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NIA DIGEST

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

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About the Cover



Household Consumption. Power. Irrigation. These are the three fundamental uses of water. The immeasurable role of irrigation in nation-building could traverse from agriculture to all sectors of society. It is where the heart of all natural resources lies.

"Itawid mo po ako, Itay" depicts the lifelong script of irrigation in honing the future of the next generation by nurturing the seeds implanted through perseverance and resiliency of farmers --- the provider of the basis of subsistence, the perpetrator of agronomical biodiversity, the protagonist in the Philippine agricultural landscape, and the cradle of this country's hopes and dreams.

The cover photo by Mr. Melvin Hernandez bagged the first prize in the Conventional Category of the 1st NIA Photography Contest with the theme "Irigasyon at Buhay" on March 20, 2017.

NIA Digest is the official magazine of the National Irrigation Administration produced by the Office of the Public Affairs and Information Staff. This periodical literature is being published bi-annually to provide information services to the public regarding the substantial events, projects, activities, and programs of the Agency, as well as the current status of irrigation and agricultural development in the country.

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"In helping our farmers, do what is right and legal."

-President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

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- Senior Deputy Administrator

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This issue of NIA Digest is divided into two parts. One part features articles on the highlights of the region /office for 2017 and the other part showcases the creativeness of NIAns relative to its theme "Irigasyon at Buhay"



Hana Ababa CIs

Enhances Active Involvement of Farmers

By: Mylene Malecдан, Public Relations Officer, CAR

Ifugao is known for its rice terraces, but these picturesque vegetable gardens in Tinoc, Ifugao that seem to overflow to the edges of mountain-side have their own splendor. They are now being served by the newly completed Hana Ababa Communal Irrigation Project.

Two decades ago, camote was the staple food of the residents of Brgy. Tukucan in Tinoc, Ifugao. It was the most feasible crop to plant due to the topography and soil type in the area. There was no road then, so no market for their camote products. It was only for the village's consumption. According to Barangay Captain Joseph Calabson, rice was only served during special occasions and rituals.

Today, Brgy. Tukucan is a location of a booming vegetable industry of picturesque gardens carved on hillsides and of artistic contours of carrot beds. Farmers plant high value crops thrice or even four times a year, depending on the crops planted. Their produce is brought to the trading post in La Trinidad, Benguet through the rocky unpaved road from the barangay exiting to the Buguias-Tinoc Road.

Within the barangay, there is a recently completed irrigation system dubbed Hana Ababa Communal Irrigation Project (CIP), implemented by the National Irrigation Administration which is hoped to contribute to an already productive land of hardworking Ifugaos.

"It will be of much help,"

said Mr. David Domingo, president of the newly formed Irrigators Association in the area. Farmers will

have sufficient irrigation water, most especially in summer when water from the spring dwindles that farmers had to schedule planting.

Aside from the construction of new reservoir tanks and installation of new pipelines, the project included the restoration of existing reservoir tanks constructed by the Department of Agriculture's CECAP but became unoperational due to previous calamities. Funded under the regular fund of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Project (CARP), Hana Ababa CIP has a service area of 31 hectares. Its 74 farmer-beneficiaries organized themselves into Tukucan Irrigators Association Tinoc Inc. registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). It will be the association in-charge of the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system upon its turnover.

In the past, when camote or sweet potato was still the staple crop in the rolling lands of Tukucan, women are the key players in the farm as most of the farming activities were done by them. During these farming activities, it was the men who looked after the house and the young children while women went to the field. Mr. Domingo shared that women farmers cultivate camote because of their greater dexterity at it as camote cultivation requires pa-

tience, care, and precision, especially during harvesting.

The camote root crops after harvest were stored and consumed as nutritious food throughout the year. Rice is a rare commodity. Even in other villages who cultivated rice, it was only the rich families with vast rice lands who had enough rice supply to last throughout the year. Traditional varieties of rice planted in the terraces usually take six to eight months before they can be harvested.

At present, the booming vegetable farming in Brgy. Tukucan facilitates the active involvement of both men and women. In the vegetable gardens along the barangay road, men are visibly busy with land preparation which usually involves manual harrowing or cultivation of the soil and formation of garden beds. They are also mostly responsible in the manual hauling of freshly harvested potatoes in sacks or cabbages in big baskets to the nearest roadside ready for transport to the nearest trading center. Women, on the



Tinoc, Ifugao

other hand, are either in-charge of clearing weeds along beds of carrots or cabbages and participate in other farming activities, such as harvesting of farm produce.

Barangay Captain Joseph Calabson shared that development in the area

has indeed began with the opening of the road to the barangay and the residents being able to market their produce. The barangay has also been a recipient of several government projects and programs, such as the Hana Ababa CIP, which contributes to the livelihood of the barangay. One of his

fears though is the continuous decline of forest area due to land conversion. He hopes that with Brgy. Tukucan becoming a part of the Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs), the community will endeavor for the protection and conservation of the barangay's forestland. 🏠

NEW NIA CHIEF Visits Region 1

By: Oscar Navata, Public Relations
Officer, Region 1

Laoag City, Ilocos Norte – The newly-appointed National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Ricardo R Visaya, who assumed his post on March 30, 2017, conducted his first official visit in NIA Region 1 on May 18-19, 2017.

Visaya received a warm welcome from RIM John N. Celeste, together with Engineering and Operations Division (EOD) Manager, Frida L. Nidoy, Ilocos Norte Irrigation Management Office (INIMO) Manager, Danilo V. Gomez, and designated officials of NIA RO1 at the Laoag International Airport. After some brief exchanges of pleasantries with well-wishers, Administrator Visaya wasted no time in pursuing the time-bounded activities of his two-day mission in Ilocos Norte.

The visiting party was escorted immediately by a convoy for an ocular inspection at the Madongan River Irrigation System, a 45-minute drive

from the airport. Officials of Irrigators Associations (IAs), farmers' organizations, and representatives from Local Government Offices were also present during the arrival of the "pride of Bacarra". Visaya decided to proceed at the nearby Solsona RIS to complete his first day tour of duty.

JICA-FUNDED PROJECTS

Incidentally, Madongan and Solsona RIS are two of the three multi-million sub-projects in Region 1 under the auspices of the National Irrigation System Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NISRIIP) which is jointly funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Philippine Government. The third sub-project is located along San Fabian-San Jacinto Municipal Areas in the province of Pangasinan. NISRIIP Project Manager Pedro F. De Guzman and JICA representatives delivered a briefing concerning the status of civil works for the special projects in Ilocos Norte at the Java Hotel. In his inspirational message, Visaya commended the leadership of Director Celeste citing high levels of accomplishments. However, he emphasized the importance of strict imposition of project

deadlines in accordance with contract provisions. Expounding his four-point agenda, Visaya said that his decisions will be governed by the management principles in pursuing the mandates of NIA that would benefit thousands of Filipino farmers under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The next day, Visaya was a guest of honor and speaker at the Bacarra Farmers' Festival, an annual event which showcases the promotion of the local government's agricultural produce and an exhibit of farm machineries, tools and equipments, grand parade of farmers featuring colorful improvised floats and mascots which represent various local civic organizations supporting the agricultural industry. The festivity was capped with a farmers' forum held at a nearby covered court where irrigation concerns and agricultural issues were tackled.

At the end of the consultation meeting, sheer contentment can be gleaned from the grateful farmers since the majority of their requests to improve their respective irrigation facilities were granted by Administrator Visaya. The NIA Chief verbally instructed INIMO Manager Danilo Gomez to ascertain that the farmers' concerns in the province will be met with urgency. 🏠



NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya with upbeat farmers and municipal government officials flash the Kamao ng Pagbabago during the forum of the Bacarra Farmers Festival in Ilocos Norte.

The Pride and Prostige of NIA-MARIIS Division III

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

Melai Agbisit, PRO, R2

In 1963, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 3601. A year after, the Siffr River Irrigation System (SIFRIS) located in Roxas, Isabela was included in the Irrigation Development Program of the country and was formally opened and operated in 1965.

A Look Back

In 1978, the Magat River Multi-Purpose Project (MRMP), one of the biggest projects in the country, was implemented with the construction of the Magat Dam and reservoir development, the Magat Hydro Electric Plant, and the upgrading and rehabilitation of the existing Magat River Irrigation System including the Siffr River Irrigation System.

In 1982, the Magat Dam - Magat River Multi-Purpose Project was inaugurated by Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos, and was officially opened in 1985 as a system named MAGAT RIVER INTEGRATED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS (MARIIS) with four division/irrigation offices.

One of the division offices is MARIIS Division III in San Manuel, Isabela. Located at the western part of the province, it has a service area of 21,443 hectares catering 11,979 farmers. Division III maintains and operates Siffr Dam and its appurtenant structures, Pumping Station 2 with five units pump at 550 horse power/unit, Pump Station 3 with five units of pump

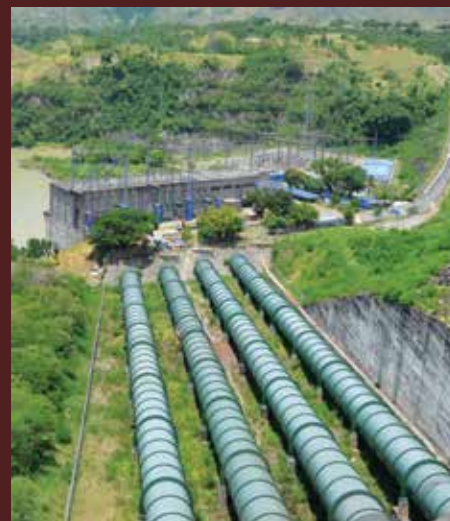
with 450Hp/unit, and the sub-station with six megawatts transformer drawing power from 69 KV lines of NGCP.

The Challenge

The Division III story started with the two-storey office building that was constructed in 1975. For more than four decades of hardships, the building has remained firmly standing. To preserve its stories, we rehabilitated the old office building, upgraded old office equipment and facilities, landscaped the yard, and planted fruit-bearing trees for a clean and green vicinity.

The hardships we crossed as we stood our ground became our weapon in attaining quality workplace. It started in the last quarter of 2015 when NIA embarked on acquiring accreditation from ISO 9001-2008 and intended to disseminate "QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM" (QMS) under its Quality Workplace Program (QWP), not only in the Central Office, but also at the field offices. A challenge to change traditional office environment into a quality and sustainable workplace, where employees' role is vital.

Heeding this, the Division launched innovative approaches, one is the systematic filing of documents calling it Accountability Reports Center (ARC).



Hydro Power Electric Plant (Topview)



Hydroelectric Power Plant (Tunnel)

AC Untivero

The Room Called ARC

When the vacant room was transformed into a small library with ten large bookshelves, the employees entrusted their documents to the assigned Archive Officer for coding. The arrangement of documents did not require much time with the concerted effort of the employees but the exterior required comprehensive attention. The ARC was inaugurated on September 15, 2016, with Dir. Rewina D. Arugay of Civil Service Commission Field Office 2 and Engr. Wilfredo C. Gloria, MARIIS Department Manager A in attendance. Both said ARC is a one-of-a-kind repository of documents that must be replicated in other division offices and other agencies. Since then, ARC became the Division's trademark of good and organized repository of documents.

The ARC embodies our accomplishments and performances which could be easily accessed for internal and external evaluation. It also serves as cornerstone of an organized division leading to transparent and excellent public service.

Our Best Foot Forward

We consider ARC as our best feature, but we also have installed other features for the employees, such as the fitness room, motor shed, combustible area, and organized store room of office supplies, Citizen's Charter rotational display, and a centralized matrix style of reporting.

On engineering, we established the Daily Inspector's Report (DIR) in hard-bound as a journal of Area Engineers, inspectors, and contractors in monitoring the progress of the projects. The Engineering Unit also conducts field validation/evaluation after the project completion to determine its impact to the farmer-members or to the residents. We also established a Local Inspectorate Team to monitor, evaluate, and assess on-going projects.

To gauge the impact of livelihood trainings the Institutional Development Unit (IDU) orchestrated "Impact Assessment/Analysis" and came-up with a book-type documentation.

As part of our security measures, we strictly enforce the "No ID No Entry" policy, visitors are wearing Visitors ID when entering the premises of Division III, and providing boom gate. To further strengthen the security, six Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras were installed to monitor the offices and compound.

As part of International Organization for Standardization, this office made sure to implement cleanliness and orderliness. Hence, all employees, once a month, will conduct "TODO-LINIS OPERATION" and physical inspection of every employees desk to ensure they are kept in order.

To ensure that all computers are functional, the Division hired two skilled Information Technology graduates to regularly update software and anti-virus programs, conduct clean-up, data back-up, and troubleshooting if

operating system is not functional. Above all these best practices, there is one thing that is deeply rooted in us, that nothing can uproot-UNITY. We worked hand in hand, we transformed the once lack-luster facility into a vibrant office.

JOIE DE VIVRE

This year is the best year for Division III as it sets another milestone to its more than five decades of excellent service. Our joy is beyond compare. The trophy represents the management's good stewardship of the division and the unrelenting support of the employees. Being lauded as Best Division Office of the Year at the national level is an honor we are truly proud of and will continue to carry on. Definitely, the prestigious award is our Joie De Vivre. 🏆





Administrator Ricardo R Visaya keenly listens to Regional Manager Engr. Josephine B. Salazar during inspection of AARD in Bustos, Bulacan

Visaya led the inspection of Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam

By: Eliseo V. Bitangcol, Public Relations Officer, Region 3


NIA Administrator, Ret **General Ricardo R Visaya** inspected the on-going construction of the Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam (AARD) located in Barangay Tibagan, Bustos, Bulacan on June 7, 2017.

The AARD is the largest Rubber Dam in the Philippines, which is currently undergoing a rehabilitation process. The scheme of work consists of the repair of dam, replacement of the delicate rubber gates, improvement of the downstream apron, training walls, and gates, as well as the development of the main canals, laterals, and its appurtenant facilities.

The restoration aims to rehabilitate the AARD and its appurtenant structures to improve irrigation system and cropping intensity of AMRIS Service Area in support of the government's agricultural development program, and to serve as flood

control during rainy seasons. The Administrator was joined by Hon. Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado, Provincial Governor of Bulacan, Hon. Gavini "Apol" Pancho, 2nd District Representative of Bulacan, and Hon. Arnel F. Mendoza, Municipal Mayor of Bustos, Bulacan.

Prior to the inspection, a short program was conducted with Governor Alvarado who expressed delight for the rehabilitation of the AARD. According to him, although there is minimal volume of water that was allocated for irrigation, the repair of the rubber dam will be a boundless contribution in the restoration of sufficient irrigation water in Bulacan, as well as in some areas of Pampanga. It would also serve as a flood control for it would restrain flashfloods downstream that submerges the western municipalities of Bulacan, especially during rainy seasons. The replacement of the rubber sector

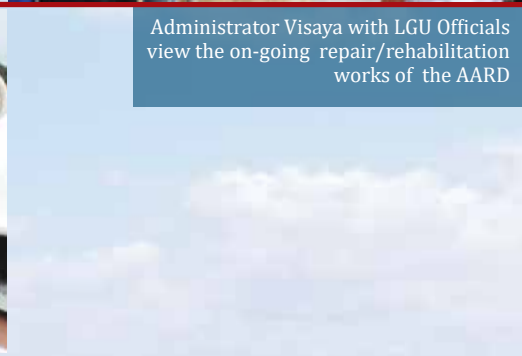
gates is a vital factor to be considered since it had already reached the span of 15 years. The brittle rubber gates could bring risks and may lead to loss of life and properties downstream once it was totally damaged. In his message, General Visaya assured the Bulakenyos that the Agency will be conducting an immediate plan towards the said matter through the assistance of NIA Region 3 Manager, Josephine B. Salazar. Prior to the actual inspection, BANE IMO Manager, Angelito S. Miguel, briefed the inspectors on the scope of construction that the AARD will undergo aside from the replacement of rubber gates. Afterwards, the project inspection was conducted by the NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations, C'zar M. Sulaik, and several engineers from the NIA Central Office and Regional Office. The office representatives and managers of PAMBAT and TARZAM IMO were also present in the project inspection. 



Administrator Visaya with Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations C'zar M. Sulaik, Regional Manager Josephine B. Salazar, and Staff are joined by the LGU Officials led by Hon. Governor Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado during the AARD inspection.

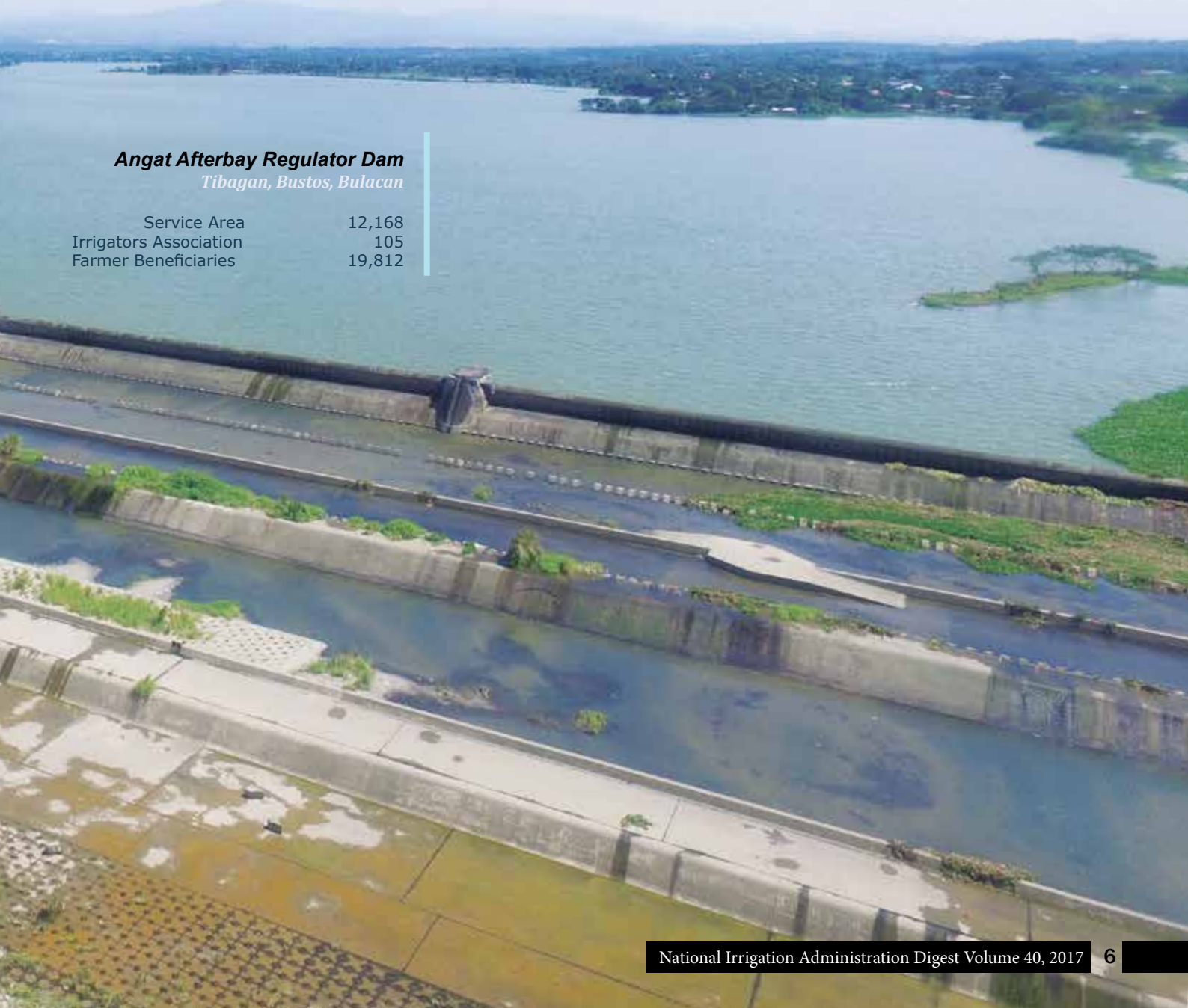


Administrator Visaya with LGU Officials
view the on-going repair/rehabilitation
works of the AARD



Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam
Tibagan, Bustos, Bulacan

Service Area	12,168
Irrigators Association	105
Farmer Beneficiaries	19,812



NIA MIMAROPA Conducts Series of IA CONGRESSES

By: Aileen Vernice G. Bahia, Public Relations Officer, Region 4B

National Irrigation Administration (NIA) MIMAROPA, headed by Acting Regional Manager Ramon A. Bugacia, conducted a series of IA congresses participated by Irrigators Association (IA) of the five provinces in the region. These were held on June 6, 2017 for MOMARO IMO, June 14, 2017 for Palawan IMO and July 19, 2017 for Occidental Mindoro IMO.

Present during the said events were NIA Central Office management Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, Operations Department Manager Engr. Romeo M. Lopez, and Public Affairs and Information Staff Department Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez in Occidental Mindoro.

The IA congresses aim to recognize the top-performing IAs for the year 2016, turn over projects to IA, present discuss the Modified Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) contract, and provide a venue for the IA to raise their concerns to the NIA management.

For the National Irrigation Systems (NIS) category, the following IAs got the Outstanding IA award:


1. Samahang Magsasaka ng Apo-apo-rawan at Paradahan, Inc. (Palawan)
2. Sumusulong na Magsasaka ng Bagong Sikat IA, Inc. (Palawan)
3. Elvita, Taritien, Malatgao Farmers
4. IA (Palawan)
5. Nagkakaisang Lahi IA (Palawan)
6. Caguisan Linamen of Narra IA (Palawan)
7. SABAPECO IA (Oriental Mindoro)
8. F AMPULME IA (Oriental Mindoro)

For the Communal Irrigation Systems (CIS) category, these are the Outstanding IAs:

1. Amaling Manoot IA (Occidental Mindoro)
2. Sumviltad IA (Oriental Mindoro)
3. Calamundingan IA (Oriental Mindoro)

4. Salcedo Irrigation Service
5. Association (Oriental Mindoro)
6. SABUATA IA (Palawan)
7. United Northern Palawan Rice
8. Granary Farmers IA (Palawan)
9. New Panay Maasin Calasaguen IA (Palawan)
10. Bato-Bato San Isidro IA ((Palawan)
11. Candawaga IA (Palawan)

After the awarding ceremony, a mass turnover of completed projects took place followed by the mass signing of the modified IMT contract which is based on the free ISF policy. Aside from this, invited representatives from the different line agencies presented their programs for the information of the IAs.

Conduct of IA congresses will be an annual activity of NIA MIMAROPA to continuously strengthen NIA and IA's partnership. 



IA Congress of Palawan IMO with Sr. Deputy Administrator BGEN ABRAHAM B BAGASIN (Ret)

More pictures on page14



The National Irrigation Administration – Agno River Irrigation System Extension Project (NIA-ARISEP) located at Tomana East, Rosales, Pangasinan under the stewardship of Project Manager Engr. John N. Celeste and Assistant Project Manager Engr. Ceferino C. Sta. Ana bagged the 2016 Best Project Management Office Award during the recently concluded NIA's 54th Founding Anniversary Celebration held last June 22, 2017 at the NIA Central Office Ground, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City.

Among the criteria used in judging by the NIA Central Committee on Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (NIA-PRAISE) are the following: Building and Office Equipment Maintenance, Waste Management and Energy Conservation, Storage, Fire Prevention and Number of Complaints Received, Housekeeping, Waste Management and Energy Conservation, Storage Management, and Fire Prevention. ARISEP went ahead of the other projects in the evaluation. In recognition of this achievement, it was accorded the Best Project Management Office of the Year Award.

The said achievement serves as the result of competency and efficiency of employees in doing designated tasks, and of having raised the work force with good moral values, proper work attitude, and teamwork.

Putting ARISEP into the limelight poses a great challenge which is wholeheartedly acknowledged. As an expression of gratitude, ARISEP vows to do more and excel more until we all witness the realization of NIA's Vision and Mission in the lives of the people we serve! 🏡

Irrigation Chief Turns Over 44 Projects in Region VI

By: Danielle Parian-Pijuan, Public Relations Officer-C, Region 6



April 19, 2017, Iloilo City – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Region 6 under the leadership of Regional Manager, Engr. Gerardo P. Corsiga, welcomed the arrival of the newly-appointed NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya in his first visit to the region.

Forty-four (44) completed projects in the region were turned over in a ceremonial activity held at Regatta

Hotel, Gen. Luna St., Iloilo City. These turned over projects are as follows: 17 Communal Irrigation Systems (CISs) in 17 municipalities benefiting 799 farmers, one Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) in the Municipality of President Rozas catering 180 farmers, one Communal Irrigation Project (CIP) in the Municipality of Maayon serving 932 farmers, two Pump Irrigation Projects in the Municipality of Pototan and Leon, Iloilo benefiting 33 farmers, and one Pump Irrigation System in the Municipality of San Lorenzo, Guimaras providing irrigation services to 23 farmers.

Under the National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NIS RIP), Irrigators Association (IA) Offices and Support Facilities were constructed for four IAs and 18 Pump Irrigation Projects for various municipalities in Iloilo Province.

“We are partners, the Irrigators Associations and NIA. Maaasahan n’yo po na one of my marching orders to our managers in the field is to get

rid of graft and corruption”, Administrator Visaya said.

“Sabi sa akin ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ‘Sa pagtulong sa ating mga magsasaka, gawin mo ang tama at kung ano ang legal’

I do not have doubt sa Region VI dahil nakita ko na ito ang region na may pinakamaraming projects. Ito ang marami nang nagawa. Walang report ng graft and corruption dito”, he added.



(President Rodrigo Duterte told me,

"In helping our farmers, do what is right and legal."

I don't have a doubt with Region VI because I saw that this is the region with the most projects. They have done a lot. There are no reports of graft or corruption here.)

Regarding the abolition of Irrigation Service Fee:

"Ang Free Irrigation Service Fee, wala pa po tayong batas para diyan. Gayunpaman, kahit wala pa tayong batas, we have already stopped collecting the Irrigation Service Fee from our farmers starting January 2017. Gagawin po nating batas iyan para kahit sino ang maging Presidente, ang ating irrigation poay magiging libre."



(We still don't have a law for the Free Irrigation Service Fee. However, despite having no law yet, we have already stopped collecting the Irrigation Service Fee from our farmers starting January 2017. We will make it a law so that whoever becomes President, our irrigation will remain free of charge.)

The said ceremonial mass turnover was attended by Judge Nery S. Duremdes as representative of Antique Governor Rhodora J. Cadio, Mr. Rhett Zerrudo as representative of Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary Atty. Hansel O. Didulo, Representatives from the Iloilo Provincial Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Housing Authority, Philippine Coconut

Authority, Department of Agriculture, Mayor Tomas Penaflorida of Pototan, Iloilo, Mayor Receliste L. Escolin of President Roxas, Capiz, and NISRIIP Project Manager Engr. Pete De Guzman.

NIA is also the proponent of Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project (PRBIDP) in Tapaz, Capiz. This project aims to build two Impounding Dams namely, Panay High Dam and Panay Afterbay Dam; Panay Right High Line Canal, Augmentation High Line Canal, Mambusao High Line Canal, and Sapien Floodway as major structure. NIA is hopeful in providing long-term solution to agricultural problems in Capiz, as well as mitigate the effects of perennial flooding. Other components include potable water supply and hydropower generation. 🏞️



Barbaza FIA Continues to Rise

By: Ann Gille G. Millamena, Research Assistant B,
Iloilo-Guimaras IMO, Region 6

Barbaza Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. of Antique continues to soar as it was once again recognized by National Irrigation Administration (NIA) for its exemplary performance in managing the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system and for its great contribution to the economic growth and food security program of the country.

During the NIA's 54th Anniversary Celebration which was held last June 23, 2017 at NIA Central Office, Diliman, Quezon City, Mr. Jose Mario Rico C. Magtulis, Barbaza FIA President, received a Plaque of Recognition as Third Runner-Up for 2016 Most Outstanding IA for Communal Irrigation System (CIS) Level. President Magtulis said that the joint effort and dedication of the Board of Trustees and members of Barbaza FIA brought pride to Antiqueños.

"Hindi dya namun madab-ot kung wara kami nag-ubra ka amun natungdan nga urubrahon" (We couldn't achieved this if we did not perform our respective duties and responsibilities), he said. *"Tungod sa pagburuligay kag pag-function ka kada sara ka miyembro ka asosasyon, kag pagdisiplina sa kada isara, amu ang nagpabaskug ka amun asosasyon asta sa nalab-ot namun nga mangin sara sa Outstanding IA sa pungsod"* (Each member did his/her share to function in the association, discipline made our association stronger which enabled us to become one of the outstanding in the whole country), he added. With the continuous growth of Barbaza FIA, Engr. Randy C. Alipis, NIA- Antique IMO Acting Division Manager, commended their performance for bringing pride to Antique. He also said that this will serve both a challenge and an inspiration to other IAs to cooperate and work harder to bring their IA on top.

"Hindi dapat kita mag-untat dyan kara, dapat padayunon natun papag-un ka atun IA para sa mga masunod nga hen-erasyon nga magasalo ka atun naumpisahan" (We should not stop here, we should continue to strive for the next generation who will benefit what we had started.), he said. *"Bahol nga dungog ang gintao ka Barbaza FIA bukot lang sa Antique kundi sa bilog nga Region VI, tungod anda gindara ang bilog nga Region para makilala sa bilog nga Pilipinas. Tungod dya kara, ako nagapasalamat kay President Magtulis, kaimaw kang ana Board of Trustees kag miyembro, sa wara untat nga pagsarig sa NIA"* (Barbaza FIA gives honor not only to Antique but for the whole Region VI, "I am very thankful to President Magtulis and the Board of Trustees and members for their continued trust to NIA"), he stressed. 🏆



*Third Runner-Up
2017 Most Out-
standing IA for
Communal Irriga-
tion System (CIS)*

*First Runner-Up
CARP-IC Most
Outstanding IA
in the whole
Philippines.*

*2016
Rice Achievers
Awards
under the
CIS category*





Con't. from page 7



IA Congress of MOMARO IMO with Acting Regional Manager Ramon A. Bugacia (Front: 5th from L) and MOMARO Acting Division Manager Lowell L. Lozano (Front: 4th from L).



IA Congress of Occidental Mindoro IMO with Operations Department Manager Romeo M. Lopez (sitting 4th from L) and Public Affairs and Information Staff Department Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez (sitting 7th from L).



Back-to-back win of Region 8: 2016 Rice Achievers Award for Outstanding Irrigators Association for CIS and NIS

By: Karen C. Mades, Acting Public Relations Officer, Region 8

The Rice Achievers Award is an annual search for Outstanding Irrigators Association (IA) that started in 2011. It aims to increase rice productivity and achieve rice self-sufficiency. It also gives credit to our farmers who are responsible for feeding all Filipinos. Indeed, their contribution to the country's food security is indispensable. The program also intends to capture the impact of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) rice program intervention, specifically, towards achieving rice self-sufficiency.

The major eligibility criteria for the P1.0 Million award are production performance vis a vis the previous year (2016), cropping intensity, and ISF collection efficiency. The criteria also include good farming practices, such as the use of high quality seed, good operations and maintenance (O&M), and financial and organizational linkages with other stakeholders.

For CY 2016, four IAs—two each for the National Irrigation System (NIS) and Communal Irrigation System (CIS) nationwide, were awarded. Special awards were also given to two deserving IAs, one each for NIS and CIS, with P100,000.00 and a trophy.

Hingatungan IAs, Silago, Southern, Leyte, bagged the coveted P1.0 Million cash award and a trophy. Virgelio T. Tosloc, President of Hingatungan IA, happily and proudly received the award. The long awaited award came after two years of hard work. Indeed, perseverance is a virtue. Hingatungan IA is a consistent top performer of Region 8. The key factors for the great achievement are as follows: (1) committed and dedicated leadership and supportive members, (2) strict implementation of policies, (3) convergence with LGUs, NGOs and GOs, (4) environmental concerns and climate change mitigation program, such as planting of mangroves along the coast and seashores of Hingatungan, and (5) attendance to trainings/meetings.

For the NIS, Kasaganahan IA was awarded a "special award" of being the 3rd placer among the six contenders. Hopefully, Kasaganahan IA with its very dynamic, dedicated and committed lady president, Ditas de la Peña will clinch the P1.0 Million cash award for CY 2017. The multi-awarded "Outstanding Farmer" herself, stresses that they are determined to achieve the award specially the five slots each for NIS and CIS that are at stake for CY 2017.

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, conferred the awards and also served as the Guest of Honor of the event held at the Philippine International Convention Center on May 23, 2017. Engr. Romeo G. Quiza, Regional Manager of NIA Region 8, received the recognition with great jubilation for the back to back win of the Outstanding Irrigators Associations from the NIS and CIS of Region 8, being a long overdue award he truly deserves.

With the unity, teamwork and convergence of the regional, IMO/ISO, irrigators associations, LGUs and other stakeholders, we hope to replicate this exemplary performance in CY 2016 with the CY 2017 annual search. 🏆



Hingatungan Irrigators Association, Inc.

NIA-UPRIIS STARTS TO YIELD FROM RMHPP

By: Maria Isobel F. Padolina, Public Relations Officer, UPRIIS

NIA-UPRIIS creates headway on renewable energy development with its mini hydroelectric power plant constructed in Rizal, Nueva Ecija. The power generated by the said project comes from the waters of the main canal of Pampanga River Irrigation System (PRIS) located on the same site.

The Rizal Mini Hydro Power Project (RMHPP) generates a total of 1,000 kw power supply whose commercial operation started on July 1, 2016. It was the first among the six identified sites in the service area of NIA-UPRIIS and a 234-million innovation project commissioned through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NIA and the Philippine National Oil Company-Renewables Corporation (PNOC-RC), a subsidiary of PNOC attached to the Department of Energy concerned with the promotion, research, and development of environment-friendly energy sources and

power systems. PNOC-RC sponsored and constructed the hydropower plant, including its appurtenant structures at no cost on the part of NIA. However, the full control of the water management of these irrigation systems will still be handled by NIA through the supervision of NIA UPRIIS Department Manager.

Under the MOA signed in November 2012, PNOC-RC shall pay NIA 4% of the gross income from the power plant operations.

The construction of the hydropower plants maximizes the use of water resources while mitigating project cost since NIA's facilities will be utilized and some tapping points on distribution lines are actually near to irrigation canals. Moreover, residents within the said area will be the beneficiaries from the power it can produce which can further improve their living conditions. 🏠

What is Hydro Power Plant?

Hydropower plants capture the energy of falling water to generate electricity. A turbine converts the kinetic energy of falling water into mechanical energy. Then a generator converts the mechanical energy from the turbine into electrical energy.

Dam. Raises the water level of the river to create falling water. Also controls the flow of water. The reservoir that is formed is, in effect, stored energy.

Turbine. The force of falling water pushing against the turbine's blades causes the turbine to spin. A water turbine is much like a windmill, except the energy is provided by falling water instead of wind. The turbine converts the kinetic energy of falling water into mechanical energy.

Generator. Connected to the turbine by shafts and possibly gears so when the turbine spins it causes the generator to spin also. Converts the mechanical energy from the turbine into electric energy. Generators in hydropower plants work just like the generators in other types of power plants.

Transmission lines. Conduct electricity from the hydropower plant to homes and business.

TBBMP II LAYS TIME CAPSULE

By: Edgar L. Ubaldo, Public Relations Officer, NIA-TBBMP

July 18, 2017, NIA-Campsite Brgy. Sula, San Jose, Tarlac

The NIA Tarlac Balog-Balog Multi-purpose Project Phase II (TBBMPII) marked another milestone on July 18, 2017 with the Laying of the Time Capsule of Tarlac Balog-Balog Multi-purpose Project. This significant event was attended by Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, Jr., NIA officials led by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, LGUs, Irrigators Association, project-affected families (IPs and ICCs), various government offices, including the military and the police, as well as the project contractor and its Chinese counterpart. With the leadership of Engr. Lauro E. Ballesteros, Project Manager of NIA BBMP, the construction of high dam and its appurtenant structures finally come into reality.

Pilipina P. Bermudez, Department Manager of the Public Affairs and Information Staff, served as the Master of Ceremony during the program. Guests, including Engr. Pio Benevidez of NPC, member of the NIA Board of Directors, in the presence of NIA officials, project contractors, Irrigators Association, and LGU officials.

Project Manager Ballesteros presented the project historical background, project objectives, and its various components. Meanwhile, NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya introduced of the Special Guest Speaker, Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, Jr.

Secretary Evasco, said the project was cited for taken an extensive time to be fulfilled. Several proponents of the project had already passed away, while some of them had retired beforehand. The Secretary also congratulates the NIA officials for exerting invaluable efforts for the continuance of the project, as well as the farmers for displaying perseverance in waiting for this project.

The Secretary conveyed the sentiments of President Rodrigo Roa

Duterte, who is truly blissful for the development of the Balog-Balog Project since it would consequently provide numerous livelihood opportunities and benefits to the farmers and inhabitants of Luzon, particularly in Tarlac.



As of the present, Tarlac Province has the lowest percentage in terms of irrigation development in Central Luzon. The Secretary also stated that it is now their duty (government) to make these commendable things happen and ensure that the project will meet its objectives that are aligned with the administration's promise of *"Tunay na Malasakit at Pagbabago Tungo sa Kaunlaran at Katiwasayan"*. He also emphasized *"Tapang at Malasakit"*, the propaganda line that was used during their campaign period.

Tapang – It is a mandate of executive officials, including the President, to protect the minds of the Filipino people, and protection means sheltering them from any threat on their

lives and properties. Tapang includes malasakit, the compassionate aspect of this administration, as they are not merely working for the benefit of the marginalized sectors of society.

Before the Secretary ended his speech, he encouraged everyone to be vigilant and monitor the progress of this billion-peso project and report any verified issue to the concerned agencies. Tarlac Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project is once a dream of every farmer in Tarlac, but it will be eventually turned into reality. 🏡



Bag-ong Paglaum FIA, Inc.: A Rollercoaster Ride No More

By: Ysnairin M. Manalac, Information Officer, Maguindanao IMO NIA Region 12

Faith, unity, perseverance, hard work, and obedience to policies – these are the qualities of Bag-ong Paglaum FIA, Inc. officers and members to become a top performing IA among the Irrigators Associations in the national irrigation systems of Maguindanao province.

Before it became one of the top performing IAs, Bag-ong Paglaum Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. experienced a rollercoaster ride in managing the affairs of the association. The IA rose and fell, and their tremendous effort to be a successful association is what this article is all about.

The Birth of Kabulnan RIS: The History of the Rise of Bag-ong Paglaum FIA, Inc.

Maguindanao province is known as the battleground between the rebel groups and the government's military troops, a place where many family feuds (rido) exist, and a dwelling place of most marginalized Muslim families. Thus, to address the plight of the province, the Philippine government, through the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), provided a sustainable project which started in 1991. This was the famous Kabulnan Irrigation and Development Project-Irrigation Component (KIADP-IC) which aimed to alleviate the poverty and improve the quality of life of the farming communities through irrigation and upgrading infrastructure facilities within the service area.

In 1995, while the construction of the project was on-going, the late Kamlon S. Ampatuan, Institutional Develop-

ment Chief, organized the farmer-beneficiaries in Barangays Kauran and Matagabong, all of Ampatuan municipality. At the start, 372 farmer-beneficiaries within 19 Turnout Service Area Groups (TSAGs) were identified. Of these, majority was Ilonggos and minority was Muslims.

With the assistance of the late Ali A. Kuit, Senior Water Resource Facilities Technician (SWRFT), the IA was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on July 20, 1995 as Pinasamba-Kauran FIA, Inc. with Registration No. DND95-000378. When the project became operational and known as Kabulnan River Irrigation System, the association headed by their president, Mr. Juanito Carcamo, was among the first IAs to plant rice. For the first time, the farmers experienced the comfort of planting rice that was brought out by sufficient irrigation water supply.

Bag-ong Paglaum: The Fall

In 2002, the association experienced a lot of hardships and problems in managing its activities. The IA contracted with NIA under Type I and II contracts. However, due to insufficient funds and low ISF collection, the said contracts were rescinded since the association was not able to sustain its plans and programs. Coupled with this, the siphon supplying irrigation water to the Right Bank IAs was damaged during the floods in 2008 and 2009. Hence, the farmers were not in the position to plant rice for three cropping seasons, rendering the association inactive for almost two years. With this, the farmers'

living condition was affected due to low income of both farmer-members and the association itself.

The rice fields became non-operational and the farmers were already losing their hope that they could still go back to their farming activities.

Bag-ong Paglaum: The Rebirth

In 2010, the association had undergone into a reorganization process while waiting for the repair of the damaged siphon. Kabulnan RIS reactivated and mobilized the association. Reorganization works were conducted and a new set of officers was elected. The officers and other members of the Board of Trustees underwent into the usual series of capability and development trainings, like Basic Leadership and Development Course, O&M Planning, Financial Management System, Systems Management Training, and Values Transformation Seminars. They also went on Technology Enhancement Trips or Lakbay-Aral to other national systems in the region in order to observe the best farming practices which they could adopt in their respective IA.

The newly reorganized IA was finally registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 13, 2010 with SEC Registration No. CN201026528 under its new name, Bag-ong Paglaum FIA, Inc. It was during this year when the farmer-beneficiaries and officers started to feel the benefits when the association entered into O&M contracts with the NIA.

The contracts signed by the IA and NIA were Type I and II that were effective on Wet Cropping Season of 2010. Later on, the Agency has another contracting program under the Irrigation Management Transfer. It was in 2012 that the IA entered into IMT contracts. Presently, the IA is under the IMT Model 2 with 11 Turnout Service Area Groups. The IA is now headed by its president, Mr. Nelson D. Colmo, and assisted by Mr. Datucan S. Anayatin, Senior Water facilities Technician, and Ms. Isidora P. Germo, Senior Irrigators Development Officer.





Efficient Management System

With the cooperation and unity of its members with the officers, coupled with the persistence and transparency shown by the officers to its members, the association's By-Laws and policies are effectively implemented. They are conducting a General Assembly meeting every second Wednesday of February, the regular Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting every first Wednesday of the month, and TSAG meeting held preferably once a month.

Furthermore, the intervention and tie-up with other government and private groups has helped a lot in providing more knowledge and enhancing the skills of the farmer-irrigators. Demonstration farms on Water Savings Technology, knowledge sharing, and learning with PhilRice and SIKAT-SAKA are some of the agency programs that provide modern farming technologies and assistance to the IA.

In terms of financial aspect, the association is consistently efficient in the collection of their Irrigation Service Fee. At present, the IA's crop yield increased from 80 to 90 cavans per hectare, resulting in the good payment on ISF. Under their previous Type I and

II contracts, the IA had the highest collection efficiency of 94.28% during the 2010 Wet Crop Season with an ISF collection share of Php119,632.66. Under IMT Model II Contract, the association has the highest collection efficiency of 78.04% with ISF collection share of Php399,242.92, wherein the biggest percentage went to the repair and maintenance activities of the IA.

However, with the free irrigation policy that is presently implemented, the IA now focuses on the collection of back accounts and in the operation and maintenance dues of the members.

Bag-ong Paglaum: The New Hope

Through hard work and determination to attain their goal, Bag-ong Paglaum FIA, Inc. is gradually known for its performance as one of the top performing IAs, not only in Maguindanao, but also in the regional level. This justifies several recognitions and awards that it has received for the past five years, being ranked within the Top 3 in functionality surveys, operation and maintenance, and institutional performances. The said IA also ranked 2nd in ISF collection efficiency for CY 2010-2015. Aside from this, the IA had

also received Silver and Golden Star Awards for the Highest Functionality Survey ratings of 92.83% and 95.21% for two consecutive years (CY 2014-2015) during the NIA Region 12's anniversary celebration. In addition, the IA has also been recognized for its remarkable performance in attaining 72.92% ISF Current Collection Efficiency (IMT Model II) for Wet Cropping Season 2015 at Maguindanao IMO Level.

Presently, the association caters 382 farmer-beneficiaries and it covers a firm-up service area of 979.50 hectares.

Deriving from its name, Bag-ong Paglaum, an Ilonggo phrase which means “new hope”, the IA believes that in every storm comes a new hope to live a brighter future. As their president said, “We may not have those machineries or other material things for operation at present, we are still certain that as long we have a strong faith and determination, we will always reap what we have sowed”.

Indeed, the association is truly hopeful that it would eventually reach the height of success, in the same way that the associations in other system have accomplished. 🏡

NIA breaks ground Pl.2 B irrigation facilities in Bohol

By: Anthony Alonzo, Public Relations Officer Designate, Region 7

Tagbilaran City, Bohol (PIA 7) – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the country's top agriculture-infrastructure agency, has broken ground for the P1.2-billion Small Reservoir Impounding Projects (SRIPs) that would boost Bohol's rice production in the region. NIA Administrator Ricardo Visaya and Boholano Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco led the locals and NIA officials in P595-million Benliw SRIP in Ubay, Bohol, and P620-million Bonotbonot SRIP in Buenavista last June 26, 2017. The said ceremonies completed the third revolutionary event in the locality under the Duterte Administration.

Last May 2017, NIA also broke ground its P725-million Cayacay-Mabini SRIP. Benliw SRIP relies on its water source from Pasanan Creek, and the water collected would served 400 hectares of rice fields in Ubay covering barangays of Benliw, Imelda, Cagting, and Sinandigan through its irrigation package. The irrigation system would directly benefit an estimated 600 farmers and their families.

The project brief showed that Benliw SRIP would submerge 5.6 square kilometers from its live storage capacity of 2.86 million cubic meters of water.



In fact, NIA 7 Regional Manager Engr. Modesto Membreve shared that the said water impounding project would also function as aquaculture, power generation, water supply, and soil conservation. A dam in the region would likewise help the communities in flood control and mitigation.

Ubay Mayor Constantino Reyes, who led local officials in welcoming NIA officials and farmer beneficiaries, has cited that the Benliw Dam would play a vital role in the town's poverty alleviation. Unused cogonal lands would be converted into rice fields that would strategically help in the attainment of rice sufficiency in Bohol, as Bonotbonot SRIP in the early afternoon of June 26 at Barangay Rufo Hill had already been inaugurated. Covering a catchment area of 12.96 kilometers,

the said small reservoir impounding project would benefit the farmers of Bonotbonot, Cangawa, Buga-ong, Bato, Sweetland and Lapacan Norte.

On the other hand, Cabinet secretary Leoncio Evasco pointed out that the government is not just responding to the needs of communities, but also putting up opportunities to grow economies, as cited in the provision of irrigation systems as a way of attaining rice sufficiency.

"With the establishment of these irrigation facilities, the farmers could now start adopting farming practices that are less reliant on the rain. The irrigation would increase the farmers' average harvest per hectare to 5,146 tons from the current 455 tons", Secretary Evasco said. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

JICA Preparatory Survey on MMIP-II

By: Salimbay A. Sangeban, Public Relations Officer -Designate, MMIP



JICA team poses with MMIP officials and field personnel at Batulawan Sub-office, Pikit, North Cotabato after the field visit before they leave for Cotabato City.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) a governmental agency that coordinates Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the government of Japan, chartered with assisting economic and social growth in developing countries, and the promotion of international cooperation, are currently conducting a preparatory survey for a project proposal formulation on Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (MMIP-II), which aims to assist the project in achieving optimal and diversified utilization of Malitubog-Maridagao Rivers in an effective and efficient manner and to identify and formulate individual project in giving better provision of water resources in terms of agricultural development and services on sustainable level.

Part of the preparatory survey, the JICA team conducted a field mission on May 11, 2017, visited several sites for both MMIP Phases 1 and 2, to validate the necessary scope of work, determine major issues to be appraised for environmental and social consideration and conduct discussions with relevant counterpart agencies along with discussing the relationship between the environmental, economic, and social aspects of the project which could form as a solid ground for major decision and action of the JICA Team.

The JICA team composed of Mr. Taro Katsurai, Deputy director, Southeast Asia Division 5, Southeast Asia and Pacific Department, JICA HQs, Ms. Remi Sekiguchi, Southeast Asia Division 5, Southeast Asia and Pacific Department, JICA HQs, Ms. Yuko Tanaka, Senior Representative, JICA PP Office, Mr. Jin Hirose, Representative, JICA PP Office, Mr. Ryo Inoue, Consultant (Economic and Financial Evaluation), Mr. Kosei Hashiguchi, Consultant (Team Leader/Irrigation Planning), Shu Nishimaru, JICA CPO Project Coordinator, and Hiroyuki Kawamoto, IMT. Ms. Alma S. Villaluna and Andrea P. Pagtulingan of NIA Central Office visited the barangays along diversion canal and Right Main Canal 1 (RMC1) of MMIP I, Main Canal 3 (MC 3) and Main Canal 2 (MC2) and lateral of MMIP II. They were accompanied by Acting Project Manager Engr. Ali S. Satol, Eng'g Division Manager Reynaldo M. Sarigumba, Admin and Finance Manager Camilo F. Alburo, MRIS Head Saleh P. Kabunto, personnel from technical and the PICs. The AFP, Local Police Force and MILF are also visible during the visit for security assistance.

After the site visit, the group proceeded in MMIP II Sub-office, Batuwalan, Pikit, North Cotabato to take pictures with the field personnel before they leave for Cotabato City.

The preparatory survey will continue in the different areas of MMIP as JICA will dispatch a survey team composed of member from SANYU Consultants Inc. They will make a series of field surveys/ feasibility study activities to see the viability of the project for the approval of the loan. The loan is intended for the expansion of MMIP II, including rehabilitation of MMIP I.



BOFIA 2nd Runner-up CARP Most Outstanding IA Awardee

By: Joelly Ann V. Morgado, Sr. Institutional Development Officer, CARP-IC



Baleguian Organic Farmer Irrigators Association, Inc. from Baleguian, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte has made it as the 2nd Runner-up in 2016 CARP Most Outstanding IA.

The CARP Outstanding Award is a national search for outstanding irrigators' association for their invaluable contribution to the agricultural sector which serves as one of the key elements in country's economic performance. IAs nominees were validated based on a specific criteria and Baleguian IA was validated last April 21, 2017.

The said criteria for the selection of national winners primarily include the character and values of the farmers, Operation and Maintenance Performance, Financial Performance, Organization and Organizational Discipline, Assistance Program/Agri-Support Services and Linkages with GOs, NGOs, and LGUs, Special Features, and their active involvement in the development of the community.

Baleguian IA received a cash prize of P30,000.00 and a plaque of recognition for IMO Manager, Salome N. Layasan, and Acting Regional Manager, Constancio G. Bana-ay, Jr. during awarding ceremony as part of the 54th NIA Anniversary Celebration at NIA Central Office Diliman, Quezon City on June 22, 2017.

Baleguian Organic Farmers Irrigators Association Inc. (BOFIA) maintained high cropping intensity and collection efficiency every cropping season through the collective effort of the IA BOTs and its members. It has a potential service area of 180 hectares with 105 farmer beneficiaries.

The IA was led by President Mr. Wenifredo S. Maldo, together with 9 Board of Trustees, in implementing their policies. The mutual respect and transparency among members and officers of the Irrigators Association contributed much to their success. BOFIA received assistance from other agencies and local government units that are supplementary to the awards that they have received from local, regional, and national levels.

As of 2016, the IA has purchased a half-hectare lot that will be utilized in supplying their members with different fertilizers in order to support the growth of the palay. They also have different machineries that were all given by Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Department of Agriculture (DA). NIA Caraga pledges to continuously monitor and maintain outstanding IA for better assistance and aid to the community and reinforce IAs with poor and fair result in IA validation of the Region. 🏡



By: Maria Theresa Empleo, Region 9, PRO

Senior Deputy Administrator Bagasin inks contracts with irrigators; joins groundbreaking ceremony of Sibuguey Diversion Dam

By: Maria Teresa Empleo, Public Relations Officer, Region 9

Imelda, Zamboanga Sibuguey – In time with the region's celebration of the 54th Founding Anniversary of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin graced the highlights of the event: a mass contract signing with the Irrigators' Associations (IAs) of National Irrigation Systems (NISs) during the opening ceremony at NIA Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur and a groundbreaking ceremony for Lower Sibugay II Diversion Dam in the afternoon in Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay last July 5, 2017.

Modified IMT Contract Signing

The opening ceremony which was attended by 68 IAs in the NISs, NIA employees across the region and some LGU dignitaries marked the beginning of the three-day celebration of the agency's founding anniversary observed at the regional level. Part of the said ceremony was the contract signing of all IAs mentioned, indicating the implementation of free irrigation as promised by the Duterte Administration. This free irrigation policy is reflected at the modified Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Program of NIA which NIS farmers

all over the region had entered into contract this morning. Although the guiding principle of the IMT program as cited in the NIA Chapter still applies – that is, to pursue improved irrigation system performance, irrigation service, and attain financial sustainability in the operation and maintenance of the National Irrigation Systems (NIS) through the transfer of NIS management, partially or fully, to duly organized IAs – the modification of the payment scheme is markedly effected to accommodate the said free irrigation policy. As a shared responsibility under the free ISF, NIA will subsidize the operation and maintenance (O & M) of irrigation canals for the NIS with a formula pegged at Php1,750.00 per section for the maintenance compensation with section defined as 3.5 km for cemented canals and 7.0 km for earth canals. For the operations compensation, the IA or the Federation will now be paid Php150.00/hectare for every irrigated and planted area cropping after complying with its responsibilities as stipulated in the contract. Unlike before, the region follows a NIA-IA sharing of 67/33, respectively, after the IA satisfies the collection efficiency target of the region. With the loss of such incentive, the IA may collect fees among its farmer-beneficiaries but

only as a fund raising activity within the IA, not as a financial responsibility to NIA.

"This is a new phase that we enter, we are very grateful to the Duterte administration and to NIA for their prompt implementation of this free irrigation. It is our hope that with this new policy, the IAs will thrive more in improving rice production as well as the farmer's quality of life", Romeo Abay, the Regional Federation IA President said.

Groundbreaking Sibuguey Diversion Dam

Following the mass contract signing, SDA Bagasin and party proceeded to grace the groundbreaking ceremony of the Sibuguey Diversion Dam located at Lumpanac-Gandiangan, Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay. Attended by IA and barangay officials, respective municipal mayors, representatives from the vice's and governor's offices as well as the head and staff of NIA Sibugay Management Irrigation Office (IMO), the said ceremony commenced with some words of welcome from the Municipal Mayor Roselyn V. Silva of Imelda and Municipal Mayor Jarvis M.

Acosta of Siay – the two municipalities within the project coverage.

The said project which was presented by Regional Manager Diosdado A. Rosales aims to irrigate a total potential area of 3,000 hectares covering 10 barangays, –Mirangan, Lagting, Bulacan, Salinding, Sibuguey, Longpod, Coloran, Labasan, Kimos, and Poblacion, –with 815 farmer-beneficiaries from both Imelda and Siay municipalities of the province. Manager Rosales discussed the diversion dam project specifications, coverage layout and the 5-year project development to all beneficiaries. Now on its 3rd year of project implementation, the Sibuguey Diversion Dam which has an allotted budget of 150 M for CY 2017 is a part of the Lower Sibuguey-II network and is a major installment in this big ticket project that started in 2014 and is expected to finish in 2019. The said 5-year project has a total cost of 750 M, along with the diversion dam also includes the construction of canal structures, service and access roads, drainage system, flood protection dike, and terminal facilities among others.

The ceremonial time capsule laying spearheaded by Zamboanga Sibugay IMO Head, Carlos A. Sabado marked the beginning of the construction of the Sibuguey diversion dam including the protection works and the fabrication and installation of electromechanical gates. The project is set to be completed on July 2018.

"This whole project has helped and will continue to positively and tremendously impact our farmers in Siay. In fact with the existing project in Siay, it has already allowed our farmers to compete with the existing rice market", said Siay Municipal Mayor Acosta in dialect.

Moreover, SDA Bagasin during his speech conveyed the message of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya on his staunch and strict stance on project implementation.

"Our Administrator is very strict in project implementation, the contractors and all parties involved must follow the standards", he said.

The new NIA Chief Ricardo R. Visaya has recently made known his 4-point

agenda which are **(1) eradicate graft and corruption, (2) institute measures to improve delivery of services, such as but not limited to, modernization of equipment for operations and project implementation, (3) strengthen NIA organization, and lastly (4) develop human resources and improve their capabilities.** He is also guided by President Duterte's principle, **"Do what is right and what is legal."** 🏢



SDA VISITS REGION 10; GRACES IMT CONTRACT SIGNING

By: Janeta G. Loroño, Public Relations Officer, Region 10

In his first appearance in the region, Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham Bagasin graces the signing of Modified Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) contract together with some irrigators associations (IAs).

In compliance with the Memorandum Circular No. 13 s. 2017 implementing guidelines on Free ISF policy, NIA Region 10 holds its 2nd Modified IMT Contract signing for the execution of said MC last June 8, 2017 at Valencia City and on June 9, 2017 at Bubunawan RIS, Baungon, Bukidnon.

There are 15 Irrigators Associations that entered into contract, five from Bukidnon Irrigation Management Office (IMO) and ten from LAMISCA IMO (6- MARIS; 4-BALRIS).

As of this writing, a total of 73 IAs had entered into contract signing with 58 IAs signed the contract on the 1st Modified IMT contract signing in Bukidnon IMO.

"IMT is the doorway for a better improvement in the operation and maintenance of the systems and similarly increases the income due to higher production", SDA Abraham Bagasin.

He said that IMT can greatly contribute to the physical and financial viability of the irrigation system.

As stipulated on the contract, the IA is responsible for the clearing of lateral canals and the operation and maintenance of the secondary irrigation structures and facilities in the system.

NIA will pay the IA the amount of Php 1,750.00 for every seven kilometers well-maintained lined canals, and the same amount will be paid to every 3.5 kilometers of maintained earth canal for six months period. Also, the agency will subsidize the IAs the amount of Php 150.00 every hectare planted for every cropping season.

The employees and farmer leaders gained assurance of support from the high ranking official. SDA Bagasin disclosed that "NIA will always be with the farmers in irrigation development and continue to support the IAs endeavor in the fulfillment towards food sufficiency and elevate the standard of living of the farmers."

NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Bagasin also joins NIA employees conduct the NIA's annual nationwide tree planting activity as part of the agency's anniversary celebration. 🌳

NIA to organize IP homeowners

By: Ramon C. Salvilla, Project Planning & Development Assistant, JRMP

As one of the preparations for the implementation of Iloilo's biggest irrigation project, the Jalaur River Multi-Purpose Project Stage II (JRMP II) form a homeowners' association for the 64 Project Affected Families (PAF) which will be relocated in Sitio Agburi, Cahigon, Calinog, Iloilo. The Cahigon Indigenous Peoples Homeowners' Association (CIPHOA) was conceptualized after series of meetings conducted with the PAFs for relocation from Sitio Bia-ong, Sitio Agburi and Sitio Agnati of Cahigon, which will form part of the submerged areas of the project.

During the orientation, Ruth Cely M. Jamelo, Division Manager of Institutional Development, emphasized the importance of establishing an association among the members of the community of the said resettlement site.

The association will not only unite the members of the community but can also aid them in formulating policies for their protection and improvement. *"It can be the bridge between the community and the programs of different agencies, both government and non-government, to effectively channel the delivery of the projects"*, Jamelo said.

"The association will play an important role in the community. Therefore, members should make it sure that the officials are responsible enough and are willing to perform their duties and obligations", she added.

Developing strategic ways to elevate the economic status of the relocatees by promoting the indigenous practices and ways of the community into a tourist attraction or making their products as potential business are possible.

The head of the family or partners are welcome to be members of the said association. During the drafting of the by-laws in January, the association envisioned a progressive community, happy, united, and a model

homeowners' association.

Members are entitled to participate in all the activities called by the association. They can also vote and are eligible for any elective or appointive position in the association.

Through NIA's convergence with other government agencies, the National Housing Authority (NHA), together with the project proponent, will fund the said relocation site. Series of consultations and meetings have already been conducted and the community were consulted in the design of the proposed houses.

JRMP II is the first large-scale reservoir dam outside of Luzon. It will provide year-round irrigation to 31,840 hectares of farm land and increase rice production. Also, its 6.6 megawatts hydroelectric power and bulk water component will augment the province's and city's demand for power and potable water. It will mitigate flooding in the municipality of Calinog and nearby municipalities. As of writing, NIA is awaiting for the completion of the international competitive bidding that will determine the project contractor. 🏗️



HOMEOWNERS. Project Affected Families (PAF) for relocation attends the conceptualization of CIPHOA

EDITORIAL

BREATHING LIFE TO AN IRRIGATION STRUCTURE

We spend millions or even billions of pesos yearly for the construction of irrigation systems. We measure our agency's accomplishment by canal length, the number of structures we have built, area generated, area restored, area rehabilitated, number of benefitted farmers, and the number of Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) MOA signed. These are all statistics, but behind the statistics are stories of people touched by these irrigation systems from feasibility studies to their operations - people were interviewed of their socio-economic status, people get employment, properties were acquired for ROW, negotiations between NIA and farmers, between contractors and farmers were unending.

And when the construction is finally completed, the system serves as a bathing pool, a wash basin of clothes and animals even before it reaches the rice fields from where their family income is sourced and from where every Juan, Juana, Juanito, and Juanita is fed. In the heart of every Filipino farmer whose land has been dependent on the kindness of the skies, an irrigation system brings HOPE that their dreams for their families will soon be a reality.

As irrigation stewards appointed either by our destiny or by the path we choose, dictated by our intelligence, let us be more steadfast, honest and sincere in the performance of our duties - that is from the integrity of our Feasibility Studies and irrigation designs, the quality of our constructions, the highest efficiency of our irrigation system performance to our genuine partnership with the farmer irrigators. We should contribute in the assurance that the irrigation structure reaches its life expectancy. After all, irrigation is not just an inanimate object built with billions of pesos by the employees of NIA and to be paid by Filipino generations to come.

For this issue of NIA Digest, move aside for a moment irrigation statistics and let us breathe life to an otherwise cold infrastructure. **IRRIGATION IS LIFE.** 🌾



Some farm practices

While most rice farms in the country are prepared and cultivated through a tractor, farmers in the area are among those that still utilize the Philippines' national animal. The locals call this as '*alluwang*', a land preparation practice of using carabao(s) in plowing their farms. A rope tied to the nose or neck of the carabao is held by the farmer in front to control the movement of the animal around the field as it tills the field until compacted soil is loosened.

In many instances, '*alluwang*' is done with more than one carabao controlled by a lone farmer. In the nearby baran-gay of Dacalan, Anti Mary can regulate four carabaos at the same time to till one ricefield. At her age, 58, she shares that she still does the field work because it keeps her busy and strong. '*Karo ak nga kumapsot nu hanak agtrabaho*, (I get weak if I do not work) she said.

Another land preparation practice is the '*ambaybay*'. This is the manual trampling of the soil with bare feet until rice stalks and weeds are shoved deep into the muddy soil to decompose. Anti Rosita, a community elder in Brgy. Gaang, shared that the land is more fertile and harvest is more plentiful when '*ambaybay*' and '*alluwang*' are employed.

During harvest time in July to August, Lubo farmers also practice the traditional use of '*gipan*' or '*rakem*' to cut individual palay stalks and then tie a half-grip size into '*betek*' or bundle. Because Lubo and its nearby baran-gays do not have drying pavements, palay bundles are hung in the '*araydo*'. These are layers of horizontally mounted bamboo poles set up in the ricefields where the palay are hung and left to dry for about three to four days. During this season, the exquisite arrays of '*araydo*' in the ricefields are a must-see.

If dry enough to store, the palay are then hauled to the rice granaries or, as the locals call them, '*alang*'. These are house-like structures, made of wooden slabs, hardwood posts and GI sheet roofs built within the rice terraces where the palay are stacked up in circular progression.

While Lubo has already two '*kiskisan*' or rice mills, some locals still practice the customary manual pounding of rice, usually near the rice granaries before they are brought home for consumption.

While the first crop takes longer time, harvest from the '*unoy*' rice is twice as much as the '*oyak*' and is tastier. The locals shared that when cooking, '*unoy*' is mixed to '*oyak*'. '*Unoy*' is also more preferable as it can be stacked up in the '*alang*' or rice granaries for more than two years.

In some instances, farmers do not plant for the second crop, particularly if harvest from '*unoy*' is plentiful and can feed the entire household until the next unoy harvest. Also, the '*oyak*' planting season is vulnerable to attack of the '*dangaw*' or rice bug, in which case, rice grains become empty. 🐛

The rice terraces of Lubo and other barangays of Tanudan are rich in stories and wisdom. They are made more beautiful by the customary yet practical and ingenious farm practices which are dutifully performed and shared with the men by the women, who in their own display of vigor and hard work, have helped keep the rice terraces alive, productive and truly worth the hundred likes and shares on today's social media.

Cropping Seasons



Kalinga women keep Rice Terraces alive

By: Mylene I. Malecda, Public Relations Officer, CAR

Tanduan, Kalinga—In the land of Lubo where the famous 'mambabatok' Apo Wang-od of Tinglayan got her arms inked and learned her craft of traditional tattooing, the women stand out in their vigor and hardwork. They play the major role in keeping the community alive with activity and sustaining agricultural productivity.

Lubo is composed of three barangays of Lower Lubo, Upper Lubo and Bab-banoy. From Tabuk City, it can be reached by a three-hour ride to the end of the accessible road. From here, women alight from a heavily loaded public utility jeepney and swiftly carry loads of household necessities to their homes by foot for more than an hour. For visitors, the downhill and uphill walk to the barangay proper will take about three hours or more.

We later learned from Anti Candia, our host for the night, that women actively participate in 'kumboy', the practice of carrying loads for someone for a fee and is usually done by young men and school boys in other areas. In Lubo, women of all ages do the 'kumboy' of construction materials of concrete houses and government infrastructure projects such as irrigation. The 'kumboy' for a bag of cement in Lubo costs about 200 to 250 pesos and this gets more expensive when the destination is a farther barangay such as Gaang or Dacalan. In a day, women can do 'kumboy' thrice or four times. Anti Candia is proud of her fellow women in the barangay but shakes her head in sadness for their welfare as she recounts some women who, after only four months of giving birth, were adamant in doing 'kumboy'.

Women of Lubo and its nearby barangays work as much as men do and sometimes, even more. Their picture-perfect rice terraces come alive through their diligent and active participation in all the farming activities.

The rice terraces of Lubo are irrigated by several communal irrigation systems (CIS), all NIA-assisted and gravity-type, with different springs and creeks as source of irrigation water. These are Duppa CIS, Addatong CIS, Pukong CIS, Mamaga Pinor-as, Bab-baw CIS, Lower Lubo CIS, Gumraang Magturong CIS, Korsang Addatong CIS, Bansar Gawayan CIS, Gawayan CIS, Alingag-atag CIS, Sao-atan Kadogway-an CIS and Lacsing CIS. These have a total aggregate irrigable area of 169.2 hectares.

Irrigation in Lubo

According to Brgy. Captain Johnny Lid-dawa of Barangay Upper Lubo, farmers have felt the benefits of concrete irrigation canals and facilities. Seepages are minimized so that irrigation water reaches the tail end areas of the rice terraces. Also, after typhoons, most canals are still intact unlike in the past when earth canals were easily damaged by rocks carried by strong water currents.

Practiced, after construction and/or rehabilitation, these Communal Irrigation Systems are turned over to Irrigators Associations (IA) for operation and maintenance. The IAs in Lubo are federated into Da-e Lubo Federation of IAs headed by its president, Mr. Francis Licoben.

Halina't pagmasdan ang luntang kabukiran
 Hatid nito'y sayo sa puso ninoman
 Pagka't bawat patak ng pawis na ating inilaan
 Ay butil ng palay sa ating hapag kainan.
 Ang mga butil na ito na ating kakainin
 Magsisilbing nutrisyon at magbibigay lakas satin
 Uprang sa araw araw ay ating palawigin
 Ang buhay at talino na kaloob ng Maykapal natin.
 Sa likod ng sipag at tiyaga ng ating mga magsasaka
 Ang irrigasyon na dumadaloy sa tulong ng NIA
 Basta't wastong patubig ang kanilang mairadala
 Ang ating palayan, malusog at masagana.
 Ang mga irrigasyong ito ang nagsisilbing daluyan
 Ng tubig na bumubuhay sa ating kabukiran
 Ating ingatan, patatagin at pangalagaan
 Pagka't kapag sila'y nasira, appektado ang ating mga palayan.
 Mahalaga ang irrigasyon sa ating kabukiran
 Dulot nito'y wastong tubig na kinkailangan
 Dahil kung ating mga magsasaka ay aasa sa ulan
 Masagana ang ay walang kasiguraduhan.
 Kaya't atin sanang mapagnilay nilayan
 Ang irrigasyon at buhay ay sadyang may kaugnayan
 Sapagka't ang irrigasyon ang buhay ng ating kabukiran
 At ang masagana ang an, ang sasagip sa buhay ng sambugayan.

NI: Marie Vi D. Manuel, NIA-MARLIS Division

Irigasyon at Buhay



Nasirib nga pangulo, mangbukel kenka
Dimiteng ka ditoy daga, tapnon agserbika
Nataraw nga panunot, narimat a parmata
Maka-alino a langa, takder mo kasla prinsesa

Nainaw ka iti sirib, iti saklot ti panunot
Nagpuyatan naka, adu a pannubok
Nagpasikal, nakarikna iti ot-ot
Rigat ken pinagitured, napno iti anos

Naipasngay ka iti baro nga agsapap
Imkis dagiti salaplingaw, gapu iti ragsak da
Addaytan ti inumen ken digos, inkananta da
Nagtayab da iti tangatang, kasdala agsasala

Nabang-aran ti pangulo, nakarikna iti ragsak
Matungpalen ti nabayagen nga arpaap
Timakder, timnangad iti ngato
Nalaos a panaggyaman iti Diyos Apo

Nagikkis ken nagpukkaw, inwaragawag na
Agतालतल addaytan iti padanun, agsagana ka
Dimo kuma pasaktan, dungdungwen kuma
Daytoy nga umay, ibilang mo kuma a kas asawa

Irigasyon ti nagan mo, inbunlag na
Sika iti naka-ibukbukan ti namnama ti baro nga agsapap
Sika iti saranaay ti rigat ditoy rabaw ti daga
Kinakurapay parmeken na a sipidigsa

Iti kinabayag mon, napasnek a serbiso
Saanen nga mailibak ti langa iti kina baket mo
Mailasinen dayta durim a killo-killo
Manglapped ita tubbog ta susom a kas diru

Umisem ka irigasyon, ket tumangad ka
Naipasngayen iti baro nga agsapap
Ti espiritua ti pangulo a nangputar kenka
Simrek iti puso ken panunot, iti pangulo nga agdamap

Adtoy ita ti tao, naggapu iti amiana a probinsya
Natakneng ken natured a probinsyano Cardo ti nagan na
Baklay na dagiti armas, mangpapintas kenka
Tapnon sam-it ta dirum, naan-anay ti panagayos na

Agragsak ka irigasyon, agragsak ka agतालतल
Dungngo ken pannagibi, manen malak-am mo
Umisem ka Pilipinas, ni irigasyon nga anak mo mapapintas
Babaen iti regta, anos ken ayat ni pangulo ken ni
Cardo a managayad

“Irigasyon ken iti Biyag”

By: Elipidio P. Lamug
LAOAG-VINTAR RIS
Federated President - LAVIBASA Fed. IA, Inc.
Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

Hele sa Duyang Luntian

Ni Danielle Parian-Pijuan
Public Relations Officer C, NIA Region 6

Isang dipang lupa aking isasaka
Mumunting paa mo'y nakahulma
Sa putik at damong
Huhukayin, aararuhin, sasaburan
Ng punlang huhubog sa iyong kinabukasan.
Para sa iyo ay isang laro
Ang pagsuyod ng araro
Sa ilalim ng init at ulang
Dala ng nagbabagong mundo.
Kung dati ay kendi at tinapay lang
Ang nagbibigay ngiti sa iyong maamong mukha,
Ngayo'y hindi mabayaran ng kendi
Ang diplomang magtatakda
Ng mga batang na iyong tatahakin
Patungo sa pangarap na nais mong marating.
Isang hakop ng binhi
Ng aking pagsisikap
Tutubot aanihin ang ating pangarap.
Isang balde ng pawis at hirap
Hindi mabayaran
Dahil sa butil at tubig ko lang
Naaninag ang iyong kapalaran.

"Ang NIA at MAGSASAKA,
magkakatwang sa GINAWA"

Dena Roje C. Tabocola
Sr. Accounting Processor, R6
"WINNOWNING THE CHAFF"

NEW UPRIS' DAM SET TO SPUR IRRIGATION AND FARMERS' LIVING

By: Maria Isabel F. Padolina, Public Relations Officer, UPRIS

The Upper Tabuating Dam was constructed at a cost of more than 750 Million to catch water from the Tabuating River and Pakanang Kabayo Creek and irrigate 700 hectares of rice lands. The project is expected to be done by the end of this year under the supervision of Division III Manager, Engr. Jose Ariel G. Domingo.

This Upper Tabuating Project is only one of the several irrigation projects of UPRIS that will be operating in the coming years as it began to take a major step in building more reservoirs to achieve its goal of providing a more efficient and sufficient irrigation for our farmers.

The new and soon-to-be completed Upper Tabuating Small Reservoir Irrigation Project of NIA-UPRIS has heightened hopes for the farmers and residents of Brgy. Nazareth in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija. In full capacity, the zone earthfill dam will hold 4.96 million cubic meters of water. It has a dam height of 25.56 meters and a crest elevation of 107.50 meters. Over the years, farmers in the area have had a hard time in growing their crops since they only depend on rain fed agriculture.

With the new dam, about 350 farmers can use the water for irrigation. The Irrigation Project which started in January, 2014 primarily aims to develop the full potential of the impounded water for irrigation, fish culture, flood control and better food production.

During the construction of the dam, the project provided employment opportunities for the community. Some participated in the construction process and carried out tasks, such as ferrying stones for constructing the dam wall, conservation of the watershed area, and other labor works.

Once completed, the project will help boost and improve the living conditions of not only the farmers of Baran-gay Nazareth but also the farmers of Brgy. Bago and Rio Chico of General Tinio and Brgy. San Mariano of Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija.

UPRIS Department Manager Engr. Florentino R. David said, "We didn't have good rains this year but we believe that through the implementation of the right irrigation projects and proper water management, there is still a potential to improve the quality of lives of our farmers in the future."



Dam Site View



Watershed Area



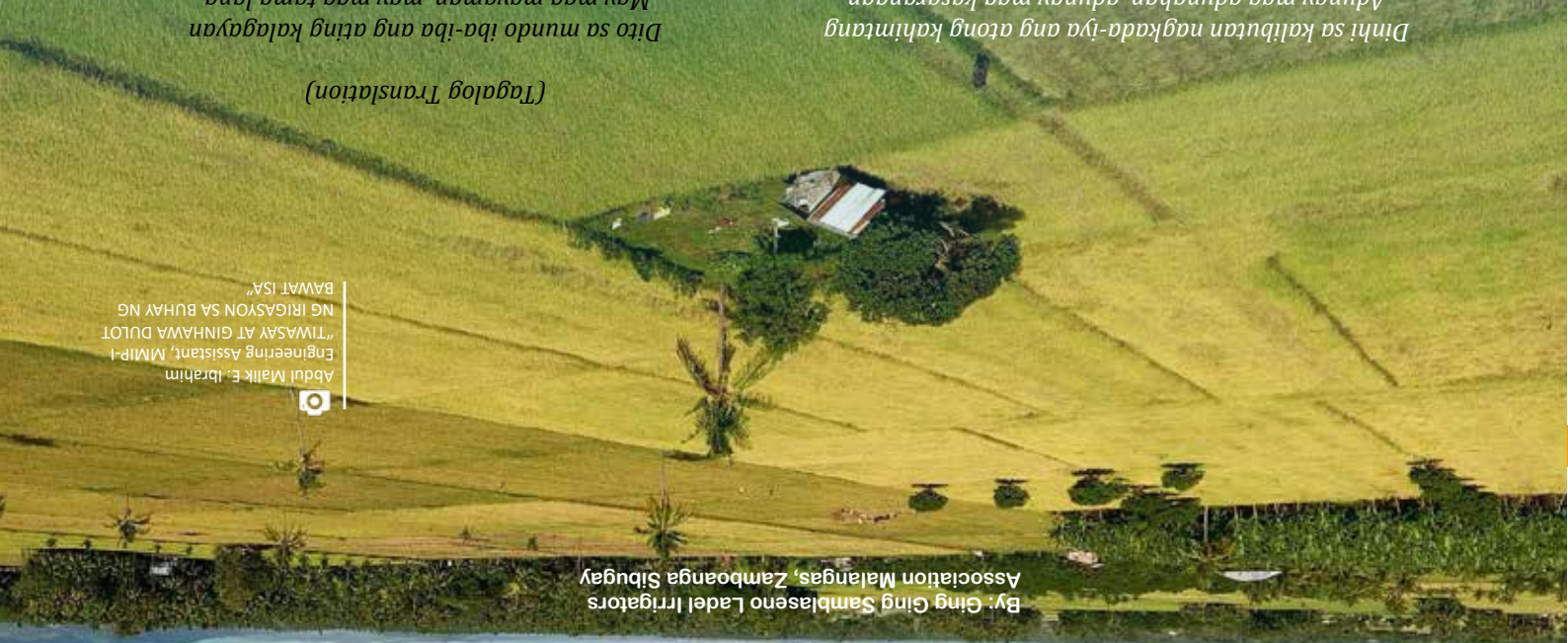
Spillway Area

TAGA-NIA GIKAUBAN TA

By: Ging Sambiaseno Ladel Irrigators
Association Malangas, Zamboanga Sibugay



Abdul Malik E. Ibrahim
Engineering Assistant, MMIP-1
"TIWASAY AT GINHAWA DULOT
NG IRIGASYON SA BUHAY NG
BAWAT ISA"



(Tagalog Translation)

Dito sa mundo iba-iba ang ating kalagayan
May mga mayaman, may mga tama lang,
Pero karanihan sa atin ay mga maralita
Sapagkat sadyang guhit ng kapalaran

Oo at iba-iba ang ating pangkabuayan

May mga nagtatrabaho sa gobyerno
Ang iba ay may mga establisemento

Yung iba nagne-negosyo at ang iba manggagawa nito

Tayong mga magsasaka

Ang baba ng tingin nila

Pero hindi nila iniisip

Na kung wala tayong gutom ang kanilang sinapit

Ang programa ng gobyerno ay matagal ng andyan

Pero mga empleyado nasa opisina lang

Hindi katulad ngayon, mga taga-NIA kasama natin

Pati mga IDOs na sige ng nagmo-monitor sa atin

Kay ganda ng asosasyon na mayabong

Mga taga-NIA masaya at may ipagmamalaki pa

Mga programa ng gobyerno ay maunlad

Marami pang premyo aming matatanggap

Isa lang ang masasabi ko bilang isang magsasaka

Kung walang NIA, kahirapan ay magpapataloy pa

Pero andito ang buhos ng proyekto sa irigasyon

Na pangako naming aalagaan sa mahabang panahon.

Dinhi sa kalibutan nagkaka-iba ang atong kahimtang

Adunay mga adunahan, adunay mga kasarangan

Apan kung buot sumahon pobri ang pinakadaghan

Kay mao kami lagi ang badlis sa kapalaran.

Tuod nagkalain-lain ang atong panginabuhian

Adunay nanarbaho sa kagamhahan

Ang uban adunay mga buhatan

Ang uban nag-negosyo ug ang uban mamumo-o.

Kitang mga mag-uuma

Ubos kayo ang panglantaw nila

Apan wala nila hunahuna-a

Nga kon wala pa ta, nangapasmong na sila.

Ang programa sa gobyerno dugay ng naa,

Apan ang mga empleyado naa ra sa opisina.

Dili sama karon, nga taga-NIA guikabanta,

Ug mga IDOs nga kanunay nag-monitor sa atoa.

Pagkaniindut sa asosasyon na mauswagon

Mga taga NIA malipayon ug magarbohon

Ug ang programa sa gobyerno malamboon

Daghan pang mga premyo atong pagdawat.

Usa ra gayud ako maingun isip usa ka mag-uuma

Kung wala ang NIA, ang kalisud gapadayun pa,

Apan ania kining mga gibubo na proyekto sa irigasyon

Nga among isaad na ampingan sa dugayng panahon.



SANDULOT IA: A Lasting Partnership

By: Shimel M. Ramos – Public Relations Officer B, Region 7

Strengthening participatory approach and people empowerment concept, our farmers were given active involvement in the decision-making process, as well as sharing of benefits and responsibilities in the Irrigators Association.

other irrigation maintenance activity every 1st Tuesday and last Tuesday of the month to maintain and ease the water delivery on their irrigation system.

The association has also gained a grant from the Philippine Germany Foundation (PhilGer). The IA offers lending “inputs” and “cash” with a very reasonable interest to all IA members. A financial support strategy to help increase the members’ productivity and income.

Forty strong years of serving 133 active farmer members with an irrigable area of 45 hectares, the Sandulot - Station Negros Irrigators Association, Inc. (SSNIA) is a living legacy of the National Irrigation Administration’s drive to advance farmer’s quality of life.

By 1985, members initiated a mortuary assistance program. To aid the bereaved IA family member, all farmer beneficiaries are entitled to contribute Pph 10.00 with 1 sack of palay support from the general funds of the federation. To date, the mortuary is now open to non-IA member with 136 members.

members).

Way back 1970, the SSNIA has practiced “Dagyaw” commonly known as “bayanihan”; The IAs with their family members are voluntarily conducting clearing, manual canal silling and

On the same year, the association has also come up with a program of giving cash awards and medals. “*Amua usab gidasing ang mga kabataan-unan nga mupadayon sa ilahang pagskwela*” (We also encourage our younger generation

to continue their education), Pres. Rados added. Given to top 3 performing students of Sandulot Elementary School, SSNIA counterpart with medals and cash of Pph 600, Pph 500 and Pph 400 in support and inspiration to the youth in pursuing education.

Before the commencement of free irrigation service, one in developing partnership among its members during its Christmas party, they are also conducting a raffle activity using the IA members’ receipt of amortization payment. The lucky winner will get a sack of rice from the association. This is also their means in monitoring the members’ prompt payment of dues for the systems’ operation and maintenance.

The enthusiasm of SSNIA officers and members also helped the agency strive hard in improving farmers’ socio-economic status and its quality of life. Providing excellent irrigation service, and continuous training to our farmers will always be NIA’s vow.

The association urged all the IAs nationwide to serve the organization with its members to help maintain the irrigation systems and its farmer beneficiaries.



Masagana ng Buhay hatid ng Irigasyon

NI: Jane B. Huqueriza, Public
Relations Officer A, Caraga

Kung ang katumbas ng butil ng palay ay "Buhay"
At ang palay na binubuhay ng tubig,
Kung saan dumadalo sa palayan
na kung tawagin ay "Irigasyon";

"Irigasyon at Buhay" kailanma'y magkarugtong,
na pinagtitiibay ng aheniya at asosasyon.
Dumaan man ang ilang taon,
ito ay lalong pinatataag ng magandang pundasyon.

Kung ang dulot ng irigasyon ang
masaganaang produktos,
ani ng magasaka'y malaking
tulong sa ating populasyon.
Marami mang pagsubok ngayon,
kooperasyon lang ang tangling solusyon.

Pagkat ang buhay na dulot ng irigasyon,
ang pangunahing direktiba at aksyon,
upang mabigyan ng masaganaang buhay ang
bagong henerasyon.



The sawaga-simaya cis: Golden Basket

By: Joana/ Emmanuelle Ronquillo, Data Encoder, Bukidnon IMO, Region 10

Everyone wants to survive and succeed in life. Everyone has its own way of achieving that elusive fate, but for Mang Roberto, there's no other way but to emulate the formula: Hardwork + Service to others = Success.

Being the staple food of Filipinos, rice production is an essential aspect in the everyday life of farmers in the Province of Bukidnon which is the food basket of Mindanao. It is a major source of rural employment and livelihood of farmers in the area.

The story of Mr. Roberto S. Tumangday, Sr., President of LASSCIA (The Lalaan Sawaga Simaya Communal Irrigators Association) in Malaybalay City, serves as an inspiration to other farmers.

Migrated from Panay Island to the Province of Bukidnon on February 24, 1957, he was raised by his hardworking parents through farming. He started to till a 3.5 hectare rice field at the age of 14 with the help of his parents and co farmers through bayanihan. It helped him cover the needs for his studies but not enough to sustain the needs of their family. At an early age, Manong Roberto realized how hard it is to work for a living.

Due to lack of irrigation facilities in their community, he decided to give up farming and endeavored other opportunities after he graduated in 1967, Roberto then worked as a filing clerk on a private company.

When he married Erlinda, he realized that his income is not sufficient to provide for his growing family. In 1991, Mang Roberto opted to go back to farming.

Fortunately, when NIA came, it opened an opportunity for the community to have irrigation facilities. It gave people high hopes for a better life.

Mang Roberto, a father of nine, became the highest yielder in their community and because of his dedication to farming, he succeeded on his chosen endeavor where he was able to provide a stable life for his family, sent his children to school, acquired agricultural machines and expand his farm lands.

The Sawaga – Simaya Communal Irrigation System which Roberto S. Tumangday, Sr. heads covers three barangays of Malaybalay City, Bukidnon namely: Linabo, Violeta and Simaya. The association was organized and primarily structured to manage and

operate the Irrigation System. It has a Firmed-Up Service Area (FUSA) of 615.07 hectares Irrigated area for CY 2016 was 615.07 hectares with a cropping intensity of 200%. Irrigated area compromised of rice only.

Mang Roberto who is now 69 said that irrigation has taken a wider step in improving farming, it provides water efficiency, greater certainty with production and enhance the economic viability and environmental sustainability of irrigated agriculture.

The growth of the nation is deeply connected to the well-being of the farmers and the productivity of farming. Farmer empowerment therefore is a priority for the government that intends to push our nation to greater success where NIA remains committed to be effective and reliable in a bid to further improve farmers' quality of life. Every farmer's success is also NIA's success.



Mr. Roberto S. Tumangday, Sr., President of LASSCIA



Aileen G. Bahia
PRO, RAB

MAGKASA IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.: A Reflection of Farmers' Resiliency

By: Karen C. Mades, Acting Public Relations Officer, Region 8

MAGKASA Irrigators Association (IA), Inc. is a beneficiary of Pong-oy Dos Leyte. It has 140-hectare service area at Brgy. Pong-oy, San Juan, Southern Leyte. It covers the three barangays of Pong-oy, Minoyho, and Osao.

The Irrigators Association

MAGKASA IA, Inc. was organized in 1988 and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 1989. At present, it is composed of 124 farmer-beneficiaries, 100% of which are registered IA members. The association managed by 13 Board of Trustees (BOTs) headed by Mr. Norberto T. Caca, Jr., IA President.

NIA to IA

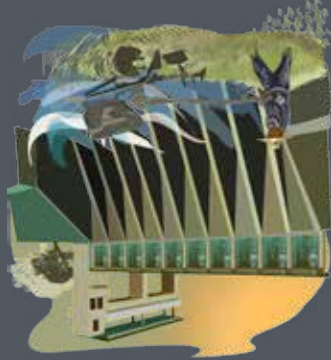
The irrigable areas of Pong-oy Dos CIS are within the plains on the foot of Mt. Cabalian. These areas were previously devoted to sugarcane. However, with the construction and completion of Pong-oy Dos CIS in 1997, the farmers slowly but continuously converted their cane fields into rice fields. The irrigated area both in the dry (May to October, 2017) and in the wet seasons (November to April) was 140 hectares with a cropping intensity of 200%. The capability-building activities given to the IA, such as Pre-Membership Education Seminar, Basic Leadership Development Course, Financial Management System, System Management Training, Strategic Planning and Policy Formulation, and Gender Sensitivity Training, contributed in the development of the officers and members, and thus the sustainability of the association.

The BOTs closely supervise the implementation of O&M policies, such as cropping calendar, planting pattern, and water distribution plan. One of the notable attitudes of the farmers of the Magkasa IA is their resiliency to new farming technologies introduced in their area. Thus, the knowledge, skills and experiences that they have gained made the system operations efficient, contributing to the increase in average yield. Before the project, farmers could harvest an average of 60 cavans of palay per hectare as compared in 2017 average rice yield of 202 cavans per hectare. The IA officers, however, pointed out that the increase in yield this year was due to the high-yielding technology adaptation (HYTA) introduced by the DA-LGU to the Magkasa IA. Furthermore, the IA continues its good practices, such as monthly conduct of General Assembly Meeting, BOT/Officers' Meeting, clearing, maintenance repairs of canals and irrigation structures, volunteerism in the conduct of canal clearing, minor repairs, and system maintenance. These practices have also been recognized by the Department of Agriculture and Department of Agrarian Reform which opened the door for opportunities and assistance to the Magkasa IA, such as incubators for "balot" making, short course on mushroom production, laboratory, equipment, utensils and materials for mushroom production, hand tractor, and threshers.

IA's responsibilities and good practices

The Magkasa IA, being a good steward of Pong-oy Dos CIS, showed the importance of irrigation to farmers in improving the agricultural productivity and farmers' income. The IA's sincerity and determination led other agencies to give trust and establish linkages to the IAs which help to uplift the farmers' quality of life.

Fruit of IA's labor



Ang Banyuhay sa Pagapit ng Bukang-Liwayway

Ni: Jostias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant, NIA PAIS-CO

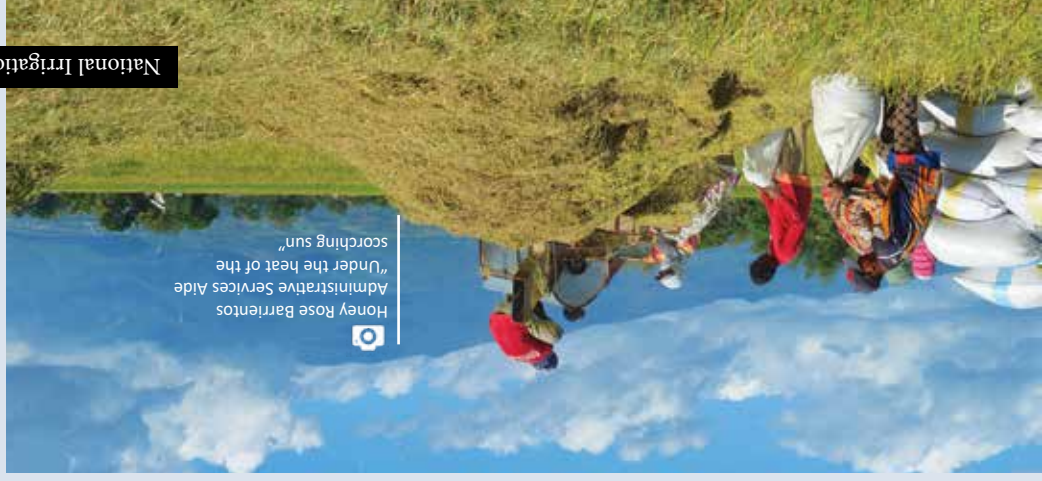
Perlas ng Silangan ang ibinagsang kasaysayan Sa agrikultural na bansang pinuspos ng kayamanan Ng kalikasang humahalik sa paraiso ng kalaangitan Na pinakistap ng araw at dalisay na katubigan.

Itinuturing bilang daloy ng buhay at kasaganaan Sa mahalagang salik na ginagampanan sa kasalukuyan Ng mga pananim at halamang isinasagaw ng kapatagan, Warty'y hinahagkan ng hangling nagmumula sa silangan.

Hindi matatawaran ang kontribusyon sa kanilaran Ng mga dakilang magsasaka bayani ng kabuhayan; Nagstisilbing daan sa kalinangan ng pamayanan, At tulay na makapagbubuklod sa mga mamamayan.

Ang banyuhay sa pambansang ekonomiya'y masisilayan, Pinaigting na pangangalaga sa kalikasa'y mapangangasibwaan;

Mapag-usbong ang mga ginintuang binhi ng kasipagan Sa pagsapit ng bukanng-liwayway ay tuluyang masasaksihan.



"Ang NIA at magsasaka magkakatwag sa GINHAWA"

Indigenous farmers: Ibato-Iraan SRIP fruitful effect

By: Daryle Cayao-Camara, Data Encoder, Palawan IMO, Region 4B



"From far away, he saw a life, full of despair and tearful eyes, all is asking for hope and a golden life. A miracle comes to lead them right."

Aborian, Palawan - In the midst of the land, 68 kms from the city, the smiles of Tagbannas have finally shined when NIA Palawan IMO Division Manager Conrado V. Cardenas, Jr. decided to start the Ibato-Iraan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) on April 2, 2014. Tagbannas are the indigenous people of Ibato-Iraan.

Ms. Linda Ombe, an indigenous farmer, is one of the Board of Directors (BOD) of Ibato-Iraan Farmers Irrigators Association (FIA), Chairman of Turnout Service Area Group (TSAG), Member of Palawan IMO Ibato-Iraan Lakas Kababaihan. She is living at Brgy. Sagpagan, Aborian since birth.

Public utility vehicles rarely pass from her place, hence, they were forced to walk about 5 kms to reach retail stores to buy their basic needs. This also means she has to walk several miles to fulfill her duties as a member of IA. Even though life was difficult for Ms. Ombe, her eagerness to help never withered. For her, enduring all the struggles is a must.

"Masaya ako kahit maraming trabaho at nakakapagod kasi nakakatulong ako

sa mga kapwa kong nitibo", said Ms. Ombe during an interview.

But Ms. Ombe, including all other natives of the municipality, saw the light as the construction of Ibato-Iraan SRIP was realized. As the project continues, the Tagbannas constantly achieved prosperous life.

The term Ibato-Iraan pertains to the two rivers of Brgy. Sagpagan where two dams are situated. These dams are Iraan Reservoir Dam located in Iraan River and Ibato Diversion Dam located in Ibato River.

Ibato-Iraan SRIP consists of two projects - Ibato Diversion Dam and Ibato-Iraan Reservoir. It has a poten-



"Nagpapasalamat ako sa patubig at pagtatrain ng NIA dahil naging masagana ang amining buhay", expressed Ms. Ombe.

NIA is not only focusing on irrigation projects but also in improving the lives of its farmer beneficiaries. Since the area is highly rich in rattan and bamboo, the agency took this advantage to conduct various livelihood trainings like rattan making, bamboo and coconut-based furniture making, training on high value crops, training on Dapog method and harvest festival.

to the indigenous tribe.

farmers of which 28 members belong presently accumulated 91 registered only operational project which has Currently, Ibato Diversion Dam is the namely Sagpagan, Iraan, and Isaub. gays from the municipality of Aborian could benefit 425 farmers in 3 baran-

Ms. Ombe proved that indigenous people can be a partner of NIA in promoting irrigation development of the province as well as the country. Now, Ibato-Iraan FIA continues to provide skills to its members and services for the farmer members.



THE SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION DIGEST

IRIGASYON AT BUHAY

www.nia.gov.ph

Irrigation has changed Philippine rural landscape throughout the years as it continually provide farmers throughout the country, irrigation systems that tap the country's water resources to irrigate farm lands which help in increasing their farm yields, increasing farmers family income thus improving quality of life. A better and brighter life for the Filipino Farmer. As our mantra in NIA "ANG NIA AT MAGSASAKA, MAGKATUWANG SA GINHAWA". As of 2016, NIA has a firmed up service area of 1,855,982 hectares benefiting 1,070,448 farmers and their families.

ABOUT THE COVER
Hailed as the Champion for Mobile Category in the 1st NIA Photography Contest, "Equitable Sharing of Irrigation Water" portrays the mandate of the National Irrigation Administration in securing the comprehensive development, conservation, and utilization of water resources for household consumption, municipal use, power, and irrigation --- the endless flow of water current that binds the archipelago, economic wealth, and nation's equity altogether.
Alger Pascual, CMIPP II

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