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AAP inaugurates new office in Lipa City, distributes helmets to schoolchildren

On April 11, 2012, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) inaugurated a new office at 098-A Purok 1 Brgy. Tambo, Lipa City Batangas and coordinated with the Department of Education (DepEd) to distribute motorcycle helmets to students in Tambo Elementary School

This inauguration is in line with AAP's goal to open at least two new offices every year to meet the growing needs of its members and the motoring public outside the National Capital Region. The event also presented an opportunity for AAP to distribute helmets to around 50 elementary school students as part of AAP's campaign supporting the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020. It was also in continuation of the Global Helmet Vaccine Initiative of AAP and the FIA Foundation whereby 50 "tropical helmets" manufactured by the Protec Helmet Factory in Vietnam are given free to schoolchildren who ride tandem on motorcycles to go to and from school.

AAP Vice-President Johnny Angeles, who concurrently chairs the AAP Road Safety Committee, led the distribution together with AAP Treasurer Jacinto Mantaring, AAP Director David Arcenas, and some AAP management staff. A demonstration of how to properly put on and wear the helmets was also made. Afterwards, the new office was blessed and inaugurated with local government officials as guests of honor.

Tess Cruzat, former AAP Administrative Supervisor, has been appointed manager of the Lipa office. The contact numbers of AAP's Lipa City office are 784 7972 and 784 7998.



AAP Lipa office manager Tess Cruzat and lawyer J.R Macasaet, chief of staff of the Lipa City Mayor's office, cut the ribbon.



AAP VP Johnny Angeles gives his Road Safety spiel.



LUCY Maligaya, principal of Tambo Elementary School (left) thanks AAP VP Johnny Angeles and AAP Lipa manager Tess Cruzat.



THE schoolchildren show off their new helmets.



TWO little boys help each other with their helmets.



AAP Advocacies executive assistant Cynthia Reyes “crowns” a student with a safety helmet.

AAP Travel to bring Philippine tourism to a sustainable, eco-friendly level

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), the national auto club, will bring Philippine tourism to a sustainable, eco-friendly level via the organization of its own travel agency. AAP Travel will open its office in June 2012 at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

After the failure of an online travel planning project called justGO! Drive Philippines under AAP Lakbay, AAP Director Dr. Mina T. 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 success of three AAP caravans organized in May and November 2010 to Clark, Subic, Cavite and Batangas and in November 2011 to Ilocos Norte with the cooperation of Department of Tourism regional directors and local government officials prompted the AAP board to step up its plans to develop further the Club's touring services for its members and the motoring public. All along, AAP's touring service was limited to information on road conditions, accommodations and tourist attractions of various destinations.

AAP Travel will be headed by a professional manager, Ms. Eva Carmona, under the guidance of AAP Director Mina T. Gabor who on her own with other partners established the International School of International 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 brand name "AAP Travel", replacing AAP Lakbay, will conceptualize, undertake and spearhead sustainable, quality tourism and green mobility projects for members and travel enthusiasts. In establishing AAP Travel as a premium brand, AAP will leverage its international linkages and number of years as the country's oldest, most historic auto club. AAP Travel will offer various travel and events management products and services such as airline tickets, package tours, camping, Drive Tourism caravans, travel insurance and car rentals. It will also serve as AAP's outlet for all the promos and services offered to AAP members and vice versa.

Ms. Carmona said that the new AAP project has a lot of pros and cons that will help them determine the best way to attain AAP Travel's goals, given AAP's affiliation with international organizations like the FIA, Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT) and the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP).

AAP Travel's strengths are the support of an established organization with 60, 000 members, sufficient capital to develop the business and offices all over the country that offer diversified products and services, Ms Carmona pointed out..

As a new player in the industry, AAP Travel needs to create and develop its own image, especially among the younger generation, and establish relationships in the industry which can be long term-partnerships. Ms Carmona said AAP Travel readily accepts the challenge to fulfill its potential and attain its goal of promoting sustainable, eco-friendly Philippine tourism and live up to the mantra that it's really more fun in the Philippines.

AAP awards the motor sport champions of 2011

The Automobile Association Philippines honored the 2011 Driver of the Year Awardees, GT Series Class and National Karting Series Champions during the 17th Annual Motor Sport Awards Night on March 30, 2012 at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

The awarding was graced by motorsport enthusiasts and fans and bore witness to how AAP sanctioned the different motors port events of last year.

AAP President Augusto Lagman and AAP Motor Sport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque presented the awards to 2011 Driver of the Year for Slalom Noel Rivera, drag racer Martin Manalo, hillclimb champion Carlos Anton and karting champion Stefano Marcelo.

The 2011 GT Series was also given recognition and trophies were awarded to Marc Peter Thomann for GT 100, Dean Joson for GT 130, Dwight Kevin Carlos for GT 200 and Vicente Floirendo for GT 300.

The 2011 National Karting Series class champions who were awarded trophies were Raymond Cudala as Cadet Class Champion, Carl Pollington for Mini Rock, Sacha Marie Feliciano for Formula SL Novice class, Joseph Marwin Rojo for Formula SL expert class, Matthew Colwyn Chan for Rok Novice class, Franco Victor Reyes for Rok Junior class and Stefano Marcelo for Rok Senior class.

The awarding was preceded by a sumptuous buffet dinner while the display of various classic and vintage cars and race cars formed an appropriate backdrop for the event.



AAP President Gus Lagman (leftmost) with the 2011 Driver of the Year Awardees: Carlos Anton for hill climb, Stefano Marcelo for karting, Noel Rivera for Slalom, Martin Manalo for drag and AAP Motorsport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque during the 17th Annual Motorsports Awards at the Philippine Trade Training Center on March 30, 2012.

Volvo S60 wins the 2011-2012 AAP Road Safety Award

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) represented by Vice President Johnny Angeles conferred the AAP Road Safety Award at the 2011-2012 Car of the Year (COTY) Awards Night on March 29, 2012 at the Philippine Trade Training Center during the 8th Manila International Motor Show (MIAS).

The Volvo S60 won the AAP 2011-2012 Road Safety Award. Officers of Volvo importer and distributor Scandinavian Motors Corp. accepted the AAP trophy in the presence of the winners of other categories in the annual competition held by the Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI). The Hyundai Elantra won the 2011-2012 Car of the Year Philippines trophy after garnering the 2012 Car of the Year Awards in North America, Canada and South Africa.

With the theme “Motorsports,” MIAS 2012 focused on “Life in the Fast Lane” and the current trend of developing new and updated models of sport cars by different brands, all designed to outpace the competition. The 8th MIAS, highlighted by the Russ Swift Precision Driving Stunt Show, various new car launches, motor sports exhibits, special demonstrations and test drives, attracted over 88,000 visitors during its run at the World Trade Center from March 29 to April 1, 2012. The COTY Awards Night was held at the end of the day that MIAS opened.



AAP BACKS UNIFIED TOLL COLLECTION, UPGRADING OF STAR TOLLWAY AND TPLEX

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) expressed support for the proposals of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to unify toll collection at the six operational expressways in Luzon, upgrade the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) and expand the soon-to-be completed Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Toll Expressway (TPLEX) from two lanes to four.

The proposals were made public by TRB Executive Director Edmund Reyes before the Holy Week break. AAP, as the exclusive emergency roadside service provider at the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), Metro Manila Skyway and Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), cited road safety as its reason for backing the TRB’s proposals.

AAP Vice President Johnny Angeles, concurrently chair of the AAP Road Safety Committee, said that a unified toll collection system would be convenient and consume less

time for expressway users paying for their toll, resulting in less delay and congestion at the tollgates and smoother traffic flow.

“When transactions at the tollgates are quicker and more orderly, the risk of road accidents is reduced,” Angeles said. “AAP is all for that.”

Angeles revealed that the AAP board also supports the proposal to add two more lanes to the STAR expressway from Lipa City to Batangas City plus improvements such as asphalt overlaying, automatic toll collection, closed circuit television cameras and lighting installations. Although upgrading the facilities of the STAR will cost an additional P2 billion, Angeles said it will avert or reduce the frequency of road crashes and save hundreds of lives over the long term, not to mention prevent more injuries to road users and damage to property.

As for the 88.58-kilometer TPLEX’s Phase 1 two-lane design, the national auto club’s veep pointed out that the TRB Executive Director was absolutely right in requesting the Department of Public Works and Highways and the project proponents to add more lanes and build a central or median barrier separating the northbound lane from the southbound. “TRB had the safety of road users in mind, which deserves our support as well as that of the motoring and commuting public,” Angeles remarked. “The builders of TPLEX shouldn’t wait for traffic volume to reach 25,000 vehicles to proceed to Phase 2 and expand the tollway to four lanes. The safety of motorists and commuters using TPLEX is at stake.”

Angeles said that the AAP board plans to meet with TRB Executive Director Reyes to discuss how AAP can help push through the TRB’s road safety-oriented proposals regarding expressways in Luzon.

AAP pushes two projects for Road Safety Action Plan

The Philippine Road safety Action Plan is the collection of the government’s action plans in support of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 that also includes private sector participation.

The eight goals under the objective: (1) Make roads safe a policy priority; (2) Make roads safer for vulnerable road users; (3) Make roads safer and build “forgiving roads”; (4) Make vehicles safer and encourage responsible advertisements; (5) Improve national and regional

road safety systems; management and enforcement; (6) Improve cooperation and foster partnership; (7) Develop the Asian Highway as a model for road safety and (8) Provide effective education on road safety awareness.

Under these eight goals, 36 indicators for monitoring achievements of these goals have been published.

AAP has two pending proposals to manage projects under the plan. One is on the improvement and modernization of driver training and testing, driver error having been identified as the cause of 73 percent of road crashes in the country. The other is on Motor Vehicle Inspection Services, to address the second ranking (18 percent) cause of accidents, which is mechanical failure.

AAP intends to address road crash causes that can claim at least 100,000 lives over the decade.

'AAP has two pending proposals to manage projects under the plan: one is on the improvement and modernization of driver training and testing, the other is on Motor Vehicle Inspection Services'