

PRESS RELEASE

September 29, 2005

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Region I Celebrates 16th National Statistics Month

The month-long celebration of the 16th National Statistics Month (NSM) will formally kick off on October 3, 2005, 9:00 AM, with a Joint Regional and La Union Provincial Opening Ceremony to be held at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union. Along with the opening ceremony, the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics (BAS), the host agency for this year's NSM, will present the "The Role of Quality Statistics for the Agriculture and Fishery Sector " while the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) will present the "Key Directions/Goals of the Agriculture and Fishery Sector".

The Bureau Director of BFAR, Atty. Malcom I. Sarmiento, Jr., shall serve as the keynote speaker on this year's theme "**Modernizing Agriculture and Fishery Through Quality Statistics (Makabuluhang Estadistika – Gabay sa Pagpapalawak ng Makabagong Agrikultura at Pangangisda)**". Representatives from the different Regional and Provincial Line Agencies, Local Government Units, academe, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and private sector are expected to attend the Opening Ceremony.

Apart from the opening ceremony, several activities will also be conducted by various line agencies, local government units, academe and NGOs during the month-long celebration. At the regional level, these activities include the Regional Statistics Quiz to be conducted by the Philippine Statistical Association: Region 1 Chapter on October 20; lecture and film showing on "Depensa sa Disaster" by Office of Civil Defense on October 5, 12, 19 and 26; Video showings on agriculture and fishery by the Civil Service Commission on October 14 and 21; and marketing of on-line statistics to private schools by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB). In addition, statistical exhibits will be established by the Department of Agriculture (agriculture and fishery), National Statistics Office (census and civil registration), and Department of Interior and Local Government (local government statistics) from October 1-31 while the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority will conduct the Impact Evaluation Study (IES) of TVET Programs from September-October. The complete calendar of activities for this year's celebration could be accessed through www.nscb.gov.ph/ru1 .

Furthermore, this year's NSM celebration in the region will include the 2005 Search for Best NSM Province and Activity. The Best NSM Activity will be selected from the statistical activities implemented by the Regional Line Agencies and academe while the four provinces will compete for the Best NSM Province. This awards system aims to encourage wider participation to the NSM celebration and promote the conduct of activities that will further the objectives and spirit of the NSM celebration.

The NSM is being conducted by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 647 declaring the month of October of every year as the National Statistics Month. The observance of the event has two-fold objectives: 1) to promote, enhance and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics to the different sectors of society, and 2) to elicit the cooperation and support of the general public in upgrading the quality and standards of statistics in the country.

The Regional Statistical Coordination Committee (RSCC), the highest policy-making body on statistical matters in the region, is the over-all coordinator of the NSM celebration at the subnational level.



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