

Press Release 4: Post Event
Mr. & Ms. University International Pageant Results

**Nepal and Korea win titles at
2006 Mister & Miss University International**

The cameras caught the shock on her face in full frame. Ms. Sun Woo Kim couldn't believe what she just heard. "...and the 2006 Miss University International is Ms. Korea.". Immediately, she was swarmed by fellow delegates in a big hug of excitement. As she walked towards her fellow winner, 2006 Mister University International Niraj Baral of Nepal, a stream of unforgettable memories flashed before her eyes. From their arrival in Manila, to their service activity at Baseco, up to the dance rehearsals for the pageant, everything seemed to be a dream leading to this very special moment for her and Niraj.

This year's Mister and Miss University International pageant was indeed a wonderful exercise of a one-world family among the 28 participating delegates. Throughout the past five days, a strong bond of friendship and peace was forged among them, as together, they shared meals, rehearsed for the show, attended a youth conference, and built houses for the poor, in cooperation with Gawad Kalinga.

At the pageant night held Monday at the University of the Philippines Theater, a motley crowd of students and spectators cheered for all 14 pairs of country representatives. A colorful opening of festival dances was performed by the Kaisahan Dance Company, which culminated with the introduction of delegates in their national costume. From America, Chinese Taipei, Georgia, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Tanzania and Thailand, one by one, they wowed the audience with their greetings.

The show was hosted by the dashing TV celebrity Mr. Brad Turvey, together with model and radio personality Ms. Issa Litton. Anchoring the event was bubbly Karel Marquez.

In her welcome remarks, Gov. Leonida “Baby” Bayani-Ortiz, chair of this year’s MMUI Organizing Committee, challenged the delegates to “*continue promoting positive values of service and friendship in their respective nations.*” Another congratulatory message was given by Congressional Spouses Foundation head Manay Gina de Venecia.

In the Talent Segment, ten pre-selected performers displayed their skills in only 90 seconds of fame. Emerging as Mr. & Ms. Talent 2006 were Mr. Mongolia, who played his traditional musical instrument called *morin khuur* while throat singing, as well as Ms. Mongolia, who performed their native dance called *bayad*.

The Formal Wear competition saw each of the pairs in their most elegant gowns and suits being serenaded by the Philippine Women’s University Female Ensemble. At the end of the segment, two special awards were handed out, the Mr. & Ms. Friendship 2006, won by Mr. & Ms. Thailand and the Mr. & Ms. Formal Wear 2006, which went to Mr. Mongolia & Ms. Thailand. Prizes for these awards included sashes, bouquets of flowers and trophies which were awarded by selected judges. An extra P5,000.00 cash prize was awarded to the winners of Mr. & Ms. Friendship, courtesy of HBC.

Several MTV videos were shown during the course of the evening. One focused on the the pre-pageant activities of the delegates, while the more inspirational one featured the highlights of the joint service project with Gawad Kalinga held at the Baseco Village in Tondo, Manila. From this task, the winners of Mr. & Ms. Service Award 2006 were chosen, and they were Mr. Nepal and Ms. Chinese Taipei.

An emotional highlight of the live show was the lighting of candles for peace, in solidarity with the delegates and citizens of Lebanon, currently in the middle of war against Israel. A minute of prayer was offered for peace in the region.

The announcement of the ten finalists broke the silence. The final ten were Mr. Nepal, Mr. Chinese Taipei, Mr. Mongolia, Mr. Thailand, Mr. Philippines followed by Ms. Korea, Ms. Chinese Taipei, Ms. Thailand, Ms. Philippines and Ms. Mongolia.

The deciding segment was the Question and Answer portion where each of the ten answered the question posed by a chosen judge. Immediately after this, scores were tabulated to arrive at this year's pairs of title holders and runners up. Onstage, the 2005 Mr. & Ms. University International titleholders Seong Jin Lee of Korea and Nataliya Savelieva of Russia did their farewell walk.

Following this was the announcement of winners – beginning with this year's runner up delegates - Mr. Chinese Taipei and Ms. Thailand. Capping the evening was the awarding of sashes, floral bouquets, capes and crown to Mr. Nepal and Ms. Korea, Mister & Miss University International 2006.

Sponsors of the event were the City Tourism Office of Manila, World CARP, the Manila Hotel, Brand Partner and STI – the official event tabulators, in cooperation with HBC, New Hope Sports Wear, Chow King, Reyes Haircutters and In D Basket Productions. The program will be aired over Studio 23 on September 1 at ten o'clock pm.