Innovative Ideas from our Winners!

Wednesday. Tell my students again that intolerance kills. Say it yet again if I see skeptics in the class. Say, "I am here." Smile and remind them, "I can help you." Don't tell them that I love them so often that the word loses its meaning, but instead prove it to them.

Excerpt from "Monologue infinitif définitif" by Vicky Morin, age 30, winning essay in the "Building the Future Now!" contest

Lévis, April 28, 2005 — The jury for the "Building the Future Now!" contest, organized by Développement international Desjardins (DID) and Radio Canada International (RCI), is pleased to announce the names of the two grand prize winners. Held between January 31 and March 25, this international contest was organized to mark the 60th anniversary of Radio Canada International and the International Year of Microcredit. Some 400 entrants from 40 countries submitted their essays and illustrations in answer to the difficult question...

"What can we do in 2005 to build a fairer, more prosperous, more equitable world?"

In the Essay category, the jury chose the entry submitted by Vicky Morin, from Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies. The winning entry in the Illustration category was submitted by Marie-Joëlle Fournier, from Rimouski.

As the contest grand prize winners, Vicky Morin and Marie-Joëlle Fournier will soon travel to one of the countries where DID is active to take part in an internship for international development awareness. "This experience will enable these two young women to experience another culture and also see how people go about actually building a better world in a foreign country," notes Anne Gaboury, President and CEO of Développement international Desjardins.

The contest jury members were Lucille Blais, Project Officer - Desjardins Youth Focus program, Anne Gaboury, President and CEO of DID, Paule Drouin, Director - Human Resources and Communications at Développement international Desjardins (DID), Johanne Perron, Director General of the Caisse populaire Desjardins de la Maison de Radio-Canada, and Caroline Saint-Jacques, Manager - Planning and Development at Radio Canada International (RCI).
In addition to the two grand prize winners, we are pleased to announce the winning finalists:

Winning finalists in the Essay category:
- Marie-Hélène Lavoie, 20, Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec
- Cornelis Michael Gootjes, 24, Hamilton, Ontario
- Marjolaine Viventi, 21, Boisbriand, Quebec
- Jean-Vincent Bergeron-Gaudin, 20, Quebec City, Quebec
- Marianne Portal, 20, Bacolod City, Philippines

Winning finalists in the Illustration category:
- Josée-Anne Roussel, 20, Charlesbourg, Quebec
- Gao Xin, 24, Waterloo, Ontario
- Katherine Saint-Amant, 30, Montreal, Quebec
- Karine Gallichand, 25, Saint-Malachie, Quebec
- Émilie Dufour, 22, Montreal, Quebec

Virtual Gallery for the chosen entries

The essays and illustrations submitted by the contest winners can be viewed in a virtual gallery on the Desjardins Group website, which is visited by 4 million people each month. The entries will be on display from May 7 to June 27 at www.desjardins.com/building_future

About DID

Développement international Desjardins (DID) is a component of the Desjardins Group and has been providing support for 35 years to financial institutions in some twenty countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Eastern and Central Europe. DID specializes in providing technical support and investment in the field of community finance. DID works in partnership with CIDA, the Government of Quebec, the World Bank and other multilateral organizations. For more information: www.did.qc.ca

About Radio Canada International

RCI is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Seven days a week RCI produces programming in English, French, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Ukrainian. Nearly 350 partner stations in 75 countries air RCI programs. RCI is available worldwide via analog and digital shortwave, satellite and the Internet at www.RCInet.ca

Information: William St-Hilaire
Communications Manager, RCI
Promotion, Analysis and Broadcasting
French Radio Communications and RCI
Telephone: (514) 597-4441
william_st-hilaire@radio-canada.ca

Information: Stéphanie Roy
Human Resources and Communications Branch
Développement international Desjardins
Telephone: (418) 835-2401, extension 6046
sroy@did.qc.ca