



## SDEAS triumphs at *Panibagong Paraan* competition

The School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (SDEAS) does it again.

Its entry, "Youth Entre-employment Support for the Deaf," was chosen as one of the top winners at the recently concluded 2006 *Panibagong Paraan* competition. *Panibagong Paraan* is a prestigious project grant competition organized by World Bank, in collaboration with local and international development partners. The project proposal will be implemented within a one-year period using PhP1 million grant from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)-Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP). "We are truly grateful for this grant, as this will go a long way towards fulfilling our goal of improving career opportunities for the Deaf through employment and entrepreneurship,"

remarked SDEAS Dean Theresa Christine Benitez-dela Torre.

This victory comes at the heels of another SDEAS success: last year, a group of Deaf Benildeans won in the Youth Employment Spark\* Business



Plan Competition, a national contest that resulted in the creation of the Deaf Benildean Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DBMC). The Deck Coffee franchise in the College's Taft campus is DBMC's first business venture.

The "Youth Entre-employment Support for the Deaf" project proposal is a joint effort of SDEAS, DBMC and the Philippine Resources for Sustainable Development (PRSD). It aims to empower DLS-CSB's Deaf students and graduates to become micro-entrepreneurs, enabling them to conceptualize, plan and implement their own businesses under the cooperative set-up. Consequently, these efforts shall generate more opportunities for sustainable income and employment among Deaf people, enabling them to become job makers, and not just job seekers.

The SDEAS entry also earned a People's Choice award for best project

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Photo by Seniel Luna, LRC



# Perspective

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"Deck Coffee"

"We strive to improve in a lot of ways. We dream to achieve and accomplish. Don't need special treatment, but some accommodation. Not your pity, but your respect."

"We have hands to work with, feet to walk, brains to think, eyes to see and 'hear' fingers to talk. We are like everyone else, a heart that loves."

People's Choice Deaf Entre-Ployment

"I would like our booth project proposal, or just plain like us, attach green sticker here. Thanks!"

Photo by Ramil Memoracion and Seniel Luna, LRC

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proposal during *Panibagong Paraan's* two-day exhibit at the Megatrade Hall in SM Megamall. This special award came with two prizes: a digital camera and cellular phone, gadgets that are vital to Deaf people.

The participation of SDEAS in this year's *Panibagong Paraan* contest was made possible by the support of Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International), a partnership of colleges and universities serving the postsecondary education needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing students worldwide.

**THE SDEAS booth was a crowd-drawer because of the free Filipino Sign Language lessons and the display of works by Deaf students.**