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# Japanese Plan Big Resort On Saipan

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TOKYO - Saipan is attracting growing attention of the Japanese tourism industry.

With a number of travel-related companies revealing plans or intentions of investments in it, prospects have strengthened that the island, once the stronghold of the Imperial Japanese Army, will again come in the limelight here this time as a major holiday resort developed by Japanese.

Furukawa International Development Co., and a team of Japan Travel Bureau, Inc. and Keio Plaza Hotel are going respectively to provide money to local business interests in order to share in the construction and management of hotels and other tourist facilities.

Furukawa International Development, which was established last year as a joint venture of 13 companies in the leading Furukawa industrial group, will foot the entire cost, worth about \$1.3 million,

involved in construction of a 70-room hotel, 10 bungalows and flower gardens on a 13,000 square-meter site near Saipan airport, planned by a Saipan company whose name the Japanese company withheld.

Construction of these facilities is scheduled to start in May with completion set for the end of December, according to Furukawa. The Tokyo company will be in charge of their management.

The company says its advance into Saipan will constitute a stepping stone to its further investments in Rota, Palau and other Micronesian islands.

Japan Travel Bureau (JTB), Japan's top travel agency, and Keio Plaza Hotel, meanwhile, have reached basic agreement with Pan American on partly financing construction of a 200-room hotel which Intercontinental Hotels, a Pan Am subsidiary, and its partner in Saipan, are planning on Saipan.

The agreement calls for the Japanese companies putting up \$650,000 of the total construction cost estimated at \$4.7 million. After completion in 1975, the hotel will be managed by Keio Plaza with JTB in charge of booking Japanese travelers for the hotel.

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