

## NMFDC bags regional science and technology award



NMFDC receives the BEST SETUP plaque during the opening of the Regional NSTW Celebration in Cagayan de Oro City (L-R: Oro Chamber President Efren Uy, HF Manager Bismela Lancin, NMFDC Chair Robert Enerio, HF Production Manager Wilma Buray, DOST-X Regional Director Alfonso P. Alamban, DOST Chief Administrative Officer Mansueta L. Golo.



The Northern Mindanao Federation of Dairy Cooperatives (NMFDC) - Highland Fresh Dairy Products was awarded the **Best "Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program" (SETUP) Adoptor** by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region – X during the Regional Celebration of the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) held last July 16, 2013 at Pearlmont Inn, Cagayan de Oro City.

**"SETUP"** is DOST's flagship program to empower Small & Medium Enterprises (SME's) in the country by assisting and encouraging them to adopt new technologies and gain competitive advantage using appropriate technologies. Last year, NMFDC was also a recipient of a **Php600,000** grant from DOST for the Upgrading of the Equipment at their Milk Processing Plant. The NMFDC was able to acquire display chillers, a cream separator and a mozzarella stretching machine. Part of the fund was also used in the improvement of the labels for their butter and cheese products.

The NMFDC represented Region-X in the national competition with 16 other SETUP regional winners in Manila last week. An exhibit was held at the Mall of Asia from July 22- 27, 2013 to showcase the products of the winning entrepreneurs. NMFDC's product display was one of the crowd drawers during the NSTW and was one of the choices of many participants to get the top award. However, the SET-UP national winner was awarded to Farmtech Foods Incorporated (FFI) of Silang Cavite the company that produces dehydrated and powdered food products such as spices like chili, ginger, turmeric, tamarind; vegetables/herbs like ampalaya, ube, malunggay, and banaba..

Highland Fresh Manager Bismela Lancin shared the joy of competing in the national level. The event has challenged the NMFDC to do exert more efforts in their quest for excellence in the business. The event has also opened wider market opportunities for dairy products as many food processors are looking for suppliers of dairy products. It has also created a greater network of industry partners that can help NMFDC to make more efficient their production systems and improve their earning capacities.



National SET-UP awarding during the 2013 National Science and Technology Week at SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City.