

## Coffee for Peace wins an Award

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Coffee for Peace (CFP) is the initiative of Joji Pantoja who with her husband Daniel is a Mennonite Church Canada worker in the Philippines through their ministry, Peacebuilders Community Inc.

On May 30, 2011, the principles of peace guiding CFP helped them to win first place in the Business in Development (BiD) Challenge in the category for businesses with an impact on the bottom of the (societal) pyramid. The BiD Challenge is sponsored by Philippines Business for Social Progress and Citi Bank.

The Pantojas believe fair and just business operations of all kinds play an important role in peacebuilding work. For true and lasting peace to take root, harmony must be established at four levels; with the Creator (spiritual transformation), with self (psycho-social transformation), with others (socio-political transformation), and with Creation (economic-ecological transformation).

CFP encourages economic-ecological transformation through organically cultivated, locally grown and roasted coffee beans that are sold for fair-trade prices, providing a sustainable income for local farmers. Operation of a small street-front café in Davao selling coffee brewed from those beans generates further employment. These forms of economic stability help to provide a foundation for harmony to take root in each of the other three facets of peacebuilding – and to help fund the Pantoja's ongoing peacebuilding ministry.

On May 9, 2011, Coffee for Peace exported their first shipment of coffee beans to Canada through Level Ground Trading. The beans will be sold through Ten Thousand Villages, a non-profit Fair Trade Organization and a program of Mennonite Central Committee.



The coffee beans were grown by the B'lann First Nation in Mount Matutum region of Mindanao.

Pastor Marcy Buan, the spiritual leader of the B'lann, expressed his joy about the shipment of coffee beans in a story on the CFP Facebook page. "I may not be able to go to Canada, but our high quality coffee will be enjoyed by our Canadian brothers and sisters," he said through translators.

Pastor Buan thanked Canadians on behalf of the B'lann for treating their coffee growers justly through fair trade.

Praise God for business initiatives like CFP that nurture sustainability for all of God's Creation, encouraging peace.

*We invite you to share with your congregation this story from Joji and Daniel Pantoja, Mennonite Church Canada workers in the Philippines. The story should take no more than 2 minutes to read aloud. You might also wish to include it in your church newsletter.*