



NIA DIGEST

THE OFFICIAL NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION 2011



Strength, magnificence and purpose of dam structures depict the strong holds uniting DA Sec. Proceso J. Alcala and NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel into **one significant goal...rice self-sufficiency for the country.**



The Rice Self Sufficiency Challenge

Bottomless rice", an irresistible offer from a fast rising restaurant attracts the rice eating Filipinos from all walks of life.

Rice remains the staple food of Filipinos. Each Filipino consumes 308.93 gms of rice daily in 2010, lower than the daily intake of 328.55 gms in 2009.(BAS) However, the population is growing from 88.57 million in 2007, 94.01 million in 2010, and predicts to be 101.83 million in 2011.(NSO) Indeed, the government is faced with the massive task of feeding the growing nation.

Food and Agriculture Organization states that food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. It also defines food sufficiency as being able to meet the consumption needs (especially staple food crops) from own production without resorting to importation.

Rice is the main crop in agriculture, thus rice self-sufficiency is one of the strategies to ensure food security. A principal measure to increase rice production is to increase the irrigated area and to improve unit yields.

With the government's determination to boost the harvest, palay production in 2008 was 16.82 Million metric tons (Mmt). Yet, the Philippines stood out as the leading rice importer the same year with 2.432 million tons, considered as one of the highest level on record. The major suppliers were Vietnam and Thailand. Succeeding years produced a lesser production. Back-to-back typhoons in

2009 adversely affected the harvest and had a production of 16.27 Mmt. The production in 2010 was further reduced to 15.77Mmt due to the onslaught of El Niño (BAS).

According to Dr. Liborio S. Cabanilla of the College of Economic Management, UPLB, the reasons the Philippines has been a chronic rice importer are: (1) the weather pattern is different from Asia's major exporter; the Philippines is subjected to an average of 19-20 typhoons every year; (2) the country's land configuration is a hindrance in holding water for a long period. The river systems are not as good as major rice producers like Vietnam and Thailand. Based on the geographic contour of the Philippines, when it rains, water naturally flows outside of the archipelago; (3) the country has not enough riceland and notes that the rice sector would need another 4 million hectares of riceland to be able to feed the whole population.

These conditions do not prevent the government to emphasize its efforts on increasing rice production. Thus, investments to infrastructure are provided for growth and productivity. Collaborative efforts of different agencies involve in palay production has yielded favorable results. Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) reports that palay production from January to June 2011 reached 7.577Mmt, 14.0% higher than last year's level of 6.621Mmt. The BAS report says this could be attributed to expansion in harvested area through repair and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities and improvement in palay yield.

Another factor worthy to consider is the country's rice yield which has done remarkably well from 1.16 tons per hectare in 1960 to 3.60 tons per hectare in 2010 and further improved to 3.8 tons for the first half of 2011. The rice yields in the Philippines are also higher than those in Thailand where yields over the last few years have been around 3 tons per hectare. Indeed, the country's performance is a balm that soothes the heart in time of crisis.

With the sporadic triumphs achieved along with the constraints cited above, there's still chance to attain the goal. The Department of Agriculture's, Food Staples Self-Sufficiency Program, wherein the Rice Self-Sufficiency Roadmap of the National Irrigation Administration is anchored and is tasked to make the country rice self-sufficient by 2013. Meeting head-on the challenge, unprecedented government investments for infrastructure specifically restoration, rehabilitation and generation are poured for the current year until 2013. With this, determined efforts such as farmers training, improved quality of seedling, and post-harvest facilities are now on the ground. These actions proved the government is bent to boost rice production.

Active involvement from all quarters is deemed necessary to once and for all maximize the efficacy of the allocated resources. After all, Filipinos are true-blooded rice-eating people.

--- "Far and away, the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing..."

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Nanay Medios: A Success Story

DON SALVADOR BENEDICTO, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

People call her Nanay Medios. A tiny woman in her 70's, Remedios Pananiban is an elder of the 120 members of the indigenous people's community in Don Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental. She was wearing one of her best dresses that day; there was a farmer's forum and along with the other members of the Irrigators' Association, she was excited to meet the secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Sec. Proceso Alcala.

Sitting beside NIA Administrator Antonio Nangel, who was also patiently waiting for the DA secretary, she told her own story:

"*Nalipay gid kami nga may irigasyon na kami* (we are very happy to have irrigation)", she said. "*Sang may irigasyon na dire, nakakaon nag gid man kami sang kan-on. Sang una talagsa lang kami gakaon kan-on, kalabanan root crops lang pero subong nga may irigasyon na, pirme na kami gakaon sang kan-on* (When we had the irrigation, we were finally able to eat rice. Before, we seldom eat rice, we eat root crops more often, but now that there is irrigation, we eat rice all the time)."

Rice is the staple food in the country and it had been a scarce resource to them until they had irrigation facilities.

"*Kanami sang pagbag-o dire sa amon nga lugar sa Brgy. Bunga!* (The change here in Brgy. Bunga is wonderful!)" She said. "*Sang may irigasyon na kami, nagdamo na patubas ang amon humay, ti pirme na lang kami gakaon kan-on* (When we had the irrigation, our rice production have increased and so we can eat rice more frequently)", she added. She was also happy to report that they are now able to offer rice to their visitors.

Adm. Nangel asked her, "*Pag maayos na ang irigasyon at na kumpleto na, ano ang gusto nyong itanim, palay o sugarcane* (If irrigation facilities will improve and facilities will be completed, what do you prefer to plant, rice or sugarcane?)"

To which, Nanay Medios immediately answered, "*humay* (rice)!".

Negros Occidental is known as a major producer of sugarcane. But Nanay Medios believes that most of them will transfer to rice production if irrigation facilities will improve and expand. "*Hambal sang iban, pag maayos na ang irigasyon, magtransfer na sa palay, kasi ang tubo, ilang buwan pa ang hihintayin bago magkapera* (other have said that they will transfer to rice production if the irrigation facilities are completed because in sugarcane production, one has to wait longer months before you earn from it.)"

She told the Administrator that they were provided with irrigation facilities only in 1983 when roads have been concretized. However, Nanay Medios said that only about 30% of their area is irrigated and that most of them still use the ever reliable carabao to till their land. It was something the Administrator took note of. Equipment and machineries in the farm is critical to rice production.

Nanay Medios has three children. All of them had graduated only from high school but Nanay Medios is proud of what she had managed to accomplish for her children. She recalls struggling for the baon (allowance) of her children for school until they were able to have access to irrigation. "*Sang una sang wala pa irigasyon te indi kami kapan-guma, wala ko ipabalon sa kabataan ko. Sang may irigasyon na, may ipabalon na ko sa ila amo na katapos sila sang high school* (Before, when there was no irrigation, we cannot plant rice and so I don't have money to give to my children for their school allowance. But since we had irrigation, I was able to give them money and so they were able to finish high school), she explains.

At her age, no one would think Nanay Medios still tills the land. "*Nanghagbas pa ko kaina sang aga sa kilid kahon* (I cleared off the grasses in the farm early this morning!)", she proudly exclaims. "*Kon wala ko gaubra, galuya lawas ko, pero kon makaubra na ko, maayo na ang pamatyag ko* (If I do not work, my body gets weak, but if I work, I begin to feel better)". She is expecting to harvest her produce in October, in time for her birthday. "I'll be 79 years old", she happily said.

As the emcee announced the arrival of Sec. Alcala, Nanay Medios stood up and got ready. Disappearing through the crowd, she was found later at the hall's entrance, beside the DA Secretary. Without waiting for the program to start, she took advantage of the opportunity and thanked the Secretary for how the DA and NIA had changed their lives.//

BY SUNSHINE B. JAMERO, PRO, REGION 6





Downloading WST in CAR Irrigation Systems

By: Mylene I. Malecdan, PRO, NIA-CAR



Participants learn how to make observation tubes during the Training of Trainers on WST in April 2011.



Engr. Mina Florague of PhilRice discusses some of the principles of AWD to TOT participants after the demonstration of installation of observation tube.



Farmer-cooperators in Apayao install observation tubes in their ricefields, which aid them to monitor the level of irrigation water and distinguish when to flood or not to flood the ricefields.

Efficient water management is an important factor in successful and sustainable rice production. With this principle in mind, NIA-Cordillera Administrative Region has continually advocated the adoption of Water Savings Technology (WST) to its constituents especially the field implementers. Water Savings Technology was initially introduced in CAR during a series of Orientation-Workshop on this technology held respectively in West Abulog Apayao Irrigation System in Apayao, Upper Chico River Irrigation System in Kalinga, HAPID Irrigation System in Ifugao and communal irrigation systems (CIS) in Abra on March 10, 11, 12, and 23, 2010. It was followed by a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Controlled Irrigation (CI) and Technology Updates on Rice Production at NIA Training Center in Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet on April 14-15. The TOT was attended by 34 future implementers providing them with sufficient technical information for effective technology transfer to farmers. Speakers and trainers of these orientations and TOT were staff from PhilRice and IRRI.

After the TOT, re-echoes and orientations of Irrigators' Associations on WST were held in the national irrigation systems (NIS) before observation wells were installed in the farms of farmer-cooperators. To date, observation tubes installed totals to about 30 Units.

WST is one of the identified mitigating measures to address the impact of climate change. It particularly includes the Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) or Controlled Irrigation, in which rice fields are flooded to a lesser extent, allowed to dry to pre-determined level, then subsequently re-flooded. This process requires the installation of observation well in rice paddies to monitor the status of field water above the ground and within the root system.

"15-30% of irrigation water can be saved using AWD without significant yield reduction," said Engr. Evageline Sibayan, Supervising Science Research Specialist of PhilRice and also the head of PhilRice Technical Working Group of WST, in one of the orientations held in the NISs of the region. "Other advantages of AWD include better root growth, balanced soil nutrients, weeds and snail control, among others.

During the crop growing period which is 21-30 days after seeding or transplanting, water level can be allowed to drop 15 cm (dry season) or 20 cm (wet) below ground surface. However, this does not apply during the flowering stage when five cm depth has to be maintained and during fertilizer application. During grain filling and ripening, the water level can drop again to 15 cm below the surface before reflooding.

The application of WST in irrigation systems in the country is mandated by Administrative Order No. 25, s. of 2009 otherwise known as Guidelines for the Adoption of Water-Saving Technologies in Irrigated Rice Production Systems in the Philippines. //

NIA-ARIIP RE-REGULATING POND: CATERING TO THE NEED FOR IRRIGATION

By: Angelito E. Arceo II, PRO-ARIIP



Construction at Re-regulating Pond

As the irrigation systems in Region I, particularly in the province of Pangasinan have to be rehabilitated, improved and/or constructed with new ones for more farm areas to be supplied with water by the National Irrigation Administration's Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project (ARIIP). This Project has to push through with its road map to irrigation development. The realization of this Project was made with the approval of the Preferential Buyer's Credit Loan Agreement for the construction of the Re-regulating Pond Facilities by The Export-Import Bank of China on November 09, 2008. Prior to the approval, and as mutually agreed upon, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed on January 15, 2007. The MOA facilitated the utilization of the loan being extended to the Philippine government by the Peoples Republic of China. Under the terms and conditions, China CAMCI Engineering CO, LTD has entered into contract with NIA as the Chinese Contractor for the construction of the Re-regulating pond dated May 25, 2009 with Contract No. APIPI-C-1.

The Project

Amidst issues and problems that cropped up during the past years and with the immediate implementation of the Project, revisions and reviews on the requirements for approval of the loan were tackled.

Finally, the Project came up with a Modified Revised Plan, basically the same concept as that of the Revised plan but which placed emphasis on the reduction of cost with the modification of the structural alignment such as construction of the Left Bank Protection Dike, excavation of the Right Bank and construction of the Right bank Protection Dike. Considering the technical aspect on the feasibility and economic considerations on the Modified Revised Plan in which case shall not implicate negative social impacts, therefore, will not involve relocation of the inhabitants.

The Project objectives include the 1) improvement of the operating performance through a modernization-based rehabilitation package 2) Increase crop yield and cropping intensity through physical and procedural innovation 3) enhance the farmer's crop income and living condition through increased crop production and, 4) stimulate economic activity in the service area through employment in the project and expanded farm activity.

The ARIIP has a total service area of 34,450 hectares involving a total of 28,207 farm families. The ARIS covers 17 municipalities and one city in the province of Pangasinan - Mapandan, Malasiqui, Sta. Barbara, Calasiao, Mangaldan, Manaoag, Laoac, Binalonan, Villasis, Asinagan, San Manuel and the city of Urdaneta. The ADRIS covers the municipalities of Natividad, San Nicolas, San Quintin, Sta Maria, Tayug and Balungao.

NIA REGION 7 HOLDS STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS, LONG TIME CLAMORS HEARD, PROBLEMS UNFOLDED, SOLUTIONS FORGED

BY JF LAMBOJON - ADMIN SERVICES CHIEF/PRO



The Bohol Integrated Irrigation System belongs to us, this is our legacy, let us all join hands to preserve it, and be one in solving whatever predicaments to ensure everybody is benefitted by it” Says, Engr. Modesto G. Membreve, the soft-spoken Regional Manager of NIA-Region 7 during the opening of the 2-day Stakeholders Meetings held at the NIA-Capayas office at Calanggaman, Ubay, and NIA-Malinao Office at Poblacion, Pilar both in the Province of Bohol on September 1 and 2, 2010, respectively.

Said meeting was participated in by the enthusiastic stakeholders consisting of farmer-leaders, LGU executives, led by the Provincial and Municipal Governments of Bohol, JICA Officers led by Director General Yasushi Tanaka of JICA-Tokyo, Japan and Mr. Ryutaro Kobayashi of JICA-Philippines as well as representatives from NGOs such as Womens Development Center (WDC), Kinabuhí Inc., Farmers Development Center (FARDEC, Inc.), ALMAPBDA, Friends of Earth (FoE-Japan)

The two-day summit was geared to encourage the farmer-beneficiaries of Bohol Integrated Irrigation System (BIIS), as the affected and resettled residents during the project construction, to bring to the fore all relevant problems and issues they encountered during project implementation. Likewise, it aimed to solicit commitments from other government agencies, local and national, and reach concrete solutions on farmers’ concerns.

Willed by wisdom and experience, the Manager himself who rooted from a clan of humble farmers of Bohol, steers the one year old- Regional Office headway not only by improving what are in place but most importantly by strengthening the very reason of NIAs existence, the farmer-beneficiaries.

The BIIS was conceptualized and designed way back in the late 70’s to serve a total area of 10,040 hectares, from which 4,740 hectares for Malinao Dam area known as BHIP 1 and 5,300 hectares in the combined Bayongan and Capayas Dams known as BHIP II, covering the municipalities of Pilar, Alicia, Dagohoy, San Miguel, Ubay and Trinidad, all in the province of Bohol.

This highly agricultural municipalities with high potential of water sources were seen then to sufficiently boost rice self-sufficiency in Central Visayas and one of the landmarks of the government’s programs for food sufficiency and poverty reduction.

However, in his one year stint as Regional Manager he observed based on the records that the BHIP I which has been a decade operational with a total serviceable area of 4,740 hectares can serve only a little more than 3,000 hectares with more than a thousand hectares disparity every cropping season, the covered unirrigated farmlands remain unproductive to still hopeful beneficiaries and to NIA being a GOCC is dependent upon its income for operations and maintenance.

Determined to put everything in order, Engr. Membreve tapped the findings of the JICA and positively acknowledged the information from the different NGOs in making an all-encompassing dissection of the Bohol Integrated Irrigation System consisting the Malinao, Bayongan and Capayas Dams, in the province of Bohol to make sure that on its way to progress nothing is left unattended.

In this endeavor, the Director took the painstaking task by personally taking the reigns of the activities to ensure that the benefits due to the farmer-beneficiaries must be given now with the creation of the new regional office. During the two-day activities, exhaustively discussed were the issues on land leveling problems, water shortage, ISF collection issues, problems of resettled and affected residents during the project implementations such as resettlement boundaries and livelihood.

With the active multi-sectoral participation of both government and non government entities and the liberal dealings of NIA management, the initially hot issues boiled down into a happy brainstorming and the forging of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) where every one enthusiastically acknowledged responsibility and manifested willingness to take part in the improvement of the Bohol Integrated Irrigation System, the only National Irrigation System in Region 7, a “spring of life” for the present tillers’ and those of the future generations.

MOA signed between NIA and the Bureau of Corrections for the construction of the Iwahig

– Balsahan Irrigation Project right inside the compound of the Iwahig Penal Colony in Puerto Princesa City. The ongoing project is funded under GAA with a project cost of P 40 Million. It has a potential area of 414 hectares and benefits 120 inmates of the Iwahig Penal Colony. This is our significant contribution to the people who are imprisoned. This means that we are not discriminatory on the beneficiaries of irrigation but are ready to be partner in their rehabilitation and preparation for their reintegration to our society.





BRIS RIP FINALLY UNDER NOIMO MANAGEMENT

BY SUNSHINE B. JAMERO, PRO, REGION 6

The Bago River Irrigation System Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (BRIS RIP) is finally under the management of the Negros Occidental Irrigation Management Office (NOIMO) since it was turned over from the NIA Regional Office in a simple ceremony on January 20, 2011 at the Negros Occidental Provincial Capitol Social Hall.

The turn over ceremony was led by former project manager of BRIS RIP and currently the NIA Regional Manager Gerardo P. Corsiga. It was witnessed by the local chief executives of the towns and cities covered by the project, members of the Federation of Irrigators' Associations in Central Negros, YLTA consultants and staff of NOIMO headed by Engr. Joel A. Basiao.

BRIS RIP was a project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency under a loan agreement amounting to Ph 1.868 B. It has a firm up service area of 11,954 has. serving about 9,627 farmers. The project benefits towns and cities being served by the Bago River Irrigation System: Bacolod City, Bago City, La Carlota City and the Municipalities of Murcia, Pulupandan, San Enrique and Valladolid. It was implemented from 2003 to 2009 and was turned over from the office of the BRIS RIP to the NIA Regional Office in 2010.

Governor Alfredo G. Marañon, Jr., in his challenge to NOIMO told Engr. Basiao not to hesitate in asking the provincial government for assistance for repairs of the system. "Kon kinanglan ang repair kag guba ang inyo equipment,

hulam ka sa probinsiya!" (If repair is needed and your equipment is broken, borrow from the province!)

With the formation of the System Management Committee involving all concerned LGUs in partnership with NIA in the operation and maintenance of the Bago River Irrigation System, Engr. Basiao is positive that NOIMO, can improve its services in achieving the common goal for rice self-sufficiency by 2013. //



RM Gerardo Corsiga hands over the symbolic BRIS RIP Key of Responsibility and Management to Engr. Joel Basiao. Standing behind are mayors or selected LGUS with Negros Occ. Gov. Marañon.

BACOLOR CIS RISES

BY ELISEO V. BITANGCOL, PRO, REGION 3

Committed with the aspiration to extend irrigation service to lahar-affected lands of Bacolor, Pampanga and likewise uplift the status of living of the farmers thereat through developed farming, DOTC Secretary Ping de Jesus, D.A. Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and NIA Regional Manager Manuel L. Collado collaborated to make this dream a reality. An intake type of structure will be constructed along the Gugo Creek to divert irrigation water to rice lands and make it productive.



The proposed Bacolor CIS project is prioritized for implementation to irrigate an initial area of 350 has. lahar-covered rice lands with about 262 farmer beneficiaries. The service area terrain is almost flat and located more or less 57 kms. northwest of the NIA Regional Office in Bulacan.

The source of irrigation water is the Gugo Creek which was found to be sufficient to irrigate the service area as validated several times by the Regional Manager and staff from the Regional Office and Pampanga Irrigation Management Office.

Other related activities necessary for the said project was identified and delegated to all concerns to fast track its implementation. Immediate conduct of Feasibility Study and Detailed Engineering activities is on-going as preparatory works prior to the actual construction of the

project..Meeting with potential beneficiaries is set to discuss IA participation to Preconstruction activities.

An intake type of structure is proposed to construct in the existing spillway right side of the Gugo Creek facing downstream between the transversed dike. A 5,663-meter long Main Canal, a Lateral A Canal of 5,900 and Lateral B Canal of 3,352 meters that will convey irrigation water to the service area were appropriately designed to serve its purpose. The project has a proposed funding of 100 M.

The once luscious site of life and productivity buried by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 and rendered the area lifeless and unproductive for two decades will soon rise from the tragedy.

"United we stand, divided we fall". This truism exemplified the unity among the farmers, barangay and government officials in Guimba, Nueva Ecija which led to a triumph. They were hand-in-hand in supporting the rehabilitation of the old CIS/SWIPS/reservoirs and heavily silted canals in the area under the slogan "Kinampanya ng mga magsasaka... Sinuportahan ng mga tunay na Lingkod-Bayan... Sama-samang ipatutupad ng TAMA para sa BAYAN..." The farmers are now using the newly rehabilitated old CIS/SWIPS/reservoirs and irrigation canals in the north and western barangays of the said municipality to support the irrigation of their crops mainly during the wet season and part of the area during the dry season while waiting for the implementation and completion of the Casecnan Phase II.

On 29 November 2010, the rehabilitation of the old CIS/SWIPS/reservoirs and canals which was assisted by the DA, NIA, LGU and other sectors, was inaugurated. It was attended by NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, Project Manager Alexander G. Coloma, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael V. Mariano, DA RFU 3 Director Jerry D. Baliang, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and Nueva Ecija Board Member Baby Palilio and Guimba Mayor Boyito Dizon.

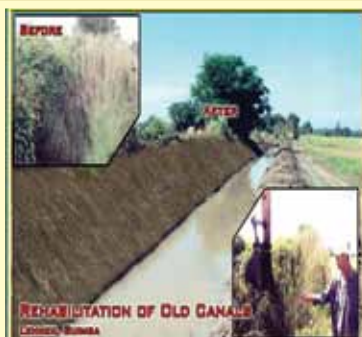
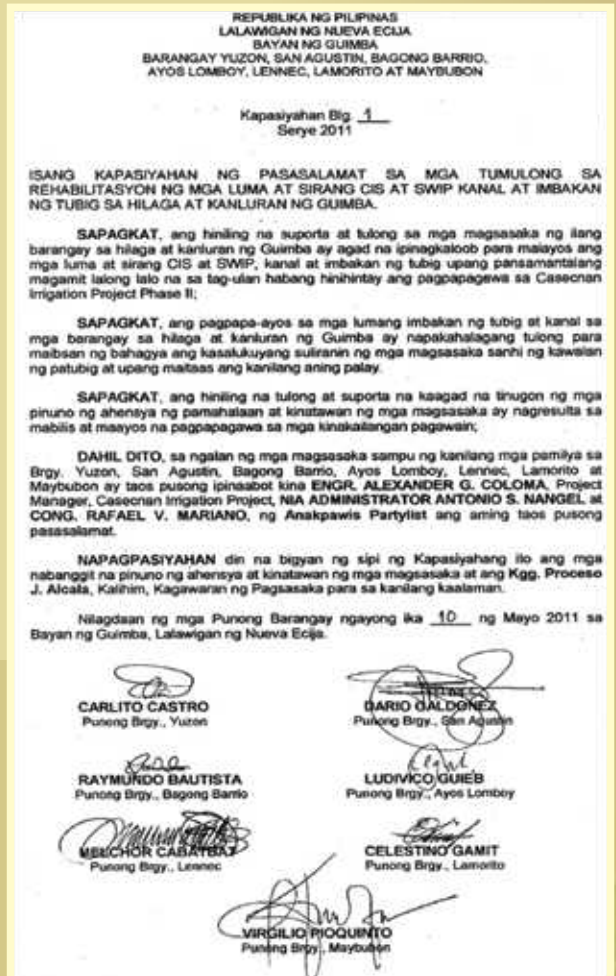
The rehabilitation works covered the old CIS and SWIP of Ayos Lombay, Yuzon, Bagong Barrio, San Agustin, Lennec, Lamorito and Maybubon in Guimba. They were completed on 15 May 2011 covering an area of 3,800 ha, benefitting 2,262 farmers with total expenses of P15 M. Its completion was the start of realization of the farmers' dream for irrigation water.

The works done by administration improved the old canals and increased the water storage of the farm reservoirs to support rice productions and eventually improve yields with a cropping intensity of 100% during wet season and 20-25% on dry season.

The farmers were very grateful especially to Casecnan Project Manager Alexander G. Coloma, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and Cong. Rafael V. Mariano for all the benefits of the rehabilitation works. The concerned barangay chairmen expressed their gratitude for all the support and assistance extended to them through Resolution No. 1 s. 2011. Copies of Resolution were given to the above-mentioned heads of agencies, farmers' representatives and to DA Secretary, Hon. Proceso J. Alcala.



(L-R) Acting Project Manager Alexander G. Coloma, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael V. Mariano, DA RFU 3 Director Jerry D. Baliang, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and Nueva Ecija Board Member Baby Palilio





FOLLOWING A SURVEYOR'S TRACK

BY: JAIME S. FLORA

Acting Storekeeper, ZNorte/Sibugay IMO, Region IX

The terrain tends to be gearing down a steep cliff towards the proposed dam site since it is not accessible, the survey team chooses to negotiate the rocky hillside- creeping under thick bushes before reaching the rushing river below. The lead man stoops low in crouching position, his limbs too close to an ants' mound. Nevertheless, he succeeded planting a teepee to the ground as their initial reference point. This first benchmark signalizes the beginning of a more rigorous cycle ahead of them - it maybe for weeks or months. Everyone knew the importance of a survey team in the implementation of irrigation projects as they are actually the front-liners for that matter. After a rainfed farmland is identified and proposed as project, surveyors are the first NIA personnel to be fielded thereat, exploring these idle lands and presuming that the project will be funded and pushed through. These may become arable lands many would remember that once upon a time these men had crisscrossed and traversed. NIA engineers have complete trust on the data the surveyors feed. The designs of diversion works depended much with the profile and cross section of the river that these surveyors relentlessly labored. The

topographic map the draftsman drew is ascertained nearly exactly as it appeared, by the manuscript they provided. The surveyors along with the NIA engineers, also identify the canal lines' best course, leading to supposed lateral canals and ditches. They also pinpoint where structures will be built, of course, some of those are with the help and recommendations of the farmers. They execute paddy mapping of the existing paddies, some of which are located in separate patches – not adjacent or connected with each other. When a project is finally completed, they do surveys again going back to these paddies and divide these into segments, identifying whom these particular areas belong to. This is technically termed as parcellary survey.

Normally, a NIA survey team comprises six to eight members, including the instrument man, a recorder, 2 chainmen, 3 rodmen and utility. Their skills are simply cunning – they devise some methods as opposed to theories, yet it is effective and accurate. They are clever yet assertive. It is very seldom that one or two of them hold a college degree especially the rod men and chain men but



proven to be expert on this craft. They may not be neighbors and relatives, but curiously they do the daily routine in an exemplary teamwork. Coherence and teamwork - these qualities bind them wherever, whenever.

STA. JOSEFA PUMP IRRIGATION PROJECT ON GOING IMPLEMENTATION

BY: SILVESTRE C. ALBORES, PRO, REGION 13



PUMPING STATION

The implementation of Sta. Josefa Pump Irrigation Project (SJPIP) in the municipality of Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur is a realization of a project the farmers have been dreaming of for quite a long time now. Thanks to the two units excess pumps from the Lower Agusan River Pump Irrigation System (LARPIS) to be installed at SJPIP thereby irrigating 2,787 hectares of rainfed areas benefitting some 758 farm households and accumulating an additional farm income of Php 119.64 M at its full development

Although the area is almost fully cultivated and planted to rice and corn, it remains a headache to the farmers, especially when there is no rain to obtain water for their plants' survival. Some of them were able to group themselves and constructed brush dams from nearby creeks. They also acquired water pumps to provide irrigation water but these cannot hold throughout the cropping season as the water sources will eventually dried out during the onset of dry season.

Funded under Fund 101, the total updated project is Php 557,642,686.90 which started in July 2008 and will hopefully be completed in December 2011. This project was also realized through the efforts of the politicians in the province.

Once completed, this will contribute to the increase in rice production in the CARAGA region consistent to the Administration's quest for a rice sufficient Philippines by the year 2016 and thereafter.

CANUYEP — F. NAÑADIEGO CIS: A DREAM COME TRUE TO CANCELAO PAG-ASA IA

BY: MENCHU G. RESURRECCION, REGION IVA

The CaNaSid Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) covering the barangays of Canuyep, F. Nañadiego and San Isidro is located 10 km south of Mulanay, Quezon and 154 km from Lucena City. A decade ago, construction of irrigation infrastructure with funding from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) was jointly implemented by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the Cancelao Pag-asa Irrigators' Association under the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project II or ARISP II. Initially, completed infrastructures for the 89 hectares service area being cultivated by 67 farmers included an ogee-diversion and other appurtenant facilities. Of the Php13,650 M chargeable cost, sufficient equity was generated from the LGU of Mulanay providing the 25% (Php3,47 M) thru the full support of former Mayor Prudencio M. Maxino Jr., and the 5% (Php 624,236.27) coming from the IA through labor participation.

On the onset of irrigation activity, a five-km farm-to-market road linking San Isidro and Canuyep was completed along with the Cambalu Bridge and San Isidro Rural Water System Level 1. This facilitated transporting inputs and products and insured access to potable water of the residents. Complementing these structures was the installation of a flat-bed dryer by BPRE-DA and the funding support from the cooperatives to support livelihood projects.

To maximize irrigated and benefited area of the system, another program of work amounting to Php2,352 M for canal lining was implemented in CY2008 realizing increase in both irrigated area and average yield of palay production from 46 to 89 hectares and from 70 to 85 cavans, respectively. From these benefits, the IA was able to advance

amortization to NIA in the amount sufficient to cover five years.

After all the irrigation infrastructure and agricultural support of the government, the Canasid ARC which used to be inaccessible during wet season can now transport all their products to as far as Lucena City. Canuyep CIS is now considered the rice granary of the Bondoc Peninsula supplying rice requirement of the town's 50,000 people and adjacent municipalities. Aside from palay, harvested crops such as coconut, banana, jackfruit, corn, peanut and watermelon which used to be fed to animals are now marketed profitably. The integrated rural development approach has uplifted the socio-economic condition of the majority of ARC beneficiaries. The average annual net income per hectare is P40,000 in rice; P21,372 in coconut; and additional P500 to P1,500 per month from other crops. No wonder, ARC members were able to send their children to college, fully paid the land amortization to the Land Bank of the Philippines, repaired their house, afforded basic needs and many more. For those who have capital, they were able to establish businesses engaging in palay and other products.

Farmers' trainings were also crucial in the ARC development. Various government agencies such as NIA, LGU of Mulanay, DAR, DA, LBP and Fundacion Santiago had their own share of inputting from basic organizational development process building the ARC vision, mission and objectives to leadership skills, managing finances, system management on the part of the IA to marketing of products. On the other hand, the cooperative has undergone training on business planning, credit and savings system, rice production, poultry management, vegetable production, goat raising, watermelon/peanut and cassava production benefiting farmers of useful technology.

At present, Cancelao Pag-asa IA Inc. plans to avail the MC 27 s. 1991 of NIA. The full ownership of their land will lead the IA to focus more on repayment of irrigation fee. Indeed, Canuyep — F. Nañadiego CIS is a dream door away from poverty, and that door is now opened. The IA President, Anselmo R. Emta, Jr. and members of Cancelao Pag-asa IA through former Mayor Prudencio N. Maxino Jr. express their sincere gratitude to NIA.

Bukas na Liham

Sa pangalan ng mga magsasaka ng bayan ng Mulanay, Quezon, aming ipinararating sa pamunuan ng National Irrigation Administration ang lubos na pasasalamat sa biyayang sa tuwina'y aming natatanggap sa pamamagitan ng patubig sa barangay F. Nanadiego at Canuyep. Sa loob ng nakaraang ilang taon ay siyang nagpabago sa buhay ng aming magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng pagseguro ng tubig para sa kanilang sakahan na kung minsan ay nakakadalawang ani kung maganda ang ulan. Marahil kalabisan ng ipaliwanag pa ang kahalagahan ng patubig sa ating magsasaka. Alam nating lahat na sa paglaki ng ani dahil sa patubig, di lang natin sila nabigyan ng magandang ani, binigyan din natin ng pag-asa ang kanilang mga supling na mag-aaral upang sa pamamagitan ng tumaas na kita ay mangarap makatuklas ng karunungan.

Bilang dating Punong Bayan na sa ilalim ng aking panunungkulan nagkaroon ng kagapan ang proyektong nabanggit, lubos din ang aking pasasalamat sa tanggapan ng NIA, at sa mga kawani nito na magpahanggang ngayon ay patuloy ang pagsubaybay sa aming magsasaka upang sila ay akayin sa mga tamang paraan ng pagsasaka. Napakahalaga ng inyong ginagawa bilang kawani ng pamahalaan. Sa pamamagitan ninyo, nagkakaroon ng mukha ang paglilingkod sa bayan, kayo ang tulay na nagpapatibay sa paniniwala ng mamamayan na may pamahalaan na gumagabay at nagmamalasakit upang ang buhay magsasaka ay makatugon sa pangangailangang ng pamilya.

Nawa'y lalo ninyong pag-ibayuhin ang paglilingkod sapagkat kayo ang higit na makakatu-long sa ating mga kababayan habang ang ating bansa ay nananatiling agricultural. Muli ang aking lubos na pasasalamat. Pagpalain Nawa Kayo Ng Panginoon.

PRUDENCIO M. MAXINO JR
Former Mayor, Mulanay





ASN VISITS BANAOGANG PUMP IRRIGATION PROJECT

BY LUZVIMINDA R. PEÑARANDA, PAIS-CO

In between a tight schedule, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel (ASN) visited the Banaoang Pump Irrigation Project (BPIP) in Ilocos Sur on June 9, 2011. After a briefing conference with BPIP officials led by PM Santiago P. Gorospe, RM John N. Celeste with key regional office personnel, and China National Constructional and Agricultural Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CAMC) managers, he proceeded to the BPIP Pumping Station Complex in San Mariano, Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

Among the features of the complex presented by CAMC Managers, Mr. Richard Cheng and Mr. Daniel Liu, to ASN and party were the state-of-the-art Pumping Station Computer Control System, the seven (7) units electric powered pumps designed for 6,000 ha, and cooling water pumps. The Administrator was impressed with the facilities as compared to other pumping stations he had seen before. Afterward, he led the field inspection along the main canal, making observations and giving instructions. His instructions were to put a rain gauge station every 500 ha, cut trees along canal embankment, put up a staff gauge in the inlet to know Q, coordinate with LGU, and implement water management. Nine Irrigators Association Presidents and farmer-members expressed their heartfelt gratitude to ASN for the construction of the BPIP. The partial operation during the Dry Season of 2010 gave the farmers a glimpse of the benefits reaped from the irrigation project. In his message, the Administrator encouraged the farmers to use water wisely and assured them of NIA's readiness to assist them in availing agricultural support services offered by the government.

The construction of the BPIP is being financed by the People's Republic of China thru the CAMC. The project has put up one pumping station and sub-station, installed seven (7) units of electric powered pumps, and constructed 1.40-km tunnel and 614-m closed conduit, 18-km main canal and 32-km lateral canals. It also built a 90-km main and 176-km supplementary farmditches, 50-km O&M roads, 30-km drainage canals and 11.80-km



transmission lines. It aimed to provide irrigation service to seven (7) municipalities of Ilocos Sur such as: Bantay, Vigan, Caoayan, San Vicente, San Ildefonso, Sto Domingo, and Magsingal, with the generation of 5,232 ha of new areas and benefitting about 4,000 farming households.

Engr. Gregorio S. Dumandan, Operations Department Manager, Engr. Julieta V. Dumandan, OIC of Construction Management Division, Engineering Department and Engr. Lydia S. Esguerra, Technical Assistant, Office of the Administrator joined Adm. Nangel on this trip.

After two extensions, BPIP is now scheduled for turn over to Region 1 for operation and maintenance before the year ends.

NIA-Legal Services Department attends PAGCLAW 1st General Assembly

BY: AMIBELL B. CORPUZ

NIA Legal Services Department headed by its Manager, Atty. Genever M. Dionio attended the 1st General Assembly of the Philippine Association of Government Corporate Lawyers, Inc. (PAGCLAW), on July 7, 2011 at Airport Casino Filipino, PAGCOR Drive corner Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Paranaque City.

Part I of the programme was the arrival and registration of government-lawyer participants, followed by a Call to Order by no other than the Government Corporate Counsel, Chairman, PAGCLAW, Hon. Raoul C. Creencia. After the PAGCLAW President's Report by Atty. Ricardo S. Arlanza, Vice President, Banking Legal Services Department, Landbank of the Philippines, election of new sets of Board of Trustees followed.

Atty. Genever M. Dionio, was elected as one of the Board of Trustees of PAGCLAW, to serve for a period of two years. Part II of the program was the Message of Chairman's PAGCLAW Hon. Raoul C. Creencia, followed by the oath taking of the newly-elected trustees administered by no less than Vice President Jejomar C. Binay.



Region 5 news support for CamSur reforestation



MEETING THE PRESIDENT President Benigno Aquino III shakes the hand of NIA Bicol Regional Director William P. Ragodon during his arrival at the tree planting site of El Verde Movement in Sto. Nino, Pili, Camarines Sur. NIA Region 5 has committed to support the movement that aims to plant 12 million trees in Camarines Sur until 2012. Others in photo are CamSur Governor LRay Villafuerte (right) and DA Bicol Regional Director Jose Dayao (2nd from left).

DIAZ-BATARA TANDEM: A SYSTEM FEDERATION LEADERSHIP THAT BINDS

BY: ARSENIO C. FERNANDO, NIA-INIMO

The Labugaon River Irrigation System (Labugaon RIS) was a component of the Palsiguan River Multi-Purpose Project (PRMP)-Phase 1 and later called the Ilocos Norte Irrigation Project (INIP). The system was constructed through Grant-In-Aid by the Government of Japan as a Pilot Project of the PRMP-Phase 1 and was operational in 1982.

Initially, there was only one Irrigators' Association, the Sodin Tina Flame Bearer Federated Zanjas, Inc. which was organized by NIA and integrated with the system. The proposed upstream service areas of the Labugaon RIS then was not yet served as the existing farmers associations resisted to integrate with the system and claimed they can irrigate their farmlands through their own resources. But sometime in 1987, some of the reluctant farmers' associations started to join the NIA mainly because of difficulty in diverting irrigation water from the river due to frequency of typhoon. In 1998, the remaining individual zanjas upstream joined the system.



The IA Officials together with NIA I.N. IMO personnel in preparing the receipts of each DCC paid by 11 IAs of Labugaon RIS

Eventually, the Labugaon RIS Federation of IAs was organized and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission with Mr. Mariano Diaz as its first federation president. Since then, Mr. Diaz became the president of the federation as he has always been re-elected every election period. Only the Vice Presidents for External and Internal Affairs were being changed. Mr. Diaz is a good leader with strong determination to implement the IA Regulations and By-Laws as well as NIA policies. This earned him credits by virtue of his accomplishments as federation president.

However, more remarkable accomplishments of the Labugaon RIS Federation of IAs have been achieved in CY 2010, when Mr. Henry Batara joined the leadership as Vice President (VP) for Internal Affairs. Mr. Batara is a three-term SB Member of Solsona, Ilocos Norte. Since his election, problems on water delivery and distribution at the federation level were significantly minimized, if not totally avoided. He initiated policies which were approved by the Board like imposing fines and penalties to the concerned IA leader or president should any of his IA members violated any agreement or policy formulated by the federation particularly on water delivery or diversion schedules, maintenance and even on supposed behaviors in federation meetings.

The latest significant policy adopted on a Federation Board Meeting of October 22, 2010 through the initiative of VP Batara was the simultaneous remittance of Development Cost Contribution (DCC) by 11 IAs of Labugaon RIS set on November 25, 2010. All the IA presi-

dents or the federation BOD concurred to the policy in the presence of the heads of the Operations Unit, Institutional Development Unit and the IDO assigned in the area. Some conditions stated on the approved policy were to be followed strictly, such as: a) the amount of remittance made by each IA to NIA on that date shall be the basis of proportioning the water diversion/delivery duration for each IA regardless of area planted this dry season 2010-2011; and b) an IA that will not comply with this remittance schedule shall be deprived of diverting water from the system until such time that its (IA) DCC obligation is remitted to NIA.

At first, this agreement seemed not feasible to the concerned IAs considering that Php 489,375.00 was the total amount of the system's Current DCC collectible to be remitted in just one day. Then collection/remittance activity planned for November 25, 2010 was set at the residence of Federation President Mariano Diaz. The collection team composed of heads of Operations Unit, Institutional Development Unit and two IDOs proceeded to the venue without the Chief of Office. INIMO Division Manager, Engr. Danilo V. Gomez, had to

regretfully turn down the verbal request of the federation officers due to some pressing appointment at the Central Office.

Doubtful of the positive outcome of the activity that day, the collection team presumed that only about 50% of the total Php 489,375.00 current collectible would be remitted by the federation IAs. The Federation Board Directors were already at the remittance site when the NIA personnel arrived, thus, issuance of receipts for DCC remittances of the eleven IAs lasted for only about one hour. The result - a whopping four hundred seventy seven thousand four hundred eight six pesos (Php 477,486.00) was remitted to NIA within that short span of time. Only one IA made a partial remittance. Its leader claimed that some farm areas under his responsibility needed to be re-surveyed or recomputed.

This was the biggest collection/remittance for Current DCC ever done within a short time since the IAs started paying for DCC - a significant accomplishment. Indeed, it was a showcase of a model joint effort of system federation leaders: the Diaz-Batara tandem ... the leadership that binds.



The IA Officials together with NIA I.N. IMO personnel in preparing the receipts of each DCC paid by 11 IAs of Labugaon RIS



MARIIS PROVES SUPPORT TO RSSR

BY MELISSA CURAMENG-AGBISIT, PRO, MARIIS

MARIIS IA CONGRESS SUCCESSFUL! DA SECRETARY ALCALA CHALLENGES ISABELA FARMERS TO TOPPLE NE AS TOP RICE PRODUCER



Cauayan City, Isabela – “Pwede po bang lampasan ng Isabela ang Nueva Ecija bilang pangunahing prodyuser ng palay dito sa Pilipinas?” Secretary Proceso J. Alcala of the Department of Agriculture, teased the crowd of hundreds of farmers gathered at the grounds of the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System on May 18, 2011 for the Annual Irrigators Congress.

Amid brightly-colored tents, presidents and members of the 363 Irrigators Associations in MARIIS, local government officials, regional officials of the different DA line agencies and MARIIS staff and employees clapped and cheered, accepting the challenge.

Engr. Mariano G. Dancel, MARIIS Operations Manager said the Congress was an opportunity for MARIIS to strengthen its partnership with its IAs and more importantly for the IAs to know their significant role in the implementation and success of the Food Staples Self-Sufficiency Roadmap for 2011-2016.

Food Staples Rice Self-Sufficiency Roadmap

Dir. Valentino C. Perdido, Regional Technical Director of the DA-Regional Field Unit 02 presented the FSSR objectives and the interventions necessary to accomplish them. The roles of the different DA line agencies were explained stressing that they need to work together with the local government units and non-government organizations to successfully implement the FSSR.

For strategic implementation, the IAs are seen as convergence point in irrigated lowlands.

IAs in Focus

Full support from all line agencies of the DA will be given to the IAs including technical assistance from the Agriculture Training Institute; capacity building training; primary and secondary farm machinery; post harvest facilities; credit, insurance and market tie-up; and variety trial and seed production.

Secretary Alcala, who was in the province for the fifth time since he was installed as the DA Chief, said that the programs of the agency will be implemented through the IAs. He shared that National Program Coordinator for Rice and Corn Mr. Dante De Lima is working on a training program for cer-

tified seed growers from the IA ranks. “Improved seed grade is invaluable in increasing production yield,” he explained. He added that with the savings from the previous rice subsidy program, the agency is now focusing on improving post harvest facilities. As he has committed during his previous visits, 40 solar dryers will be provided to Isabela IAs, 20 from the agency and the other 20 will be coming from the provincial government as committed to by Governor Faustino S. Dy III.

“Mechanical dryers will also be given to the IAs,” the Secretary said. He added that for the IAs in MARIIS, the DA will award 2 carabaos with farm implements and 100 bags certified seeds.

Increase Irrigated Area, Increase Rice Production Administrator Nangel shared that as part of the FSSR, NIA targets to irrigate an additional area of 250,000 to 270,000 across the country from 2011-2016. From this 6,000 hectares will be from MARIIS and 25,000 will be from NIA-Region 2.

He added that the construction of three hydrodams in Isabela is in the pipeline and feasibility studies are now being undertaken. Further, he encouraged farmers to practice multi-cropping like ratooning to increase rice production.

MARIIS OM Dancel shared currently MARIIS is irrigating 80,921 and it intends to irrigate 86,631 hectares and correspondingly produce 72,700 MT of rice. He added that to increase current rice production MARIIS links its IAs to the Land Bank of the Philippines where they could be granted financial assistance at low interest rates.

As of April 30, 2011, LBP Region 2 and Eastern Cordillera Administrative Region has lent financial assistance to 57 CIAs/IAs in Region 2 with a total credit line of P214 million. “Majority or 26 CIAs are from Isabela with a P135.4 million credit line,” said Mr. Benjamin B. Acosta, Assistant Vice President and Branch Head of LBP-Cauayan, Isabela.

“At least a month before start of the season we already conduct meetings to help them prepare necessary documents to avail of the loans,” he added. With sufficient funds, farmers can afford to buy high grade seeds and fertilizers to assure high yield. To stress the importance of increased production, MARIIS recognized the Best Farmer for Dry Crop 2011, Mr. Ciriaco C. Sillayo for posting 244 cavans average yield, the highest for last season (see separate story).

MARIIS also links the IAs to all the DA line agencies and the local government units through System Management Committee Meetings

Local government's all out support

Isabela Governor Faustino S. Dy III assured the farmers present that the provincial government is all out in providing its support to the government's program. It has been providing a price subsidy for palay. “On top of the P17 price of the National Food Authority, the Governor provides P2 -subsidy for the farmers’ first 50 deliveries,” Dir. Ruben J. Reside, Regional Director NFA-Region 2 said.

The provincial government is ready to help farmers by providing financial assistance through cooperatives at 0% interest. “Forty million has been allotted for this,” he shared.

If irrigation is improved, there is no reason to think Isabela could not supply the demands for rice, Governor Dy added.

Congressman Napoleon S. Dy expressed concern over the NFA's inability to procure the rice produce of some farmers because they do not have passbooks as they are not given to all. Hearing this, Sec. Alcala said he will discuss the matter with the NFA Council to see if there is a way to make the application for passbooks easier, through the LGUs.



Onwards Food Staples Self-Sufficiency by 2013. DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala and NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel with MARIIS OM Mariano G. Dancel, Isabela Governor Faustino S. Dy III and DA-RFU 02 Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr.



NIA PARTNERS WITH SNAP-MAGAT & BFAR FOR EFFICIENT WATER USE DALOY-MAGAT LAUNCHED

Ramon, Isabela— The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and SN Aboitiz Power-Magat (SNAP-Magat) launched an extensive agricultural and livelihood that aims to promote efficient water use and help sustain farmlands and fishpond operations in Isabela despite the impact of climate change on water supply.

The project, dubbed DALOY MAGAT or Dependable Agriculture and Livelihood through Optimized Water Use Yearlong in Magat Dam, Isabela commenced with the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement done by NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, SNAP-Magat Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel V. Rubio, BFAR Regional Director Dr. Jovita P. Ayson and the representatives of RAMCOR, Octagon, OC # 1 and OMC Series CIAs in Division I of the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System.

Daloy-Magat is a social collaboration which intends to equip farmers and fishermen with information on scientific water use and agricultural techniques to help them secure their operations and mitigate impact of water shortage.

The venture is very timely as Isabela was one of the provinces severely affected by the El Niño phenomenon early this year which resulted to significant damage in agriculture.

Engr. Nangel, commended SNAP-Magat for being a responsible business partner. "Ang SNAP-Magat ay isang huwaran na dapat (gawing) pamantayan," he said.

"SNAP-Magat is happy to be partners with NIA (on the project)," Mr. Rubio said.

Referring to the primary components of the project as WATER USE or water advocacy; artworks and collaterals; trainings and lectures; environmental projects; research and monitoring; utilization of media support; sustaining news stories; and evaluation, Mr. Rubio said the project would initially run for six months. The first batch of training is scheduled in January 2011. ###



MOA SIGNING. NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, MARIIS OM Mariano G. Dancel and SNAPM CEO Emmanuel V. Rubio listens to Engr. Antonio A. Ramos introduce the project.

NIA, SNAP-MAGAT INK MOU ON MAGAT PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

Ramon, Isabela—Administrator Antonio S. Nangel marked his 100th day in office with the signing of what he calls a model of Public-Private Partnership.

Administrator Nangel and SN Aboitiz Power—Magat Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel V. Rubio signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Feasibility Study of the Magat Hydro Electric Power Plant Pumped Storage Project on December 15, 2010 at the SNAP Magat Office here.

The Project consists of the installation of an additional powerhouse adjacent to the existing powerhouse and up to 180 MW of pumped storage generating capacity and ancillary equipment, installation of trashracks and gates on the existing intakes that lead to the penstock blockouts, installation of additional penstocks to convey water from Magat Dam to the new powerhouse, increasing the live storage capacity of MARIIS Reservoir; and additional storage capacity upstream of Magat Dam.

Administrator Nangel noted that the event is significant as it represents "a triumph in our vision". "(This MOU signing) signifies that now, it is not only the government but also the private sector that is interested in improving our irrigation system," he explained.

He added that the partnership reflects the progressiveness on the part of both the NIA and SNAP-Magat. "(The project's success) would not just spell profit for the private sector (SNAP-Magat) but also increased productivity for our farmer-sector beneficiaries," he said.

Mr. Rubio said that as a part of the private sector, they would like to give back to the community where they operate. "And when we are able to give back that's when we are successful," he said. And that he looks forward to the project implementation and seeing it completed and inaugurated in 2014. ###

PINAKAMAHUSAY NA MAGSASAKA SA MARIIS PINARANGALAN



Mang Acong ng RM 2 & 3 IA ng Division IV ay itinuring na pinakamahasay na magsasaka matapos nyang magtala ng pinakamalaking ani nitong katatapos na Dry Season sa buong nasasakupan ng MARIIS.

Halos isa't sangkapat na ektarya ang lupang sinasaka ni Mang Acong, at mula dito ay nakapag-ani siya ng 295 cavans "labas-thresher" o average yield na 244 cavans kada ektarya, higit na mas mataas sa naitalang 109 cavans na average yield ng MARIIS.

Si Mang Acong, ay tipikal na magsasaka. Ang kanyang

ama't ina ay mga magsasaka at maaga niyang natutunang mahalin ang lupa. Dala ng kahirapan, dalawang taon lang ng High School ang natapos ni Mang Acong ngunit hindi ito naging hadlang upang maiangat nya ang antas ng kanyang kabuhayan.

Simula 1974 ay nagsasaka na si Mang Acong. Ito ang nagsilbing kabuhayan nila ng kanyang maybahay na si Loreta at kanilang tatlong anak. Sa masigasig na pagsasaka at pagsisikap, napagtapos ni Mang Acong sa kolehiyo ang kanyang tatlong anak at isa dito ay isa ng Electrical Engineer.

Kahit napagtapos na nya lahat ng kanyang mga anak, patuloy pa rin si Mang Acong sa pagsasaka at hindi siya tumitigil na sumubok ng mga makabagong paraan ng pagsasaka upang higit pang mapagyman ang kanyang lupain at para sa katatapos na taniman, siya nga ang nagtala ng pinakamataas na ani. Dahil dito, siya ay ginantimpalaan ng isang hand tractor mula sa SN Aboitiz Power Group, isa rin sa mga maituturing na katuwang ng Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig sa pagbibigay ng magandang serbisyo sa mga magsasaka.

RICE PRODUCTION PRACTICES & YIELD

as adopted by Mang Acong

• Area Planted & Harvested	1.21 hectares
• Total Production	
Thresher Output (cavans of 50 kg)	295 cavans
Average Yield/ha	244 cavans
• Rice Production Technology/Practices	
-> variety	NSIC Rc 132H (SL-8)
-> land preparation	21 days with 7 days interval per activity (plowing, harrowing, leveling) using hand tractor
• Seedling method	Wet bed using a seedbed area of 600 sq. m.
• Methods of planting	Straight row (20 x 16 cms)
• Seedling age at planting	19 days
• Fertilization rate	13 bags
14-14-14	5 bags
46-0-0	4 bags
17-0-17	3 bags
40-0-60	1 bag
• Practice of Application	Basal (at planting) & split top dressing (3x)
• Agri-chemicals used	
Molluscicide	1 pack
Weedicide	1 liter
Insecticide	2 liters



MEET THE NEW CHIEFS OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES



Engr. Conrado V. Cardenas, Jr.
Region IV-B

Pursuant to EO 103 dated 17 May 2002, NIA-Region IV finally splits (operation) into IV A (CALABARZON) and Region IV B (MIMAROPA) by virtue of Board Resolution No. 7678-11 (14 March 2011) and Office Memorandum 26-2011 (29 March 2011) by Adm. Antonio S. Nangel. Newly installed Interim Officer In-Charge is Manager Conrado V. Cardenas Jr. who holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Lucena University (1980) and a Master of Public Administration from the Union College of Laguna (2009). A true NIAan ever since, Mgr. Cardenas began government service as CE Aide in May 1980 at Quezon PIO. His managerial skills in irrigation was honed in succeeding field assignments such as Romblon and Malatgao/Batang-batang RIS in Palawan as Irrigation Superintendent and concurrent Provincial Irrigation Engineer until he became Division Manager of Palawan IMO. Known to many as "Jojo", he is the Region IV's consistent Best Performer from 2005 to 2009. In 2010, the Best Participatory Approach Program in CIS and NIS was awarded to the young manager. His guiding principles for these accomplishments are CVC "Collaborate for Viable Communal" and JVC "Justifiable and Viable Communication". His popularity among employees is not due primarily to his good looks but rather on his energy and motivation. He loves sports and appreciates music. Mgr. Jojo is a faithful husband to Lutchy Cardenas (nee Aquino) and loving provider to Francis Konrad (26) and Ciara Anne (23).NRG

Engr. Gerardo P. Corsiga started his career with NIA in 1987 at the Northern Leyte Provincial Irrigation Office as an Engineering Assistant. In 1996, he worked for the Lower Agusan Development Project in Butuan City and was promoted through the ranks until 2006. He joined the Bago River Irrigation System Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (BRIS RIP) in Negros Occidental as Principal Engineer in 2007. He eventually became the Project Manager of BRIS RIP until November 2010, when he was appointed as the new Regional Manager of NIA Region VI. A result-oriented man, Engr. Corsiga seems to be very stern; but to people closer to him, he is a very congenial and good natured man who simply likes to sing and hum around, eat and laugh like there's no tomorrow. He is the embodiment of simplicity - always prefers to wear sport shirts and canvass shoes even at formal gatherings, feels ridiculous and uneasy in a barong and prefers baby cologne as a gift for Christmas. He is married to Ma. Delia Modina Corsiga who is also a public servant working with the Department of Trade and Industry and they are blessed with four children. Engr. Corsiga was born and educated in Tacloban City. He finished his Civil Engineering degree from the Divine Word University and Master in Public Administration from the Medina College in Ozamis City. He celebrates his birthday every January 13.



Engr. Gerardo P. Corsiga
Region VI



Engr. Alejandro D. Alberca
Region XIII

Born on June 2, 1956 and a native of Davao del Sur, Engr. Alejandro D. Alberca, "Randy" to his peers obtained his first college course, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering (BSAE), at the University of Southern Mindanao, Kabakan, North Cotabato in 1979. He joined NIA as Assistant PIE of Davao del Sur PIO from 1979 to 1992. He was assigned as Assistant PIE of South Cotabato PIO. In 1998, he was assigned as IS of Marbel-Banga RIS (6,100 ha.) in Region XII. It was during his incumbency that the System was awarded as Most Outstanding IS. His quest for further knowledge led him to finish the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE) in 1983, Degree of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) in 1990 and Master in Business Administration (MBA) in 1997 at Corjesu College at Digos, Davao del Sur. He earned units in Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) at the University of Southern Philippines, Davao City in 2000. He was assigned at LALIK and Davao del Norte Irrigation Management Office (IMO) covering 21,600 ha. and garnered numerous awards. Due to his untiring efforts that contributed to the viability and fame of every office he was assigned at, Engr. Alberca received prestigious awards, such as: Most Outstanding Irrigation Superintendent from CY 2000 to 2002; Hall of Fame Awardee for Outstanding Irrigation Superintendent for CY 2003; Most Distinguished Award from CY 2004 to 2007 and Lifetime Achievement Award for CY 2008. His exemplary leadership catapulted Davao del Norte IMO as the Most Outstanding IMO for Region XI in 2009. On December 7, 2010, he was designated as Acting Regional Manager of Caraga Region.

CSC CONDUCTS SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR CENTRAL OFFICE SECTION CHIEFS

By: Aubrey R. Sarmiento, PR Chief/PAIS



The Bible declares in Proverbs 18:15 that "intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge". This is the reason why leaders are learners - the moment we stop learning, we also stop leading. NIA believes in this old adage and sees the potentials of its future division and department managers. Through the Civil Service Commission, Supervisory Development Course Track 1 was conducted on June 7 to 10, 2011.

The course has three modules: personal effectiveness; supervision, a challenge and a commitment; and communication, the secret to organizational effectiveness. Completion of each and every module brought realization and self actualization to the participants, besides the fun filled learning experiences through sharing in various group activities.

Beginning with the topic "what makes a winner", CSC resource speaker Ms. Lily Asprer induced the minds of her audience by asking "Are you a winner in the eyes of your staff? How about your managers, do you see them as winners in your eyes?" as everyone shared different views and opinions, the bottom line is that personal effectiveness by becoming a winner begins with knowing and understanding the inner

Session on the challenge and commitment in supervision conveyed a different level of understanding concerning the changes and transitions as experienced from simply working as a staff to becoming a supervisor. Losing the rights to an exact 8-5 job, say just anything and lose temper, pass the blame, resist change, and have favourites. Moreover, a supervisor must be ready in facing the twin-challenge up on, "work" and "people" for supervision itself means accomplishment of desired goals through and with others, mobilizing resources and nurturing relationships. Activities in module 3, communication with Ms. Thelma Japzon, retired director of CSC



self, focusing on the things to achieve and properly managing stress related work. Thus, to assume authority, accept responsibility and make the right choice are basic actions to maintain the balance of getting desired results and enhancing personal abilities and assets.

NCR - fashioned a deeper and meaningful fellowship among participants. Although communication involves speaking and listening, the manner of which it is applied is frequently altered by too much speaking and too little on listening. This is commonly the cause of misunderstanding, disagreement and misjudging. Then again achieving purposeful communication through effective listening bridges the gap, promotes harmony, encourages support, initiates appreciation and acceptance. As children of God who made our mouth and ears, the Bible declares in James

3:2-12 - the three reasons why we must watch what we say, (verses 3-4) our mouth directs where we are going, (verses 5-8) our mouth can destroy what we have, (verses 9-12) our mouth displays who we are.

Since out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth overflows... an effective supervisor must build a team by getting a new heart... and be able to say positive encouraging words to achieve desired goals.

ARS/PAIS





SMC MEETING CONTINUES TO PROGRESS

BY: RICARDO C. LOPEZ, LUIMO

Sudipen, La Union - In MC 2 S. 1991 and MC 36 S. 1997, NIA directs the establishment of System Management Committee (SMC) in all national irrigation systems (NISs). Its functions are to plan and evaluate the irrigation system's operation and maintenance (O&M) every cropping season. The Committee consisting of NIA, IA Presidents, LGUs, National and Regional line agencies and other stakeholders conducts meeting to evaluate the concluded cropping season, recommend and agree plans and activities for the succeeding cropping season for better and improved irrigation system's O&M.

The result of mid-term evaluation of Technical Cooperation Project 2 (TCP2) in eight sites nationwide revealed the establishment and/or strengthening of SMC. Thus, SMC was included as one of the activities of NIA-JICA TCP2. It was emphasized that SMC shall serve as a forum for meetings to reflect farmers' views and experiences in the management of irrigation systems and to achieve a consensus between NIA, the farmers and other stakeholders on key matters which are vital in improving the management of the irrigation system. Therefore, Masalip RIS and Amburayan RIS as among the eight TCP2 sites, had formally installed its SMC Officers and members with funding support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in January 2010. SMC Officers and members of Amburayan RIS and Masalip RIS were inducted to office by RIM John N. Celeste and Division Manager Helsy S. Bermudez, respectively. Since then, SMCs in these systems have been consistently conducting meetings at least three times in every cropping season. TCP2 is also pouring support not only financial

but also technical in nature until the year ends. Recently, JICA Expert Hiromasa Suzuki challenged the Committee to sustain its activity even without assistance from JICA.

Likewise, SMC members from line agencies expressed their support and commitment in the farming activities of the IAs. The regular conduct of meeting paved the way for timely delivery of information on programs in support to irrigation like fertilizer, seeds, loans, marketing and post-harvest facilities.

Significant results of SMC include, namely, the adoption of "downstream – start approach" in cropping calendar and water delivery and distribution; strengthening of linkages between line agencies as evidenced by an increase in number of IA who availed post-harvest facilities, production loan, marketing assistance, seed subsidies, seed production; and, commitment of LGUs to assist the IAs in implementing O&M policies as well as enactment of Municipal Ordinances prohibiting the dumping of garbage and any kind of waste materials to the irrigation canals and other water ways. As the SMC meeting continues to progress, NIA and IA Federations envision for stronger and more harmonious partnership in the irrigation system's O&M leading to the implementation of NIA's IMT Program.

As Chairman of the committee, NIA plans to introduce another activity of the SMC - institutionalizing the monitoring and evaluation form as directed by TCP2 PMO to provide a clearer description of activities and outputs and to easily translate the level of performance of an irrigation system.

NIA-XI CONDUCTS HYDROLOGY WORKSHOP ON STUDIES AND ANALYSIS REQUIRED IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES

BY: BADETTE G. ROBIN, REGION XI

NIA-XI Engineering and Operations Division concluded the 3-day Hydrology Workshop on Studies and Analysis required in the Feasibility Studies on April 6-8, 2011 at the NIA Conference Hall, Davao City. Aimed at enhancing the skills and updating the knowledge of the planning engineers, the workshop focused on the new modified penman method on the computation of evapotranspiration and preparation of cropping pattern which method is adopted in the preparation of the Feasibility Study Reports (FSR) as this needed among others in complying the planning requirements of the proposed projects.

Regional Manager Felix M. Razo on his inspirational message expressed appreciation on the timely conduct of the seminar as many proposed projects await the preparation of the feasibility studies and compliance of planning requirements. He said capabilities of the planning engineers will increase by the knowledge and skills they will acquire from the seminar and thus, make them more effective in the delivery of service to the farmers.

Attending the seminar were sixteen (16) planning engineers and staff from the Irrigation Management Offices of Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley and engineers of the regional planning section. They were impressed of the knowledge acquired as the figures, data and graph they have encountered in the water duty and cropping patterns for some years now, has taught them its derivation, computation and analysis in this training.

Topics discussed were about the Ten-day Rainfall and Run-off, Flow Duration, Crop Evapotranspiration and its Circulation, Modified Penman Method, Water Requirement and Cropping Pattern.



NIA's 48th Anniversary Celebration

NIA 48th Anniversary Celebration and Irrigation Week

Theme: "Sa maayos na patubigan at sakahan, masaganang ani ating makakamtan"



Atmosphere of "Fiesta sa NIA" was undoubtedly felt during its fun-filled week long anniversary celebration on June 20-24, 2011. Started with a colorful and lively parade of delegates from the different Regional, Irrigation Systems and Project Management offices, team members marched at the flagpole area with a choreographed moves, led by their managers and stunning muses, such remarkable view brought delight to the audience. As a sign of gratefulness to the efforts contributed by working committees, guests and delegates, the memorable opening program began with an inspirational message by the Sr. Deputy Administrator Antonio A. Galvez, followed by equally significant encouraging words and challenge from the NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel.



48th year for NIA and 1st year for Administrator Nangel as the head of the agency, he inspired, surprised and impressed employees of different NIA field offices, with the ongoing improvements and beautification of central office building and facilities, the "no import" sports activities, high spirited chorale and cultural competition, fun games, ARDOMA and PMS sponsored dinner and socialization. The occasion somehow promotes bonding among employees, nurtured relationships, bridged the gap of distance, dialect and culture, united by one common desire to make the merriment as gratifying to imprint in everyone's hearts and minds the feeling and memory that this 48th anniversary celebration created...

ARS/PAIS

"People should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God."

Ecclesiastes 3:13 NIV





MARIIS

CENTRAL OFFICE

REGION VII

REGION IX

REGION XII

REGION VI

CAR

CENTRAL OFFICE

NIA levels-up its Cultural Dance Competition

NIA in its **48th** conducted its annual cultural dance competition which aims to teach emotional fitness through teamwork as each group experience will bring dependability, responsibility, commitment, sportsmanship, discipline, creativity and awareness of the value of the art of dance.

This friendly competition among the NIAns promotes artistic excellence in different cultural dance forms.

The event was participated in by 10 competitive groups from Central Office, CAR, MARIIS, UPRIIS, Region 5, Region 6, Region 7, Region 9, Region 10 and Region 12. This year's common dance is a Maria Clara dance called "Aray": a Filipinized version of the famous Spanish Aragonese dance "Jota". Armed with their confidence, mastery of steps and glamorous costumes and props, each group also showed the different Filipino dance of their choice during the 2nd part of the event which makes the event not only entertaining but Malso informative.

This event is so significant to Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, as he celebrates his first NIA anniversary being the head of the agency. The man who seriously supports this kind of competition was behind the breath-taking performance of the unbeatable UPRIIS dancers.

The participants were scored by 3 judges who excelled in the field of dancing: Miss Maria Clara O. Villareal of Douglas Nierras Powerdance and Philippine Educational Theatre Association; Miss Ane Palaruan and Miss Emily Jane Baldemor of ARTS@HOME.

At the end of the event, the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS) won their 3rd year and defended their title as the Cultural Dance Champion. Region 5 and Region 10 dancers won the 1st and 2nd Runners-up respectively.

Indeed, the NIAns are not just public servants but are also talented people who are proud to promote the Filipino Culture. CCT

**UPPER PAMPANGA RIVER
INTEGRATED IRRIGATION SYSTEM
CHAMPION
48th NIA Anniversary
Cultural Dance Competition**



**REGION V
1st Runner-up
48th NIA Anniversary
Cultural Dance Competition**

**REGION X
2nd Runner-up
48th NIA Anniversary
Cultural Dance Competition**



REGION IX

REGION XII

REGION VI





FIVE REGIONS JOIN THE NIA CHOIR COMPETITION

BY LUZ VIMINDAR PEÑARANDA, PAIS-CO

All roads led to the NIA Convention Hall in the afternoon of June 22, 2011, the third day of celebrating the 48th NIA Founding Anniversary Week, for the much awaited NIA Choir Competition. In the midst of daily activities, NIAs paused to participate and enjoy the celebration with friends from field offices. Even the top management officials headed by Administrator Nangel took time to enjoy the night away. The activity for the night aimed to rekindle interest in cultural songs and music and to create a spirit of friendly competition and sportsmanship.

Three young accomplished musicians and educators shared their passion in the field of music by gracing the occasion as judges. They were Prof. Angelito Ayrán, Jr., Mr. Lester Delgado and Mr. Emerson M. Hernandez of Centro Escolar University Conservatory of Music.

This year, the competition has five performers coming from Region 1, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan; Region 2, Cauayan City, Isabela; Region 3, Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan; the defending champion, Region 8, Tacloban City; and Region 10, Cagayan de Oro City.

Each choral group presented three songs – the NIA Jingle, native song of their choice, and the contest piece entitled “Only World” by Carol Banawa. Among the mechanics given were: each Choir has a total of eight (8) minutes to perform the three required pieces; the NIA Jingle shall be performed for only 60 seconds; the choir may cut or re-arrange the NIA Jingle without losing its message and thought; and they have the option of either performing with taped music, singing acapella and playing with their own instruments. Costumes and choreography were also encouraged. Garbed with elegant costumes, the five regional

performers executed each song with passion and flair. Thus, the judges took time to tally and evaluate scores. As Prof. Ayrán declared the winners, he acknowledged and commended the enthusiasm and the talent of each choral group. Prizes at stake for winners were P 50,000.00 and a trophy for the 1st Place, P 30,000.00 and a trophy for 2nd Place, P 20,000.00 and a trophy for the 3rd Place, and P10,000.00 for consolation prizes.



Choral group winners (from top)R10, R3 and R8 with top management officials, regional managers and the judges of the recent NIA Choir Competition

Region 10 bagged the 3rd place, Region 3 won the 2nd place, and Region 8 brought home their 3rd Championship Award. Choral groups from Regions 1 and 2 received P 10,000.00 each.

It was a lovely night with delightful music. The songs performed alive refreshed the memory and soothed the senses. Truly the choir competition gave us the opportunity to bring back our love for traditional songs and music, and treasure the moments of fellowship with friends whom we have not seen for a time.

NIA SPORTSFEST

48th NIA ANNIVERSARY SPORTSFEST June 20-24, 2011 WINNERS



MAIN EVENT

OVERALL

CHAMPION: Region VI
1st Runner-Up: Region III
2nd Runner-Up: Region I
3rd Runner-Up: Region II

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

CHAMPION: Region VI
1st Runner-Up: Region III
2nd Runner-Up: Central Office
3rd Runner-Up: BBMP

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

CHAMPION: Region VI
1st Runner-Up: MARIIS
2nd Runner-Up: Region I
3rd Runner-Up: Region II

BADMINTON

CHAMPION: Central Office
1st Runner-Up: Region III
2nd Runner-Up: Region V
3rd Runner-Up: Region XIII

DART

CHAMPION: Region VI
1st Runner-Up: Region III
2nd Runner-Up: Region XI
3rd Runner-Up: Region XII

TABLE TENNIS

SENIOR MIXED DOUBLES

CHAMPION: Region VIII
1st Runner-Up: Region VII
2nd Runner-Up: Region XIII
3rd Runner-Up: Region XI

TEAM EVENT

CHAMPION: Region V
1st Runner-Up: Region XII
2nd Runner-Up: Region IV
3rd Runner-Up: UPRIS

FUN GAMES

BAYWALK BODIES

CHAMPION: Region X
1st Runner-Up: Region IX
2nd Runner-Up: Region VI
3rd Runner-Up: BBMP

OBSTACLE RACE

CHAMPION: Region VI
1st Runner-Up: MARIIS
2nd Runner-Up: Region IX
3rd Runner-Up: BBMP

FAMILY APIR

CHAMPION: Region III
1st Runner-Up: Region VI
2nd Runner-Up: BBMP
3rd Runner-Up: Region II



2010 AWARDEES

1. **Plaque of Commendation**
Edgardo P. Salvado – Region XI
2. **Outstanding ISF Collector of the Year**
(P20,000.00 each)
Generoso P. Tan – Region 11
Teresita N. Magno – UPRIIS
Delfin S. Tagra – Region 10
3. **Most Outstanding ISF Collector of the Year**
(P30,000.00)
Jovencio T. Guiyab – MRIIS
4. **Outstanding Frontline Irrigation Manager of the Year** (P20,000.00)
Joselito A. Mangunay – Division 4, UPRIIS
Reynaldo D. Puno – Division 2, UPRIIS
C'zar M. Sulaik – Division Manager, Cotabato IMO, Region 12
Eugenio O. Conde, Jr. – Division 5, UPRIIS
Jimmy L. Apostol – Division Manager, Bukidnon IMO, Region 10
5. **Most Outstanding Frontline Irrigation Manager of the Year** (P30,000.00)
Josephine B. Salazar- Division 3, UPRIIS
6. **Best Managed Frontline Irrigation Service Award**
(P30,000.00)
Division 3, UPRIIS
7. **Most Improved Group Performance** (P20,000.00)
NIA Region 9
8. **Regional Irrigation Manager of the Year** (P30,000.00)
Alberto B. Lacuaren, NIA, Region 9
9. **Most Distinguished Service Award** (P50,000.00 each)
Antonio S. Nangel – UPRIIS
Reynaldo C. Mencias - ARIIP
Reynaldo C. Adao – CARP –IC
10. **Hall of Fame Award** (P40,000.00)







NIA's 48th Anniversary Celebration

CY 2010 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING IRRIGATORS' ASSOCIATIONS

NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM (NIS) CATEGORY		
RANK	NAME OF IA AND ADDRESS	CASH AWARD
GREGORIO B. DOMINGO 4th Runner-Up	BAGNOS IA Bagnos, Aurora, Isabela Division 3, MRIIS Cauayan, Isabela	P15, 000.00
NEMESIO B. NIOG, JR. 3rd Runner-Up	WEBAMSI IA Maygatasan, Bayugan Agusan del Sur, Andanan RIS Region XIII, CARAGA	P25, 000.00
ABRAHAM C. SENDIONG, JR. 2nd Runner-Up	PATAG-CORUNA IA Maramag, Bukidnon Roxas-Kuya RIS Region X, Cagayan de Oro City	P30, 000.00
DANILO M. EA 1st Runner-Up	NAPAL-CONEL ROAD IA	P75, 000.00
EDGAR L. COCOY Most Outstanding	BALISONG SAN VICENTE IA	P100, 000.00
ISIDRO M. DEMETILLO 5th Runner-Up	BAYAWAN UNITED FARMERS IA Nangka, Bayawan City Bayawan CIS, Negros Oriental Region VII	P 10,000.00
BAUDELIO D. PEREZ, SR. 4th Runner-Up	KASAVIFIA Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur San Vicente CIS, Region IX	P15, 000.00
RUFINO C. FLORESCA, SR. 3rd Runner-Up	BULACANON IA Bulacanon, Makilala Bulacanon, CIS, Region XII	P25, 000.00
ERIBERTO D. BANGIS 2nd Runner-Up	SAN JUAN IMPASUG-ONG LA FORTUNA IA La Fortuna CIS, Region X	P30, 000.00
HELARIO R. AMAS 1st Runner-Up	BOAN BIDA IA Rosario, Agusan del Sur Boan CIS, Region XIII	P75, 000.00
LEMUEL O. ALVOR Most Outstanding	BASAK-PANGUTOSAN CARP-IA	P100, 000.00





OUTSTANDING CARP IRRIGATOR'S ASSOCIATION CY 2010		
IA	OFFICIALS	
2nd Runner-Up Kauswagan-San Vicente Farmers IA, Inc. Region IX Zamboanga del Sur	IA PRESIDENT RIM IMO	Mr. Baudelio D. Perez, Sr. Engr. Alberto B. Lacuaren Engr. Joel C. Atay
1st Runner-Up Tumbaga Bucal I IA, Inc. Region IV Quezon	IA PRESIDENT RIM IMO	Mr. Edwin Baladad Engr. Efren S. Roqueza Engr. Bienvenido S. Tesnado
Most Outstanding Basak Pangutosan CARP IA, Inc. Region XI Compostela Valley	IA PRESIDENT RIM IMO	Mr. Lemuel Alvior Engr. Felix M. Razo Engr. Cornelio M. Bautista, Jr. Engr. Carlito A. Carasco



NIA's 48th Anniversary Celebration



PRACTICAL SHOOTING, A PASSION SHARED TO BRIDGE OUR BORDERS...

BY: AUBREY R. SARMIENTO, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF/PAIS

CHAMPION
EXECUTIVE DIVISION
GERARDO P. CORSIGA
REGION VI



2ND RUNNER-UP
EXECUTIVE DIVISION
ROBERT C. SUGUITAN
CENTRAL OFFICE



1ST RUNNER-UP
OVERALL CATEGORY
VIRGILIO ILAO
REGION III



2ND RUNNER-UP — OVERALL
STAGE 4 HIGHEST POINTER
ALVIN ROBERTO DAVID
REGION III



2ND RUNNER-UP
45 CAL. HIGH CAPACITY
Stage 1 HIGHEST POINTER
ENRICO QUIZON
REGION III



CHAMPION
LADY SHOOTER
AUBREY R. SARMIENTO
CENTRAL OFFICE



1ST RUNNER-UP
LADY SHOOTER
VERONICA ARON
MARIIS



CATEGORY	AWARDEES
EXECUTIVE DIVISION	
⇒ Champion	⇒ GERARDO P. CORSIGA, R-6
⇒ 1st Runner Up	⇒ ALEXANDER G. COLOMA, CMIP
⇒ 2nd Runner Up	⇒ ROBERT C. SUGUITAN, C.O.
LADY SHOOTERS	
⇒ Champion	⇒ AUBREY R. SARMIENTO, C.O.
⇒ 1st Runner Up	⇒ VERONICA ARON, MARIIS
⇒ 2nd Runner Up	⇒ JANICE ATICAO, CAR
TEAM COMPETITION	
⇒ Champion	⇒ NIA CENTRAL OFFICE
⇒ 1st Runner Up	⇒ REGION 6, 12 & 13
⇒ 2nd Runner Up	⇒ CAR
⇒ 3rd Runner Up	⇒ MARIIS
OVERALL CATEGORY	
⇒ Champion	⇒ BAYANI VILLANUEVA, R-1
⇒ 1st Runner Up	⇒ VIRGILIO ILAO, R-3
⇒ 2nd Runner Up	⇒ ALVIN ROBERTO DAVID, R-3
45 CAL./HIGH CAPACITY	
⇒ Champion	⇒ BAYANI VILLANUEVA, R-1
⇒ 1st Runner Up	⇒ ALVIN ROBERTO DAVID, R-3
⇒ 2nd Runner Up	⇒ ENRICO QUIZON, R-3
45 CAL./SINGLE STOCK	
⇒ Champion	⇒ HECTOR CASTRO, MARIIS
⇒ 1st Runner Up	⇒ RAYMUND APIL, CAR
⇒ 2nd Runner Up	⇒ RIZALO CONCEPCION, R-6
9MM/PRODUCTION	
⇒ Champion	⇒ VIRGILIO ILAO, R-3
⇒ 1st Runner Up	⇒ WINSTON FLORES, R-3
⇒ 2nd Runner Up	⇒ DOMINADOR MAGUILAO, R-3
HIGHEST STAGE POINTS	
⇒ Stage 1	⇒ ENRICO QUIZON, R-3
⇒ Stage 2	⇒ BAYANI VILLANUEVA, R-1
⇒ Stage 3	⇒ BAYANI VILLANUEVA, R-1
⇒ Stage 4	⇒ ALVIN ROBERTO DAVID, R-3

OVERALL STANDING (TOP 10) - DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) VILLANUEVA, BAYANI (100%) | 6) FLORES, WINSTON (56.65%) |
| 2) ILAO, VIRGILIO (96.76%) | 7) SAHAGUN, RAFAEL (56.65%) |
| 3) DAVID, ALVIN ROBERTO (91.86%) | 8) CASTRO, HECTOR (52.92%) |
| 4) QUIZON, ENRICO (84.17%) | 9) MAGUILAO, DOMINADOR (49.76%) |
| 5) CORSIGA, GERARDO (57.89%) | 10) COLOMA, ALEXANDER (49.37%) |

Acknowledgements:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◇ Course of Fire, Program Cover Design & Firing Range Facilitation | ⇒ Project Manager Alexander G. Coloma, Engr. Alberto B. Samson and Casenlan Multi purpose Irrigation Project Staff |
| ◇ Programs & Invitations | ⇒ Rafael F. Sahagun Jr., MID/C.O. |
| ◇ Logistics and Prizes | ⇒ Project Manager Reynaldo C. Adao, CARP-IC |
| ◇ Overall Coordination | ⇒ Department Manager Robert C. Suguitan, Internal Audit Services |

Our profound appreciation to DND Secretary Voltaire Gazmin

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 ◇ USec Proceso T Domingo, Head Officer for Special Concerns, OCD-DND
 ◇ Maj Reynaldo Balido Jr PA, Military Asst. for Operation, OCD-DND
 ◇ The DND Range Officers: SSgt Glenn Masinas PA, SSgt Erdolfo Octa PA, SSgt Boni Bonifacio PA, Sgt Jhude Duyao PN(M)
 ⇒ and Engr. Freddie Martinez, Irrigation Supt., Tumauini RIS/NIA

Sponsors and Benefactors: Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, Sr. Deputy Antonio A. Galvez, Deputy Admin. E&O Democrático P. Grana, Jr., Deputy Admin. A&F Lorna Grace B. Rosario, Regional/Operations/Project/Department Managers



NIA Practical Shooting enthusiasts in action...



With BGEN REMEGIO M DE VERA AFP, Commanding General, Camp Aguinaldo "finally met after 35 years... one of the best things that happened during the shootfest..."



The traditional NIA shootfest was participated in by the practical shooting enthusiasts of Central Office, CMIP, MARIIS, CAR, Region VI and Region 12 on June 23, 2011 during the 4th day of NIA week-long 48th founding anniversary celebration. In the desire to bring NIA shooting aficionados together, the event was spearheaded by the NIA Reservists and Office of the Administrator, course of fire is designed with four stages where competitors must earn points using speed, accuracy and power. Rain and shine, the competitors showed the love for shooting sport, keeping the adrenalin rush... aiming for the target... owning the firing range at the peak of the momentum... it's an experience that has an authority that no language can express. With a minimal number of NIA offices joined in the Anniversary Shootfest of NIA, we encourage other regions and projects to participate in the upcoming practical shooting events, for the passion shared in the range bridges our borders of distance and weaves a special bond to NIANS, bringing us together in the name of the game.

ARS/PAIS



HIBULANGAN SMALL RESERVOIR IRRIGATION PROJECT: THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE ISLAND OF LEYTE

BY: PRISCO O. BOCO III, REGION VIII

The lively agricultural island of Leyte will soon be refurbished with a 26-meter high reservoir enhancing farm production for an estimated area of about 3000 hectares of farm lands in the 3rd and 4th district of Leyte. The newly updated project cost of about 1.1 billion pesos will benefit the municipalities of Villaba, Matag-ob and Kananga, with the former being within the third district of Leyte. About 1400 farmers are estimated to be benefited by the project.

The project is considered uniquely different from its entire predecessor due to its capability to store water being a reservoir. The irrigation environment of Leyte is equipped with ogees, check gates and other gravity type dam structures, these were used only to divert and do not store up water for farm use.

The new structure is expected to store up about 11 million cubic meters of water capable of sustaining farm

water demands throughout the year even during dry season for the said service area. Similar with reservoir structures in other islands, it could cater also to the fishing and tourism industry of the locality. Such parameters add significant value in the feasibility consideration of the project. Also, with the onset of the climate change, where the dry season tend to be more of a drought and rainy season tend to have torrential rains at prolonged periods, the structure will mitigate both adverse effects, a point highly emphasized by the Regional Manager.



The project started since the 1980's but has been suspended by year 2000. It was only last 2009 when the energetic Regional Manager of NIA R8 – Engr. Romeo G. Quiza placed emphasis in reviving the project and commenced activities that will ultimately lead to its completion. Currently, the project is undergoing survey works, and project re-evaluation. It is highly anticipated this year that the construction of the reservoir will be awarded under contract for construction.

JICA Assists and Supports the NIA Irrigation Development Activities

BY: MR. SHINICHI TERAMURA, JICA EXPERT

The Government of Japan thru JICA has significantly assisted and provided invaluable support to the irrigation development activities of NIA. The individual technical expert dispatched to NIA, Mr. Shinichi Teramura, has investigated and followed-up the implementation of numerous irrigation projects and programs. He decided to conduct a case study/documentation to those systems that already successfully implemented the IMT program.

Mr. Teramura gathered information and learnings from some keys to success in the fruitful implementation of IMT program. Based on his observation, the main keys were mostly the good leadership, proper coordination and teamwork, and provision of good facilities that could help the farmers to work conve-

niently. Increase of ISF sharing to the farmer members was a grant as their incentives. Proper training and sufficient seminars are a big help to inform farmers and increase their knowledge. If these main keys are replicated to other systems, it can be useful for the other systems to enhance their performance and achieve an effective field implementation of IMT program. In this regard, JICA Office Representative Mr. Norio Matsuda requested Mr. Teramura to report to Administrator Nangel in the near future about this documentation of well performing IAs and the necessity of applying these keys to other project sites.

Mr. Teramura has already conducted a case study/documentation of successful IAs with the co-operation of IDD and PIDP staff. With his almost a year in NIA, he already visited three systems (UP-

RIIS, MARIIS and Tarlac) and interviewed seven IAs (2 from UPRIIS, 3 from MARIIS and 2 from Tarlac).

The JICA Expert will continue to visit some systems and gather additional information for case study/documentation that would give knowledge and help some systems to learn the keys to success.



Profitable meeting with Negros Occ. Governor Marañon Jr.

Administrator Antonio S. Nangel was able to convince the provincial government to provide the counterpart funding for irrigation activities. This translates to about 50% of P166 million worth of irrigation projects the governor has immediately pledged. The projects include repair and rehabilitation of 41 existing irrigation systems in 6 districts of the province. Their commitment for agricultural productivity contributes to our effort in realizing rice self-sufficiency.

NIA-JICA IA Strengthening Support Project: A step closer to efficient irrigation system management

BY: MR. HIROMASA SUZUKI, JICA EXPERT

For almost four years now, NIA (through the Institutional Development Division of the Operations Department) and JICA (through the Livelihood Improvement Sector/Poverty Reduction Section) has been implementing a Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) dubbed "IA Strengthening Support Project". Commonly referred to as TCP2, the project commenced in October 1, 2007 and is an extended program of NIA-JICA TCP1 which previously examined the effectiveness of IA strengthening scheme for improving O&M and water distribution in irrigation systems.

TCP2 covers eight (8) National Irrigation Systems (NISs) as Project sites in Regions 1, 3, 6 and 11 with a combined service area of 17,963 hectares benefiting about 22,244 farmers. These eight NISs are characterized by: a) less development of IA institutional settings; b) inefficient water distribution; and c) relatively low IA performance/functionality rating scores.



1 Design

Encouraged by the relative success of TCP1 experiences, TCP2 was then designed to include "Minor Rehabilitation", "Demonstration Farm (Water Saving Technology)", and "Capacity Development trainings" as major parts of the initial project inputs.

Referring to the initial Project Design Matrix (PDM) agreed between the governments of Japan and Philippines at the time of signing the Record of Discussion (R/D) in 2007, the project aims that efficient water distribution is carried out in the project sites, with IAs' active participation in operation and maintenance works.

Two Outputs are set in order to achieve the Project Purpose: (1) Each of the target IAs in the project sites is capacitated to carry out sustainable O&M activities and (2) The cooperative mechanism between NIA and IAs is established to jointly carry out efficient water management.

3 Outputs to Share

Through the four (4) year experiences and efforts on IA strengthening, TCP2 has come up with and is working on several physical outputs:

- 1) Manuals and modules
 - (a) Seven (7) modules for Institutional Development Procedure manuals for IAs
 - (b) Seven (7) modules for Skills Development Training manuals for IAs
 - (c) Six (6) modules for Technical Training manuals for NIA O&M staff
2. Technical guides
 - (a) Water Flow Monitoring in irrigation systems
 - (b) Alternate Wetting and Drying (water saving technology)
3. Institutional Setting guidelines
 - (a) SMC implementation guideline for NISs (3,000ha or smaller)
 - (b) IA Federation general guideline for NISs (3,000ha or smaller)
4. Monitoring and Evaluation (Revised IMIS)
 - (a) Users' guide for Monitoring and Evaluation on irrigation system O&M

Among the Projects activities carried out for Output 1 include:

1. Conducted baseline survey on the current status and activities of the target IAs;
2. Confirmed and reformulated, if necessary, the members of the target IAs and Turnout Service Area Groups;
3. Rearranged the organizational settings, including the IA board members, constitution/ by-laws, and IA O&M policy;
4. Conducted trainings to IA members on IA strengthening, including IA management and O&M of irrigation facility; and
5. Established demo-farm on efficient water management.

As for Output 2, activities carried out include:

1. Provided orientations to NIA staff involved with the project;
2. Monitored IA's compliance to agreed WDD and CCPP, and their O&M policy with collaboration between NIA and IA;
3. Undertook minor rehabilitation of irrigation facilities in the project sites, with active participation of IAs; and
4. Established system level organization settings for efficient resources management and for better coordination between NIA, IAs and other stakeholders (added activity to the PDM reflecting the results of the mid-term review in July 2009).

2 Achievements

With the continuous support and effort among NIA counterparts, IA members/farmers, and JICA technical cooperation team, TCP2 was able to accomplish the following: (a) Reorganized and revived IAs and IA federations; (b) Established system wide O&M management settings; (c) Applied alternate wetting and drying practice; (d) Conducted water flow monitoring trainings; (e) completed minor rehabilitation works; and (e) conducted hundreds of capacity development activities for IAs and NIA staff.

In addition, all the target systems now have registered IAs and organized IA federations, functional System Management Committees, and IA leaders and NIA staff with improved capability and leadership skills to manage irrigation system more efficiently than before. In fact, 7 out of 80 IAs in TCP2 sites now have an "Outstanding" rating in their most recent functionality survey as compared to before the Project was implemented. Replication of some Project activities like application of the AWD method and conduct of SMC meetings in other NISs are also reported. These activities outside the Project area were conducted referring to the experiences and guidelines from TCP2.



JICA Expert Mr. Takamitsu Matsuo demonstrates the use of current meter in a session of the Water Flow Monitoring Method training for NIA O&M staff and selected farmer-leaders in Mambusao RIS (Region 6).

4 Sharing Sessions

TCP2 will be completed this coming September 30, 2011. Before it ends, the Project will hold sharing sessions with NIA O&M staff in TCP2 and non-TCP2 areas, other donors' projects, and relevant groups. The technical sharing session is tentatively set on the 4th week of August while the wrap-up conference with DA, NEDA, EoJ, and JICA is set as a one (1) day activity on mid-September.

The purpose of this session is to share information, experiences and outputs from the project to other stakeholders within and outside of NIA. The Project hopes that by sharing its outcomes and lessons learned, TCP2s gains will be sustained and disseminated, thereby leading to contributions to the country's overall IA strengthening and efficiency in irrigation system management.



NIA Region 12 Celebrates 33rd Anniversary

Theme: Itaguyod and Patubigan at Matatag na Samahang NIA-IA-LGU Upang Makamtan Sapat na Ani Para sa Bayan

By: Aubrey R. Sarmiento, PR Chief/PAIS



Administrator Antonio S. Nangel (leftmost) Regional Manager Modesto Anderson M. Tolentino, Jr. (left), Officials and Employees of IMOs, RISs Regional office, Guests from NIA Central Office, LGUs and Members of the Irrigators' Associations

Awarding of best performing IA and NIA employees culminates the week-long celebration of the 33rd NIA Region 12 Anniversary. The region demonstrates their creativity by formulating all original categories in giving recognition to people with admirable accomplishments: the Club 100 Award, Silver and Golden Star Award, for the Irrigators Associations; Improved and Most Improved River Irrigation Systems; Outstanding and Most Outstanding NIA Officials and Special Award for Hall of Famers

April 11 to 15, the festivity turns out to be as high spirited and entertaining. Organized fun-filled events include: Sports, Videoke, Best Muse, Ballroom and Cultural Dance Competition. Utmost effort is shown through their costumes, discipline and teamwork.

After a year of hard work to attain the strongest NIA-IA-LGU partnership, the result is a more dynamic, high morale, and honoured region 12 employees, proud of their achievements and contributions to the agency.



CLUB 100 IA AWARD



National Irrigation Systems

Irrigators Association has attained the following for Wet & Dry Seasons

- 100% Collection Efficiency
- 80% average Programmed of the Serviceable Area
- 80% average Irrigated of the Programmed Area
- 80% average benefitted of the Irrigated Area

Communal Irrigation Systems

Irrigators Association has attained 100% or more Amortization Payment Efficiency with no back accounts or has fully paid its back account due date.

SILVER STAR AWARD

With a Functionality Survey rating of VERY SATISFACTORY among IAs in IMO-CIS&ISO



Search for Ms. NIA R-12,
Cultural and Ballroom
Dancing Competition



GOLDEN STAR AWARD

With a Functionality Survey rating of OUT-
STANDING among IAs in IMO-CIS&ISO



MOST OUTSTANDING O&M CHIEF



Edna C. Bantala — Libungan RIS

MOST OUTSTANDING PROVINCIAL COMMUNAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTOR



C'zar M. Sulaik — North Cotabato IMO

MOST OUTSTANDING IA



CIS Category — Bulacanon IA, Inc

NIS Category — Napal-Conel Road IA, Inc.

SPECIAL AWARD



Hall of Famer — Buluan Pigcauayan IA, Inc.



Based on % Increment on ISF Collection Efficiency Improved System—Maridagao
RIS, Moner A. Ali, North Cotabato Most Improved System—Talayan RIS, Suharto
A. Singgon, Maguindanao

OUTSTANDING O&M CHIEF

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Julio L. Antenor | - Ala RIS |
| Orlando A. Tibang | - Marbel Banga RIS |
| Flora May D. Respicio | - Mlang/Malasila |
| Rory F. Avance | - Kabacan RIS |
| Cesar D. Agduma | - Lambayong/Tacurong |
| Gina L. Lozano | - Siluay-Buayan |





SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT DIVISION, OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TARGETS

(EXCERPT FROM THE MESSAGE OF ENGR. AUGUSTRECE S. TORRES, DIV. MANAGER, DURING THE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY IN JUNE 2011)

The Systems Management Division (SMD) is one of the four divisions of Operations Department which guides and coordinates the everyday activities of field offices in terms of technical, physical and financial assistance through timely releases of funds for project implementation as well as regular program catering its requirements for Operations and Maintenance (O&M).

The SMD has two sections - Maintenance and Operations Section, each manned by nine (9) Technical Staff. Radical changes were made to cope with the needs of field offices, both sections are now monitoring/coordinating project implementation and O&M activities of 17 regional offices nationwide. In view of the reduced number of positions under the Rationalization, all the responsibilities in a region are now being undertaken by only one Area Monitor per Region. SMD has only 16 Area Monitors. With the creation of additional region and the inflow of more/higher allocations requiring more projects and areas, SMD is in need of additional manpower or positions.

Accomplishments:

Restoration/Rehabilitation of NIA-Assisted Systems

Fund of P23.0B from CY 2006-2010 has completed 5,000 projects nationwide.

Project Impact on Operations



B. Program for CY 2010 (As of May 31, 2011)

Fund Source	Allocation	Physical (%)	Financial (%)	Rehab (ha)	New (ha)	Restored (ha)
Resto/Rehab/NDC-6	7.852B	83.57	78.65	170,603		42,790
CRRENIS	395M	97.00	93.00	26,109	315	923
BSPP	150M	87.00	83.00	3,313	210	618
REGPP	30M	92.00	82.00	9	487	16
SIP	100M	87.00	81.00	1,409	387	676
TOTAL	8.527B			201,443	1,399	45,023

There are 869 Programs of Work (POW) submitted and 89% or 770 POWs have been validated.

Project-Allocation for CY 2012 for Operations Department

Tentative	Cost in Billion Peso	New (ha)	Restored (ha)	Rehab (ha)
Allocation	14.652467	56,404	34,735	80,263

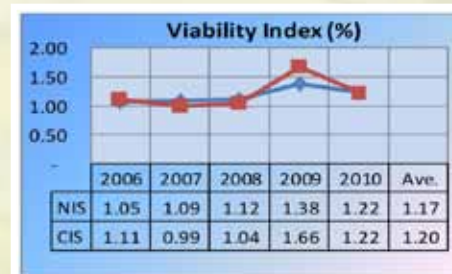
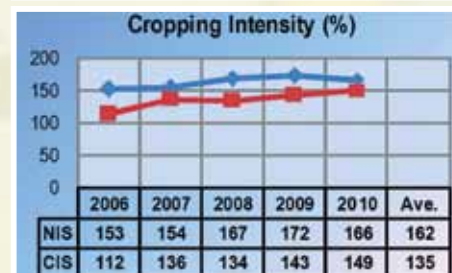
Strategies to achieve programmed projects for CY 2012:

- Advance in preparatory works but with Feasibility Study & Detailed Engineering (FSDE) firm funding.
- Three shifting during good weather condition.
- Know your manpower capabilities (Central Office, regional/Field Offices)
- Adopt new construction methods and techniques.
- Fast and timely reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation of project implementation and feedback mechanism.

In order to pursue the success in CY 2012 in terms of Physical and O&M performance, we must give our trust. First, trust to our fellow employees that they will work to the best of their ability to successfully accomplish the programs and targets of Rice Self-Sufficiency Roadmap Projects (RSSRP) 2012-2016. Second, trust to our regional irrigation offices led by the Regional Irrigation Managers, that they will pursue the goals and objectives of RSSRP and be true to their commitments. And last, trust and all out support from our Top Management Officials and Staff so that we could do it and we could make it happen.

Legend:
NIS CIS

O&M Performance



Releases of fund for 2011 (As of June 6, 2011)

CY 2011	Allocation	Net Releases
CRRENIS	1.800B	1.488B
BSPP	500M	358.987M
REGPIP	50M	41.729M
SIP	500M	324.864M
ROMPIS	100M	66.20M
TOTAL	2.950B	2.280B 77.30%

WATER FOR EVERYONE: LADDERIZED IRRIGATION EXPERIENCE OF LIBUNGAN RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM

BY: ENGR. EDNA C. BANTALA, IRRIGATION SUPERINTENDENT II, LIBRIS AND ROSALINA P. DELA CRUZ, REGION 12 IDP MONITOR

BACKGROUND

In the late 50's, Cotabato was the rice granary of Mindanao. Several Irrigation Systems were constructed - among them, the Libungan River Irrigation System (LIBRIS) located in Midsayap, North Cotabato.

Fifteen thousand farming families - Muslims and Christians within the municipalities of Midsayap, Libungan and Pigcawayan in the province of North Cotabato and Kabuntalan in the province of Maguindanao - are the direct beneficiaries of the LIBRIS. The LIBRIS was constructed from 1958 to 1964. It was designed to irrigate 10,000 hectares.

During the first year of operation, the system used to irrigate 5,000 hectares. After 15 years of continuous operation, the system had to undergo major rehabilitation in 1979. Additional facilities and structures were provided. The service area of the system increased to 8,000 hectares. In 1993, the system had another rehabilitation which further increased the service area to 8,500. As of 2008 the firmed-up area of LIBRIS is 9,209 hectares.

The traditional water management was not a problem in the early years of operation. The average 11 cubic meter per second (cms) discharge at the intake is more than sufficient to serve more than 9,000 hectares. However, due probably to the different uncontrollable activities affecting the watershed, and other factors such as climate change, the irrigation water supply of LIBRIS became insufficient. At present, the average river discharge is only 5 cms during normal condition.



BIRTH OF LADDERIZED SCHEME OF IRRIGATION

The daring challenge for LIBRIS's Viability despite all odds; the growing concern for the plight of the farmer-beneficiaries of the system whose financial woes could be remedied only if their farms become productive; and the worsening conflict among the beneficiaries inspired the LIBRIS management to brainstorm and finally come up with the answer - the Ladderized Scheme of water delivery.

ZONIFICATION

Water is now a scarce resource. Because everyone would like to avail of water for subsistence, conflicts among the farmer-beneficiaries arose. Because of the worsening situation, the LIBRIS management thought of the different strategies to solve the problem. Series of meetings with the officers and members of the Irrigators Associations were conducted. They thought of another strategy - Zonification.

The service area was divided into three zones, with more or less 3000 hectares per zone..

In 1994, LIBRIS started to operate by Zones. In this scheme, farmers in the three zones could plant during the wet season. However, during the dry season, only two zones were served with water. Therefore, more or less 6,000 hectares can be planted during the dry season. One zone, which is equivalent to more or less 3,000 hectares remain either idle or planted to other crops.

The Zonification scheme created more conflicts. It brought more problems to LIBRIS. Farmers within the "Idle Zone" grew dissatisfaction. They have to wait for another year to be able to plant again during the dry season.

The decrease in Cropping Intensity resulted to low overall production. Therefore, the system's collection efficiency decreased. Likewise, the system's Viability also decreased.

FOR SYSTEMATIC MANAGEMENT:

1. The LIBRIS management deemed necessary that each Zone of 3,000 hectares was subdivided into 5 to 8 IAs, with each IA served by single lateral/sub-lateral
2. A cropping calendar was formulated specific for each IA such that water served is just exact to meet the irrigation water requirement of every IA
3. IAs at the Tail End or Extremities of the Service Area are the ones to start Land Soaking/Land Preparation
4. Every IA has two months of fallow period. This is in order to deprive insects of feeding grounds and prevent infestation

The Ladderized Scheme of irrigation now assures that in LIBRIS, water is for everyone at all cropping seasons. It became successful because of the following:

1. Active participation of the farmers through their strong and cohesive IAs. The IAs helped strategized through formulation and strict implementation of the different operation related activities.
 - i. Only IAs with 61% Collection Efficiency can request for water delivery
 - ii. Strict implementation of the Cropping Calendar
2. Highly committed IA leaders
3. Active and committed leaders of Local Government Units (LGUs) of the municipalities of Midsayap, Libungan and Pigcawayan and the province of North Cotabato; and the municipality of Kabuntalan and the province of Maguindanao.
4. The LGUs supported the Ladderized Scheme through the formulation and strict implementation of ordinances that would ensure adherence to the stipulations of the NIA-IA-LGU Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement specially the strict compliance with the water delivery schedule and cropping calendar.
5. Strong commitment of the LIBRIS management and staff.

A sample cropping calendar of Zone 1, LIBRIS follows.



Given the available five (5) cms average river discharge, the LIBRIS management in cooperation, corroboration and collaboration with the Local Government Units (LGUs) of the covered municipalities and provinces, the Irrigators Associations (IAs) and Federation of IAs came up with a system-wide water saving scheme to maximize the utilization of water. They know they have to be united to be able to address the problem.

IMPACT OF THE LADDERIZED SCHEME

The Ladderized Scheme which is now being replicated in other systems within Region 12 has realized the following impacts:

1. Almost tripled ISF collection
2. 200% Cropping Intensity
3. Farmers sustained production. Even during dry season when river discharges are low - as recorded in March, April and May - the system is able to serve the whole service area.
4. Sustained strong farmers' participation
5. Mutual relationship among farmers, NIA and LGUs

"If the ax is dull and its edge is unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success."

Ecclesiastes 10:10 NIV



NIA REGION 2 CREATES STRONGEST LINK...

BY: MACARIO TORIBIO, PRO REGION2

Foreign Partnership....

KOREAN FIRMS REVIEW PASA SMALL RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT

A foreign delegation composed of four key officials representing two agencies of the Republic of Korea, the Korean International Cooperating Agency (KOICA) and the Korean Rural Community Corporation (KRCC), arrived recently at the office of the National Irrigation Administration - Region 02 (NIA R02) to conduct a review and validation on the three proposed Korean assisted projects in the province of Isabela, one of which is the Pasa Small River Irrigation Project (PSRIP) being implemented by the Isabela Irrigation Management Office (IIMO) under the supervision of NIA R02.

The Korean contingent, headed by Mr. Hwang Jae Saeng, Deputy Resident Representative of KOICA to the Philippines and Messrs. Kim Young Sun, Oh Se Woong and Hwang In-cheol, all of the KRCC were accompanied by Isabela Provincial Agriculture Officer Danilo B. Tumamao, PMED Chief Kay Olivas of DA-RFU 02, Reynaldo Peregrino and Henry Cacayan of Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Eleuterio G. Luz of NIA-Central Office and Ms. Susan D. Guzman of DA-Manila.

The 728M Pasa SRIP is situated in the central part of Isabela, about 10 kilometers northeast of the capital town of Ilagan which can only be reached through the only entry point - the Morado-Pasa barangay road, about 7.5 kilometers from the Cagayan Valley Road. The project is expected to boost the agricultural output of some 559 farmer-beneficiaries in the area. In the pre-inspection conference held at the Conference Hall of NIA Regional Office in Cauayan City, the Korean officials were briefed on the present status of Irrigation Development of Region 02 by Regional Irrigation Manager Vicente E. Galvez while the detailed information regarding the project was presented

by Engr. Ramon R. Fabros, Division Manager of Isabela IIMO. Upon completion, the 63-meter high and 170-meter long Pasa Dam that will be constructed across the Pasa Creek will store around 5.4 million cubic meters of irrigation water which, according to studies, is sufficient to irrigate the 800 hectares designed service area - 150 hectares in barangay Pasa, 400 hectares in Sta. Victoria, 50 hectares in Fuyo, 50 hectares in Minabang and 150 hectares in Morado, all in the municipality of Ilagan.

In the Term of Reference forged between the Korean and Philippine governments, Korea will assist the project through a 22 million US dollars grant aid which will be administered by the KOICA while the KRCC will assist the NIA in the feasibility study and in the actual construction which is programmed to be completed in five years. During the detailed design study however, geologic investigations showed a disturbing presence of a 5 meter-depth of limestone at the riverbed and a more than 20 meter-depth both at the left and right abutments that will greatly affect the storage capacity of the res-

ervoir. Limestone is found to have high permeability in storing water thus, the need to transfer the dam to a new site about 1.8 kilometer upstream of the original design.

In a dialogue that ensued after the inspection of the possible new damsite, the would be farmer-beneficiaries expressed hope that the project will soon start and be completed in due time. "Nabaybayagen a pag-sasaritaan tayo daytoy, sapay koma ta mairugin iti kabiitana panawen" (We have been talking about this for a long time, we hope that it will already start very soon), President Ricardo Cuanay of the Pasa Creek Irrigators Association told the Koreans.

The Korean investors assured the farmers that the project which they say would uplift the lives of the residents in the area, will immediately start after all the necessary design adjustments on the dam shall have been finally completed.

THE NEW DAMSITE - Division Manager Ramon R. Fabros discussing some details with the Korean officials at the proposed new damsite of Pasa Small River Irrigation Project in barangay Pasa, Ilagan, Isabela. From left to right: Engr. Ramon R. Fabros, Engr. Eleuterio G. Luz of NIA C.O., Mr. Hwang Jae Saeng of KOICA, Mr. Hwang In Cheol of KRCC & Mr. Wilson Laynoen of NIA C.O.



IA Partnership.....

RETIRED NIA OFFICIAL HEADS NEW NIS IA FEDERATION

Retirement may not yet be a time to rest for Engr. Florencio B. Soliven who just bowed out from the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) last December 31, 2010 as he was again catapulted into the leadership limelight after being elected as the first President of the newly organized National Irrigation Systems Federation of Irrigators Associations of the Cagayan-Batanes Irrigation Management Office (CBIMO) in a lopsided election held at the NIA Regional Irrigation Training Center in Maddarulog, Solana, Cagayan.

The irrigation official turned farmer-leader served in various positions under NIA Region 02 during his 36-year stint in the government service, the latest of which was Chief of the Engineering Division which was later merged with the Operation and Maintenance, Equipment Management and Institutional Development Divisions to form the Engineering and Operations Division under the Rationalization Plan which is currently being

implemented by the government.

The formation of the NIS Federation of IAs is a prelude to the organization of the Provincial Federation of Irrigators Associations probably in the last week of May which will already include the different IAs under the different communal irrigation systems in the province of Cagayan.

Engr. Soliven was unanimously elected by the federation's 15-member Board of Directors representing the different Irrigators Associations under the 12 national irrigation systems in Cagayan and the island province of Batanes.

In his acceptance speech, Engr. Soliven exhorted the members of the Board of Directors to give their full support and cooperation to the newly formed federation which he likened to a human body "that cannot function well without any of its parts."

In the first Board Meeting that ensued after the elec-

tion, Engr. Soliven challenged his colleagues to "create a lasting legacy for themselves and be a model to the farmer-members whom they seek to serve."

"To serve others is a rare chance and it is not a joke especially if you serve without any remunerations like what we are doing now," he said.

As a first priority project, Engr. Soliven is eyeing for the establishment of dryers in strategic locations within the federation's area of coverage for which, he hopes to win the support of local officials. "We badly need dryers especially during the wet crop harvest season," he pointed out.



SOLANA LGU SUPPORTS NIA, URGES FARMERS TO PAY ISF

"Hon. Mayor Meynard "Jojo" Z. Carag and LGU Family fully support the National Irrigation Administration, Pay your irrigation service fee promptly. Solana loves NIA!"

The above expression of support which was inscribed in a streamer that boldly stands in an intersection along the Solana Pump Irrigation System's (SPIS) Main Canal amazed Regional Irrigation Manager Vicente E. Galvez of the National Irrigation Administration Region 02 and the rest of his group while in a field inspection within the system's service area before the start of the Cagayan-Batanes Irrigation Management Office's Operations Group Congress held on March 29, 2011 at the Regional Training Center in Maddarulog, Solana, Cagayan.

For a while, RIM Galvez stared at the streamers obviously hanged there to manifest the all out support of Mayor Meynard Carag and the Solana LGU to the programs and activities being implemented by the NIA-SPIS for the benefit of, not only the farmers, but also the people of Solana in general.



"This is a rare show of unconditional support by a local executive for which we should be very thankful," RIM Galvez told the participants in a message during the Congress' Opening Program attended mostly by CBIMO's Operation & Maintenance personnel who are in charge in the systems' operation, water distribution and irrigation service fee collection in their respective areas of assignments.

"If we could win the support of all the LGUs within our areas of operation then there is no reason why we will not succeed in all the programs that we are mandated to implement," the RIM added.

RIM Galvez commended the SPIS employees for being able to build a strong and harmonious relationship between the NIA SPIS and the Solana LGU as he exhorted other officials of the different irrigation offices in Region 02 to also maintain or even strive harder to improve their relationship with the LGUs in their respective areas of coverage.

The result of the harmonious accord between Solana LGU and NIA SPIS could be best supported by the system's present collection efficiency. The record of the Regional Operations Section shows that with still a long way to go before the deadline, SPIS already ranks second in the ISF collection race by posting 64.46% with a cash equivalent of 7.7 million pesos - a clear proof that indeed the LGU support is a plus factor in the success of the agency's programs and activities.

PAGUITE CIS TAKES OFF

BY: LILIA DAPURAN, PRO, REGION 8

Paguite CIS is DAR Assisted Project of the National Irrigation Administration, Northern Leyte PLO with a total project cost of P 72, 851, 501.59.

Located in Abuyog, Leyte it covers seven barangays namely; Balinsasayao, Paguite, Odiongan, Capilian, Maitum, Picas and Burubud-an. Its main source of water is Layog River.

Paguite CIS has a potential irrigable area of 600 hectares which when completed would help improve the quality of life of 464 farmer beneficiaries within the area thru an increase in their palay production and income.

Presently, the average yield of each farmer is 80 cavans per hectare and hopefully with the rehabilitation of Paguite CIS they could harvest a minimum of 100 cavans per hectare.

The construction of PAGUITE CIS has experienced twists and turns sometime in 2004. During its initial test-run about 16 pieces of Reinforced Concrete Pipes (RCP) from the man-hole burst and ripped horizontally. This affected

about 126 hectares of irrigable area of the said communal irrigation system. A repair was made with the recommendation to use steel pipes considering the endurance of the material to great pressure. It likewise reduced the number of joints from 243 used by RCP to 43 joints using steel pipes which eventually facilitated its construction. Because of the zealous determination of the Provincial Irrigation Officer, Engr. Pedro C. Rubio, Jr., PAGUITE CIS was able to take off as it is now backed by the unwavering support of CARP-IC.

Repair of the newly designed siphon started in early 2010 and was completed in middle 2010 with a total cost of P 11, 915, 628.69. A test run was made on the later part of 2010. Present during this event were representatives from DAR, PARCCOM, NIA, IA and Contrac-

tor of PAGUITE CIS composing the inspectorate team which have all given their thumbs up on the project.

With the completion of the repair of the siphon the project became completely functional and the total 600 hectares will now be irrigated thus an increase collection of the Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) and payment of cash equity to NIA is expected. While the expected increment in production will be enjoyed by the farmers of PAGUITE CIS.





NATIONAL IA CONGRESS AND CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

BY: B.POFRECIO, LLGALLEG0 & RPDELACRUZ - INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The national government has been finding ways on how the country can be self-sufficient on the basic staple. Two strategies have been identified to increase domestic rice production, such as: (1) increasing the yield per area, and (2) increasing the area that can be planted to the crop. In both instances, irrigation is a key element, along with other inputs like seeds, fertilizers, farm credit, post-harvest facilities, etc. Thus, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is a major player in this rice self sufficiency endeavour.

Aware of this big task, NIA has to harness all resources within its mandate if only to live up to the expectation. It is within this premise that the role of irrigation-farmers, their Irrigators Associations (IAs) including their federations come into fore. The IAs, with their enormous resources

and potentials and being NIA's true partner in irrigation development and management, must be mobilized so that a concerted effort towards the attainment of the goal of rice self-sufficiency can be realized. But before such IA enlistment can happen, they must be made aware of the situation and the role they will have to play in pursuit of the goal.

In line with the said premise, all the Provincial IAs Federation presidents from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were convened at Camelot Hotel on May 18 & 19, 2011 for National Congress and Consultation Workshop. In general, it served as a forum to discuss the Government's "Road Map" to rice self-sufficiency with emphasis on the role of NIA, other agencies and the IAs to the success of the program.



Specifically, the activity aimed to:

- Present NIA's irrigation programs and thrusts both for the short and long terms;
- Identify IAs' strengthening/capacity building programs needs for increasing rice production;
- Present the national government's Rice Self-Sufficiency Master Plan;
- Discuss the different government programs supportive of the rice self-sufficiency efforts; and
- Commitment Setting to strengthening IA Federations at various levels to operationalize the Master Plan.

The Congress was highlighted by the dialogue with the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Proceso J. Alcala. Prior to the dialogue, the participants were asked to list all the issues for presentation to the Secretary. Among them are:

1. IAS Strengthening as Stewards of irrigation systems and running international affairs.
2. Improvement of Systems performance
3. Successful implementation of IMT program
4. Problems on implementation of NIA IMT Program.
5. Needs of IAs (as group of farmers) to increase production.
6. What are the support services needed by IAs from government agencies?

Problems of individual farmers why they could not increase their production.

What can an IA do to increase production?

What can NIA do to strengthen IA as:

- a. An organization in running their affairs.
- b. Steward of irrigation system

What can NIA do in coordination with IAs:

- a. To improve system performance?
- b. To implement NIA IMT Program?

Farmer-participants were divided into nine groups to work on items 1-9 while the NIA representatives worked on items 10 and 11.

In order for the farmers to better appreciate the Workshop, Ms. Angelina Angeles, OIC, Corporate Planning, presented the Agency's Program for 2011-2016 which includes the rice-sufficiency program now called as "staple food sufficiency". Staple food refers to rice.

She mentioned that the IAs are "ka-pamilya" and "ka-balikat" to rice productivity in order to feed the nation. However, she stressed that it was for them to lobby to DBM for the funding allocation/support to IA development programs. According to her, the DBM questions the allocation of funds for the IA trainings since it will be self-enhancing activity that will be applied for the development of their individual farms.

Angeles revealed that CORPLAN was able to justify the need to enhance the capabilities of the farmers for a better project implementation.

Agency's current thrusts and programs

1. Implementation of labor-intensive irrigation projects
2. Per instruction of the D. A. Secretary, the project fund allocation from 2011-2016 will be frontloaded to 2011-2013. Thus, the allocation from 2011-2013 will be doubled.
3. Long gestating period projects will be replaced by short gestating ones, to sustain the on-going irrigation projects. This covers the expansion and restoration of the irrigation projects for area generation. The program includes the Public & Private Participation project (PPP).
4. Project Proposal is to be submitted to NEDA and is subject to prioritization.
5. NIA Management is on the process of retooling through re-organization. The IAs are to be strengthened to become partners in all the phases of irrigation development.
6. The IDP budget for this year is 50M which is part of the line items.
7. The rehabilitation/restoration program will be put-up by community participation through the IA.

Representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), National Food Authority (NFA), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), Philippine Center for Postharvest and Mechanization (Philmech) also presented their programs – all in support to Rice Self-Sufficiency 2013.

The intensive collaboration and partnership among the NIA, DA and IA farmer-leaders and members will enable the realization of sufficient rice production by 2013.

Engr. Antonio S. Nangel, NIA Administrator, in his message before the participants and guests, said that “convergence meetings like this, is a good indicator that the Road Map to Self Sufficiency 2011-2013 is being supported”.

In his message, Senior Deputy Administrator, Antonio A. Galvez stressed that he was very grateful to all the participants including

the invited resource persons for their participation in the momentous event. Because of the pressing needs for sufficient rice production by 2013 all were gathered for the National Congress to support the program of the government. However, he said that even if the Local Government Units, Philmech, NFA and other agencies in the agricultural sector exist, if the IA's are not organized, rice self-sufficiency would be far to meet.

“The IAs are considered the foundation of agriculture” Galvez emphasized. The Open Forum with the DA Secretary, however, manifested his great concern to the farmer-group and his sincere commitment to the attainment of Rice Self-Sufficiency 2013 as he positively responded to the issues, concerns and needs presented by the participants.

“There is a right time and a way to do everything ...” Ecclesiastes 8:6

Thought: Write down your goals. If you aim at nothing, you will hit nothing.

RIM Julius S. Maquiling : in close coordination with other government agencies



For the past two years, the man in the helm of Region X, Engr. Julius S. Maquiling, ably and consistently steered amidst the challenging waters, made a difference to our main clientele-the farmers. Irrigation development as one of the main programs in meeting the challenge of rice self sufficient Philippines in 2013, made him doubly busy coordinating with officials of different local government units and other national government agencies. Whenever he finds himself constraint between two or more equally important events, he allowed his staff to represent the Agency- a subtle means of training, honing

and preparing them for a more challenging tasks ahead. Thus, even with both hands full, RIM Maquiling was able to participate through competent employees. Significant events attended were as follows:

- The culmination activity of DENR & DILG World Water Day last March 22, 2011, where two employees represented the regional office.
- CDORBMC (of DENR) 2nd TWG meeting, this council meeting

chaired by Archbishop Ledesma focused on the formulation of mechanics on how the River Basin of Cagayan de Oro be operationalized was held on January 21, 2011.

- Regional Training of Trainers on Agripinoy held on Jan. 31-Feb 3, 2011 as a respose to the program of Secretary Alcala of the DA with a theme “Bridging the gap touching the heart”.
- A Provincial Training of Trainers on February 8-11, 2011 wherein RIM Maquiling showed his full support to DA Secretary Alcala’s program by sending a Representative to act as a Resource Person for the massive dissemination of the Agripinoy Framework.
- Regular Attendance of RAFC meeting, the last was on March 2, 2011. This meeting is a re-echo on Agripinoy Framework for the participants from private organizations, NGOs, Government Agencies for familiarization on the latest DA program to support the said framework.
- A Resource Person was sent to Municipal Training of Trainers on March 14-17, 2011 to continuously support the massive dissemination of Agripinoy frame work.
- World Food Day initiated by DENR in coordination with DILG held on March 22, 2011 .
- On March 24, 2011, a CDORBMC meeting was held to discuss the House Bills of Hon. Cong. Rufus Rodriguez re: Environment Protection of Cagayan de Oro City.
- On March 30, 2011, the DOLE held the First Inter-Agency Meeting to disseminate the need of the Office of Malacañang for a Manpower Generation report from all Government Agencies spending government funds.
- Gawad Saka Meeting of DA was attended personally by RIM Maquiling to witness the awarding ceremony. cycelestiano.



GREENING NIA

Bicol Director William P. Ragodon (right) shovels soils on a pit where he planted a narra seedling inside the NIA regional office compound in Naga City to mark the start of the three-year nationwide tree planting project initiated by NIA and the NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP) Bicol District. The tree planting project is one of the activities lined up by NIA Region 5 as part of the countdown for the agency's Golden Anniversary on June 22, 2013. Others in photo are: (from left) Engr. Dan Renolayan, chapter president, NIAEASP CamSur; Mrs. Maria Ilarde, Administrative and Finance Division manager and Ed Yu, NIAEASP Bicol District president.



NIA CONDUCTS POLICY DIALOGUE ON AMORTIZATION OF COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

BY: BPOFRECIO, LLGALLEG0 AND RPDELA CRUZ IDD-OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Communal Irrigation Systems (CISs) are irrigation systems usually covering areas smaller than 1,000 hectares. From a felt-need of the farmers who are organized as Communal Irrigators Association (IA), the systems are being constructed by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) upon the request of communities as endorsed by their leaders.

After the construction, the direct cost of the system construction is being amortized by the farmers under two schemes: I) Thirty Percent Equity Participation wherein the farmers raise and contribute 30% of the Chargeable Cost within the construction period either through labor participation or cash. After which, the system is considered fully paid and a Certificate of Ownership of the system is granted to the concerned IA; II) Amortization of the Chargeable Cost. The IA is required to put up a required equity participation of not less than ten percent (10%) of the Chargeable cost and amortize the remaining amount without interest for an agreed period, the duration of which shall not exceed 50 years.

Majority of the IAs opt the Scheme II. However, even if they know their obligations, some IAs are more than willing yet unable to pay. Many farmers would say that the Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) they collected from members is not sufficient to cover the annual amortization required because of several factors like: discrepancy of designed area and actual irrigated area, high cost of system's operation and maintenance, and unstable

production of farmers due to poor access to capital to finance the inputs of their farming venture. In line with the government's program on Rice Self-Sufficiency, the Rapid Food Production Enhancement Programme (RaFPEP) is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture.

RaFPEP has two components, one of which is the Irrigated Rice Production Enhancement Project (IRPEP). This is a multi-agency collaborative implementation of plans and programs. NIA is in-charge of undertaking the two components: 1). IAs strengthening, and 2). System modernization/rehabilitation of the CISs. The project is being funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Recognizing the contribution of the CISs in the Rice Self-Sufficiency Program, it was deemed necessary to revisit/review the existing policies to alleviate communal farmers from their present burdens of CIS Amortization.

A Policy Dialogue and Consultation Workshop participated in by NIA officials and IA congress was conducted on May 20, 2011 at Camelot Hotel, Mother Ignacia, Quezon City. In general, the activity served as a forum to review and discuss the present Memorandum Circulars (MCs) of NIA regarding CIS amortization.

Specifically, the event aimed to:

1. Consult beneficiaries of the proposed amortization scheme;

2. Identify IAs' constraint and capacity of paying CIS amortization; and

3. Agree and finalize CIS amortization option/scheme for presentation to NIA Board for eventual issuance of Memorandum Circular regarding this matter.

Engr. Mariano Catan. IRPEP Program Coordinator together with Renato Manalantan, coordinator of Rapid Food Production Enhancement Program (PaFPEP) in their messages, stressed that our production is not enough to feed our people. The latter discussed the limitations of rice importation and emphasized that since our CISs are providing additional rice, we must help our farmers reduce burden of the amortization.

Engr. Renato S. Gamboa, manager of the Institutional Development Division presented a concept paper for CIS amortization policy options. He mentioned about the program's adjustments from 25 years back, the advantages and the disadvantages of the policies, the participatory approach, governance and equitable sharing.

According to Engr. Gamboa, "for CISs where the source of water is so small - far from the National Irrigation Systems - where there is plenty of water and very productive - they must have acceptable and appropriate policy for the IA, clear vision, mission & objective with a sustainable work/activity.

The World Café[®] was used in brainstorming the following issues:

1. Constraints why IAs could not pay their yearly amortizations
2. Opinions on the proposed Scheme I (CIS Amortization Schedule)
3. Opinions on the proposed Scheme II (30 % equity participation)
4. Opinions on the proposed Scheme III (Amortizing IAs to convert into Scheme II)
5. What the IA could do to avail assistance from LGU



To ensure an acceptable and realistic policy recommendation, the following resource persons, who have broad experience in the CIS operation and maintenance, were invited to provide necessary inputs on the different areas of concern:

Engr. Tomas P. Francia	-	Manager, Engineering and Operations Division (EOD), Region 5
Engr. Helsy S. Bermudez	-	Manager, EOD, Region 1
Engr. Jose Oredina	-	Provincial Irrigation Officer, Antique
Engr. Dexter G. Patrocinio	-	Provincial Irrigation Officer, Negros Oriental
Engr. Jimmy L. Apostol	-	Head, Bukidnon Irrigation Management Office

The event was highlighted by the Open Forum with the DA Undersecretary for Operations Joel A. Rudinas.

Before the workshop ended, the group agreed on the policy recommendations that will be presented to the NIA Top management/NIA Board as a help to the farmers on the amortization related issues.

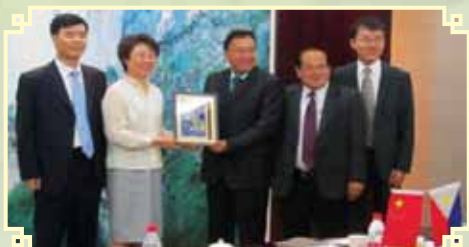
Lets take a BREAK:

Begin today
Refuse to blame others
Examine your life
Ask Christ to take over
Keep away from temptation

and be FREE

Focus on Godly things
Restore broken relationships
Enlist in a support group
Extend yourself to others

NIA ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF VISIT CHINA



Administrator Antonio S. Nangel visited Beijing, China last June 30 to July 5, 2011 to meet the top management of China CAMC regarding the construction of the Reregulating Pond of Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project in Pangasinan. During the meeting, Ms. Chen Yufang, Vice President of CAMC promised to Adm. Nangel that they will finish the project on time or even ahead of completion date so that it could be used by farmers earlier than scheduled. In response, Adm. Nangel said that NIA will extend full support to CAMC.

The Administrator was joined by Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Democrático P. Grana Jr., Manager Erdolfo B. Domingo of the Engineering Department, Ms. Lydia S. Esguerra of the Office of the Administrator, and Engrs. Laurence O. Acebedo, Jose C. Evangelista, Silvino C. Navarro, Ceferino C. Sta Ana and Victoriano B. Valle of ARIIP.

Aside from the said meeting, the Administrator and party attended seminar on Modern Water-Saving Irrigation Technology and toured at China Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences (CAAMS), where the modern agricultural machineries in China are being developed. The officials of CAAMS headed by Mr. Zhao Xiaopeng, Assistant President, presented how the modern agricultural and construction machineries are

being developed from the design of machines, laboratory testing up to actual application in the field. The group observed the actual operation of some of the agricultural machineries such as sprinkle and drip irrigation in the demonstration farm. They said that these machines are now being tested in several countries for possible exportation.

The Administrator expressed interest in these machineries and encourage the Chinese to also consider the testing of the equipment in the Philippines and look for the possible area development project under the National Irrigation Administration. He believes that using these equipment, crop production in the Philippines will significantly increase.

The group visited a large plantation supplying the daily vegetable requirements of Beijing. Some of the crops planted are strawberries, tomatoes, pechay and even flowers like tulips.

One of the highlights of the China tour was the visit to the Shisanling Pumped Storage Power Station which supplies additional power to Beijing particularly during peak hours. The Hydroelectric Powerplant has the maximum capacity of about 800 megawatts with upper reservoir area of 20 hectares. The water

releases from the upper dam passes through the power plant and impounds in the lower dam then return the water to the upper dam again through pumping.

During the exit conference on the last night with the China CAMC officials, the Administrator expressed sincere thanks not only for the warm welcome extended to the group but especially for being part of continuing irrigation development thru NIA in the Philippines. He further encouraged the CAMC to participate more in the coming irrigation projects in the country. He also congratulated the Chinese Contractor for outstanding performance in all of its on-going projects in the Philippines particularly the Re-regulating Pond of Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project in Pangasinan. Though a short visit, the Administrator, expressed his gratitude for gaining additional knowledge in terms of modern agriculture. He further conveys the continuing relationship between China and the Philippines would last for the betterment of both countries in terms of technology advancement and modern industry. Lastly, the Beijing, China experience was indeed a worthwhile visit.



ADMINISTRATOR ANTONIO S. NANGEL IN JAPAN



NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel attended the "The High Level Officials Seminar on Agriculture and Rural Development", in Japan on March 1-5, 2011. He is accompanied by Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations, Engr. Democrático P. Grana, Jr., and PAIS Department Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez.

The seminar was sponsored by the Japanese Institute of Irrigation and Drainage (JIID). The JIID is carrying out the studies concerning impacts of future climate change on irrigation facilities, agriculture and rural areas and formulation of new approach to south-south cooperation (SSC) for rural development with relevant organizations. The seminar aims to bring together high level officials whose agency they represent is related to irrigation, to discuss the effect of climate change to enhance sustainable agriculture and rural development. The outcome of the discussion will be used to study adaptation measures in the future.

Among the countries that participated and presented their existing and future plans and programs on climate change adaptation relative to irrigation sustainability, are: Thailand, Laos, Philippines and Japan. The participants included heads of irrigation agency and educational institutions.

The presentation is a conglomeration of existing programs, researches on climate change impact on irrigation as well as future plans to contain the effects of climate change including adaptation measures.

Thank you **NIA**, you are God's instrument...

For letting me master my moods

By working through my commitments in spite of my roller coaster emotions...
Since I am an imperfect person, living in an imperfect world surrounded by imperfect people...
How much can I take before I lose my cool? I must do the right thing even if I don't feel like doing it...
To complete the task that is expected of me to deliver; otherwise this life would be worth nothing to me and the whole world.
Proverbs 25:28 "A person without self-control is like a city with broken down walls"

For showing me my insurmountable opportunities

By teaching me to consider challenges as an opportunity, otherwise it will only bring discouragement rather than development...
For life is a series of problem-solving opportunities, it's how I perceive and react to a situation that matters, a stumbling block or a stepping stone...
Trial is undeniably painful, but what's in the mind determines the feelings and out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks... While feeling is usually uncontrollable, it's good to use the head and process things "no matter how hurting".
Patiently; perception determines performance.
James 1:2-4 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything"

For pushing me to continue on learning

By stretching my mind through exploration, planning and execution, for an idle mind is the devil's playground...
It is said that experience is the best teacher, thus I can say that challenges develop character that makes our life learning experience bearable...
Dinosaurs became extinct because they could not learn to adapt in a changing environment... Lessons learned --- experience, training or any degree... should be applied whenever possible, combined with character... I should stand firm with integrity.
Proverbs 18:15 "Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open to knowledge"

For helping me restore broken relationships

By being aware that relational conflict arises because every person is unique, a complex blends of temperament, history and personality...
I may get proud or oversensitive to issues... I may feel forsaken... others may belittle my whole being... Soon I realized that no amount of hurt is inflicted to my Saviour... no amount of wound and humiliation is felt by the One Who Saved Me... Though it takes different strokes for different folks, people are rude, my circumstance makes me rude: in the end... being at peace with everyone is being at peace with God.
James 3:17-18 "Wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness..."

For making me realize that failure is never final

By looking at my potentials and not my past, the pain of yesterday cannot control and manipulate my today which holds my future...
I dreamed of living this life a hundred years, I may have had lived more than one third of it only struggling to survive... Surely, my less than two thirds would be happier, wealthier, healthier... because I believe, I claim, it has been tested and it worked... In making the rest of my life the best of my life, I'll give my finest to the task at hand. I don't consider unsuccessful attempts as failure, I call them education.
Proverbs 23:7 "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he"

For allowing me to live a contented - balanced life

Three years ago, I was overwhelmed by my desire to earn dollars abroad; I worked at day time and studied at night, got home around 11pm, hospital duty during weekends... One time, a friend asked me "Bakit mo ginagawa yan?! Hindi ka ba napapagod?!" I simply answered "I am so tired, but I can endure everything for my children's future"... Then she continued "Why is it that tomorrow is more important to you than today... may nanay ba sila ngayun?!"... It was a slap on my face... an indirect plea... My teenager had failing grades, surely she's getting affection from a bad company; my toddler can hardly talk and seems distant, my God! Lead me back home...

Then I prayed "Lord I'm trading my ambition for my kinds' warmth embrace, our singing inside the car, those teasing moments during dinner time... Father God I will stay here in NIA, help me maximize my time, talent and treasure inside this agency where I chose to belong, make me glorify you through my work".
With this I believe God will bless me abundantly... minus my detrimental ambition, I began to enjoy what I do as He poured out His blessings through my husband... More importantly, He uses NIA as an instrument for a balanced life... priceless pleasures can be enjoyed here, good food, enough rest and trusted friends...

NIA gives me inspiration that fuels my aspirations; it's just a matter of choice... this agency can make me bitter or better, can bring the worst or best in me... I can view work as a means to just simply survive, one whole week to endure... I can be a living dead who lost all the desire to share the gifts God has given me... It is said that life is 10% of what happens and 90% of how you react to it... decisions determine destiny... so without any pretension I chose to just simply be me... A friend who listens, a dependable daughter and sister, a fulfilled mother ready to give hugs and encouraging words, a wife that assures, manages and secures...

*Most of all, thank you **NIA** through you I serve people, meet needs, love God...*



The Editor-in-Chief
NIA Digest

