

EASTERN SAMAR SURFING CROWN 2007

All roads lead to Calicoan Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar come October 8 – 10, 2007. The most important event in this island will unravel to all and sundry: surfers or non-surfers, tourists or local bystanders. For during this 3-day affair, the 4th Eastern Samar Surfing Crown 2007 Odyssey Waves Surfing Competition will be held. Skilled surfers from all over the world including local surfers will compete to vie for the crown.

Organizers of this much-awaited event include the Municipal Government of Guiuan, the Provincial Government of Eastern Samar. Ubicon Systems of Seoul, Korea, the Department of Tourism – Regional Office 8 and the Surfers Club of Eastern Samar.

Globally known surfing champions themselves like Adrian Sosa and Danilo Costa of Brazil and American Champion Bo Young experienced and praised the waves of Calicoan Island.

John Howard, the champion of the Extreme Category of the Elf Authentique Adventure held in Eastern Visayas christened Calicoan as a surfing paradise in 1999.

In 2000, John Callahan, world-renowned photographer of surfing events, visited Calicoan and was impressed with its waves and beauty. He vouched that Calicoan Island is indeed a world-class surfing destination.

It is easy to find Calicoan, an island located at the Southern tip of Guiuan, Eastern Samar. It is bounded in the east by the Pacific Ocean and in the west by the Leyte Gulf. The island has a rugged landscape, virgin tropical forests, unspoiled white sand beaches, crystal clear water and surf. The place is truly a haven for adventure travelers and intrepid surfers.

The establishment of a Surfing Tourism Integrated Program (STIP) under the supervision of DOT Sec. Joseph "Ace" H. Durano was created through Memorandum Order 168 issued no less than, Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on March 31, 2005.

On the said order, PGMA stresses: "Tourism in the Philippines is a sector with great potential. Thus, my administration shall prioritize expanded infrastructure development and encourage greater investments all over the country, particularly in tourist-attractive areas in the Central Philippines.

The STIP provides for transport infrastructure development to ensure the competitiveness and marketability of identified premier and world-class surfing destinations that include Guiuan.

During the President's 2006 State of the Nation Address (SONA), she outlined a new strategy to boost her administration's reform packages, capitalizing on the country's strengths through the Super Regions Program Central Philippines of which the Eastern Visayas Region is part of, was identified as

part of the Tourism Super Regions. And in her 2007 SONA, Pres. Arroyo aptly described Calicoan Island, together with Siargao Island, as the "Surfing Edens of the Philippines."

For the record, the President and her daughter Luli, are surfers themselves and enjoy the sport so much. Guiuan Mayor Annaliza Gonzales-Kwan welcomes all interested surfers to witness the 4th Eastern Samar Surfing Crown 2007 Odyssey Waves Surfing Competition this coming Oct. 8 – 10.

For interested surfers who may wish to join the event, you can contact the following: Floyd Ramos (0928-345-7609), Rina Apostol (0917-498-3035), Aurora delos Reyes (0915-404-3125) or Leah Zarsua at (0917-435-0456).

Sponsors include: Office of Cong. Teodulo Coquilla, Office of the Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas, Philippine Tourism Authority, Globe, San Miguel Group of Companies, Fluid Surf and Office of Sen. Angara. (Louie Guarin)