



AAP Supplement in the Philippine Daily Inquirer

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CONTENTS:

AAP to cap 80th anniversary celebration with Decade of Action for Road Safety launch

Nominations for AAP directors now open

AAP offers Lifetime Membership Award

PTCC Season ends with intensified action at Clark Speedway

AAP Supports Champions of the Future Program

Making Motoring Fun: One Important Driving Tip

AAP Supports the Philippines' First International School of Sustainable Tourism

AAPLINGKOD acquires new tow truck

Ad: AAP will move to a new location

AAP to cap 80th anniversary celebration with Decade of Action for Road Safety launch

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) is preparing for a grand celebration of its 80th anniversary in May 2011. Details are still tentative but AAP members can expect three consecutive days full of motoring-related activities capped by the launching of the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

AAP kicks off the celebration on May 8 with a Concours d'Elegance exhibit of vintage cars at the Philippine Trade and Training Center (PTTC) in Pasay City and a motorcade of new cars from Luneta to the Mall of Asia. On May 9 in the afternoon, AAP's Annual General Membership Meeting will be held at the PTTC, followed by the annual AAP Motor Sport Awards Night to honor the 2010 champions of six motor sport disciplines and Hall of Fame awardees.

On the third day, May 10, AAP plans to complete the local implementation of the FIA Foundation's Global Helmet Vaccine Initiative (GHVI) by distributing 500 helmets to children in Morong, Rizal who ride tandem on motorcycles going to and from school. The school children will receive motorcycle helmets that comply with international safety standards to help them develop a lifetime habit of wearing helmets whenever they ride two-wheeled vehicles. The "Helmet Vaccine" project in the Philippines, co-organized by AAP, the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Injury Prevention Foundation, was launched in May 2010 when Hollywood movie actress Michelle Yeoh, now the Make Roads Safe Global Ambassador of the FIA Foundation, arrived in Manila to lead the distribution of helmets to schoolchildren from various Metro Manila public elementary schools.

Also on the last day of the 80th anniversary celebration, AAP's new main office at EDSA in San Juan City will be blessed and inaugurated if its renovation is completed by then.

May 11, 2011 is reserved for the Philippine launching of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 that has been declared by the United Nations and that will be simultaneously launched worldwide by FIA member clubs in over 100 countries.. A telethon involving show business and sports celebrities will be held wherein Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP) stakeholders headed by AAP and including the Departments of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Philippine National Red Cross plus leaders of the private business sector and civil society will call in to pledge their support to the Decade of Action. Tags bearing the Wear, Believe, Act slogan of the Decade of Action will be distributed.

On the same day, the H2O project (Helmets and Headlights On Always) promoting the use of helmets and headlights by motorcyclists on the road will be launched. AAP also plans to distribute free DVD copies of the safe driving seminars that AAP and the University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies have been conducting for public utility vehicle drivers with the sponsorship of Toyota Motor Philippines and in coordination with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board of the DOTC.

The final details of these events will be published in the next issue of AQ and the April 2011 supplement of AAP in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Nominations for AAP directors now open

In preparation for the 80th anniversary and annual general membership meeting of the Automobile Association Philippines in May 2011, the AAP Nominations Committee is accepting nominations for the 2011-2012 board of directors.

AAP members in good standing (with no unpaid or unsettled obligations) can 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 to the affairs 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, 683 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. The deadline for submission of nominations is April 15, 2011.
- 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 May 9, 2011.

After their election, the members of the board of directors choose among themselves the president, vice president, treasurer and chairpersons of nine committees.

PTTC season ends with intensified action at Clark Speedway

The 2010 Philippine Touring and Production Car Championship (PTCC) Series organized and promoted by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), wrapped up the season on January 8-9, 2011 at the Clark International Speedway.

Action on the track intensified over the weekend as teams competed for the over-all win. Taking the lead in rounds 9 and 10 were Marcus Wong and Sean Redpath of the Tuason Racing School followed by the Chevy / BRE Racing Team in second place and Stefan Ramirez of Velocity / SRA Racing Team in third.

In the touring car class, Dennis Uy of Seoil / Velocity Racing Team dominated the race and stole top honors from series points leader Joey Pery who fell to second place, followed closely by Juny Binamira in third. It was a bad time for Jeff Borja who did not make it to the first round because his vehicle was slightly damaged when it hit the wall during qualifying. Meanwhile, Joey Pery of Motul / SRA Racing Team clinched the top spot in round 10 while Dennis Uy finished second place and Binamira finished third.

The competition fired up as Cyrille Fontaine of Chevy/ BRE Racing Team accidentally hit the vehicle of Arnel Carlos of DKC Racing Team, causing the latter to spin and hit the concrete barriers. A medical team immediately examined both drivers and found them in good condition. Fontaine was sanctioned by AAP and was excluded from the official results of round 11.

Due to the damage sustained by the concrete barrier resulting from the above incident, race officials (Clerk of Course Gabby Intengan and Stewards Francisco Reyes, Art Guevara and Rodolfo Enriquez) unanimously agreed, for safety reasons, to cancel the remaining PPCC race as well as the two remaining PTCC races. Subsequently on January 18, AAP announced its decision not to reset the canceled races as holding them would not materially change the final points standings of the Series. AAP thereby declared the 2010 PTCC season ended.

The 2010 Philippine Touring Car and Production Car Championship Series were co-presented by Concept One Wheels – Official wheel, Nitto and Starfire Tires – Official tires, Seoil Extreme 97 – Official fuel and Seoil's Mako lubes – Official lube and powered by Aeromed Ambulance Transport, Six Fingers Ent., Velocity Motors, Cut and Paste Digital

Designs, Honda Cars Kalooacan and Media partners Turbo Time, Chequered Flag, Power Wheels and Speed TV.



The 2010 PTCC and PPCC Drivers: (standing from left to right) Edward dela Rosa, Marc Thomann, Arnel Carlos, Stefan Ramirez, DominicUy, Bobby Horrigan, Juny Binamira, Joselu Romero-Salas, and Joey Pery. Sitting from left to right is Dean Joson, Dalia Pastor, Cyrille Fontaine, Jeff Borja, Marcus Wong, Ramil Madriaga, Alvin Ng, Sean Redpath, Bjorn Ongtiaobok, and Dennis Uy.

The complete list of winners will be published in the March-April AAP Drive Newsletter.

AAP offers Lifetime Membership Award

For the first time in its 80-year history, the Automobile Association Philippines (formerly the Philippine Motor Association) is awarding Lifetime Membership to its loyal members. This class of membership recognizes the members' loyalty and offers as a reward continued membership free from the payment of annual membership dues for the rest of their lives.

The only qualification required for this award is that the sum of the member's biological age plus the number of years of his or her AAP membership equals 100.

We are therefore calling on all qualified AAP members to attend the annual general membership meeting on May 9, 2011 at 2 pm at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) Hall C at Roxas Blvd. corner Buendia Ave., Pasay City. For more information, please call AAP at 7230808 and look for Necy Zornosa, the membership services manager.

AAP Supports Champions of the Future Program

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), the only auto club authorized by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) to sanction motorsport in the Philippines, is supporting the young drivers program of the Tuason Racing School (TRS) called the Champions of the Future.

The program aims to encourage more youngsters to engage in motorsport by subsidizing their running costs. All participants will start in karting, the entry level of motorsport worldwide. AAP Motorsport Committee Chairman Mandy Eduque noted that in 2009 and 2010, the number of drivers in the 8 to 13 age group who participated in motorsport \decreased.

"We felt the need to do something about it and JP Tuason came up with this idea of reviving the Young Karters Program he did in 2008 to boost the number of young Filipino karters", Eduque said.

The Champions of the Future program was launched by TRS with a karting clinic on January 16, 2011 at the Carmona Race Track. A total of 20 children ages 7 to 13 joined the clinic on that day where they learned the basics of karting. After the series of clinics, participants will compete in karting races slated on March 20 at the Carmona Racetrack, April 10 at Boomland, April 24 at the Carmona Racetrack and May 8 at Boomland to determine the best drivers who will receive scholarships and subsidies to race in the 2011 Castrol Champions of the Future Series.

AAP will award a scholarship package to the winner of the four-leg race series so that he or she can compete in the National Karting Series under the supervision of veteran race car drivers JP and Mike Tuason. It will be a continuous program since as every season ends, new champions will emerge to take over the grid positions of those who have already moved on to the next level of motorsport.

"If we really want to put Filipino drivers at the forefront of international competitions such as the Asian Karting Series, we have to ensure that we have enough champions to battle for the big wins", said Eduque.

Aside from AAP, the Champions of the Future program is supported by Castrol Oil, Pena Motorsports, AUTS Racing, Bridgestone, PUMA, OMP, Jaguar, Lifeline, Carmona Race Track, The Philippine Star, 99.5RTfm, Trapik.com, Kzone, Top Gear and Timezone,

The next karting clinics are scheduled on March 6 and April 3 at the Carmona Racetrack. For more information please call the Tuason Racing School at 817-7795 to 96 or log on to www.championsofthefutureph.com.



The participants of the first clinic of Champions of the Future program with the sponsors and TRS instructors.

AAP Supports the Philippines' First International School of Sustainable Tourism

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) is supporting the first International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST) in the Southeast Asian region founded by AAP Director and former Tourism Secretary Guillermina "Mina" Gabor in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Aside from AAP, the ISST's other collaborators are the Departments of Tourism (DOT), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

The ISST, a private non-stock and non-profit corporation, will provide quality education and technical training of manpower to promote and operate sustainable tourism in the Philippines and ASEAN countries. It is the first learning institution to respond to the region's need to improve the quality of tourism human resources, environmental and cultural conservation, marketing and product development strategies. Towards this end, ISST offers courses on Eco Tourism Planning and Development, General Tourism Planning, Development and Management for Tourism Service Officers of LGUs, Tourism Marketing and Promotions, Ecotourism Planning and Development, Green Cuisine and Bartending, Eco-Tourism Design, and Eco-Entrepreneurship, among others.

The school also offers a course on Road Safety in cooperation with AAP and pertinent government agencies. Mina Gabor the president of ISST and chair of the AAP Tourism Committee said the Road Safety course may be launched in September this year. AAP vice-president and Road Safety Committee and Green Mobility Specialist chair Johnny Angeles will be invited to assist in putting up the Road Safety course and to deliver a lecture on Road Safety in one of the training sessions.

"AAP and ISST together aim to promote road discipline and educate people on proper decorum while driving," Ms Gabor said.. "We are also planning to invite not only local road safety experts, but also international professionals to share their experiences and knowledge about road safety."

ISST will also draw on the expertise of its partners, the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Florida State University (FSU), Silliman University (SU), Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), Asian

Productivity Organization (APO), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and a pool of private sector professionals.

The ISST's campus facilities at Subac, Aparri Heights, and Triboa Ecocenter are built to provide community-friendly education at reasonable cost. The Subac Campus takes pride in its 566-seat theater, science centrum and a dormitory while the Aparri Heights campus houses a kitchen for green cuisine and green housekeeping. Triboa on the other hand, has livelihood training halls, a mangrove education hall, a water and solid waste management demo area, learning with the indigenous people hall, bird watching hall, bats and rainforest hall and marine camp hall.

Located in one of the safest and most ecological areas of the country complete with amenities and leisure centers, ISST is using not only its own facilities but also its proximity to services in and near the Subic Bat Freeport Zone. Visitors and clients can surely mix learning with pleasure.

The school held its first class in July 2010 when the Indonesian Government through its Ministry of Industry collaborated with ISST to send batik designers and technicians to teach local artisans batik making technology with the objective of their dapting this as one of their crafts. The main goal of the workshop is to develop new products for the local and export markets as well as to increase job and income opportunities in the countryside.

The workshop was followed by the first eco-guiding course in the country on October 20-29, 2010 wherein a combination of lectures, field excursions and practical activities equipped participants with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to work as Ecotour Guides.

The ISST's latest event was the three-day National Conference on Planning and Developing Community-Based Rural Tourism held at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center on January 12-14, 2011 with some 720 participants from the local government units, tourism and trade practitioners and members of the academe. Supported by the AAP and in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) and Department of Tourism (DOT), the conference sought to improve product development in rural areas where poverty is widespread. Resource persons included DOT Secretary Alberto Lim, Japan APO Secretary-General Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Maritte Du-Toit

Helmbold of South Africa, Dr. Koo Swee Chiow of Indonesia, and Rajendra Narsingh Suwal of Nepal.



The participants of the Batik Workshop are enjoying creating their crafts.



The attendees of the First Eco-Guiding Course.

Making Motoring Fun: One Important Driving Tip

by Gus Lagman, AAP President

Some years back, a friend whose son had just started driving, asked me the question - if I were to give just *one* driving tip to a young driver, what would it be? I thought for a while, then I said, "It would have to be this: the driver should always be aware of what's going on around him."

Let's start with **the front**. That's obviously most important because your car is moving forward. How is the vehicle in front of you behaving? How fast is it? Is its stop light working? If not, you should add more distance between that vehicle and yours.

But there's something more critical than that. I probably pay no more than 30% of my attention on the vehicle immediately in front of me. I pay more attention on the behaviour of the vehicles *in front* of him. Obviously, that's so I could react early enough when any of those vehicles slows down, or makes a sudden stop, or worse, meets with an accident. Many minor accidents happen because a driver is not able to react fast enough to stop his vehicle when the one in front of him makes a sudden stop. For this reason, I avoid staying behind a big vehicle - like a truck or a bus - too long.

I also want to know if a vehicle in another lane, even if way in front of me, moves into my lane. That could mean that all the vehicles behind him would slow down.

The rear. I check my rear view mirror every so often to find out how close the vehicle behind me is. If he's too close, that would mean that there is the danger that I could be rear-ended. I usually make a quick glance at my rear view mirror before making that sudden stop as, say, the traffic light changes to red. Along the highways, if I notice a vehicle behind me moving faster than my car, I might move to a slower lane to my right. Or, if it's only a two-lane road, then I might move more to the right side of my lane to make it easier for the vehicle behind to overtake me.

The sides. Just as I check the speed of the vehicle behind me, I do the same with the vehicles to my left and to my right. In fact, I try to envision the relative speeds of as many vehicles in my immediate vicinity as possible. I keep a mental picture of that, albeit a dynamic one. If I want to overtake the vehicle in front of me, I have to be able to estimate the speed of the vehicle behind and to my left using the left side mirror and the rear view mirror. The same holds true before I

change to a slower lane to my right, this time using the right side mirror. In the U.S., the driver must turn his head to the right before shifting to the right lane. I believe this is still in force today.

Other factors. Aside from the vehicles around me, there are other factors that I pay attention to. For example, if I'm going to pass a person on a bicycle, I try to do so, as far from him as safely possible, so I can more easily avoid hitting him in case he loses his balance while I'm passing him.

When there is a truck or bus parked along the side of the road, I look through under the vehicle – for moving feet - to see if there's a person(s) who might suddenly cross the street unaware that a vehicle is coming.

With my peripheral vision, I always watch out for sudden movements. Any such movement and I release my foot from the accelerator, ready to step on the brakes in case that movement turns out to be a person crossing the road. This is the reason I never hang anything on my rear view mirror (rosaries, sampaguita, religious icons, "good luck" charms, whatever). Their swinging will only distract me from watching out for sudden movements from outside my car. I also don't put any item on the car's dashboard that can fall off, thus distracting me from my driving.

Because I do all of the above when I drive, you'll probably assume that I'm a very defensive driver. And yes, I am. However, they are the very same things that a driver must follow if he wants to be an aggressive driver. Which I am, too.

AAPLINGKOD acquires new tow truck



In line with AAP's commitment to provide better Emergency Roadside Service to its members and the motoring public, AAPLINGKOD Inc. added a FUSO CANTER Self-Loader Truck to its fleet of 36 tow trucks last December. Stationed at the AAP's main office in Quezon City, the new tow truck is capable of lifting and carrying light vehicles and sport utility vehicles.



The National Auto Club

AAP WILL SOON MOVE TO A NEW LOCATION

AAP's 998 sqm. property at 683 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City is now being offered for **sale/lease/joint venture development.**

**For Inquiries, please call
Tess Cruzat at 723-0808 local 824**