



Important Message re DAN Philippines Hotline

As of 3rd October, the DAN AP – Philippines Hotline will be temporarily out of operation. In the past, DAN AP has hosted this hotline through SOS International in Manila. This arrangement was due for renewal and SOS has required a doubling of the price of the service, something that DAN AP believes is unjustifiable given the small number of calls to the service. We are therefore actively seeking the service of another operator and we plan to re-instate the service (probably using a different telephone number) in the not-too-distant future.

In the interim, there is no need for alarm because all DAN members, and other divers, will have access to the DAN-sponsored Diving Emergency Service (DES) Hotline in Australia. The number to call is: **+61-8-8212 9242**.

The DES phone is initially answered by an ambulance call centre and the operator takes details of the caller and the problem before connecting the caller to the on-call diving doctor. This doctor will give immediate diving medical advice. In addition, if the patient is a DAN Member and the doctor is told this fact, they will immediately contact DAN AP to report the situation. DAN AP will then take over the handling of the problem, in liaison with our network of doctors and contacts in the Philippines.

DAN Members can also call the local DAN AP Philippines Director, Dr Ben Luna, on his hand phone by calling 0917-8-DIVE-MD. It must be realized that there is no guarantee the call will be answered due to potential reception difficulties and the fact that the phone may be turned off from time to time. However, if an evacuation or treatment is suggested, it is essential that DAN AP is contacted and agrees to this prior to it being conducted.

We will notify you again once a local hotline has been re-established but in the meantime be assured that you remain in very good hands. **Remember to call: +61-8-8212 9242 for a diving emergency.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lippmann", with a long, sweeping underline.

John Lippmann OAM
Executive Director DAN Asia-Pacific