

PRESS RELEASE

A tribute to Mindanao Heritage

Xavier University's Museo de Oro and the Handmade Paper Group of the Gawad Kalinga (GK) San Roque Village in Dayawan, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental launched recently the 2006 Handmade Paper Calendar Project aimed not only to provide additional livelihood opportunities for the local women in Villanueva but also to promote the rich cultural heritage in the area.

The calendar's raw material is made of abaca fiber handcrafted by a group of women of the GK San Roque Village, a community established under the auspices of the *Couples for Christ Movement* and STEAG State Power Inc (SPI), with the support of the local government unit and the PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority.

The sketches featured in the calendar are real artifacts displayed at the Xavier University Museum of original works of native Mindanaoans found in an archeological site in the Municipality of Villanueva.

Dr. Erlinda Burton, a renowned historian and archaeological expert said the project is a positive step towards increasing local people's awareness and appreciation of their own rich cultural heritage. She thanked STEAG State Power Inc for taking the initiative and wished for a sustained collaborative partnership in efforts aimed at enhancing public awareness on cultural preservation.

Meanwhile, SPI Community Development Officer Bernard Chaves said the calendar project is part of the company's commitment to provide social development opportunities for the local people in the area at the same time supporting initiatives aimed at preserving the rich cultural heritage of Mindanao.

Apart from providing decent housing to some 32 families relocated at the GK San Roque Village due to the on-going construction of the 210MW Mindanao Coal-Fired Power Plant Project, SPI, together with other local players in the area, had embarked on a comprehensive and integrated social development program benefiting local people in the area. Since construction of the power plant began more than two years ago, about PhP15 million worth of social development and environmental protection projects have been implemented in the area. Moreover, some 3,000 local workers have been employed at the construction site which contributed to the improvement of the local economy.

The 2006 Handmade Paper Calendars are available for sale at the Mindanao Showroom and Xavier University Museo de Oro. Portion of the proceeds from the sale will go to the museum as well as to the women-beneficiaries of the GK San Roque Village. Interested parties may contact SPI at (088) 5670325 or (088) 8903031 or email bernard.chaves@steagstatepower.com. (end)

Contact: **Mr. Jerome R. Soldevilla**
Communications Officer
STEAG State Power Inc
(088) 5670326 (Direct Line)
(088) 890-3040 (Fax Line)
Email: jerome.soldevilla@steagstatepower.com