



# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PALAU RECEIVES AWARDS AT JAPAN MARINE DIVING FAIR 2006

The Palau Visitors Authority along with 12 local tourism partners attended the annual three-day Marine Diving Fair held in Tokyo, Japan on April 7-9, 2006. This year, Palau had the biggest presence at the Marine Diving Fair consisting of local tourism partners; Splash, IMPAC, Aqua Magic, Maml Divers, Blue Marlin, Dolphins Pacific, Palau Pacific Resort, Palau Plantation Resort, Palau Royal Resort, Carp Island, Airai View Hotel, Palasia Hotel and the Palau Visitors Authority. "Palau is very blessed with its natural beauty and rich heritage to be able to compete with destinations such as the Maldives, Thailand, Philippines, etc. for these prestigious awards", said Darin De Leon, PVA Managing Director. "Coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place after Maldives for the 'Best Diving Area, Overseas', Palau should be proud and continue to strive to be best--hopefully 1<sup>st</sup> Place for the 'Best Diving Area, Overseas' in 2007."



Darin De Leon, PVA Managing Director receives awards on behalf of Palau

The Dive & Travel Awards is organized by Marine Arts Center Co., Ltd., also the organizer of Japan's largest dive and travel show – The Marine Diving Fair. *Marine Diving*, Japan's first and largest scuba diving magazine and *Travel Diver*, a magazine dedicated to island destinations and resorts, as well as *Marine Photo*, the only monthly magazine in Japan dedicated to underwater photography, are all published by Marine Arts Center Co., Ltd, which is decided by their 3 monthly magazines'

readers vote. Every year, readers of monthly 'Marine Diving', 'Travel Diver' and 'Marine Photo' magazines vote the No. 1 resort, destinations, diving operators, gear manufacturers by postcards. Final results are released at the annual Marine Diving Fair. Tallied votes were taken from the monthly subscribers of the 'Marine Diving', 'Travel Diver' and 'Marine Photo' magazines and the participants of the Marine Diving Fair voted in 18 categories to select Palau as the following:

**DIVE & TRAVEL AWARDS 2006 Reader's choice**

- Best Diving Area, Oversea
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Maldives 1,324
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Palau 1,178
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Philippines 800
- Best Resort Area, Oversea
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Maldives 1,640
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Palau 560
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: French Polynesia 456
- Dreaming Area
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Maldives 789
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: French Polynesia 594
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Palau 307



Tourism Partners handing out information about Palau

**OTHER AWARDS**

- o **Palau Pacific Resort:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Best Diving Resort Hotel, Oversea
- o **Palau Pacific Resort:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Best Resort Hotel, Oversea
- o **Palau Sport:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Best live-aboard
- o **Aqua Magic:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Favorite Dive Operator, Oversea.
- o **Long Beach:** 10<sup>th</sup> Place: Best Beach

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