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DepEd Jazz Chants Coaches head to Singapore

Three winning teacher-coaches will fly to Singapore this June as their prize for leading winning teams in the recently-concluded first National English Jazz Chants Festival held at the Subic Bay Arts Center in Olongapo City.

Mildred De Villa of Gov. Feliciano Leviste Memorial National High School in Batangas (Region IV-A CLABARZON), Micheline Epacta of Ramon Torres National High School, Bago City (Region VI) and Aristine Pernes of F. Bangoy National High School in Davao City (Region XI) coached the teams that were declared Luzon winner and grand champion, Visayas winner and Mindanao winner, respectively. The grand champion team won P 15,000 while the other winning teams received P5,000 each.

The teachers will go on a three-day trip to Singapore to visit the Regional Education Center-Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (RELC-SEAMEO).

The festival was part of the 2007 DepEd Convergys Oral Communications in English Program where 432 selected high school teachers of English, Science and Math underwent an intensive two-day training held in Manila and Cebu City. Each teacher-participant formed a Jazz Chants team composed of 15 students.

Jazz Chants are snappy, upbeat chants and poems that use jazz rhythms to illustrate the natural stress and intonation patterns of conversational American English.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus enthused: "As much as our teachers need to develop the minds of our students, they also need to package their lessons such that they generate interest and provide recall."

"Opportunities such as this competition will further develop creativity in our teachers," he added.

The first National English Jazz Chants Festival was sponsored by Oro Eco Enterprises and World Class Language Center with the support and cooperation of DepEd.

The board of judges included DepEd Assistant Secretary Jonathan Malaya and Ofelia Eustaquio of the DepEd Bureau of Elementary Education and Ronald de Vera, Mary Blanche Lapez and Ma. Angeline Ang-Suarez of Convergys.

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