



JAN 09 2006

DepED MEMORANDUM
No. **5**, s. 2006

UNITED NATIONS ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

To: Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents
Heads, Public and Private Secondary Schools

1. The United Nations Association of the Philippines and the United Nations Development Program will hold an Essay Writing Contest with the theme "The Millennium Development Goals – Youth Takes Action".
2. The objectives of the contest are to:
 - a) create greater awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and how the MDG Programs are being implemented in the Philippines;
 - b) encourage youth participation/involvement in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015; and
 - c) help promote the "Tayo Tayo Rin: 2015" campaign and its objectives.
3. The contest is open to all high school and college/university students. Enclosed is the contest guidelines.
4. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

FE A. HIDALGO
Undersecretary
Officer-in-Charge

Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

None

Allotment: 1- -(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CONTESTS
SOCIETY or ASSOCIATIONS
STUDENTS

Draft by: Maricar/DM-UN Essay Contest
01-04-06/computer: mamjo

(Enclosure to DepED Memorandum No. 5, s. 2006)



**THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE PHILIPPINES (UNAP)**



**INVITE STUDENTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LEVELS TO JOIN
THE NATIONAL ESSAY WRITING CONTEST WITH THE THEME:
"THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS --
YOUTH TAKES ACTION!"**

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

The ratification of the Millennium Development Goals by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 was first, an acknowledgement of man's historical failure to build a better world for future generations. But more importantly, it is an affirmation of a collective decision of world leaders to pursue specific corrective action programs that will improve lives and lead humanity to a world where there is less poverty and more opportunities for progress and enjoyment of peace. For each goal, one or more targets have been set to be achieved by 2015, using 1990 as benchmark.

The 8 Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Access to Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases
7. Ensure Environment Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

The MDG programs offer a positive alternative course, which can only be successfully undertaken if ALL sectors of society WORK TOGETHER for their achievement through actual implementation of identified action programs and their monitoring, and through advocacy campaigns. Advocacy and promotion have been identified as key elements in the participation of the civil society in the achievement of the MDGs.

With the assistance of the U.N. Country Team, the Philippine government, the business sector and civil society have taken critical steps that will mainstream the Millennium Development Goals to the political, social and cultural milieu. And to step up MDG campaign among the youth, UNDP and UNAP, with the support of the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the National Youth Commission and the Lions Clubs International MD 301 are launching an **Essay Writing Contest with the theme "The Millennium Development Goals -- Youth Takes Action!"** The theme was based on the 57th annual conference theme of the United Nations DPI-NGO Section held in New York in September, 2004 (Millennium Development Goals, Civil Society Takes Action")

OBJECTIVES. The contest aims to:

1. create greater awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and how the MDG Programs can be implemented in the Philippines;
2. encourage youth participation/involvement in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;
3. help promote the "Tayo sa 2015" MDG Campaign and its objectives.

Message from UN Sec Gen Kofi Annan to the Civil Society Forum (Sao Paulo Brazil, June 29, 2004): Civil Society and the MDGs

"It is people mobilized as you are, more than any government initiative or scientific breakthrough, that can overcome the obstacles to a better world... the civil society movement continues to grow and makes its mark... So are urgently need you to do what you do best... Political will shifts only if there is national and local mobilization by the public, and only when leaders are held accountable... What would really make a difference is if, at the local level, the goals achieve a critical mass support and even become "vote-getters". You can and must help make that happen. If we do not, millions of people will die prematurely and unnecessarily... That... should be a call to action."

CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. The contest commences on December 16, 2005 until the deadline of submission of entries on February 15, 2006.
2. The contest has two divisions: high school and college/university. The first division is open to all Filipino high school students currently enrolled in any public or DepEd-recognized private school in the Philippines. The second division covers students currently enrolled in state colleges/universities or CHED recognized private institutions.
3. Each school or college/university shall have only one (1) entry.
4. All entries shall be written in English with a minimum length of Nine Hundred (900) words and a maximum length of One Thousand Five Hundred Words (1,500) words.

5. Essays must be typewritten or computerized on A4 bond paper (8.27" x 11.69"), 1.5 line spacing. For computerized entries, use 12 point Arial orTahoma font. No identifying marks must be written on any of the entries for submission.
6. All entries shall have been the declared winner of a school based competition to determine the school's official entry. The entry shall also be endorsed by the School Principal or the College/University President as the official entry of the institution and certified as the original work of the contestant and that it has not been previously submitted in another contest. Furthermore, the participant shall sign the Honor Pledge included in the Entry Form to certify to the authenticity and originality of the submitted entry. Failure to do so shall mean disqualification of the entry.
7. All entries must be accompanied by a duly accomplished entry form (please see attached). Entry forms shall be made available at DepEd and CHED Division Offices or in any District Offices of the Lions Clubs International, as well as at the offices of the National Youth Commission. Please accomplish five (5) copies and enclose them in a short brown envelope. All entries must be submitted to and received on or before February 15, 2006. Please address entries to:

Office of the Vice President
Technological University of the Philippines
Ayala Boulevard, Manila

To the attention of:
Dr. Emiliana V. Tadeo
Vice President, TUP
UNAP Director/Co-chair, MDG Essay Writing Contest
and
Dir. Evangeline Arcilla-Ang
UNAP Director/Chair, U.N. Programs
Overall Chair, MDG Essay Writing Contest
8. All submitted entries shall undergo screening and preliminary judging by a panel of judges appointed by UNAP to determine the five (5) finalists for each division. The finalists will be notified by telephone, text, mail or e-mail on or before March 31, 2006.
9. The finale will be an on-the-spot essay writing contest to be held in April, 2006. The venue will be announced later.
10. The guidelines and the theme for the on-the-spot essay writing contest will be announced during the contest proper.
11. Any of the five (5) finalists (including his/her coach) for each division who will be coming from the province shall be provided with transportation and accommodation assistance by UNAP.
12. The decision of the panel of judges is final and irrevocable.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

1. Content 35%
This covers the accuracy of the data cited, relevance of the message and how the piece focuses on the theme.
2. Organization 30%
This covers the coherence of the sentences and paragraphs and the organization of the thoughts presented by the piece.
3. Style 20%
This includes the originality, creativity of the author and the tone of the language used throughout the piece.
4. Mechanics 15%
This covers the accuracy of spelling, capitalization, punctuation marks, sentence construction and grammar. It also includes strict compliance with the contest rules and guidelines.

PRIZES. Prizes will be as follows:

High School Division	
Grand Prize (1 winner)	Ph P30,000.00 and trophy for the student One (1) computer system and certificate for the school
Second Prize (1 winner)	Ph P15,000.00 and trophy for the student Certificates for the Coach and the Principal
Third Prize (1 winner)	Ph P10,000.00 and trophy for the student Certificates for the Coach and the Principal
Consolation Prizes (2)	Ph P5,000.00 and trophy for each student Certificates for the Coach and the Principal

(The above guidelines were adapted from a similar contest conducted by DepEd & CHED)

Information on the MDG's are available at www.un.org.ph or at www.millenniumcampaign.org.

With the cooperation and endorsement

The Department of Education
The Commission on Higher Education
The National Youth Commission
Lions Clubs International, (M) 01