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Man of STEEL

CONNECTING EVERY LITTLE THING

Technology is an important component in the development of the metalworking industry.

Mr. Michael “Mike” Ruiz, a resident of Barangay Madayegdeg in San Fernando City, La Union worked in a stainless fabrication shop in Manila. With a keen eye for details and wider perspective, Mr. Ruiz established his own shop in San Fernando City, “Mike’s Stainless Steel Fabrication.”

Established in 2006, the firm started fabricating stainless steel products like railings, kitchen sinks, oven, cabinet, food grade tables and signboards for buildings and food production businesses. The shop also supplies galvanized and stainless steel water tanks to various hardware stores in the Ilocos region.

Mike shared this passion for the business with his wife, Jinilyn Ruiz, who handles the administrative tasks of the company. Throughout the operations, the firm has established the mark of quality service and products to their valued customers. Despite the shop’s biggest competitor, Mr. Ruiz still envisions to be globally competitive by leveling up his production capability and acquiring modern equipment to improve production.

REACHING OUT

The DOST’s Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) - opened the door to further improve product output and sustain market demand. Mike’s Stainless Steel Fabrication received a package of technology interventions in 2013 that included trainings on Tungsten Inert Gas welding, Occupational Health and Safety, Productivity and Quality and Metals Identification and Selection. Similarly, the firm has also undergone Energy Audit.

In 2015, Mike sought again the assistance of DOST through the La Union Science and Technology Center for upgrading the stainless steel and galvanized steel water tank fabrication process. More precise production equipment like mandrel tube bender, box and pan bender, roller bending machine, power press, spot welding machine, drill press, die molds, power craft air plasma and MIG welding machine were acquired.



These innovative technologies enabled the firm to fabricate other products such as metal furring, carrying channel, wall angle and water tanks offered to additional clients from La Union, Manila, Tuguegarao City, Baguio City and Pangasinan.

Mike’s Stainless is also currently into fabrication of facilities needed by the food processing industries. This led the firm to support the food processing businesses assisted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Food Innovation Center in Pangasinan, public markets, malls, schools and residences.

In terms of marketing innovation, the firm has maintained its social media, <https://www.facebook.com/MikeStainlessSteelFabrication> and currently expanding its page being one of the vendors of oneSTore.ph.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS

Mike attributes his success to hard work, perseverance and to partners that believe in his vision to create products and services that are of the highest standards. He said, ***“I am grateful to DOST for giving me the interventions which served as an important breakthrough in my career in the metalworking industry.”***

DOST Holds Campaign Drive for 2016 JLSS



DOST 1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal expressed his hope towards developing better outcomes for the Junior Level Science Scholarship strategic planning and information drive among University Scholarship Coordinators held at OASIS Country Resort in San Fernando City recently.

In an effort to increase access to quality education, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) 1 has just conducted an orientation cum info drive on the 2016 Junior Level Science Scholarship Program and Strategic Planning for the DOST scholarships university coordinators and DOST personnel in Ilocos region.

During the orientation, Dr. Armando Q. Ganal, Regional Director of DOST 1 commended the scholarship coordinators of Higher Education Institute (HEIs) throughout the region for implementing the scholarship programs.

Director Ganal also gave an overview on JLSS emphasizing the vast contribution of the university scholarship coordinators in bringing the program to their respective schools and universities.

“I hope during the planning workshop, you could double the number of applicants scholar for JLSS program,” he said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Racquel M. Espiritu, DOST Regional Scholarship Coordinator, underscored the availability of the S&T scholarships under Republic Act (RA) 10612 known as the Fast-Tracked S&T Scholarship Act of 2013, RA 7687 or the Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994 and the *Merit Scholarship Program*.

The implementation of RA 10612 requires the graduates in the sciences, mathematics and engineering to teach science and mathematics in secondary schools in their home region. While RA 7687 scholarships are awarded to poor, talented and deserving students who belong to families whose socio economic status do not exceed the set values of certain indicators to include an applicant who does not exceed to the gross annual income of 185,000 comprising of five family members, she said.

For the DOST-SEI Merit scholarships, these are given to students belonging to upper income bracket with high aptitude in science and mathematics and are willing to push career in the fields of science and technology.

“There is a need for a pool of scientists, engineers and mathematicians in the country, this is why we need to have more scholars’ nationwide,” she stressed.

Moreover, Ms. Ginee Tacasa, Scholarship Staff indicated the need to conduct school-to-school campaign, distribution of brochures and flyers and press releases in the Tagalog, Iloko and Pangasinense dialect, as a means to make the programs more understandable to the people.

Ms. Tacasa has emphasized that the application for the scholarship is available to third year college students enrolled in priority fields of study in engineering, basic and applied sciences, and science and mathematics teaching at identified universities and colleges which started on June. “Deadline will be on September 9, 2016,” she ended.

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