

Winners with the word

KRIPOTKIN



By ALFRED A. YUSON

Exactly a week ago, the annual Public Speaking Finals was conducted by the English Speaking Union, Philippines chapter, or ESU-Phil, in UP Diliman for the selection of the Philippine representative to the ESU 2008 International Public

Speaking Competition to be held next month in London.

The eight finalists came from five schools and universities: UP Diliman, St. Paul University of Manila, Far Eastern University, Peref-Woodrose School, and Philippine Science High School.

Congratulations to the youngest among the finalists, Gian Karlo Dapul, an incoming senior high school student at PSHS, who emerged as first-place winner, thus earning the right to represent our country in London.

Declared second and third place winners and alternates, respectively, were UP Diliman students Carla Nicole Sia of the School of Social Science and Philosophy and Jo Javan Cerda who's majoring in Journalism.

The judges were composed of ESU-Phil board members, namely Ambassador Cesar Bautista (Chairman); Dr. Marlu Vilches, Dean of the School of Humanities, Ateneo de Manila University (President); Dr. Lourdes Montinola, Chair of Far Eastern University; John Hawkins; this writer, who served as chair of the board of judges; Sharms Pamanand of the Ateneo Debate Society; Celeni Guinto of the UP Debate Society, who represented



The ESU-Phil representative to the English Speaking Union's 2008 International Public Speaking Competition in London, Gian Karlo Dapul of PSHS (second from left), is joined by second- and third-place winners Carla Nicole Sia and Jo Javan Cerda, both of UP Diliman, together with (from left) Amb. Cesar Bautista, Dr. Marlu Vilches and John Hawkins who were part of the judging panel.

the Philippines in the London competition two years ago; and Patricia Evangelista, our representative in 2004, and who bested all other contestants to emerge as the ISPC grand prize winner that year.

The judges have high hopes for Gian Dapul, a budding scientist whose speech had very interesting ideas that uniquely interpreted this year's contest theme of "New Horizons, New Frontiers."

Gian will be leaving for London on May 4 to participate in the international competition that attracts as many as 65 contestants from over 50 countries affiliated with the English Speaking Union. As in previous years, his travel sponsor is Pilipinas Shell, through the kindness of ESU-Phil board member Ed Chua.

ESU-Phil is also grateful for the sub-

stantial help of the UP Debate Society that spearheaded the initial screening of the finalists, in conjunction with the inter-school debate events it organized and hosted over that weekend. Our special thanks go to Ms. Jez Magpantay, who coordinated with ESU-Phil.

We must also express our gratitude to the British Council Manila, in particular its director Andrew Picken, for its generous support for the event.

In the next few weeks, our international contestant Gian Dapul will have the privilege of undertaking coaching sessions with prominent writers who have knowledge of what it takes to figure prominently in the London competition, namely Dr. Butch Dalisay, who has served as president of ESU-Phil, as well as Dr. Jimmy Abad of UP and Ed Maranan, who

served for many years as Information Officer in our embassy in London.

Gian will also profit from initial hosting in the UK offered by ESU-Phil pioneer Loline Reed, who has always gone out her way to assure the comfort of our student-representative before and during the competition.

She recently communicated that our Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Hon. Edgardo Espiritu, has been looking forward to welcoming ESU-Phil's international contestant for 2008. In fact, Loline plans to arrange a practice delivery by Gian Dapul of his intended speech in the presence of the good ambassador and his senior staff.

Congratulations once again to Gian Karlo Dapul, and good luck in London in May.