

PRESS RELEASE

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La Union and UNP Win 2005 NSM Contests

La Union was chosen as the Best National Statistics Month (NSM) Province while the "1st Lecture Forum on Statistical Updates" of the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) was adjudged as the Best NSM Activity in this year's Search for the Best NSM Province and Activity conducted by the Regional Statistical Coordination Committee (RSCC) for the 16th NSM celebration.

La Union bested the two other nominees (Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan) based on the following criteria: diversity of activities (25%), extent of participation of cooperating agencies and local government units (25%), conveys favorable image of the province (25%), and economy and ingenious use of resources (25%). The province conducted various activities such as exhibit, training for non-statistical personnel, symposium for secondary students, techno demo, agriculture and fishery briefings/training, tree planting and statistical quiz during the whole month of October through the support and active participation of the provincial line agencies, and the city and municipal governments. The province received a Certificate of Recognition and P 3,000 for winning the contest.

Meanwhile, UNP's 1st Lecture Forum on Statistical Updates stood out among the nominees based on the following criteria: relevance (25%), overall presentation of the activity (40%), impact (25%) and economy of resources (10%). The forum included presentations on the results of the 2002 Census of Agriculture and Fishery, 2002-2004 estimates of the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP), NSCB's interactive database (i-stats), and status of the agriculture and fisheries sectors in Ilocos Sur. It was participated in by 113 personnel from Ilocos Sur's Municipal and Provincial Planning and Development Offices, Local Civil Registrar, Municipal Agriculturist Office, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, UNP staff and students. The UNP shouldered all the expenses of the activity. The participants did not pay any registration fee. The other entries of the contest were the Impact Evaluation Study on TVET Programs (TESDA), and Information and Education Campaign on Disaster Preparedness (OCD). UNP received a Certificate of Recognition and P 1,500 for winning the contest.

The winners were announced during the 4th RSCC regular meeting on December 12, 2005. The prizes of the winners were also awarded during the meeting. A Board of Judges composing of representatives from the regional offices of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, National Economic and Development Authority, National Statistical Coordination Board, National Statistics Office, and Department of Interior and Local Government recommended the winners. The winners were approved by the RSCC during its special meeting on December 9, 2005.

The Search for the Best NSM Province and Activity, now on its second year, was initiated by the RSCC to: 1) recognize outstanding participation in the NSM celebration; 2) serve as incentive to participating individuals and agencies in the observance of the NSM; 3) encourage wider participation to the NSM celebration; and 4) promote the conduct of activities that will further the objectives and spirit of the NSM celebration. The contest was patterned after the contest at the national level where Region 1 was chosen as the Best NSM Region in 2003 and 2004.

The Search for the Best NSM Province is open to all the four provinces of Region 1 while the Search for the Best NSM Activity is open to all regional line agencies and academic institutions.

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