

HIGHLIGHTS OF USERS' FORUM ON BLES SURVEYS AND RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR PARTNERS IN STATISTICS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics held the "Users' Forum on BLES Surveys and Recognition Awards for Partners in Statistics" on December 13, 2013 at the Kachina Room, Century Park Hotel, Manila.

In this event, the BLES presented the highlights of the results of its latest establishment surveys, the 2011/2012 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS), the 2012 Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) and the 2002-2012 Labor Turnover Survey (LTS). The occasion also served as an opportunity for BLES to recognize and extend its appreciation to selected establishments for continuously accommodating and positively responding to the said surveys. The establishments' invaluable contributions through all these years have made possible for BLES to deliver its key mandate in providing timely, accurate and relevant statistics to various clients. The BLES, likewise, accorded recognition and appreciation to some media people for their valuable role in helping disseminate widely the survey results.

The forum was attended by a DOLE top official, heads/representatives of the bureaus and attached agencies of the DOLE, other government agencies, senate, academe, media and establishment respondents to BLES surveys.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE USERS' FORUM

The program started with the welcome remarks of the OIC-Director of BLES, Teresa V. Peralta. She mentioned that this is the first time that BLES will award its partner respondents to show appreciation for their efforts exerted in accomplishing the survey questionnaires in which snapshots of the survey results will be presented to show the finished product. She also thanked the partners from the media for assisting the bureau in broadening its client reach by disseminating the information not only from the survey but especially thru the LABSTAT UPDATES. To her invited colleagues in the government, she pointed out that the survey results are the information that they need for evidence-based decision making. Lastly, she gave credit to the work done by the survey enumerators/interviewers who were hired and paid specifically for the purpose of delivery and retrieval of the questionnaires.

The message of the DOLE Secretary, Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, was delivered by Assistant Secretary Gloria Tango as the secretary was in Tacloban City to oversee the on-going "Job Fair" being conducted for the victims of typhoon Yolanda. She thanked all the participants and guests for the support to the undertaking of the BLES and the DOLE as a whole. She emphasized the significance of the establishment data as they provide valuable inputs to

policies/programs of the government in responding to the needs of the workers and employers alike, as well as useful information for the business community in planning and assessing their respective concerns.

The presentation on BLES surveys followed with snapshots of the data results on BLES Integrated Survey (BITS), Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) and Labor Turnover Survey (LTS).

The program proceeded with the recognition of the establishments who have fully cooperated with BLES in providing the needed data on labor and employment. The top twenty (20) establishments together with three (3) media members were awarded with plaques and tokens of appreciation. Another twenty (20) establishments were also cited for their support to BLES surveys.

III. ESTABLISHMENT

AWARDEES

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| 1. Frabelle Fishing Corp. | 12. San Miguel Corp. |
| 2. Goldilocks Bakeshop, Inc. | 13. D.M. Consunji, Inc. |
| 3. MERALCO | 14. Fluor Daniel, Inc. Phils. |
| 4. Alpha Plumbing Works, Inc. | 15. Mercury Drug Corp. |
| 5. SM Mart, Inc. | 16. PLDT Co. |
| 6. Sofitel Philippines Plaza Manila | 17. Magsaysay Maritime Corp. |
| 7. Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. | 18. Convergys Phils. Services Corp. |
| 8. Emirate Security Systems, Inc. | 19. Maersk Global Service Centers
(Phils.) Ltd. |
| 9. System Encoding Corp. | 20. Value Care Health Systems, Inc. |
| 10. Chiang Kai Shek College | |
| 11. Commonwealth Foods, Inc. | |

NON-AWARDEES

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| 1. AGC Flat Glass Philippines, Inc. | 11. Pacific Concrete Products Inc |
| 2. Arellano University | 12. Philippine Seven Corp |
| 3. Asia United Bank | 13. Smits Corporate Center |
| 4. Banner Plasticard Inc | 14. SPI Global Inc |
| 5. Cathay Metal Corp | 15. St. Pedro Poveda College |
| 6. CE Construction Corp | 16. TCGI Engineers |
| 7. Coats Manila Bay | 17. The Insular Life Assurance Co Ltd |
| 8. Fortune Packaging Corp (Fortune
and Scanwell Co) | 18. Trident International Trading Corp |
| 9. Fujitsu Ten Solutions Phils Inc | 19. University of Santo Tomas Hospital |
| 10. July Manufacturing Co Inc | 20. Wide Wide World Express Corp |

IV. MEDIA (AWARDEES)

1. Mr. Ronnel W. Domingo – Philippine Daily Inquirer
2. Ms. Kate V. Pedroso – Philippine Daily Inquirer
3. Ms. Mayen Jaymalin – The Philippine Star

V. ISSUES RAISED/AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING THE CONDUCT OF THE USERS' FORUM

Issues/Suggestions	Agreements Reached/Recommended Actions
To set aside in the subsequent BLES survey a separate category and data analysis for BPO for the reasons that BPO industry is now quite big and accounts for most of the statistics in the survey; BPO is already expanding outside Metro Manila; labor turnover is highest in BPO industry.	In PSIC, there is no such economic industry called BPO but the data can be found across many industries like call center, software development and animation. In the previous survey, the BLES was able to release a special issue of BPO where all the information came from these industries. BLES will try to come out with another issue of BPO based on the latest BITS.
The survey result on the coverage of medical insurance for workers like Philhealth does not reflect if the workers were really given such insurance.	This inquiry is not found in BITS but the Labor Cost Survey of 2008 has a general data on the amount of Philhealth as part of the expenses of employer. It is an issue of Labor Law Compliance on the part of the employer and for the Labor Law Compliance Officers of DOLE to find out if the employers are paying the Philhealth, SSS and Pagibig coverage of the workers.
The concern on the continuity of the surveys once the BLES is merged with other statistical agencies in PSA.	To negotiate with the PSA for the continuation of the BLES surveys and to integrate them with the establishment survey of NSO since their survey is more on the production of data being used for inputs to National Accounts; NSO survey has no detailed information on wages, injuries and unionism like the BLES surveys.
To compare the government survey with private sector survey to see if there is a big difference or if it is aligned with what the private sector is doing.	There is no point of comparison since the parameters being used in government surveys are different from that of the private sectors, e.g. methodology, definition and scope. It is up to the data users to discern on what to believe and use as basis for decision.

VI. SAMPLE PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION AWARDED TO ESTABLISHMENTS



VII. SAMPLE PLAQUE OF RECOGNITION AWARDED TO MEDIA



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Date: January 14, 2014

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Chief LEO

Users' Forum on BLES Surveys and Recognition Awards for Partners in Statistics

**Kachina Room, Century Park Hotel
Pablo Ocampo St., Malate, Manila
December 13, 2013
8:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon**



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics
Intramuros, Manila**

