



PRESS RELEASE

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DND holds art contest for kids to celebrate IHL Day

Capping the monthlong celebration of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) was the "DND On-The-Spot Children's Art Contest." Held at Camp Aguinaldo on August 28, 2010, the contest involved the direct dependents of civilian and military personnel of the department and its attached bureaus.

With the theme "*Kalinga at Kaligtasan para sa mga Biktima ng Digmaan*," the competition was divided into two (2) categories – Primary, which included 6-8 year old kids and the Intermediate division, wherein kids 9-12 years of age participated. Contestants were given three (3) hours to finish their artworks.

"In today's activity, and with this year's theme, we hope to see the vital role of the IHL from the viewpoint of our children, which as Rizal rightly pointed out, are the future of our country," said Assistant Secretary Raymund Jose Quilop during the opening ceremony.

Asec Quilop pointed out that the activity could be a learning experience for all as the voices of the children could be heard as reflected in their art. "Our teachers will be our contestants. We will see the IHL as how they see it," he added.

The judges hailed three (3) winners each from the two (2) divisions. For the Primary category, Breyverlee Hosea F. Alovio bagged the grand prize of Php 10,000.00 plus Gold Medal, Princess Roselle G. Celeste was at second place winning Php 7,000.00 plus Silver Medal and Janine Beatrix G. Quinzon at third place with Php 5,000.00 and a Bronze Medal.

Winners for the Intermediate Division were Alvimar F. Labnao at first place, Ryan V. Racca was second and the third placer was Cristine Joy B. Desolong.

Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino in his closing remarks commended the activity saying, "For the International Humanitarian Law to be viewed through the eyes of our children reflected in their art is in itself special. I hope that as we finally close, may we have learned a thing or two from today's really brilliant and talented contestants. I can be sure that one day when their turn comes to lead this nation forward, that will be a brighter future."

This year's IHL Day Celebration theme is "Towards Achieving National Solidarity: Highlighting the Role of Government and Other Stakeholders in Implementing IHL."

IHL, also known as the law of armed conflict or the law of war, is the body of rules which, in wartime, protects persons who are not or no longer participating in the hostilities, and limits methods and means of warfare. It is composed of the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions and other treaties.

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