

discover • educate • protect

**1st ASIAN UNDERWATER FEDERATION
PHOTOGRAPHY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

26 – 30 November 2011
Cebu, Philippines

REGISTER NOW!

the event

Event Facts

Dates : 26 – 30 November 2011

Venue : Cebu, Philippines

Official Hotel : Radisson Blu Hotel Cebu
Osmeña Blvd. cor. Juan Luna Ave.,
Cebu City

Organizer : Philippine Association on Underwater Activities
(PAUA)

Participant's Profile : Top underwater photographers endorsed by
international underwater photographers federation

Pocket Events : Competition proper, Local Photo Exhibit, Cultural
Immersion, Tours, Welcome Dinner, Fellowship
Night and Awarding Ceremonies

Event Schedule :

Day 1 (26 Nov) - Arrival of Participants / Hotel Registration

Day 2 (27 Nov) - Competition Proper, Welcome Dinner

Day 3 (28 Nov) - Competition Proper

Day 4 (29 Nov) - Competition Proper

Day 5 (30 Nov) - Cebu City Tour, Fellowship Night, Awarding Ceremony

the event

Event Information

To further promote and raise the level of awareness on the importance of the safety and protection of the undersea system, the Philippine Association on Underwater Activities (PAUA) is organizing an international underwater photography competition that will showcase the best of underwater imagery.



The first of its kind in Asia, this interactive event affords participating individuals an opportunity to capture a diverse marine environment.



The Competition is estimated to be participated-in by around 100 international underwater photographers federation members from various countries around the globe.



Through their eyes, we would be able to see a collection of images of the life we rarely see.

The event has the following objectives:

1. To sustain awareness and expand international knowledge on underwater imagery;
2. To effectively communicate and gain public interest on underwater protection; and
3. To educate the public of other essential facts and relevant information about environmental protection, particularly that of the marine life.

theme

Discover

Discover the bounty of life under the sea.

Philippine waters measure as much as 1.67 million square kilometers, producing a unique, and diverse marine life. About 2,400 fish species, about 12,000 species of seashells, 488 of the 500 known coral species, seven of the eight known species of giant clams and five of the eight species of marine turtle are found in Philippine waters. Other marine products include corals, pearls, crabs, and seaweeds.

A 2005 Graphic Interchange System study of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History revealed that the Philippines, particularly its central seas, where the province of Cebu lies, is the global epicenter of marine biodiversity. It has the richest variety and endemism of marine life which cannot be found in any other place on earth.

Through the eyes of the best photographers in the world today, we would be able to see a collection of images of the life we rarely see.

Together, we will all experience the boundless beauty of Cebu's underwaters.



theme

Educate

The competition brings a strong education and conservation message. It edifies the threats and problems faced by the Philippines' underwater ecosystems and what we can all do about it.

The event goes deeper into the meaning which the underwater images possess – the system of life that keeps the Earth's ecobalance intact. It raises a massive awareness of and interest for the safety and protection of this undersea system.



theme

Protect

Marine scientists warn us of the equivocal damage climate change and illegal fishing activities has brought the Philippine underwater. They have detected abnormal rises in coastal temperatures in some area over the past two years which could affect coral reefs. The competition promotes caring and protection of water habitats and responsible use of marine resources, to minimize if not eradicate their degradation process.

With awareness and interest rekindled, our message of environmental care becomes easier to push.

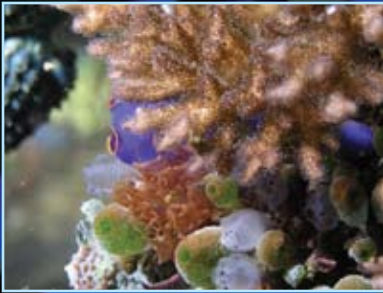
It is then our hope that this will consequently move people to action.



pocket events

With the Underwater Photography Championships as the main event, the five-day event will also showcase the following:

I. Local Photo Exhibit



The exhibit will showcase the underwater images taken by the local photographers.

2. Cultural Imersion and Tour of Cebu



The participants will be able to enjoy and experience the Filipino distinct culture, festive tradition and renowned hospitality as they tour various historical sites of the island province of Cebu.

3. Welcome Dinner and Fellowship Night



After a long day of diving and photography, the participants will be treated to nights of fun and relaxation, which will feature the gastronomic blends of Asian and Filipino cuisine and home-grown talents as entertainers

participant services

Participation details

How to join?

1. Endorsement by home country's Underwater Federation.
2. Applicant should fill up the registration form and fax to + 632.951.4760 or scan and email to organizer@philunderwaterphoto.com.
3. Applicant will receive a confirmation letter from the Organizer/PAUA via email.

General Information

Entry Regulations:

Holders of valid passport are allowed entry to the country, except for stateless persons and those from countries where Philippines has no diplomatic relations. Visitors may enter the country without visa and allowed to stay for 21 days provided they have tickets for onward journey. Holders of Hongkong and British Nationals Overseas (BNO) passports, holders of Portuguese passport issued in Macau and holders of Macau passport are allowed to enter without a visa for a stay not exceeding seven (7) days. Visas and special permits may be obtained from the Philippine embassies and consulates if visitors wish to stay beyond the allowed number of days.

Health Regulations:

A certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is required for travelers coming from an infected area.

Airport Information:

Airports and Facilities:

Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) – Terminal 1 – the international airport located in Metro Manila is used by all international carriers.

NAIA Centennial - Terminal 2 – international and domestic airport terminal solely for the use of Philippine Airlines also located in Metro Manila.

Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) - Terminal 3 – international and domestic airport terminal solely for the use of Cebu Pacific Air also located in Metro Manila.

Mactan-Cebu International Airport – is approximately nine (9) kms to Radisson Blue Hotel, Cebu City. The international airport located in Mactan, Cebu is used by all international carriers.

The international airports have adequate traveler facilities: tourist information and assistance counters, hotel & travel agency representatives, banks & ATMs, postal service, telephone booths and medical clinics, among others. These airports are handicapped-friendly. Wheelchairs are available on request from the airline ground staff.

Airport Fees:

P750.00 for international departure in Metro Manila and Cebu airports.

P200.00 for local/domestic departure in Metro Manila and Cebu airports.

These fees are subject to change without prior notice.

participant services

Porterage:

Baggage carts are available for free. Porter services are also free. Tipping is traditional.

Airport Transfers:

All airports have counters for hotel transport and car rental services. There are also accredited fixed rate or metered taxi services.

Customs:

Visitors are advised to accomplish the Baggage Declaration Form before disembarking to facilitate Customs examination. The following are allowed inside the duty-free: reasonable quantity of clothes, jewelry and toiletries; 400 sticks of cigarettes or two tins of tobacco; two bottles of wine or spirits of not more than one liter each.

Visitors carrying more than USD3,000.00 are to declare the amount at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas counter located at the Customs area. Foreign currency taken out upon departure must not exceed the amount brought in.

Climate:

March to May is hot and dry, June to October is rainy, November to February is cool. Average temperatures: 78 F / 32 C; humidity: 77%.

What to Wear:

Light casual clothes are recommended. Warmer garments are needed for mountain regions. When visiting churches and temples, propriety dictates that shorts and scanty clothing be avoided. Formal occasions require dinner jackets and ties (or the Philippine Barong Tagalog) for men and cocktail dresses or long gowns for women.

Currency:

Unit of currency: 1 Peso (P) = 100 centavos. Bank notes: P20, P50, P100, P200, P500, P1,000. Coins: 5c, 10c, 25c, P1, P5, P10.

Tipping:

Tipping is expected for many services. The standard practice is 10% of the total bill. Tipping is optional on bills that already include a 10% service charge.

Credit Cards:

International Credit Cards such as Visa, Diners Club, Mastercard and American Express Card are accepted in major establishments.

Time Zone:

GMT plus 8 hours

Electricity:

220 volts, A.C. 60 cycles. Most hotels have 110-volt outlets

Communications Facilities:

The country has international and national direct dial phone and facsimile services, mobile phone sites, internet and e-mail facilities. There are also national television stations and cable TV is available in many hotels.

Language:

Filipino is the national language. English is the business language and spoken widely. Cebuano is the native language in Cebu Province.

the organizer

The Philippine Association on Underwater Activities (PAUA) aims to unify, develop, and promote the underwater activities in the Philippines. It is further charged with undertaking marine conservation projects and sports-tourism.

PAUA envisions the Philippines to have internationally accepted standards in relation to Underwater Activities. **PAUA** desires to broaden the reach of Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques (CMAS) to some of the most important Government Agencies that need more comprehensive skills than just recreation.

Most of these agencies believe that only CMAS can offer the precise training needed for them because of CMAS' numerous commissions and focuses.

It is important to raise the standards of the people who deal with public safety and regulation of the laws. It is also a vision for the scientific related Departments and Bureaus of the Philippines to be at par with the internationally accepted standards in scientific diving.

PAUA is an organization which bears the CMAS flag through its endeavors in teaching SCUBA in the premier university in the country – University of the Philippines for almost a decade. **PAUA** has also tapped the University's Marine Science Institute to bear the certification of CMAS.

Moreover, PAUA through the Philippine Finswimming Federation, Inc. (PFFI) has promoted the Sport of Finswimming throughout all the regions in the country through organizing Finswimming Competitions which were attended by some CMAS members in Asia like JSUF (Japan), KUA (Korea), POSSI (Indonesia), HKUA (Hong Kong) to name a few. With PFFI's effort, it has been accepted by some schools to become a staple Physical Education subject.

PAUA has also established its credibility with its partners. Proof of this is its receipt of grant by the Asian Underwater Federation (AUF/CMAS Asia) to host the **1st Asian Underwater Photo Championships from 26 - 30 November 2011 in the Philippine Shores.**



The Philippines

The Philippines is the third largest English speaking country in the world. It has a rich history combining Asian, European, and American influences. Prior to Spanish colonization in 1521, the Filipinos had a rich culture and were trading with the Chinese and the Japanese. Spain's colonization brought about the construction of Intramuros in 1571, a "Walled City" comprised of European buildings and churches, replicated in different parts of the archipelago. In 1898, after 350 years and 300 rebellions, the Filipinos, with leaders like Jose Rizal and Emilio Aguinaldo, succeeded in winning their independence.

In 1898, the Philippines became the first and only colony of the United States. Following the Philippine-American War, the United States brought widespread education to the islands. Filipinos fought alongside Americans during World War II, particularly at the famous battle of Bataan and Corregidor which delayed Japanese advance and saved Australia. They then waged a guerilla war against the Japanese from 1941 to 1945. The Philippines regained its independence in 1946.

Filipinos are a freedom-loving people, having waged two peaceful, bloodless revolutions against what were perceived as corrupt regimes. The Philippines is a vibrant democracy, as evidenced by 12 English national newspapers, 7 national television stations, hundreds of cable TV stations, and 2,000 radio stations.

Filipinos are a fun-loving people. Throughout the islands, there are fiestas celebrated everyday and foreign guests are always welcome to their homes.

The Philippines is made up of 7,107 islands covering a land area of 115,739 sq. m. (299,764 sq. km.). Main island groups are Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Capital is Manila. Time Zone is GMT + 8 hours.



discover Cebu

Cebu goes way beyond 439 years ago when the island became a province at the start of the Spanish colonization.

Long before that, Cebu was already the center of trade of what is now the southern Philippines, dealing with traders from China, Malaysia, Japan, India, Burma and other parts of Asia.

Cebu Province has 44 towns and seven cities, various urban centers and countryside, islands and mountain ranges, age-old crafts, and new technology. These diverse factors give the many faces of Cebu but still, all lead to one culture of excellence and piety, and a lifestyle of stylish fun all rolled into one.

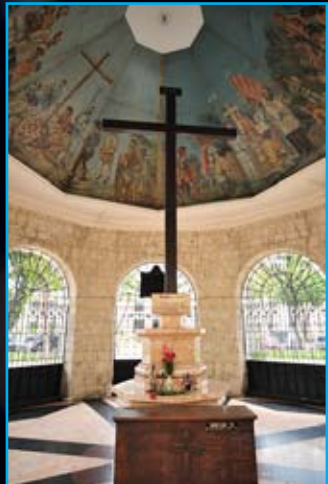
But what is most interesting in Cebu are the various delicacies native to each town and city comprising the province.

The province of Cebu is also famous for its myriad of festivities and a must see is the Sinulog Festival in honor of Señor Sto Niño de Cebu, which is celebrated every third Sunday of January.

Being part of a tropical country, Cebu is lined with pristine white sand beaches perfect for weekend and holiday getaways.

Cebu province offers a wide range of recreational activities — from diving spots to golf courses, from heritage walks to eco-tourism adventures.

In the metropolitan, entertainment centers thrive with vibrant discotheques and bars, specialty shops, savory restaurants and dining areas, internet cafes and distinct shopping malls.





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