



# OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION CURRENTS

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## NIA 51<sup>st</sup> Founding Anniversary

Lioneil G. dela Cruz, PAIS, C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), which was created on June 22, 1963 by virtue of R.A. 3601, commemorated its 51st founding anniversary through a week-long celebration with the theme, *“Tulong-Tulong, Sama-Sama sa Pagsulong ng NIA sa Pandaigdigang Pagbabago ng Klima”* on June 16-20, 2014. The week-long event also coincides with the celebration of the Irrigation Week as mandated by Proclamation No. 256 issued by former President Cory Aquino on April 28, 1988 declaring every third week of June as such. The agency’s officials and employees, led by NIA Chief Claro V. Maranan, celebrated through simple yet meaningful activities the 51 years of the agency’s efforts in uplifting the agriculture sector through irrigation.

### Undertoned Kick-Off

The anniversary celebration ceremoniously kicked-off on June 16, 2014 during the regular flag raising program. The opening ceremonies, well-attended by NIA officials and employees, started with the doxology led by Ms. Lailyn Villaflores, followed by the singing of the National Anthem led by the NIA-CO Chorale, and the recitation of the Pledge of Loyalty led by Lioneil G. dela Cruz. The usual flag raising program was then followed by a dance number coordinated by the Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) to energize the morning and to make the program more special.



The NIA Chorale led the singing of the National Anthem during the simple Opening Rites held on NIA’s June 16 Flag Raising Activity.

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**NIA Celebrates 51st Founding Anniversary**

Administrator Maranan then delivered his speech, highlighting the challenges set by President Benigno S. Aquino III during last year's anniversary program. He mentioned that the President's message was a wake-up call for the agency to change towards excellence. He reported the reforms and the accomplishments that he made during his term that were all anchored on his 7-Point Program. He also acknowledged the noteworthy performance of the agency in increasing the status of irrigation development, project implementation, and fiscal management. He encouraged every NIAN to cooperate and to continue the excellent performance to meet PNoy's and the nation's expectations in terms of improving irrigation and the lives of farmers.

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Engr. Maranan enthusiastically updates NIAns on the status of the agency.

A dance number was performed by a handful of NIAns to make the opening ceremony more special.



## Small Reservoir launched in Iloilo

*Steve E. Cordero, Administrative Services Assistant, JRMP II-Region 6*

The implementation of the Barotac Viejo Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (BVSRIIP) in Nueva Invention, Barotac Viejo is expected to boost rural development in the town and its neighboring municipalities. BVSRIIP will construct a small scale impounding dam and other irrigation facilities to deliver sufficient year-round water for irrigation to more than 600 hectares of existing and new irrigated areas for irrigation. The project will also mark an increase in rice production from 265 metric tons to 409 metric tons annually to meet local demands.

During the groundbreaking and capsule laying of the project on May 8, 2014, NIA Administrator Claro V. Maranan emphasized that BVSRIIP is NIA's project tailored to help noble farmers of Iloilo increase production through the delivery of ample year-round supply of water to their farmlands. The Administrator also acknowledged the continued support and partnership of NIA with government line agencies and the project beneficiaries. The project was first proposed by NIA in 1995 and its Feasibility Study was approved by NIA Consult Inc. on September 2000.

BVSRIIP passed the Regional Development Council Public Hearing on March 14, 2002 and earned its approved Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Environmental Management Bureau on November 4, 2011. Its Detailed Engineering Design and Program of Works were completed on 2013.

Among those who graced the launching of BVSRIIP were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, Representatives Niel Tupas Jr. of the 5th District, and Aracadio Gorriceta of the 2nd District, Gov. Arthur Defensor, Vice Governor Raul Tupas, Mayors Niel Tupas III of Barotac Viejo, Carlos O. Cabangal Jr. of Banate, and Roland Distura of Dumangas, DA Officials headed by Regional Executive Director Larry Nacionales, and NIA officials led by Administrator Claro V. Maranan, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Modesto G. Membreve, Regional Irrigation Manager Gerardo P. Corsiga, Division Manager of Iloilo-Guimaras IMO Florencio P. Colorado, and JRMP II Asst. Project Manager Jesus L. Dato-on among others.

## Pump Irrigation Project Inaugurated

*Silvestre C. Albores, PRO, NIA-Caraga*

In line with the government's thrust to enhance rice productivity in the countryside, Assistant Secretary for Operations and Rice & Corn Program Coordinator Edilberto N. De Luna visits Agusan del Sur on May 13, 2014 to inaugurate the Nueva Era Pump Irrigation Project located at the municipalities of Veruela and Bunawan of this province.

The project is implemented in two (2) phases and will irrigate a total area of 600 hectares which is part of the resettlement area of these municipalities. The first phase will serve the 250 hectares while the second phase will irrigate 350 hectares. Its project cost is P49 M for Phase I and P87 M for Phase 2 or a total of P136 Million.

During the turn-over ceremony, the provincial and municipal LGUs were very thankful to the national government thru NIA for this project that will surely enhance the rice productivity of the area.

ASec. De Luna who was present assured the farmers that more government projects will be implemented in the future to fully develop the area basing on the comprehensive development program.

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### Pump Irrigation Project Inaugurated

(From L-R) DA RED Edna Mabeza, NIA RIM Encarnacion S. Soriano, Bunawan Mayor Edwin Elorde, Veruela Mayor Salimar Mondejar, ASec. Edilberto N. de Luna, Vice-Gov. Santiago Cane, Jr., and Agusan del Sur Division Manager Ferdinand D. Amon during the ribbon cutting of the Nueva Era PIP Inauguration.



## CHAIRMAN “MAENG” VISITS MMIP II

MMIP II PR Team



MMIP II officials & staff with NIA Board Audit Committee Chairman Engr. Ismael Tabije (seated center)

May 7, 2014, as summer heat intensely enveloped Cotabato Province, MMIP II warmly welcomes Engr. Ismael “Maeng” Tabije, Member, NIA Board of Directors and the Chairman, Board Audit Committee.

Though a Genuine Ilocano (GI), he proudly says that he is a “Bisdak” (Bisayang Daku) as he was born and reared in Davao so he understood situations in Mindanao and its people. MMIP II Personnel gladly gathered and listen to the updates in NIA management, as controversies of the agency were in the newspapers. He related that NIA with

three other agencies are now under the leadership of Sec. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, appointed by His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III, as Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization. He also informed of possible changing of guards in the top management and the new scheme of fund allocations which will be advantageous to implementation and completion of big projects such as MMIP. As he ended his speech, he counselled the group to continue their tasks and perform well for even the smallest contribution counts in the overall performance of

NIA, to let the top management solve its problems, let us help the new chief and his management staff achieved the mandates of NIA.

Chairman Ismael Tabije with Project Manager Noldin S. Oyod, Division Managers R. Sarigumba of Engineering and Camilo F. Alburo of the Administrative & Finance carried out an on-site visit to MMIP II construction works. A simple and sumptuous meal culminated the day.



On-site visit of Chairman Tabije at packages 1-7.







## SECRETARY KIKO PANGILINAN VISITS, HOLDS BRIEFING WITH NIA OFFICIALS

Lioneil G. dela Cruz, PAIS, C.O.

Newly appointed Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (PAFSAM) Secretary Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan humbly received the warm applause given by NIA C.O. employees as he was welcomed by Administrator Claro V. Maranan and other management officials during his first visit to the agency on May 20, 2014.

A briefing/meeting immediately followed at the Administrator’s Office Conference Room where Engr. Maranan presented to Sec. Pangilinan a brief background of NIA including its creation, the new Vision and Mission, organizational structure, status of irrigation development, NIA’s measure of performance, NIA Roadmap, status of IA organization and development, and financial concerns. Also present during the briefing conference are Senior Deputy Administrator Felix Razo, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Modesto Membreve, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Lorna Grace Rosario, and other officials.

During the meeting, Sec. Pangilinan

mentioned that NIA should give primary focus on the improvement of irrigation service delivery. He pointed out that the agency should prioritize the rehabilitation and restoration of irrigation systems in already irrigated areas more than that of the generation of new areas. He also emphasized that NIA should not veer away on its inherent duty to help in the improvement of the living standards in rural communities by providing farmers and their families sufficient agricultural opportunities through irrigation.

Other topics discussed during the presentation were the status of irrigation development nationwide;



Administrator Claro V. Maranan welcomes PAFSAM Sec. Francis N. Pangilinan during the latter’s visit at NIA Central Office.

NIA’s Financial Report for CY 2011-2014; summary of projects (bidded, bidding, POW) for CY 2014; potential irrigable area and its financial requirements; and irrigation targets (new/restoration) for CY 2013 and 2014.

After the presentation, NIA officials accompanied Secretary Pangilinan to a room where he can hold office while in NIA.



Sec. Francis N. Pangilinan (at the head of the table) meets with the NIA top management headed by Administrator Claro V. Maranan.





## NIA Hydropower Project

Warren Nicholson Y. Fernando, NIA-Office of the Administrator



NIA Administrator Claro Maranan (second from left) discusses the importance of hydropower during a one-day Orientation on the Implementation of Hydropower Projects for the Agency's Regional Offices last June 3, 2014 at the 5th Flr., IEC Building of the NIA Complex in Edsa, Diliman, Quezon City. Also in the photo are NIA Hydropower and Other Special Water Development Projects Group Chairman Engr. Vicente Galvez (left), Senior Deputy Administrator Felix Razo (second from right) and NIA Hydropower and Other Special Water Development Projects Group Vice Chairman Atty. Genever Dionio (right).

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), under the directive of Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization Secretary Francis N. Pangilinan, held a one-day Orientation on the Implementation of Hydropower Projects for the agency's Regional Offices on June 3, 2014 at the 5th Flr., IEC Building of the NIA Complex in Edsa, Diliman, Quezon City.

The activity, organized by the NIA's Hydropower and Other Special Water Development Projects Group headed by its Chairman Assistant Administrator Vicente E. Galvez, briefed Regional Managers and their focal persons on the potential benefits of utilizing hydropower to generate electricity that would benefit farmers and rural communities as well as to provide income for the agency.

NIA Administrator Claro V. Maranan who pursued this new venture for the agency stressed the potential benefits of harnessing hydropower as one of his top priorities. "We should present and prioritize this to the NIA Board of Directors meeting within June 2014 so we can take-off as to meet our target for CY 2014," he said.

Hydropower projects for energy generation was based on Presidential Decree No. 552 dated September 11, 1974 that amended and expanded the powers and objectives of the NIA based from Section 2.C which states that the Agency was created to achieve the optimum utilization and control of water resources primarily for irrigation purposes, secondarily for hydraulic power development and for domestic water supply and others.

The NIA Hydropower Committee started their operation on March 7 of this year and set their objectives as follows: 1. To prepare a comprehensive list of potential hydropower sites; 2. To investigate project sites/determine initial feasibility; 3. To evaluate and process eligibility requirements/submission of potential private developers; 3. To contribute to energy security at a lower cost; and 4. To guarantee NIA's sustainable operations in support to other agricultural and water services.

Senior Deputy Administrator Felix M. Razo on his inspirational message said that NIA would become productive by establishing hydropower in national irrigation systems that will become another source of income for the Agency.

During the orientation, AA Vic Galvez presented the background and status of the Hydropower Development Program, plans, and updates on potential hydropower sites. He also reported on the results of the coordination meeting with the Department of Energy and National Water Resources Board.

Engr. Mario H. Sande who is a member of the committee explained the procedures on Implementation Framework, Procurement Process, and Financial Plan. Legal matters concerning the project were also presented and discussed by Committee Vice-Chairman Atty. Genever M. Dionio.

As of May 2014, a total of 336 potential sites have been identified with 251 sites in Luzon, 37 sites in Visayas, and 48 sites in Mindanao with an initial 74,040 Megawatts and will generate a possible income of 1.85B. Site validation and assessment will be conducted by AA Vic Galvez in Luzon, Operations Department Manager Efrén S. Roqueza and Atty. Dionio in Visayas, and Engineer Sande in Mindanao.###



Participants & Focal Persons during the Orientation at the NIA Convention Hall





## NIA-DENR FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT MEETING

*Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, PAIS, C.O.*



Administrator Claro V. Maranan (center) with DENR Forest Management Bureau Director Ricardo Calderon (right), Operations Department Manager Efren S. Roqueza (in yellow shirt), and other officials, during the coordination meeting for the Forest Management Project.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) held a coordination meeting on May 22, 2014 at NIA Central Office regarding a Forest Management Project (FMP) of the Upper Pampanga River Basin. Also involved in the project is the National Power Corporation (NPC).

Administrator Claro V. Maranan, Operations Department Manager Efren S. Roqueza and other officials met with Forest Management Bureau Director Ricardo Calderon and other DENR officials. The DENR group gave a presentation on the project with the following objectives: (a) Rehabilitate

degraded forest in Pantabangan-Carrangalan watershed; (b) Improve forest conservation to improve social and economic conditions of affected communities; (c) Contribute to disaster risk mitigation efforts in vulnerable areas; and (d) Strengthen Forest Land Management through Community-based Forest Management.

The said project also involves comprehensive site development through Survey, Mapping and Planning, Community Organizing, Site Development, Policy Initiative; and Project Management.

The FMP also states that within the four

(4) watershed area covering a total area of 44,613 hectares (has.), around 14,133 has. will be used in the project. These are 1. Barat: Barangays Salazar, Burgos (Sitio Awayan and Sitio Barat); 2. Seguin: Barangays Bunga, R.A. Padilla, Burgos (Sitio Animoy), San Agustin (Sitio Ovito); 3. Pinagloriahan: Barangays Gen. Luna, San Agustin, Burgos (Sitio Sawmill and Caloocan); and 4. Diaman: Barangays Conversion, Nueva Vizcaya (Brgy. Lukidnon, Dupax del Sur).

A draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between three agencies was presented with the following responsibilities:

NIA	Support the FMP implementation
	Allow rehabilitation and development of the 14,133 has. under LOI 1002
	Continuously implement the biodiversity conservation program within the protected area
DENR	Implement, monitor, and supervise the FMP in collaboration with stakeholders following the R.A. 7586 or the NIPAS Act
	Ensure the biodiversity conservation within the FMP or protected area
	Issue a tenurial instrument needed in the project implementation
NPC	Cooperate with NIA, maintain, and develop the designated 1,000 has. for reforestation, agro-plantation establishments located between Pinagloriahan and Diaman Subwatersheds
	Assist People's Organization as part of their corporate social responsibility
	Protect, maintain, and manage the 14,133 has. after termination of the FMP in collaboration with the tenurial instrument holders in the area

The draft MOA is being reviewed by NIA's Legal Department and will be forwarded to the NIA Board for approval.



## NIA's Tree Planting Program... (A Continuing Reforestation)

Maria Luisa A. Frias, PAIS, C.O.

*"He who plants a tree, plants a hope" - Lucy Larcom*



On May 13, 2011, the government launched a major new effort: the National Greening Program (NGP) where the three key national agencies, namely: the Department of Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) would systematically combine their operations and activities for ways to develop the country's green renaissance as envisioned in a convergence framework among the three key agencies towards a more focused and unified interventions to achieve sustainable rural development.

A major part of this undertaking goes beyond mere tree planting, to poverty alleviation, food security, environmental stability, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and even values formation of Filipinos on looking at the country's precious forest resources as the strength of the program.

As a commitment to the program, a Planning/Orientation Conference on NIA's Tree Planting Activity was held on

April 2012 at NIA Central Office attended by all Irrigation Management Office Managers, Division Managers of Finance and Administrative, and Regional Public Relations Officers. Also present were the key staffs from DENR-NGP, DA-Bureau of Plant Industry, and DA-National Convergence Initiatives as Resource Persons. Sites, prioritizing NIA watershed areas nationwide, were identified.

The Program was officially launched on May 22, 2012 in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija participated in by all NIA Regional, Operations and Project Managers.

The first Tree Planting activity was done simultaneously, nationwide on June 8, 2012; its second year, June 7, 2013. This advocacy involves the Irrigators Associations, LGUs, DENR, DA, students, the military and other sectors.

NIA nationwide was able to plant a total of 270,809 hardwood and fruit-bearing trees in two (2) years covering 423.04 hectares of watershed area plus 38 kms service road.

On June 6, 2014, again NIA's simultaneous Tree Planting activity was done nationwide. Central Office participants went their way to Sta. Maria, Laguna and at Bulo Dam in San Miguel, Bulacan to join and support our agency's endeavor thru reforestation.

From NIA's "Trees, Water, Life" theme for two consecutive years, this year's theme, "Gawing Luntian Muli and Pilipinas" connotes a greener nation thru tree planting.XXX



### ERRATUM:

NIA Relief Efforts published in NIA Currents Vol. 12 No. 4, 2013. It should be read as "AFD Manager Jesusa Sibonga receiving the cash/check donation from Region 9 NIAEASP Dist. President Albine Dave V. Jubilado in the amount of P117,866.00; as RM Romeo G. Quiza looks on."

*Our Apologies.*







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NIA CELEBRATES 51st FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

## Other Activities: Fun Games and Gender Sensitivity



Sr. Deputy Administrator Felix Razo led his team in the Water Relay.



The Engineering Sector in a fun-filled round of In-and-Out Relay. Their sector was declared over-all champion after the games.



A member of the Operations Sector focuses in finishing the Obstacle Race.

Coinciding with the week-long celebration, activities were held to liven up the anniversary atmosphere at the Central Office.

The NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP) organized a set of Fun Games for the employees on June 18. Employees were grouped into sectors which battled in a number of “spruced-up” parlor games such as Relay Run, Water Relay, Hotdog Eating Relay, Obstacle Race, In-and-Out Relay, and Centipede Race.

After combining the scores in a day of fun-filled competition, the Engineering Sector (Blue) grabbed the first spot, followed by Finance (Violet, 2nd), Administrative (Yellow, 3rd), Special Projects Group/Administrator’s Office (Red, 4th), and Operations (Green, 5th).



The Administrative Sector is in clear lead in this round of Centipede Race.



Members of the Finance Sector cheer for their team in the Relay Run.



NIAEASP members who marshalled during the Fun Games organized by the association to add fun in NIA's 51st Anniversary





Another activity billed on the set of activities was a Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) organized by the NIA GAD Focal System on June 19-20. The seminar was aimed to orient NIA employees on gender development; impart participants with their gender roles in the workplace; and to foster gender sensitivity in the agency. The activity was participated in by 50 NIA employees.

Also, in coordination with Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Region 4A (BFAR-4A), a week-long mini tiangge was set-up for the enjoyment of all.

## June 20: A Day to Remember

The last day of the week-long celebration might seem a little uneventful, yet the subtlety of the occasion made it all the more meaningful and worth remembering. The morning started with the traditional Thanksgiving Mass held at the NIA Chapel officiated by Rev. Father Allan Samonte. Food, a pre-requisite of any festivities, was served throughout the morning until lunch time. Then, at two o'clock in the afternoon, NIAns gathered at the IEC Convention Hall to witness the main anniversary program.

Opening the program was an ecumenical prayer led by Abedin Hadji Salik (Islam), Denia B. Gatdula (Catholic), and Michael Jones R. Cayan (Christian). This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem led by the NIA-CO Chorale. Afterwards, Engr. Felix M. Razo, NIA Senior Deputy Administrator, took the podium to deliver his Welcome Remarks. Deputy Administrators Modesto G. Membreve (Engineering and Operations) and Lorna Grace B. Rosario (Administrative and Finance) also gave their messages and anniversary greetings for all the NIAns present in the auditorium.



Fr. Allan Samonte led the Thanksgiving Mass that started the NIA 51st Anniversary Celebration on June 20, 2014.



Senior Deputy Administrator delivers the Welcome Address during the NIA 51st Anniversary Program on June 20, 2014 held at the IEC Convention Hall.



Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations greets all NIAns present.



Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance addresses the audience during NIA's anniversary program

Between the speeches to break the ice and to pump-up the atmosphere, a fashion show showcasing clothing trends of different decades was creatively and enthusiastically presented by various NIA employees. The 1920s was presented by the Finance Sector, 1930s by the Administrative Sector, 1960s by the Operations Sector, and the 1980s by the Engineering Sector.



Finance Sector's Fashion Show participants inspired by the elegant 1920s.

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## NIA CELEBRATES 51st FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY



NIAans break the ice of the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Program by showcasing fashion trends in different decades.



The Operations Department represented the hip & star-studded 60's.



Engineering Department's participants led by Engr. Erdolfo Domingo, after their 80's inspired fashion show.

The first half of the program concluded with the Administrator's anniversary message. Engr. Maranan took the opportunity to express his gratitude to all the NIAans and irrigators associations who supported his administration. He also commended a number of NIAans, particularly heads of various units, for their excellent performance that led to the collective achievements of the agency. He also took pride in sharing his "brain-child," the NIA's 7-Point Program, in which all his achievements were anchored.





He emphasized that the 7-Point Program had been the agency's vehicle of change towards meeting the Government's expectations and the Nation's clamor for excellent service in irrigation. He challenged and pushed every NIAN to sustain the agency's performance even though change in leadership is inevitable. Finally, he encouraged everyone to continuously care for the agency as well as for the farmer-irrigators and to work hand-in-hand in providing excellent services to the farming sector to contribute in the growth and development of the nation.

## Highlighting NIA's Achievers

The second half of the anniversary program is also the highlight of the week-long celebration. The annual shindig would never be complete without placing into the spotlight the champions of excellence in the irrigation sector. In a simple rites, awards and incentives were handed out during the culminating program on June 20 to recognize the outstanding NIANs (managers, IMOs, regional offices) as well as the best performing IAs across the nation.

The first set of awards were given to the best performing Irrigators Associations in the country for the year 2013. Leaders and members of outstanding IAs left their farms to mingle with NIA employees and to celebrate their triumphs from the previous year. The anniversary celebration will not be complete without recognizing the IAs' contribution in improving the state of farming and irrigation in the country. After careful evaluation, the National Awardees for the CY2013 Search for Outstanding Irrigators Association were:



Administrator Claro V. Maranan thanked all the NIANs who supported his term. He also shared to the audience his 7-Point Program.

### CY 2013 SEARCH FOR THE OUTSTANDING IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION

#### National Awardees

#### National Irrigation System (NIS) Category

Rank	Name of IA	IA Address
Most Outstanding IA	UPPER SINAYAWAN FIA President: Gladys P. Draculan	Hagonoy, Davao del Sur
1st Runner-Up	SAN D MIL IA President: Tereso C. Cruda	San Miguel, Dagohoy, Bohol
2nd Runner-Up	NAPAL-CONEL ROAD IA President: Abner R. Pastrana	Lagao, General Santos City
3rd Runner-Up	LIGAYA IA President: Antonio C. Cruz	Salvador, Santiago, Isabela
4th Runner-Up	LOW TIP TAM IA President: Crispo L. Jakosalem	Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur
5th Runner-Up	PATAG-CORONA IA President: Abraham C. Sendiong, Jr.	Maramag, Valencia, Bukidnon



NIA Top Management with the 2013 Most Outstanding IAs (NIS, CIS, and CARP) during the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Awarding Ceremony

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## NIA CELEBRATES 51st FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Communal Irrigation System (CIS) Category		
Rank	Name of IA	IA Address
Most Outstanding IA	BOAN BIDA IA President: Hilario R. Amas	Wasian, Rosario, Agusan del Sur
1st Runner-Up	SARBIDA IA President: Jaime A. Mantilla	Digos City, Davao del Sur
2nd Runner-Up	BULACANON IA President: Rufino C. Floresca	Makilala, Cotabato
3rd Runner-Up	TIMBABOY-POBLACION B IA President: Samuel Q. Cartalla	Midalip, Zamboanga del Sur
4th Runner-Up	ALUBIJID-LOGUILO ISA President: Wilfred Adviento	Alubijid, Misamis Oriental
5th Runner-Up	TUMBAGA 1 BUCAL IA President: Crisologo O. Egamino	Tumbaga, Sariaya, Quezon
Hall of Fame Award		
Hall of Famer	MTG PLIVIRISCAF IA President: Marcelo M. De Vera	UPRIIS

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Project – Irrigation Component (CARP-IC) also recognizes, every year, the best performing IAs in CARP-IC covered areas nationwide. The CARP-IC Outstanding Irrigators Associations for 2013 were:

CARP OUTSTANDING IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION 2013		
Rank	Name of IA	IA Address
Hall of Fame	Tumbaga 1 Bucal Irrigators Association President: Crisologo O. Egamino	Tumbaga, Sariaya, Quezon
Most Outstanding IA	Awao Communal Irrigators Association President: Melner S. Lapidez	Monkayo, Compostela Valley
1st Runner-Up	Bulacan Irrigators Association President: Rufino C. Floresca	Makilala, Cotabato
2nd Runner-Up	Linugos Farmers Irrigators Association President: Napoleon L. Nisperos, Jr.	Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental
Hall of Famer	MTG PLIVIRISCAF IA President: Marcelo M. De Vera	UPRIIS

It is also in the tradition of NIA to give merit to the men and women of NIA that push the agency to its best. This is where the NIA Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (NIA-PRAISE) gets into picture. NIAPRAISE was created to annually recognize the outstanding performance of NIAs “that brought about substantial benefits to the Agency” (NIAPRAISE Committee Res. No. 001, series of 2014). This year, after a series of deliberations and evaluations, the NIAPRAISE Committee arrived at a list of outstanding and best performing NIAs for CY 2013 (next page).



NIA-PRAISE 2013 Awardees pose with NIA's Top Management during the agency's 51st Anniversary Program





PRAISE AWARDEES	
AWARD	RECIPIENT
Operations Manager of the Year Award	Mariano G. Dancel Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS)
Project Manager of the Year (Field Office)	Alexander G. Coloma Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation & Power Project – Irrigation Component Phase II (CMIPP-IC II)
Outstanding Operations Manager of the Year	Josephine B. Salazar Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS)
Outstanding Project Manager of the Year (Field Office)	Noldin S. Oyod Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project Phase II (MMIP-II)
Best Performer for Regional Manager of the Year	Diosdado A. Rosales Region 7
Best Performer for Regional Manager of the Year (Second Best)	Mario H. Sande Region 12
Best Performer for Regional Manager of the Year (Third Best)	Felix M. Razo Region 10
Best Performer for Project Manager of the Year (CO-Based)	Gene P. Ragodon, Jr. Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP)
Best Performer for Division Manager-IISO of the Year	Eduardo P. Ramos Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS) Division 1

PRAISE AWARDEES	
AWARD	RECIPIENT
Best Performer for Division Manager-IISO of the Year (Second Best)	Joselito A. Mangunay Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS) Division 2
Best Performer for Division Manager-IISO of the Year (Third Best)	Eugenio O. Conde, Jr. Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS) Division 5
Best Performer for Irrigation Management Office Manager of the Year	Francisco A. Domingsil Nueva Vizcaya IMO, Region 2
Best Performer for Irrigation Management Office Manager of the Year (Second Best)	Jimmy L. Apostol Bukidnon IMO, Region 10
Best Performer for Irrigation Management Office Manager of the Year (Third Best)	Manuel L. Rañeses Davao del Sur IMO, Region 11
	Allan N. Fabricante Sorsogon-Masbate IMO, Region 5
	Roberto E. Pascual Bulacan-Aurora-Nueva Ecija IMO, Region 3
	Carlito A. Carrasco Compostela Valley IMO, Region 11
Most Improved Region of the Year	Region 2 Headed by Vicente E. Galvez
Improved Region of the Year	Region 11 Headed by Modesto G. Membreve

## *Subtle Celebration, Loud Repercussion: Beyond 51*

The celebration of the agency's 51st Anniversary may seem, to some, a bit void of the usual extravagance. Yet the simplicity of the occasion made it all the more worth etching in the annals of the agency. The lack of explicit grandeur emphasized the gargantuan commitment of the agency towards the farmers and the nation. The minimized decorations showcased instead the achievements of the agency in terms of irrigation service delivery as well as the various Irrigators Associations that contributed to NIA's triumphs. The absence of the noisy and crowded hallways underlined NIA's echoing and reverberating thrusts in providing quality irrigation projects in the rural areas. The toned down fiesta pushed forward instead the agency's celebration of its perspectives beyond its 51 years of existence: an improved life for the farmers, a fulfilling life for its employees, and a well-developed agriculture sector.





## Salbar IA: Dedication on a mission

Danielle P. Pijuan, PRO, NIA-Region 6

### No payment, No water.

This is the strict policy imposed upon all members of the Salbar Irrigators Association of La Carlota City, Negros Occidental. It is through the stringent implementation of this policy and through the help and support of the Institutional Development Officers of NIA Negros Occidental IMO that made Salbar an awardee of 1 million pesos grand prize in the Agri-Pinoy Achievers' Award Search for Outstanding IA NIS Category awarded in Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on February 10, 2012.

Organized on June 29, 2005, Salbar has 123 farmer-members, 128 farmer-beneficiaries, and covers an area of 201 has. with a Firm-Up Service Area (FUSA) of 221.99 has.

Active members, dedication, and commitment to work are the pillars that serve as stronghold of Miss Juana Hison to attain the goal of the IA she leads. This 51 year old, single, and graduate of Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, was elected president since 2005. Payment of Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) on time is one of Manang Juana's important rules for her members. It is their consistent 100% ISF collection, which led them to earn the 1M prize.

Out of their winning, the IA provides Agri-Pinoy Productivity Loan to its members. The requirements to qualify for loan of Php 20,000.00 per hectare are 100% payment to ISF from 2010 up to present and insurance to Negros First Crop Insurance Program (NFCIP). The policy then is to pay the loaned amount plus a 10% interest after one crop. If the loaner fails to pay the loan on time, a 1% penalty is imposed. However, if the loaner does not pay after the penalty period, the IA will take over the farm. For the record, no land has been taken over by the IA. The farmers promptly pay their dues at the required date. This exhibits the farmers' discipline and respect to the policies of their IA.



Salbar Irrigators Association Board of Trustees

*"Paagi sa loan halin sa 1 million pesos halin sa Agri-Pinoy, naka tibawas kami. Wala na kami nakahigot sa mga miller."*, (Through the loan from the 1 million pesos from Agri-Pinoy, we have improved. We are not anymore tied to the millers.) said Manang Juana during an interview.

Aside from the loan program, the association was able to provide livelihood to its members through swine dispersal. What started as 12 pigs in 2013, are now 31 pigs to be dispersed. They were also able to buy farm machineries, such as tractor, bao-bao, motors, and farm tools.

Out of their profit, Salbar IA was able to give away raffle prizes such as farm tools, household materials, packs of 2 kilo rice, and grocery items, to lucky winners.

Manang Juana admits that supervising an IA is not an easy job.

*"Mabudlay eh, pero ginapangamuyo ko lang gid sa Ginoo nga buligan ako para mabuligan ko man sila."*, (It is hard, but I just pray to the Lord to help me so I can help them (her fellow farmers) too.) said Manang Juana after being asked if she has some difficulties leading her IA.

Manang Juana's secret?

*"Salig sa Ginoo, istrikto nga pagpatuman kag pagsunod sa policy, dedikasyon sa obra, kag i-deal sila base sa kung ano ila nga tinapusan."*, (Faith in God, strict implementation and compliance to the policy, dedication to work, and deal with them (the members) based on their attainment.) said Manang Juana. It is important to deal with her members based on their educational attainment because she needs to orient them based on their level of understanding, she added.

To Manang Juana, she considers her role in leading her IA a mission: a mission from God in order to help her fellow farmers rise from poverty. Although she doesn't have a family of her own, she feels blessed being able to help her neighbors. The word *"salbar"* in Hiligaynon (the native dialect of the Ilonggos) means *"save"*. According to Manang Juana, through the loans granted by the association to the farmers taken from their Agri-Pinoy winnings, they were able to improve their way of life.

*"Okay na kay nag improve ang IA kag successful ang mga farmers."*, (It is now okay because the IA improved and the farmers are successful.) she said.

Indeed, the IA claims to slowly see the light that will eventually save them from the bondage of poverty.





# SUCCESS STORY OF BAYAWAN CIS

Corcine P. Infesto, IDO A, NIA-Region 7

Rice farming has been the primary and oldest agricultural activity handed down by the first habitant of the place called by the Spanish colonizers "Pueblo Nuevo" before it was named Bayawan after a legendary history of Christianity. The place is noted to be the Rice Granary in the southern part of Negros Oriental considering its natural plain topography. It has the access from the four big rivers of Sicipong, Ilog, Pagatban, and Bayawan.

Irrigation System has been envisioned by many farmers of Bayawan considering the access into the four big rivers to irrigate even the highest level of rice fields. In 1970's National Irrigation Administration (NIA) identified the whole land plain possible for irrigation system but required a bigger allocation for funding. The then newly installed Provincial Irrigation Officer in the name of Engr. Dexter G. Patrocinio, sometime in 1988, identified a potential dam site 10 kilometers away from the main irrigable area.

In 1997, NIA placed the Communal Irrigation Project under Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project II (ARISP II), funded by the foreign institution Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Programs for all Agrarian Reform Communities. In 2000, an initial fund of P10M was released for construction of diversion dam and access road. Timely, Bayawan turned into a City



Bayawan United Farmers Irrigators Association  
Operations & Maintenance Personnel

with ideal leaders of good characters, a visionary, and agricultural advocate. The Honorable City Mayor German P. Saraña Jr. immediately released Thirty Five million (P35,000,000.00) counterpart of the Local Government Unit of Bayawan City for the construction of One Hundred Thirty Five Million (P135,000,000.00) Communal Irrigation Project under ARISP II, Department of Agrarian Reform initiated program to IA. This was the biggest infrastructure project nationwide under ARISP II, DAR and NIA programmed to Bayawan United Farmers Irrigators Association (BUFIA) in Barangay, Bayawan City, Negros Occidental.

The Communal Irrigation Project was completed on September 22, 2005 and turned over to the association beneficiary. BUFIA operated and actively and freely managed the whole system without

accounts chargeable to NIA even this time. In the first five (5) years of operation and management, it has obtained an actual land

improvement and area planted of 620 hectares. Receiving a 125 kilogram of palay per hectare for irrigation service fee per cropping equivalent to the amount of P1,520,496.18 twice a year. The remaining 30 hectares from the total 1,000 hectares serviceable rice fields will be met in another five (5) years of continuous development and services.

The association is the only active and growing Irrigators Association in the Central Visayas fully equipped with all farm equipment to serve every member in all farming activities. The association has owned Rotor, Rice Thresher, Flat Bed Dryer, Two Rice Mills (Organic and Commercial), Multi-Cab Carrier, Water Pumps, Tractor, Ford Harvester, and Power Sprayer. It has its own Building and Office with Solar Drier, to be used during summer. The association is one of the most outstanding Irrigators Association in the whole Negros Island in the production of rice to serve and meet the most basic needs of the people. It is a multi-awarded Association in Central Visayas enjoying the fruits of its services with hundred percent ISF collection worth of millions per year. Many people were attracted to be a part of the fast growing, developing and service oriented BUFIA.



BUFIA's Board of Trustees







# NIA SMASH CLUB TOURNAMENT

Lioneil G. dela Cruz, PAIS, C.O.

**J**une 17, 2014 – The NIA Smash Club conducted the 2014 HSB-CMC Badminton Tournament Championship Games wherein the best of the best badminton players in the agency faced-off in grueling matches to determine the ace smashers in NIA. The players paired off to battle in three categories: Women's Doubles, Men's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

After almost an hour of thrilling rallies and exchange of forehands, backhands, and smashes over the watchful eye of the referee and one of the founders of the club Engr. Othello Razon, a pair soared to the top of each category. The champions in this year's tournament are Ma. Concepcion M. Ponce and Annie D. Batenga (Women's Doubles); Jose Dino Y. Caranguian and Higino C. Mangosing, Jr. (Men's Doubles); and Robert Joseph A. Cabezon and Angel Army S. Bumagat (Mixed Doubles).



The winning pairs of the recently concluded NIA Smash Club HSB-CMC Badminton Tournament together with the Club members and officials and other badminton enthusiasts.

After the games, a simple awarding ceremony was held. The incumbent Smash Club President, PIDP's Assistant PM Carmelo M. Cablayan, thanked all the participants in the tournament. He also thanked the sponsors who helped in making the tournament possible. He also announced that an In-House Badminton Tournament will be held wherein

different sectors in the agency will compete with each other.

The Smash Club was reorganized by former club members and other badminton enthusiasts on May 23, 2006 during a badminton clinic held in the agency. The club aims to develop and promote badminton both as a recreation and sport; to develop camaraderie and sportsmanship among its members; and to enhance NIA's participation in the sports development program of the country (NIA Smash Club By-Laws and Constitution). The Club accepts new members and currently conducts games for enthusiasts everyday during lunch breaks. #

## Completing the list of winners are:

Category	First Runner-Up	Second Runner-Up
Women's Doubles	Thelma M. Borillo Jessa-May C. Castro	Maricris S. Naz Catherine U. Buenaluz
Men's Doubles	Hanziel Nonilon de Guzman Herminigildo S. Doroteo, Jr.	Nestor L. Alcantara Marion V. Valeza
Mixed Doubles	Kerr Sherwyn T. Ucang Ma. Concepcion M. Ponce	Maricris S. Naz Emiliano G. Romena, Jr.

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