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BIYAHENG SCTEX

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Iwas "TIRIK" advisory sa SCTEX:

Para sa mabilis, matipid at maginhawang biyahe sa SCTEX, siguraduhing nasa tamang kundisyon ang inyong sasakyan. I-check muna ang mga sumusunod: **mga gulong, makina, tubig sa radiator, break, busina at iba pa.**

Gumamit ng mga service areas (e.g. gasoline stations, comfort rooms) na matatagpuan sa **North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), MacArthur Highway, Olongapo-Gapan Road, Concepcion-Magalang Road, Tarlac-Sta. Rosa Road** at iba pa bago bumiyaha sa SCTEX.

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Balloon fest took...

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This year's Hot Air Balloon Festival unfolded at the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga and took the local tourism industry to new heights, gaining significant boost from the completion of all interchanges of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX).

The government-run Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and Clark Development Corp. (CDC) shifted preparations to high gear as the record crowds attended the four-day pageantry highlighting colorful hot air balloons of all shapes and sizes.

The Tollways Management Corporation (TMC), interim service provider for the SCTEX, was also tasked to draw up contingency plans that ensured faster, safer and more comfortable travel along the 93.7-kilometer toll road.



As early as 5:00 AM, crowds gather to witness how balloons are being prepared before they float into the air.

SCTEX spokesperson Robert C. Gervacio said that the attendance at the festival last February 11-14, 2010 surpassed the previous records, thus setting the tone for a "greatly invigorated tourism industry in Central Luzon."

Apart from the balloons, the festivities also featured paragliding exhibitions, light aircraft flying formation, sky diving exhibitions, rocketry demonstrations, aerobatic flight display, search and rescue flying exhibition, helicopter shows and light airplane balloon bursting competition.

"Due to the huge package of spectacular events, we have anticipated significant increase in traffic volumes at the SCTEX which is now more accessible to motorists and passengers alike with the completion of all its 11 interchanges," Gervacio said.



A weekend of everything that flies. Aside from the colorful balloons, tourists also enjoyed watching other activities such as paragliding.



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SCTEX COMMENDATIONS

FROM : ANGELO LAGAYA
December 11, 2009

"I'm writing this to send my gratitude to highway patrolmen, PC Gabriel, PC Sugme, S/G Samson, S/G Paborito for helping me last December 10, 2009 during a vehicular problem I had while traversing SCTEX. In the late afternoon, a flat tire got me near several kilometers away from the exit near San Miguel, Tarlac. I was on the roadside for only 10 minutes when two patrolmen arrived and assisted me in fixing my tire. Two more provided assistance and some equipment as my spare tire proved difficult to get to. Eventually, we managed to retrieve the spare and was able to continue with the tire replacement. I would like to commend them because without their assistance, I know I'd be stuck there for several hours. To my pleasant surprise, considering our culture and practice here in the Philippines, they politely turned down my offer of monetary compensation. You have good guys working for you there. My trip through SCTEX wasn't too bad, especially with a potentially problematic situation for me. Keep up the good work!"

FROM: ERWIN DEL VALLE
January 22, 2009

"I would like to commend patrollers PC Calderon, PC Redondo, PC Valloyas and SG Bolesa for the excellent assistance they gave when my car broke down in SCTEX last week. They were extremely professional, friendly, accommodating and looked genuinely concerned for my safety and comfort. And, I'd like to stress that they didn't want to take the money I gave them. I couldn't ask for anything more. They remind me of professional patrollers in USA. Since, I cannot give them anything material for my thanks, I'd request that you give them an award/commendation that will boost their career. Keep up the good work!"



Kite Flying.

The most recent of such facilities to be commissioned was the Floridablanca Interchange in Pampanga which is about 52 kilometers from the Tipo toll plaza in Subic.

The seamless connection between the SCTEX and the North Luzon Expressway in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga has likewise helped to dramatically reduce travel time between Manila and Central Luzon, or for that matter, even up to Baguio City and other points in northern Luzon.

Panagbenga organizers cite benefits of SCTEX to influx of tourists

Photos by Rhona L. Ramos



Organizers of the 15th staging of the Panagbenga or the Baguio Flower Festival cited the importance of the 94-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) in attracting the influx of tourists to this mountain resort city in time for the highlights of the city's premier crowd drawing event.

Anthony de Leon, co-chairman of the Panagbenga executive committee and general manager of the Baguio Country Club, pointed out the shortened travel time from Manila to Baguio City due to the operation of the SCTEX will allow the influx of more tourists to witness the famous fluvial parade on February 14, the dazzling performances during the streetdancing parade on February 27, and the colorful float and marching bands competition on February 28.

Since SCTEX began commercial operations, the six-hour travel time from Baguio City to Metro Manila and other parts of Central Luzon has been reduced to only four hours which greatly increased tourist arrivals over the past several months.

The SCTEX is a world-class highway that provides convenient and cost-efficient travel to motorists wanting to visit the scenic tourist destinations in Northern Luzon.



For this year, Panagbenga organizers believe there will be a record-breaking number of tourist arrivals since almost all hotels and lodging houses are already nearing full occupancy.

De Leon assured that the thousands of foreign and domestic tourists who want to witness the highlights of the flower festival will be given a good treat since they will be witnessing new innovations in the different events so that they will be always coming back and forth to the city, the summer Capital of the Philippines.

He explained due to SCTEX's cost-efficient travel, tourists will have the luxury of spending more during their stay in the city which will also be good for the different businesses in the locality.

The tourists will also be given a chance to witness world-class floral arrangements and landscapes in the on-going market encounter at the Burnham Park which is expected to commence next month.

On the other hand, promenaders will have the chance to walk through Session Road, the city's main thoroughfare, when it will be closed from March 1-7, 2010 to pave the way for the establishment of sidewalk cafes and floral displays coupled with sterling performances from invited artists and choral groups.

The SCTEX allows motorists to elude the monstrous traffic congestions along the Tarlac to Pampanga section of the national highway which impedes the smooth travel from Metro Manila to the different parts of Central and Northern Luzon.



KNOW WHERE TO GO AT THE SCTEX

Alamin kung paano makakarating sa inyong mga destinasyon sa Norte ngayong Summer gamit ang Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway.

Paano pumunta sa: Concepcion Tarlac
Mula sa: NLEX/Mabalacat at Dolores Interchanges

Kumanan lamang hanggang umabot sa Concepcio Interchange. Makakarating sa Concepcion-Magalang Road paglabas ng nasabing toll plaza.

Paano pumunta sa: San Miguel/Luisita Tarlac
Mula sa: NLEX/Mabalacat at Dolores Interchanges

Kumanan hanggang marating ang San Miguel/Luisita Interchange. Makakarating sa Luisita Parkway paglabas ng nasabing toll plaza. Nasa dulo nito ang MacArthur Highway.

Paano pumunta sa: La Paz, Tarlac at Tarlac City
Mula sa: NLEX / Mabalacat Interchange

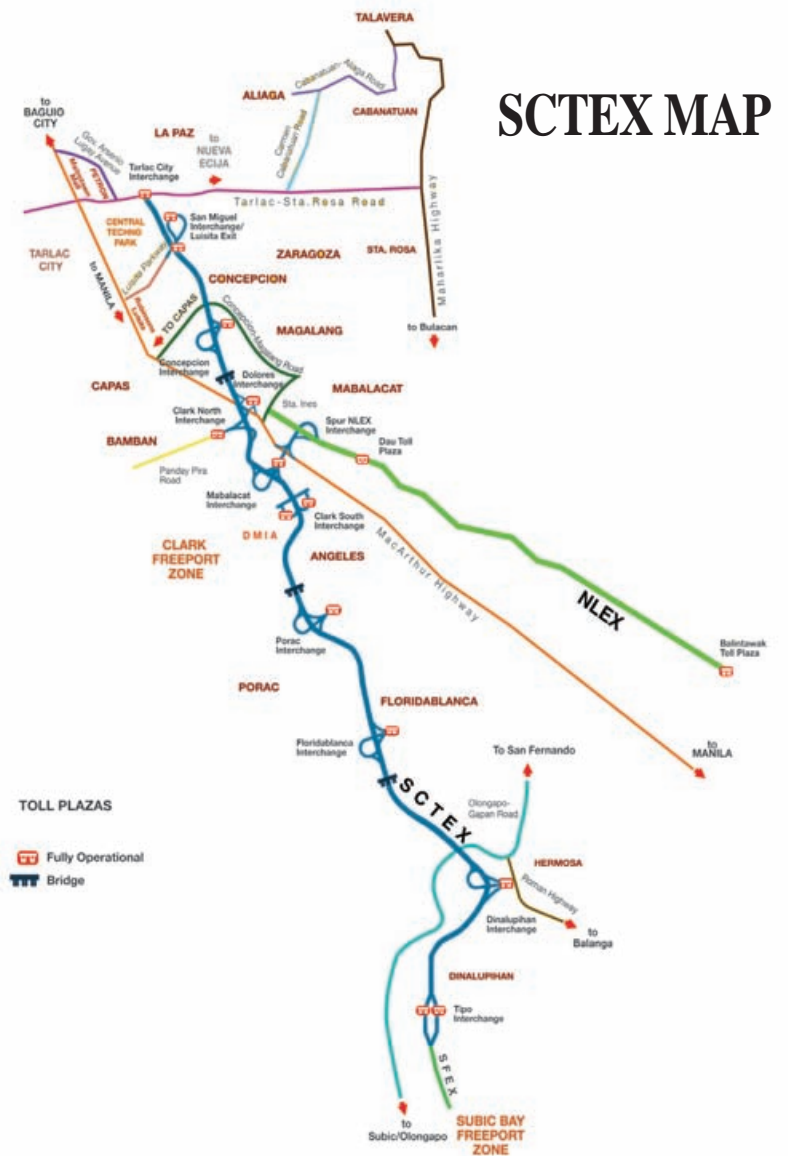
Kumanan hanggang sa dulo ng SCTEX o sa Tarlac City Interchange. Makakarating sa Tarlac-La Paz-Sta. Rosa Road paglabas ng nasabing toll plaza.

Paano pumunta sa: Pangasinan, Baguio, La Union o Ilocos
Mula sa: NLEX / Mabalacat Interchange

Kung patungong Pangasinan, Baguio, La Union o Ilocos, kumaliwa paglabas ng Tarlac-La Paz-Sta. Rosa Road.

Sundan lamang ang nasabing kalsada hanggang sa marating ang "stop light." Makikita sa kanan ang Metro Town Mall. Kumanan lamang (MacArthur Highway) patungo sa inyong destinasyon.

Isa pang ruta na galing sa Tarlac-La Paz-Sta. Rosa Road ay ang pagkanaan sa Gov. Arsenio Lugay Avenue (sa may Petron Gas Station sa kanan) hanggang sa marating ang MacArthur Highway at tumungo sa inyong destinasyon.



“Scenes from an expressway”

by: Garry Cativo



Subic-Clark Stretch



Subic-Clark Stretch



Mabalacat Interchange

Do you want to publish your SCTEX photos? Then send it to bcda.pa@gmail.com with your name, address and contact number. Your photos could be featured on this page.