



National Irrigation Administration

# CURRENTS



ANGAT AFTERBAY  
REGULATOR DAM, REGION 3

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# NIA 5th Special Board Meeting

## held at Palawan

BY: AILEEN VERNICE G. BAHIA  
PRO - REGION 4B

With its serene environment, the NIA held its 5th Special Board Meeting at El Nido Garden Beach Resort, El Nido, Palawan last July 7-9, 2012.

Present on the said event were four (4) NIA Board of Directors: representing DA Sec. Proceso J. Alcala and Chairman of the Board is Usec. Antonio A. Fleta, Vice Chairman NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, Member from DPWH, Usec. Romeo S. Momo and Member from Private Sector, Director Ismael D. Tabjie. Other top NIA officials present were Acting Deputy Administrator for Engineering & Operations Engr. Robert C. Suguitan, Manager for Administrative Department Ms. Violeta C. Esguerra, Acting Operations Manager (UPRIIS) Engr. Josephine B. Salazar, Corporate Board Secretary Engr. Josephine E. Abejon and the host for the meeting, Acting Regional Manager of Region IV-B Engr. Conrado V. Cardenas Jr.



Participants during the NIA 5th Special Board Meeting at Garden Beach Resort, El Nido, Palawan

The subject matters for the said event were as follows: 1) Authority to Execute Memorandum of Agreement between NIA and Local Government Unit of Panamao, Sulu (ARMM) for the construction of Panamao Small Irrigation Project (SIP), Panamao, Sulu to be funded by SIP Fund; 2) Request for the release of funds from the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) to support the on-going activities of Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (CRPIP), Ilaguen Multipurpose Project (IMP) and Tumauni Reservoir Project Transportation Subsidy for NIA-Dam Reservoir Division, UPRIS employees from electricity and fuel savings; and plaque of appreciation for Hon. Augusto B. Santos.

After the meeting, participants were able to enjoy the relaxing atmosphere, pristine white sandy beaches with crystal clear water, ageless towering marble cliffs, and the hospitality that El Nido, Palawan has to offer.

## The Isaphil New Set of Officers

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Irrigation Stewards' Association of the Philippines Incorporated (ISAPHIL) conducted the 2nd Quarter meeting last June 18-19, 2012 at Camelot Hotel, Quezon City presided by Engr. Eugenio O. Conde, Jr., the association president. Election of the new set of officers for the Year 2012-2012 is one of the agenda during the said meeting. The newly elected Officers are as follows:

<b>President</b>	<b>Engr. Joecarnine L. Gubat</b>
<b>Executive Vice Pres</b>	<b>Engr. Carlito M. Gapasin</b>
<b>Vice Pres. for Luzon</b>	<b>Engr. Rogelio C. King</b>
<b>Vice Pres. for Visayas</b>	<b>Engr. Olimpio J. Galagala</b>
<b>Vice Pres. for Mindanao</b>	<b>Engr. Carlito A. Carasco</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Engr. Jimmy L. Apostol</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Engr. Ramon A. Bugacia</b>
<b>Auditor</b>	<b>Engr. Lauro E. Ballesteros</b>
<b>P.R.O.</b>	<b>Engr. Orlando A. Tibang</b>



The ISAPHIL new board of trustees for the Calendar Year 2012-2014 are the following:

<b>CAR</b>	Domingo R. Onza Raymundo B. Apil
<b>Region 1</b>	Renato P. Millan Sergio S. Martinez
<b>Region 2</b>	Francisco A. Domingil Francis C. Yu
<b>Region 3</b>	Lauro E. Ballesteros Vergilio J. Ilao
<b>Region 4A</b>	Hilarion C. Cedeño
<b>Region 4B</b>	Carlito T. Resureccion
<b>Region 5</b>	Rogelio C. King
<b>Region 6</b>	Ricardo P. Penaso
<b>Region 7</b>	Dioniso B. Asencio Olimpio J. Galagala, Jr.

<b>Region 8</b>	Santos D. Meracap, Jr.
<b>Region 9</b>	Carlos A. Sabado
<b>Region 10</b>	Joecarnine L. Gubat Jimmy A. Apostol
<b>Region 11</b>	Carlito A. Carasco Manuel L. Raneses
<b>Region 12</b>	Ramon A. Bugacia Orlando A. Tibang
<b>Region 13</b>	Madante P. Ganotisi Ferdinand D. Amon
<b>MARIIS</b>	Florentino C. Baniqued, Jr. Jose G. Soliven
<b>UPRIIS</b>	Carlito M. Gapasin Santos B. Viernes



## Sec. Alcala and Adm. Nangel open Tagulahi CIS Dam 2

BY: SILVESTRE C. ALBORES  
PRO - REGION 13

Sec. Proceso J. Alcala and Adm. Antonio S. Nangel cut the ceremonial ribbon and open the intake gate of supplementary dam # 2 of the Tagulahi CIS to irrigate a total area of 100 hectares located at Taguibo, Butuan City.

Also present are NIA-Caraga Regional Manager, Modesto G. Membreve, the city officials of Butuan City headed by Hon. Ferdinand M. Amante, City Mayor, Hon. Laurence Fortun, Vice Mayor and SP Members, Regional Directors from the different line agencies and ASDI-IMO personnel.

Shortly after the inauguration, the irrigators in the community had a chance to thank the Secretary for the project which will eventually increase their rice production and improve their standard of living.

The Tagulahi IPM Irrigators' Association Inc., the recipient IA, is also producing organic fertilizer through Vermiculture process which will be utilized by their members in rice farming at a cheaper price. Their proposal is to expand the volume of this organic fertilizer to be distributed to the neighboring communities to increase the IA's income.

The Secretary also gave out farm implements and other agricultural products for the Taguibo farmers, while farmers of Tagulahi CIS and neighboring irrigation systems took their stand, expressing their full support to the programs implemented for them. After the affair, Sec. Alcala proceeded to Butuan City to attend the equally significant event, the Vegetable Congress at Balanghai Hotel of this city.



## A COMMITMENT DELIVERED, *A DREAM REALIZED*

BY: NIA-MMIP TEAM

### Inaugural Ceremony

MAGSASAKA AKO. BAKIT?!" was a challenge from the Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala to all farmers who attended the inauguration of Panicupan Chrislam Dam and Nalapaan Stream Check at Pikit, North Cotabato. A challenge for the farmers "to be proud that they are instrument in feeding the nation."

The Agriculture Secretary told the crowd, "...the Department of Agriculture is supportive to the program of the government in its grains sufficiency project. Its regional and local branches are always ready to receive request for materials and technical assistance, all the farmers have to do is unite, and since the IAs were already organized, then ask and the aide will come to you".

A tall order from our very supportive and result oriented Administrator Antonio S. Nangel was given to all NIA Project Managers in RMs & PMs' Meeting. "Fast track implementation of your projects, generate irrigable areas so we can boost up and support the rice sufficiency program of this government", he ordered.

The inauguration was led by the Agriculture Secretary Alcala, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, Cotabato 1st District Hon. Congressman "Susing" Saccalan, Hon. Pikit Mayor Sumulong Sultan and Hon. Board Member Vicente Sorupia representing the Hon. Cotabato Governor Emmylou J. Taliño-Mendoza. The event witnessed by some officials of the Department of Agriculture, local government officials and members of Irrigators Associations.

### Stakeholders Meeting

An open forum ensued with Agriculture Secretary Alcala, Administrator Nangel, DA and NIA officials and the local government officials. Doubts were cleared and farmers were satisfied of the support promised to them. Though the Secretary departed early, recipients were so happy in the raffle draw,



Ceremonial Opening of Gate at Nalapaan Stream Check Dam

of five carabaos and farm implements, 7 cows, 3 mini mechanical dryers, materials for use in drying palay and 5,000 fruit bearing seedlings. These perks made the day for all farmers and visitors.

### Collaborative Effort

The completion of Panicupan Chrislam Dam and Nalapaan Stream Check were a collaborative effort of NIA Central Office management officials, NIA-XII officials and MMIP





personnel led by Project Manager (PM) Noldin S. Oyod. Administrator Antonio S. Nangel upon inspection of the area, directed MMIP Phase II Project Manager to proceed with the construction of irrigation facilities to generate and irrigate the area while waiting for irrigation from the dam of MMIP Phase I. The passion of the farmer beneficiaries to till their land with new technology won the support of the local government and caused Cotabato 1st District Congressman Jesus N. Sacdalan to endorse for its implementation.

### Water Delivery

And, as 2011 bids adieu, Malitubog-Mari-dagao Irrigation Project (MMIP) Phase II has delivered its commitment and generated an area of 530 hectares with 170 farmer beneficiaries of Panicupan and Nalapaan, Pikit Cotabato. Farmers were able to benefit from irrigation and planted the area this cropping season. The immensity of current irrigated area is a showcase of hope to all Pikiteños who awaited the irrigation project.

The gates of both completed Chrislam Dam and Nalapaan Stream Check were opened for a test run on February 12, 2012 by the

Hon. Mayor Sumulong Sultan, NIA XII Regional Irrigation Manager Modesto Anderson Tolentino, PM Noldin S. Oyod, IA president and Baranggay officials.

### Project Profile

MMIP Phase II is designed to irrigate 19,601 hectares with 3,866 farmer beneficiaries. Its implementation was divided into two (2) Phases: Phase I irrigates the 10,840 hectares in the municipalities of Carmen and Pikit of North Cotabato and Pagalungan and Datu Montawal of Maguindanao province. Phase II is a proposed foreign assisted project hopefully to be financed by JICA which covers the four (4) municipalities, the Aleosan and Pikit of North Cotabato province and Pagalungan and Datu Montawal of Maguindanao province. Phase II covers a total 40 barangays as service areas. As submitted and approved by NEDA ICC-TB, MMIP-Phase II will be implemented with three (3) major components, 1) Irrigation; 2) agricultural support and 3) Social infrastructure. If fully implemented, MMIP is a legacy of the government in promoting peace and improving socio economic environment in Central Mindanao and will be an invitation to institutions and other support services to strengthen agricultural productivity in the area.



## News in Photos



NIA hosts 42nd Project Implementing Officers (PIO) Meeting. Administrator Antonio S. Nangel (ASN) (3rd from right) answers queries of the NEDA Deputy Director General Rolando Tungpalan (3rd from left). Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Lorna Grace B. Rosario (extreme left), Sr. Deputy Administrator Antonio A. Galvez (2nd from left) join ASN in welcoming PIOs from other agencies and institutions. Also in the photo is NEDA-PMS Director Roderick Planta (extremely right).



Region 7 Regional Manager Diosdado A. Rosales (2nd from left) points to an area of the Talibon SRIS and enlightens Administrator Antonio S. Nangel regarding inquiry on the service area. With them are Engr. Reyne Ugay (extreme left) and Mr. Yung Qu Park (in white shirt)



Administrator Nangel and RIM Rosales inspect progress at Ubay stockfarm.





Administrator Antonio S. Nangel welcomes the members of Federation of Irrigators of Maranding RIS from Maranding IS, Lanao del Norte led by Engr. Estelita Sumile and key staff. The IA aims to visit UPRIS, CMIPP and Benguet as part of Technology Enhancement Program.

NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and JICA official sign the Minutes of Discussion on renewable energy. The signing signals to proceed with the preliminary survey of pilot projects for Mini-Hydropower Development Project in the Philippines.



## II. NIA'S PLANS & PROGRAMS

# ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING AS A WATER SAVING TECHNOLOGY IN RICE PRODUCTION

BY: NIÑA L. DE GUZMAN, PAIS C.O.

An Appreciation Seminar on Science and Technology Updates on Rice Production (with Emphasis on Alternate Wetting and Drying or Controlled Irrigation) was conducted on July 31, 2012 at the NIA Irrigation Center Convention Hall. The training was organized and facilitated by NIA, PhilRice and the International Rice Research Institute.

The main goal of this seminar is to increase the level of understanding and awareness of the key officials of NIA on controlled irrigation (CI) or alternate wetting and drying (AWD) technology. Specifically, it aims to introduce CI of AWD, other water saving technologies, and recent updates on rice production technologies to the future implementers of NIA; and provide sufficient technical information in order to effectively transfer the water saving technologies to the farmers.

Community Development Officer III Heart Navarro introduced eight participants who shared their expertise on controlled irrigation. Primary topic on the development, dissemination and adoption of AWD in Asia was fully discussed by Dr. Rubenito M. Lampayan of the IRRI. Following subject on the adoption of AWD and other WST at the system level-prospects for increased system efficiency, cropping intensity and productivity was well explained by Engr. Evangeline B. Sibayan of PhilRice. Topics related to AWD and other Water Saving Technologies were expounded more by experienced IRRI speakers Dr. Romeo Cabangon and Mr. Efren Laureles as well knowledgeable speakers from Philrice, Ms. Thelma F. Padolina, Engr. Paulino Ramos, Mr. Edwin Martin, and Engr. Elmer Bautista. Engr. Ricardo C. Lopez of the IDD-CO acted as facilitator.







CONT.. WETTING AND DRYING AS A WATER SAVING TECHNOLOGY IN RICE PRODUCTION

A corporate video presented by the IRRI and The Irrigated Rice Research Consortium-Water Saving Work Group demonstrated the technique called Alternate Wetting and Drying or AWD which uses less water to grow rice as well as how to make and install field water tubes used as water observation wells. AWD is a water saving technology that lowland rice farmers can apply to reduce water use in irrigated fields. In AWD, the rice field is allowed to dry for a number of days before being irrigated again; hence, the field is alternately flooded and left dry. The number of days that the field can be left dry depends on the soil type and other field conditions. A practical way of applying AWD is by observing depth of water in the field using a field water tube. After irrigation, water level will gradually decrease. When the water level has dropped to 15cm. below the soil surface, the field should be reflooded to a depth of 5cm. allowing the water in the field to drop to 15cm. below the soil surface before irrigating again is called The 15cm. limit will not affect the yield since the roots of the rice plants will be able to take up water from the saturated soil and the perched water level in the surface. The field water tube helps farmers see the level of moisture in the soil. Safe AWD irrigation can be started a few days after transplanting, or when the direct seeded rice crop is already 10cm. tall, until first heading. When many weeds are present in the early stages of crop growth, Safe AWD can be postponed for two to three weeks until the weeds have been suppressed by the ponded water. Local fertilizer recommendations for flooded rice can be used. Around the period of the peak of flowering, water should be kept at a 5cm depth to avoid water stress which could result in potentially severe yield loss. After flowering and during grain filling, apply Safe AWD again. In Safe AWD, water savings maybe relatively small, about 15 to 25% but there is no yield damage. Once farmers are confident that Safe AWD does not reduce yield, they can experiment by lowering the threshold level to 20, 25, 30cm. depth, or even deeper before irrigation. Alternate Wetting and Drying is already a mature technology that can be readily used by farmers. The field water tube is a very simple tool that guides farmers to effectively and efficiently manage their limited irrigation water for their rice crop. However, farmers can only truly appreciate the benefits and water savings from AWD if adoption of this promising technology is done at a community or system wide.



### MAKING AND INSTALLING FIELD WATER TUBES AS WATER OBSERVATION WELLS USED IN ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING

The field water tube can be made of a plastic pipe or bamboo or other indigenous materials that will help farmers see water below the soil. The bottom 20cm. length of the tube should be drilled with holes on all sides. Holes should have a diameter of about 0.5cm. each and spaced about 2cm. away from one another. The tube can be placed on the side of the field close to the bond but not less than a meter away for easier monitoring. Break through the bottom of the plow pan or the hard pan which is a dense layer of soil that is largely resistant to water. Remove the soil inside the tube so that the bottom of the tube is visible. Check that the water level inside the tube is the same as that outside the tube.

### PAGGAWA AT PAGLAGAY NG FIELD WATER TUBES O WATER OBSERVATION WELLS NA GAMIT SA ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING (AWD)

Batay sa isang presentasyong video ni G. Jovino De Dios ng PhilRice, hindi kailangan ng palay ang tuloy-tuloy na maraming tubig sa pinitak.

Mas mainam kung magkakaroon ng hangin ang lupa at mga ugat ng palay sa panahon ng pagsusuwi at ilang mga yugto sa paglaki nito. Mahalagang masubaybayan ang dami ng tubig sa pinitak sa panahon ng paglaki ng palay. Ang isang paraan na makakatulong sa pagkontrol at pagtipid ng tubig gamit sa irigasyon ng palay ay ang Alternate Wetting and Drying o AWD. Upang maisagawa ito, kakailanganin nating maglagay ng Field Water Tube o Observation Well sa pinitak. Makakatulong ito upang maobserbahan ang lagay ng tubig sa bukirin at malaman kung kailan nararapat magpatubig na muli. Upang magkaruon ng Observation Well, kakailanganin natin ng mga sumusunod na materyales tulad ng kawayan o plastic na tubo; pangmarka-ruler; electric drill o kung walang electric drill ay maaring gumamit ng hand drill o ordinaryong barena o kaya naman ay pinainit na matulis na bakal. Kumuha ng kawayan o plastic na tubo na may habang dalawampung-limang sentimetro at may bilog na labingdalawang sentimetro. Kung kawayan ang gagamitin, siguraduhing na walang bugbog sa loob ng parte na puputulin. Sumukat ng 5 centimetro mula sa pinakaitaas na bahagi ng tubo o kawayan. Lagyan ito ng pa-ikot na marka at sulatan ng 'Tag-ulan'. Mula sa marking ito, muling sumukat ng limang sentimetro pababa at lagyan ito ng marking 'Tag-araw'. Lagyan ng mga butas ang buong tubo o kawayan na may pagitang tatlong sentimetro sa pahaba o patayong direksyon at limang sentimetro naman ang pagitan sa pabilog na direksyon. Pumili ng kinatawang bahagi ng pinitak na mapaglalagyan ng observation well. Pinakamainam na piliin ang lugar na may layong 1-2m mula sa pilapil upang mas madaling maobserbahan ang lalim ng tubig sa observation well. Sapat na ang isang observation well kada ektarya kung ang bukid ay pare-pareho ang kondisyon ng lupa at pantay bawat pinitak. Kailangan namang maglagay ng iba't-ibang observation well batay sa klase ng lupa at elebasyon kung ito ay magkakaiba. Sa napiling lugar, hawakan at itulak ng deretso pailalim ng lupa ang tubo o kawayan at saka ito hugutin kasama ang putik sa loob. Tanggalin ang putik mula sa loob ng kawayan o tubo. Muling ibaon ang kawayan o tubo kung saan ito ay unang inilagay at muling gawin ang proseso hanggang ang marking 'Tag-ulan' o 'Tag-araw' ay pumantay sa ibabaw ng lupa. Siguraduhing na maayos ang pagkakalubog ng tubo o kawayan at tiyakin na pantay ang marka sa ibabaw ng lupa ayon sa panahon ng pagtatanim. Simulan ang pagpapatubig gamit ang Observation Well 1 buwan matapos ang pagtatanim o paglilipat-tanim.



Siguraduhing na maisagawa ang tamang paraan upang maiwasan ang damo sa pinitak at masiguro na malusog na ang mga palay. Sa panahon ng tag-ulan, magpatubig hanggang pumantay ang tubig sa ibabaw ng tubo. Kung tag-araw naman, magpatubig hanggang umabot ang tubig sa guhit na may markang 'Tag-ulan'. Muling magpatubig kung maoobserbahan na wala ng tubig sa loob ng Observation Well. Subalit sa panahon ng paglililihi at pamumulaklak ng palay at kung nagpapataba ng lupa, siguraduhing na may tubig ang pinitak ng mga lima hanggang pitong sentimetro. Ito ay upang masigurong maging mabisa ang pataba at maiwasan magkaruon ng maraming ipa o tulyapis sanhi ng kakulangan sa tubig ng palay. Ihinto ang papatubig sa panahon ng paghinog ng palay. Patuyuan ang bukid kung may natira pang tubig sa pinitak isang lingo bago ang ina-asahang pag-aani. Makakatulong ito upang maging pantay ang paggulang ng mga butil. Nagiging madali rin ang gawain sa pag-aani at pagkatapos mag-ani kung tuyo ang lupa.

**Installation of Observation (for controlled irrigation at Upper Pampanga River Irrigation System)**



## *Orientation on the* **PHILIPPINE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT (PHILCCAP)**



**Participants, Facilitators and Resource Speakers  
NIA Penthouse—August 31, 2012**

The project is called **PHILCCAP**, it aims to develop and demonstrate approaches that would enable targeted communities to adapt to the potential impacts of climate variability change in the Philippines.

### **Implemented by:**

- Climate Change Commission
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Department of Agriculture—NIA
- Department of Science and Technology—PAGASA.

### **Funded by:**

- World Bank under the GEF-Grant

### **Strategies:**

- strengthening of existing institutional frameworks for climate change adaptation/cost effective designs, concept and management of natural resources and agriculture infrastructure

### **DA - NIA's Role:**

- Subcomponent 2.1. Retrofitting / Climate Proofing of Irrigation Infrastructures



**PhilCCAP  
Sub-component 2  
NIA Steering & Technical  
Review Team  
(from the top):**

- **Robert C. Suguitan**  
Deputy Administrator,  
Engineering & Operations
- **Erdolfo B. Domingo**  
Dept. Mgr., Engineering
- **Reynaldo L. Baloloy**  
Chief, Environmental Mgt.





CONT.. ORIENTATION ON THE PHILIPPINE CLIMATE  
CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT (PHILCCAP)



Presentors from other agencies emphasizing interrelationships of sub-components

### PhilCCAP Sub-Component 2.1, the Climate Proofing of Irrigation Development

The Sub-Component 2.1 aims to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable irrigation infrastructures develop under the Bank-supported project, PIDP. "Retrofitting" or "climate proofing" activity started with a thorough assessment of the identified climate risk irrigation infrastructure or "pilot sites" in Regions 2 and 6. Thus, findings will provide a detailed guidance/manual on the redesigning, retrofitting and operational modification of irrigation infrastructures.

#### The first orientation meeting for project sub-component 2.1 highlighted the following:

- Overview of PhilCCAP and its components/stakeholders responsibility areas
- NIA's role as DA's attached agency—the implementation process, institutional arrangements, funding arrangements, and other protocols
- PAGASA climatic information: climate change scenarios as an input to sub-component 2.1, with emphasis on two pilot sites Jalaur RIS and Pinacanauan RIS
  - Enhanced provision of scientific information for climate riskmanagement.
  - Climate change manifestations, & impacts in agriculture during extreme weather conditions.
- Consultants report on the data requirements, strategies/ methodologies and deliverables.

#### TASKS:

**Task 1** - Inception

**Task 2** - Climate Risk Assessment of Irrigation Facilities

**Task 3** - Identification of Appropriate Climate Change adaptation measures

**Task 4** - Development of Guidelines and Design Manuals for Retrofitting of Irrigation and Drainage Structures

**Task 5** - Conceptual Plans and Design (Two Pilot NIS)

**Task 6** - Feasibility Study Report and Consultation

**Task 7** - Preparation of Standard Implementation, Operation and Maintenance of Retrofitted Structures

**Task 8** - Orientation and Training to Counterpart Staff

**Task 9** - Technical Advices During Construction of Improved Design Plans



(1)



(2)



(3)

**Mr. Wilbur Dee**  
PhilCCAP Project  
Manager

**PhilCCAP**  
Sub-component 2.1  
Consultants:

(1) **Serafin A. Palteng**  
Team Leader,  
Design Engineer

(2) **Rolando C. Maloles**  
Hydrologist

(3) **Fernando S. Antolin**  
Agricultural Economist

### III. BIG EVENTS

IAS, LGUS AT MAKINA-SAKA, 2012

# NIA joins Makina Saka 2012

BY: LISA FRIAS

Dubbed as Makina-Saka 2012, an exhibit of agricultural machineries was held on July 4-7, 2012 at World Trade Centre in Pasay City where Irrigators' Associations, Local Government Units and other agencies from various regions gathered for the event.

Since mechanization is a vital component in the advancement of our agricultural sector, wide range of farm machineries are exhibited and displayed at the World Trade Centre to help farmers acquire the equipment at a lower cost says Department of Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala. With this year's 2.6-B budget, the DA targets to provide IAs, other farm associations and LGUs with various farm machinery and equipment with an 85:15 counterparting scheme.

Around 100 booths-exhibitors where different farm mechanization, postharvest, food processing technologies were displayed, participated in by Agricultural machinery manufacturers and DA attached agencies.



Irrigators Associations flock to NIA booth to secure IEC materials



CONT.. NIA JOINS 2012  
MAKINA SAKA

**NIA-Public Affairs & Information Staff (PAIS)** maintained a booth throughout the event giving out educational and information campaign materials to farmers and viewers alike.

**NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel** graced the exhibit with **NIA's Regional and Operations Managers**. In his speech he stressed out that IAs have proven to be reliable partners of NIA as manifested by their tremendous response to the event.

Makina-Saka will drum up support in achieving **Rice Self-Sufficiency Program (RSSP)** come 2013, as it boosts world class machineries that will enhance productivity and cropping intensity. Having these machineries will reduce drudgery, gives safety and comfort to the farmers. "It will surely increase income and improve the social equality and living standards of our stakeholders," Administrator Nangel added.

Various farm machineries and cash prizes were raffled out to farmers-participants from all over the country. Freebies were also given to viewing public all through the exhibit.

DA Secretary Alcala was very elated on the success of Makina-Saka; "we will have another Makina-Saka next year", he ended.



Administrator Antonio S. Nangel welcomes Asec Dante De Lima in the Agency's designated booth



Administrator Antonio S. Nangel joins Engr. Dexter G. Patrocinio, Acting Operations Department Manager and Madam Pilipina P. Bermudez in the assigned booth for the Agency.

## NIA IV-B Joins MakinaSaka 2012

BY: AVE JANE T. VARGAS



Administrator Nangel and RIM Cardenas with participants from Palawan IMO and Irrigators Association



Administrator Nangel and RIM Cardenas with participants from MOMARO IMO and Irrigators Association

Together with Acting RIM Conrado V. Cardenas Jr., a total of forty (40) participants from NIA Region IV-B participated in the MakinaSaka 2012, the 2nd Agri-Machinery Roadshow/Conference of Irrigators Association and Agricultural Fishery Council last July 4-7, 2012 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. The participants were composed of Irrigators Association and NIA Regional and IMO staff.

The event aimed to showcase the latest available farm production and post-harvest machinery/equipment that may be availed by IAs and farmers on a counterpart scheme under the DA-Rice Program.

Said event was graced by His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III on July 5, 2012. He commended the Department of Agriculture and Secretary Proceso J. Alcala for greatly reducing imports from 1.3M metric tons last year to 850,000 metric tons this year and for sustaining production efforts to attain sufficiency by end of 2013.

The Regional IA Federation Presidents reported their current programs, major accomplishments, plans, issues/concerns and recommended countermeasures. Ms. Rustica "Baby" Panganiban, the temporary Regional Federation President of MI-MAROPA Irrigators Association reported that they don't have major accomplishments yet due to the fact that NIA IV-B is a newly-established region. As of now, NIA IV-B is working hand in hand with the IAs to strengthen the Regional Federation. These reports were consolidated by the NIA-Institutional Development Department and were presented to Asec. De Lima and NIA-PAIS Chief Pilipina P. Bermudez who represented DA Secretary Alcala and NIA Administrator Nangel, respectively.

NIA and DA agreed to fully support the creation of a national IA Federation that will represent thousands of farmer-members. Asec. De Lima stressed that with a national IA Federation, DA and NIA will be able to facilitate the provision of needed logistics and equipment including institutional and capability-building assistance to thousands of IAs nationwide.





# RCIA 8 Participates in the 2012 Makina Saka 2nd Agri-Machinery Roadshow and Farmers Congress

BY: EDITA V. ENDEREZ, SIDO, REGION 8

The newly organized Regional Confederation of Irrigators Associations in Region 8 (RCIA 8) participated in the 2012 Agri-Machinery Roadshow and Farmers Congress together with their counterparts all over the nation with about 1,800 farmer leaders converging in the World Trade Center of the Philippines. They were housed in the posh 5-star Century Park Sheraton Hotel enjoying the delectable food and superb tourist accommodation. The national activity sponsored by the Department of Agriculture is on its second year to show case the importance of mechanization which is the efficient application of modern farm technologies as it maximizes land and labor productivity, thereby increasing income of farmers. It allows easier and timely production and post harvest operations. It also reduces drudgery of field work, lower production and post harvest costs.

A brief opening program marked the start of the activity followed by the viewing of farm machinery exhibits and a lecture on the Rice Self Sufficiency Program. The IA Congress proper started at 2 PM with an inspiring message from NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel. He shared his fervent desire to help farmers uplift their standard of living, he himself a "farmer's son". This is his tribute to his deceased father. He assured the farmers of his unwavering support to make a difference in their lives through the provision of timely assistance to farmers, maintain active coordination and collaborative efforts with agencies involved in agricultural development. He ended his message with a call to join hands and unite to attain the Rice Self-Sufficiency Program of the government.

Romeo G. Quiza, the dynamic and supportive Regional Irrigation Manager of Region 8, Tacloban City, took time out from his busy schedule to visit RCIA 8 and reiterated his commitment in support of their programs, projects and activities to the delight of the farmer leaders.

The NIA Regional Federation Presidents from Regions 1-12 UPRRIS, MARIS and CAR individually delivered a report highlighting on its Major Accomplishments, Current Programs and Financial Status.

Launching of the Food Staple Sufficiency Program (FSSP) highlighted the signing of the MOU between manpower and financial resources, partnership in Research and Development and collaboration in the successful implementation of the Rice Staple Sufficiency Program thru a video presentation.

Likewise, the official launching of the "Matuwid na D.A.A.N. at DA Website by DA Secretary Proceso Alcala was announced. In his message, he appealed to the participants to bridge the gap between DA and the farmers. For DA and its attached agencies to lead with a "heart" – see, speak and feel with the people; "Walk about" with the people and "touch people's heart" for management to be closer to the people. He reiterated his unwavering support to the farmers by supporting the irrigation, mechanization, and provision of post-harvest facilities which will be the vehicle for RSSP to move forward.

His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III highlighted the activity with his keynote address. He lauded the Agri-machinery Roadshow since he believes that farm mechanization basically improves farmer's productivity and directly contributes towards the attainment of the government's vision of "Pagkain Sapat, Magsasaka Angat".

He also emphasized the need to instill accountability among government workers, considering "Ang butil ng palay ay pawis at buhay". He firmly believes that with enough supply of irrigation water, farm inputs, farm machineries and post harvest facilities will increase rice production and the Food Self Sufficiency Program of the government will be achieved. He ended his visit with the distribution of fashionable "yellow ballers" with the insignia of Malacañang embossed in it.



"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

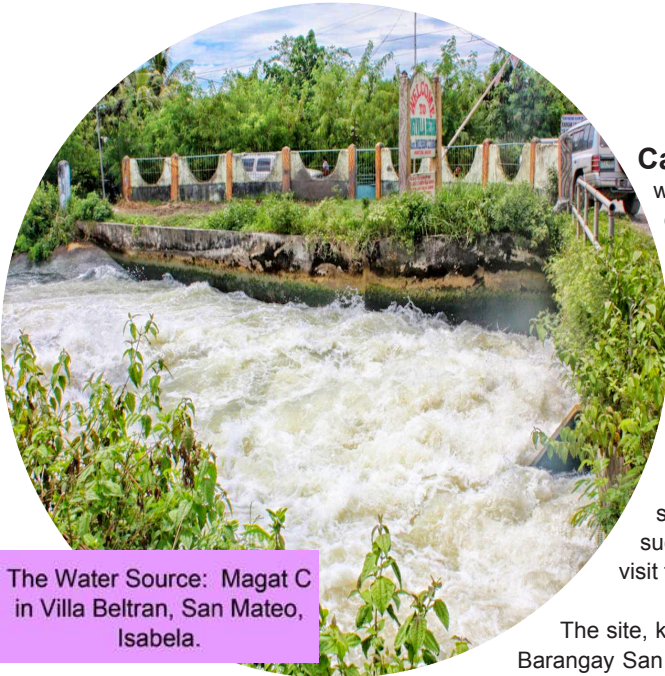


## IV. NIA'S ADVOCATES

# NIA promotes renewable energy

*JICA visits MARIIS for preliminary mission on mini-hydro power plant development*

BY: MELISSA C. AGBISIT, PRO - MARIIS



The Water Source: Magat C in Villa Beltran, San Mateo, Isabela.

**Cauayan City, Isabela** - "We will require no additional water. There will be no consumption of water, no contamination. We will just utilize the energy," Oshima Kazunari, Team Leader of the Japan International Cooperation Agency which visited the province for the preliminary study for mini-hydro power plant development in an existing irrigation system here, stressed during the courtesy call made at the Provincial Capitol here on August 9, 2012.

Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, during the closing ceremony of the agency's 49th Anniversary Celebration stressed that the agency is now going beyond just providing irrigation and has plans of constructing mini-hydro power plants to optimize the use of irrigation water. The agency submitted to JICA Philippines Office the updated list of potential sites for such development nationwide and a JICA Study Mission was scheduled to visit the pre-identified site in NIA-MARIIS.

The site, known as Magat C, is located at the Maris Main Canal Sta. 5 + 069.50 in Barangay San Marcos, San Mateo, Isabela. The structure has a head of 3.18 meters and a discharge of 56 cms.

The Japanese have developed turbines for low-head structures. Even structures with only two meters head have potential for hydropower generation.

"Though the potential is small, it is possible to contribute to a community by utilizing untapped energy, stabilizing power supply, and improving quality of life," Mitsuru Shimizu, JICA Consultant Leader for the project, said.

Mr. Shimizu, who is with the Tokyo Electric Power Services Company, shared that the group has until this year to conduct the preliminary study and once approved by the government of Japan, construction will start on the third quarter of 2013.

MARIIS Acting Operations Manager Helsy S. Bermudez, during the stakeholders consultation meeting conducted on August 10, 2012, expressed hope for the project to commence as planned. This outlook was shared by the representatives of the local government units of San Mateo and Ramon, Isabela, who were also present during the consultation.

If the Magat C project is successful, low-head hydro-power plants could be developed in several irrigation canals across the country. The NIA has identified 32 potential sites nationwide.

The project is also in line with the government's "National Renewable Energy Program" of June 2011 which targets to triple the country's renewable energy capacity for energy security as well as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The JICA Mission Team also visited Ifugao for the Likud Mini-hydro project, a mini-hydro project outside irrigation area. Both Likud and Magat C Projects are for possible application to the grant aid facility of the Government of Japan for renewable energy promotion to tackle global warming.



JICA-TEPSO Consultant Mitsuru Shumizo measures the drop at the Magat C structure.





## V. OUR PARTNER IRRIGATORS: IA SUCCESS STORY

# La Paz IA's: Setting Examples

BY: MYLENE MALECDAN, PRO, CAR

A smile slowly curved over NIA Administrator Antonio Nangel's face as he listens to farmers of Abra. They were speaking in their distinctive Ilocano tongue expressing their thanks to NIA for the irrigation systems while a translator spoke a little clumsily in the distance. That smile became wider as Mang Danilo Anchos of the Bagatoy Farmer Irrigators' Association (IA) proudly shared, "Maganda na po ang aming mga canal sa Bagatoy Communal Irrigation System (CIS) dahil sementado na po. Doon sa amin tatlong beses kung magtanim sa isang taon." Another farmer suddenly stood and exclaimed, "Pati din po doon sa amin, tatlong beses din."

The Administrator was now grinning. He said, "Yan ay magandang halimbawa! Yan po ang kailangan natin sa pagtupad sa rice self-sufficiency agenda ng ating pamahalaan."

Manong Danilo was just one of the Abrenian farmers who attended the Irrigators' Associations Forum where Administrator Nangel encouraged them to openly express their concerns. The forum was held at NIA satellite office in Bangued, Abra.

### Three Croppings a Year

It was not uncommon for farmers of La Paz, Abra, a 15-minute-ride from Bangued, the capital town of Abra, to cultivate their farms three times a year. As long as there is ample water and good irrigation facilities, Abrenian farmers are hardworking people who are more than happy to plant rice all year round.

In Bagatoy CIS, about 95 per cent or 150 hectares out of the total service area of 158 ha is cultivated thrice a year. The remaining five per cent is planted twice annually.

In an interview with Manong Danilo, a BOD member of the Bagatoy FIA, he revealed some of their secrets. He said they carefully choose and use certified seeds and rice varieties such as RC18 that can be harvested in short periods. Rice varieties used for each cropping season also differ. Since farmers have set aside portions of their ricefields specifically for seed beds only, they can already start seeding for the next cropping season even when the standing crops are yet to be harvested.

Apparently, the third cropping turned out to be the farmers' favorite. Aside from having the shortest duration, usually only 112 days, of all the three planting periods, it is also during this time that the farmers harvest the highest yield ranging from 100-120 cavans per hectare, higher by about 20 cavans from the first or second croppings.

A long-term member of the Bagatoy IA, Manong Noel shared that farmers of Bagatoy has been practicing the three-cropping pattern for more than a decade. Farmers usually reserve their third crop palay for their family consumption while the produce in the first two croppings are marketed in Bangued, Vigan and can reach as far as Metropolitan Manila. Local traders are buying La Paz rice produce without second thoughts as they could easily determine its difference from the rice of other areas. When cooked, it has softer texture, more fluffy and the grains stick together.

With the palpable benefits of three-croppings a year, several farmers of other CISs in La Paz followed suit with the practice, Manong Noel said. The NIA-assisted Demet CIS and Isit-Bulbulala CIS as well as the private CIS, Amiao CIS, have several portions of their rice areas being cultivated three times annually in the recent years contributing to the rice self-sufficiency of the province.

As of 2011, Abra is 197% self-sufficient in rice producing 61,253 metric tons of palay a year with about 30,000 metric tons being brought to other parts of the region.

### IA Methods and Practices

Sometime in 2010, all the four IAs in La Paz organize themselves into the Federation of La Paz IAs. One of the main issues the group was able to address during their assemblies was on sharing water resources so that more irrigation water could flow from the upper portion covered by Bagatoy CIS and could reach the lower portion or tail-end areas of La Paz covered by the Demet CIS.

"Live and let live," roughly translated by Manong Noel in Ilocano as "Agbingay ka. Palubusam agbiyag ti karrubam," was one of the unwritten practices of La Paz farmers. They always underscore on discipline when dealing with matters concerning irrigation and farming.



DA Secretary Proceso Alcala hands over a Certificate of System Acceptance to Mr. Ricardo Claor, president of Bagatoy Farmer Irrigators' Association, during the Irrigators' Forum on March 28 in La Paz, Abra. The certificate attests the repair of their irrigation system. With the Secretary are DA-RED Marilyn Sta. Catalina, Abra Congresswoman Jocelyn Bernos and Danguas Mayor Esther Bernos.



La Paz farmers were discussing with NIA and MAO staff some farm practices that can improve production.



Mr. Noel Belena in a palay seed bed. He said that their seed beds are being prepared for the next cropping season while the standing crops are yet to be harvested.

In the practice of this big 'D', all water users has to be a member of the the Bagatoy IA and all members have to participate in IA activities, be it in the repair of facilities or in meetings. If a family has too wide a farm or in cases of fishponds which use much more water than the regular ricefield, about two or three individuals have to contribute labor if there are scheduled repairs of irrigation facilities especially during calamities.

Manong Noel jokingly said, "Agbibiyag ti IA mi gapu iti multa," (The IA thrives on fines and penalties.) More seriously, he said that rules discussed and set during meetings have to be strictly followed. Some IA members and officers are assigned to collect the fines imposed on those who failed to join in these activities. Those who refused to pay the fines, after several warnings, shall be prohibited from the use of irrigation water which, in most cases, would compel the delinquent farmer to pay his obligations to the organization. The IA also has monetary contributions used not only for immediate repairs but also for alms during a member's or his/her family member's demise.

Apart from their sharing system, farmers observed some farm practices taught by the municipal agriculturists. Manong Susana, an agricultural technologist of La Paz, said that they remind the farmers that continuous land use without allowing the soil some rest would deplete its nutrients. When told about this, the farmers are taking steps into maintaining soil fertility. Manong Danilo shares that he conforms to the advice of the agriculture office of not burning rice stalks, and instead piles them up in one area to decompose before bringing back the heap into the ricefield. Others, he said, are starting to apply new composting practices and use of organic fertilizers.

"Napintas ti relationship mi with the farmers," (We [agriculturists] have good relationship with the farmers.) said Municipal Agriculturist Gregoria Valdez who prefers to be called 'Anti Oyang'. She added that the farmers are very cooperative and receptive during trainings and seminars that the La Paz municipality has the highest graduates in Palay Field School.



# TIPA IA: Cooperation & Discipline *Made it BIG*

BY: MACK P. TORIBIO, REGION 2

*Made it*

*BIG*

In the recent functionality survey conducted on national irrigation systems of the National Irrigation Administration-Region 2, Tumauni Irrigation Pilot Area Irrigators Association (TIPA IA) topped the 109 farmers associations under the national irrigation systems' (NIS) category. Based on the survey results, TIPA IA garnered an outstanding rating on operation and maintenance, organization, financial performance and organizational discipline. The highest rating that could be given to an IA in recognition of its excellent performance.

"TIPA IA is indeed very small considering its area of coverage and membership," says Ms. Amalia M. Ramos, Supervising Irrigators Development Officer of the Institutional Development Section of NIA Region 2. "But what makes it big is the attitude and discipline of the members, their unity and cooperation especially in times of urgent needs. The bayanihan spirit is still very much alive among the members," she said.

Located at barangay Antagan 1st in the town of Tumauni in northern Isabela about 440 kilometers north of Manila, TIPA IA was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 12, 1977 under Registration No. 07087. It has a service area of 257 hectares situated upstream of the Main Canal and Lateral-A of Tumauni Irrigation System with 178 active members. It has a young and dynamic president, Samuel M. Lugo, whose management expertise and leadership excellence navigated the association to the top with of course the cooperation and discipline of its members. "Our members are disciplined, they follow whatever agreement, rules and regulations promulgated and implemented by the association," says Sammy, as fondly called by friends and associates.

TIPA IA, a recipient of IMT Model 2 Contract has a network of 1.8 million pesos as of December 31, 2011 composed of the following: Lot & Office Building – 150,000.00; 5 Units of Multi-purpose Drying Pavements – 600,000.00; Shredding Machine & Vermi Shed – 120,000; Flatbed Dryer – 535,000.00; Computer Set – 25,000.00; Furniture – 4,500.00; ISF Collection Shares – 6,682.00; Utility Van – 300,000.00 and Cash on Hand – 14,393.00.

Knowing the importance of the use of hybrid varieties in the realization of the Rice Self Sufficiency Program of the government, TIPA IA shifted from the conventional inbred to the more complicated hybrid rice production. "Convincing our members to plant hybrid varieties is not an easy task," Sammy said. Himself a hybridization advocate, he recalls having a man-to-man dialogue with most of his members in order to convince them to plant hybrid varieties which are, according to him, "high yielding and more profitable".

Today, 95% of the association's membership plant hybrid varieties, resulting to the association's annual average production of 71,960 cavans at an average yield of 140 per hectare. "Compared to experienced hybrid farmers in the country, our yield per hectare could still be low, but we are striving hard to improve our production by attending seminars and trainings offered by both government and private training centers in the locality relative to the latest hybrid rice production technologies," Sammy said.

Aside from hybridization, TIPA IA has just started its Vermi Culture project. Five of its members volunteered to undergo training on Vermi Production under the Isabela State University-Cabagan Campus in Garita, Cabagan, Isabela.

"We are still perfecting the production process but we hope to go full blast once we have already gained the necessary expertise," Sammy said. They intend to use vermicast to augment the fertilizer requirement of their farming operations to cushion the impact of the high cost of inorganic fertilizer not only for rice but also for vegetable production which they intend to introduce among the members. "Vermi Culture is profitable," Sammy enthused. "Vermicast is a good source of the substances needed by a growing plant while the Vermi Tea which could be derived from it can be used as foliar spray for rice," he explained. Through the assistance of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture, TIPA IA had already acquired a shredding machine for their Vermi Culture Project and two Vermi Tea Brewers. "Vermi production is quite laborious and requires much attention, but it pays," Sammy assured.

Capped by a Certificate of Recognition as Outstanding IA for 2011, TIPA IA is a recipient of five other awards – three Certificate of Recognitions for achieving high collection efficiencies ranging from 91.34% to 96.21 and two Certificate of Recognitions, one each from the Tumauni Municipal Government and Barangay Antagan 1st, for having the most number of members using hybrid seeds among all other farmers' organizations in the community.

TIPA IA leadership is composed of the following: President – Samuel M. Lugo; Vice President – Donero Dacayo; Secretary – Joven Sutio Jr.; Treasurer – Orlando Ramos; Auditor – Greg Laciste and Board of Directors: Reynaldo Rapadas, Marcos Consul, Remboy Rapadas, Roberto Esteban, Virgilio Catriz, Rodolfo Cacabilos and Enrique Porto.

TIPA IA may still be small in terms of network compared to other successful farmers' organizations in the country. But with the continuous assistance extended by concerned stakeholders, the right leadership, the cooperation, unity and discipline its members exemplifies, the association is yet to achieve higher degree of success in terms of its operation and investments not very long from now.

**VERMI TEA BREWERS** – The two Vermi Tea Brewers acquired by TIPA IA for the production of Vermi Tea which could be used as foliar spray for growing rice and vegetables.



**IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY** – TIPA IA President Sammy Lugo with the association's Utility Van which they use to transport members in times of emergency.



**THE LEADERS** – TIPA IA President Samuel "Sammy" M. Lugo (Left) and Secretary Joven Sutio Jr. (Right) at the IA Office in Barangay Antagan 1st, Tumauni, Isabela.



**STARTING IT RIGHT** – A mother showing her son some of the African Crawler at a backyard Vermi Project of TIPA IA in Antagan 1st, Tumauni, Isabela.





# NIA's train on journalism

BY: MYLENE MALECDAN  
PRO - CAR

Some 37 selected staff of the National Irrigation Administration from CAR, Region 1 and the Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) have enhanced their writing skills and are now ready to contribute articles for NIA publications after attending the News, Feature, Editorial Writing and Photojournalism Seminar-Workshop held at the Hotel Supreme Convention Plaza in Baguio City on July 16-20, 2012.



"Write to express, not to impress," said Robert Baldago, Director of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Region 3 and the main resource speaker of the five-day activity. Dir. Baldago advised the participants to think and plan beforehand before writing because "clear writing is the result of clear thinking".

Other speakers of the activity were Mr. Carlo Lorenzo Datu of the PIA-Region and Ms. Portia Palma of PIA-Central Office.

In his message, Engr. John L. Socalo, Regional Manager of NIA-CAR, challenged the participants to use the power of information to help attain NIA's objectives, generate cooperation from its clients and facilitate the implementation of the Food Staple Self Sufficiency Program of the government.

Meanwhile, PAIS Manager Pilipina Bermudez said that NIA's projects and accomplishments should be made known to the public and that all NIA's must always aim to "bring out the best image of the agency". As such, similar seminar-workshops will also be held in other regions all over the country in the coming months.

## LIBRARY:

### GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

#### What is a Library?

Is it a place to read and gain knowledge? Or is it a place to just bum around?

Many times in the past the library is perceived to be a place for nerds, or a place to sleep... Either way that shouldn't be just the case. We should not neglect its importance. Primarily because the library housed books and data that are useful when we do researches, want to study, want to look into past reports or maybe just want to read something.

A wellspring of information. That statement best describes a library.

#### What is a Special Library?

Special libraries often have a more specific clientele than libraries in traditional, educational or public settings, and deal with more specialized kinds of information. They are developed to support the mission of their organization and their collections

BY: POPSMARIE S. DADEA  
PAIS, NIA C.O.

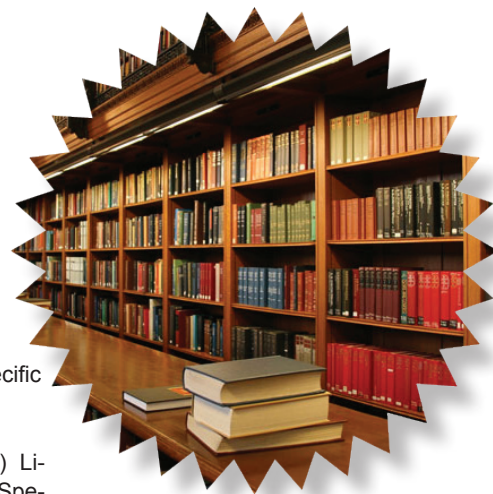
and services are more targeted and specific to the needs of their clientele.

National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Library is a Special Library. It is called a Special Library because its main reference materials are all about Irrigation and its many dimensions. It houses the NIA Consultants' Inception Reports, special projects' Feasibility Reports, Completion Reports, Progress Reports, Reconnaissance Reports, Improvement and Development Reports, Manuals, Bid Contracts and many other Irrigation reports and documents.

Being an attached agency of The Department of Agriculture (DA), NIA Library also has agriculture pamphlets and books that will be handy to the researchers visiting the library.

Regulars to the library were college students, Agricultural Engineers, researchers and employees from inside and outside NIA.

Having clienteles from outside the agency it



is but decent that we give them information that is right, appropriate and accurate for us not to cause confusion and difficulties to the public.

We are in an Information Age, and with that reality, the library should not be left behind. A special library like that of NIA should have an automated, updated and current resource materials that will be helpful to the organization itself, its employees, researchers, students and to the public in whole.

DA with its partnership with the National Library of the Philippines, University of the Philippines, Department of Science and Technology and the Commission on Higher Education have a collaborative project called Philippine eLib. Financed through the e-Government Fund of the Philippine Government the project hopes to provide for





the information needs of all sectors of society in a convenient, affordable and efficient way of delivery.

Having an automated library system will enable the end-users wherever they may be know and browse the databases and have online resources that are accurate. NIA have regional offices and having an automated library (automated collection of project reports, books, newspaper clippings, etc.) will enable each and every employee of the agency to have the latest in what's in the NIA Library collection.

We cannot ignore the fact that our orientation is book reading, and not reading with the use of electronic gadgets. With that, a NIA library should acquire books. Mostly, the library should cater engineering and construction, agriculture, irrigation and hydraulic books. Library nowadays needs to have reference materials and resources that are capable, updated and innovative to be in tune with the fast-changing times.

That should be the objective of the NIA Library as well. Move forward. Be better.

## NIA EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NIAEASP) CENTRAL OFFICE- NCR CHAPTER

By virtue of the provisions of Executive Order No. 180, NIAEASP was registered by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Civil Service Commission on April 29, 1988. As NIA's legitimate labor organization, it has "all the rights and privileges to act as representatives of its members for purposes of negotiations and consultations relating to terms and conditions of instrumentalities and agencies of the government and promotion of the moral, social and economic well being of its members, subject to all provisions of existing laws and regulations relating to labor organizations and employees in the Civil Service.

### Major Activities as of 3rd Quarter of the year:

#### Summer In-House Sports Festival

The summer in-house sports fest commenced on May 7, 2012 and lasted for almost two months. The different sport events were badminton, volleyball, dart and chess participated by the different departments of the NIA and one guest team, NWRB. NIA top management officials attended the opening with top PBA personalities Asi Taulava, Paul Artadi and Gabby Espina.

#### NIAESP 25TH Anniversary

The 25th Anniversary of the Union was celebrated simultaneously with the different districts nationwide. To make the anniversary more meaningful and special, a general

assembly was conducted to update the members on the accomplishment of the Union and an open forum followed. The NIAEASP-NCR President reported the financial operations and the programs being implemented. Likewise, Engr. Victorio Aron, NIAEASP National President, in his message said that their focus is more on public sector unionism, member awareness to different chapters' advocacy and employee benefits. The members of the National Council were also present during the assembly. The previous National Council president, Mr. Antonio B. Reyes was the guest speaker. On the management side, Deputy Administrator for Finance and Administrative Madam Lorna Grace B. Rosario delivered a short message and her timely announcement of CNA benefit were wildly cheered on by the crowd. Cash prizes were raffled donated by the top management officials, RIMs and PMs, and made the anniversary more fun.

### Updates on the Assistance Program

#### LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Loan Assistance Program of the NCR Chapter is given to members at very low interest to ease their financial needs. The loans granted as of July 31, 2012 amounted to P2,780,000.00.

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Financial Assistance Program (FAP) is an assistance given to the members and their immediate family for hospitalization and burial assistance at P2,000.00. As of July 31, 2012, the NIAEASP-NCR has already extended FAP to 11 members in the amount of P22,000.00.

#### DAMAYAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The nationwide Damayan Assistance Program (DAP) of the NIAEASP initiated by the National Council is an assistance

extended to the legal beneficiary on the death of a member in the amount of P20,000.00. The initial fund of this program is the yearly membership fee of P100.00 collected nationwide, pooled and deposited in the form of a Trust Fund solely used for the purpose and became effective on January 2012. The NCR already had one beneficiary for the DAP and paid P20,000.00.

## NIA Savings and Loan Association Inc.

BY: NIASLAI BOD & STAFF

The NIA Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (NIASLAI) is a non-bank financial intermediary organized to operate within the purview of RA No. 3779, as amended, briefly known as the "Savings and Loan Association Act". On September 20, 1975, a project study with Article of Incorporation and proposed By-laws was submitted to the Central Bank of the Philippines (CBP) now the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Finding it viable, CBP granted the NIASLAI to operate on June 1, 1977. Its main objective is "to provide a convenient medium where employees of the National Irrigation Administration can place their money or idle funds safely and at the same time earn a fairly decent returns".

NIASLAI today is the primary source of credit to members particularly during time of crises. Loans extended are insured with Grepalife such as: Educational Loan, Multi-Purpose Loan, Regular Loan and Consolidated Loan which can extend its term to three years. It presently holds office at the 3rd floor of Building "B" of the NIA Building Complex.

Management of NIASLAI is vested in the Board of Directors elected annually during General Assembly by and from among the members for the term of two years.





## NIA Employees Welfare Program, Inc. (NIA-EWPD)

NIA Employees Welfare Program, Inc. (NIA-EWPI) started its operations in 1998 by virtue of NIA Board Resolution No. 6789-98. It is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) per Registration No. A1998-10269 dated September 8, 1998. Now on its fourteenth (14th) year of operations, the success of the program is attributed to the continued patronage of the members as well as the dedication of the elected members of the Board of Trustees and the appointed Staff.

The 2012-2013 Board of Trustees are Engr. Gené P. Ragodon, Jr., Chairman; Atty. Ailynne C. Agtuca-Selda, Vice-Chairman; and Members—Ms. Ofelia T. Vibas, Ms. Zoraida M. Gatpandan, Ms. Leteria R. Calpito, Ms. Conchita G. Calsiña, and Ms. Casiana C. Saludaga.

Regular, educational and emergency loans are among the services offered to the member/borrower. As of September 2012, a total of 77 different loans have been availed by 59 members with a gross amount of P1,120,000.00.

## Search for NIA CO Chorale Ensemble is ON

BY:  
MS. MELINDA L. ESCUDERO,  
IAS

After years of silence, NIA Central Office (CO)-based employees are currently forming its own Choral Group in preparation for the Agency's Golden Anniversary in June 2013. Audition of prospective members has been going on since September 2012. **The Search is continuously done and organizers welcome interested employees to come and join the audition.** There are no hard and fast rules to observe, except they should be diligent to attend practice, focused, committed and dedicated, aside from talent in singing. As of this writing, there are 28 employees who joined the audition.

To enhance the quality of voice, projection, and showmanship of Chorale members, NIA hired the services of a professional Musical Director/Conductor. The musical director shall teach, train and guide the group for presentation during NIA special events and other important occasions. Their skill will be tested when they are ready to join NIAwide competitions.

The undertaking is with the approval of Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and Senior Deputy Administrator Antonio A. Galvez, under the leadership of Deputy Administrator Robert C. Suguitan, Department Managers Violeta C. Esguerra and Rebecca Malazarte and the support of volunteer employees.

## The NIA Central Office Multipurpose Cooperative: A Briefer

The NIA Cooperative (COOP) was organized in 1972 and registered with Cooperative Administration Office the same year. It was later re-registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in 1992 under Republic Act (RA) 6938, the Cooperative Code. It was further re-registered with CDA in August 2011 under RA 9520, the Cooperative Law of 2008.



The members pooled their resources to be able to provide services to those among themselves needing assistance. Current membership is limited to NIA central office monthly employees and employees of the COOP. There were over 600 members by the end of 2011.

**Vision:** A strong and viable cooperative managed by dedicated directors and staff, working synergically in delivering efficient services to its members and clientele

**Mission:** To develop and harness our resources to their fullest potential, uphold our commitment to responsive services for the satisfaction of our members and clientele Capitalization.

### **The COOP provides the following services:**

- Under its Credit Department, loans extended to members are: multipurpose (up to P75,000), regular (up to P25,000), educational (up to P36,000), emergency (up to P10,000) and consumers (up to P5,000).
- The Canteen Department serves meals daily to members and non-members as well under its regular canteen operation. Catering services are provided to government and private offices/parties for activities and special events.
- The Other Services Department provides goods and services to both members and non-members such as: financing of purchase of mobile phones, cookware for healthy living, water purifiers, and other small appliances; being the collecting arm for different entities; selling insurance coverage and health maintenance; sale of mobile phone celcards; renting out of space for vendors of small appliances and household items.
- The COOP also operates the Botika ng Bayan para sa Manggagawa ng NIA, selling cheap but quality generic medicines. This special project is in collaboration with the Philippines Government Employees Association and Department of Health.

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