



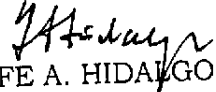
JUL 04 2006

DepED MEMORANDUM  
No. 255, s. 2006

VIDEOCONFERENCE SERIES FOR THE FILIPINO YOUTH

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents

1. For the first time, the Philippines will have a videoconference series to promote dialogue among the youth. This is a project supported by UNICEF, the Assisi Development Foundation and Youth Aid.
2. The 7-part series will focus on uniting the Muslim, Indigeneous and Christian youth throughout the Philippines on issues of peace building and conflict.
3. The purpose of the series is to bridge political, religious and cultural differences between young people living in Mindanao, Manila and Luzon.
4. Assisi Development Foundation, Inc., invites sixty (60) Muslim and Christian high school students from Metro Manila to participate in each of the seven conferences. Teachers and representatives from DepED are invited to attend the first conference.
5. The Foundation is designing a website that will feature video highlights from each conference and that will allow all Filipino students with Internet access to communicate with one another and learn from the videoconference after it is over. In addition, CDs and lesson plans will all be designed to complement existing learning materials.
6. Enclosed is a detailed background and rationale of the Videoconference Series for the Filipino Youth.
7. For more information, please contact **Prof. Serafin Arviola**, PNU and Youth Aid Center for Peace and Human Rights Education at tel. no. 527-0367; cel. no. 0918-6401900 or e-mail address [sarviola2002@yahoo.com](mailto:sarviola2002@yahoo.com) and **Mr. Robin Pettyfer**, Project Manager, "Kapit-Lapit", Assisi Foundation at tel. no. 632-1001; cel. no. 0915-7752880 or e-mail address [robin\\_pettyfer@yahoo.com](mailto:robin_pettyfer@yahoo.com).
8. 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:

CONFERENCES

STUDENTS

Draft by: Jovie/maricar/DM-Videoconference  
06-22-06

## PROJECT BRIEF for "KAPIT-LAPIT" A Video-Conference Series for our Filipino Youth

### **I. BACKGROUND and RATIONALE:**

The Philippines is divided by more than 7,000 islands. Its geography restricts inter-youth dialogue. Armed conflict in Mindanao and Luzon pit Muslim and Indigenous groups against a Christian based government. Minority groups in Metro Manila, Mindanao and Indigenous areas throughout the Philippines suffer prejudice. Mistrust exists between different cultural groups because of armed conflict and prejudice.

The Philippines is no exception. Throughout the world, tensions between cultural groups are increasing. This is partly due to advances in communication and transportation, which are bringing different groups together for the first time. Tensions are exacerbated by limited resources, irresponsible leadership, and fear.

Ignorance and apathy also contribute to conflict. The level of interest in improving social conditions remains low, particularly in the Philippines. According to a national study of Filipino youth conducted by Social Weather Station (SWS), only 10% of youth join youth organizations, 3% join charitable organizations, and 1% join political parties. 74% of Filipino youth spend their time watching TV and listening to radio. Being politically involved is considered the least important activity. A majority suffers from ignorance, helplessness and apathy when asked how they can contribute to improving social problems. Limited education and dialogue, and corruption of leadership contribute to these failures. Thus the need for inter-youth dialogue and awareness building is imperative.

Institutionalized dialogues are needed on a regular basis between different groups to improve understanding and lower tensions. Ideally, groups need a television program where they can come together to discuss their differences. This is expensive. A series of videoconferences is a more economical short-term goal.

In January, 2006, the Assisi Development Foundation held a two-day videoconference that linked hundreds of Muslim and Indigenous youth in Cotobato City with youth at De La Salle University in Manila. The dialogue focused on the armed conflict in Mindanao. It was a pilot project for the series that the Assisi Foundation, Youth Aid and UNICEF are starting in July.

### **II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES:**

This 7-part videoconference series aims to promote dialogue between Filipino youth living in different parts of the Philippines. It will focus on uniting Muslim, Indigenous and Christian youth from Mindanao and Luzon. It will give them a unique opportunity to express, listen and unite over concerns about their future and their country's future. It

will also expose our youth to perspectives they normally do not hear, including problems facing remote regions. It will reinforce commonalities between young people.

The series' theme is peace building. Most conferences within the series will focus on one kind of conflict. They will then analyze the steps communities are taking to resolve the problem. Recommendations from the series will be incorporated into programs of Assisi, Youth Aid and partner organizations.

Videoconferencing is not new technology. However, using it towards peace building is unique. It is cost effective, as it eliminates most transportation costs, particularly air travel. It provides security, by allowing participants to meet with participants living in insecure areas. It has potential for a multiplier effect owing to the public awareness it generates. And it can be an exciting experience for youth to see and speak with one another in far away areas.

The videoconferences will link youth in Luzon and Mindanao, with one panel from Mindanao speaking directly with one panel from Luzon through large video screens. The dialogue will be in Filipino, with a translator for panelists who are more comfortable speaking Visayan. These live dialogues will happen before youth audiences. We expect approximately 325 participants for the Luzon side and approximately 150 participants for the Mindanao side of each video-conference. Each conference will last 4 hours.

### **III. PROJECT MECHANICS:**

#### **A. The Seven Video-Conferences:**

##### **Conference 1: Moving from Conflict to Understanding**

- Venues: UP Diliman  
University of Southern Mindanao, Cotabato
- Panelists: Youth who have experienced armed conflict, prejudice/discrimination, and extreme poverty
- Participants: Student Leaders and Community Youth from Manila and Central Mindanao  
Young war evacuees, AFP soldiers, former out-of school children
- Objectives: To give overview of conflict and peace building; introduce different forms of conflict in the Philippines; emphasize commonalities in causes and consequences of conflict; give hope through story telling about progress and peace building; and show that a united youth can influence conflicts in the Philippines

##### Subjects for Dialogue:

- Rationale for series
- Stories about Prejudice/Discrimination; Armed Conflict; and Poverty
- Common causes and consequences of conflict - limited education, poverty, limited governance
- Stories about peace building and progress in communities

##### Expected Results

- Youth have overview of the series and general understanding of causes/consequences of conflict
- Youth from varied backgrounds and regions are introduced to one another

- Youth are beginning to process solutions and ways they can contribute to peace building

### **Conference 2: Overcoming Prejudice and Discrimination**

- Venues: UP Diliman  
Mindanao State University, Marawi
- Panelists: Young Muslims in Metro Manila and Mindanao  
Young Christian leaders and Student leaders.
- Audience: Muslim and Christian youth
- Objectives: To discuss prejudice towards Muslims in Metro Manila and Mindanao; discuss prejudice towards Christians in Mindanao; hear stories about Muslims and Christians overcoming discrimination; hear stories about youth who contribute towards an inclusive society; Recommendations for building tolerance.

#### Subjects for Dialogue:

- Stories about prejudice/racism towards Muslim and Christian minorities
- Checking our own biases
- Success stories of Muslims overcoming prejudice
- Stories of Muslims and Christians contributing towards an inclusive society
- Recommendations for building a more tolerant society

#### Expected Results

- Youth understand different forms of prejudice; youth check their own prejudices
- Youth understand how prejudice leads to conflict
- Youth who experience discrimination witness support and solidarity
- Youth deepen their insights into how they can contribute to peace building

### **Conference 3: Youth and Armed Conflict**

- Venues: UP Diliman  
Guadalupe Formation Centre, Kidapawan
- Panelists: Former child soldiers, children of combatants, AFP soldiers,  
Orphans and War Evacuees; Residents of "Sanctuaries for Peace"
- Participants: Community Youth and Student Leaders  
AFP soldiers, former youth soldiers and children of soldiers
- Objectives: To listen to stories about the realities of armed conflict – violence; fear; devastation; understand the causes of armed conflict and consequences of armed conflict for youth and the Philippines, particularly in the areas of education, careers, and social development; listen to stories about community responses to armed conflict, particularly in Central Mindanao; and learn how youth can respond to armed conflict.

#### Subjects for Dialogue:

- Stories of former child soldiers, children of AFP/rebel combatants, war evacuees
- Commonalities of suffering
- Community responses to armed conflict, particularly in Central Mindanao
- Recommendations for trust building

#### Expected Results:

- Youth experience the horror of armed conflict through first hand accounts
- Youth from both sides of conflict develop greater understanding for one another
- Youth hear untold stories about progress in peace building

- Greater solidarity is built between youth

#### **Conference 4: Women in Conflict and Peace Building**

- Venues: UP Diliman  
Mindanao State University, Marawi
- Panelists: Mothers; Widows, Women Soldiers; Women leaders
- Participants: Community Youth and Student Leaders  
Women and Children
- Objectives: To understand women's common sufferings, human rights violations and challenges in peace building, and the essential role that women can play in responding to conflict; explore how women can increase influence in conflict, peace building, governance and democratic development.

##### Subjects for Dialogue:

- Women's stories of armed conflict, its causes and effects on their families
- Stories about discrimination towards women and their role in peace building
- Stories about women influencing the causes and affects of armed conflict
- Recommendations for greater influence of women in conflict and peace building

##### Expected Results:

- Women from both sides of conflict build greater understanding towards one another
- Women build solidarity around common challenges
- Young men experience the challenges women face
- Youth process steps to take towards building greater equality in decision making

#### **Conference 5: Indigenous Approaches to Peace Building**

- Venues: UP Baguio, Baguio City  
University of Southeastern Philippines, Davao City
- Panelists: Predominantly Indigenous youth
- Participants: Predominantly Indigenous Youth, including children and elders
- Objectives: For Indigenous youth to discuss challenges to their cultures; explore how Indigenous techniques of peace building can be applied to modern challenges; what Indigenous youth need to deal with factors challenging their ways of life.

##### Subjects for Dialogue:

- Stories of struggle and Common consequences for Indigenous youth
- Stories about what Indigenous groups are doing to support their cultures
- Recommendations for surviving cultural challenges

##### Expected Results

- Indigenous youth build solidarity around common challenges, share solutions to challenges
- Non-Indigenous youth experience discrimination towards Indigenous peoples
- Youth learn indigenous techniques towards conflict resolution for peace building

### Conference 6: The Decision Makers

- Venues: UP Diliman  
Saint Joseph Retreat House, Cotobato City
- Panelists: Representatives from government, business, religion, military, journalism, academia and youth
- Participants: Community Youth and Student Leaders
- Objectives: For youth to ask Philippine leaders questions from past conferences and allow these leaders to respond to our youth's concerns; to promote dialogue between leaders and youth, and obtain commitments from leaders

Subjects for Dialogue:

- Questions for leaders, Responses by leaders
- Youth demands of leaders and Commitments by leaders

Expected Results:

- Youth synthesize concerns from series and are encouraged to articulate these
- Leaders hear youth, given the opportunity to defend policies and commit to youth's demands
- Youth and Leaders commit to a follow-up session

### Conference 7: Building a Culture of Peace

- Venue: Same as Conference Seven
- Panelists: Our Youth Ambassadors
- Participants: Community Youth and Student Leaders
- Objectives: To synthesize lessons from the series and recommendations for implementation through Assisi Foundation, Youth Aid and other partners

Subjects for Dialogue:

- Review of lessons learned from each of conferences
- Resolutions from Conferences
- Recommendations to Assisi and Youth Aid for continuing program.

Expected Results:

- Youth synthesize lessons from series and give recommendations to Youth Ambassadors, Assisi, and Youth Aid for implementing lessons from series
- Ambassadors invite participants to join them in implementing conference lessons

### B. Flow/Structure of each 4-hour Conference:

• Emcees: Welcome and Theme	5 min	on-cam
• Skit (by Actors' in Luzon/Mindanao)	5 min	on-cam
• Speaker: Presentation (Lecture/Power Point)	10 min	on-cam
• Ambassadors & pax : Group Workshops	30 min	off-cam
• Emcees: Introduction of Panels	5 min	on-cam
• Panel: Story Telling about Conflict (3 x 10 min)	40 min	on-cam
• Emcees: Q & A to panelists	20 min	on-cam
• Break: Cultural Presentation by Mindanao	15 min	on-cam
• Panel: Story Telling about Peace Building (3 x 10 min)	40 min	on-cam
• Emcees: Q & A to panelists	20 min	on-cam
• Ambassador: Group Workshops II (Synthesis)	30 min	off-cam
• 2 + 2 Ambassadors: Conclusions	15 min	on-cam

- All: Ending Song and Closing

5 min on-cam

#### IV. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

**325 Participants in Luzon; 150 Participants in Mindanao:** Young Muslim, Christian and Indigenous Filipinos from various socio-economic, educational, religious and cultural backgrounds; including former out-of school children. In Mindanao, emphasis will be placed on youth with experience with peace building and armed conflict. Note that Filipino leaders and officials should also attend conferences. The more they attend, the greater the possibility they will be influenced by the dialogues. [Approximately 300 youth for Luzon and 150 youth for Mindanao; lower number in Mindanao results from expense of transporting pax over large distances.]

**20 Youth Ambassadors in Luzon; 10 Ambassadors in Mindanao:** This core group of youth facilitators will attend all conferences. Their role is to provide continuity through the series; help organizers design and organize the conferences; facilitate the workshop sessions; work with Assisi and Youth Aid in sustaining the program; articulate concerns from the conferences in Conference 6; make recommendations from the series in Conference Seven; and design a website based on the conferences. There will be approximately one ambassador for every 15 to 20 participants.

**6 Youth Panelists in Luzon and Mindanao:** Their role is to tell personal stories that strongly depict the particular conference theme. They will represent genders, age groups, religious and cultural backgrounds fairly. They will be selected on the relevance of their personal story to the conference theme, their experience with conflict and peace building, and their comfort with speaking on camera in front of a live audience.

**7 Filipino Leaders for Conference Six:** Two government leaders; One business leader; One Journalist; One Military Leader; One MILF or NPA Leader; One Religious Leader. All leaders should be influential so they can assist in getting recommendations implemented. They must also be open-minded.

**1 Presenter:** The lecturer gives a 10-min introduction on the conference theme.

**2 Emcees for both Luzon and Mindanao:** The emcee will be engaging, knowledgeable about the conference theme, and experienced with keeping dialogues focused. Emcees from both sides of the conferences will coordinate their work.

#### V. PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

**Luzon:** Youth Aid will hold a one-day workshop a week before each conference on the conference subject. Panelists, Ambassadors, Emcees, and the Presenter should attend. The purpose is to review the panelists' stories, educate the panel and ambassadors about the conference topic, and give emcees an opportunity to practice for the conference.

**Mindanao:** Assisi will hold a two-day workshop around each of the conferences for approximately 150 Mindanao participants.



## **VI. AWARENESS BUILDING: MEDIA AND THE INTERNET**

One objective is to widen the program's reach through televising the series' highlights and through streaming highlights over the Internet for school students. We are approaching media, particularly news and feature reporters from both broadcast and print. We will also approach school networks to get conference highlights distributed to classrooms over the Internet.

## **VII. SUSTAINABILITY**

The series is being integrated into Assisi and Youth Aids' core programs. Both organizations hold youth peace camps and forums several times a year. The videoconferences are a new technique that will complement these organizations' programs. The series will allow them to unify youth who otherwise can never be unified because of security issues, travel expenses, and geography.

Both Assisi and Youth Aid will continue holding peace camps and forums on peace building and conflict once the series ends. They will continue working with many of the participants from the series.

Youth Aid will work with the universities and schools in its network on holding similar videoconferences between Filipino youth. It will showcase the series as a means for inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogues for youth throughout the Philippines.

Youth Aid will use conference highlights to catalyze further dialogue within classrooms across the country. In particular, Youth Aid will distribute conference highlights to schools and universities within its network.

The "Ambassadors" ( the core group of youth leaders) will propose a peace-building project at the end of the series that can be integrated into Assisi and Youth Aid's existing programs. The project will be based on the recommendations and lessons from the series. The Ambassadors will play a leading role in organizing and conducting this project.

The Ambassadors along with Assisi and Youth Aid will develop a website based on the series. The site will allow participants and other youth to dialogue about peace building during and after the series. It will also be the central hub where participants can continue their relationships with one another. Giving the Ambassadors a lead role in the website provides them with a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Finally, the Ambassadors, Assisi and Youth Aid, will lobby those officials who attend the conferences. In particular, they will lobby the Philippine leaders from Conference Six to commit to any agreement that is reached during that conference. Lobbying will involve monitoring and follow-up with those leaders and their offices.

**VIII. TIMETABLE:**

- Workshop One for Manila June 26
- Workshop One for Mindanao July 2
- Videoconference One July 3
- Workshop Two for Manila July 24
- Workshop Two for Mindanao July 30
- Videoconference Two July 31
- Workshop Three for Manila August 14
- Workshop Three for Mindanao August 20
- Videoconference Three August 22
- Workshop Four for Manila September 4
- Workshop Four for Mindanao September 10
- Videoconference Four September 11
- Workshop Five for Manila September 25
- Workshop Five for Baguio City October 1
- Videoconference Five October 2
- Workshop Six and Seven for Manila October 16
- Workshop Six and Seven for Mindanao October 22
- Videoconference Six and Seven October 23

**IX. PROJECT ORGANIZATION:**

Project Team / Committee

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**UNICEF**

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