OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

CURRENTS

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KSRIP Earthfill Dam Inaugural Ceremony

Jane B. Huqueriza, PRO A, CARAGA

Climate change needs attention which challenges the capabilities and strengths of the government, especially the agricultural sector wherein our farmers are the vulnerable one. The overall need for expansion of irrigation will be critically important, and to address immediately is crucial to reduce the risk of our farmer's livelihood. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) integrated planning prompted to construct irrigation that is efficient and will improve water storage especially during drought.

The birth of earthfill dam, Kitcharao Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (KSRIP) constructed on September 2011 by the NIA under the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM) was envisioned to do just that. The 495M project targeted to irrigate 550 hectares in five barangays in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte (Brgy. Mahayahay, Sangay, Poblacion, Crossing & Songkoy) and aside from providing services to our 280 farmer-beneficiaries it is envisaged to boost the eco-tourism for its magnificent view.

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Dengue sa Panahon ng El Ñiño

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PANGILINAN TENDERS RESIGNATION AS PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT

Posted on the website of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM) on September 15, 2015.

Secretary Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan tendered his resignation as Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization. In a letter dated September 8, 2015 addressed to President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, Pangilinan expressed his gratitude to the President for his trust, confidence, and support.

"The support extended by His Excellency and the Cabinet has been crucial in addressing the challenges in the agriculture sector and the government's vision of good governance and inclusive growth." President Aquino appointed then former Senator Pangilinan as Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization on 5 May 2014 through Executive Order No. 70, transferring four agencies under the Department of Agriculture to the Office of the President: the National Food Authority (NFA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), and the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) through Executive Order No. 175 signed on the same day.

"The appointment as Presidential Assistant has provided a unique opportunity to serve the country, further expanding our understanding of the needs of our people and the intricacies of governance," added Sec. Pangilinan.

Under Pangilinan's helm, reforms were instituted in the four agencies, with cases filed against erring employees and those they are in cahoots with. The NFA put in place reforms in their importation process and made unprecedented rejection of bids that were not to the benefit of the country. This resulted to the lowering of rice prices even during the lean months– a factor in the lowering of the inflation which is now at .6%. The average price per metric ton of rice imports was also reduced, from USD $560 to USD $440 through a transparent prices that allowed for the rejection of bid offers that were too costly.

The increase in the circulation of NFA rice resulted to the lowering of rice prices from Php 44.00 per kilogram for well-milled rice and almost P41 per kilogram or regular milled rice to Php 33.00 per kilogram at present. The NFA turned in a profit of Php 1.8 billion in 2014, for the first time in two decades.

Four big-ticket irrigation projects worth close to Php 30 billion were approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), such as the Balog Balog High Dam Project, Jalaur Multipurpose Dam Project, Umayam River Irrigation System Project, Agno River Irrigation Project, Casecnan Irrigation Project, and the Malinao Irrigation Project. More than 400 irrigation facilities were turned over during Pangilinan's term.

The coconut scale insect infestation from outbreak level is now down to manageable level, with only 1 hotspot remaining out of 57. In a mission report dated May 2015, the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) described the OPAFSAM-PCA cocolisap intervention effort as commendable and praiseworthy. Pangilinan's resignation is effective end of office hours of September 30, 2015. The Secretary hopes that the time period will be sufficient for the necessary transition for the four agencies and for the President to decide on his replacement.

"It has been an honor serving under your administration. I continue to wish for your success and for a better future for the Philippines," Pangilinan ended. #







2ND DISTRICT, ILOCOS SUR
CANDON CIVIC CENTER, CANDON CITY
Thursday, 26 March 2015, 1:00PM
SECRETARY FRANCIS "KIKO" N. PANGILINAN
ADMINISTRATOR FLORENCIO F. PADERNAL


National Irrigation Administration




National NIA-IA
Consultation-Convention


The New Food Czar

On October 14, 2015, Malacañang announced the newly appointed Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization, Fredelita C. Guiza, replacing Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan who resigned to run for senator.

Secretary Guiza, served as undersecretary of the OPAFSAM prior to her appointment, was promoted to Cabinet rank.

The inaugural ceremony and blessing of the earthfill dam on October 7, 2015 at Brgy. Mahayahay, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte joined in by 520 participants from the Irrigators Associations (IAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), Indigenous People (IPs), Government Agencies (GAs), other stakeholders, NIA officials and personnel. They were welcomed by Hon. Vice Mayor Jenry E. Montante. The project profile was presented by Engr. Luisito L. Cadeliña, KSRIP resident engineer. The ceremony was engraved in the history of Caraga as it is the first earthfill dam constructed in the region.

The unveiling of the markers is one of the highlights of the program which signifies unity headed by Former OPAFSAM Secretary, Hon. Francis "Kiko" N. Pangilinan, OPAFSAM Secretary Fredelita C. Guiza, NIA Administrator, Engr. Florencio F. Padernal, PAIS Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, NIA-Caraga Regional Manager, Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, Vice Mayor Jenry E. Montante, Brgy. Captains Randy U. Salvajan, Elona S. Napalan, Bartolome Abejero Sr., Ferdinand V. Sevilla and IA Presidents Bernaldo A. Claro, Jr., Renato A. Eslier, Ferdinand V. Sevilla, Romeo R. Carmona, Sr., Edecio C. Bagayas, and

Mr. Robert E. Liza, Jr. of Kitcharao MASSIGLA Federation of Irrigators.

The ceremony which started with the unveiling of the markers and releasing of the balloons, also showcased the releasing of 50,000 fingerlings (tilapia) in coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources represented by Mr. Felix Tanduyan, NIA, LGU, and IA in the reservoir that will help our farmers increase their livelihood by raising them and hopefully be multiplied. Honored Guest Speaker, Former OPAFSAM Sec. Pangilinan said that with this irrigation system the farmers will now have a complete meal (rice and fish), but what inspired them is when he expressed his gratitude to the farmers of their effort to produce rice to enable them to feed millions of people in our country, without them there will be no irrigation. They are even more motivated when Sec. Guiza stated that she will continue the program and legacy of Sec. Pangilinan to help our farmers not only in irrigation but to elevate their income. Her encouragement to our farmers and LGUs to challenged them to continue to maintain the operation of the system, and to embrace diversified farming in their area.#

Editorial

Making a difference

President Aquino's signing of the Executive Order (E.O.) 181 emphasizes the administration's recognition of the government employees' positive contribution to the public service. EO 181 is also known as the one-time grant of Productivity Enhancement Incentive (PEI) equivalent to either P5,000 or one month basic salary as of 31 May 2015."

As Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said the PEI is designed to encourage Agencies to make good on their targets. Therefore, conditions include meeting the requirements: achievement of at least 90 percent of the Agency's fiscal year 2014 target under at least two performance indicators for at least one major final output under operations; compliant with "transparency seal"; and, compliant with posting or publication of "Citizen's Charter".

The approval aims to reinforce public service and increases morale showing administration's appreciation of employees' good performance.

EO 181 was signed on 15 May 2015 and PEI payment shall be made not earlier than June 1, 2015. However, issues came in such as non-compliance with the requirements. It dampened the spirit of the employees. It was the beginning of a long arduous journey to PEI.

Undaunted, the NIA team silently worked on appeals so non-compliance would be rectified, while the way was peppered with negative comments from the beneficiaries themselves. Waiting for the incentive seemed eternity, criticisms abound.

Finally, on 21 September 2015 the Governance Commission for Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG) gave NIA authorization to grant FY 2015 PEI equivalent to one month basic salary.

On our end, have we reflected that we are blessed with a job in the government sector? That we are performing our assigned task with vigor? It is a privilege to be a part of more than a million employees who have been entrusted to do service for public good.

With the challenges our government has to deal, we can make a vow to make a difference in the office where we belong. Not only motivated with incentives we receive but we must always bear in mind that whatever position entrusted to us, how lowly or lofty it may seem, we are to discharge it with all integrity. Even a ripple has its effect to spread the good intents of the heart. Let us internalize the responsibility given to us and accountability to the people we serve. Let us join hand as we contribute for the betterment of our country. Moved on for a better future, be a model, an inspiration to the next generation. Together, let us give our best and make a difference.#

TANGUB SRIP INAUGURATED

Jan Albert K. Araña, LAMISCA IMO, R10

TANGUB CITY, MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL --- The newest irrigation facilities was inaugurated in the Tangub Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (Tangub SRIP).

It was a great day not just for Tangub City and their farmers but as well as the National Irrigation Administration Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental and Camiguin Irrigation Management Office (NIA-LAMISCA IMO) for finally the inauguration and blessing ceremony of the Tangub SRIP located at Barangay Manga, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental had taken place. The momentous event was graced by Former OPAFSAM Secretary Francis N. Pangilinan together with the newly appointed OPAFSAM Secretary Fredelita C. Guiza, NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, NIA Region 10 Acting Regional Manager Ramon A. Bugacia, NIA LAMISCA IMO Division Manager Joecarnine L. Gubat, Tangub City Mayor Philip Tan and his wife Former Mayor Jenefer Tan together with the Sangguniang Bayan Members.

The Tangub SRIP, a P425 Million zoned earth fill dam project was designed to irrigate eight barangays located in the said city namely Prenza, Sta. Cruz, Labuyo, Maquilao, Garang, San Apolinario, Kauswagan, and Polao. It covers a potential irrigated area of 633.46 hectares and will have 662 farmers to benefit in this project. The project has a reservoir area of 18 hectares with a live storage capacity of 1.35 mcm (million cubic meters) and dead storage capacity of 0.065mcm.

"Ganito po ang tunay na proyekto ng gobyerno hindi lang isahan ang gamit kung di multi-purpose pa. Magsisilbi po itong hindi lang para sa patubig pati na rin po flood control, aqua culture at eco-tourism pa. [This is what the government project should be. Not just for one purpose only but has a multipurpose function. This project shall serve not just for irrigation purposes but it will also act as flood control, aqua-culture and eco-tourism as well" Sec. Pangilinan said. He also added that with this project the farmers will now have enough water resources that they can use for farming and urge them to maintain and preserve the area in which the dam is located. Mayor Tan promised to keep the area well maintained and set aside funding to further develop the site and serve its purpose.

The years of waiting for the project to be accomplished and preparation of its inauguration had totally paid off. Mr. Juancho A. Vocal, President of the Tangub City Farmers Irrigators Association (TACFIA), Inc together with his Board of Directors and Members were grateful to the project in which NIA had given them. A year of additional bountiful harvest now awaits Tangub City in the coming months, thanks to the Tangub SRIP.#

PolyEthylene (PE) Pipes: Uses and Applications in Irrigation Projects/Systems

(A Presentation Material for the Regional Irrigation Managers/Project Managers)
March 5, 2015, Benguet, CAR
By: JR Pacolor and RJ Revellame, Civil Works Design Section, DSD

Introduction

The use of polyethylene pipes in the conveyance of irrigation water is becoming more popular in the Philippines. This is due to the seemingly ease, convenience and shorter duration of installation as well as longer economic life of the material. In selecting the pipe to be used, one needs to consider many factors that affect long-term strength, durability, and functionality of the piping system.

Brief History

The NIA Design Manual High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipes for Irrigation and Drainage Application was developed then, issued by the Design Research Section of Civil Works Design Division on October 2003. The Corresponding Guidelines was issued to the Regional Irrigation Managers, Operation Managers, and Project Managers on 30 April 2004 under the Memorandum of then Assistant Administrator for Project Development and Implementation Antonio A. Galvez, CESO IV.

Prior to the issuance of the said Manual and Design Guidelines, NIA has been applying the said material in the implementation of its irrigation projects.

In the 1980's, application of HDPE pipes in NIA started during the implementation of the Communal Irrigation Development and Implementation Program (CIDIP) where projects are locally (GAA) funded. The use of the material was applied to the subprojects in Provinces of Benguet and Mountain Province, through the applications in Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. The size ranges from ½(12mm) used up to 3inches (75mm).

Its use was then expanded until mid 90's under the Communal Irrigation Development Project (CIDP I and II), World Bank Funded Projects. The World Bank further encouraged the use of HDPE under the Highland Agricultural Development Project (HADP) at the Mountain Provinces (Ifugao, Bontoc and Benguet).

In year 2000, the use of large HDPE pipes sections were introduced under the Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Projects (SPISP) funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Canasujan SRIP in Cebu and Dauin SRIP in Negros in their main conveyance facilities. Applications of the materials were for domestic and irrigation facilities.

Other Low Pressure Pipes were introduced under SPISP subprojects in Gibong RIS Main Canal using two rows of about 900 mm diameter unreinforced corrugated HDPE pipes used along the quicksand/saturated peats soil foundation (juyong-juyong/kumunoy).

The advantages of PE pipes are as follows: corrosion resistance, fatigue resistance, extended service life, leak-free and fusion joints, and adaptability size section.

While its disadvantages are: rapid crack propagation, ovalation, UV rays sensitive, resin material not locally available, and higher unit cost for larger size section.

Classification

Polyethylene plastic pipe and fittings compounds are classified according to density, melt index flexural modulus, tensile strength at yield, environmental stress-crack resistance, and the hydrostatic design basis at 23° C.

Color codes such as: completely black stands for drainage and industrial applications; completely blue, or black with blue stripes are for irrigation applications and potable water; and, completely yellow, or black with yellow stripes are used for gas conduits. However, colors may depend on the country.

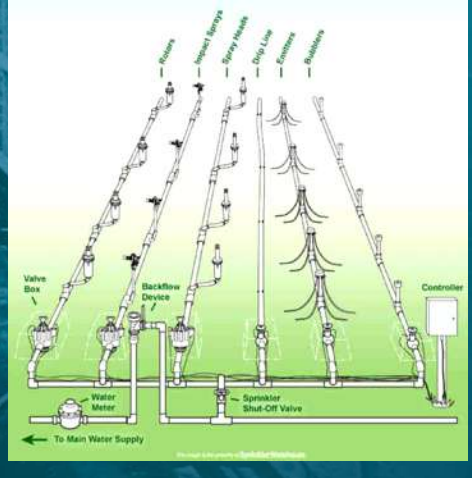
HDPE Pipe has the following characteristics: flexible and lightweight; long lengths; tight joints; resistance to normal atmospheric corrosion; similar design considerations to metal pipes; and, long-term material properties.

Applications of HDPE Pipes For Surface/Above Ground

• Subsurface Dripper PE Pipes

• Sprinkler Irrigation Conveyance

Method of applying irrigation water which is similar to rainfall. Water is distributed through a system of pipes usually by pumping. It is then sprayed into the air and irrigated entire soil surface through spray heads so that it breaks up into small water drops which fall to the ground.

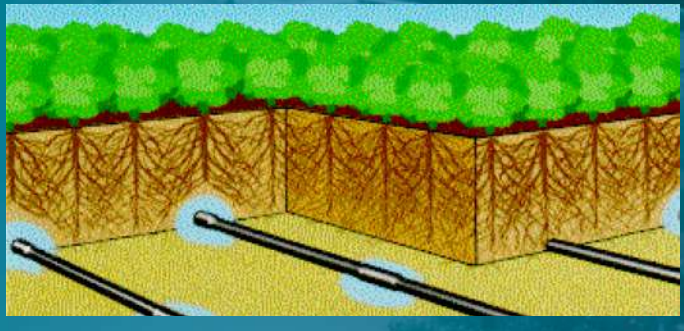


• Siphon Conveyance (Conventional Siphon not Inverted)

• Overhead Pipe Flumes

For Sub-Surface/Below Ground

• Drip Irrigation Conveyance



• Drainage Culvert Structures

Drainage Culvert Structure
A culvert is a pipe that carries water from one side of a road, driveway, railway or other obstruction to the other. Culverts will be buried at some depth below the surface, aligned so as to permit passage of water with minimum obstruction to the watercourse

• Cut & Cover Sections Irrigation Conveyances

Types Reinforced PE/HDPE Pipes Section

1. Steel Framed Polyethylene Pipes (SFPP HDPE)

Characteristics of SFPP HDPE:
- Long-Term Hydrostatic Strength
- Resistance to Rapid Crack Propagation
- Resistance to Environmental Stress Crack

2. Metal Reinforced Polyethylene Spirally Corrugated Pipes

A kind of double walled spirally corrugated pipe. It uses the HDPE as Basic material and the steel strap spiraled as the supporting parts which is spiraled to corrugated wall structure.

KRIS-MAMASAPANO ON HDPE PIPES

By Jihan Marie delos Santos, MMIP

The latest to implement HDPE Piping System is the Kabulnan River Irrigation System – Mamasapano Extension Project. This innovation in NIA aims to keep pace with the new agricultural technologies around the globe.

The canalization of the project consists of a Right Main Canal and a Left Main Canal of which both use the HDPE piping system. The right main canal uses a 12"Ø HDPE pipe, SDR 21 with a length of 1,322.00m, 16"Ø HDPE pipe, SDR 21 at 640.00m and 22"Ø HDPE pipe, SDR 21 at 398.00m while the left main canal uses a 16"Ø HDPE pipe, SDR 21 at 96.00m.

This method can save more time in installation and use lighter equipment required for handling. It is also cheaper than the typical concrete lined canals. Another advantage is that it has a low repair frequency since it is strong, extremely tough, very durable and it does not rust or corrode.

It is also eco-friendly and is recognized for its minimal impact on the environment. Its physical characteristics also enable us to use smaller pipes resulting in less ground disruption rather than the concrete lining.

HDPE pipes joined with heat fusion provide leak free connections so there's no water wasted. What is good about using HDPE piping system is its service life is estimated to last between 50 to 100 years depending on the application, design and installation.

Using HDPE piping system has a long lasting advantage for the irrigators since it requires low maintenance compared to other types of canal systems.

NIA to cooperate with SRI Pilipinas

■ Clarizze C. Toribio, PAIS-CO

SRI Pilipinas, a registered non-stock and non-profit organization, proposed a Cooperation Agreement for the joint dissemination and implementation of the System of Rice Intensification to our Irrigators Associations.

The National Irrigation Administration recently formed a Technical Working Group tasked to draft a NIA-SRI Pilipinas Memorandum of Agreement on the promotion of SRI.

Technical Working Group

Chairman : Engr. Bayani P. Ofrecio (IDD)
Members : Engr. Jerome Osias (SMD)
: Engr. Jess Espiritu (IEC)
Engr. Eden Bulatao (IEC)
Miss Clarizze Toribio (PAIS)
Miss Heartie Navarro (IDD)
Mr. Ricardo E. Urbino (IDD)

Engr. Salazar put up and conducted research and demonstration on SRI where farming practices, including water management – a key factor in increasing yield, is considered. A one hectare demo farm with a targeted 250 bags yield (12 tons/hectare) served as attraction to neighboring farmers for technology enhancement.

SSRI later became System of Irrigated Agriculture (SSIA) of former Administrator CSS and has a lot of positive experiences in its implementation.

Producing More from Less...

One of the principles of SRI is reduced and controlled water application, which is one factor to consider SRI Pilipinas' proposal since the system is one mitigation measure that can alleviate the adverse effects of the El Niño phenomenon.

Initially, the SRI Technical Working Group conducted series of meetings with Mr. Jesus Las Marias, Mr. Fred dela Mines (SRI Trainers) and Mr. Robert Bersola (The Father of SRI Pilipinas) to further improve the said Memorandum of Agreement. #

First TWG meeting held on September 28, 2015 at the IDD Conference Room with Mr. Jesus Las Marias and Mr. Fred dela Mines of SRI Pilipinas. Briefing on System of Rice Intensification and completion of the MOA draft

What is SRI?

The ***System of Rice Intensification (SRI)*** is a methodology aimed at increasing the yield of rice produced in farming. It is a low water, labor-intensive, organic method that uses younger seedlings singly spaced and typically hand weeded with special tools. It was developed in 1983 by the French Jesuit Father Henri de Laulanié in Madagascar . However full testing and spread of the system throughout the rice growing regions of the world did not occur until some years later with the help of Universities like Cornell. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/System_of_Rice_Intensification)

This system offers many advantages over the usual methods for irrigated rice cultivation and can produce substantial increase in yield.

Looking Back...

A decade ago, Engr. Carlos S. Salazar, Regional Manager of NIA Caraga, conducted Salazar System of Rice Intensification (SSRI), which is a modified and improved SRI.

(L-R) Mr. Robert Bersola, Miss Heartie Navarro and Bayani Ofrecio during the TWG meeting held on October 30, 2015

Seminar-Workshop on Appraisal of Real and Other Tangible Properties

Elaine P. Villanueva, Property Officer A, PPD-C.O.

On August 27-28, September 3-4, and September 10-11 at Classroom B, 3rd floor IEC building, the Procurement and Property Division held a 2-day seminar on the appraisal of Real and Other Tangible Properties. This activity focused on enhancing the valuation skills of the 107 Supply and Property officers of the National Irrigation Administration in determining the agency's total net worth.

The interactive seminar has been conceptualized in accordance to MC No. 43, series of 2015, pertaining to the guidelines on the inventory and valuation of NIA owned real and other tangible properties as approved by the Board of Directors last April 2015.

The two day in-house seminar was designed for the participants to techniques and approaches to value assets. The participants were able to apply their learning in the valuation of NIA owned properties shortly after the training, as they were tasked to evaluate and appraise some of the buildings inside the NIA compound. Mr Abelardo Garcia Jr. headed the team of experts commissioned by the agency as resource persons for the seminar.

The activity was fully supported by the Administrative Department Manager Atty. Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda, Deputy Administrator Estrella E. Icasiano and Administrator Florencio F. Padernal. The top management thanked the participants for joining the seminar and appreciated their efforts in learning new techniques for the betterment of the agency.#

The El Ñiño Phenomenon 2014-2016

Engr. Leslie C. Dizon, MBA
Chief, Systems Operations, SMD-OD

If we tune in our radio, switch on our television, and read newspapers and tabloids, we hear, see, and read two popular words, EL NIÑO. But what is this thing called El Niño? Why is it given too much importance, time, and effort not only in the Philippines but worldwide?

El Niño came from two Spanish words, El and Niño, which means, "The Little Boy" or "Christ Child". As early as 1600, fishermen from the coast of South America noticed the appearance of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean during the months of November to December, hence, the name El Niño was coined.

According to climatologist and weather experts, El Niño is defined by prolonged warming in the Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures when compared with the average value. Accordingly, U.S National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) determines El Niño as a 3-month average warming of at least 0.5 °C (0.9 °F) in a specific area of the east-central tropical Pacific Ocean. Typically, this incident happens at irregular intervals of two to seven years, and lasts nine months to two years. The average period length is five years. When this warming occurs for seven to nine months, it is classified as El Niño "conditions"; when its duration is longer, it is classified as an El Niño "episode".

El Niño is a climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean with a global impact on weather patterns. It begins when warm water in the western tropical Pacific Ocean shifts eastward along the equator toward the coast of South America. This warm water pools near Indonesia and the Philippines. During an El Niño, the Pacific's warmest surface waters sit offshore of north western South America. Climatologists declare an official El Niño when they see both ocean temperatures and rainfall from storms veer to the east.

On May 1, 2014, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical and Services Administration (PAGASA), issued a Press Statement to general public that the agency is closely monitoring the oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the tropical Pacific that could lead to possible development of an El Niño.

18 months after, a severe and strong El Niño is now in progress in the tropical Pacific. The El Niño forecast for 2015 is expected to be one of the strongest on record since 1950, according to Mike Halpert, the deputy director of the Climate Prediction Center of the NOAA. The phenomenon is likely to strengthen before the end of the year and may last until April-May 2016.

By the end of this year, seven provinces will likely to experience dry condition; one in Luzon, and six in Mindanao. 27 provinces, wherein 10 in Luzon, 9 in the Visayas and 8 in Mindanao will experience dry spell and the worst which is the drought will be experienced in 28 provinces in which 22 are in Luzon, 4 in the Visayas and 2 in Mindanao. 69% of the country will likely experience these dry spell/condition and drought by the end of December 2015.

PAGASA predicts that by the end of March 2016, 68 provinces will likely experience drought which is equivalent to 85% of the entire archipelago.

To mitigate and address the effects of the El Niño, the President created Task Force El Niño headed by the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority, Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan. It is composed of 16 government agencies including NIA as one of its members. The El Niño Roadmap conceptualized by the Task Force was already submitted to the President and follow up Meeting on the final instructions of the Chief Executive on the Roadmap was held at the NEDA Board Room on 11 November 2015 and this was the confirmation of the Plans of Actions by the Heads of the different Agencies.

Fortunately and proud to say that the presentation of the NIA Plans of Actions by Secretary Fredelita C. Guiza was done very smoothly with very minimal queries only by Secretary Rogelio L. Singson of DPWH.

The Plans of Actions submitted by the NIA to the Task are as follows:

1. Project Affected Areas:
1.1 Q2 2015 Dry Season – 41,000 hectares
1.2 Q4 2015 Wet Season – 57,220 hectares
1.3 Q2 2016 Dry Season – 207,649 hectares

2.Provision of Shallow Tube Wells (STW):
2.1 Number of pumps – 17,238 units
2.2 Total Cost – P2.154 Billion

3. Provision of Drilling Rigs:
3.1 Number of drilling rigs – 17 units
3.2 Total Cost- P 51.00 Million

4. Request for Cloud Seeding:
4.1 Area to be seeded – Pampanga, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija
4.2 Total Cost – P 8.00 Million

5. Emergency Employment:
5.1 Farmers Affected – 42,980
5.2 Total Cost – P 469.984 Million

Of the total Emergency Employment in the amount of P 469.984 Million, P 300.00 Million will be funded by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) under the NIA-DOLE Convergence Program and the rest under the NIA Action Plan submitted to the Task Force. Under this Program, the displaced farmers will be paid as laborers for a maximum period of 30 days.

The Government, particularly the NIA is trying its best to mitigate the effects of the El Niño for the benefit of thousands of farmers who derive their livelihood thru the precious water being provided and delivered by the Agency.#

PRESS CONFERENCE

Press Conference on El NIÑO Updates at NWRB Conference Room on October 01, 2015 with Engr. Romeo M. Lopez, Acting Manager of Operations Department; Dr. Sevillo D. David Jr., NWRB Executive Director; and, Atty. Nathaniel C. Santos, MWSS Senior Deputy Administrator.

On October 22, 2015 with (L-R) Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez, PAIS Manager; Dr. Sevillo D. David Jr.; Atty. Nathaniel C. Santos and Mr. Anthony Lucero, PAGASA Climate Monitoring and Prediction Chief.

TECHNICAL

Courtesy Call with JICA

The NIA Delegation led by Dr. Padernal made a presentation on its projects, activities and the reforms being implemented as well as its 2015 and 2016 Budgets.

MOA SI

NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal shakes hand with Mr. Chang Yong Cheong, Project Director/PE (Seoyeong Engineering) Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) Environmental and Social Monitoring Team (ESMT) after the signing of the Minutes of Discussion (MoD) for the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project (JRMP) at the Administrator's Conference Room on September 4, 2015. With them are: Deputy Administrator Estrella E. Icasiano; Mr. Yongkeun Oh, Chief Representative, EDCF Manila Representative Office, Export-Import (KEXIM) Bank of Korea; Legal Services Department Manager Atty. Gene M. Dionio; and, JRMP staff.

• PHOTO

Visit in Japan

Administrator Padernal on demonstration of NIRE Experiments.

Administrator Padernal with Deputy Administrator Icasiano during wrap-up meeting with JICA.

CONTRACT SIGNING

Contract signing sealed with a handshake between NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal (center) and Mr. Rodigar L. Laxamana (4th from right) of Leadway Construction and Development Corp. for Porac-Gumain RIS, NISRIP project in Pampanga. With them are (L-R) Engr. Sally Tuates of NISRIP, Atty. Rizza Ibañez of Legal Services Dept, Engineering Department Manager Lydia S. Esguerra, Deputy Administrator Erdolfo B. Domingo, Mr. Roligar Laxamana, NISRIP Head Foreign Consultant Mr. Koji Okada, and Engr. Milagros Nopre of Engineering Department.

Mr. Alain C. Lee (3rd from left) representative of Viking Construction and Supplies/Aqualine Construction joint venture. Contract signed was for the NISRIP rehab project of Madongan RIS in Ilocos Norte and witnessed by (L-R) Engineering Department Manager Lydia S. Esguerra, NISRIP Project Manager Pedro M. de Guzman, Deputy Administrator (DA) for Finance and Administrative Sector Estrella E. Icasiano, DA for Engineering and Operations Sector Erdolfo B. Domingo, and Legal Services Department Manager Atty. Genever M. Dionio.

GNING

MOA signing between NIA and SN Aboitiz Power Magat Inc. re: the construction of 8.5MW Hydro-electric Power Plant along MARIS Main (South) Canal on October 20, 2015 at EDSA ShangriLa, Manila. (L-R) DA Estrella E. Icasiano, Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, Mr. Emmanuel V. Rubio, Mr. Joseph S. Yu, and Ms. Eleanor Blomdahl. (Standing, L-R) Atty. Rizza Ibañez and SNAP representatives.

NEWS •

Marietta M. dela Cruz, PRO, R4A

My Story

BEFORE NIA

Growing up in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, I have never imagined that I will be working in Laguna particularly in National Irrigation Administration (NIA). My dream was to become a doctor. In playing bahay-bahayan, I'm always the doctor – curing my playmates and pets using my toy stethoscope and pasting them with pounded leaves and forcing them to drink my medicines (candies). But in the end, I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry that ironically landed me a job as a Public Relations Officer – but oops I'm getting ahead of my story.

I will begin in my college years that started in 1981. Having eight siblings, it was a struggle to enroll for a college education; hence, my dream of becoming a doctor was not a possibility. Instead, I took the second best thing and enrolled for Veterinary Medicine at the nearest university – the Central Luzon State University in Munoz, Nueva Ecija which cost I thought was within the family's means. It was a ladderized 6-year course and by the time I finished the fourth year in 1985 with the aforementioned Animal Husbandry degree – I was asked if I could already help with the family's financial needs since I was technically a graduate with three other siblings also in college. Choice was not an option then. But I did enjoy my college days – with interesting courses on animal's anatomy, physiology and other science subjects. I never gotten into any relationship since I was focused on studies although there are always some guys that made *pa-cute* and looks at me with tantalizing eyes.

LIFE IN NIA

In year 1986, while Cory Aquino is being hailed as the heroine of EDSA revolution and was proclaimed as the legitimate President of the Philippines, I started working in NIA as an Irrigators Community Organizer (ICO). I was 22 years old then and very eager to work. During this time, one of my former classmates in college, Clody, who lived in Los Baños,Laguna where I was also based with my eldest sister, Angie, started courting me. We became MU (mutual understanding). He was very sweet and gentle guy. However, during this period in NIA, Pila, Laguna, there were lot of bachelors and one of them caught my eyes. He is so *pogi,* dresses well and looks so manly. He always stared at me too. One day, a friend got us introduced and that night he visited me at our place. That sealed our fate. Two years and eight months later – I became the wife of Carlos M. Dela Cruz. Four years after – we became parents to a lovely daughter and two handsome sons.

But it had not been all roses and cream. There are a lot of struggles – juggling a job and being a mother is a lot harder than one can think. Carlos and I have brought up the kids without any help from in-laws who are living afar, mine is in Nueva Ecija and his is in Pampanga. It was such a struggle that it was my suspicion that the stresses of these times were the reason *kaya naubos ang buhok ng husband ko.* With the demand of my job as a community organizer which later on became Irrigators Organization Worker then became what is known now as Irrigators Development Officer, I sometimes have to leave the kids days at a time. But there was a silver lining during those times, my boss – Engr. Romeo R. Añonuevo was an understanding boss who let us bring kids at work. Kids called him Lolo Boss. I finally got a permanent position in 2009 as a Property Officer of Laguna-Rizal IMO. In 2012, when the position of Public Relations Officer was published, I got the courage to apply and here I am now.

My kids are now all grown up: our daughter,Therese, is now a full pledged nurse working in one of the hospitals in Sta. Cruz, Laguna who hopefully will be able to find a good job abroad; the second, my handsome son Raymond, is a graduate of AB Com working right now in Legazpi, Bicol doing video documentation for a special project; and, the youngest, Eugene, a graduating student of Accountancy.

BEYOND NIA

I am now 50 years old but I don't see myself old, rather, a maturely handsome woman *na may asim pa*. I still have so much to offer.

Anyway, it is without any single doubt that NIA played a very big part in my life. *Dito na umikot ang buhay ko* and I owe this Agency a lot. Thank you NIA, I hope that whatever challenges we are facing right now will all work out for the best – and we will become the best agency our country ever had for the sake of the farmers and the people working for it.

When I leave NIA, I hope I already have grand kids whom I can devote my time to care and fuss about. My husband and I can do all the travelling we want should funds permit. I also plan to devote my time in church activities as well as join activities my husband wants to attend.#

IT'S ALL ABOUT UNITY

By: Engr. William B. Oppuer
Division III Manager, MARIIS

Filipinos is known worldwide for being hospitable, resilient, and always in high spirits. One of these inherent values is lending a helping hand or the "bayanihan". In this modern generation where technologies thrive, "bayanihan" remains. But aside of those qualities we are known for, we should not forget one thing-Unity. Unity can reach differences; can build one strong nation regardless of creeds, races, and colors. Unity as to my own thought is far greater essential for we can accomplish things with love and passion. It will teach us how to appreciate than to depreciate things around us.

This is very salient on the part of irrigation services. The absence of unity among farmers will impede the attainment of good water delivery which can cause conflict and misunderstanding and deprivation of rights which may possibly result to killings. But due to schemes on water delivery we can circumvent these things.

A group of farmers in Ilocos, the "Zanjera" formulated a method on how to resolve their problems regarding the scarcity of water supply by means of uniting themselves. This took place during the Spanish era. Their method is effective because the rights and privileges provided to the upstream canal are the same rights and privileges provided to mainstream and downstream. Hence, equal distribution of water is rightfully enjoyed. Though the founders of the group passed away, the presence of unity still exists among the living members of the group. This is a living proof that unity can defy odds and challenges.

If there's no unity among us, what will happen?

There will be conflict, selfishness, bickering of neighbors. On irrigation services there will be imbalance on water distribution; polluted canals due to garbage, large trunk of trees and plants that block the flow of water; neglected farm ditches; eroded canals due to wallowing of animals; infrastructure damages due to the recklessness of farmers; and enclosed egress of water caused by haystack. These and more are the product of discord. But on the account of unity, we can eliminate these unnecessary incidents. Through unity, affection, care, and harmony can be developed.

To the Irrigators Associations of MARIIS Division III, San Manuel, Isabela. I keep on reiterating in the meetings and trainings the importance of unity. "We have to unite in minds and hearts to obtain our dreams and plans and to prosper in life". I want them to internalize and consider the reward of good relationship. I want them to realize the essential role of living with unity. It is not just merely helping a day or two, yet it lives forever. It is more than participating and involving yourself. It is giving your heart and embracing people and things that unfold around you. It should be a union of hearts and mind towards a placid and better tomorrow.#

Running Provided A Mile of Support

Portia Sandoval Angulo, IRDO-A,HRD, C-O

Sixty-eight (68) NIA Central Office personnel were among the more than 21,000 runners who registered in the Civil Service Commission (CSC)-spearheaded Responsive, Accessible, Courteous and Effective (R.A.C.E.) to Serve V Fun Run 2015. Said fun run with the theme "Kayang Kaya Mo, Lingkod Bayani" was one of the CSC lined-up month-long activities in celebration of the Philippine Civil Service 115th Anniversary.

The activity which started at 5:30am on 12 September 2015 at the Quirino Grandstand, Manila featured 3km, 5km, and 10km distance categories for men and women. Cash prizes were awarded to the first, second and third placers of different race categories.

Delegation from NIA participated in the 3km and 5km categories. They enjoyed the actual activity while feeling fulfilled for supporting the event. Participants were also able to release their stresses and got physical by joining the fun run. Additionally, NIA representatives were granted a half-day compensatory time-off for participating in said event.

Registration fee for each participant cost P150.00, inclusive of race bib. Proceeds of the activity benefited the Pondong Pamanang Bayani in honor of public officials and employees who died in the performance of pursuit of functions, duties, and responsibilities.

No single evidence of exhaustion, but traces of reduced stress and fulfillment can be seen on the faces of the finishers as they gathered at the end of the race.#

HEALTH & WELLNESS

DENGUE SA PANAHON NG EL NIÑO

Kasabay ng lumulubhang kaso ng El Niño sa ating bansa ay ang paglaki din ng bilang ng kaso ng "dengue". Ano-ano ba ang dapat nating malaman tungkol sa dengue, mga dapat gawin kapag may **"dengue"**, mga paraan upang maiwasan ito at paano ito mapupuksa?

• Ang lamok na Aedes Aegypti at Aedes Albopticus and dahilan ng pagkakaroon ng dengue ng isang tao.

• Ang Aedes na lamok ay may itim na katawan at mga galamay na may puti na mga benda. Makikita sa harap nito ang maitim, mahaba, at tila karayom na pangsipsip ng dugo. Kailangan nilang sumipsip ng dugo upang makagawa ng itlog.

• Nangingitlog ang lamok sa mga bagay na maaaring maipunan ng tubig dahil kailangan ang tubig upang mapisa ang mga itlog nila. Kapag napisa na ang itlog ng lamok, nabubuhay sa tubig ang kiti-kiti. Kinakain ng mga kiti-kiti ang bacteria at lumot na naipon sa tubig.

ANG TAO AY POSIBLENG MAY DENGUE KAPAG:

• May mataas na lagnat (38*C pataas)
• Kung ang lagnat ay nagtatagal ng 2-7 araw
• Nakatira o nagpunta sa lugar na may kaso ng dengue
• Kung may 2 o higit pa sa mga sumusunod:
- Masakit na ulo
- Pananakit ng kalamnan
- Pananakit ng mga kasukasuan
- Pagsusuka
- Pagtatae
- Pagkakaroon ng "rashes" na mapupula at maliliit
- Nahihirapang huminga
- Pagdurugo ng ilong at bibig
- Pagiging balisa
- Hindi makakain o makainom ng tubig

Ang ***"severe dengue"*** naman ay kung saan makakaranas ang pasyente ng sobrang pagdugo at pagkadamay ng mga laman-loob ng isang tao. Maaaring mapuno ng tubig ang baga, magkumbulsyon at magkaroon ng problema ang bato at puso.

MGA DAPAT GAWIN KAPAG MAY DENGUE:

• Uminom ng "paracetamol" ayon sa payo ng doktor.
• Uminom ng tubig o "fruit juices"
• Iwasan na makagat ng lamok ang taong may dengue-Upang hindi mahawa ang ibang tao sa bahay at sa komunidad.
• Punasan ng malinis na bimpo na binasa sa tubig na galing sa gripo ang tao na may lagnat upang bumaba ang kanyang temperatura.
• At pinakaimportante ang magpatingin sa doktor.

MGA PARAAN PARA MAIWASAN ANG DENGUE AT PAGPUKSA DITO:

• Proteksyonan ang sarili upang hindi makagat ng lamok.
• Magsuot ng damit na matatakpan ang balat na pwedeng makagat ng lamok, gaya ng damit na may mahabang manggas, pantalon at medyas.
• Gumamit ng "insect repellant", gaya ng "off lotion" o "mosquito patches".
• Gumamit ng kulambo sa pagtulog. Nakakatulong din ang paggamit ng bentilador dahil nahihirapang lumipad ang lamok sa hangin nito.
• Linisin ang mga pwedeng pangitlugan ng lamok.
• Butasan , hiwain, o lagyan ng lupa ang mga lumang gulong
• Takpan ang mga pinag-iimbakan ng tubig tulad ng timba, dram, at planggana. Linisin ang mga ito minsan sa isang linggo.
• Palitan ang tubig sa mga plorera minsan sa isang linggo.
• Itapon ang mga bagay na pwedeng maipunan ng tubig at mapangitlugan ng lamok.
• Linisin at alisin ang tubig sa paminggalan.
• Linisin ang alulod sa bahay
• Patayin ang lamok. Gumamit ng "insecticide". Basahin ng maigi ang tamang paraan ng paggamit nito. Takpan ang mga lalagyan ng pagkain. Palabasin ang mga bata. Magsuot ng "face mask" habang nag i "spray". Maghugas ng kamay o maligo pagkatapos mag "spray".
• Makipag-ugnayan sa inyong "barangay officials" ukol sa mga programa laban sa "dengue".

(Source: NKTI, Advanced Nursing & Allied Health Professions)

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