

September 21, 2002

Hawaii International Conference on Education  
P.O. Box 75036  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96836, USA

Dear Sir,

Warm Greetings.

We are submitting herewith our abstract on the paper "The Gender, Peace and Development Project amidst Poverty, Terrorism and Conflict in Mindanao, Philippines".

The paper is culled from our years of working in high risks, isolated rural areas and often affected by armed conflict. The paper, will present how the GENPEACE project have advocated and promoted lasting peace in Mindanao, particularly in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, where violence, lawlessness, criminality and gross poverty are the major problems faced by the communities. The UNESCO funded GENPEACE project is a two-pronged approach on community-based peace building initiative of utilizing Peace Literacy classes and the installation of Community Radio as instruments for peace and development activities.

*We know we are quite late in the submission of the Abstract. We are praying and hoping for your kind consideration.* The paper will be based on actual field experiences of the Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities, Inc., Women in Enterprise Development (since 1984), of working all these years, serving the TRI-PEOPLE of Mindanao: the Muslims, Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Christians. Through Non-Formal Education (NFE), we are enabling these isolated communities Access to Education and therefore, in our limited capacity, we are advocating strongly for a meaningful realization of the goals of Education for All (EFA) in the Philippines.

If the paper will be considered, the undersigned will do a Power Point presentation.

Once again, we beg for your kind consideration.

Thank you. Our prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely Yours,

Myrna B Lim

**ABSTRACT**

**TITLE: The Gender, Peace and Development Project amidst Poverty  
Terrorism and Conflict in Mindanao, Philippines**

**TOPIC: Special Education (Non-Formal Education/Adult Education)**

**DESCRIPTION: Community Partnership through Peace Education and  
Communications**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Title: ***The Gender, Peace and Development Project amidst Poverty, Terrorism and Conflict in Mindanao, Philippines***

The paper will be culled from actual project field experiences of the Women in Enterprise Development project of the Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities, Inc., a church-based NGO working and implementing non-formal education (literacy, continuing education and enterprise development) to the most isolated, high risks and conflict afflicted rural areas of Mindanao, Philippines.

The very innovative project GENPEACE IS A TRI-PEOPLE (Muslims, Indigenous Peoples, and Christians) capability building and community-based mobilization efforts addressing the basic need for education, skills development and the use of communication facilities for confidence building and PEACE ADVOCACY.

Today, a big number of municipalities and districts are requesting to be identified as GENPEACE sites. The Peace Literacy classes are widely needed and requested by the communities because of the high incidence of poverty and illiteracy.

The paper will be presented in five parts:

***a. Mindanao, the Land of Promise: The Great Disparity***

A brief presentation of the Mindanao situation: indicators on education, population, demographic, socio-economic and cultural profile will give a background on why Mindanao is different from the rest of the country.

Briefly presented will be a background on the war, terrorism and conflict caused by lawless elements of the area: the Abu Sayyap and Pentagon kidnap gangs.

***b. Education and Learning for Life: The GENPEACE Project***

This will discuss the reasons why the project was conceptualized in 1996.

The funding support provided by UNESCO, initially just for three (3) sites and now being replicated in 18 more sites in the next 3 years by

the UN Multi Donor Program and 10 or more sites by CIDA and other donor agencies.

**c. *GENPEACE Project Objectives and Components***

This will present the community-based development initiatives objectives.

It will also describe the components on Education (Peace Literacy and Continuing Education) and the installation of Community Radio (100 to 400 watts).

**d. *Project Approaches and Strategies***

This section will share the approaches and strategies developed to gain the support of the communities and their respective Local Government Units (LGUs), how communities are taking in their own hands peace and development initiatives in close partnership with all stakeholders, particularly the Government.

**e. *Challenges and Opportunities: Looking Beyond***

The paper will discuss the opportunities and major challenges that lie ahead, of fostering meaningful and lasting peace in the war torn Mindanao, relating it to the goals and vision of EDUCATION FOR ALL and the interdisciplinary UNESCO program "Towards a Culture of Peace".