

VISION: By 2020, NIA is a professional and efficient irrigation agency contributing to the inclusive growth of the country and in the improvement of the farmer's quality of life

MISSION: To construct, operate and maintain irrigation systems consistent with integrated water resource management principles to improve agricultural productivity and increase farmers' income



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

# CURRENTS

VOLUME 25 NO 1, 2016

## CHEERS! FOR A BETTER, BRIGHTER NIA

By: Jhon Vince Santoalla, PAIS-CO.

*"There were several challenges during the last one year and half and I suspect there will be more challenges in the coming six more months that I will be here in NIA".*

These were the opening greetings of National Irrigation Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal during 2016 Ceremonial Toast held at NIA Flagpole area on January 4, 2016. The agency unfolds new pages and starts a new chapter thru a welcome toast for goodwill, camaraderie, and unity for a strong and vibrant NIA.



The program started with the traditional Flag Raising Ceremony hosted by the Office of the Administrator. The lone speaker during the occasion was no less than Dr. Padernal. He discussed enduring efforts and unceasing development of the agency in preparation for the challenges ahead in 2016 and beyond.



(1st Row - 4th from L) Administrator Florencio F. Padernal led the agency's 2016 ceremonial toast held on January 4, 2016. Raising glasses with him were (1st Row - 5th from L) Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Estrella E. Icasiano, (1st Row - 3rd from R) Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Erdolfo B. Domingo, and other NIA Department and Division Managers.

Aside from his plans for the agency, Dr. Padernal did not forget to uplift the spirit of NIAns telling them, "Yes! We will deliver all the possible benefits that could be given to all NIA employees". He talked about the continuing drive towards agency's success which is not possible without the overwhelming compassion & support of its workers.

Simultaneously, NIA Regional Offices conducted their respective ceremonial toast for a cohesive agency equipped to face another year. All offered a toast with their glasses of wine symbolizing every drop of determination in fulfilling the oath

to Filipino people in delivering more strategic, progressive, and competent irrigation services in supporting food production from generations to generations.

Strength in camaraderie, confidence for organization's success, and optimism for farmers' bright future serve as the mounting roots for everyone to keep on working. As the world grows another year older, all wishes are to have a heart that remains youthful and cheerful all throughout the coming years. Cheers for sustained service! Cheers for continued success! #

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# AHOY, CAPTAIN! NAVIGATING THE PATH, FIRMLY HOLDING THE HELM

EDITORIAL

For more than 50 years, National Irrigation Administration has been the prime partner of Filipino farmers in allocating sufficient water to their farmlands. Up until now, the agency continues its legacy in providing irrigation services that serve the entire country in securing food in everyone's plate.

Along with change of year, improved and unified efforts are the compass that will aid the agency to keep on track. NIA kick-started 2015 with a total of 1,705,155.36 hectares or 56.47% out of the 3,019,609 hectares estimated total potential irrigable areas nationwide. The four big-ticket irrigation projects were signed and approved and expected to increase cropping intensity and rice production in the next three years or so.

Consequently, more than 400 newly completed irrigation projects were turned over to farmers nationwide. These are some of the manifestations that NIA is widening its road for a better and efficient irrigation services in the archipelago.

As 2016 enters, challenges are imminent. With recharged determination and effective teamwork thru the stewardship of Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, the agency is ready to face the new year.

In his 2016 ceremonial toast speech, Dr. Padernal told everyone about a more effective and systematic plans to anchor the agency above the waves and interferences the year might bring. He further laid

down the blueprints that will guide the agency in the coming years. Some of the priorities for the year are to: empower employees by building a coherent and effective management team; promote appropriate technologies; implement hydropower projects; explore solar panels; and the use of geo-tagging program and LRA mapping for effective planning and project monitoring. NIA also vows to further promote transparency in central and field offices in all its project implementation and operations. It will likewise strengthen ties with Irrigators Associations by conducting periodic dialogue with them.

A research on best practices for institutional development to operate and maintain irrigation facilities and to address issues on Irrigation Service Fee will be pursued.

Also considered are the linkages with international communities in the field of irrigation.

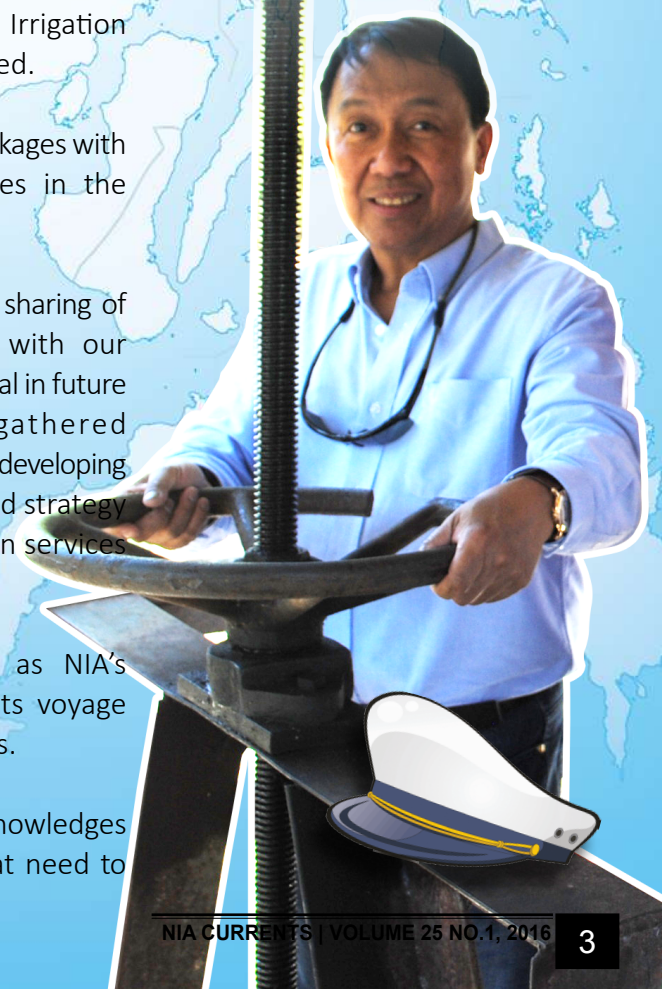
Dr. Padernal believes that sharing of irrigation best practices with our neighboring countries is vital in future decision making. All gathered practices will be the basis in developing new set of technology and strategy which will fortify irrigation services in the country.

These plans will serve as NIA's guiding principles with its voyage towards the coming years.

The management acknowledges that there are things that need to

fine tune for the agency to attain its goal. There are changes to make, decisions to take – the process might take long and the course might be painful but in the end, the efforts will be worth it. For as long as the whole workforce are synchronized to paddle towards better programs and irrigation projects, all are guaranteed that NIA will regain its post as one of the best irrigation agency in Asia.

It will not be an easy journey but NIA is confident enough to navigate the rough seas and reach the port of destination, so to speak, because onboard is an experienced captain who firmly holds the helm along with the reliable sailors, feasible map, and appropriate compass. #







NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Ms. Estrella E. Icasiano and PAIS Manager Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez welcome Israel Ambassador to the Philippines H.E Ephraim Ben Matityau.



## ISRAEL AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES VISITS NIA

By: Jhon Vince Santoalla, PAIS, CO.

NIA Central Office, Quezon City - NIA Top Management led by NIA Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal amiably welcomes H.E Ambassador Ephraim Ben Matityau and his delegates for a casual discussion about irrigation system and development held at 2nd Floor NIA Administrator's Office on January 11, 2016.

*"We are appraised with your visit here in NIA"* Dr. Padernal told the Israeli delegates as they exchange greetings before the actual conversation commence. The talk mainly revolves around exchanging of thoughts about irrigation development focusing on water-users in the Philippines as well as in Israel. During the discussion, Dr. Padernal revealed that the agency is currently planning to

go to different neighboring Asian countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Taiwan study how irrigation works in those countries. This effort will focus primarily in studying current systems and learning new technologies being used by other countries enabling the Philippines thru NIA to cope up with the trend.

Administrator Padernal acknowledged that the visit in neighboring countries will be vital in coming up with right decisions in irrigation reforms. *"Instead of using consultants we want to look it at our own"* he added. He mentioned that all the outputs collated will be integrated within NIA's national and regional master plan.

Aside from Asian countries, Dr. Padernal

A photo opportunity between Israel team and NIA key officials. (1st level from L-R) Present during the discussion are NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Ms. Estrella E. Icasiano, H.E Ambassador Ephraim Ben Matityau, NIA Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Engr. Erdolfo B. Domingo, (2nd level from L-R) Public Affairs and Information Staff Manager Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez, Jerusalem Ministry of Foreign Affairs Asia Pacific Division South East Asia Department Desk Officer Yaniv Revach. Israel Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Hadass Nisan, Institutional Development Division Manager Engr. Bayani P. Ofrecio, and Department Manager Ms. Virginia R. Atienza.







H.E. Israel Ambassador to the Philippines Ephraim Ben Matityau listens to NIA Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal about his intention in visiting Israel. Taking down notes on his side are Israel Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Hadass Nisan and Jerusalem Ministry of Foreign Affairs Asia Pacific Division South East Asia Department Desk Officer Yaniv Revach.

also intends to go to Israel for the same purpose. He wanted to have a wider perspective in addressing issues like Irrigation Service Fee (ISF), minimizing water losses and the likes. Upon learning the intents of NIA, Ambassador Matityau quickly responded positively telling everyone about the best irrigation practices being observed and performed in Israel. The ambassador further expressed his satisfaction with the current irrigation system of Israel and even asking the NIA management to keep in touch. Dr. Padernal on the other hand wishes to have more meet-ups with the Israeli team to further strengthen the working relationship.

The discussion were witnessed by NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Engr. Erdolfo B. Domingo, NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Ms. Estrella E. Icasiano, NIA Operations Department Manager Engr. Romeo M. Lopez, Institutional Development Division Manager Engr. Bayani P. Ofrecio, Public Affairs and Information Staff Manager Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez, and Department Manager Ms. Virginia R. Atienza. Along with Ambassador Matityau were Israel Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Hadass Nisan, Jerusalem Ministry of Foreign Affairs Asia Pacific Division South East Asia Department Desk Officer Yaniv Revach and Embassy Trade Director Ms. Jonie. #

## NIA TO BUGKALOTS' CLAIMS: "SOLVE IT AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE"



Department of Finance Financial Analyst Ms. Tanya T. Teves exchanging views with NIA Legal Services Department Manager Atty. Genever M. Dionio during the interagency meeting held at NIA Board Room on January 7, 2016. Paying attention with the discussion are (From L-R) CMIPP Project Manager Alexander G. Coloma, NIA PAIS Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, DOF PRIVA PM III Jose Ilano, NCIP ADO Director Jonathan D. Adaci, NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, and NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Estrella E. Icasiano.

These were the words of Dr. Florencio F. Padernal during the interagency meeting held at 3rd Floor NIA Board Room on January 7, 2016. Delegates from various government agencies including Department of Finance (DOF), Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) actively participated in discussing and analyzing every possible solution to properly address the concerns and issues of the Bugkalot Tribe.

The meeting started as Atty. Genever M. Dionio, Manager, Legal Services Department, resonated the gist of the recent dialogue between NIA Top Management Officials and the Bugkalot Tribe led by Nagtipunan, Quirino Mayor and Bugkalot Chieftain Rosario Camma last December 9, 2015. Emphasis were given on the two fundamental issues raised by the tribesmen, (1) tribes's percentage claim on the profit of CalEnergy operations, and (2) the release of the 10% environmental flow pursuant to NWRB Resolution No. 01-0901. While the Bugkalot Tribe remains firm with their assertion on profit sharing and the release of the 10% environmental flow under the IPRA Law, CalEnergy is still in the legal process of questioning the constitutionality of certain provisions of the said law.

A four-page document was presented by Engr. Alexander G. Coloma, NIA-CMIPP Project Manager, stating the action plans and recommendations gathered from the previous meeting with the Bugkalot Tribe. Taking into consideration the purpose for which the hydroelectric power plant was

constructed, its capacity, and the possible implications on the water release, Atty. Dionio kept reiterating that the technical and legal aspects of the demands of Bugkalot Tribe play vital roles in attaining solid solutions on the problem. Executive Director Seville David Jr. of the NWRB seconded, saying that the request of immediate release of the 10% environmental flow would take time because of the possible structural modifications vis-à-vis existing structure, to divert the water flow. Other issues, including the alleged extinction of endemic fish in the area called "Ludong", and CalEnergy's Corporate Social Responsibility effort towards the Bugkalot Tribe, were also discussed

Meanwhile, NCIP Ancestral Domain Office Director Jonathan D. Adaci disclosed his concern on how the tribe will utilize and use the amount if it's already given to them. *"I want to know if there are plans/programs coming from the tribe on how they significantly and efficiently trickle down the amount,"* he added. He further cited that the first thing we need to assess is the actual occupation rights of these Indigenous People within the area.

Atty. Ma. Jazmin Banal, OPAFSAM Undersecretary, called off the meeting after figuring other points that must be included in the next meeting such as benefits continuously being given to the Bugkalot Tribe, design and modification structure to address the water release, and presentation of chronology of events- beginning up until its current status. NIA is firm with its position that the agency can only act as a facilitator in achieving a mutually beneficial agreement for both Casecnan and the Bugkalot Tribe. #

# FFP MEDIATES ON URIP'S COMPLETION

By: Laami Tizel L. Pebra, IDO-A, URIP

Umayam River Irrigation Project (URIP) located at the municipalities of Loreto and La Paz, Agusan del Sur is presently the largest NIA project in whole Caraga Region. It is one of the most frequently visited/monitored projects by Administrator Florencio F. Padernal.

The project components are: one ogee-type diversion dam across

Umayam River with sluiceway, intake structure, 29.4 km. total length main canal with two (2) units siphon structures across Umayam and Adgaoan River, twelve (12) units lateral canals with 72.321 km. total length, and a service road along the canals.

After the Administrator's ocular inspection at the dam site on January 26, 2016, he met the representatives of Kyro Builders, the contractor for the construction of diversion dam and the URIP management led by Project Manager Gregorio Y. Pang, Jr. for a brainstorming session. He stressed that they all have unanimous objective – to finish the project on time. Although he understands it is

very rare for a project not to undergo problems along the way that would cause it to extend.

Having the unanimous objective, he instructed them to work collectively on the problems and solutions to meet the timeframe of the project, which is scheduled to finish on July 14 this year.

He also advised the contractor to mobilize additional equipment, increase the manpower, perform parallel activities, extend the working hours, and submit catch-up plan.

Also present in the event is Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, Regional Manager, Caraga Region. #

## NIA, QPEC INK MOU FOR COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF ADDALAM HYDROPOWER PROJECT



(4th from L) NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal and (3rd from R) Quirino Power Energy Corporation President Michelle N. Chua led the signing of MOU held at NIA Central Office on January 11, 2016. (From L-R) Witnessing the event are, Atty. Pepito Padilla, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Erdolfo B. Domingo, Legal Services Department Manager Atty. Genever M. Dionio, Mr. Paul Ng and Quirino Lone District Representative Dakila Carlo E. Cua.

In efforts of studying and investigating more renewable energy sources in the country, the National Irrigation Administration entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Quirino Power Energy Corporation (QPEC) for Addalam Hydropower Project in Brgy. San Leonardo, Aglipay, Quirino Province. The MOU signing was held on January 11, 2016 at the NIA Central Office,

Quezon City. National Irrigation Administration was represented by NIA Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal while Quirino Power Energy Corporation was embodied by QPEC President Ms. Michelle N. Chua

Through the MOU, QPEC signified its intention to submit a proposal for the 3.6MW Addalam Hydropower

Project and shall undertake full blown studies to it. These will further include the most cost effective development, construction, and operation of the various components including irrigation, power generation, and domestic water supply.

As stipulated with the MOU, National Irrigation Administration permitted QPEC to conduct a comprehensive study on the economic, financial, and technical viability of Addalam Hydropower Project. This were aligned to NIA's mandates in constructing a multi-purpose water resources projects that will not only satisfy the irrigation factor but also will address renewable energy sources, flood control, drainage, etc. in the particular area.

Also present during the MOU signing were Quirino Lone District Representative Congressman Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Mr. Paul Ng, NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Engr. Erdolfo B. Domingo, and NIA Legal Services Department Manager Atty. Genever M. Dionio. #



## ENGR. RAMON A. BUGACIA TAKES OFFICE AS NIA IV-B ACTING REGIONAL MANAGER

By: Aileen Vernice G. Bahia, PRO, Region IV-B

*"Magkaroon tayo ng teamwork. Walang magagawa ang RM without the support of the base (staff)."*

This was the statement of Engr. Ramon A. Bugacia when he takes office as the new acting regional manager of National Irrigation Administration Region IV-B on January 7, 2016. Welcomed by the regional office staff, an orientation was conducted at NIA Conference Room, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro to present the current status of the agency.

*"Very particular ako sa trabaho. If you are compensated, you have to justify what you are receiving."* added Engr. Bugacia in his message.

Previously appointed as the regional manager of Region 10, Engr. Bugacia

shared his experiences on how he handled management of the said agency. Afterwards, he discussed his plans for Region IV-B like filling out the approved 40 plantilla positions clearly stating that in order to achieve a permanent post in the government, one must be eligible (Civil Service Eligibility).

He also mentioned focusing on the accomplishments in lined with the commitment to the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) and that he is particular with the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS).

*"Importante yung willingness ng tao to serve."* said Engr. Bugacia as he ended his message for the NIA IV-B staff.



Engr. Cesar Pobre, OIC for Engineering and Operations Division then presented the history and performances of the region for the past 4 years.

Included in the report are the accomplishments in terms of project implementation, financial management, and institutional development.

Turnover of NIA IV-B management from Engr. Florentino David to Engr. Bugacia was held last January 6, 2015 at NIA Central Office, Quezon City. #

## NEW UPRIS MANAGER GOES STRAIGHT TO WORK, MEETS ALL EMPLOYEES

Maria Isobel F. Padolina, PRO-A, UPRIS

Engr. Florentino R. David wasted no time and went straight to work on his first official day as Department Manager of UPRIS, meeting and visiting all its division offices to familiarize himself with the UPRIS set-up.

Engr. David was named as the new Department Manager on January 6, 2016 by NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal. His last post was as Regional Manager of NIA Region IV-B in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

The appointment of the new chief follows the brief stint of Engr. Rosalinda B. Bote, who acted as Officer-in-Charge of the office after the retirement of former Department Manager, Engr. Reynaldo D. Puno on November 19, 2015.

### Seeking Innovation in Water Management

Engr. David addressed his plans for UPRIS and the challenges facing the agency and its farmer clientele. He wanted to see that all plans

are put in place and necessary measures are taken to accomplish them.

He encouraged everyone to be innovative in finding new ways to increase performance particularly with regards to Water Management. He believes that sustainable irrigation could be provided to the farmers by having strategic plans when it comes to water management. Immediately, he urged for the creation of a Water Management Core Group.



The group will focus on current water practices and charts a course for water efficiency improvements, conservation activities and water reduction goals. Engr. David stressed that water releases must be closely monitored and specific water use targets be set in coordination with the divisions to ensure optimum use of the available water for irrigation.

### Fast track Irrigation Projects

Engr. David also asked the division managers to fast track the implementation of irrigation projects especially those affected by Typhoon Lando and Nona. He instructed the divisions to identify the areas needing immediate repairs, and prepare the corresponding program of works to avoid disruption of the cropping calendar. He said that he would personally find ways to look for funding support from concerned offices to accomplish the projects.

He called for the precise monitoring of irrigation projects that were designed for the year and its outcomes including the targets set for other aspects of operations such as the ISF Collection.

*"We're looking at how we could better our performance not just for the benefit of UPRIIS but our employees as well,"* he said, giving emphasis on the achievement of individual goals to receive the Performance Based-bonus.

### Taking the New Challenge

UPRIIS, being the ninth office of Engr. David after a series of transfers from one office to another, his aim is to always look forward. Despite his decades



of experience in irrigation system management including operations and financial audit, he expressed that managing UPRIIS is still a challenge for him.

He said "I need your support. If we do good and I do good and we work together, then we can respond to all irrigation concerns, employee concerns, and individual farmer concerns as quickly and effectively as possible."#

## NEW REGION 10 RM

By: Ricardo E. Alipio, PIO, Bukidnon IMO

NIA Region 10 has a new Regional Manager in the person of Engr. Jimmy L. Apostol, the erstwhile Division Manager of Bukidnon IMO.

With the enormous challenges and responsibilities attached to his designation he is continuing the achievements of his predecessors in retaining the status of Region X as a viable region throughout the country.

He is likewise determined to fast track the judicious implementation of projects in his area of responsibility which will ultimately alleviate the living conditions of the farmer beneficiaries thru irrigation development and management.

With his vast experiences as head of a field office he will institutionalize the close relationship with farmers as well as with employees under him in order to achieve his mission and vision as Regional Irrigation Manager.

Jim, as he is fondly called by friends and peers, was born 56 years ago in Maramag, Bukidnon to an Ilocano couple from Tarlac.

A Civil Engineer by profession, he is a graduate of MPA and MGA degrees. He is likewise a holder of an International Masters Programme in River Engineering and River Basin Development, International Institute for Infrastructural Hydraulic & Environment which he obtained from Delft, the Netherlands from



October 1998 to September 1999. He started his government service on September 1, 1982 as an Engineering Aide and rose from the rank to his present position. He is likewise a recipient of various trainings and seminars which honed his managerial skills.

He is happily married to the former Dinah C. Judilla and are blessed with 3 children: Dissi Jill – a government employee, Jimm Lester – a registered nurse, and Krista Blanca – a medical student. #



# ENGR. LARA'S APPOINTMENT FINALLY CONFIRMED!

By: Dorothy Belle C. De Leon, PRO, Region 2



At long last, Engr. Antonio Cortes Lara's appointment was confirmed!

Engr. Lara, who has been the Acting Regional Manager (RM) since March 2014 is now the full-pledge Regional Irrigation Manager of NIA Region 2 effective December 4, 2015.

Sir "Tony" as fondly called by his peers and subordinates, is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering from the Araneta University Foundation. In 1976, Sir Tony joined NIA as Engineer Trainee of Chico River Irrigation Project. In 1978, he became a Professional Agricultural Engineer. He also obtained Master in Public Administration.

Because of hard work and devotion, he steadily climbed the organizational rung. From 1997 to 2010, he was the Irrigation Superintendent (IS) of the clustered systems of Pinacanauan River, Solana Pump, and Lower Chico River Irriga-

tion Systems. Eventually, he became the Division Manager of Cagayan-Batanes IMO in 2011, manning the province with the biggest number of systems and projects in Region 2.

Because of his notable leadership skills, Sir Tony was awarded Outstanding IS of Lower Chico RIS from 1989 to 2003. He was able to establish Solana Pump IS as a viable system and even increased its area from 1,000 to 2,500 hectares, earning another Outstanding IS award from 2006 to 2008.

"I am easily satisfied with the very best," he challenged NIAns in his speech during the Turnover Ceremony on February 27, 2014 as the Acting RM.

As the Acting RIM, he primarily initiated the formation of Regional Assessment Monitoring Team (RAMT) that focuses on the enhancement of performance rating of the agency. This resulted to an unprecedented collection performance; hence, the Collection Efficiency (CE) was pegged at 86.07%. The surplus amounted to 43 million pesos- a remarkable record breaking figure since its establishment in 1964! Engr. Lara commended performing employees with incentives in recognition of their hard work.

"Napakagaling ng Region 2! This was your answer to my challenge during the turnover ceremony," he happily informed

employees present during the CY 2014 yearend assessment.

Secondly, he instigated the On-The-Job Training (OJT) of Irrigators Associations. The OJT is a comprehensive set of activities to be undertaken by farmer-beneficiaries within the National Irrigation System (NIS). The activity will equip the farmers with basic knowledge on organizational leadership, values, financial, operational and maintenance aspects of an IA.

Finally, before the introduction of Strategic Performance Management System to NIA by the Civil Service Commission, Engr. Lara implemented the use of Work Performance Plan as a management tool which provided a framework for planning, executing, implementing, and monitoring the work of employees.

Sir Tony vows to work twice as harder to steer Region 2 into becoming more viable, more productive and more aggressive in project implementation, thereby helping Cagayan Valley achieve higher self-sufficiency.

A native of Gattaran, Cagayan, he is married to Magdalena Javate, a retired Nutritionist of the Provincial Government of Cagayan. They are blessed with three children: Mark Anthony, Ann Margaret, and Antonette. #

## ADMINISTRATOR TACKLES ISSUES AND CONCERNS

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

As Management Committee (ManCom) commenced its first meeting this year, Administrator Florencio F. Padernal discussed issues and concerns on the 2015 National Irrigation Administration's Annual Report. Corporate Planning Services (CorPlan) will be the depository of all data through Management Information Division (MID) who will collate and analyze the data while the Public Affairs & Information Staff (PAIS) will do the write-ups, lay-outing and editing. He stresses that write-ups, inferences or interpretation of data

is very important; the same with the financial statement, that there must be assumption and analysis. The 2015 Annual Report would include historical data and the many on-going activities of the Operations that have to be captured properly and consistently.

On the other hand, Dr. Padernal informed the committee that the agency will now be preparing the 2017 Budget, prioritizing the projects for completion. In line with the 2017 Budget is the Ten-Year Master Plan of NIA, from year

1 to 10. (2017-2026). He then instructed CorPlan to properly review the outputs of the consultants in three areas, namely: 1) Baseline Information; 2) Master Plan; and 3) Corporate Plan. He emphasized on the asset inventory and valuation as a main section of the report for the Master Plan. *"One of the focuses for the 2017 Program of the agency would be the completion of dams and small water impounding reservoirs. Moreover, these dams should be inaugurated to highlight the impact of their benefits to the farmers",* Administrator Padernal said.#





# NIA MANAGERS CONVENE FOR CONTINUOUS REFORMS

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

Administrator Florencio F. Padernal's headway for the agency's reforms catalyzes the convening of NIA's Joint Managers' Conference as 2016 starts. In its first meeting on January 14 to 16 held at Naga City, Dr. Padernal emphasized on the agency's accomplishments for 2015 and programs for the current year. He urge for the innovation in the preparation of reports, and taking into considerations the extent of computer application in the irrigation projects with its success stories of all completed projects.

During the second Managers' Conference on February 4-5, 2016, Administrator Padernal said that the aim of the Managers' meeting is to extract comments and

reactions through interaction among the Central Office' Managers and the Regional and IMO Managers. The syntheses of the workshop's accomplishment report provide inputs to the agency's 2015 Annual Report. He informed the participants that NIA will be implementing around 370 hydropower plants nationwide, the inclusion of solar cells on top of the main canals of the system, establishment of commercial buildings to contribute to NIA's income. He also stressed on the asset valuation of NIA's properties taking into account the comments of the consultants.

Finally, Administrator Padernal reiterated the use of Geographic Information

System (GIS), a computerized tool for performing operations on geographic data that are too tedious or inaccurate if performed by hand. *"Through this GIS we can come up with a more precise and well-defined pictures in the service area in terms of boundaries and hectarage"*, Padernal added. He suggested a net-working program with other service providers to fully use this program in NIA. Consequently, NIA is working on the ISO Certification.

ISO is quality management system that ensures the agency delivers a consistent level of quality to its stakeholders through well defined and regularly reviewed processes and procedures. #

## NIA SITS WITH KMP FOR A DIALOGUE

By: Jhon Vince Santoalla, PAIS-CO.

To clarify issues and to strengthen accountability among our farmers, NIA officials discussed with various agricultural groups at NIA 3rd Floor, IEC Building on January 21, 2016. The parties include Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), Anak Pawis Party List, National Federation Amihan of Peasant Woman, and Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon who wanted to talk with the management in addressing issues regarding irrigation. This is prior to the letter sent by the latter asking the agency's help in

assisting them to resolve issues particularly on Irrigation Service Fee (ISF).

KMP President Rafael V. Mariano discussed about the House Bill 6224 which seeks to amend Republic Act No. 3601, Presidential Decree Nos. 552 and 1702 for the stoppage of ISF collection. He further requested for a "Zero ISF" in times of calamities that greatly affect farmers' crops. Anak Pawis Party list Representative Fernando L. Hicap talked on issues of privatization

of facilities and dams; insufficient funds for rehabilitation, repair, and maintenance of various irrigation facilities; and dam protocol during water release. He even brought up issues on land conversion sighting more irrigated lands are now being developed for other purposes/uses.

NIA Operations Department Manager Romeo M. Lopez led in answering the queries and demands of the group. He said that NIA is doing temporary repairs on damaged irrigation facilities





since the agency like any other government institutions are having trouble in terms of late budget release in addition with unpredictable weather. In terms of ISF, PAIS Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez told everyone that a continuing studies and research are being made by various *NIA working group locally and internationally as per instruction of Administrator Florencio F. Padernal. "Ngayon po sa pangunguna ng aming Administrator, kumukuha po kami ng mga ideas sa ating mga karatig na bansa para matugunan ng tama ang usapin sa ISF"* Ms. Bermudez noted that all collated information will be presented in the next congress to address the issue.

On the other hand, Institutional Development Division Manager Bayani P. Ofrecio explained the issue on land conversions. He emphasized

that the agency is not the right party to address the concern since Department of Agrarian Reform is the one committed in terms of land ownership. *"Kami naman po sa NIA ang ginagawa lang namin ay magbigay ng Certificate for potentially irrigated lands which is just one requirement for land conversion"* Engr. Ofrecio further expressed matters like the zoning ordinance conflicting with the reclassification of land by LGUs.

To address issue on water release, Systems Management Division Manager Augustrese S. Torres stated that it is not only NIA who is responsible for water release from the dam *"Nariyan po and NWRB, MWSS, PAGASA, NAPOCOR so ito po ang mga ahensiya na nagco-coordinate kapag magpapakawala ng tubig sa ating mga dam, may protocol po tayo na sinusunod"*. On a different

note, he also clarified that most of the claimants for right of way were not interested to pursue the claims because of lengthy processes and deadlines set by other agencies like Commission on Audit, *"Karamihan naman po diyan tinatamad na silang asikasuhin yung mga papeles kasi nga naman po baka daw mas mahal pa yung magastos nila kesa doon sa matatanggap nila"*.

Other matters discussed were the current status of agency's projects particularly in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Isabela, and Bulacan; clarification on some memorandum circulars; and, the current budget of the agency correspondingly with the personnel services allotment. All have been answered and explained by the Key NIA Officials which make way for a clear understanding on both parties. #

## MC 54 s. 2013 EXTENDED

Collective efforts of men and women in field offices in the implementation of various collection strategies yielded positive results in the collection of Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) back accounts in National Irrigation Systems (NIS). The encouraging outcome prompted the NIA top management officials to recommend to the Board the extension in the availment period for MC 54, s. 2013.

Consequently, on February 18,

2016 the NIA Board of Directors through Resolution No. 8266-16, series of 2016 approved "the extension of the availment period under MC 54, s. 2013 pertaining to the Modified Incentive Policy on the payment of back accounts in ISF in NIS for another two years from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017."

The Resolution came into flesh and detailed in MC 14, s. 2016. Further,

"all other provisions of MC 54, s. 2013 including the addendum under MC 7, s. 2014 and amendments through MC 11, s.2015 are still in effect."

The approval of two year-extension is expected to persuade more farmers to avail the said program and envisioned to yield a higher income for the Agency.#



# OPAFSAM SECRETARY GUIZA AND NIA ADMINISTRATOR PADERNAL VISIT MARIIS, SNAP

By: Melissa C. Agbisit, PRO, MARIIS

OPAFSAM Secretary Fredelita C. Guiza and Administrator Florencio F. Padernal together with Aboitiz Power executives headed by SNAP Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Joseph Yu met with MARIIS personnel headed by Department Manager A Wilfredo C. Gloria and MARIIS-Dam and Reservoir Division Manager Rodolfo E. Mejia.

The group inspected the site of the MARIS Optimization Project and (MOP) the 8.5 MW MARIS (South) Canal Hydro Electric Power Plant Project and met with the MARIIS employees at the Dam and Reservoir Division.

Groundbreaking of the MOP was held on November 2014 and is set to be completed in March this year.

The increased storage capacity will primarily benefit irrigation delivery for farmlands while providing flexibility for power generation.

On October 20, 2015, NIA and SN Aboitiz Power signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the development, construction, and operation of the 8.5 MW MARIS Main (South) Canal Hydroelectric Power Plant. The Project has commenced in the last quarter of 2015 and is targeted to be completed by November 2017.#

## NIA, SNAP BOOST IEC FOR MAGAT OPTIMIZATION PROJECT

By: Jhon Vince Santoalla, PAIS, CO.

As a viable partner for years, National Irrigation Administration and SN Aboitiz Power-Magat convene to talk the current status of Magat Optimization Project including the Information Education Campaign exerted continuously in communities near the area. In the latest project update presentation, SNAP-Magat together with NIA revealed the status of construction, update on livelihood training, site validation, and safety protocols prior to MARIS reservoir rising.

Since September 2015, NIA and SN Aboitiz continued to engage several communities affected by the optimization project. With the assistance from other government agencies like Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources non-stock-non-profit organizations, and private institutions like Pilmico Foods Corporation and Negoskwela they were able to roll out different livelihood programs that will aid communities in delivering their livelihood. Some of the Social-Livelihood Trainings include piggery, animal husbandry, poultry, sari-sari store assistance, meat processing, mushroom production, and fusion baking technique.

A starter kit will also be given to individuals based on their chosen livelihood training. The kit is non-cash livelihood assistance, designed by the training provider, consisting of raw products, goods, tools and equipment that will serve as the building blocks toward their source of living. NIA livelihood committee will assists in distributing the starter kit provided that the individual completed the training, passed the site validation requirements, attended the livelihood



orientation, and signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the committee.

Aside from the livelihood trainings, there were also on-going beneficial construction works for Sitio Minanga Footbridge and Artesian wells. A regular field inspection and monitoring; health, safety and environment campaign; and detailed environmental activities were also in place for public safety and security. A protocol for MARIS Reservoir rising was also part of the information drive. Posting of notice in barangay hall bulletin boards, texts blast, and barangay public service announcement will be part of warning procedures to be followed during Maris reservoir rising.

MARIS reservoir improvement project is expected to increase the storage capacity of dam for irrigation and power generation purposes. The project started with its initial work on January 2015 and set to complete by first quarter of 2016. Once finished, the MARIS dam is projected to add some eight (8) million cubic meters of storage capable of irrigating the whole service area of 85,000 hectares. #





## EXECUTIVE COURSE ON PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

By: Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, PAIS-C.O.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in its pursuit of excellence and competence in undertaking projects as well as ensuring the desired level of the construction quality conceptualized an executive training on Project and Construction Management for Managers. It was launched on November 28, 2015, the actual training started the day after.

Forty (40) shortlisted participants comprised of incumbent/ potential project managers and second-line managers of the agency were chosen

for their leadership and managerial skills, admirable performance rating, and their vigor and resilience that can withstand whatever will be ask of them during the duration of the training which will run from November 2015 to March 2016.

The course training will have lectures, presentations, case studies, group discussions, Construction Project Management Plan and Construction Safety Program preparation, and field visits to some of our projects in Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, and Agusan del Sur, as a tool to further

enhance the capabilities and knowledge of all the hardworking participants.

Aside from NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, some multi-disciplinary experts were asked to speak and inspire to impart knowledge and wisdom, share valuable stories and experiences, and most of all challenge the participants to become better implementers and be the best in their field.

The completion of all the activities is slated on March 11, 2016. #





# NYPP IN ACTION

By: Portia S. Angulo - Industrial Relations Development Officer A

Officers were elected by the first batch of participants of the NIA Young Professionals' Program (NYPP), who led the branding of the group as GENESIS, Generation of Emerging NIA Employees Sustaining Irrigation Services. The set of installed officers are as follows:

President:	Buenaventura S. Poso Jr.
Vice President:	Mylene L. Malecdan
Secretary:	Lei Grace M. Dinopol
Treasurer:	Rodolf James G. Dela Cruz
Auditor:	Jemmela Anne V. Masicat
P.R.O.:	Roselyn M. Tolentino

A month of almost four (4) months scheduled training of the NYPP was handled by the Project Planning Division of the Engineering Department. Staff of said unit gave workshops to the participants to grab the opportunity to train employees from the regional/field offices on how to prepare a feasibility study. They aimed to expand their network by tapping the NYPP technical participants who can be their counterpart in doing the feasibility study in the field.

Participants left their training hall for a fieldwork in Balbalungao Small River Irrigation Project (SRIP) in Lupao, Nueva Ecija from February 4-6, 2016. The activity enabled them to apply the knowledge they gained from the classroom instruction. They surveyed the area by doing a) water discharge measurement using the Pigmy current meter, b) local geologic mapping, c) profiling of watershed characterization, d) identification of potential dam site and f) formulation of alternative scheme, among others. During the field work, the participants also experienced how to set-up

the total station surveying instrument, thus they were able to do site shot and locate control point station.

The data that they were able to gather from said field activity will be utilized in their case analysis of the Balbalungao SRIP which is set to be presented by group on February 18, 2016.

The Pantabangan dam and PAGASA Weather Station in Nueva Ecija were also visited by the participants. It enabled them to know how they operate. The PAGASA has different instruments which are used for gathering the necessary meteorological and agrometeorological data that serve as primary tools in the formulation of plans and implementation of activities of the National Irrigation Administration, such as rainfall-runoff analysis, reservoir operation simulation, flood study, and generation of cropping calendar and service areas.

Participants convened at the Central Office's tennis court after their fieldwork where they got to experience how to use the terrameter for the groundwater and/or foundation investigation.

The technical people earned more respect from the non-technical participants since the former were able to have a first-hand experience of doing the fieldwork, being exposed in the afternoon sun performing their job, walking to the mountain, and crossing rivers to be at the site.

The remaining weeks of the training before the graduation on March 11 ,2016 shall be devoted for the lecture presentations of the Design and Specification Division and the Construction Management Division. #







## SITE VISITATION TO KRIS-MAMASAPANO EXTENSION PROJECT

By: Ysnairin M. Sula, Information Officer-Designate, MMIO

The NIA Maguindanao IMO (MIMO) officials and employees headed by Acting IMO Manager Norodin S. Kalang together with Engr. Suharto Singgon of KRIS/TALRIS and Engr. Totong Kado of ALIP/PAGRIS visited the Kabulnan RIS (KRIS)-Mamasapano Extension Project at Brgy. Tukanalipao, Mamasapano, Maguindanao on January 11, 2016.

The KRIS-Mamasapano Extension Project is a special project of NIA through Maguindanao IMO under NIA Region XII. The irrigation system being put up was planned and initiated by the National Government as a support to the community especially to the farmers of Tukanalipao to help improve their farming condition after the bloody Mamasapano encounter.

Along with the site visitation was the inspection of High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes and other equipment to be installed for the irrigation. The HDPE irrigation pipes are known for its excellent performance and long life expectancy for irrigation and other water services.

The 130-hectare KRIS-Mamasapano Extension Project is scheduled to be inaugurated within the month of January, this year.

Held on the same day was the 1st Provincial Management Conference at Kabulnan RIS Right Bank Satellite Office, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao. It was attended and participated in by the officials, employees and staff of Maguindanao-IMO, KRIS/TALRIS and ALIP/PAGRIS. Said conference was hosted and headed by Engr. Suharto Singgon.

The conference concluded with Maguindanao IMO's good performance in 2015. However, they aim to strive more and work harder in providing services to the farmers and to the Maguindanao community as a whole.

Meanwhile, the MIMO Institutional Development Section conducted an orientation regarding On-Line Renewal and other Transactions of Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) at Sardonyx Plaza and Restaurant, Cotabato City.

About 33 Irrigators Association (IAs) Treasurers of the Communal Irrigation System (CIS) of Maguindanao IMO were invited to the said orientation. The objective is to familiarize the Treasurer or any representative about online application/transactions with BIR and to familiarize the IA Representative with the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) requirements with the different financial reports as required by the BIR and SEC.

The conduct of the On-Line Renewal and Other Transactions at Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is one of the institutional development programs of NIA to capacitate and produce a self-reliant, viable and cohesive Irrigators Association. The said orientation was facilitated by Institutional Development Unit led by Sr. IDO Ma. Asuncion B. Dulay with Mr. Geomla Butukan, Mr. Noel Pagao, Mr. Abdel Rissan Esmail and Ms. Sittie Ipon.#

Presently, there are 500-meter HDPE pipes buried/installed for the canalization of the irrigation system. The installation of equipments and other machineries needed in order to run the entire irrigation system is expected to be completed within this month. #



# PHOTO NEWS

The Administrator at Quipot - Accompanied by Region 4A Regional Irrigation Manager, William P. Ragodon, Central Office' Operations Manager, Romeo M. Lopez and the rest of QIMO managers, NIA Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal visited Quezon Irrigation Management Office on January 25, 2016 for the ocular inspection of Quipot Irrigation Project - a Line project of QIMO.



Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers-NIA Chapter had its Oath-taking Ceremony for the new set of 2016 Board of Directors and Officers at the Administrators' Office on February 16, 2016. Elected Officers are: ELISA C. RAGUDO, President; LOUIE V. MENDOZA, First Vice President; GERTRUDES A. VIADO, Second Vice President; CHRISTIAN JUNE C. MAQUILING, Secretary; ROWENA E. LUZ, Treasurer; ARIEL S. NAJERA, Business Manager; EDEN N. GARCIA, PRO; MILAGROS C. NOPRE, Auditor; ROWELL D. DULA, Assistant Secretary; MAINNE RUSSEL L. FERMA, Assistant Treasurer; DIRECTORS: Bella I. Fajarda, Ferdinand Sales, Carlo Q. Pimentel, Maria Filipinas N. Verzosa & Robertino Lapeña.

## ISO 9001: 2008 ORIENTATION



Two batches of Orientation and Appreciation on ISO 9001 held on February 4 and 11, 2016 at the Central Office for top management, department/regional/operations/project manager, EOD, IMO, Administrative and Finance managers and general employees



## Ito si Sonny



Lagi s'yang uma-attend ng flag raising ceremony.

Lagi niyang suot ang kanyang uniform at ID.

Mabuting empleyado si Sonny.

Tularan si Sonny.



# LINKAGE WITH OFFICES UNDER OPAFSAM

## NFA MAY NOT IMPORT ADDITIONAL RICE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2016

Source: [www.nfa.gov.ph](http://www.nfa.gov.ph), published January 28, 2016

With figures from the Food Security Committee showing sufficient rice supply until the end of June, the National Food Authority (NFA) Council unanimously decided in its 106th regular meeting on Tuesday, January 26, that the country may not need to import rice for the first quarter of this year.

The decision took into consideration the projected effects of El Niño.

NFA rice stock inventory currently stands at 944,500 MT, good for 29 days to last. It is 80 percent higher compared to stocks during the same period last year.

NFA is mandated to maintain rice stock inventory that is good for 30 days at the start of the lean month season, particularly in the month of July. Daily national rice consumption rate is at 31,000 MT.

The entire rice industry inventory, including

household and commercial stocks, is also sufficient and good for 110 days to last.

Total rice importation contracted for this year is conservative at 500,000 MT thru a government-to-government procurement with Vietnam and Thailand. It was contracted last year, with arrivals scheduled this year, to get the lowest possible price.

The Council is composed of representatives from NFA, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and is chaired by the Secretary of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM). #

## FPA BOARD COMMENDS APPROVED ADD'L PERSONNEL TO BOOST PERFORMANCE

On November 27, 2015, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) Board held its first meeting with the new Board Chairperson Hon. Fredelita “Edel” C. Guiza, newly-appointed Secretary of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM). One of the milestones tackled in the meeting was the DBM-approved additional personnel to the Agency, which is composed of 75 plantilla positions: 43 positions in the Regional Offices and 32 positions in the Central Office. With an original total staffing of 95 employees, the FPA has been experiencing difficulties in achieving excellence in delivery of service. “We expect that with the additional personnel, the FPA will be able to perform and serve at its best,” said FPA Executive Director Norlito R. Gicana. #

## PCA ADOPTS NEW COCONUT PROPAGATION TECHNOLOGY

By Rainier Allan Ronda (The Philippine Star) | Updated January 31, 2016 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine Coconut Authority is adopting the coconut somatic embryogenesis technology (Cset), an alternative technique for mass propagation of coconut, to reinvigorate the industry.

Funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Cset involves the use of immature flowers, embryos and plumule.

Researchers found the plumule to be more responsive to in vitro manipulation for the micropropagation of coconut than immature flowers and leaves.

The protocol is currently being enhanced to attain as much as 1,000 seedlings per plumule by using explants from high-yielding tall and dwarf coconut varieties.

DOST Secretary Mario Montejo said there is a huge demand for coconut “plantlets” in view of the millions of senile, as well as typhoon damaged coconut trees in Eastern Visayas, Central Visayas, Western Visayas, and Region 4-B or the Mimaropa (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan).

Amelia Guevara, DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development, said the Cset

program is all set for the mass cultivation of improved varieties of coconut seedlings, which in three to four years, are ready to bear fruit.

Started in 2014 with a budget of P215 million, the Cset program is projected to produce three million plantlets a year, Guevara said.

“The secret is doing a secondary cycle,” she added.

Guevara said the DOST currently has seven Cset laboratories where it can mass cultivate hybrid coconut seedlings. These are located in the Visayas State University in Baybay, Leyte, UP Mindanao, UP Los Baños College of Agriculture, UPLB National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, PCA Albay Research Center, PCA Zamboanga Research Center, and the Bicol University College of Agriculture and Forestry (BUCAF).

Guevara underscored the need to build more Cset laboratories to increase production capacity.

The coconut industry is the source of income of about 3.5 million farmers, providing

economic support to the rural communities.

Through the years, it has exhibited good export performance of both traditional and non-traditional coconut products, earning its niche among the top 10 export produce of the country.

Popularly known as the “Tree of Life,” coconut generates a variety of products and by-products namely coconut meat, oil, juice, husk, pith, fiber, shell, charcoal, inflorescence, hardy and durable woods.

The sector, however, faces a lot of problems, one of which is low productivity due to existing coconut stands predominantly with old and senile palms. About a third of the total bearing trees need to be replaced.

In addition to this, productivity levels remain low partly due to lack of information on appropriate technologies for coconut farming and the destruction caused by the coconut scale insect to various coconut plantations. This led to the cutting down of infested trees for lumber to mitigate losses.





IA SUCCESS STORIES

# MARLIBAMA IA: MAKING IT THROUGH

By Maria Teresa A. Empleo, PRO, Region 9

“Once in your life, you need a doctor, a lawyer, and a policeman but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer,” an old saying goes. Yet the life of a farmer is one that is never easy, in the Philippines being a farmer is equated to a life of poverty backdropped against unfortunate socio-political landscape and not to mention the unforgiving Philippine climate.

Amidst these realities, the Filipino farmer continued to toil their lands in order to put food on the table and feed their family – and feed every Filipino family. The government is equally fervent in assisting the Filipino farmer since time immemorial, creating and adapting plans and programs responsive to their needs.

Mirroring the hardship of a Filipino farmer is the story of MARLIBAMA Farmers Irrigators Association in the early 60’s whose vast rice lands can hardly generate a good harvest due to scarcity of water and lack of irrigation facilities. Relying only in rainwater, Mr. Norberto B. Batacan, a former IA President, recalled the days when they can only yield one cropping a year. Remembers how some members of the family in order to make ends meet had to leave

home to look for work someplace else when the cropping is over. The water which should be in their rice-fields remained stagnant in water cavities because there were no canals to channel them to their rice farms.

*“Pero dako kaayo ang kalainan pag-abot sa irigasyon, nahayahay ang mga tao ug nilambo ang panginabuhian,”* Mr. Batacan said in retrospect. (But a big difference was felt when irrigation came, people were alleviated and the lives of the people improved.)

The MANTILIBA-FIAMCO, in its infancy, was also able to form a cooperative, offering production loan to its immediate members and later expanded such service to other farmers outside the association. The association, as registered under Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) still offers its services up to these days.

Determined to improve the quality of life of its members, the IA acquired assets such as a one (1) hectare farm lot that generates a yearly income of Php75,000.00; a 1,000 sq.m. lot with IA Office building constructed in 2013; and other farm machineries and equipment

(solar dryer, flatbed dryers, threshers, and hand tractors) that became a source of income for the association. By end of 2015, MARLIBAMA FIA boasts a P 3.0 M net worth.

With the constant support from NIA, MARLIBAMA FIA became one of the recipients of NIA-Participatory Irrigation Development Program (PIDP) in 2010. On October 2015, the association entered into IMT Model 3 Contract which gives them the responsibility to manage the O & M of the rest of the system from the first lateral canal headgate down to the farm level facilities.

Definitely, MARLIBAMA FIA has reached many milestones in their shared goal of improving the lives of its members. Farmers in their community can now send their students to good universities, pay religiously their ISF obligation, and afford motorcycles for ease in transportation to name a few. They were able to expand their livelihood to organic farming and other forms of income. Poverty to them is now only a state of mind.

*“Bisan pa’g lisud among tubig diring dapita, sa among panaghiusa, paningkamot ug pagkamatitud-anon*





**Dipolo, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur** – Engr. Joel C. Atay, Zamboanga del Sur IMO Head (left, seated), RIM Diosdado A. Rosales (center, seated), and MARLIBAMA IA President Ronald B. Pepito (right, seated) sign the IMT Model 3 Contract which the association entered into last October 27, 2015.



**New Basak, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur** – Photo op with the AgriPinoy evaluators from NIA Central Office, Sonia V. Villarico (last row 5th from the left, standing), Marivic C. Peralta, and Marivic S. Baligod with Regional Corporate Accountant Albine Dave V. Jubilado (in red) during their validation visit last February 2, 2016.

sa among trabaho isip usa ka mag-uuma daghan pa mi'g maabot ... dako among pasalamat sa NIA sa tanang suporta," shared Mr. Ronald B. Pepito, the current IA President. (Even with scarcity of water in our area, the solidarity, hardwork and our faithfulness to our work as a farmer, will allow us to achieve more ... our big thanks to NIA for all the support.)

To date, MARLIBAMA FIA has 412 farmer-beneficiaries and a service area of 766.29 hectares. It covers four barangays which their IA name was derived from, namely, Maralag, Libertad, Basak and Manlabay. It was endorsed by NIA Region IX to contend in the upcoming National Search for Outstanding IA 2015 under the National Irrigation System (NIS) Category, this is an annual recognition

from the Department of Agriculture's Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Award.

Yes, the life of a farmer is not easy, especially here in the Philippines, but it can be the most honorable job a nation can give credit for. From one success story after another, the Filipino farmer is indeed a true testimony of determination, of hope and of love of country. #

## LIMELIGHT

By: Khristalyn E. Marasigan- Sr. Computer Services Programmer, Region 3

# THE YOUNG ONES ON THEIR WAY TO GROW

Being chosen as one of the participants in the first ever Young Professional Program of NIA is a privilege for me and a big dilemma at first because I am the only Sr. Computer Services Programmer on the list of participants and attending the whole program means I need to sacrifice my time for my family and friends as well as relieving some of my duties in the office which I started and enjoyed doing.

What motivates me to go through and take the challenge is that I believe that this program will help me a lot to improve myself as a person and as an employee. It is something to be grateful to NIA Administrator, Florencio F. Padernal who initiates this program and gives us this opportunity to learn and be equipped

with more knowledge and also to Regional Manager Josephine B. Salazar for allowing and trusting me to be one of the participants of Region 3.

During our first week session, I realized that knowing more about NIA whether beyond our duties and responsibilities and whatever our positions we have right now will give us the CONFIDENCE and EXPERIENCE that we need as young ones. If we are confident then we feel good and if we feel good then it will reflect into our actions towards work.

If we know the nature of our job and its mandates and objectives, we can easily perform well going back to our respective works and even innovate ways that will benefit both NIA and its-clientele, the Farmers.

Today as Young Professionals, we can compare ourselves into seeds or small plants, being nurtured and trained well, dreaming to become trees someday, fruitful, gainful and successful, and it is a CYCLE. Time will come that the Young Ones will become the Young Once, preparing another seeds to grow. #



INIHAHANDOG NG PATUBIGAN KOMIKS...

# TONI

## "ANG MAGSASAKANG TUNAY"



Isang umaga sa bukid ng mag-asawang Tonio at Fely...

