



### HCAAP generates 580 hectares as 2011 ends

Before 2011 closes, Help for Catubig Agricultural Advancement Project (HCAAP)-Irrigation and Drainage Component has generated an area of 580 hectares (ha) benefiting 524 farmer-members of Pinipisakan and Haremasan IAs in Catubig and Las Navas, Northern Samar—a commitment delivered.



Catubig Dam viewed from upstream

NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel gave a marching order to Project Manager (PM) Amadeo R. Montejo to fastrack project implementation to generate areas to boost and support the rice self-sufficiency program. Thus, the HCAAP PM vowed to generate a total accumulated area of 800 ha within the first quarter of 2012.

With the solid support of the top management officials, collaborative efforts of central and field office personnel, and zeal of the farmers to till the land with new farm technologies, the HCAAP is envisioned to be a major project in Samar island to support the rice self-sufficiency program by 2013.

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### The Administrator's Christmas Message

With the challenges hurdled in 2011, Administrator Nangel thanked everyone's selfless effort for making the year productive and beneficial to NIA's main clientele—the farmers. He further urged everyone to continue his/her share in providing the right service to the farmers. He then announced a recent meeting with the Philippine National Oil Company people re: renewable energy through the irrigation canals that can generate 1.5 to 5 megawatts and provide power to rural communities. Pilot areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao have been identified.

In closing, he reiterated that rice self sufficiency could be attained by working together for the Lord has said, "NIA, I made you an instrument to attain the goal, do your best and I will take the rest."



### NIA Administrator visits typhoon damaged Ifugao irrigation systems, allots P40 M for rehab

By: Mylene I. Malecdan, PRO-CAR

Lamut, Ifugao—In an effort to make possible the immediate resumption of farming operations in this town, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel allotted a total of P40 million for the repair and rehabilitation of the Hapid Irrigation System.

This was realized after the visit-cum-inspection of the Administrator to the typhoon-damaged irrigation system on November 24, 2011, where they traversed the winding and slippery road to and along the damaged irrigation structures.

"The needed repairs are mostly for the provision of protection works along sta. 0+00 – 0+600 of the main canal which were washed out during Typhoons Pedring and Quiel last October," declared by Engr. Raymundo Apil, manager of the Kalinga-Ifugao-Mt. Province Irrigation Management Office.

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## RM Membreve takes on Caraga Region

By: Silvestre C. Albores

Engr. Modesto G. Membreve former Regional Manager of Region 7 (top performer) is now the steward of Caraga Region starting November 3, 2011. In his acceptance speech during the turn-over ceremony, he asked the support of the Caraganon especially the NIA- IMOs to double their efforts to make the Caraga viable and to be one of the top performers of NIA.

As a former head of the Engineering Division in Region 10, of which Caraga is formerly a part of, he is optimistic that this region can reacquire its viability status like before, with the support of his colleagues, farmers and other stake holders.

The different field managers expressed full support and cooperation to the newly installed RM to attain viability and progress especially now that irrigation sector garnered a lion's share in the DA coffers.



During the first flag raising ceremony of the Regional Office with RM Membreve, he emphasized that there is a need to double our sacrifices in order to increase ISF collection and amortization from NIS and CIS respectively. He also mentioned that he asked for subsidy only once or twice for fear of calling the Caraga region a "spoiled son" by the Central Office.

He also vowed to replenish the said requested subsidy in due time.

With this development, the Caraganons are very optimistic that if RM Membreve was able to make his previous area, Region 7, viable with a scope of only 10,000 hectares, there is no reason why Caraga could not attain viability having a huge irrigated area of 53,000 hectares.

## HCAAP generates 580 hectares as 2011 ends

(from p 1)

HCAAP is a foreign-assisted project partly financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under Loan No. PH-P221. It covers 71 barangays in the 2nd district of Northern Samar, 34 barangays in Catubig municipality with an area of 1,500 ha and 37 barangays from Las Navas municipality with an area of 3,050 ha. Thus, the total programmed area for irrigation is 4,550 ha benefitting about 1,300 farm households. The Project involves the construction of three (3) diversion dams: Catubig, Hagbay and Bulao ; two (2) Project Demonstration Farms (PDF); 665 units public and communal toilets; 51 units footbridges; 130-kilometer (km) canal network, 208-km drainage canal, 127-km service roads, about 354-km main and supplementary farmditches; and land development for about 910 ha. When fully implemented, HCAAP is committed to alleviate the socio-economic conditions of the Catubig Valley by increasing agricultural production through the provision of irrigation and drainage facilities, rural infrastructure, health program, and to strengthen the productive activities with the development of agricultural and social support services and institution.// lrp



Catubig Right Main Canal



On-Farm Facilities & developed areas (Pinipisakan)



On Farm Facilities (Haremasan Area)

## **NIA Administrator visits typhoon damaged Ifugao irrigation systems, allots P40 M for rehab**

(from p 1)

Other damages incurred by the Irrigation system include eroded hillsides, washed out and heavily silted canals and embankments.

Initially, Hapid IS had a funding allocation of P10 million. However, after further evaluation of the damages, the Administrator committed an additional P30 M for the rehabilitation and restoration of the damaged facilities. Calamity funds were also allotted for the damaged communal irrigation systems in the province.

“Kinakailangan po ng maaayos na koordinasyon para po sa ikagaganda ng ating irigasyon,” Administrator Nangel said in a dialogue with the Ifugao farmers and NIA staff after the inspection.

He encouraged the irrigators’ associations to coordinate with the other DA-attached agencies and the local government units to take advantage of the agricultural programs towards the attainment of food staple self-sufficiency program of the government.

Also, the Administrator instructed officials of KIMP-IMO to prepare detailed study for the possibility of constructing a diversion dam for the Hapid Irrigation system so that year-round irrigation water is assured and the irrigated area may double.

Hapid IS, which is one of the three NISs in the Cordillera, has a total service area of 2,800 hectares in seven barangays of Lamut, Ifugao.

During the visit of Administrator Nangel on November 25-27, 2011, CAR was also blessed with the presence of DA Secretary Proceso Alcala and National Rice Coordinator Dante de Lima.



*NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel inspects typhoon damages at Hapid Irrigation System in Lamut, Ifugao on November 24. With the Administrator are NIA-CAR Manager John Socalo, KIMP-IMO Manager Raymundo Apil, Hapid IS Team Leader Jone Dulnuan, Division Manager Benito Espique and other NIA staff.*



*Administrator Nangel intently listens to and addresses the concerns of the Ifugao farmers during his visit to the province.*



## NIA Social Committee attends ComPlan Workshop

By: Clarizze C. Toribio, PRO-CO

To strengthen the Social Component of the MARIIS Optimization Project (MEP#2), the members of Social Committee attended a Communication Planning Workshop sponsored by SNAP on November 28-29, 2011 at their office in Makati City.

The workshop aims to develop and craft a co-branded (SNAP-NIA) communication plan for the MARIIS Optimization Project; build rapport and establish a good working relationship among the members of the committee; provide an opportunity to discuss and address communication issues relevant to the project; and prepare a cascade plan for the Technical, Environmental and Legal/Land Committees.

Officially organized, the NIA Social Committee composed of the following: Pilipina P. Bermudez, PAIS Manager; Aubrey R. Sarmiento, PR Chief-PAIS; Clarizze C. Toribio, PRO-PAIS; Heartie Navarro, Supervising IDO, IDD-CO; Melissa C. Agbisit, PRO-MARIIS; Bienvenido Besa, Institutional Development Chief B-MARIIS; and Mylene I. Malcedan, PRO-CAR.

Participants from SNAP were: Celso C. Caballero III, AVP Business Development, Antonio A. Ramos, External Relations Consultant and Veronica Adsua, CRS-SNAP Magat.

The workshop was facilitated by Atty. Mike Hosillos, Rodolfo T. Azanza, Jr., and Sharon B. Sarol.



## PAIS and IDD Managers hold conference

Determined to establish a strong linkage for the benefit of the organized farmers, a joint Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) and Institutional Development Division (IDD) Managers' conference convened on December 5-6, 2011 at the Farmers' Training Center, NIA-UPRIIS, Cabanatuan City.

The conference focused on the preparation of communication plan on Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) program dissemination and identification of collaborative activities on communication programs for PAIS and IDD at central and regional offices.



The ever supportive Administrator, in his message, acknowledged that the Irrigators Associations (IAs) are the backbone of NIA and to make them more productive, IDD plays an important part in their capability building.



Throughout the discussion, other important issues were taken up—status of the regional IDDs, identification of immediate needs, and presentation of suggestions.

In support to the IDD activities, PAIS pledged to produce information education communication (IEC) materials and to facilitate the conduct of workshop on developmental journalism. It was also agreed that regional Public Relations Officers and Institutional Development Officers would be working in tandem in disseminating information of the IMT implementation.

It was expected that the desired outcome from collaborative efforts of PAIS and IDD in the regional and central offices would be significant in strengthening the IAs.// *lrp*

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*

Christmas is the day everyone excitedly waits for – to celebrate the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ. Honoring God’s Gift to mankind this time of the year makes everyone pause from the hustle and bustle of life and reflect on the meaning of the reason for the season.

People from all walks of life prepare for this special event. And offices too, for this is the season to share and show that everywhere, even in workplaces, Christmas is the best time of the year to express the love and joy in our hearts.

Thus, to really feel and enjoy the spirit of the birth of our Saviour the NIA office enthusiastically prepared for the activities of 2011 Christmas celebration.

Offices were spruced up with re-used decorations and recycled materials for the holidays. Christmas trimmings such as lanterns, balls and lights were neatly arranged up on the trees enlivening the NIA grounds. The quadrangle once again looked so inviting to the kids (and kids at heart) to enjoy a leisure walk on a cool December breeze.

Sub-committees were formed in preparation for the coming Christmas celebration with a theme, *“Pasko sa NIA 2011-2020: Kasaganaan Panghabang Panahon”*. The 2011 NIA Christmas program was set on December 21 at the NIA Quadrangle.



## Office Christmas Decoration Contest

Keeping the tradition challenging, enjoyable and memorable prior to the scheduled program proper, contests for the Office Christmas Decoration and Lantern making were held on December 15. Seven (7) Offices vied for the Office Christmas Decoration Contest, namely: Human Resources Division (HRD) of the Administrative Department, Legal Services (LS), Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS), Internal Audit Services (IAS), Institutional Development Division (IDD) of the Operations Department, Design and Specifications Division (DSD) of the Engineering Department and NIA Consult, Inc. Judges made the rounds in the morning. Each office head/representative walked the Judges around the workplace and gave their interpretation of the decoration. What a thrill to see each office’s decorations and hear its relevance to the theme!



Ms. Wilma E. Caguioa presents HRD’s Christmas tree in 2020 made of used CDs.



Atty. Gene M. Dionio interprets the LS’s futuristic theme in silver and gold.



Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez shows the decors of PAIS made of old newspapers and used CDs.



Ms. Melinda L. Escudero reads the relevance of the IAS’s decoration.



Mr. Bayani P. Ofrecio presents IDD’s pride to the Judges.



Mr. Efren N. Rabara explains the presence of animals in the Belen of DSD.



Mr. Oliver M. Cimeni presents the NIA Consult’s Snowman made of hardened suds from Perla laundry bar soap to the amused Judges.



## Lantern-making Contest

In the afternoon of the same day, six (6) Offices competed in the Lantern making contest: DSD, PAIS, NIA Consult, Inc., Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP), IDD, and HRD. Lantern making started simultaneously and was allotted two hours to assemble. Teamwork pushed each group to squeeze creative juices and make the end-result simple yet beautiful and significant to the year's theme. A joy to watch as each team worked in synch, while co-employees showed support through their presence.



### JUDGES

Ms. Lolita M. Leyson, PNB-NIA Branch Manager, Ms. Vilma Vergara, Executive Assistant from NWRB, and Ms. Evelyn M.

De Guzman, State Auditor of NIA-COA comprised the first set of Judges for Office Christmas Decortion and Lantern-making contests.

## NIA Christmas Program

A Thanksgiving Mass at NIA Chapel started the NIA Christmas Program on December 21 with Rev. Fr. Glenn Gomez, SVD, as the officiating priest.



A three-hour delay due to some challenges was compensated with lively performance from recognized talents.



**The Synchronizers**



**RIO Beauties**



**Music Box Talents**



Sr. Deputy Administrator Antonio A. Galvez welcomed everyone as the program proper of 2011 NIA Christmas Celebration started. He reminded that this was the 4th week of Advent and in three (3) more days, everyone would celebrate the Lord's birth—the reason of joy.



## **Sectoral Presentation**

Proven to be the much awaited portion of the annual Christmas program was the Sectoral Presentation. Five groups accepted the challenge of interpreting the theme in futuristic song and dance production (Ultramodern year 2020). The sectors who exhibited flair and prowess, in order of presentation were: Operations Department, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations and Engineering Department, Administrative Department, CARP-IC, PIDP and SRIP, and Office of the Administrator, Sr. Deputy Administrator, Board Secretary, CorpPlan, PAIS, LS, and IAS.



**Operations Department**



**Office of the Deputy Administrator for Engineering & Operations and Engineering Department**



**Administrative Department**



**Office of the Administrator, Sr. Deputy Administrator, Board Secretary, CorPlan, PAIS, LS and IAS**



**CARP-IC, PIDP and SRIP**

## **Best in Costume Contest**

The presentation of Best in Costume was a sight to behold. Contestants in pair explained the significance of their costume. Participating pairs came from the Financial Management Department (FMD), LS, PAIS, PIDP and NIA Consult, Inc. Special participation of kids from IAS made the contest more colorful.



**PAIS**

**PIDP**



**NIA Consult, Inc.**

**FMD**



**LSD**

**Kids from IAS**

## **JUDGES**



Members of the Board of Judges for the Best in Costume and Sectoral Presentation Contests were:

Ms. Ma. Linda C. Decena of NIA-COA, Ms. Girlie L. Eria of PNB-NIA Branch and Ms. Araceli M. Angeles former Asst. Administrator for Administrative Services

## The Winners and Prizes

Administrator Nangel with Sr. Deputy Administrator Galvez and COA Auditor Ma. Linda C. Decena, as one of the members of the Board of Judges, awarded the winners of each competition. Pleased with the display of ingenuity and passion of the participants, Administrator Nangel added P5,000 and P2,000 for each contestant of Sectoral Presentation and Best in Costume—a reward for giving one's best. // *lrp*

ACTIVITY	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Consolation Prizes
LANTERN MAKING CONTEST	PIDP P10,000.00	DSD P7,500.00	HRD P 5,000.00	NIA Consult, Inc., PAIS and IDD P1,500 each
OFFICE CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST	PAIS P10,000.00	HRD P7,500.00	NIA Consult, Inc. P 5,000.00	-
SECTORAL PRESENTATION	CARP-IC, PIDP, SRIP P25,000.00	Ofc of DA for E. & O, and Engineering Dept. P20,000.00	Ofc of Administrator, SDA, Board, CorPlan, LSD, PAIS and IAS P15,000.00	Operations Dept. and Administrative Dept. P5,000.00 each
BEST IN COSTUME CONTEST	PIDP P10,000.00 for the winning pair	-	-	FMD, PAIS, LSD, NIA Consult, Inc. P2,000.00 each

### The Jubilant First Prize Winners



Lantern making Contest—PIDP



Best in Costume—PIDP



Sectoral Presentation—The Projects (CARP-IC, PIDP & SRIP)



Office Christmas Decoration Contest—PAIS

... the Joy that Christmas brings....



## NIA Regional Offices Celebrate Christmas



**C  
M  
J  
P  
P**



**C  
A  
R**



**B  
B  
M  
P**



**A  
R  
J  
J  
P**



# NIA Regional Offices Celebrate Christmas

REGION 1



REGION 2



REGION 3



REGION 4A



REGION 4B



REGION 5



REGION 6



REGION 7



REGJON 8



REGJON 9



REGJON 11



REGJON 13



MA RJ JS



REGJON 10



REGJON 12



UP RJ JS





## NIA and SNAP hold preliminary social committee meeting on Optimization of the MARIIS Reservoir Project

By: Melissa C. Agbisit, PRO-MARIIS

Cauayan City, Isabela – Officers of the SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP), Inc. joined the Manager of the National Irrigation Administration - Public Affairs and Information Staff (NIA-PAIS) and officials of NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS) on November 9, 2011 in an informal meeting for initial discussions on the social component of the Optimization of the MARIIS Reservoir Project.

Engr. Celso C. Caballero, Assistant Vice President for Business Development of SNAP and his staff met with Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez, PAIS Department Manager and Engr. Helsy S. Bermudez, the newly installed Acting Operations Manager for MARIIS. Engr. Caballero provided the new MARIIS chief and some members of the



SNAP-NIA Social Committee with an overview of the project. The project is a component of the Magat Expansion Project. The optimization of the MARIIS Reservoir proposes to operate the MARIIS reservoir up to a maximum level of elevation 107.75 meters above sea level (masl). It is currently operating within 101.5 and 104.75 masl.

This means increasing the storage volume of the MARIIS reservoir to allow increased flexibility in the operation of the existing generation units and possible installation of the pumped storage unit.

Also part of the project is the improvement of MARIIS Dam facilities and irrigation outlet works as proposed by NIA. The Optimization Project is covered by a Memorandum of Understanding signed between SNAP Inc. and NIA in July 2011.



Former MARIIS OM Antonio A. Ramos, now a SNAP Consultant, introduced the NIA-Central Office group composed of Ms. Bermudez and Ms. Heartie Navarro from the Institutional Development Division and Engr. Bermudez and the rest of the NIA-MARIIS Group which also included Engr. Wilfredo C. Gloria, Division Manager for Engineering and Operations; Erlinda B. Dizon, Division Manager for Administrative and Finance; Editha D. Morales, Chief Corporate Accountant; Bienvenido R. Besa, MARIIS Institutional Development Chief (IDC), and Melissa Agbisit, Public Relations Officer A.



Engr. Caballero welcomed the new MARIIS Chief's involvement in the project and took the chance to say his best wishes to Engr. Bermudez who celebrated his birthday the next day. Together with Ms. Sharon B. Sarol, SNAP Senior Community Relations Specialist (CRS), Engr. Caballero and the group agreed that the NIA-SNAP Social Committee on the Project composed of NIA IDCs and PROs and SNAP CRSs will meet again to come up with a communication plan.

The meeting was scheduled on November 28-29, 2011 at the SNAP Office.

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