# USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program

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## PHILIPPINES: USAID mining engineering scholars hold promise for their home region of Mindanao.

Fifteen Mindanao students from conflict-affected areas have been provided full college scholarships to complete degrees in mining engineering, through the Investments in Vocational /Elementary /Secondary /Tertiary Studies (INVESTS) project supported by USAID through it's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program. Mining engineering is a relatively unknown academic field in the country, producing just a handful of licensed engineers each year. USAID is thus helping to fill mining workforce requirements in Mindanao while providing young people with qualifications that will allow them to secure professional employment in a rapidly expanding industry, and contribute to their region's economic development. The INVESTS scholars are enrolled in the Palawan State University, the University of the Philippines in Diliman, and the Cebu Institute of Technologyan and will be graduating in April 2011. Once they've completed their scholarships, they will be qualified to secure jobs in the rapidly expanding mining industry in their home region of Mindanao. Among the graduates are INVESTS scholars women who will likely to be the first Muslim women mining engineers in the Philippines.

*INVESTS scholars, Musarapa Insiang and Haiza Pigkaulan (left photo), and Nasser Silongan, MusliminPaglala and Johary Unggel (right photo) visit the Carmen Copper Corporation mining site in Toledo City, Cebu.*

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