

## **EDITHA G. BAJENTING, TAKES ON OIC-POST VACATED BY TONY AYEN**



Edith Bajenting is now the OIC-Regional Manager for the NDA Visayas Field Office, a position vacated by Tony Ayen who is due to retire next month.

With a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of San Jose Recoletos, this Cebuana has been a loyal student of St. Catherine's School from kindergarten to high school, and of St. Theresa's College-Cebu for her Bachelor of Arts degree – both schools ran by Belgian nuns of the ICM order then.

Working her way up, she started as a Senior Stenographer at the Department of Agrarian Reform in 1973 to 1976. In mid 1976, she transferred to become Secretary / Research Assistant, Research & Documentation Desk Coordinator, and eventually as Administrative Officer of the Visayas Social Action Office of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines from that year to 1981. After this stint, she was taken in by the Chairman of the Commission on Service of the Archdiocese of Cebu to be his Executive Assistant and concurrent Programs Coordinator of the local Church's service programs for the poor, deprived, and the oppressed. However, seeing better opportunities for direct service to the needy, she resigned as staff of the said Commission in 1988 and accepted the offer for her to be the Coordinator of a special project of UNICEF which was under the administration of the Cebu Relief and Rehabilitation, Inc. (CRRC) then. Impressed by her good performance, the CRRC Board eventually appointed her as its Executive Director, a position she held for five years. NGO work seem to be her inclination and she saw this opportunity to work free lance by becoming a Project Consultant in Partners in Sustainable Communities, Inc. .

Seizing this social commitment to help the poor and the marginalized, Ms. Bajenting applied for the position of Executive Assistant when NDA Visayas Field Office announced its opening. Her entry into the NDA facilitated the expansion of the network of dairy farmers and assisting/partner agencies in Cebu with the conduct of a province-wide "Let's Have Milk Campaign" which she helped conceptualize and successfully coordinated. The said campaign generated a network of new contacts, resources, and markets for dairy in Cebu. The said strategy was likewise replicated by concerned NDA Field Units in other dairy zones in the Visayas. Ms. Bajenting's organizational, marketing, and management skills proved worthy for her to be promoted to becoming a Project Development Officer in the agency.

When Tony Ayen retires...Edith fits in as the incoming head of the field office given her credentials.

To Edith, our warmest felicitations and may this augur well for NDA Visayas! Cheers!