indie bands, and delight in a wide variety of lifestyle experiences that they could look forward to in 2012. The event showcases Wall Climbing, Photo Booths, Cookie Decoration, Gaming Consoles, Art Sessions at the Travel & Leisure Area; Make-up Classes, Hairstyling Demos, Skin Consultations and Massage at the Beauty & Wellness Area; Know Your Figure and Wardrobe Consultations, Gadgets and Clothing Product Displays and Testing at the Shopping Area; and Candy Buffet, Food Tasting, and Cooking Demo at the Dining Area.

All these activities along with other promos can be seen in the One Hyundai Club Life in Style 2012 Journal. Beyond just an ordinary keepsake of memories and daily routines, the pages of the journal promises exciting activities and lifestyle rewards and privileges exclusive to the OHC members from OHC's best-in-class partner merchants.

As HARI steps into a new decade with a renewed brand strategy that embodies the spirit of "New Thinking, New Possibilities", it marks the succeeding years to come with dedication in bringing the most to its customers' lives as their lifetime partner in mobility and a Modern Premium lifestyle.

Redefining a Lifetime Partnership

Hyundai furthers its commitment to its customers through the One Hyundai Club: Life in Style



Being the first-ever distributor-based car loyalty program in the Philippines, the One Hyundai Club (OHC) membership is open to all registered owners or beneficial users of Hyundai vehicles purchased from authorized Hyundai dealers in the Philippines. To become a OHC member, register at www.onehyundai.com.ph.



A GATHERING OF HYUNDAI FANATICS. Thousands of One Hyundai Club (OHC) members and guests got to experience the ultimate lifestyle event. Participants were given a preview of the exciting range of lifestyle experiences exclusive to One Hyundai Club members in 2012. Through their participation in the Shopping, Dining, Travel & Leisure and Beauty & Wellness lifestyle areas, they received the first and exclusive One Hyundai Club Life in Style 2012 Journal which details the array of activities, perks and privileges exclusive to OHC members.



SHARING THEIR LIFE STORIES. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) President and CEO Ms. Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo (front, center) and the contributing writers of the One Hyundai Club Life in Style 2012 Journal got together to share their experiences writing for the Journal. Present at the event were (front row from left) Ms. Norma Olizon-Chikiamos, author of *The Recipes I Love: 60 All-Time Favorite Dishes*; Ms. Ter Andolong, Properties and Journey Editor for Business Mirror; Mr. Manny De Los Reyes, Editor-in-Chief for Speed Magazine; (back row from left) Mr. Charles Buban, writer for the Philippine Daily Inquirer; Mr. Dong Magat, Motoring Editor for the Philippine Star; James Deakin, Editor-in-Chief of CI Magazine; and Mr. Butch Daisay, Philippine Star columnist and Palanca awardee.



A SHOW WITH A BOLD STATEMENT. The opening fashion show started out with a huge bang as models strutted the runway in an ensemble of statement shirts and fashionable pieces from Promod and Peacocks as styled by stylist to the stars Alyanna Martinez.

MUSIC TO THE EARS. Award-winning band Up Dharma Down concluded the One Hyundai Club Life in Style event with the crowd singing their smash hit song "Do".

KIA starts the year with strong sales growth



2012 promises to be a very good year for KIA as the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc (CAMPI) released the industry sales records as of January of this year. From December 2011 to January 2012, KIA posted a 67% increase in total sales.

This significant increase is attributed to the All-New 2012 KIA Rio which was launched last January 21 during the charity game between the Philippine Azkals and Icheon Citizen FC of South Korea. The Rio had the most number of units sold at 149. A Year To Date (YTD) ranking of the industry sales shows that for January 2012, KIA has sold 503 units. As compared to January 2011, where there were only 358 units sold, this result shows an increase of 41%.

KIA also moved up in market share as it now ranks 4th in the YTD ranking. KIA tops the YTD increase in sales and is one of the only two car manufacturers who had an increase in sales.

Globally, KIA has also performed superbly as it recorded 3.3% global sales growth for the month of January. KIA's global sales figures (export sales, domestic sales and sales from overseas plants) for passenger cars, recreational vehicles (RVs) and commercial vehicles for January 2012, recorded a total of 185,284 units sold. This figure represents a year-on-year increase of 3.3%.



In January, KIA posted strong double digit year-on-year sales increases in two of its major sales regions – 33.2% in Europe (35,852 units sold) and 27.4% in North America (39,291 units sold). It was the highest total global January sales ever for KIA.

KIA's best selling model in the overseas markets for the month of January was the B-segment Rio (known as 'K2' in China) with 32,288 units sold. The C-segment Cerato (known as 'Forte' in some markets) was the second best seller with 25,489 units delivered, while the Sportage compact CUV, D-segment Optima sedan and Sorento mid-size CUV followed with 24,647, 15,459 and 14,473 units sold, respectively.

Tae-Hyun (Thomas) Oh, Senior Executive Vice President & COO of KIA Motors Corporation, said, "This was our highest global January sales ever and we are particularly pleased to see Europe perform so well. We expect our momentum there to continue due to the successful December launch of the all-new Optima, which was highly anticipated by European customers, and our upcoming EURO 2012 sponsorship."

WHAT AAP MEMBERS GET

24/7 EMERGENCY ROADSIDE SERVICE (ERS)

AAP's Emergency Roadside Service (ERS) will help you through unexpected difficulties with your vehicle, or the one in which you are riding. You can call for ERS whether you are the driver or passenger of the car other than the one registered under your membership, provided that you are present at the time of the service request. Meanwhile, your AAP-registered vehicle is entitled to round-the-clock ERS support even if you are not around at the time of the service request. AAP is the exclusive ERS provider in the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx), the Skyway and ground level expressway from Magallanes to Alabang and South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from Alabang to Sto Tomas Batangas.

LTO VEHICLE REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

You can get hassle-free assistance from AAP on your annual vehicle registration renewal with the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

FREE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Every regular AAP member gets P300,000 personal accident insurance coverage that may be extended to immediate family members. Associate AAP members get P200,000 personal accident insurance coverage.

FREE WINDSHIELD GLASS ETCHING*

Discourage car thieves from attempting to steal your car. Get two (2) free glass etchings whereby your car's windshield will be inscribed with an identifying mark, usually the vehicle's plate number or the owner's name.

24/7 DISCOUNTED AMBULANCE SERVICE*

In case of a medical emergency, members can avail of 50% discount on

ambulance service within Metro Manila courtesy of Aeromed. Each ambulance is manned by fully trained and licensed paramedics as well as a doctors and nurse when necessary.

CAR/NON-MOTOR INSURANCE DISCOUNTS

Get your car's Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) Insurance and Comprehensive Motor Insurance from AAP. Our insurance providers, Federal Phoenix Assurance Inc., Malayan Insurance and FLT Prime Insurance offer very competitive rates, exclusively for AAP members. Other insurance products such as property and travel insurance are also offered at special rates for AAP members.

FIA INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCITY

Being the Philippine affiliate of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), AAP is the only auto club in the country with international reciprocity agreements with the Automobile Associations (AA's) of other countries. FIA-affiliated AA's provide services and discounts not only to their own members, but also to the members of other AA's in other countries who travel abroad..

DISCOUNTS FROM PARTNER ESTABLISHMENTS

When you are an AAP member, you can save money on car repairs, insurance, hotel accommodations and other products and services through the AAP Partnership Program. The list of AAP Discount Partners is available online at www.aap.org.ph. The AAP membership card also carries the Show Your Card & Save logo of the American Automobile Association (AAA) that entitles the cardholder to discounts from AAA partner establishments in the United States..

* not available in some satellite offices



Additional AAP products and services

ISSUANCE OF PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT

Enjoy driving in more than a hundred countries all over the world with your Philippine International Driving Permit, issued exclusively by AAP.

ISSUANCE OF COMPETITION LICENSE FOR MOTOR SPORTS*

As the only Philippine affiliate of the FIA, the Paris-based organization that governs four-wheel motorsports worldwide, AAP is the only organization in the country authorized by the FIA to issue competition licenses and sanction motor sport events nationwide.

AAP CAR BATTERY AND SERVICE CENTER

The AAP Car Battery, exclusively manufactured for AAP by Motolite, is sold at a very special price exclusive to members. Delivery and installation of the battery is free of charge.

AAP MEMBER SERVICE VEHICLE PROGRAM*

For out-of-town trips or temporary service needs, you can avail of AAP service vehicles with or without a driver.

24/7 ROAD SAFETY CALL CENTER

The Road Safety Call Center (414.2288, 723.0625, 0917.504.22.88, aaproadsafety@yahoo.com) receives calls, text messages and emails about hazardous road conditions which are promptly relayed to the appropriate government agencies for action.

TOURIST ASSISTANCE

AAP Travel organizes AAP Drive Tourism Caravans aside from providing directions and information on selected tourist destinations including available discounts, road conditions, along-the-way attractions and location maps.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

AAP conducts club activities for its members all year round, including the Annual General Membership Meeting in April, the AAP Drive Tourism Caravans four times a year, road safety conferences and other motoring-related events.

FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS
FAQS

About the Philippine International Driving Permit (PIDP)

Q What are the requirements for getting a Philippine International Driving Permit?

- Original and valid Philippine Driving License (valid for at least one year)
- Two pieces 2X2 color ID picture, white background or passport size
- Foreign nationals, dual citizens and Filipino citizens born in other countries must present the original passport plus photocopies of pages showing identification and date of last arrival. If you are a permanent resident, present your passport and/or Alien Certificate Registration along with requirements nos.1 and 2.
- Authorization and any valid ID of representative in case of non-appearance
- Photocopies of nos. 1, 3 and 4
- Php 1,800, broken down as follows:
 - Php 1, 500 – Membership fee (new member) *
 - Php 300 – PIDP processing fee

* AAP grants a P300 discount to applicants who present valid proof of their being an overseas Filipino worker, e.g., Seaman's passport, employment contract abroad with valid POEA ID.

Q Can I apply for a PIDP even if I am out of the country?

Yes, you can apply for a PIDP as long as you have all the requirements and your Philippine license is valid for at least a year. All the requirements must be submitted together with your authorization letter and any valid ID of your representative

Q In what countries is the PIDP honored?

The Philippine International Driving Permit is honored in almost all countries that are signatories to the 1949 and 1968 United Nations Convention Road Traffic.

In some states in the United States, an international driving permit is no longer required. You may drive using your valid Philippine driver's license for a pre-defined period of time, usually 30 days from arrival. This varies from state to state so you are advised to consult with the transportation bureau in the state where you are traveling.



About Emergency Roadside Service (ERS)

Q What if a member's car experiences a breakdown outside of AAP's service areas, will AAP ERS still assist him or her?

Yes. However, beyond the defined service area limits, the distance travelled by the AAP service vehicle will be charged against the member's entitlement.

Q If someone else is driving a member's registered car, may said driver call for assistance?

Yes.

Q If a member is not in a car registered under his membership – for example, in a friend's car -- may he or she call AAP ERS for assistance?

Yes, but he or she must be actually present at the site until the AAP ERS crew arrives.

PGRSP PLANNING WORKSHOP

ACTIVELY present at the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) Jan. 20-21, 2012 Planning Workshop held at Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. in Pillila, Rizal were:

(Front row left to right) Reina Macababad (UP National Center for Transportation Studies), Corazon Japson (DOTC), Alberto Suansing (PGRSP), Gus Lagman (AAP president), Chito Borromeo (Tollways Association of the Philippines- TAP), Marte Perez (Safe Kids Philippines), Aileen Mappala (UP-NCTS), Tess Ronquillo (UP-NCTS)

(Second row left to right), Vince Araneta (ActivAsia), Cynthia Reyes (AAP), Bobby Dizon (ActivAsia), Boy Isidro (Pilipinas Shell), Frank Nacua (Truck Manufacturers Association- TMA), Nathanael Fernandez (Tollways Management Corporation- TMC), Johnny Angeles (AAP vice president), Eli dela Cruz (CITRA Metro Manila Tollways Corp), Jake Bingcang (BCDA), Randolph Austria (BCDA).





DO YOU WANT YOUR PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT DELIVERED TO YOUR HOUSE?



E-lisensya.com.ph is a new time-saving and innovative service designed to assist AAP members to obtain a Philippine International Driving Permit (PIDP) which can be delivered right at their doorstep.

This new concept is specially designed to guarantee the fast, efficient, safe, un-tampered, and timely delivery of authentic Philippine International Driving Permit. This may be requested over the phone and the service will run its course.

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