

Dairy Congress in Baguio Baguio City May 16, 2012

Reproductive Health Bill advocates may be troubled over the burgeoning population of the country. But according to Ambassador Reuben Levenmore of New Zealand "population growth means to the dairy farmers and other agricultural stakeholders, a challenge and an opportunity to meet the growing demand to produce more food, milk, and for better nutrition"

U.S. D.A. Rep. Philip Shull said that as "more and more people live in the cities, the knowledge of agriculture in the Philippines is diminishing".

Dairy Confederation Chair Danilo V. Fausto said that " our agriculture experts must really teach our farmers even if it means making the farm a classroom" there is indeed a demand for milk, as shown by the total import of \$467.00 Million worth of milk products from abroad.

Gracing the event after missing the past 10 annual dairy congresses is former Sen. Leticia Shahani, who together with Congresswoman Soccoro Acosta, crafted Republic Act 7884 or the National Dairy Development Act of 1995.

Sen. Shahani was happy over the marked increase in Congress attendance, which she used to worry in the past when only a limited number would attend the yearly dairy congresses. Sen. Shahani shared that she got the idea of the National Dairy Development Act from former D.A. Secretary Carlos Dominguez who urged her to create a government mechanism which will push for the development of the local dairy and cotton industry. She noted that of the two, the dairy industry is the more successful.



A ceremonial Milk Toast was held during the press conference at the Dairy Congress. In photo from extreme left are DAIRYCON's Chairman Mr. Danilo Fausto, Former Congressman Mike Cojuangco, Former Senator Shahani , DA Asec. Dave Catbagan and NDA Administrator Grace Cenas