

From Tin to Gold; Recapturing the story of the Ilocos' Super inventor

"Who was the first person to land in the moon? Neil Armstrong. Who invented the telescope? Galileo Galilei. Who discovered the Theory of Relativity? Albert Einstein. Who invented the Ilocano's Superkalan? I don't know." We can confidently answer the first three questions but the last question makes us dumb because we don't actually know the people behind the small technologies we use in our daily living.

When we hear the term inventions and inventors, the first thing that we picture in our mind is a person who is like Aristotle, Plato, and other famous geniuses of the decades. But we should not forget to acknowledge our Aristotles and Platos in our locality who have contributed their talents and skills to make our lifestyle easier.

Most of us might have already encountered a skinny old man who dresses simply but talkative with sense. When he speaks, he goes around the bush but all he wanted is to encourage and inspire others. He is Mr. Narciso P. Mosuela, the sole inventor of the Superkalan of the Ilocanos, which we use for cooking especially when our stove runs out of gas.

Mr. Narciso P. Mosuela is a multi-awarded farmer and inventor from Bangar, La Union. He was known for his Superkalan that is being sold locally and abroad.

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Tracing the path of a multi-awarded farmer

Mr. Mosuela resorted to farming when his parents can no longer afford his studies for high school. After dropping from first year high school, he spent his life in the rice fields until he married and was blessed with four children. However, he realized that his income from the farm alone is not enough to cater the needs of the family.



He then decided to go to Manila and was lucky to be employed as an automotive electrician in a franchised Ford dealer company where he labored with dedication and patience. A tagalog quote says, "Pag may tiyaga, may nilaga." Mr. Mosuela's hardwork paid off when he was transferred to the engineering department of the company where he stayed and honed his engineering skills for 8 years.

While he was working, he took the opportunity to discover and learn the techniques in manufacturing metals. Thus, he was able to start inventing his own Superkalan and thresher that led him to put up his Natomo Enterprises.

The Superkalan, known as the Natomo Superkalan in the market is a designed energy-saving cooking tool that allows the utilization of wood, papers, sawdust, and other locally available and inexpensive fuel.

From Super Kalawang to Superkalan

In the world of invention, the first output is not the final. According to Mr. Mosuela, he experienced difficulty in marketing his first superkalan output. It was first made-up of tin but his customer complains because it rusts when washed with water. He was then dubbed as “Super Kalawang” because of this rusty problem in his Superkalan.

“Mahirap ang superkalan, kung iniisip ko ngayon parang hindi ko kayang gawin. Nagsimula sa lata tapos ipinagbili ng ipinagbili, pero noong balikan ko ang mga bumili ang tawag sa akin super kalawang. Ang problema kung hinuhugasan, laging kinakalawang,” said Mr. Mosuela.

Despite the problems and criticisms received from other people Mr. Mosuela did not end dumping his inventions in a corner. Instead, he was more encouraged to find ways in improving his kalan. He then decided to try Aluminum alloy metal and found it successful. *“Wala na talagang ibang paraan kundi gawing aluminum yan, dyan ako nahirapan kasi kung saan-saan ako nagpunta,”* he added.

However, financial deficiency hindered Mr. Mosuela from reproducing his invention. Thus, he enrolled Natomo Enterprises to the Department of Science and Technology- Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (DOST-SETUP) and was granted in 2008. With this, the firm was able to acquire upgraded machines and he was able to manufacture more Superkalan.

Natawa sa akin ang tao noon pero sa awa ng Diyos, natapos ko yung kalan, gumanda hanggang sa naki-exhibit ako sa Maynila na sponsored ng DOST. Tapos akalain mo, napili yung kalan ko na pinakamagandang naexhibit. Nagkaroon ako ng plakeyo. Sunod-sunod na ang aking award kasi pinaganda ko ng pinaganda,” stressed Mr. Mosuela.

Natomo superkalan receives super recognitions

Through the able management of Mr. Mosuela and his strong partnership with DOST, he was able to sell and showcase his product to different provinces within and outside the region. He also actively participates in DOST’s activities such as S&T Caravan, exhibits, and others.

“Madalas ako sa S&T Caravan at magandang opportunity yun para maipakita ng mga inventors ang kanilang mga likha. Syempre kung bago yan, pupuntahan talaga ng mga tao kaya doon talaga kami nakakabenta,” explained Mr. Mosuela.

With his superkalan and thresher, he was able to bag national and local awards. Among his remarkable awards is being the 2008 National Outstanding Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). He was also a Globe Masigasig Awardee and an Outstanding MSME Awardee for Luzon.

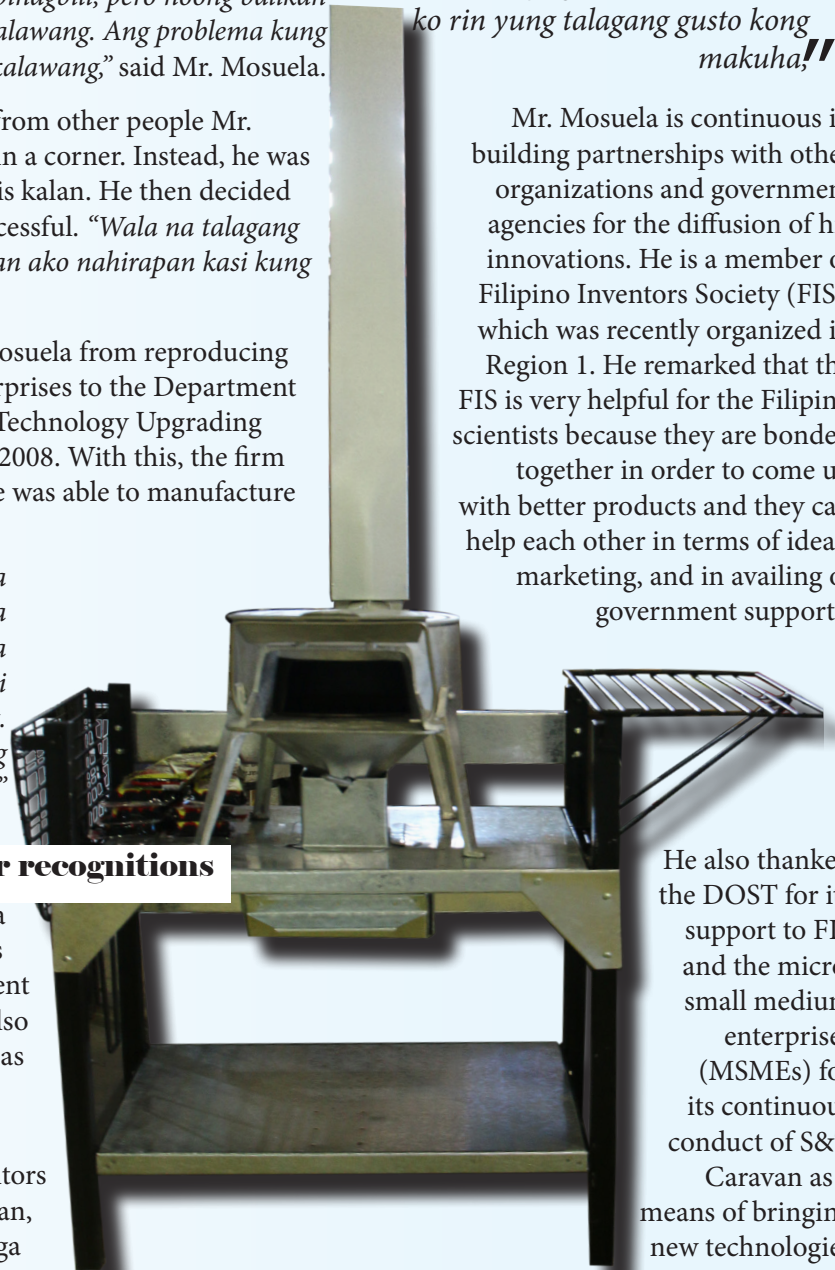
He was also given a Service Award from the province of La Union in recognition of his outstanding performance in the field of science and technology and the honor and significant breakthroughs he achieved from his creativity and innovativeness in manufacturing products in metal crafts industry.

“Kahit ‘di ako nakapagtapos, meron akong mga na patent, sabi nga sa DOST, yung isang patent katumbas ng isang kurso at multi-awarded din ako sa aming bayan. Kaya hindi na rin masama ang loob ko na hindi ako nakapag-aral dahil nakuha ko rin yung talagang gusto kong makuha,”

Mr. Mosuela is continuous in building partnerships with other organizations and government agencies for the diffusion of his innovations. He is a member of Filipino Inventors Society (FIS), which was recently organized in Region 1. He remarked that the FIS is very helpful for the Filipino scientists because they are bonded together in order to come up with better products and they can help each other in terms of ideas, marketing, and in availing of government supports.

He also thanked the DOST for its support to FIS and the micro, small medium enterprises (MSMEs) for its continuous conduct of S&T Caravan as a means of bringing new technologies to the people.

At present, the 80 years old super inventor of Region 1 is continuous in running the Natomo Enterprise with his children. His superkalan and thresher is pivoting in the markets of metal-based products within and outside the country.



Of Passion & Dedication; Uncovering a story behind medals of a DOST Scholar

“I have pledged to myself to teach students in the future, and I want to be a factor in person’s upbringing – especially on his/her academic life,” says Jeric Aren Ordoñez Dedicatoria, a Department of Science and Technology (DOST) scholar-graduate and a Magna Cum Laude of his class, Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Mathematics in Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC) in Barangay Poblacion Norte, Sta. Maria Ilocos Sur.

Being an awardee

Jeric Aren Ordoñez Dedicatoria of Bateria, San Esteban, Ilocos Sur can be described as passionate, dedicated, and determined towards his goals upon recounting his academic and extracurricular achievements in the university.

Being a Magna Cum Laude of a class is a priceless gift that a graduate receives during graduation. The holders of this title are admired most and they serve as good examples to youth who are still trudging their path in the academe. Like the other awardees, Jeric shared his own strategies on how he was able to earn the title.

For Jeric, academics must come first before recreations. According to him, he doesn’t usually organize his daily routine but he always made sure to have a list of his requirements in school so that he will be able to pass them on time.



“It is not about the money why we took Secondary or Elementary Education, it’s about how you help others.”

-Jeric Aren O. Dedicatoria



There are students who fail in class because of their extracurricular activities and late submission of requirements. Despite of many activities in school, Jeric learned to schedule his activities and it helped him to do priority things first in school. When asked if he postpones things, he said that, “Sometimes, procrastinating is a good thing, simply because I would be able to observe keenly the things around which may possibly alter the things that I should do.”

The behaviors shown by Jeric based on his stories are probably the reason why he was able to bag other awards such as ISPSC Medallion Award, Gov. Ryan Singson Academic Excellence Award, Cong. Eric Singson Leadership Award, Best Undergraduate Research Award, and DOST Academic Excellence Award. He was also recognized as Student Writer of the Year and Journalist of the Year.

“Being an academic awardee is never been my goal, it’s just a freebie of what I have learned in my school. Well, maybe the most important thing that I may have realized to achieve a certain honor is “Not taking it too serious,” for it made me believe that I can do my best even do I don’t have to be too serious. Also, maybe I have believed that “Too much” is lethal in achieving goals,” said Jeric.

Being a DOST Scholar

Jeric is among the first batch DOST scholar-graduate under R.A 10612 who are mandated to teach full time high school subjects in a secondary public or private school in two years. This type of scholarship aims to strengthen Science and Technology education by fast-tracking graduates in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

Some students refuse to have this scholarship offered by DOST because they do not want to teach after graduation. However, one has to think of the opportunities it provides. According to Jeric, being a DOST scholar has changed his lifestyle. It made him frugal person and responsible student by passing his requirements on time.

“Well, being a DOST scholar is fulfilling for me because only few are chosen to be one of them. Hence, giving back the incentives that the department has given me would be much more fulfilling starting with having a latin honor,” said Jeric.

At present, Jeric is teaching at San Esteban National High School in Villa Quirino, San Esteban Ilocos Sur, where he was immediately employed as Math teacher after his graduation. Aside from this, he is also voluntarily extending financial supports to three students for their studies.

“Tinulungan naman ako ng DOST, bakit hindi ako tumulong? It is not about the money why we took Secondary or Elementary Education, it’s about how you help others. That is the professional teaching, yun talaga ang work as a teacher,” explained Jeric as he thanked DOST for the opportunity of being one of its scholar during the DOST Scholars job hunting seminar last April.

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