WHERE CAN WE SECURE THE APPLICATION FORMS?
The application forms can be secured in the following places and persons:
1) In-Country Project Coordinator.
2) The Regional Coordinators in Cotabato City, Davao City, Marawi City and Zamboanga City and other cities in Mindanao.
3) Get in touch with ACCESS Alumni in your respective places or any IVP representative in your locality.

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION FOR YEAR 4 APPLICANTS?
October 15, 2008

IF QUALIFIED, WHAT SHOULD BE PREPARED?
1. Valid Passport
2. DSWD Travel Clearance for Minors
3. Parents’ Consent
4. Institutional Endorsement

WHAT ONE SHOULD BRING TO THE U.S. AS PARTICIPANT?
1. Enough clothes for one month and native costumes.
2. Give-away items for host parents and for the museum.
3. A work plan about the conflict in Mindanao in your respective community and how it can help resolve the conflict.

ARE THE PARTICIPANTS INSURED WHILE IN THE STATES?
Yes, each participant is insured for a period of one month while on training.

ARE THEY PROVIDED WITH ALLOWANCE WHILE IN THE STATES?
Yes, they have a weekly modest allowance.

WHAT IS EXPECTED AFTER THE TRAINING PROGRAM?
Participate in the Follow-on Activity three months after the U.S. Training in the Philippines. The date and venue will be announced later. This is required for everybody.

HOW MANY PARTICIPANTS WILL BE TAKEN THIS YEAR?
A total of twenty-three (23): 20 youths and 3 adults from among Muslims, Christians and Lumads in Mindanao.

WHOM SHOULD WE CONTACT IF WE HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE PROGRAM?
You can get in touch with:
1) The In-Country Project Coordinator, Dr. Nagasura T. Madale with address at 2/F Graduate School Building, Capitol University, Corrales/Osmeña Extension, Cagayan de Oro City 9000;
2) Get in touch with any IVP representative in your locality or an ACCESS Alumni;
3) You can also try the website: http://www.niu.edu/cseas/outreach/PhilAccess/accessfs.htm

Nagasura T. Madale, Ph.D.
In-Country Project Coordinator
Vice President for Research & Extension
Capitol University
Cagayan de Oro City
Telefax: (08822) 72-6136 local 277
Email: ntmadale@yahoo.com

Mona Lisa D. Pangan
Co-Country Project Coordinator
Campus Ministries Office
Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel #: (088) 858-3116 local 3203
Email: monliz_75@yahoo.com

Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, U.S.A.
in partnership with
Capitol University
Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines
and the
International Visitor Program-Philippines
Alumni Foundation, Inc.

Training Program:
Bridging the Gap: Engaging a New Generation in Southern Philippines on Inter-Ethnic Dialogue and Conflict Resolution
WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

The Program is simply called ACCESS Philippines Youth Leadership Program.


WHAT ARE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM?

Major Goals:
1. Advance a dialogue and promote greater mutual understanding between Muslims and non-Muslim youths from the ARMM and surrounding provinces;
2. Create a cadre of leaders that will work toward an enduring peaceful co-existence among all groups within the ARMM when they return home;
3. Promote a better understanding of the United States - its people, culture, values, and civic institutions.

Specific Objectives:
1. Sharpen the participants’ skills in conflict resolution and management, inter-ethnic cooperation and tolerance, leadership, coalition-building, and community activism;
2. Enhance the participants’ appreciation of their similarities and differences through various interactive activities that will serve as avenues for open dialogues;
3. Provide participants with tools for working collaboratively across ethnic and religious lines;
4. Develop in the participants an appreciation of the cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity of Midwest America by making use of NIU’s proximity to Chicago, Springfield (the seat of the Illinois state government), and Indianapolis; and,
5. Give participants access to community projects in DeKalb and in the Chicago areas so they can gain first-hand experience in civic participation and community leadership.

WHO IS FUNDING THE PROGRAM?

The Program is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, US Department of State. Participating institutions include the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the International Training Office at Northern Illinois University, Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines, the International Visitor Program-Philippines Alumni Foundation, Inc. and the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Criteria for the Selection of Youth Participants:
1. Third Year High School and First Year or College students aged 15-17 years.
2. Demonstrated leadership skills.
3. Demonstrated interest in community service.
4. Strong academic and social skills.
5. Strong commitment to peace and unity.
6. Good English language skills.
7. Character references and letter of institutional endorsement and support.
8. No previous significant travel to the U.S. on a U.S. government-sponsored program.

Criteria for the Selection of Adult Participants:
1. Preferably teachers, NGO and community leaders who work with the youth & who are not more than 40 yrs old.
2. Actively involved in peace-related activities or community outreach projects.
3. Demonstrated commitment or evidence that they will return to the Philippines, will remain in current job after the program and attend Follow-on Activities.
4. Character references and letter of institutional endorsement and support.

AREAS WHERE APPLICANTS SHOULD COME FROM?

Students and adults residing from the following: the ARMM and surrounding areas including Region 10 (Lanao del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro City if approved by the Committee)

WHERE WILL THE TRAINING BE HELD AND HOW LONG?

At Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, U.S.A. for a period of one month (April).

WHAT ARE THE COURSE CONTENTS/ACTIVITIES?

Two Major Types of Activities:
1. Formal Sessions such as workshops, seminars, lectures and discussions; and,
2. Non-Formal Sessions such as field visits and cultural tours, participation in relevant University classes, community and volunteer activities, meetings and dialogues with local government.