



SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SMI partners with Students in Free Enterprise *Brings social entrepreneurship to schools in Mindanao*

SMI hosted an orientation program on Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) for 67 college students and teachers in General Santos, Sultan Kudarat and Davao del Sur on 1 and 2 February 2010, with the aim of encouraging them to make a change and become leaders in social entrepreneurship.

SIFE is a global network of students from over 1400 colleges and universities in 44 countries around the world. Founded in 1975, SIFE has grown to become one of the largest university-based organizations in the world. SIFE teams are active in more than 40 countries around the world.

Working together as a team, and through the mentorship of faculty advisers, SIFE students apply their classroom experiences to develop and implement educational outreach programs that teach individuals in their communities the principles of market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, environmental sustainability, and business ethics. It encourages partnerships between academic institutions, local business firms and the immediate communities to provide sustainable economic opportunities in their communities.

SIFE's mission of creating a better, more sustainable world through the positive power of business helps empower the community by encouraging students to apply their classroom experience to the real world.

SMI has partnered with SIFE Pilipinas as a major sponsor and shall serve as a local business advisory board to SIFE schools that will be formed within the provinces of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and Davao del Sur. Specifically, SMI aims to achieve the following through SIFE: increase its level of engagement with the youth sector and the community where it operates; involve the youth in developing sustainable community-based enterprises; and develop leadership of the youth through entrepreneurship, community outreach programs, and participation in local and international competitions thus broadening their worldview and appreciation of the global market economy.

"Community assistance is not dole out; it's teaching them the basics of business, it is about empowerment," Dr. James Loreto C. Piscos, SIFE National Program Director, explained to the students during the orientation.

Engr. Rodolfo Solomon, SIFE Faculty Adviser of the Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College, shared that their team's winning as national champion in 2004 to 2005 and first runner up in 2007 to 2009 gave them a great deal of prestige and honor. Among their

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innovative business initiatives are mud crab fattening, rice hull cement bonded blocks, bio-organic gardening and *gabi* noodles.

SIFE-enrolled schools and universities will compete nationally for the best entrepreneurial practice in July 2010. The national champion will represent the Philippines in the annual SIFE World Cup to be held 10-12 October this year at Los Angeles, California, USA. This process provides teams with the opportunity to present their educational outreach efforts to a panel of judges who evaluate those efforts and determine which teams had the most impact in improving the quality of life and standard of living for members of their community. This competitive process creates a “best-practice” sharing environment and fosters a healthy spirit of competition, which drives and rewards excellence.

Attending schools from Gen. Santos were Mindanao State University, Golden State College, South East Asia Institute of Technology, Mindanao Polytechnic College, Gensantos Foundation College, Inc., Holy Trinity College, STI College, AMA Computer College, and College Foundation, Adventist College of Technology, Gensan College of Technology, and Notre Dame of Dadiangas University.

From Sultan Kudarat were Sultan Kudarat State University and Dr. Domingo Tamondong Memorial Hospital.

From Davao del Sur were Southern Philippines Agribusiness and Marine Aquatic School of Technology, Agro Industrial Foundation College, Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology, and Cor Jesu College.

For further details please contact.

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