

**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 farmers' 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 29 NO. 5, 2016



## RM Sande on his 100th day sets ground breaking for NIA-NIR Building

By: Shimei M. Ramos, PRO-B, NIA, NIR



Engr. Rita Suarez (Operations), Engr. Helen T. Lacpao (Planning & Design), Engr. Lorena B. Sioco (DM, EOD), Engr. Mario H. Sande (Regional Manager), Engr. Nestor M. Pastor (Head, NOSO), Engr. Jerry E. Gigare (Construction) (L-R) during the ceremonial ground breaking for NIRIO Building. (Photo by Shimei M. Ramos)

NIA Negros Island Region (NIR) officially breaks the ground for construction of the proposed NIR Building. Exactly 100 days since Engr. Mario H. Sande assumed his role as the first Regional Manager.

*"A good infrastructure gives pride and honor to the employees which will result to a more efficient and productive performance",* according to Engr. Sande.

*"This ceremony is an implication that we have the capability to move as a new region",* he added.

During the ceremony, a historical laying of time

capsule was conducted containing significant documents for the construction of the NIRIO building.

The 5-million facility will accommodate the personnel under the regional office and will help in NIRIO's full operationalization. The 565 square meter building is expected to be completed in the mid of January 2017. This is conveniently located at Celis St., Brgy. Poblacion, Bago City, Negros Occidental.

Another breakthrough set forth by NIA's youngest Regional Irrigation Office. **Continue on page 4**

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# IRRIGATION SERVICE FEE (ISF): *A Passing Scene*

**I**ndeed change has come and it has directly affected the life force of the Agency - ISF. “Bayad Serbisyo Patubig” or Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) has been the life blood of the Agency since its creation in 1963 by virtue of RA 3601 as a government owned and controlled corporation.

Not only is this practice of collecting fees from the irrigation users benefit the NIA but the farmer water users as well. This is realized through the Agency’s Institutional Development Program (IDP) on Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT).

The institution of a payment scheme for rendered irrigation service by the government emanated from the concept of “equity participation” to alleviate

government’s lack of financial capacity to address the operation and maintenance (OM) needs of existing irrigation infrastructures. Through time, the practice evolved to involve the Irrigators Association (IA) in the NIA’s OM responsibilities. This practice not only lessen government’s OM cost but resulted to a more empowered farmers sector. At present, the ISF collected from the farmers is shared between the IA and the NIA depending on the OM works the IA is responsible of. IA incentives are sourced from the ISF collected. The IA gets the chance to build-up their association funds from which they can acquire lots for their IA office, buy their own farm machineries and engage in entrepreneurial undertakings and provide extra service to the farmers. Bottom line, the farmers

get to decide on how to operate their system and how to manage their own assets. The power to chart their own future began.

One of the program of the new Government is to stop collection of ISF payment to lessen the cost of farming borne by the farmer irrigator. This is one of the changes that will be faced by the NIA. And as in the rest of introduced changes, there are always oppositions. Affected stakeholders have conducted a number of brain squeezing SWOT sessions. And while there are listed “weaknesses” and “threats” there are also “strengths” and “opportunities” to be discovered and faced head-on by a true blooded NIA. We now bid adieu ISF..WELCOME pure social services! 🏡



## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Continued from page 1

NIA-NIR personnel together with RIM Engr. Mario H. Sande. (Photo by Florence Grace V. Acebedo)



## NIA, DAR TURN-OVER KULASIHAN IRRIGATION PROJECT

By: Jan Albert K. Araña, PRO B, LAMISCA IMO, Region 10

**KOLAMBUGAN, LANA DEL NORTE** – The National Irrigation Administration Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, and Camiguin Irrigation Management Office (NIA LAMISCA IMO) together with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) handed the Kulasihan Communal Irrigation Project to the farmers of Lanao del Norte on September 26, 2016.

The P 37.9-Million irrigation project will specifically benefit farmers from the municipalities of Kolambugan and Maigo. The project started its construction last May 19, 2014, and was completed on January 31, 2016. This project aims to irrigate a total of 120 hectares of agricultural fields thus improving the farming activities of the area.

With high hopes, both NIA and DAR expect the farmer beneficiaries of irrigation project to have the chance to further increase their rice production which will then improve their respective lives. *“A more bountiful harvest in years to come”*, Engr. Jimmy Apostol noted.

Present during the ceremony were Kalambuan ARC Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. represented by Mr. Samuel F. Genobaten, DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Rosalina L. Bistoyong, DAR Regional Director Faisar A. Mambuay, DAR-LDN PARPO II Jamil P. Amatonding, Jr., Lanao

del Norte Vice Governor Maria Cristina Atay, Kolambogan Mayor Lorenzo V. Mañigos, Maigo Mayor Rafael C. Rizalda, and Kulasihan Barangay Captain Marlon L. Genobaten. NIA officials were headed by Regional Manager Engr. Jimmy Apostol and NIA LAMISCA IMO Division Manager Engr. Joecarnine L. Gubat. 🏗️



Usec. Rosalina L. Bistoyong turn-over the steel gate steering wheel to Mr. Samuel F. Genobaten, IA President of Kolambugan ARC Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. in front of the Division Manager of NIA LAMISCA IMO, Engr. Joecarnine L. Gubat, Officials of the Local Government Unit of Lanao del Norte and DAR Regional Personnels.



Constructed Facilities	
1. Teruvian Dam	1 Unit
2. Canal System	
a. Main Canal-Kolambugan Side:	
Closed Conduit	0.246 km.
Combined Headgate, Lateral "A" & Road Crossing	1 Unit
Bench Flume	1.619 kms.
Elevated Flume	1 Unit
Drainage Structures	2 Units
End Check	1 Unit
Turnouts	3 Units
b. Lateral Canal-Kolambugan Side	
Bench Flume	0.560 km.
Turnouts	3 Units
End Check	1 Unit
c. Main Canal-Maigo Side	
Closed Conduit	0.558 km.
Bench Flume	1.567 kms.

Constructed Facilities	
Elevated Flumes	2 Units
Drainage Structures	3 Units
Road Crossing	1 Unit
Earth Canal	0.629 km.
End Check	1 Unit
Protection Dike	0.085 km.
3. Protection Works	
Protection Dike	0.085 km.



Kulasihan Dam located at Kulasihan, Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte.

# NIA 2017 Budget

By: Jhon Vince R. Santoalla, PR Assistant A, PAIS-C.O.

National Irrigation Administration, Quezon City – The Senate Committee on Finance approved the proposed National Expenditure Program for the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the amount of P38.376 Billion in 2017. Senators Cynthia Villar, Miguel Zubiri, Francis Pangilinan, and Loren Legarda unanimously approved the NIA 2017 proposed budget.

The amount of P2 billion was also approved to support **"FREE IRRIGATION"** starting next year.

The amount is intended to subsidize the Personal Services of the agency, MOOE of NIA, and the Irrigators Associations (IAs), and the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of existing irrigation facilities. He further noted that it will reduce the production cost of the farmers by six percent (6%).

Administrator Padernal said that the additional budget is a welcome move from the Congress and Senate to



support President Rodrigo Duterte's commitment to help Filipino farmers by freeing them from Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) which is currently being collected by the agency as mandated by law. *"The systematic and organized delivery and distribution of water by NIA and the IAs will be sustained"*, he said.

*"This free irrigation service fee will also enable the agency to focus on the construction of major irrigation facilities like dams, main canals, pumping stations, and head gates of lateral canals as well as restoration and rehabilitation of existing irrigation systems"*, he added.

The agency reiterates its full support to "Free ISF" as well as the expectation of increased productivity and income of farmers. 🏡



Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur – Together with NIA-9 management (center), the 1st batch of IA Congress composed of 63 IA officials from 34 IAs of Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga Sibugay waves to the camera as they head off back to their respective IAs.



# NIA-9 4th Annual IA Congr

By: Maria Teresa A. Empleo, PRO, NIA Region 9



Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur – Regional Irrigation Manager Diosdado A. Rosales explains to the 1st batch of the 4th Annual IA Congress the pros and cons of Free ISF promulgation of the Duterte administration during the opening of the said congress.

Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur – In an apt forum to discuss President Duterte's 'Free Irrigation Service Fee (ISF)' promulgation, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Region IX recently concluded its 4th Annual IA Congress last September 9, 2016 at NIA Regional Irrigation Office Function Hall, Tawagan Norte, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

Attended by 309 Irrigators' Association (IA) officials grouped in five batches from 170 IAs across the Zamboanga Peninsula, NIA-9 Regional Irrigation Manager (RIM) Diosdado A. Rosales comprehensively talked about the possible impact from both the IA's and NIA's end to dissolve several concerns expressed relative to the said pronouncement.

*"NIA supports the President's policy statement and direction of No ISF or Free ISF, and will continue to perform its functions, less the ISF collection. Farmers will enjoy a considerable savings of P4,250.00 per hectare per year for the National Irrigation Systems (NISs) and P1,275.00*

*for the Communal Irrigation Systems (CISs)," he said as an introduction.*

He cited that with no ISF, IA's existing cropping calendar and water distribution plans may no longer be followed by farmers which may results to several complications, a mindset of free irrigation water may end to the destruction of irrigation facilities to divert water to their farms, farmers may no longer be compelled to attend meetings, a decrease in total rice production areas, and idle lands might be converted to uses other than agriculture were among the possible scenarios he talked about.

*"However, the IA being an organization with a legal personality, can continue to collect from its members for its continuous operation. It can be called Association fee or the like but definitely not ISF since NIA will no longer require IA to pay," he explained.*

He further pointed out that the water fee collection hold several IA policies, rules, and regulations together, sustain various existing plans and programs, effect minor repairs and improvements, and serves as the IAs' overall fund for its continuous efficient operation.

Majority of IAs were concerned, recalling the problems experienced in 1998 when ISF was abolished by deposed President Joseph E. Estrada which regulat/original however was later revised into socialized ISF. Payment of ISF was then recalled to be practiced again.

*"Sa ako nindut man, pero dili lang siguro wala-on ang ISF bisag i-maintain lang ang P10.00 per kilo na bayad, i-ubos lang kung gusto sila mutabang sa farmer kay lisud kaayo mulihok nga walay pundo," said Ronald Pepito, Federated President Dipolo River Irrigation System (DIPRIS) and*



# Free ISF dispels ISF concerns

MARLIBAMA IA President in a dialogue with the IAs.

(For me, it is good but I suggest not to abolish ISF but maintain a P10.00 per kilo payment, lower it if they really want to help the farmer because it would be so hard to work if no funds are available.)

*“Ako di musugot na wad-on ang bayad sa irigasyon pwede man gani kung adunay dagkong rehabilitation na wad-on ang amortization pero magpabilin ang atong maintenance and other operating expenses kay kung wala-on usab kini magkarambola na tanan,”* said Josefino Llego, IA President of PRIMATELL IA.

(I am not in favor that payment for ISF be abolished however the amortization for major rehabilitation may be waived but retain the maintenance and other operating expenses because it would be chaotic if this is abolished, too.)


Irrigation projects under CIS, collects 10% equity and 90% amortization of the direct chargeable cost. However, if IA fulfills a 30% equity counterpart, the ownership of the completed project is fully transferred to the IA with no further amortization. While for IAs under NIS, a 67-33 sharing scheme is employed through the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) program where IAs take partial or full responsibility in the construction, operation, and maintenance of their respective irrigation system. This means that under the Model 2 contract of IMT, the IA receives 33% of the ISF collected in every cropping period.

RIM Rosales maintained that as long as the IA strives to be organizationally strong and help each other as a federation, the Free ISF will be a turned opportunity instead of a threat. He continued however that as long as there are no implementing rules and regulations passed, existing

policies regarding the ISF collection will still be followed.

*“We will continue to work with NIA in collecting ISF, we thank you for your personnel has helped us improved our IA,”* responded IA President Ruben Conos of Bulong CIS during the closing program of the congress.

NIA charges two (2) cavans per hectare during the wet season crop and three (3) cavans per hectare for the dry season crop. To date, NIA-9 has developed a total of 67.52% from its potential area of 76,515 hectares. It has a total of 849.67M worth of irrigation projects allocated to the region for 2016.

‘Free ISF’ is a political promise made during the presidential campaign, President Duterte vowed to implement this during his term. ISF is a major source of NIA’s income generally used to pay its employees’ salaries and allowances. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will provide around 4B budget to cover for the said loss. According to Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, the said pronouncement is set to take effect by 2017. 



Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur – LATIMKA IA President Abner Engaño expresses his opinion on the consequences of Free ISF and the possible developments relative to the said pronouncement.



# NIA-9 trains for Updates in RA 9184

By: Maria Teresa A. Empleo, PRO, NIA Region 9



Dapitan City – In its continuous development of skills competence of its workforce, NIA Region IX conducted a three-day training on Procurement Planning Updates and the Recent Amendments to the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 or the “Government Procurement Reform Act” (GPRA) last October 5-7, 2016 at Dakak Beach Resort, Dapitan City.

The said training composed of 64 participants from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) members and selected accounting staff of the region with its resource speakers from Department of Budget and Finance (DBM), Regional Director Annabelle C. Echavez, Supervising Budget and Management Specialist Mark Louie C. Martin, and Atty. Jules Christian D. Marcos Administrative Director from Western Mindanao State University. The discussion opened with an overview of R.A. 9184 and its existing IRR, then proceeded to emphasize its recent amendments such as the Tax Clearance, Bid Security, Performance Security, the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Circular, and GPPB Resolution, among others.

According to Dir. Echavez, based on the Agency Procurement Compliance and Performance Indicators (APCPI) result, the professionalization of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) and its secretariat accounted 20% of the causes of delay in procurement while poor planning, which ranged from problems on technical specifications to poor cost estimate, accounted 50% of the primary causes of delay and failure of bidding. The participants also responded on these events, stating their own sentiments on the evaluation of bids, problems with contractors, as well concerns on bidding and contract terminations.

*“This is timely because I will be a BAC Chair this month, we thank our R.A. 9184 experts here for clarifying to us the present conflicting practices in our own BAC and equipping us with the knowledge to correct it,”* said Engr. Joel C. Atay, the incoming Engineering and Operations Division Manager–cum–Irrigation Management Office (IMO) Head for Zamboanga del Sur.

Through lectures and interactive discussions, the training

aimed to arm BAC members and other participants with the most updated knowledge on the Philippine procurement process and consequently transfer value to the viability of the region in terms of a fast-tracked project implementation.

*“The revised rules is posted in the website of GPPB and I encourage the Heads of the BAC Secretariat to subscribe for the update so that you will be automatically informed as well as be involved in any activity that will develop your competence to perform your duties – I congratulate NIA Region IX for being proactive in responding to the challenge of procurement work,”* said Atty. Marcos during the closing program.

NIA Region IX has a total of 74 irrigation projects amounting to 849.67M worth of allocation for 2016, 95% of which has already been bidden out, to date. 🏗️



Regional Director Annabelle C. Echavez of the Department of Budget and Management giving her message during opening program of the three-day Procurement Training and Updates of RA 9184.



Participants listening intently to their resource speakers.



# Towards ISO 9001:2008: Disposal of Hazardous Laboratory Chemical Wastes

By: Ernesto L. Mapoy , Jr. Principal Engineer A, IEC- C.O.

In relation to the Agency's on-going activities for Accreditation towards ISO 9001: 2008, Quality Management System, the Focal Team for Water Quality Monitoring initiated the disposal of the three-decade stored laboratory chemical wastes. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) classified these as acid wastes, alkali wastes and used solvent which is toxic, harmful, irritant, corrosive, etc. that cause hazard and danger to the environment, safety and health to the office working condition.

The Team in compliance with Presidential Decree No. 1152, otherwise known as the "Philippine Environmental Code" and Republic Act No. 6969, otherwise known as "An Act to Control Toxic Substance and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, and For Other Purposes", outsourced expert companies ( transporter of hazardous wastes) duly accredited by the DENR – Environmental Management Bureau (EMB to provide services in conducting the appropriate task. The Contractor, Envirocare Management Precision Inc., hauled and transported the chemical wastes to its counterpart, Joechem Environment Corporation, also a duly DENR – EMB Accredited Treatment/Storage/Disposal (TSD) Facility for Hazardous Wastes for proper TSD.

With the Contractor's approved DENR – EMB Permit to Transport (PTT) dated June 28, 2016 under Transport Permit, PT No. 03-14-0616-0881, the hauling of laboratory chemical wastes was done on September 27, 2016, Tuesday, and witnessed by representatives from the Property and Procurement Division, Commission on Audit and the Focal Team. The hazardous wastes were authorized to be pulled-out from NIA Compound thru NIA – Central Office, Gate Pass No. 09-06-16 dated September 27, 2016. The following day September 28, 2016, Wednesday, the team proceeded to Joechem Environment Corporation TSD Facilities located at Brgy. Aranguren, Capas, Tarlac and witnessed the actual weighing of the collected/hailed laboratory chemical wastes, the procedural processes for proper treatment, the storage in the various water tanks, the filtering method and the disposal of the following hazardous wastes indicated in the DENR – EMB Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest Form, UHWMF-S.05.2016 No. 1035 to wit:

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLASS	HAZARDOUS WASTE No.	QUANTITY
Acid Wastes	B 299	0.541 MT
Alkali Wastes	C 399	0.1975 MT
Used Solvent	G 704	0.153 MT

To avoid or at least minimize the production of hazardous waste from the NIA laboratory, new laboratory equipment for water quality analysis that would easily detect the indicators with lesser chemicals are now being procured.

The Focal Team composed of Mr. Ramon J. Lagang, Supervising Elec. Comm. System Tech; Ms. Ma. Elizabeth N. Lopez, Soil Technologist A; and Engr. Ernesto L. Mapoy, Jr., Principal Engineer A as the Team Leader. They are belong to Irrigation Engineering Center Division (IEC), Operations Department.

## Disposal Process of NIA Hazardous Chemical Waste by the Focal Team for Water Quality







# OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

On 28 September to 01 October 2016, the International Workshop of International Network of Water Ecosystem for Paddy Fields (INWEPF)- Korea hosted the Working Group 2 Workshop on Modernization of Irrigation Systems. The event was attended by 11 participants coming from the Philippines, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, and host country South Korea. Of the 11 participants, six (6) came from the Philippines who are all INWEPF Philippines Officers and members plus one (1) who was a paper presenter.

## A. Scope of Workshop

- Presentation of Country Report on the workshop theme, "Modernization of Irrigation Systems". Seven (7) countries made the presentation.
- Field Trip to flood control projects, one existing and one ongoing (A-San Sea Dike Sluice Gate, Sap-gyo Sluice Gate Expansion Project)
- Visited one (1) irrigation system office where operation of the system is carried out through the application of wireless communication network (WNC)-An-seong TM/TC System

## B. Focus of Discussion

- The country presentation focused on the strategies on the modernization of irrigation system. The Philippines' presentation focused on the Irrigation Management Transfer Program of the National Irrigation Administration. Noteworthy is the presentation of Japan which emphasized on the modernization efforts encompassing both the physical infrastructure and institutional development intervention.
- Other countries have a more or less common modernization schemes that include infrastructure installation/rehabilitation, efficient water use, disaster prevention, environmental consideration, multipurpose approach, use of appropriate technology, and cost performance.
- Korea demonstrated during the field trip that irrigation and flood control are two important components of irrigation projects/systems.
- The irrigation system being operated through the Wireless Communication Network demonstrated that through this technology, system operation could result to **Scientific**

**Irrigation Management** ( schedule of water delivery and planting could be announced thru computers as well as monitoring of same), **prevent agricultural disaster, and convenient facility management.**

## C. Recommended Technologies That Could Be Replicated In The Philippine Irrigation Projects And Systems

- The Japan strategy of modernizat could be well applied in the Philippine setting, although NIA has been adopting this, there are still new ways of modernizing our irrigation systems replicating Japan technology.
- The Wireless Communication Network can be pilot tested in UPRIIS and MRIIS.
- Adopting the combination of irrigation and drainage in the design of our irrigation projects and / or systems.

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# High Level Officials Seminar in Japan

By: Engr. Romeo M. Lopez, CSEE  
Manager, Operations Department


Last October 18-20, 2016 the Administrator and the Operations Department manager attended a high level officials seminar in Japan sponsored by the Japanese Institute of Irrigation and Drainage (JIID) with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). There were four (4) countries belonging to the Asian monsoon Region, which participated in the seminar: Vietnam (2 coming from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), Indonesia (2 coming from the Ministry of Public Works), Philippines (2 coming from the National Irrigation Administration), and Japan (coming from the JIID, MAFF, Akita Federation of Land Improvement District Office, and observers from NIPPON KOI, SCI, ADCA, ARIC, JACAF).

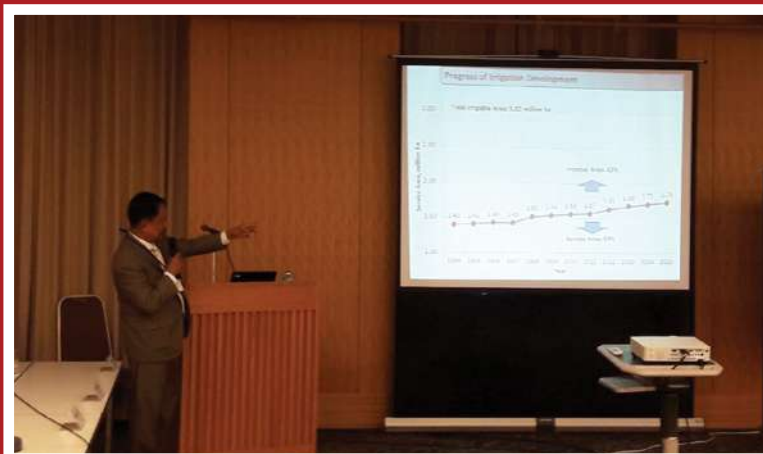
The seminar had focused on the major challenges that the irrigation and drainage sector are currently facing and shared by the participating countries which were summarized as:

1. Coping-up with Climate Change;
2. Increasing and rapid conversion of agricultural lands;
3. Participative irrigation management;
4. Aging farmers;
5. Aging Irrigation Facilities such as headworks;
6. Payment of Irrigation Fees;
7. High water losses;
8. Low irrigation development levels;
9. High irrigation development costs;
10. Irrigation effectiveness;
11. Low investment levels;
12. Right-Of-Way acquisition;

13. Indigenous Peoples (IP) concerns;
14. Effective Watershed Management;

Every country made a paper presentation that touched on their country's experiences, present issues, challenges as well as measures to address the issues and challenges. For the Philippines, Administrator Florencio F. Padernal delivered the country paper which covered two (2) major topics- The advantages of Irrigation Service Fee "if maintained" and "if abolished", and 12 Challenges and Solutions in Irrigation Development. In ending the presentation, four (4) concluding statements leading to how NIA will be moving forward were stated:

1. To tackle the remaining frontier area, NIA would need smart technologies and substantial financial support.
2. To sustain its' in-house capability, NIA would have to pursue function-based continuing capacity-building programs.
3. To facilitate its internal processes, NIA would need to embrace computerization and the latest technologies and approaches.
4. To further build its staff effectiveness, NIA would have to expand its participation in international seminars. 





# Japan Visits



Courtesy call to Nippon Koei Head Office Consultants and Orientation on Training Schedule.



Visit to Tochiyama Weir.



Orientation on Telemetry System for Water Management by the JICA Officers at Fukuoko Zeki Land Improvement District in Kokaigawa River Basin Irrigation System, Tsukubamirai



The Hydropower Plant Site and Buildings.

## UPDATES ON HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

With the challenge to sustain the Agency's financial viability, the management continue to explore the possibilities of developing a renewable source of energy through established irrigation systems around the country. Based on PD 552 Section 2.c. which reads: "To construct multiple-purpose water resources projects designed primarily for irrigation, and secondarily for hydraulic power development and/or other uses such as flood control...", eight ( 8) sites have been identified out of the 379 potential sites for hydropower development. The following matrix gives the latest information:

By: Atty. Rizza Ibañez, Legal Services Dept., TWG for Hydropower

PROJECT NAME	HYDROPOWER DEVELOPER	SYSTEM	LOCATION	ESTIMATED CAPACITY	STATUS
8.5MW MARIIS Main (South) Canal Hydroelectric Power Plant	S.N Aboitiz Power-Magat, Inc.	Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS)	MARIIS Main Canal 1, Ramon Isabela	8.5 MW	October 20, 2015: Signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NIA and SN Aboitiz Power December 2015: Start of Construction February 2018: Target Date of Operation
Rizal Hydropower Project	PNOC Renewables Corporation	Pampanga River Irrigation System (PRIS)	Main Canal, Nueva Ecija	1 MW	Dec. 2013: Hydropower Service Contract Nov. 2015: Completed June 2016: Testing and Commissioning of the Power Plant August 2016: Commercial Operation
Munoz Hydropower Project	PNOC Renewables Corporation	Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS)	Super Diversion Canal (SDC) Lateral C, Nueva Ecija	630 kW	February 2014 : Hydropower Service Contract • currently reviewing project design, costing and TOR due to failed re-bidding in July 2016
Bulanao Hydroelectric Power Plant	DPJ Engineers And Consultants, Inc.	Chico River Irrigation System	Kalinga	1 MW	February 2016: Commercial Operation May 2016: MOA was ratified by the Board • for renegotiation as to the economic terms/aspect of the agreement



PROJECT NAME	HYDROPOWER DEVELOPER	SYSTEM	LOCATION	ESTIMATED CAPACITY	STATUS
Barit #1 Hydroelectric Power Plant	Nascent Technologies Corporation	Barit River Irrigation System	Camarines Sur	400 kW	May 2016: MOA – ratified by the Board • for renegotiation as to the economic terms/aspect of the agreement.
Marbel #1 Hydroelectric Power Plant	Euro Hydro Power (Asia) Holdings, Inc.	Marbel #1 River Irrigation System	Southern Cotabato	500-1000 kW	November 15, 2016: MOA reflecting the renegotiated terms was approved by the Board
Butao Irrigation Drop HEPP	Mindoro Grid Corporation (MGC)	Agno River Integrated Irrigation System	Pangasinan	1.4MW	September 2016 : MOA reflecting the renegotiated terms was approved by the Board; MGC – finishing pre-development stage.
Addalam HEPP	Qurino Power Energy Corporation (QPEC)	Addalam River Irrigation System	Quirino	3.6 MW	MOA is still under negotiation and subject for approval by the Board by next Board meeting.

## NIA's Guidelines on Documents and Records Control for ISO certification, Apprised

By: Portia Sandoval Angulo, Industrial Relations Development Officer A



The National Irrigation Administration sought the assistance of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)-Productivity and Development Center to provide intervention in the implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS) certifiable to ISO 9001:2008. In particular, DAP was requested to conduct a two-(2) day Training-Workshop on

Documents and Records Control which are two (2) of the six (6) mandatory procedures of QMS. Said activity was held in three (3) batches on the following dates: a) 17-18 October 2016, b) 20-21 October 2016 and c) 25-26 October 2016.



A total of one hundred and five (105) participants underwent the abovementioned training under the guidance of the subject matter experts (SME), Mr. Jomar A. Pastrana and Mesdames Christian S. Eparwa and Adelina D. Alvarez. Participants of the activity were composed of QMS Core Team members, designated documents and records controllers/custodians, key officers and staff from the Central Office, UPRIS Main Office, Region 4A Head Office and Quezon IMO.



*Continued from page 13*

During the training-workshop, participants were made to understand the requirements on documentation and records management to implement an effective approach for document and records control system. The contents of the documents control and records control in the QMS manual were presented to the participants for their information. Valid concerns were raised by the participants during the presentation which resulted to the improvement of said systems. Participants were likewise asked to identify the different records and documents used in their respective units which shall be part of the master list of records and documents being consolidated and subject for coding by the Management Information Division. More so, a brief lecture on 5S applied in records management was delivered to educate participants on how they can handle their voluminous historical data properly. Questions which were parked during the discussion were clarified and addressed jointly by the SMEs and Atty. Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda, the Documents and Records Controller.

A writeshop consisting mainly of participants from the first batch of the activity shall be scheduled to further refine the QMS on documents and records control. 🏢



## PHOTO NEWS



**R8 Boss meets Goma.** Regional Manager (RM) Romeo G. Quiza and staff warmly received Ormoc City Mayor Richard “Goma” Gomez and Hilongos Mayor Albert Villahermosa at the NIA-8 Regional Office on the first day of September. The duo had a meeting with RM Quiza after attending Regional Development Council. Not to miss the moment, Region 8 Chorale rendered songs to the delight of special guests. What a day to further strengthen the partnership with the local government units!



# Happy Birthday Mam EEI!





# At Bunao IA, Inc.: His success is everybody's success

By: Hazel Karen S. Ramos, Information Officer-designate,  
South Cotabato, IMO, Region 12

*"Ako dati, katulong lang. Ngayon, supplier na."* This was the opening statement of Mr. Jose F. Lorenzo, President of Bunao Irrigators Association, Inc. during our interview.

Looking thru his eyes, this writer saw that Mr. Lorenzo is still an embodiment of humility and respect despite being a national awardee for several times as an agricultural practitioner. In the course of our interview, Mr. Lorenzo related how he started from being a simple farmhand to becoming a wealthy vegetable farmer. Furthermore, he recalled his humble beginnings and how their association became sustainable throughout the years.

## Irrigation at Sitio Pag-asa

In the 1970s, during the late President Marcos' regime, Sitio Pag-asa was granted a Small Scale Irrigation Project (SSIP) under the Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BWSM) in collaboration with the LGU and the Regional Field Unit of Department of Agriculture (DA).

After the dam under SSIP collapsed, another irrigation project was granted to Sitio Pag-asa: J07 under Japanese investors. A number of Japanese agriculturists came to the area and educated the community in vegetable farming. Alongside, they also introduced machineries which the community used in their farming activities..



The dam again collapsed due to poor construction of the facility caused by substandard construction materials used. Then, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) came and gave them hope.

## From Palay to High Value Vegetables

Sitio Pag-asa, located at Crossing Rubber, Tupi, South Cotabato, once engaged in planting upland rice variety. The residents were all used to planting together following only one schedule, maintaining crops together, and harvesting together.

However, after the Japanese came and introduced vegetable farming, the community gradually converted to this new venture.

High value vegetables such as sweet bell peppers, cabbages, cauliflowers, etc. were simultaneously planted by the community. They also planted flowers in other parts of the area. They don't plant one type of crop in the same place because the community was trying to avoid losing all the minerals in the soil to one crop only as mentioned by Mr. Lorenzo during the interview.

*"Malaki kasi ang kita sa gulay. Kahit may pinapaaral ka sa college, parang wala lang kasi araw-araw may harvest ang mga gulay. Kaya araw-araw rin ang kita. Hindi tulad sa palay na mahabang panahon pa ang hihintayin bago kumita,"* narrated Mr. Lorenzo

Considering the high price and great demand for the supply of vegetables, undoubtedly, the income is also high.

## NIA on the Scene

Sitio Pag-asa, having all earth canals only, can water a few hectares before because the soil absorbed the water flowing from the canals thereby the amount of water is insufficient for the entire community. When NIA came and gave them opportunity to have irrigation facilities, the community had high hopes for a better life..

Through the concrete lined canals, the water is already sufficient to irrigate areas far from the source.



# From *Childhood* to *Adulthood*

By: Florante R. Bautista, MARIIS

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) played a major role in my life.

During the 70's, the government relocated our house 200-meters away together with three blocks of neighborhood because NIA regional office will be built in its place. I was five years old then.

The government finished the NIA compound in Minante I, Cauayan City, Isabela complete with amenities – basketball and tennis courts, manicured and well-maintained gardens, spacious playground, and man-made hill. We admired it marvelously. Our community has no park, no playground, and no well-maintained garden during that time.

During weekdays, NIA serves as playground in the community. My cousins and I loved sliding in the man-made hill and riding in the swing. We fearlessly harvested daisies and roses when in bloom. I cannot imagine how we managed to bring home bouquets of flowers without catching the attention of the guard. We attended Christmas programs and other celebrations even without invitations, mingling with the employees without inhibition. We participated in parlor games and were given fruits and candies.

Years passed and I finished college. I got the chance to work in an Information Technology (IT) company in Paranaque but eventually laid-off due to the Asian economic crisis in the 90's.

I went home and got the chance to work in NIA.

My employment in Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS) – Division IV started in 1999. I performed the duties of Engineering Assistant B with contractual status. Years passed and I eventually got promoted as Engineering Assistant A and Engineer B. For ten years, I diligently served NIA with contractual status, with no benefits.

In 2009, the NIA Rationalization Plan was implemented. New positions were created replacing the old one. The following year, I was promoted to the position of Irrigators Development Officer A (IDO-A), with permanent status.

Performing the duties of an IDO-A is very challenging. However, these challenges made me become more mature and a better person. I overcome my shyness. I conquered my stage fright. I met new friends, trained farmers and learned how to become sociable.

Indeed, from childhood to adulthood NIA played a major role in my life.



## **"Notchers" by Heart**

Sitio Pag-asa residents, being members of the Irrigators Association, are "notchers" by heart. Mindless of the awards given to outstanding IAs, Mr. Lorenzo considers their organization as an achiever because they run it wisely. By this thought, all IAs run their organization wisely. The only difference with Bunao IA, Inc. is that they impose regulations like if a farmer wasn't able to pay his ISF of Php2,100.00 annually, the water tender will not release water to his area. This policy is strictly enforced by the association to be fair with the members who pay their ISF promptly and diligently.

## **Left-Right-Left**

Mr. Lorenzo, coming to his thought, is very much delighted for being one of the recipients of the irrigation facilities granted by the government through the NIA.

According to him, the NIA and the IA work hand-in-hand to succeed. The IA succeeded because it benefitted and continues to benefit from the sufficient irrigation water for their vegetable farms. Furthermore, the NIA also succeeded because it played a very important role not only in the success of an individual farmer but also in the entire community. This success will redound to the IA because they will have more opportunities to avail of more projects in the coming years.

**"Happy and elated":** These words sum up the partnership of NIA and IA in creating not just simply a timely change and success but rather a TIMELESS one. 🏡







# Randy: A Man with a Big Heart

By: Luz R. Peñaranda, PAIS- CO

One will not miss a day to meet a diminutive man carries important documents, walks and warmly greets everyone along the hallway. A familiar figure, Randy as popularly known to NIA world, is Mr. Reynie Ramos. Born in San Mateo, Isabela forty seven years ago, Randy is not a newbie in NIA. He has been with the Agency since 1988 and whatever office he works with, he is your dependable office staff.

Hardworking, helpful, generous ... these are some traits which Randy's friends used to describe him. Ellen, a colleague, said, *"you can count on him, he is reliable, even the bosses he served were satisfied with his performance. Randy works well with everyone and most of all, hindi tsismoso at 'di abusado."* With these virtues, it was not a surprise NIA-Diversified Crops Irrigation Engineering Project (DCIEP) absorbed him when daily personnel were trimmed down in Building and Facilities Maintenance Division (BFMD) where he started as janitor. Until in 2002, he finally got a permanent Item as Utility Worker with the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations under Sir AAG (Engr. Antonio A. Galvez). When AAG became the Senior Deputy Administrator, he took Randy with him. Randy served and won the hearts of officials who steered the Office of the Senior Deputy Administrator such as AAR (Engr. Alexander A. Reuyan), AAG, CVM (Engr. Claro V. Maranan), and FMR (Engr. Felix M. Razo).

Even more, Randy finds joy in working with NIA for he felt loved. In times of need, friends are there for him. For him, NIA is his second family.

One of his more memorable experiences with NIA was when Mr. Wilfred Agustin, draftsman in DCIEP, helped him to have an artificial left eye. Randy was born with blind left eye. *"Yun ang aking agimat kay misis "*, (it was my amulet that won my wife's heart) he said in jest.



Financially challenged in his tender years, he was not able to finish high school. He opted to work and helped his father instead. This taught him the value of diligence, patience, and commitment. Now that Randy has a family of his own, he moves heaven and earth, so to speak, to give them decent lives and good education. Randy and his wife, Mylene, have three children. Presently, the first born, Renelyn, is in third year college taking up BS Accountancy; Kimberly, the middle child, is in senior high school; and, Reinier, the youngest and only boy, is in grade 7. Challenged and motivated for a growing family, he wakes up at three in the morning to get suman in Marilao, picks his fruits from Balintawak and heads for the office at past 5 o'clock in the morning. He sells his wares until 7:45 in the morning and logs in to start his day in the office. During lunch break, he does some errands for NSO documents and in PAGIBIG for a modest fee and saves it for the children's school needs.

***"Kaya ganun na lang ang aking pagsisisikap na matustusan ang kanilang pag-aaral para 'di sila matulad sa akin. Wish ko lang, na kung anuman ang dapat ibigay na benefit satin e ibigay na, para maalwahan din kaming maliliit,"*** said Randy.

With a busy and tiring weekdays, Randy sees to it that weekends are well spent with his family. He hopes someday his efforts will be rewarded – to see his kids finish their studies and to reach what he has not.

Indeed, here is a man with a big dream and a big heart. 🇵🇭



# NIA's ISO - QMS Roadmap

- 1.) 2 Batches of Orientation and Appreciation on ISO 9001 held on February 4 and 11, 2016 at Central Office  
 a. Top Management, Department/ Regional/ Operations/ Project Managers, EOD, IMO and Admin and Finance Managers  
 b. Employees

- 2.) 2 Batches of Training on QMS Documentation held on February 17-19 and March 2-4, 2016 in Baguio City and Philippine Carabao Center, Nueva Ecija, respectively.

- 3.) QMS Documentation (Mandatory Documentation and Requirements) was approved by the Board on March 18, 2016 and for continual improvement (March-May 2016).

- 4.) ON-GOING

- 5.) Training Course on Internal Quality Audit (May 2-6, 2016) at the Technopark Hotel, Sta. Rosa Laguna

- 6.) July 5 - 14, 2016

- 7.) ON-GOING



3rd Party Certification Audit



## Ito si Adrian

maaga siya pumapasok sa opisina,

Naglalaan siya ng oras para sa 5s,

Nagtratabaho siya ng tama sa oras.

Gusto makapasa ni Adrian ang kanyang opisina sa ISO Certification.

Tularan si Adrian.



# INIHAHANDOG NG PATUBIGAN KOMIKS...

# TONIO



## "ANG MAGSASAKANG TUNAY"

Pauwi ng kanilang bahay matapos ang pagpupulong, nakasabay ni Tonio ang kanyang kumpadre na si Pedro at napagusapan ang tungkol sa libreng irigasyon na ipinaliwanag sa kanila.



Pareng Pedro, ano sa tingin mo yung binanggit kanina na libreng serbisyo patubig sa ating magsasaka?



Mukhang maganda naman yung plano 'Nong! Kung matutupad man mababawasan ng bahagya ang gastos natin sa pagsasaka.



Oo nga ano! Diba isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit nagpapatuloy yung ating IA ay dahil doon sa pagbabayad natin ng ISF?

Oo nga Pareng Pedro, maaari nating ilagay sa ibang bagay yung ibabayad sana natin sa patubig. Pero teka, ano na pala ang mangyayari sa ating samahan (IA) kung magkagayon man na libre na ang serbisyong patubig?

Tama ka diyan Pareng Pedro! Ang ibig sabihin kaya noon kapag nawala na ang ISF mawawala na rin yung samahan natin?



Saka diba yung nakokolekta na ISF, malaking parte nun ay bumabalik din sa atin para sa gawain ng ating samahan tulad ng paglilinis, pagkukumpuni at pagsasaayos ng ating mga kanal.

Isa pang kinakabahala ko Pareng Pedro ay yung maayos na daloy ng tubig patungo sa ating mga palayan. Baka kasi ang mangyari hindi na makaabot sa atin ang tubig kasi binarahan na pala nung iba yung daluyan.



Oo nga Manong Tonio! Kasi wala ng magbabantay pa para maisaayos at makarating hanggang dulo yung tubig para sa irigasyon.

Kaya nga Manong sana makapaglabas agad sila ng malinaw na polisiya tungkol dito sa libreng patubig para mawala rin yung ilang pangamba at agam-agam tungkol dito.

Sige Manong Tonio, paalam!



O siya pare! Magkita nalang tayo sa palayan bukas naghihintay na pala sa labas ng pintuan yung mag-ina ko.

Medyo hindi parin talaga malinaw, pero umaasa pa rin naman tayo na kung ano man ang gawin ng ating gobyerno ay tayong tunay na magsasaka talaga ang makikinabang.