

ILOCOS REGION (Region 1)

Overview

It is composed of our (4) provinces— Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union , and Pangasinan. San Fernando City is the Regional Capital. It has a direct access to international sea lanes as it is bound to the west by West Philippine Sea, and the Central Cordillera Mountain Range on the east. The Ilocos Region is strategically located in East Asia given its geographic proximity to some of the dynamic economies of Asia such as Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Southern China.

Capital: San Fernando City
Population: (as of May 1, 2010): 4,748,372 Registered Voters (2010): 2,627,045
Municipality: 116; 9 cities
Barangay: 3,265

Physical Characteristics

Location The Region is located in the northwest of Luzon
Land Area: Region 1 has a land area of 12,840.2 sq. kms. Its alienable and disposable land is 810,062 hectares and its total forest land is 473,957 hectares.
Topography: In its eastern borders are regions of Cordillera Administrative Region and Cagayan Valley and in the south is Central Luzon. To the west north is the West Philippine Sea.
Climate: Dry season is from November to April while the rainy season is from May - October

Natural Resources

Land Resources: The region has prime agricultural land in spite of the scarcity of arable land due to its rough terrain. Its most important crops are tobacco, rice, and vegetables.
Water Resources: Region I is drained by 29 river systems, aside from small mountain streams that sometimes swell up to three times their sizes during the rainy season. These rivers are valuable means of irrigation source. River Basins: The Agno River basin The Amburayan River basin Laoag River basin
Other Endemic Resources: Region I is endowed with various mineral resources both metallic and non-metallic. Copper ore ranked the biggest deposit with about 54.6% of the total metallic reserves. Iron magnetite sand ranked second with about 31%, were found only in Ilocos Sur and La Union.

Human Resources

Number of High school Graduates/year				
Number of Enrollees (Public)				
Elementary		629,230	626,851	618,666
Secondary		304,047	300,037	304,807
		(SY 2012-2013)	(SY 2011-2012)	(SY 2010-2011)
School Participation Rate (Public)				
Elementary		87.7%	81.1%	82.2%
Secondary		56.9%	56.8%	57.2%
Number of College Graduates/year/course				
Skills and Expertise: In Region I, the highest average labor productivity was recorded in the electricity, gas and water subsector followed by the mining and quarrying subsector				
Available Work Force: Total Employment (CY2011) - 1,982,000 persons Agricultural Employment - 764,000 persons				
Employment Profile Average labor force participation rate (LFPR) from CYs 2005-2009 = 61.05% Average employment = 92.03% Average unemployment rate = 7.99% Underemployment rate = 17.49%				

Infrastructures / Utilities

Road and Transportation: Airports International Flights: Laoag International Airport Domestic Flights: San Fernando Airport, Vigan Airport, and Lingayen Airport Seaports: Currimao Seaport (Ilocos Norte) Salomague Seaport (Ilocos Sur) San Fernando Seaport (La Union) Sual Seaport (Pangasinan) Land Transportation: Manila to Laoag, Vigan, San Fernando route and vice versa – Provincial Bus Carriers (Partas, Fariñas, Dominion, Autobus, Martinez Trans, Viron, RCJ, Maria Deleon, SMV Line) Manila to Dagupan – Provincial Bus Carriers (Victory Liner, Dagupan Bus Lines) There is a road network that links Region I to the other parts of Luzon. The Tarlac-

Pangasinan-La Union Expressway has already broken ground for the Tarlac-Pangasinan section.

Electrification:

The region hosts ten power stations with a total installed capacity of 1,682 megawatts (MW). These power stations are fueled by four energy resources, namely: wind, hydropower, coal and oil. With the exception of the 52-MW Trans Asia Power, all existing power plants are operated by the National Power Corporation-Independent Power Producers (NPC-IPPs) under the BuildOperate-Transfer (BOT) scheme.

Power Plants

- Bauang Power Plant
- Sual Coal-fired Power Plant
- San Roque Multi-Purpose Project (Power Component)
- Wind Power in Bangui, Ilocos Norte

Water Supply:

Communication: Information and Communication Technology

- Presence of voice and data (fiber optics) service providers
- Presence of DSL Broadband Internet Connectivity
- Presence of Wi-Fi Internet Connectivity
- Presence of numerous internet cafes
- Presence of mobile phone service centers and providers

Economy

Socio-economic activities:

- Vigan city fiesta
- Viva Vigan Festival of the Arts
- World Heritage Cities Solidarity Day
- Lingayen Gulf Landing
- Laoag City and Province (Pamulinawen)
- San Fernando, La Union
- Gali-Ia Hundred Island festival
- Agoo Semana Santa
- Cutud Lenten Rites
- Pista'y Dayat (May 1)

Finance:

Investment Potentials:

Fort Ilocandia Tourism Economic Zone in Laoag City and Pangasinan Industrial Park II in Mabini, Pangasinan thrusts economic development of the Region.

Pangasinan has initiated the development of a 250-hectare Eco-Tourism Zone in its capital, Lingayen. It is being offered to be developed by investors under the Public-Private Partnership.

Industrialization has become a battle cry of the highly skilled and computer literate workforce in the region.

As part of the Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle (NWLQG) and Northern Luzon-South China growth area, it has good potential for export-oriented agri-industrial development and tourism activities.

Priority Industries:

The region is slowly shifting its focus of development from the primary agriculture sector to industry and services sectors.

Food processing, crafts and cottage industries:

blanketweaving, basketry, shellcraft, broommaking, pottery-making, wine and vinegar making, jewelry making, wood and stone craft, among others jars and antiques can also be bought in the region.

Products:

Principal products are rice, corn, tobacco, garlic, sugarcane, and cassava. T

Cost of Doing Business

The creation of the Center in the region as “NERBAC-ILOCOS” is in full support of the government’s policy to provide necessary and strategic economic and business information and research assistance to speed up the process and encourage the growth of entrepreneurship. It is also in full

NERBAC-Ilocos aims to:

- Provide timely and relevant business information;
- Establish an updated databank of priority to facilitate trade and investment promotion efforts of the region
- Provide one-stop-shop for business registration, licensing and support documentation to reduce turn-around time; Have an access information on the different business opportunities in the Region;
- Improve delivery of government services by reducing the time and cost incurred by the transacting public.
- Improve the business environment through policy and regulation reforms advocacy

Contact Details of Governors and Vice Governor

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SOURCES:

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