

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

March 15, 2006

TOC offers \$150K

By Brad E. Ruzala

Reporter

With a handful of months to go before Saipan plays host to Micronesia's premier golfing event, the organizers of the 11th Annual Tournament of Champions recently joined forces with AON Insurance to offer strikers and slicers a chance at taking home \$150,000.

A field of nearly 200 duffers is expected to descend upon one of the CNMI's most lush leas at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, but before the opening drives leave the tees on Saturday, Aug. 5, and Saturday, Aug. 6, organizers are accumulating support from the business community to make the TOC a hit.

As the latest partner to join the TOC, AON Insurance took the plunge by sponsoring two \$75,000 hole in one prizes for the annual tournament, with a hole in one on both courses on each day of the tournament.

Tournament coordinator Ben Babauta was thrilled to hear that AON signed on, but he wasn't the only one involved in the deal who left with a smile on his face as AON's regional director Rodney Rankin was pleased as well.

"I look forward to this tournament every year both as a sponsor and player. The tournament not only offers me great exposure for my company, but more importantly allows me to support the beneficiary of the tournament-the Beautification Fund of Saipan," he said.

Since its inception, TOC has given over \$400,000 to the Beautification Fund which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the Nikko Hotel, as well as the recent revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition to the pair of eye-pleasing projects, the TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Beach Pathway, and a number of other beautification projects.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2006 TOC, contact Andy Tidwell of Couture Marketing by calling 234-1305.