

Third-year high school student Franchesca Anne C. Inacay of St. Albert the Great School of Dagupan City in Region I placed first in the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Quiz national competition held at PTV4 in Quezon City on 25 January 2012.

Krystianne Paul A. De Pedro from Koronadal National Comprehensive High School of Region XII in South Cotabato and Ma. Angela Krizelle T. Rubin of San Joaquin National High School of Region VIII in Calbayog City, won second and third place, respectively.

Fifteen students representing 15 of the 17 regions in the country competed for the opportunity to represent the Philippines at the ASEAN Quiz Regional Competition among contestants from the 10 ASEAN Member States in August this year in Cambodia. The 15 contestants in the 2012 ASEAN Quiz National Competition are the champions of the regional-level ASEAN Quiz competition, which is held once every two years among 3<sup>rd</sup> year high school students in the 17 regions of the Philippines. The ARMM and CARAGA Regions were not able to send contestants to this year's national competition.

The first three winners will form the Philippine team for the ASEAN Quiz Regional Competition in Cambodia. Fourth placer Danilo D. Tabilas Jr. of Cagayan National High School of Region II in Tuguegarao City will serve as alternate contestant in case anyone of the three winners is unable to compete. The ASEAN Cultural Fund will shoulder the team's international round-trip airfare and board and lodging relative to their participation in Cambodia.

This year's top 3 winners received fabulous prizes: First Place- P30,000 in cash, 4-year college scholarship from STI, and a gold medal; Second Place- P20,000 in cash, 4-year college scholarship from STI, and a silver medal; Third Place- P15,000 in cash, 4-year college scholarship from STI, and a bronze medal. Their respective coaches and schools were awarded plaques of recognition.

The ASEAN Quiz is organized by the Office of ASEAN Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the People's Television Network (PTV4), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

The Members of the Board of Judges in this year's ASEAN Quiz National Competition were ASEAN-DFA Assistant Secretary Teresita V.G. Barsana, DepEd Assistant Secretary Dr. Elena R. Ruiz, and UP Asian Center Associate Professor Rolando Talampas.