



RDC - 1 CHRONICLE

3RD QUARTER 2019 | VOL 32 NUMBER 23

A PUBLICATION OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, REGION 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

3

NEWS & FEATURES

4

PROVINCIAL NEWS

14

LOCAL NEWS

16

APPROVED RDC RESOLUTIONS CY 2019 2ND QUARTER

18



RDC-NEDA Region 1

AMBISYON
NATIN 2040

Regional Development Plan 2017-2022



Editorial Board

RD NESTOR G. RILLON
ARD DONALD JAMES D. GAWE

Consultants

DR. IRENEA B. UBUNGEN

Editor-in-Chief

RACQUEL T. ATAWÉ
MARISSA M. GOROSPE
CAROLINE M. CASTRO
JOHN F. GAGUCAS

Section Editors

YEHLÉN I. YANGAT
Issue & Managing Editor

OSCAR H. CALICA
MELLEN M. BORJA
Circulation Managers

RDC Members, LGUs & RLAs
Contributors

The Chronicle

The RDC-1 Chronicle is published on a quarterly basis by RDC-1. It highlights the region's economic performance, status of project proposals and project implementation as well as news and feature stories from the RDC members, particularly the local government units, line agencies and private sector.

Contact Us:

NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE I

Address: Guerrero Rd., City of San
Fernando (La Union)

Phone: (072) 888-2679/888-2680

Fax: (072) 888-2680

E-mail: nedaregionaloffice1@gmail.com

Website: ilocos.neda.gov.ph

Facebook page: Regional Development
Council, Region I

RDC 1 ORGANIZES RGIN

The Regional Development Council Region 1 (RDC 1) organized the Regional Geographic Information Network (RGIN) on July 02, 2019 with the goal of strengthening the creation, updating, sharing and use of geospatial data and information in development planning which will facilitate the achievement of the vision of the region that benefits its major stakeholders.

The organization of the network aims to resolve issues and concerns related to Geographic Information System (GIS) such as the absence of a standard platform

for spatial data and information and provide mechanism for the sharing of best practices and collaboration among the member agencies on resources and expertise related to GIS. In the absence of a common framework, it is difficult to integrate geospatial data and information which are needed for planning and decision-making. Thus, one of the activities of the RGIN is the formulation of guidelines on the use of a standard platform for geographic information in the region.

The RGIN is chaired by the Regional Director

of National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) who was represented by Assistant Regional Director Donald James Gawe during the meeting. Likewise, Director Carlito Tuballa of the DENR was selected as co-chair of the network. The organizational meeting confirms the participation of the 32 member institutions coming from the Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).

*by: Myla D. Jucar,
NEDA RO I*



ENP Arnel Palabay(seated 2nd from right) of NEDA presenting the proposal on the establishment of the Regional Geographic Information Network (RGIN). Together with him are NEDA ARD Donald James Gawe (seated in the middle) as the presiding officer with Dir. Carlito Tuballa of DENR (left)

DA-RFO I REAPS OUTSTANDING PROJECT MONITOR AWARD

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office I led by its Regional Executive Director Lucrecio Alviar, Jr. took the center stage at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in San Fernando City, La Union to receive the plaque of recognition as the champion of the Search for Most Outstanding Project Monitor for CY 2018.

Held on June 26, 2019, the award was conferred by the Regional Development Council (RDC) headed by the Chairman, Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlos Medina, and other top officials of RDC thru its Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) Search for the Best Project Implementer.

The RPMES Awards is an annual undertaking of the RDC's Regional Project Monitoring Committee to recognize the achieve-

ments and contributions of deserving regional agencies, provincial local government units, government owned and controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges who have exemplified outstanding implementation of programs and projects supportive of and consistent with the region's vision and thrusts as contained in the Regional Development Plan for CY 2017-2022.

Based on the guidelines of the RDC-RPMC award for Most Outstanding Project Monitors, all government agencies participating in the RPMES are included in the selection process where they are categorized into three groups.

Category A are those



entities with 1-10 projects enrolled in the RPMES, while category B are those entities with 11-30 projects.

Category C which the DA-RFO I belongs, enrolled 31 or more projects enrolled. The DA registered 94 projects including the programs and projects under the Philippine Rural Development Project.

The award criteria were: a) quality of monitoring reports submitted; b)

timeliness of reports submitted; and c) overall project performance.

Starting from the Annual Project Monitoring Plan, first quarter report, first semester or second quarter report, third quarter report, yearend report (or fourth quarter report), the DA consistently passed all three criteria. The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division led by Ms. Doris Joy Garcia prepared all the needed of monitoring reports.

/DA-RFO I

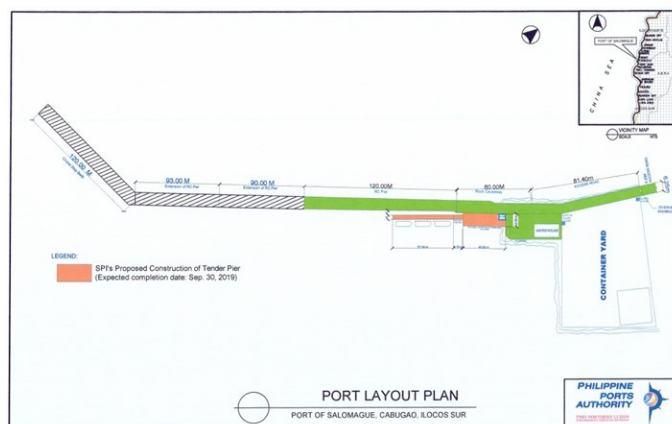
FLOATING TENDER BERTH AT SALOMAGUE PORT TO BOOST CRUISE SHIPS OPERATIONS AND TOURISM

The ongoing construction of the Floating Tender Berth at Salomague Port in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur is expected to boost cruise ship operations and increase tourism activities once the said port facility will be completed. The port has been identified as an alternative cruise port in Region 1. Cruise shipping is one

of the priority programs under the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)'s 25-year roadmap.

The project which was started last July 1, 2019 has a total cost of Php 25,975,805.60, and is expected to be completed by September 30, 2019.

/PPA I



PRESIDENT DUTERTE INAUGURATES CANDON CITY BYPASS ROAD IN ILOCOS SUR

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte inaugurated Thursday, July 25, 2019, the four (4)-lane bypass, road to decongest traffic along the section of the Manila North Road that traverses Candon City and benefit around 13,000 motorists per day.

In his speech, President Duterte said he is pleased to join the Ilocanos for the inauguration of 7.319 kilometers Candon City Bypass Road Project which is part of his administration's comprehensive Build, Build, Build infrastructure development program.

The President also acknowledged with appreciation, the efforts of

the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) with the steadfast support of the local government of Ilocos Sur toward the successful completion of the bypass road that reduced travel time between the towns of Sta. Lucia and Santiago, Ilocos Sur from 40 minutes to 20 minutes.

According to DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar, the P717.671-Million Candon City Bypass Road Project including payments of road right-of-way was implemented in five phases by the DPWH Regional Office 1 led by Regional Director Ronnel M. Tan.

Motorists headed to the northern part of Ilocos

Region may now use this alternate road that begins at Barangay Ayudante and ends at Barangay Tablac traversing eight barangays in Candon City, namely Ayudante, Parioc 1st, Calaoan, Oaig Daya, Bagani Gabor, Bagani Campo, Bagani Ubbog and Tablac, added Villar.

The road project involves the construction of the 4-lane Oaig Daya Bridge, installation of road signages, construction of four waiting sheds, and provision of pavement markings.

Other officials who attended the inauguration ceremony are Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, Na-

tional Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., DPWH Assistant Secretary for Luzon Operations Eugenio R. Pipo Jr., Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Luis Singson, Ilocos Sur 2nd District Representative Kristine Singson-Meehan, Candon City Mayor Ericson Singson, Narvacan Mayor Luis "Chavit" Singson, and other local government officials of the Province of Ilocos Sur.

As promised, DPWH under the Duterte administration will help spur development outside Metro Manila by building and laying the groundwork for new highways to accelerate the economic interplay between the urban and rural areas.

by: Esperanza Tinaza, DPWH RO I



CHED, PAFTE, UP TIE UP FOR TEACHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

The Commission on Higher Education Regional Office I, in partnership with the Philippine Association For Teachers and Educators (PAFTE) Region I Chapter, University of the Philippines (Diliman) College of Mass Communication and TV UP (University of the Philippines' Internet TV Network) convened the deans, program heads, faculty members and student-teachers of the different teacher education institutions in the region for a conference dubbed as the 2019 Teacher Education Summit: Revolutionizing Region I Tertiary Education System last June 20, 2019 at Hotel Ariana in Bauang, La Union.

Focusing around the theme, "The Teacher of the Future, the Critical Learning and 4th Industrial Revolution," the summit revolved around discussions on the roles of teachers in enhancing critical thinking skills of learners as a global demand for the 21st century workforce and economy.



Dr. Lilian A. de las Llagas, CHED Commissioner, gave the keynote address which challenged the participants to ponder on classroom pedagogical practices that contribute to the holistic development of learners. She further encouraged the attendees to continue producing globally competent graduates by advocating innovative critical thinking activities in higher education.

With the dawn of the 4th industrial revolution and the advent of artificial intelligence, Dr. Grace J. Alfonso of the UP Open University and Executive

Director of TV UP, discussed the topic on the Merging of 4th IR, Web 4.0 and Education 4.0. Dr. Alfonso affirmed that collaboration between and among HEIs is an advantage to further linkages and strengthen a culture of sharing in the educational arena.

Dr. Arminda V. Santiago, Dean of the UP College of Mass Communication, shared her thoughts and expertise in discussing her topic, "Creative and Critical Thinking." She presented various classroom strategies for enhancing the critical thinking skills and competencies of teachers and learners as partners in the

teaching-learning process.

Stressing the importance of critical thinking in the fields of education and the workforce, Director Luisa S. Valencia of the Office of Institutional Quality, Assurance and Governance of CHED Central Office linked the previous topics on Accelerating Human Capital Development. She pointed out that the quality of college graduates is crucial in the development of the nation in terms of their skills needed by industries and the global labor force.

The 440 attendees of the summit expressed their commitment to uphold the progressive and innovative delivery of quality tertiary education in the region.

/CHED RO I

DBM RO I CAPACITATES NEWLY ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

The Department of Budget and Management Regional Office (DBM RO) I, in partnership with the Association of Local Budget Administrators of Region I (ALBA-I) Inc., shared its knowledge on the Indicative FY 2020 Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) Shares of Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Guidelines on the Preparation of the FY 2020 Annual Budgets of LGUs to some of the newly elected public officials in a 3-day Local Budget Forum held at the DBM RO I Conference Hall in La Union from July 9-11, 2019.

Said event was attended by the officials of Ilocos Norte and La Union on the first day, and Ilocos

Sur on the second day. Meanwhile, due to a greater number of participants from the Province of Pangasinan, the last leg of the activity was conducted at Hotel Ariana in Paringao, Bauang, La Union.

OIC-Director IV Estrella E. Mandap extended her warmest welcome to all the participants by expressing her gratitude and appreciation on their overwhelming attendance, especially on the third day.

“Your attendance is overwhelming. We were expecting only about 250 but it turned out to be a bit over 280. This only

shows your interest and enthusiasm to learn and be part of this development activity,” she said.

She further explained that while Local Budget Memorandum (LBM) No. 78 or the Budget Call for FY 2020 was issued two (2) days after the May 13 elections, the event was not conducted immediately to wait for the assumption of office of the newly elected officials. The activity equipped them with the knowledge on how to effectively discharge their public financial management functions as they adjusted to their new roles.

This endeavor would not be possible without

the partnership and support of the ALBA-I Inc., headed by its President and Provincial Budget Officer (PBO) of Pangasinan, Ms. Hilaria J. Claveria.

Several topics were discussed during the activity. Supervising Budget and Management Specialist Rosa M. Dulay explained LBM No. 78; BMS II Julius Jose M. Camara presented the Review Findings on LGU Budgets and Updates on the Guidelines on Acquisition of Motor Vehicles; and Chief BMS Myrna C. Cadaoas elaborated on LBM No. 79 on the Release and Utilization of Tobacco Excise Taxes for collection year 2016, updates on Assistance to LGUs (ALGU), and other local government budgeting matters.

OIC-Director III Ria V. Bansigan gave the closing remarks by informing the participants about the Mandanas Case. The Supreme Court ruled that the “Just Share” of LGUs shall be computed and sourced from all national taxes, not just from the national internal revenue taxes. The adjustment will take effect in the FY 2022 Budget Cycle, based on the tax collections in 2019 or the third preceding fiscal year.

*by: Jason O. Madrid,
DBM RO I*



THE HAPPY SCHOOLS MOVEMENT JOURNEY IN REGION 1

“Region 1 will be a region of HAPPY SCHOOLS with disciplined, value-laden, and motivated learning communities of holistically developed Filipinos with 21st Century Skills.” – Malcolm S. Garma, Regional Director, DepEd Region 1

This CREDO serves as the driving force and formulation of an overarching goal and that is to transform schools in Region 1 into caring and nurturing schools that are committed and dedicated in providing quality K to 12 Basic Education and a Child and Community-Centered Education System (ACCESS), anchored on DepEd Core Values.

Through the commitment and dedication of the DepEd Regional Office 1 personnel and strong support of the Schools Division Offices, the Happy Schools Movement (HSM) was officially and successfully launched at the Vigan City Convention Center, Vigan City on May 20, 2019, with

the theme, **“Paaralang Masayang Maglingkod, Tagumpay ng Bata’y Itinataguyod.”**

Director Garma emphasized the importance of the teachers and School Heads’ vital roles in advocating the concept of Happy Schools Movement. According to him, teachers should not only focus on enriching the knowledge and information but also, provide compassion, love, and respect to the learners, making the school a conducive environment.

Through the HSM advocacy, RD Garma introduced the concept of Transforming Schools into a Happy School through the Bridging Leadership way. Bridging leadership is filling the gap with learners, teachers, and parents, and building support to overcome challenges to bring out the best for a common purpose.



During the HSM Regional launch, the Local Government Unit officials, Non-Government Organizations, Regional Line Agencies, media partners, private institutions, and other stakeholders signed a Manifesto of Support to the Happy Schools Movement of DepEd Region 1.

After the HSM Regional launch, Schools Division Offices in Region 1 also conducted their HSM Division Launching on various dates.

Putting the HSM advocacy into a larger audience, the Regional Convergence with stakeholders was conducted at the Sison

Auditorium, Lingayen, Pangasinan on July 31, 2019 with the theme, **“Igniting Team Spirit, Making Advocacies Work.”**

The highlights of the event include motorcade, skills exhibition, and display of booths showcasing the different advocacy framework of the Department of Education.

The HSM journey continues with building partnership among Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs). Through the DepEd RO1 Field Technical Assistance Division (FTAD), the convergence with public and private TEIs was conducted at the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) Region 1, San Fernando City, La Union on June 24, 2019. The convergence’ aim is to strengthen synergy and partnership among DepEd, CHED, and TESDA.

The Convergence’ theme is **“Sustaining the Gains, Closing the Gaps: Strengthening Partnership Between DepEd and TEIs in Producing Better and Happy Teachers.”**



AUTO-LPG PROGRAM

The Department of Energy (DOE) promotes the safe use of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as an alternative fuel for public transport. The program aims to support the utilization of LPG in road transport vehicles as a substitute to conventional liquid fuels such as gasoline and diesel. This contributes in the attainment of energy security through fuel diversification and helps in the climate change mitigation by reducing CO₂ emissions from vehicle.

In 2007, due to soaring prices of liquid fuels in the market and increasing demand of LPG as transport fuel, the DOE issued Department Circular (DC) No. 2007-02-0002. The DC serves as a guideline for the growing need of LPG industry in the transport sector. Likewise, to support this initiative, the DOE spearheaded

the creation of an inter-agency Auto-LPG Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG is composed of members from the national government agencies (NGAs) e.g., DOE, Department of Transportation (DOTr), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Philippine Standards (DTI-BPS), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

The said TWG coordination body attends to overlapping issues on existing rules and regu-

lations including implementing guidelines concerning the use of LPG in vehicles. Apart from this, the TWG contributes significantly to the promotion of the Auto-LPG as clean alternative fuel for transport as well as addressing the inter-agency jurisdiction on the implementation of the program to sustain the progress of the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU), thereby establishing national level Auto-LPG TWG. The body crafted an institutionalized Joint Administrative Order (JAO), which was approved by the agency heads of member NGAs. This was published in two leading newspapers of general circulation (The Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Philippine Star) on 15 October 2016.

The DOE-Luzon Field Office (LFO) piloted its initial meeting for Region 3

last 28 November 2018 in Iba, Zambales. This was conducted with the assistance from the Alternative Fuels Energy Technology Division (AFETD) of the DOE-Energy Utilization Management Bureau in DOE-Taguig City Central Office. With the ongoing devolution of functions to the field offices, the AFETD has seen the necessity to extend and span the coverage in other regions. Through this scheme, the DOE-LFO can easily adopt and directly refer issues and concerns in their coverage areas.

To date, with the full support of the DOE-LFO's newly appointed Director, Engr. Renante M. Sevilla, and Engr. Reynaldo V. Liganor, Chief of the LFO-Energy Resource Development and Utilization Division, the first Auto-LPG TWG coordination meeting for Region I was held on 8 August 2019 at the S. R. Paradise Beach Resort and Hotel, Bauang, La Union.

/DOE I

The Happy Schools Movement... continued from page 10

The DepEd-TEIs Assembly was conducted at NEAP Region 1 on August 13, 2019 after the convergence last June. The Regional Teacher Education Advisory Council (RTEAC) was also organized.

"The purpose of organizing advisory council is to have a regular venue for partnership between DepEd, TEIs, and CHED. TEIs are the ones producing teachers in Region 1," Re-

gional Director Malcolm S. Garma emphasized during the Region 1 DepEd-TEIs assembly.

In his Message of Com-

mitment, OIC Director Rogelio T. Galera of CHED RO1 pledged to journey with DepEd hand in hand to realize the noble objectives of the RTEAC.



"Teaching profession is not only the noblest, but is the foundation of all professions," he underscored.

The Happy Schools Movement is not a program but an advocacy. The advocacy continues to fulfill the ultimate goal of better and happy schools through the formula: **Better Teachers + Better Instructions x Better School Heads = BETTER and HAPPY SCHOOLS.**

*by: Abigail A. Cabilin,
Public Affairs Unit, DepEd RO I*

DTI URGES MSMEs TO BOOST THEIR NETWORKS

With the aim to provide opportunities for enablers and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of the region to build their networks, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Regional Office 1 staged several activities in celebration of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Week on July 23, here.

This year's event dubbed as "Inclusive and Sustainable Innovations for Globally Competitive MSMEs," is also aimed at creating awareness and disseminating updates on business-related assistance and financial resources for MSMEs and an avenue to discuss relevant entrepreneur development services as well as introduction to credit facilities.

"Our activity is part of the administration's goal of inclusive growth

for our MSMEs to rollout their businesses through mentoring, provision of market and access to funding," said DTI-1 officer-in-charge regional director Grace Baluyan. "We established a Go Negosyo Desk to give advice to interested and possible business proprietors and a Financing Forum to connect our MSMEs to financial institutions," Baluyan added.

The event also included free pampering or grooming services in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

In a message of Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU) representative Executive Assistant Justo Orros III, he encouraged local entrepreneurs to continue to

strengthen their networks since it will benefit and uplift the economy of La Union as a whole and that the PGLU is always present to support.

DTI-1 gathered around 270 participants composed of MSMEs, members of the MSMED Council officers and members, and representatives from the different sectors such as business and tourism, including local government unit focal persons for economic development.

The event was held at the covered court of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University-Mid La Union Campus (DMMSU-MLUC).

Other activities conducted by DTI for the said celebration is a MSMED Week Trade Fair in Dagupan City, Pangasinan held on July 12 and the re-launching

of the La Union Trade Center (LUTC) beside the City Hall of San Fernando on July 29.

The activity was also conducted in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Tourism (DOT).

Moreover, on the Financial Forum, other partner agencies are Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Landbank of the Philippines (LBP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Rang-ay Bank and Bank of Makati.

Republic Act No. 9501, or also known as the Magna Carta for MSMEs, declares the second week of July of every year as the MSMED Week.

by: Anne Hazel F. Fajardo, PIA



BSP ENCOURAGES USE OF PESONET AND INSTAPAY

Have you tried transferring funds electronically and making the funds available to your target recipient, safe, fast and easy?

This is the very objective of the National Payment Systems Act (NPSA) which aims to provide a safe, efficient and reliable payment systems.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) introduced InstaPay and PESONet in an Economic Learning Session for Media and Information Officers held in this city on July 18.

InstaPay is an electronic fund transfer service that allows customers to transfer peso funds almost instantly between accounts of participating BSP-supervised banks and non-bank e-money issuers.

The service is available 24 hours, seven days a week.

Meanwhile, PESONet Funds can be made available to the recipient's account/s within the same banking day or immediately upon clearing.

"If the retail and pay-

ment system is slow and not efficient, there is a slow economic growth," Jay Dizon, deputy-director for the Payment System Oversight Department of the BSP, said.

The NPSA envisions that every citizen will have access to financial services, have accounts to make payments, receive or transfer funds to other accounts anytime, anywhere, at a reasonable price, from any digital gadget.

The Republic Act 11127, signed into law on October 30 last year, pro-

vides for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in the country.

At present, there are around 2.5 billion pesos worth of payments per month but only one percent of all payments are conducted electronically.

The BSP target for e-payment transactions for 2020 will be 20 percent.

As of May 2019, there are 51 banks participating for PESONet and 27 for InstaPay as sender-receiver banks.

by: Joanna P. Diaz-Sabado, PIA



BSP La Union Acting Director Carina Del Rosario, represented Director Ruth Gonzaga, during the Economic Learning Session for Media and Information Officers held in San Fernando City, La Union on July 18. (PIA-La Union)

DICT TRAINS ALAMINOS FOLKS ON VIRTUAL ASSISTANCE

Thirteen out of 25 scholars from Alaminos City, Pangasinan are now ready to thrive in the online freelancing industry after finishing the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Luzon Cluster I's Rural Impact Sourcing Technical Training (RISTT) on Virtual Assistance on July 31, 2019.

Among the graduates, Ms. Shaira Mae Damasco who is a government employee was recognized as an outstanding

trainee. She was also hired as an online proofreader during the campaign period.

City Mayor Arth Bryan Celeste lauded the graduates for hurdling the challenges of the training during a simple graduation ceremony held at the Alaminos Conference Hall. He also expressed his gratitude to DICT for the continued partnership in bringing digital opportunities in the online freelancing industry in Alaminos.

The participants underwent a 6-day face-to-face training which commenced on June 5, 2019 at the Alaminos City National High School. They were equipped with the basics of online freelancing, necessary skills and technical knowledge, and proper handling of clients. The participants were pressed to smartly take advantage of economic possibilities in online work.

From June 23 to July 14, 2019, the scholars underwent a 21-day

online campaign to prepare themselves as freelancers and land an online job.

Engr. Leo Ugto, OIC – Director of DICT Luzon Cluster I said the training aims to create ICT-enabled jobs in socio-economically disadvantaged areas in the country.

“The program benefits individuals in the countryside by providing opportunities for higher-income online employment, aside from traditional employment,” Engr. Ugto further emphasized.



Alaminos City, Pangasinan Mayor Arth Bryan Celeste (4th from left) and DICT Luzon Cluster I OIC – Director Engr. Leo B. Ugto led conferment of training completion to the 13 finishers of DICT's Rural Impact Sourcing Technical Training (RISTT) on Virtual Assistance at the Alaminos Conference Hall on July 31, 2019.

The Rural Impact Sourcing is one of the components of DICT's digitalPH program. In November 2018, DICT bagged the Crystal Flare for Sparkler Award from the IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) because of this program. The award is given to individuals or organizations instrumental in promoting the continued growth of the Filipino talent pool through promotion of skills development programs.

by: Gloria Diane Rojas, DICT

ISPSC PROMOTES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BROADCAST-BASED EXTENSION PROGRAMS

The multi-faceted progress of the academic and the surrounding communities has always been the priority of the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College as it continually strives to carry out its extension programs. With the instrumentality of its community radio station, the 97.3 FM Radyo Kailian, the College has widened the reach of its nutrition and agriculture-related programs as part of its four-fold functions.

The College's *Agrischooltura* aired in the Radyo Kailian seeks to inform and educate the farmers on agricultural trends, techniques, and technologies. The program is hosted by agriculturists and educators Dr. Armando D. Diga, Dean of the

College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Engineering (CAFÉ) and Dr. Maribel Raguindin, CAFÉ faculty, and agricultural research specialists Mr. Ronnie Basio and Mr. Peter Paul Lazo from the Office of Planning, Information, Research, and Extension (PIRE).

Meanwhile, the multi-awarded program *Oras Ti Nutrisyon* hosted by Dr. Gloria D. Tuzon, the Vice President for PIRE, promotes proper nutrition and sanitation as it educates the public listeners, particularly mothers, on various nutrition-related topics explicated by experts. Said program has been cited Best Nutrition Program by the National Nutrition Council (NNC) four times in a row.

As an instrument to the dissemination of these extension programs, the Radyo Kailian has gained prominence through the years as it garnered various awards including the Best Radio Station in 2015, 2017, and 2019. Indeed, ISPSC's extension venture

is continually made successful by the College's desire to contribute to community development with the help of its broadcast-based extension services.

By: **Noel L. Lllamar, PRPIO & Gina Mae C. Villanueva, MIS**



Dr. Maribel Raguindin, CAFÉ faculty, and Dr. Armando D. Diga, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Engineering (CAFÉ), the hosts of the Agrischooltura aired over Radyo Kailian.

GRANTS BEEF UP UNP FACULTY PROFILE

Believing that faculty profile translates to the University's quality and excellence in all forms, the University of Northern Philippines Administration invested in the graduate studies of its teaching and non-teaching force through grants and several forms of support.

The past six years have seen 77 new graduate degree holders, masters and doctorates in a wide array of disciplines, from the humanities, social sciences, education, engineering, and health sciences, among others. The year 2015 has the highest number of graduates (16) and 2016

follows with 15 graduates, 2014 has nine, 2017 has 11, 2018 has 14, and 2019 has 12.

The said figures mean a lot to President Gilbert R. Arce's fulfilment of one of his Governance Initiatives, maintenance of high academic standards, that by the end of his term, at least 60% of the faculty shall have earned their doctorate degrees.

The big number of doctorate degree holders has indeed catapulted UNP's reputation in the series of accreditation which the degree pro-

grams of the different colleges went through in the previous years.

"The advanced training and qualifications of the faculty have enabled them to improve curriculum and instruction, research productivity, and extension services, thus meriting accreditors' approval and the University's reputation to stakeholders," said President Arce.

Support extended to the faculty include full tuition and miscellaneous fees and transportation and meal allowances. The said allowances have also been given to part-time and contractu-

al faculty members.

In the same vein, grants from the Commission on Higher Education also sustained the studies of some faculty.

For instance, Mark Louie Tabunan, MA Language and Literature graduate at the University of the Philippines, quipped that the scholarship grant he enjoyed is a very significant stepping stone in his goals to serve the University in a better capacity.

The University hopes to further improve its faculty profile in the years to come.

/UNP

“LA UNION TOURISM ON THE RISE”—GOV. PACOY

“I think we’re on the right track,” Gov. Francisco Emmanuel “Pacoy” R. Ortega III said after Department of Tourism Region 1 Dir. Martin S. Valera presented the results of the Region 1 2018 Visitor Survey to him and Provincial Tourism Officer-Designate Mr. Adamor L. Dagang on July 25, 2019 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union. He backed this up by saying that the Local Government Units also aligned their Programs, Projects and Activities to the vision of the province to be the Heart of Agri-

Tourism in Northern Luzon by 2025.

The 2018 Tourist Attraction Visitor Survey comprised of administrative data gathered from analyses and interviews in the various identified tourism sites regionwide. Topics discussed were Local Tourism Data Compilation; Basic Local Tourism Indicators; Data Gaps on profiling visitors; and Visitor Survey. It aimed to identify general visitor profile, travel characteristics, attraction satisfaction, and expenditures in a specific tourist attraction. Implementation and coverage of the

study was also tackled in the meeting.

The output of tourist characteristics showed that most of the tourists visiting the province are aged 20 – 34 years old, mainly the millennial generation which affirms that the province possesses a unique laid back lifestyle and hipster culture that is famed to the younger market.

Average length of stay was also presented and La Union gained the highest rate of 1.87% compared to the other provinces in Region 1. Percentage of repeat visitors also stated that

La Union gained 54% and the highest among the other provinces in the region. This explains that tourists are motivated to come back.

In general, survey revealed that the province ranked first in terms of tourism expenditure with an estimated total of Php1,808,972,834 from 35% occupancy rate, repeat visitors and average length of stay in the region due to the undeniable drawing power of surfing and emerging Agri-Tourism potentials in La Union.

By: Omme Atiyah B. Gonting, GPC-PIO



Department of Tourism Region 1 Director Martin S. Valera presents results of the Region 1 2018 Visitor Survey to Gov. Pacoy and Provincial Information Officer Mr. Adamor L. Dagang on July 25, 2019 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union. Survey revealed that the province ranked first in terms of tourism spendings, repeat visitors and average length of stay in the region due to the undeniable drawing power of surfing and emerging Agri-Tourism potentials of La Union.

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURISTS HAILED SIX-TIME “OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORKERS”

For the sixth consecutive time, Provincial Agriculturist Mrs. Norma Lagmay and Assistant Agriculturist Dr. Luz Tabora of the Provincial Agriculture Office received their Outstanding Agricultural Extension Workers award from the Department of Agriculture (DA) during the 2019 National Rice Achievers Award held at the Fort Ilocandia Resort & Casino, Laoag City, last July 25.

Dr. Luz Tabora, one of the awardees and also the Provincial Rice Program Coordinator, expressed her joy on receiving the said award:

"Matagal nang nakilalahok ang probinsiya natin sa patimpalak ng DA - mula 2013 hanggang ngayon. Dito natin ipinakilikita ang mga kontribusyon natin sa pagtamtamasa sa food security and self sufficiency. Dahil dito, anim na beses na kaming pinaparangalan, kasama si Mrs. Lagmay," she stated.

Also included in the list of this year's awardees from the Provincial Agriculture Office are Mrs. Lorna Lubera, Mrs. Lolita Raposas, and Mr. Danilo Arado.

Mr. Arado is thankful to the Provincial Govern-

ment and remarked, *"Malaki ang pasasalamat namin sa Provincial Government. Sa pangunguna ng dating gobernador, Senator Imee R. Marcos at sa suporta ni Governor Matthew Marcos Manotoc, marami pa rin tayong suplay ng bigas. Sa katunayan ay pumangalawa tayo noong 2017 sa Nueva Ecija. Kung wala sila, hindi natin makakamit ang mga parangal na ito.*

Moreover, 15 agricultural extension workers from the different towns and cities of the province were also cited: two from the City of Batac, towns of Solsona, San Nicolas,

and Vintar; six from Laoag City, and one from Dingras. In 2015, Ilocos Norte was recognized as Rice Achievers Award Hall of Fame after winning the same award in 2013 and 2014. Meanwhile, a special award were given to the province in 2016 and 2017.

Vice Governor Cecilia Arana Marcos gave her message to the awardees on behalf of Senator Imee R. Marcos.

A total of 20,000 pesos in cash and a plaque were given to the awardees.

**By: Stewart Ocampo,
PGIN**



BIG INVESTORS BOOST LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Big investors are coming in the People's City thereby paving the way for increased revenue and generation of job opportunities in the City and the province.

According to Rizalyn D. Medrano, officer-in-charge of the City Local Economic and Business Development Office (LEBDO), this year's big investors are Task Us, an IT-BPO company, and the Robinsons Mall.

"These companies are of big help to ensure local economic development (LED) particularly on the generation of business taxes as well as local employment," Medrano said during an interview. 1,700 new job opportunities are expected to open for the locals because of the

arrival of these new companies and investments.

Medrano also added that with the amendment of the City Ordinance No. 2018-19 or the City Investment Incentives Codes, "we are expecting more big companies to invest here." The Local Fiscal Incentives outlined in the said ordinance are to be given to enterprises consistent with the Local Revenue Code and Book II of the Local Government Code (LGC) (RA 7160) such as exemption for local business taxes, tax exemption privileges, and exemption from payment of postal charges. There are also non-fiscal incen-

tives to be provided to the registered enterprises through the City of San Fernando Investment Promotion Action Center (CSF-IPAC).

The incentives shall be granted only to new, expanding or modernizing projects located in the City. It does not extend to fees and charges imposed by the PNP, and the City Government such as garbage fees, sanitary and electrical inspection fees, and others. It also does not include rental fees of public utilities owned and operated by the local government as well, including water and electric bills, and toll fees. The said exemption shall take effect next year.

In turn, they are asked to employ a large number of their workforce from the City of San Fernando to ensure that residents especially the poor can benefit the economic development that these companies bring.

At present, there are about 7,014 businesses currently operating in the City. This includes general merchandising, food-related establishments, hotels and resorts, and others.

The City Government of San Fernando has always been committed to creating opportunities for progress and success not just for the working class but for the businesses of the City as well.

by: Erwin Beleo



REVENUE INCREASE IN 2018 MEANS MORE PROGRAMS FOR THE PEOPLE OF SAN FERNANDO

The dedication and effort of the City Government of San Fernando towards growth and development are indeed in realization. Under the current administration, the local income of the City of San Fernando continues to increase.

As of December 2018, the Office of the City Treasurer collected revenue of Php 781,226,481.59 compared to 2017's collection of Php 700,488,064.00. According to City Treasurer Edmar Luna, this increase is attributed to the collection of business taxes, fees & charges, improved collection of Real Property Tax through the Tax Mapping Project of the City Assessor's Office, and the efficient collection from the City's Economic Enterprise.

The increased revenue



indicates more programs, more significant projects, better facilities, and infrastructure for the City of San Fernando. More so, funds can be allocated for peace and order, social welfare, and environmental protection in the City. The consistent growth would mean continuous services for the people of San Fernando. The increased revenue would likewise make way for the

realization of the Centralized Evacuation Center, Market Development Program, construction of Farm to Market roads, and expansion of social services in the City.

Future collection of revenue is expected to further increase if given legislative priorities in the proposed General Revision of Market Values from the very old 1993 Schedule of

Market Values, Updates of Business Tax Rates under Sec. 191 of Local Government Code, and updates of fees and charges. Proposed terminals, training centers, and other City economic enterprises will also be big contributors to the income of the City if pushed through.

The diligent and good governance consistently upheld by the City Government of San Fernando ensures a "Sabay-sabay, Pantay-Pantay, Lahat Aangat" onward development of the People's City of San Fernando. Rest assured that the City Government will always prioritize projects and programs that are geared towards the benefit of its people, especially those who come from marginalized communities.

by: Clifford Mercado

PSRS ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Modern day heroes are not necessarily seen within the Philippines' government bureaucracy. They are the people who devoted their lives selflessly serving the humanity by empowering people. They are the real honorable men and women of the various NGOs from all over the country.

Private Sector Representatives (PSRs) from various Regional Development Councils (RDCs) recently attended the Pri-

ivate Sector Representatives National Convention held in Palawan. The activity aimed to become a venue for collaboration among the regions where the results of the gathering can be used to contribute to the overall development of the country. The convention is annually conducted to build stronger partnership between and among the RDC PSRs, government and other stakeholders to achieve economic development.



Ms. Lina M. Tan (2nd from right), PSR of RDC 1 with other NGO representatives Laurence "Ka Oyen" Padilla (Palawan), Marilou Llan (Antique) and Mario Ian Mosquisa (Samar) at Yamang Bukid Farm in Palawan.

CY 2019 2nd QUARTER RESOLUTIONS

No.	TITLE OF THE RESOLUTION
53	Approving the CY 2018 Regional Development Report (RDR) of Region I
54	Approving the Creation of the Regional Halal Sub-Committee Under the Economic Development Sectoral Committee
55	Approving the Traffic Management Strategy for Region I
56	Approving the Revisions to the RDC-1 Operations Manual
57	Approving the Guidelines and Procedures for the Selection of Private Sector Representatives (PSRs) to the Regional Development Council 1 (RDC 1) for CY 2019-2022
58	Approving the Result of the CY 2018 Search for the Best NGO-LGU Partnership
59	Enjoining All RDC-member Agencies, Local Government Units and Private Sector Representatives to Utilize the AmBisyon Natin 2040 Logo in their Respective Letterheads and Advocacy Materials to Further Advocate the Long-Term Vision of Filipinos for Self and Country
60	Enjoining all Regional Line Agencies, Local Government Units, Non-Government Organizations, Organized Information Offices, and Public and Private Media Outfits in Region I to Adopt the Gender-Fair Guidebook (GFMG) in Ilocos Region
61	Enjoining all Higher Education Institutions, Hospitals, Government Agencies Involved in Conducting Researches to Establish their Respective Research Ethics Committees (RECs) and Apply for Accreditation to REMB 1
62	Encouraging All Concerned Government Instrumentalities to Patronize and Promote the Use of the “Biotek-M™ Technology”, a Portable Filipino Made Multi-infectious Disease Diagnostic Device
63	Supporting the RDC2-RPOC2 Joint Resolution No. 02-01-2019 (s. 2019) Urging the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to Compel Mobile Phone Service Providers to Strictly Comply with Republic Act (RA) 10639, Otherwise Known as “The Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act”, and Its Implementing Rules and Regulations
64	Approving the Creation of the Sub-Committee on Industry and Academe Partnership (SCIAP) under the Social Development Committee-1 (RSDC-1) and Confirming the Result of Its Organization