

NIA DIGEST

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EDITORIAL

Change is inevitable. *"It is the only constant thing in the world,"* the sages and wise men will say. And true enough, in this fast-paced era where technology and knowledge are literally on our fingertips, we need to accept and embrace change. Come to think of it: without a movement – a simple push or pull, a nudge, a shake – an object will never arrive to another place. Besides, change is another word for progress.

In the past few months, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) underwent a lot of changes. Significant movements were felt within the organization from the top down the line. Policies were revised, if not scrapped. A major shakedown happened, so to speak. But these changes in the agency are not to be taken negatively. The NIA, through the able leadership of Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, is now just on a Launchpad preparing its take-off towards new heights.

The organizational changes that have been undertaken are in line with the administration's aim to beef-up and improve the machinery that is critical in the efficient delivery of irrigation services to farmers. As of writing time, Dr. Padernal targets to finalize a machinery in six months that will boost the operational prowess of the agency.

Policies in connection with project implementation are also being reviewed to lay down a faster process that will ensure quick impact in the grassroots level and to quickly increase the irrigated area in the country.

Institutional development practices and policies are also being looked into to create a stronger relation between the agency and farmers. Capability building modules are reviewed to be more appropriate to the current needs and context of Irrigators Associations.

The agency, through different convergence initiatives, explores on different avenues and pursuits to improve not just the state of irrigation in the country but also the lives of farmers. Programs in partnership with other private and government agencies are maximized to propel the service for the primary stakeholders in the agriculture sector – the farmers.

All these changes are just part of the tip of the iceberg representing NIA's vision for the farmers. There is a lot to come. One thing is for sure, though; amidst these changes, NIA is still anchored on a constant, never-changing perspective: its commitment to improve the lives of farmers and to contribute in the country's agricultural productivity.



URIP: A Dream Come True

By: Laarni Tizel S. Lawas, PRO, URIP

"We have been dreaming of irrigation since 1975 and now this dream is coming true,"

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

said Barangay Captain Jimmy R. Ramos, of Magaud, Loreto, Agusan del Sur where a consultation program was held on July 15, 2014 participated in by Umayam River Irrigation Project (URIP) personnel, Farmers' Associations of the municipalities of Loreto and La Paz, District II Representative Evelyn P. Mellana, and other provincial and municipal officials.

Before the consultation program, Cong. Mellana, together with La Paz Mayor Ambrucio O. Lim, visited the URIP field office and listened to URIP Engineering Division Manager Wilfredo C. Manuel as he briefed them regarding the project. The same presentation was also given to the farmers during the program.

In her message, Mellana said that Agusan del Sur was considered one of the poorest provinces in the country in 2012 and one factor for this is its lack of irrigation. "Ours is the largest Province in Mindanao, yet has the smallest number of irrigation (projects)," she said.

In line with this, she expressed her confidence that *"NIA will do its job with the right expense of time and with the appropriate financial support."*

Addressing the farmers she said, "I have faith and trust that the farmers will cooperate and do their share also."

The consultation program also became a venue for farmers to raise their questions regarding the project. One farmer from the Magaud Farmers' Association inquired if the project would be able to irrigate their farmlands in 2015. *"The dam needs to be finished first to start irrigation and it is expected to be finished within 848 calendar days,"* Engr. Mario Guerrero, URIP Principal Engineer C, said. "Most probably, all the laterals and main canal will be completed in 2015," he added.

He also addressed the inquiry from a representative of the Waloe Manobo Farmers' Association regarding the promised jobs for the locals. He said that when the contractor is on its full operation, laborers will come from the locality.

Participants parted ways with hope in each one's heart: hope that support from the LGUs will not be put in vain; hope that NIA would finish the project as planned and ultimately give the farmers the right service due to them; and hope that farmers, in three years time, would receive abundant irrigation water for their lands, hence making their dreams come true.★



Engr. Mario R. Guerrero, URIP, Principal Engr. C answers the question of the farmer

Vizcaya PLGU embarks in F2C, partners with NVPFIA

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

To be able to bring prime commodities directly to consumers and to ensure higher income for producers, the Farmer to Consumer (F2C) Program was conceived.

The Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Local Government Unit, headed by Governor Ruth Padilla, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Quezon City government entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on August 1, 2014 at the Executive Lounge, Legislative Building, Quezon City Hall, to implement F2C.

F2C is a direct marketing strategy to sell rice, fruits, vegetables, and other Vizcaya products such as soft brooms and baskets to more than 9,000 employees of the City Hall. So, it is a solid consumer market base for the said products, through organized market bazaars, stalls, and other similar venues. The program aims to empower local farmers by giving them direct access to urban markets that can potentially increase their income while benefiting the consumers with access to low-priced farm products.

"Hindi na dadaan sa mga traders ang mga produkto. It will be delivered directly to the consumers," Gov. Padilla explained during the MOA signing.

To ensure the continuity of the program, the PCCI, represented by its president, Dr. Carl Balita, shall advertise and promote the program through various media coverage and campaign strategies to heighten public awareness about the tie-up and ultimately solicit support and patronage from Quezon City consumers. Furthermore, it shall also provide necessary capability building trainings to participating farmers and suppliers from the province that will enable them to handle their own agricultural enterprise on a sustainable, long term service.

The Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Federation of Irrigators Association (NVPFIA), immediately warmed up to the project. In fact, the PLGU named President Bruno Gamponia as one of its four point persons, and was assigned to contribute quality grains. On August 1, 2014, during the one-day market fair and MOA signing, NVPFIA was able to sell 710 bags of rice and 400 kilos of rambutan.

"Napakagandang programa po ito para sa aming mga magsasaka. May kinita na ang aming mga miyembro, may pumasok ding pera sa aming IA," Pres. Gamponia enthusiastically shares.

To allow smooth operation of the market fair, QC government issued special permits and licenses to operate to legitimate farmers for free, spaces were provided for the trade, in addition to providing 5,000 sacks and paper bags.★



1&2. NVPFIA Pres. Bruno Gamponia, (in white shirt) together with his fellow officers, is busy overseeing and selling their rambutan and rice grains.

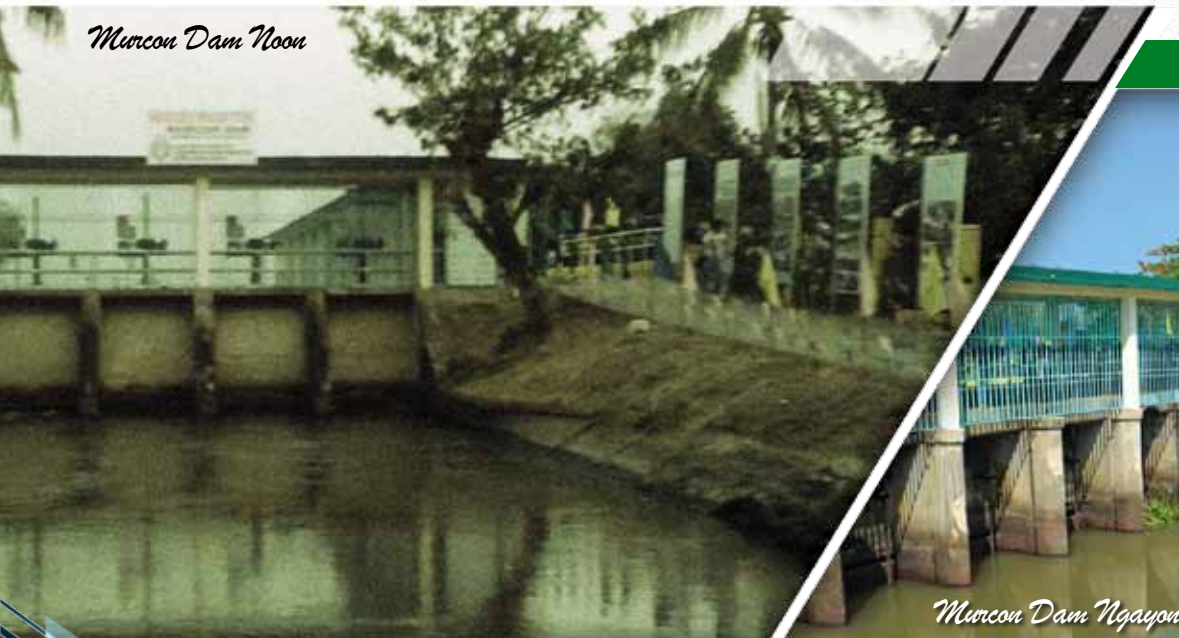
3. QC Mayor Herbert Bautista explains the rationale behind the F2C program during MOA signing on August 1, 2014.

4. Gov. Ruth Padilla enumerates the benefits of the program, not only to the consumer but to the farmers also.

5. Mayor Bautista (2nd from left), Gov. Padilla, PCCI Pres. Carl Balita, and DA RFO 2 Director Lucrecio Alviar sign the memorandum of agreement of the Farmer to Consumer Program.

6. Winnie Cordero of Umagang Kay Ganda, who covered the event, didn't pass up the opportunity of buying fresh vegetables.

7. Mayor Bautista and Gov. Padilla try to sample the fresh produce of Nueva Vizcaya.



Murcon Dam Ngayon

KATUPARAN NG PANGARAP: PAGSASAAYOS NG MURCON DAM PAGKALIPAS NG 60 TAON

Istulat ni : Rosemary F. Neric, IDO-A, Division 2, UPRIS

Ang Murcon Dam ay isa sa mga pinakalumang istraktura ng Division II, NIA-UPRIIS. Ito ay itinayo noong 1954 at matatagpuan sa Barangay Minabuyok, Talavera, Nueva Ecija. Ang dam, na gawa sa konkreto (Buttress Type Dam) at may taas na 9 metro at may lapad na 41.90 metro, ay ginawa upang mapigilan o maiwasan ang pag-apaw ng tubig na nagiging sanhi ng pagbaha. Itinayo ang dam upang maging imbakan ng labis na tubig na magagamit ng mga magsasaka sa 4,098 ektaryang lupain sa ibabang bahagi na naseserbisuhan ng Murcon Creek Irrigation System sa lungsod ng Cabanatuan at mga bayan ng Talavera at Aliaga. Sa panahon ng normal na pagpapatubig kung saan walang sobrang tubig na dumadaloy galing sa mga pinitak sa gawing itaas ng sistema, ang pangangailangan sa tubig ay pinupunan ng tubig galing sa Pantabangan Dam sa pamamagitan ng PRIS MC patungo sa patapunan ng Bicos (Spillway). Ang Murcon Dam ay malaking tulong sa pamayanan at mga karatig-nayon dahil nagsisilbi rin itong palaisdaan na pinagkukunan ng dagdag na kabuhayan.

Dahil sa masidhing kahilingan ng mga magsasaka na nasasakop ng Murcon Dam at sa epekto ng pagdating ng mga malalakas ng bagyo at pagbabago sa klima na nagiging banta sa kanilang kabuhayan, hindi nag-atubili si Engr. Joselito A. Mangunay, dating Division Manager ng UPRIS Division II, na hilingin ang dagliang pagsasaayos ng Murcon Dam. Nagsimula ang proyekto noong Marso 2013 at natapos noong Disyembre 2013 sa pangunguna naman ni Engr. Santos B. Viernes, ang kasalukuyang Division Manager.

Ang unang mahalagang bahagi ng proyekto ay ang pagsasaayos ng Dam Apron na lubos na naapektuhan ng mga nagdaang lindol at kalamidad na tumama sa Gitnang Luzon sa nakalipas na dekada. Layunin nitong mapangalagaan ang dam at mga pasilidad nito at mapigilan ang pagguho ng lupa para magamit pa ito ng mga susunod na henerasyon. Para mapangalagaan ng husto ang dam, nagdagdag ng iba pang mga istraktura at pasilidad kabilang ang mga sumusunod: (1) gabion, (2) bakal na bakod at pinto, at (3) Power house na sinimulan noong Marso 2013 at 100% na natapos noong Disyembre 2013 at may kabuuang halaga na P38.969 Milyon.



Ang pangalawang bahagi naman ay ang pagsasaayos ng daan, pagbabalik ng mga tarundon at kanal ng irigasyon, at pagsemento sa kanal ng DMain na may kabuuang 1.656 kilometro. Ito ay lubos na ikinasaya ng mga mamamayan ng Talavera at karatig-bayan dahil napadali at naging tuluy-tuloy na ang kanilang paglalakbay upang maghatid ng kanilang



JRMP II: NEW FACE AMIDST CRISIS

By: Jyh Ming Gonzales-Dueñas, Sr. IDO, JRMP



JRMP II section heads pose with the newly launched project marker

mga produkto sa pamilihan at hindi na kailangang umikot pa sa malayong daan. Ang proyekto ay may kabuuang halaga na P36.358 Milyon.



Ang pangatlong napakahalagang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon ay ang paglalagay ng mga pintuang bakal (steel gates) na dati rati ay manwal na pinipihit at hindi lubos na gumagana dahil sa kalumaan. Kahit na nakadiseno upang awtomatikong magtapon ng tubig sa panahon ng bagyo at malakas na ragasa ng tubig, hindi nito kayang dalhin ang tubig baha na mapanganib sa maraming buhay at ari-arian. Sa tulong ng mga dalubhasa mula sa NIA Central Office, labindalawang flushing gates, apat na intake vertical steel gates, at apat na spillway vertical steel gates ang nagawa para maging “electro-mechanically operated” ang pagtatapon ng tubig-baha at basura gaya ng water lilies sa panahon ng bagyo at kalamidad. Ang pagawain ay natapos sa halagang P 37.939 Milyon.★



The tedious process of getting the consent of the indigenous people; non-stop bashing of civil society groups; and the court hearings of the Writ of Kalikasan: amidst these challenges, the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II (JRMP II) emerged with a new face, an identity which exemplifies optimism and determination to persevere until the project is realized.

“If we work hard and stay positive, there is no reason that we could not overcome these hurdles,” Regional Manager Gerardo P. Corsiga emphasized during the launching of the JRMP II logo.

The official insignia consists of three colors with the NIA logo as the project implementer. The colors-green represents a sustainable watershed, blue symbolizes water and the core function of the project to deliver water for irrigation, and gold embodies progress and development.

The logo also carries the slogan “Katuwang sa Kauswagan” which conveys two major key messages: JRMP-II as a catalyst for inclusive countryside development and partner in progress and that JRMP II will not destroy but will actually harness the full potential of God-given natural resources.★



“Katuwang sa Kauswagan”.



45kw

Hydropower project

first in the Philippines

A testament of Japan-Philippines long standing bond

(Speech delivered during the groundbreaking ceremony of the 45-kw hydropower project in Lateral B, San Mateo, Isabela on March 4, 2014.)

By: Masaki Sasaki, JICA Representative

Welcome each and everyone to the groundbreaking ceremony for the Mini-Hydropower plant to be constructed along the Magat Irrigation Canal Lateral B. Allow me to tell you a bit about JICA. JICA stands for the Japan International Cooperation Agency. We are the bilateral development agency of Japan and we have been a partner of various agencies in your country for technical cooperation, grant aid, and yen loan projects.

In the Philippines, JICA has been involved in a long list of development initiatives from infrastructure projects, emergency assistance, technology transfer, and training. Of course, our friends from NIA and DOE have been development partners through the years with the many irrigation and energy development projects we have established.

Looking particularly at the energy sector, we have been providing assistance to the Philippines through construction of power facilities from power plants, transmission lines, and even providing assistance to distribution utilities. Among our focus areas in the energy sector is in promoting the use of renewable energy such as hydropower; an abundant natural resource in your country. As such, in partnership with the Department of Energy and the National Irrigation Administration, our agency is set to formally begin the construction of this hydropower

facility along this irrigation canal. We consider this an excellent opportunity for the People of Japan to share the know-how in hydropower technology with the Philippines. As this is considered a demonstration project, we hope and expect to show how Japanese technologies in hydropower development in irrigation facilities can work in the Philippines.

We look forward to experts from the Tokyo Electric Power Service Company (TEPSCO), our construction supervisors and our contractor, Hokuriku Seiki to share their expertise in building and operating the facility to be constructed. Aside from technology sharing, we believe this demonstration project would lead to "win-win" opportunities for both Japanese and Filipinos alike.

First, this is an excellent opportunity to show that we can produce clean energy from irrigation canals, even in waterways with low effective heads. In Japan, hydropower turbines are common fixtures along the many agricultural waterways. These hydroelectric turbines come in many shapes and sizes installed in areas where there are high heads and low heads. We have been

able to harness hydropower efficiently in irrigation areas even in waterways with low heads, something that I believe is also abundant in the Philippines.

Second, we consider this an opportunity for Japanese Small and Medium Enterprises to explore the possibilities of ventures into your country, especially in Renewable Energy Investments like hydropower. As most of you may well know, one of Japan's economic thrusts is to further empower and nurture relatively small enterprises and industries, and we at JICA are committed to help in this respect.

Lastly and most importantly, we consider this project yet another affirmation of cooperation between our countries. Aside from the electricity that would be produced by this facility, we believe that this project would serve as yet another testament to the long-standing bond of friendship between our countries. Very soon, we would have a 45-kilowatt hydropower facility in this area. Of course,





this is relatively not a very high output for a power plant. But imagine if more of these kinds of power plants are installed in the various irrigation systems in the country with hydropower potential.

The idea of NIA being a substantial contributor to energy security in the country, supplying megawatts of power, is not so farfetched. This would also serve as a great help for NIA in its operations that would redound to the farmers supported by the irrigation systems of the agency.

This project would have a relatively speedy timeline as we expect this to be online within this year. As such we hope we would all cooperate with each other in working on the different components of this project.

Once online, I hope NIA, the eventual owner of this project would take good care of this facility. We hope the interim owner during construction which is the DOE would remain a steadfast overseer of the building phase of this initiative. We hope that this project would be replicated in the different irrigation systems. Otherwise, this well-meaning initiative that would be constructed through Japanese technology, Philippine ingenuity, and genuine development cooperation would be “sayang.” Of course, we all do not want this project to be “sayang.” At this point, we would like to again express our thanks to our counterparts from the Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and the National Irrigation Administration for continuously working towards making this hydropower plant a reality and more

importantly, keeping the facility in great condition to sustain the benefits of this hydropower plant.

I would like to note that while Japanese Official Development Assistance would comprise bulk of the capital requirements for this project, this initiative would not be possible without your tireless efforts and resources that you have committed.

After the ceremonies, the “real work” starts. As such, we look forward to the total cooperation of all, from the DOE to NIA, to our Japanese Experts and contractor and all the people of this community to have this facility constructed as soon as possible.

I would like to make special mention of our friends from ISELCO who have also been partners in previous initiatives. We hope that you would also closely cooperate with us for this initiative.

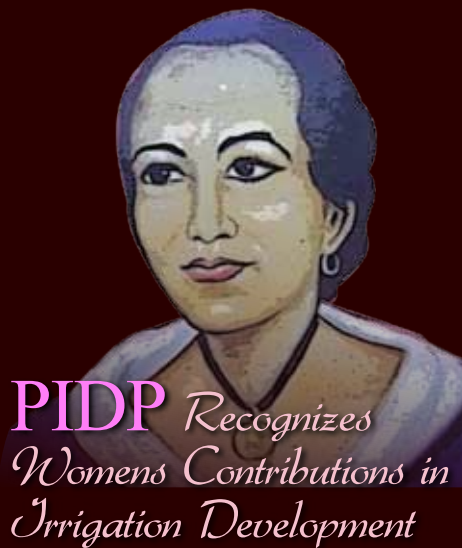
We need to work together to make this a reality. We at JICA would be with you for this every step of the way. Maraming Salamat sa lahat and we look forward to seeing you on the switch-on ceremony for this facility. ★

Below is the completed Hydropower Plant (Update: It was inaugurated on Nov. 4, 2014.)



“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

-Henry Ford



PIDP Recognizes Women's Contributions in Irrigation Development

The Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP) funded by the World Bank is one Project that recognizes Women's contribution in Irrigation Development. For two (2) consecutive years since CY 2012, PIDP received a rating from the World Bank for being a Gender Responsive Project. In a Bank's publication on Agriculture and Environmental Service Department, the month of May 2014 featured the portraits of the women in Pinacanauan RIS in Region 2 and Roxas Kuya RIS in Region 10 doing IA maintenance works.



Men and women of the Pinacanauan River Irrigation System (Penablanca, Cagayan Province, Philippines) doing their regular operation and maintenance activities.



Women of Patag Corona IA in Roxas Kuya getting ready for regular canal maintenance work.

The photo of Patag Corona IA is also one of the featured items in the 2015 World Bank and IFC calendar for the month of February. The participation of women in the project activities like regular operation and maintenance works of the irrigation system help enhance the IAs productive skills and management capacity. ★

NIA R6

Inaugurates New Communal Irrigation Project

By: Danielle Parian-Pijuan, PRO, Region 6

Maayon, Capiz – In the heat of the 7th Farmers and Fisherfolks Day 2014 with the theme “*Mangunguma kag mangingisda, kabulig sa pagtindog sang probinsiya*” (Farmers and Fishfolks partners in the province's progress). The National Irrigation Administration Region VI and the Aklan-Capiz Provincial Irrigation Management Office (PIO) inaugurated the Maayon Communal Irrigation Project (CIP) Diversion Dam.

Led by DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala and former NIA Administrator Engr. Claro V. Maranan, the inauguration was attended by Congressman Antonio del Rosario of the 1st District of Capiz, Mayor Wilfredo Borres of the Municipality of Maayon, staff of NIA Region VI and Aklan-Capiz PIO, and farmer-beneficiaries.

Conceived on April 2002, the Maayon CIP was brought to life with the help from Cong. del Rosario and Capiz Governor Victor A. Tanco. With the total allocation of P201 million, the project will irrigate 780 hectares and serve 834 farmer beneficiaries from 8 barangays of Maayon and 2 barangays of Panit-an.

Sec. Alcala came to the inauguration as a medium to hear and answer queries and concerns of the farmers as mandated by President Aquino. He promised to send hybrid palay seeds and farm tractors to help the farmers in land preparation and improve their harvest. Through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), he promised to send within the month various native fresh water fish fingerlings to be released in the area.

“Ito po and totoong purpose ng pagpunta namin dito sa kadahilanang kami po ay may mandato. Kabilinbilinan po ng Pangulong Noyon Aquino na huwag na huwag mong pababayaan ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda, sapagkat ganyan po kayo kamahal ng Pangulong Noyon Aquino,” said Secretary Alcala in his speech.

According to NIA Administrator Maranan, with the presence of irrigation facilities and support from the DA through innovative farming technologies, the farmers of Maayon and Panit-an can now expect an increase in harvest. This project also serves as new hope to the farmers of Capiz after the province was struck by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) last November 2013. ★



PHOTO NEWS



The first flag raising ceremony of NIAs with the newly appointed Administrator Florencio F. Padernal on July 7, 2014.



Administrator Padernal discusses issues on water supply coming from Bustos Dam in Bulacan with the presidents of different Irrigators Association from Bulacan and Pampanga.



Farmer beneficiaries of CMIPP in Guimba, Nueva Ecija join Administrator Padernal during his visit at the project site.



MARIIS Operations Manager Mariano G. Dancel, Ifugao Governor Dennis B. Habawel, Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, Ramon Mayor Wilfredo L. Tabag, and SN Aboitiz Power Executive Director Danilo de Guzman during the ceremonial ground-breaking of the Magat River Irrigation System dam optimization project in collaboration with SN Aboitiz Power-Magat Inc. Behind them are the SNAP executives and Danilo Tumamao, representative of the Governor of Isabela.

CABAGO IA stands tall despite the CHALLENGES

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

CABAGO IA President Macario P. Diego of Calumpit, Bulacan recalled the time when there was no irrigation and farmers couldn't do anything but to wait for the rain to fall.

"Hindi po namin matamnan ng palay lahat ang aming bukid, pira-piraso lang po dahil sa nag-aabang lang kami ng patak ng ulan. Ang pangkaraniwang tanim po namin ay mais at tubo kasi wala pa kaming patubig noon.", the 76-year-old IA president said.

Mr. Diego narrated the beginnings and struggles of their group that led them to where they are now.

CABAGO IA was organized and operated in 1956, inaugurated and pioneered by former President Ramon Magsaysay. Big time land owners benefited from the implementation of irrigation. In 1972, Land Reform Program made it possible for farmers to be awarded with the lands they tilled. As time passed by, farmers cultivated and developed their lands but gradually encountered problems on the operation of the irrigation facility. The year 1989 became remarkable for the farmers as they once again re-organized and established the CABAGO IA. This time, they took over the overall operation of the facility with the help and guidance of NIA.

"Sa pamamagitan po ng NIA, kami ay natulungan para magpatakbo ng aming patubig at doon naponabuo ang CABAGO."



Mr. Macario P. Diego,
CABAGO IA President

Nagkaroon nga po kami ng samahan at nagmula ang pangalan nito mula sa tailong Barangay: ang Calizon, Balungao, at Gugo na pinarehistro namin sa SEC noong 1989," Mr. Diego added.

When asked about the biggest challenges they encountered and how they were able to overcome such, he proudly answered:

"Ang malaking problema na aming kinakaharap ay ang pagdating ng mga kalamidad kung saan nasisira ang aming pananim tulad ng bagyo at baha. Halos nagkakautang kami at di nakakabayad ngunit nalalagpasan po naming lahat sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulongan naming mga magsasaka at ng mga ahensya na aming nalalapitan tulad ng LGU, DAR, at NIA."

CABAGO IA was one of the badly affected areas of Typhoon Pedring and Quiel in 2011 causing heavy damage and loss to lives, crops, and properties. They were recipient of relief goods and aid conducted by NIAEASP District III, NIA REGION 3 Multipurpose Cooperative (Formerly AMRIS KBPI), and NIA Reservist on that devastating events of the year.



The CABAGO IA officials and members



CABAGO IA Office

CABAGO IA, with a service area of 150 hectares and 128 members, remained standing tall despite the challenges. It sustained a high rating in IA Functionality Survey for CY 2013 with 98.39 average score considering the criteria of Operation and Maintenance, Organization, Financial Performance, and Organizational Discipline. The upbeat performance propelled them to receive the recognition from NIA Region 3 during the celebration of the agency's 51st Anniversary. CABAGO IA received the Plaque of Recognition for being the Regional Outstanding IA for CY 2013 under Communal Irrigation Systems Category. Prior to this, they also received a Special Award from the NIA Central Office under the same category for national level in 2012.

Mr. Diego expressed his deepest gratitude to NIA Region 3 Officials led by former RIM Reynaldo D. Puno and staff for continuous support and guidance.

"Sa awa po ng Poong Maykapal at mga taong tumutulong sa amin, kami po ay nabubuhay ng maayos at nakakaraos sa mga pangangailangan, taos puso po kaming nagpapasalamat sa inyo." ★



RIM Reynaldo D. Puno, EOD Manager Virgilio J. Ilao and AFD Manager Rochelle R. Cervantes award the Regional Outstanding IA plaque and cash to CABAGO IA at NIA Region 3 covered court during the 51st Anniversary Celebration held on June 19, 2014.

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

-Andrew Carnegie

MTG PLIVIRISCAF: NIA'S Hall of Fame Awardee for Most Outstanding IA

By: Maria Isobel F. Padolina, PRO, UPRIS

One of UPRIS's Irrigators Associations (IA) still reaping the rewards of its hardwork and ingenuity in delivering irrigation service assistance to the farmers is MTG Pliviriscap IA, Inc. They are NIA's Hall of Fame Awardee this year for having won three times in a row the most coveted Most Outstanding IA Award.

This Hall of Fame recognition was conferred during NIA's 51st anniversary celebration last June.

Winning Streak

MTG Pliviriscap's astonishing contributions to UPRIS started to be noticed when it grabbed the Most Outstanding IA Award in 2010 for the first time. Then, string of awards followed including the same recognition in 2011 and 2012 which qualified them in the hall of fame roster. Since then, it seemed that they are destined for greater things, and its effect appeared grander with rewards more bountiful and lasting. They received various awards and on top of these achievements was the Agri-Pinoy Rice Achiever Award in 2011 ranking them number one among competing IAs nationwide. A staggering one million cash prize that accompanied this prestigious honor helped greatly in maintaining the association's financial strength.

IMT Program Model

Among a wide range of benefits as an outstanding IA was the privilege of being known as a model IA for NIA's IMT Program implementation. In fact, due to this remarkable distinction, they caught the attention of budding and striving IAs all over the country. Every now and then, IAs from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao travel for long hours just to reach its headquarters located at Brgy. Pandalla in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija to learn and witness the fruits of their labor.

What makes MTG Pliviriscap's success more overwhelming is the several assets they now own as it continuously grow. The Irrigation Service Fee shares they receive from UPRIS after each cropping season soared from thousands to millions of pesos. Their current net worth has turned up to more than two million pesos.

At present, they have a modern office furnished with various furniture and appliances. They have been granted a flatbed dryer, water pumps, and other farm machineries such as rice mill/cono and solar dryer that are being used to generate additional income. These are cost-saving facilities provided to the farmers particularly the drying and milling process for their rice produce. Moreover, they are also into agro-chemical and fertilizer distributorship and rice seed production and marketing.

Humble beginnings

MTG Pliviriscap is actually an acronym of all the towns it covers such as Muñoz, Talugtug, Guimba and the barangays of Pandalla, Labney, Linglingay, Villa Santos, Rangayan, Villa Isla, Saverona, Santa Ana, Calisitan, Cavite, and Faigal servicing a

Continue reading next page

total of 1,336 hectares which benefits over 1,313 farmers from its 56 turn out service groups (TSAG). It was organized on December 7, 2006 at Calisitan, Science City of Muñoz and few years later they signed a contract with NIA.

Mere passion and drive to be part of agricultural progress while improving the lives of the farmers fueled them to convince UPRIS of what they could give to the agency.

After meticulous evaluation of their capability and capacity in carrying out irrigation services and in solving irrigation-related conflicts, the Irrigation Management Transfer Contract was finally granted in 2008. This happened when the Casecanan Project Phase 1 was officially transferred to UPRIS as Division V during the tenure of then Manager, Eugenio O. Conde. At present, Engr. Carlito M. Gapasin heads Division V.

True enough, since its creation, the association has proven the huge impact they can make in bringing UPRIS at the top of the irrigation management chain.

Building a Strong Team

MTG Pliviriscap envisions to be a viable and functional IA continuously uplifting the standard of living of its members and supporting the programs for irrigation development and agricultural production. Important as it is, President Marcelo M. De Vera knows how to sustain their stability and to allow the IA to flourish year after year. He is not just a figurehead relying on power to push his fellows but a leader who empowers his members to work as a team for the attainment of their common goals. It helped that President De Vera has a perky yet ambitious disposition. These qualities helped him lead farmer members to build a very strong team that will work together towards the right path to realize their missions as partners in irrigation development; a team that will always move forward creating bridges with other struggling IAs.

In fact, their biggest accomplishment did not come from the awards they received; their prized recognition was being able to play a vital part in enriching the lives of the farmers and in attaining not just UPRIS' viability but NIA's as a whole. With this triumph, it is certain that MTG Pliviriscap will tell more stories of success, inspire more IAs to replicate their best practices and bring more progress to NIA from their ever-expanding Irrigators Association now and in the future with UPRIS Department Manager Reynaldo D. Puno and NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal at the helm. ★



Awards

2009

Best IA in System Operations of the Year 2009 (Division V-UPRIS)
Best IA in System Operations of Wet Crop 2009 (Division V- UPRIS)
Top IA of UPRIS for Year 2009
Most Outstanding IA for Year 2009- First Runner-up National Level (NIS Category)

2010

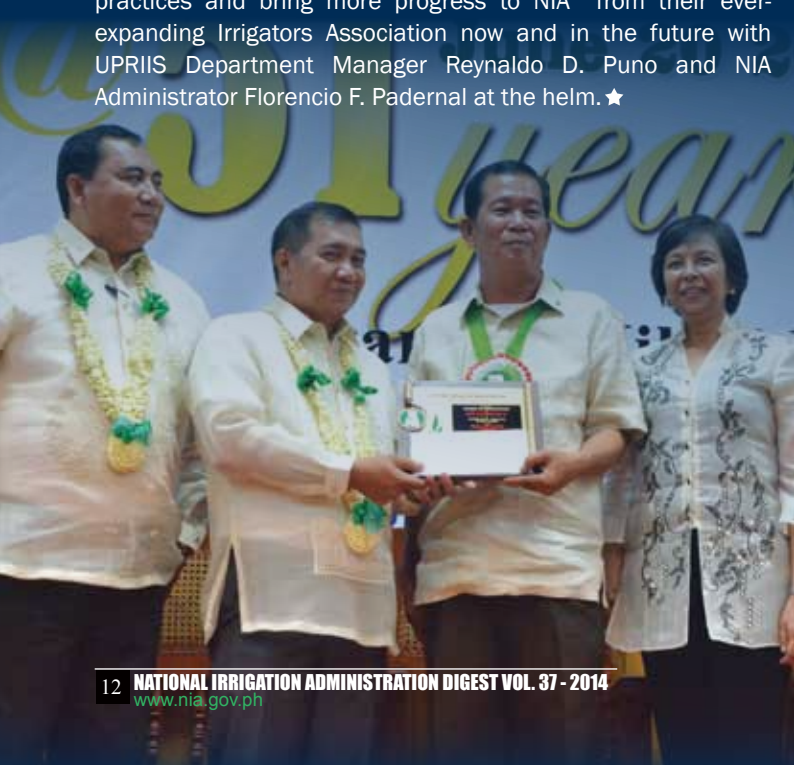
Best IA in Systems Operations of Dry Crop 2010 (Division V-UPRIS)
Top IA of UPRIS for Year 2010
Most Outstanding IA under IMT of Division V- CY 2010
Most Outstanding IA under IMT of UPRIS 2010
Most Outstanding IA for Year 2010- National Level (NIS Category)

2011

Top IA of Division V for CY 2011
Most Outstanding IA under IMT of Division V for CY 2011
Top IA of UPRIS for CY 2011
Most Outstanding IA under IMT of Division V- CY 2011
Most Outstanding IA under Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Award for 2010-2011
CY 2011 Highest Collection Efficiency
CY 2011 Best in System Maintenance
CY 2011 Most Functional Irrigators' Association
Most Outstanding IA for Year 2011- National Level (NIS Category)

2012

CY 2012 Highest Collection Efficiency
Top IA of UPRIS for CY 2012
Most Outstanding IA under IMT of Division V for CY 2012
Most Outstanding IA for Year 2012- National Level (NIS Category)



Alam nyo ba?



Ang "Samahang Magpapatubig o Irrigators Association"
 ay isang organisadong samahan ng magpapatubig na may iisang layuning magpatakbo at mapanatiling maayos ang sistema ng patubig

SAFIMCO:

Attaining economic sufficiency through Irrigators Association

By: Jagel Mae S. Escandor, Research Assistant B,
Camarines Sur IMO, Region 5

Their Irrigators Association (IA) once reached fiscal downturn and organizational instability, but this failure took a different turn when Aguido Molina, former Chairman of San Antonio Farmers Irrigators Multipurpose Cooperative from San Antonio, Buhí, Camarines Sur, tucked in with his faith that they can strive and thrive to become a viable association.

Collection of irrigation service fees (ISF) from their member-farmers was one of their major problems that caused their financial decline, thereby affecting the operation and maintenance of the IA, causing rice production loss, and worsening poverty incidence in the barangay.

The situation pushed Molina and his colleagues to plan out an effective strategy in collecting ISF. The notable provision that made their income soar high and changed their lives forever is the implementation of the red flag policy, which states that, *“any farmer who fails to pay their ISF dues seven (7) days after the harvest will have a red flag set up on his lot thereby signifying the water tender to stop the supply of water to that farm.”*

To their surprise, after thorough deliberations, majority of their farmer-members agreed and approved the said policy and consented to implement it immediately. This started SAFIMCO's journey toward astounding collection efficiency, organizational viability, and attainment of high cropping intensity. Elimination of poverty incidence in their barangay also made them rise among the ranks of the best irrigators associations in Camarines Sur.

Humble beginnings

San Antonio Irrigation Service Association was organized in 1979 in line with the opening of the road from Barangay San Vicente, Buhí to Barangay San Antonio of the same town that



further paved the way in the construction of Maybatang Communal Irrigation System, consisting of a concrete dam and wooden gate through the intervention of the National Irrigation Administration. Aside from the dam, canals were finished and turned-over to the association for its operation and maintenance.

In 1981, the first ISA President Jose Turiano introduced the Maintenance System which was implemented through group work or *rabus*. Venancio S. Molina succeeded the position and made it as an outstanding IA in 1987 and 1988. It was in his term that the ISA also built their office.

The succeeding presidents also made their own marks through networking with different government agencies which implemented various projects and programs that strengthened their organization and later converted them in becoming a cooperative in 1992. Since then, the association was named San Antonio Farmers Irrigators Multipurpose Cooperative (SAFIMCO).

Agricultural modernization projects and programs

SAFIMCO became known to other government agencies as a robust organization, which made it easier for

them to acquire grants of various projects for agricultural modernization and productivity enhancement.

On January 1992, Department of Agriculture (DA) constructed one unit of solar pavement, where most of the farmers in their barangay and even other adjacent barangays dry the harvested palay.

Just recently, on June 2014, DA turned-over a newly constructed Rice Processing Center (RPC 1) to SAFIMCO. The building has a 300-sq.m. floor area and equipped with a multi-pass rice mill (double pass, 1 ton/hr milling capacity). At the same time, it will serve as warehouse for farmers especially during rainy season.

SAFIMCO has more than 400 bona fide members and engages in palay trading, farm inputs dealership, consumer store, rice processing and milling, and truck rental.

AWARDS RECEIVED

Through years of toiling to improve their lot, SAFIMCO received various awards, plaques, and certificates. Their consistent full payment of annual amortization made them a recipient of outstanding irrigators association in Camarines Sur.

In 2013, SAFIMCO reaped two grand awards: Regional Winner and National Winner in Agri-Pinoy Rice Achiever Awards. The latest feather in their cap – NIA Region 5 bestowed SAFIMCO a “Gintong Patubig Award” during the IA Forum held at Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City on May 14, 2014.

The cooperation of members of the IA is truly a testament of remarkable group performance. ★



ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS: THE BOAN BIDA INC. STORY

By: Jane B. Huqueriza, PRO, Caraga

Agri-Pinoy RICE Achievers' Awards

Boan Barangay Irrigation Development Association, Inc. (Boan BIDA, Inc.) is one of the outstanding Irrigators Associations (IA) not only in Caraga but in the entire Philippines. It has been in the forefront reaping awards and recognition, and repeatedly chosen as an outstanding IA in Rice Achievers' Award. What's behind of its success is still unknown to others.

BOAN Communal Irrigation System (CIS) is remotely located in Boan, Wasian, Rosario, Agusan del Sur, irrigating 305.60 hectares both for wet and dry seasons. The Boan BIDA, Inc. managed the CIS with 178 farmer members in seven sectors. The IA has an average yield of 123.50 cavans and 124.35 cavans per hectare in wet and dry seasons, respectively, with 200% cropping intensity (CI).

The bountiful yield helps the IA to earn income that resulted to 100% collection efficiency (CE). Unlike other associations where produce are controlled by the traders, BOAN BIDA formulated a marketing strategy by conducting a bidding where interested buyers offer better prices beneficial for both parties, farmers, and association. The strategy empowers the farmers through improved economic condition and renewed moral values.

Viability has been the goal to keep the association successful until the next generation. With 100% CE, Boan BIDA, Inc. has acquired vast assets such as property and equipment, a means to generate and increase other income. As of December 31, 2013 Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition, the IA has total of P' 13,472,473.49 assets (cash and non-cash) and continues to increase with their discipline in preparing and implementing the financial plan.

Boan BIDA, Inc. members belong to different culture and status, gaining power from their similarities and differences which pave the way towards greatness. The IA extends assistance not only to their members but also to their families which motivated them to participate well in all IA activities.



"Achieving the goal is one of the challenges, sustaining it is another story."

This has been the mantra of IA President Mr. Hilario R. Amas who successfully managed the association with the help of its 13 Board of Trustees and assistance from NIA Caraga. The BOAN BIDA exists for almost 37 years, the legacy of the IA officials and its members will always be a guiding principle for a successful Organization.★

Alam nyo ba?



Ang **"Insentibo sa Paglilinis ng kanal o Remuneration"** ay ang kaukulang kabayaran ng NIA sa magsasaka o samahan ng magsasaka (IA) para sa paglilinis ng kanal.



BOAN BIDA Inc. IA members having a meeting.



Banking on Unity: An IA Success Story

By: Maria Teresa Empleo, PRO, Region 9



Resorts World, Manila – Under NIS Category, Lower Tiparak-Tambulig (LOWTIPTAM) IA receives One Million Cash Prize as one of the AgriPinoy Rice Achiever Awardees for 2013. (L-R) DA Sec. Proceso J. Alcala, IA President Fernando P. Lindo, IA Treasurer Trinidad Y. Vale, NIA Administrator Claro V. Maranan, Regional Irrigation Manager Diosdado A. Rosales, IA Sec. Sandra L. Utlang, Institutional Development Officer (IDO) Rosie Lyn B. Villanueva, Supervising IDO Lorna B. Dequito, Zamboanga del Sur IMO Head Joel C. Atay, and DA Undersecretary Dante S. Delima.

“United we stand, divided we fall,” said the newly installed president of Lower Tiparak – Tambulig Irrigators Association, Inc. (Low-Tip-Tam IA), Crispo L. Jakosalem, when asked what will be his motto for his term. We can immediately recognize it as a line from a famous classic song but instead of singing he made it very clear how the Low-Tip-Tam IA emerged triumphant through unity – that we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.

Low-Tip-Tam IA is situated in Barangay Lower Tiparak, Tambulig, Zamboanga Del Sur. The IA was first established in 1986 and originally called the Flume Farmers Irrigators Association having an area of 195.382 hectares with 130 farmer-beneficiaries.

As the name of the barangay suggests, the IA belongs in a downstream portion of the river where they are only left with what seems to be extra water from upstream. And before irrigation came, farmers heavily relied on rainwater to irrigate their ricefields and one cropping a year was all they expect.

When National Irrigation Administration (NIA) constructed a dam, the IA entered into a Type 1 contract where they became responsible in cleaning the lateral canals monthly. The IA finally realized their dream and was fervent in their committed task, but their Bayanihan seemed not enough as they were still not satisfied with the water they were receiving.

So the IA officers decided to investigate and walked through the 10-km stretch

from their lateral canals to the dam and before the day ended, they found out the problem. Water did not reach them in full because the upstream portion was poorly maintained. Hence, the situation called for more efforts and they were all resolved to get their fair share of water.

The IA officers and Board of Trustees (BOTs) then gathered together and created within themselves a task force that would regularly clean the passage of water from the dam to the main canal up to the lateral canal of the IA. Their unity extended outside their territory because they are willing to go extra mile to achieve their common goal and that is to improve their harvest and consequently their economic condition.

“The canals are clean, water is good, and now the farmers can afford to pay,”
said one of its members in Cebuano.

Presently, from the IA's original 130 farmer-beneficiaries, it increased to 249 based on the latest updating & firming-up of members duly augmenting its hectareage from 195 hectares to 383 hectares.

The IA now offers medical assistance to its members as well as mortuary aid of up to Php 2,500.00. They also ventured into several small-scale agri-businesses such as rent of thresher, hand tractor, knapsack sprayer, granting of loans to IA members, and the establishment of LOTIMCO consumer store. They also maintain a strong partnership with

different line agencies and actively participate in their respective programs.

“We are very grateful to NIA for the assistance all throughout those difficult years and even up to now, they have always been there, empowering us. Our lives are changed,”
said its current president in Cebuano.

Their good performance as an association did not go unnoticed. When the IA entered into Model 2 Contract on August 2012, it took only a year for them to garner awards. The IA was awarded as the Most Outstanding IA 2013 under National Irrigation System (NIS) category in the regional level. They represented the region at the national level and eventually bagged the 5th Runner-Up Most Outstanding IA 2013 under NIS Category. On June 20, 2014 during the Awarding Ceremony of the 51st NIA Anniversary, the IA received a plaque and a cash prize of Php 60,000.00. Accolades commenced on the same year for Low-Tip-Tam IA was also one of the recipients of the prestigious AgriPinoy Rice Achievers Award 2013 given by the Department of Agriculture. Awarding was held at the New Port Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World Manila on March 15, 2014 and a cash prize of one million pesos was given to them.

With the large money they have, a list of projects are programmed as approved by the IA. One of them is to buy a lot and put up a new IA office. Certainly, a bright

Continue reading next page



NIA, Quezon City – Low-Tip-Tam IA new President Crispo L. Jakosalem together with NIA Region IX management (Division Manager Joel C. Atay, IMO Head of Zamboanga del Sur, present Regional Manager Diosdado A. Rosales and immediate past Region IX Manager Alejandro L. Alberca) shakes hand with Administrator Claro V. Maranan and the rest of NIA top officials Felix M. Razo, Lorna Grace B. Rosario, and Modesto G. Membreve as the IA receives its 60,000.00 Cash Prize as the 5th Runner-Up in the nationwide Search for Most Outstanding IA 2013 under the NIS category.

future is ahead of them as they continue to uphold their good practices of transparency, perfect attendance, regular meetings, and their value for water and life.

“We do not just look after the welfare of the association, but also the benefit of the family for which each member belongs to,” the IA Auditor, Mr. Tilo Q. Abanil said in dialect.

Looking back, immediate past President Fernando P. Lindo muttered in contemplation, *“Ang kalisud sa tubig mao ang rason sa among panag-hiusa.”* (The scarcity of water is the reason behind our unity.) It must be true that the need for water united them. The burning desire to alleviate themselves from the poverty due to meager produce pulled them to work together, until they become an award-winning association.

Low-Tip-Tam IA, like any other success stories with its members working in harmony blended with dedication, perseverance, service, and commitment, is assured to attain success.

The Latin writer, Pablilius Syrus, was right when he said, “Where there is unity, there is always victory.” ★

OBRA BATINGWED IA: RISK-TAKERS AND TEAM-WORKERS

By: Mylene Malecda, PRO, CAR

It was a difficult decision. Choosing to separate from a mother organization to which one belongs for years and then creating another smaller association is a risky choice. But, for the Obra Batingwed Irrigators Association (IA), Inc., it was a risk worth taking.

Obra Batingwed IA (OBIA) of Brgy. Nasgeban under the coverage of the Upper Chico River Irrigation System (UCRIS) in Tabuk City, Kalinga is a young organization at four years old. It was founded in 2009 when its members led by Mr. Samuel Batingwed decided to separate from two of its mother IAs, Tabuk Pagbiagan IA and the Bulanao Appas IA.

Before 2009, the area coverage of the Tabuk Pagbiagan IA and Bulanao Appas IA were overlapping. Mr. Batingwed and his companions felt the organizations had canal coverage too long and area coverage too wide, with overlaps in some areas that they thought it was better to establish another association to help manage the canal. Also, they wanted to initiate and be more involved in IA's activities. These paved the establishment of the Obra Batingwed IA, with 585 farmer-members maintaining 11-kilometer irrigation canal and area of 741 hectares.

After only a year from its birth, Obra Batingwed IA was named Most Improved IA at the Upper Chico River Irrigation System (UCRIS) level. Four years later, it garnered the highest rating during the IA Functionality

Survey and emerged as the Cordillera Regional Outstanding IA for CY 2013 in the National Irrigation System (NIS) category.

“Teamwork,” said the officers in unison when asked on the reason of their success. “Ada iti kikitaen mi nga goal mi—rumang-ay, (We have our eyes on our goal—to progress)” shared Cris Perez, IA Treasurer of OBIA.

To reach their goal, TSAG Chairman Frederick Cayanos said that when their organization has activities, they try to foster the idea of ‘enta’ (Let us go) instead of ‘enka’ (You go). When they have canal clearing and other activities such as seminars or trainings, they pick each other up and walk together to the activity venue.

“The IA has also maintained high collection efficiency and one of the top ISF collectors in UCRIS. Officers and members of the OBIA are committed to ISF collection,” said Mr. Rodolfo Duyan, the SWRFT of UCRIS-Tabuk Division 2 where the area of OBIA is under.

Regional Manager John Socalo himself who was Irrigation Superintendent of UCRIS for four years affirms to the dedication of OBIA President Samuel Batingwed. “Mr. Batingwed was like a NIA employee, who was always at the office very early to coordinate or work with NIA technicians and operators on irrigation matters in their area,” he said. ★



Officers of the Obra Batingwed IA together with NIA-Central Office Validation Team, NIA-CAR and Kalinga IMO officials and staff.

Ligaya IA's kaLIGAYAHAN

By: Grace L. Cabanero, IDO, MARIIS-Division I



IA SUCCESS STORIES

"Just like every other group who started from scratch with hard work and unity as the main capital, it is always enlightening to see invaluable signs of progress," Ligaya Domingo Silva said.

She said, she has been honored that Ligaya IA is named after her but the most rewarding thing is that the association not only sustained, but more importantly exceeded, their performance making them more progressive and prominent not only across the Cagayan Valley but nationwide.

Ligaya's Strategies to Reach the Top

Being just a typical Irrigators Association in NIA-MARIIS, Ligaya IA existed for years as one of NIA's silent partner in implementing agricultural development projects and in bridging farmers concerns to promote further progress to its members.

President Antonio Cruz said that they have always believed that the ABC of life is about involvement, love, and unity thus there is no unreachable star. He said further that in their earlier years, they dreamed of more than living in the shadow. Apart from recognition, the most important thing they aimed for is to see evident growth in their farmer-members' life status.

Then came the blessing of irrigation in the year 1982 when all the good things started to flow in the service area of the IA. Through the unity of members shown in regular meetings and active participation in events, a lot of farmers were finally able to harvest more providing each

of them the opportunity to enjoy what they have been deprived of for years. This eventually paved way for better life for all the worthy members.

Reaching out to Support Groups

Since the IA is already established, linkages started providing the farmers with more options toward a better life. Agricultural technology corporations offer new learning through free trainings; agricultural companies supply better yet affordable products; financial institutions extend assistance with lower interest rates- all noble programs meant to provide the members with better possibilities.

The IA subsequently acquired farm equipment and post-harvest facilities that continuously help members in their farming activities and serve as income generating project as well. The IA owns harvester, flat-bed dryer, multipurpose drying pavement, thresher, shredder, and hand tractor. Their farm equipment and machineries are being rented by their members at a lower cost. The IA rice mill is in the process of construction.

Sharing the Glory

Consequently, the IA always shares the glory not only with its members but with the community as well. Consistent with a pledge of serving farmers the best way, it conducts feeding programs in the elementary school in the area where most pupils are sons and daughters of farmers. It actively participates in the annual Brigada Eskwela and Fun Run for cancer patients.

Through the years, Ligaya IA never stopped achieving greater heights and touching lives. But apart from all the glory, the officials felt the dire need of self-affiliation. So the IA decided to join a nationwide competition to share its practices, show others what it has, and inspire others.

On their way to achieving recognition, the members dedicated a lot of their time and effort. Mr. Nemesio Sarmiento, IA Secretary, vividly remembered how they spent time beyond office hours preparing all the necessary documents at the IA office. Though it often caused a slight argument with their spouses, everything settled when the IA finally made it to the top.

IA President Cruz said, "Emerging as top 5 in NIA's Nationwide Search for Most Outstanding IA in 2012 served as our inspiration to do better and there's always something to improve, something to learn." He noted that it was only the IA's first attempt and it was not that bad for first timers. And it was no small motivation as in their second attempt to attain national recognition and finally hit the top being conferred as one of the Most Outstanding IAs for the Department of Agriculture's Agripinoy Rice Achievers' Awards where the association received a cash prize of one million pesos.

On June 20, 2014, NIA recognized Ligaya IA as 3rd Runner-Up Most Outstanding IA (NIS Category) for the association's CY 2013 performance. The recognition is another feather on IA's cap, another entry on their list of accomplishments which they hope to make longer.★

Background Photo:

Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, MARIIS Operations Manager Mariano G. Dancel, and Isabela Governor Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III ride a combined harvester-thresher, leading the rice harvest festival in Roxas, Isabela on September 12, 2014.

NIA Administrator leads harvest hails increase in

By: Melissa C. Agbisit, PRO, MARIIS

Roxas, Isabela - Despite the challenge during the dry season, farmers in the Integrated Irrigation System are reaping their golden harvest.

Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, MARIIS Operations Manager Mariano G. Dancel, and Isabela Governor Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III led the ceremonial harvest of the North East Sifflu Council of Irrigators Association here on September 12, 2014.

About 117,000 metric tons of rice were harvested from 23,000 hectares in the System. Engr. Padernal said that MARIIS is the first to experience a bumper cropping season.

"Water supply was low for the last cropping season, but we pushed for early water distribution. Farmers are getting higher prices for their produce," he said.

He said that in 2012, MARIIS had an average income of P 36,000 per hectare. For this year the report shows it increased to P67,000.

Administrator Florencio F. Padernal thanked the MARIIS farmers for a bumper crop. "We have to look forward to a better harvest," he said.

He said the National Irrigation Commission will always support the MARIIS farmers with efficient irrigation systems. "This would result to improved crop yields for the groups and farmers," he said.



At a rice farm under the North East Sifflu Council of Irrigators Association the Administrator with the PAIS manager, MARIIS personnel, and local chief executives headed by Isabela Governor Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III.



Administrator Florencio F. Padernal interacts with farmers displaying their produce at the "bagsakan" set up at the side of the Roxas Astrodome, shortly after he led the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the place.

harvest festival in Isabela, farmers income

Despite the water supply at the start of this cropping season in the NIA-Magat River System (MARIIS) are now best.

F. Padernal, together with Manager Mariano G. Dancel and Justino "Bojie" G. Dy, led on a rice farm under the NIA-Magat River System of Irrigators Association 014.

Thousands of palay have been harvested from 23,000 hectares of rice lands. Dancel proudly shared the harvest of palay for this season.

From April to May but we have a good delivery and now farmers are happy for their produce," he said.

MARIIS farmers reported a yield of 36,000 metric tons per hectare but the average income has increased.

F. Padernal congratulated the farmers for a very good harvest. "But we are looking forward to the next harvest which will be even more challenged."

The Irrigation Administration will continue to assist MARIIS farmers and provide irrigation service. "In turn, this will increase the income for the irrigators," the Administrator said. ★



The Administrator strikes a pose at one of the display booths at the side of the Roxas Astrodome during the Rice Harvest Festival on September 12, 2014. (left to right) MARIIS-Division III Manager William B. Oppuer, NIA-Public Affairs and Information Staff Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, MARIIS Administrative and Finance Manager Editha Valledor Dagui Morales, Roxas Mayor Benedit C. Calderon, and MARIIS Operations Manager Mariano G. Dancel.



The Administrator receives a Certificate of Appreciation from the Presidents of the Federations of Irrigators Associations in MARIIS (from left to right) Raymundo F. Prieto (FIAD II), Antonio A. Cruz (FIAD I representative), Nemesio F. Yadao (FIAD IV, CIAM), and Alejandrino S. Pascua (FIAD III).

CBIMO posts record high collection efficiency, awards performing employees

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

Regional Celebrations

Cagayan-Batanes Irrigation Management Office (CBIMO) of the National Irrigation Administration in Region 2 had broken its own record!

As the bulk of work lie heavily with CBIMO, achieving closest to their collection target is a necessity to bring NIA Region 2 to an even keel. Last year, during the first semester (January to June), CBIMO rated 78.89% in Collection Efficiency (CE) and 1.66 in Viability Index (VI). This year, however, it had collected a total of Php 81,114,128.00, earning an all-time high CE of 89.07% and posted 2.61 in VI, a colossal increase of about Php 21 million from last year's Php 64,871,508.

NIA CBIMO Day- Recognition and Awarding Ceremony was staged on August 18, 2014 in appreciation of this stellar performance. It took place at the CBIMO Office in Maddarulog, Solana, Cagayan.



Acting RIM Antonio Lara congratulates the very satisfactory performance of CBIMO.

"Napakagaling niyo! Naipakita niyo na pwedeng mabuhay ang NIA sa pamamagitan lamang ng collection ng ISF. This was your answer to my challenge during the turn-over ceremony when I said that I am easily satisfied with the best," Engr. Antonio Lara, Acting Regional Irrigation Manager (RIM), exclaimed in his message.

To show the agency's high appreciation of their unprecedented achievement, employees who displayed outstanding performance and garnered 79% in CE were given certificates of recognition and cash award, such as:

Water Resources Facility Technician	Irrigation System
Felicidad Maguigad	Solana Pump IS
Dante Salazar	Lower Chico RIS
Edswen Bundoc	Iguig-Alcala Amulung Pump IS
Mario Galingana	Baggao IS
Efren Ancheta	Zinundungan RIS
Jaime Capalungan	East Apayao-Abulog IS
Faustino Rumpon	
Dominador Madrid, Jr.	
Herminigildo Ventura	
Arthur Caluya	
Antonio Gonzales	
Benigno Managuera	
Romulo Teja	
Miguel Poblete	
Constancio Umoso	
Johnny Pagador	Magapit Pump IS
Rolly Ugalde	
Jonard Buduan	
Wilson Galvan	
Hederglee Villamin	
Lee Ann Caballes	Banurbur Creek IS
Emerson Lactaoen	Baua RIS
Eldor Saliganan	Visitacion IS

In his message, Engr. Francis Yu, the Acting Division Manager of CBIMO stressed that they should consider themselves successful because all of them moved forward. He especially mentioned that Magapit Pump Irrigation System (MPIS), headed by Engr. Ricardo Agustin, made history by achieving 89.3%, a first in the 35-year existence of the system. MPIS was able to hit Php 23,854,100.96 in total collection, pushing the VI up to 4.45.



Acting Division Manager of CBIMO Francis Yu says he is very pleased and very proud of their accomplishment.

"We did our best and we have proven that our best is more than good enough. As long as we maintain our unity, harmony, and dedication to our job and responsibilities, there is no doubt that the least we can do is to maintain our present level of performance. And the best we can do is to exceed it," Engr. Yu challenged his employees and staff.



Acting Division Manager of EOD Avelino C. Tuazon hands Engr. Francis Yu a plaque of appreciation for their unprecedented achievement.

The awardees, who received plaque and cash incentive, together with Acting DM Francis Yu and other CBIMO staff.



Chief	Cluster/Office
Nelson Guittap	SPIS/LCRIS/PRIS
Leonardo Villegas	IAAPIS/BIS
Ernesto Collado	DRIS/ZRIS
Rolando Sorita	EAAIS
Ricardo Agustin	MPIS
Felipa Sumer	BCIS/BRIS/VIS
Francis Yu	CBIMO



The different cluster heads also received plaque of appreciation. From left: Ricardo Agustin, Ernesto Collado, DM Yu, DM of AFD Freddie Martinez, Felipa Sumer, Rolando Sorita, Nelson Guittap and Leonardo Villegas.

IMO	Actual Collection	CE
ISAIMO	8,844,411.99	86.01%
QIMO	7,167,660.21	90.00%
NVIMO	1,853,956.14	100%



Pres. Florencio Soliven of the Samahang Magpapatubig sa Lambak ng Cagayan Inc. (SMLCI), the regional federation of IAs, testifies of the strong partnership of IA and NIA which led to this recognition day.

With all the positive figures brought about by NIA employees' passion and enthusiasm, Engr. Agustin shared his impression: *"A man with great passion and few skills always outperforms a man with great skills and no passion. Passion makes the impossible possible!"*

CBIMO Day not only consisted of the recognition ceremony but also of volleyball games, both for men and women. In the heat of the afternoon sun, Team C, consisting of MPIS, BCIS, BRIS, and DRIS emerged as champions. ★

NIA 4A CELEBRATES 51st ANNIVERSARY

By Marietta M. Dela Cruz, PRO, Region 4A

A corporate anniversary is an achievement that deserves recognition, in the sense that in the corporate world, age symbolizes strength and security. It communicates to employees and the clientele that the agency has survived so far and intends to be around for many years to come. An anniversary program is as much about heralding past accomplishments as looking forward. Aside from celebrating, it is also a significant opportunity to accomplish goals. Such occasions offer the potential to boost employee morale, strengthen the support of clientele, and increase visibility within the community.

In NIA, it has been the tradition to conduct a week long anniversary celebration at the agency's Central Office. However, this year, the 51st anniversary celebration was confined to a one-day celebration at regional offices simultaneous with the Central Office.

On June 18, 2014, in participation to the simultaneous nationwide celebration of the agency's 51st anniversary, NIA 4A gathered together for a Thanksgiving Mass at the Regional Compound in Pila, Laguna. After the morning mass, everybody went to Pila Multi-purpose Gym and cheered for their favored men's basketball team (RO/LRIMO vs. Cavite-Batangas IMO). Said game is the second play-off (first round) in the ongoing Inter-IMO/RO Invitational Basketball Tournament. After lunch was served, everybody enjoyed the women's volleyball game played by RO/LRIMO vs. Quezon IMO.

After a sport-filled day, a fellowship night commenced with the theme "*Buhay sa Bukid*" in relation to the 51st anniversary theme of "*Tulong-tulong, Sama-sama sa Pagsulong ng NIA sa Pandaigdigang Pagbabago ng Klima*".

Everyone was enthusiastically donned in their own native attire. Dinner menu offered native dishes that complemented the affair. Each IMO presented a cultural dance: Cavite-Batangas IMO danced the Cariñosa; Laguna-Rizal IMO stepped up the Subli; Regional Office's Pangkat Mananayaw presented an interpretative dance "*Bathala*"; and Quezon IMO a Muslim inspired dance.

Videoke singing contest ensued - OPM for the young ones and Kundiman for the oldies. OPM First Place is Ms. Mikee Tejero of Laguna-Rizal IMO; Second Place is Ms. Rogelda Babaan of Regional Office; and Third Place is Ms. Hazel Pederal of Quezon IMO. For the Kundiman Golden Voices Winners: First Place is Mr. Raul Del Mundo of Laguna-Rizal IMO; Second Place is Mr. Leonardo Dinio of Cavite-Batangas IMO; and Third Place is Mr. Benedict Bilyugan also of Cavite-Batangas IMO.

Indeed, the affair was a success, employees morale were lifted high and strengthened the camaraderie and fellowship among colleagues to face another challenging year together and continue on working for the success of the agency. ★

"Success is... knowing your purpose in life, growing to reach your maximum potential, and sowing seeds that benefit others."

-John Maxwell



NIA Region IV-A Employees during the Inter-IMO/ RO Invitational Tournament



IA RECOGNITION DAY IN REGION 4A

By Marietta M. Dela Cruz, PRO, Region 4A

On May 22, 2014, Outstanding and Best Performing Irrigators Associations were recognized headed by the Hall of Fame Awardee – the Tumbaga I-Bucal Irrigators Association, Inc.

Irrigators Associations (IA) Recognition Day celebrates the milestone in the working partnership of NIA and IAs in the past year. The events associated with Recognition Day reinforce the concept of teamwork and overcoming adversity through many challenges and the tenacity to succeed. Likewise, NIA recognizes

the important contribution of IAs in the agency's pursuit in achieving part of its vision, which is to develop viable, dynamic IA to capably manage irrigation systems.

Below are the awardees who were given Plaques/Certificates of Appreciation and cash prizes for their exemplary performances and who demonstrates integrity and strong commitment to its responsibility to their association and members as well as to the implementation of NIA institutional development programs, to wit:

NIS/CIS AWARDEE	NAME OF IA	CATEGORY	AWARD
Tumbaga I Bucal CIS	Tumbaga I Bucal IA, Inc.	Hall of Fame Award	Plaque of Appreciation 10,000.00
Sta. Maria-Mayor RIS	STAMASI, Inc.	Outstanding IA, NIS Category	Plaque of Appreciation 10,000.00
Jaybanga CIS	Jaybanga IA, Inc.	Outstanding IA, CIS Category	Plaque of Appreciation 10,000.00
Ma. Pelaez CIS	Dona Ma. Pelaez FIA, Inc.	Best Performing IA for O&M	Plaque of Appreciation 7,000.00
Jaybanga CIS	Jaybanga IA, Inc.	Best Performing IA for Financial Mgt.	Plaque of Appreciation 7,000.00
Banlikan CIS	Banlikan IA, Inc.	Best Performing IA for Org'l Mgt.	Plaque of Appreciation 7,000.00
Tina Pantay CIS	Tina Pantay IA, Inc.	IA Nominee	Certificate of Appreciation 5,000.00
Maravilla CIS	MAMIA, Inc.	IA Nominee	Certificate of Appreciation 5,000.00
Mayao Parada Sta. Teresa CIS	Mayao Parada Sta. Teresa IA, Inc.	IA Nominee	Certificate of Appreciation 5,000.00
Bungahan San Diego CIS	Bungahan San Diego IA, Inc.	IA Nominee	Certificate of Appreciation 5,000.00
Cantaricio CIS	Cantaricio IA, Inc.	IA Nominee	Certificate of Appreciation 5,000.00
Caputahan Maragondon San Juan Tarnate CIS	CMSJT IA, Inc.	IA Nominee	Certificate of Appreciation 5,000.00
Balanac RIS	BRISIA, Inc.	IA Nominee	Certificate of Appreciation 5,000.00
Palico RIS		Most Improved NIS	Plaque of Appreciation

The Plaques/Certificates of Appreciation and cash incentives were given in acknowledgment of the significant efforts, hard work, and perseverance they have contributed for the consistent viability of the region. This IA Recognition Day is the region's way in saying "thank you", "well done," and "we value you as our partner" - to our Irrigators Associations. ★

MIMAROPA Gives:

Celebrating NIA's 51st Anniversary

By: Aileen Vernice G. Bahia, PRO, Region 4B

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you." - Deuteronomy 16:17

This year's NIA Anniversary is quite different from that of the previous celebrations held by the agency. Instead of having lavish events, NIA MIMAROPA preferred to organize a simultaneous feeding program within the region held on June 19, 2014. The regional office and the three Irrigation Management Offices (IMOs) chose different primary schools as their beneficiary.

The regional office headed by Acting Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas, Jr. conducted the feeding program at Bayanan II Elementary School where they gave packed lunch to about 378 students.

In his message, Engr. Cardenas said that he is very delighted to be part of such heartwarming activity. Knowing the plight of the students, he donated Php10, 000 for those who cannot afford to buy their school uniforms and school supplies.

Meanwhile, MOMARO IMO headed by Acting Division Manager Carlito T. Resurreccion, fed about 75 students of Bayanan I Elementary School while Occidental Mindoro IMO spearheaded by Acting Division Manager Wilson M. Lopez preferred the San Roque II Elementary School as their beneficiary. About 300 students were fed with healthy meals. Palawan IMO conducted the same activity where they fed the three (3) Day Care Centers located at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan particularly the Golden Valley, Diamond, and Mulawin Day Care Centers. The beneficiaries were about 135 students. Said activity was headed by Division Manager Mario M. Hebreo. ★



Acting Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas Jr. leads the NIA staff in giving food to the students of Bayanan II Elementary School



MOMARO IMO conducts their feeding program at Bayanan I Elementary School



Palawan IMO gave free lunch to the students of three Day Care Centers at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan



Occidental Mindoro IMO Division Manager Wilson M. Lopez heads the feeding program at San Roque II Elementary School

4B Celebrates NIA-IA DAY: *Awards Top Performing IAs*

By: Aileen Vernice G. Bahia, PRO, Region 4B

With the theme, “*IA, sa NIA MIMAROPA Ikaw ang Bida!*”, NIA Region IV-B once again celebrated the NIA-IA Day on May 7-8, 2014 at NIA Compound, Bayanan II, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. Participated and attended by officers and presidents of Irrigators Associations and NIA regional staff. The said event was spearheaded by Acting Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas Jr. Engr. Bayani P. Ofrecio, NIA Central



SABAPECODEL IA, ANILORCU IA, and SUMVILDAD IA pose with their cheque prize during the event



Presentation of the targets for CY 2014 Commitments



Guests (L-R) Provincial Agriculturist Petronilo L. Dimailig, DA Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer Coleta C. Quindong, NIA IV-B Eng'g & Operations Division Acting Manager Cesar M. Pobre, Institutional Development Division Manager Bayani P. Ofrecio, NIA IV-B Acting Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas, Jr., NIA IV-A Regional Manager Romeo M. Lopez, NFA Asst. Provincial Manager Rogelio Lumpas, NFA Operations Asela Infantado and Mrs. Luchi Aquino Cardenas

Office Institutional Development Division (IDD) Manager, graced the event together with Mr. Rogelio Lumpas, National Food Authority (NFA) Asst. Provincial Manager; Ms. Asela Infantado, NFA Operations Manager; Ms. Coleta C. Quindong, Department of Agriculture (DA) Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer; and Mr. Petronilo L. Dimailig, Provincial Agriculturist.

In his inspirational message, Engr. Cardenas mentioned that NIA, along with NFA and other agencies, is now under the Office of the President. He also added that rice will be imported from Thailand and Vietnam to cope up with the non-production of the Philippines during the onslaught of Typhoon Yolanda.

The Director also stated the different countermeasures conducted by the region to combat El Niño Phenomenon as forecasted by PAG-ASA. Such measures were the distribution of water pump, reuse water, adjustment of cropping calendar, and crop diversification. Guests have also shared their insights and updates on their agencies to inform the Irrigators Associations.

The awarding proper then commenced with an introductory speech from Engr. Cesar M. Pobre, Region 4B's Engineering and Operations Division Chief, where he stated that capacitating the IAs is included in the program of the region, Sustainable Operations and Development Agenda (SODA).

Three IAs outshined the others and achieved Outstanding status: Sta. Rita, Balingayan, Personas, Comunal Del Pilar IA (SABAPECODEL), NIS; Anilao Orcunoma (Anilorcu) IA, CIS; and Sumagui, Villa Pag-asa, Libertad (SUMVILTAD) IA, CIS. Those IAs who achieved Very Satisfactory ratings and 100% Collection Efficiency (CE) were also given recognition while the three Irrigation Management Offices (IMO) were commended for attaining viability for CY 2013.

One major highlight of the event was the presentation of targets for CY 2014 Commitments. Targeting was divided per system in each IMO. This

will be the basis of the region in monitoring the collection of the IMOs. Some systems decided to increase their pledged commitments during the IA Day.

Fun games were also prepared and conducted to further improve the relationship of NIA and IAs. NIA MIMAROPA Regional staff impresses the IAs by performing different presentations such as singing and dancing.

With the success of this NIA IA Day as well as the previous one, Engr. Pobre stressed that this will be a regular annual activity of the region.★



IA Presidents and Officers attended the activity

Region 8: Still Moving Forward

By: Lilia V. Dapuran, PRO, Region 8



RIM Romeo G. Quiza leads the Region 8 officials in recognizing Irrigators Associations' efforts. With them is former NIA Administrator Engr. Alexander A. Reuyan (in checkered polo)

After being flattened by Super Typhoon Yolanda, the NIA-8 management in collaboration with the NIAEASPR Regional Office Chapter pulled all the stops to make the agency's 51st Anniversary celebration fun and exciting for the employees on June 23, 2014. It was also a venue to show everyone that Region 8 is moving forward.

A thanksgiving mass started the morning of the anniversary celebration, followed by some fun games for the employees. Before the main program, Region 8 started the 51st anniversary celebration on the right track with its "BOODLE FIGHT" at lunchtime, which is a first in the region on any occasion. It warms the heart seeing employees eating with their bare hands while mingling with the Regional Manager and the Chiefs of IMOs and Satellite Offices. Indeed, it was a novel way of uniting the ties between employees at all levels and showed that no typhoon could disintegrate the bond holding NIA-8 together.

The main program was done in the afternoon with former NIA Administrator and former NIA Region 7 and 8 Regional Manager Alexander A. Reuyan as special guest. Engr. Reuyan, in his anniversary message, said "*Maski hindi tayo mag number one basta ma-surpass ang record, the important thing is we performed and did our best.*"

For the disaster-stricken Region 8, it was a challenge to raise the bar in its

performance in the delivery of service to farmers but resilience and hard work still prevailed. The celebration wasn't just to celebrate NIA's founding anniversary, but also a celebration of NIA-8's persistence amidst the devastation brought about by Yolanda.

As part of the yearly tradition, the management, led by Regional Manager Romeo G. Quiza, gave awards to the top three Most Functional Irrigators Association from the National Irrigation System (NIS) and Communal Irrigation System (CIS). The six IAs were able to conform to the requirements in terms of organization, operation and maintenance, and financial management of their respective IAs. The awardees, ably represented by their IA Chairmen, received office equipment from the management that could motivate them to sustain their best efforts and further

strengthen the NIA-IA partnership and inspire other IAs to follow in their tracks.

The Search for Miss SIREYNIA 2014 served as the highlight of the anniversary celebration. It fired-up the employees especially in the talent portion where the candidates showcased their natural capacity to act, sing, and dance with aplomb that no one will suspect that they were straight men. The hilarious part of the one-day affair really made their day.

Now, NIA-8 is tougher and prepared to take off its efforts in continuing the delivery of service to farmers come rain or shine. Onwards to the 52nd Year! ★



IA Presidents with RIM Quiza and former NIA Administrator Engr. Reuyan during the 51st Anniversary celebration in Tacloban City.

F is for Fifty-first

By: Mylene Malecdan, PRO, CAR

51st

To understand the present, we look back into our past—the beginnings that shape what NIA is today. After more than half a century of serving the farmers, NIA's fifty-first anniversary was meant to reminisce memories, to celebrate victories, to reflect on learnings, and to create new memories and inspirations.

During the opening program, Kalinga officials lauded NIA's contribution to the province's development. "Tabuk did not become what it is today without NIA," Governor Jocel Ba-ac said. Congressman Manuel Agyao also cited the agency's role being in the forefront in developing productive agricultural areas.

F is also for the first time NIA-CAR decided to hold a regional celebration of NIA's birth at the NIA Kalinga IMO grounds in Bulanao, Tabuk City, Kalinga on June 16-18, 2014. This regional celebration is a first (and hopefully not the last) in NIA-CAR's history. Employees, young and old, from different NIA-CAR field offices got to meet, mingle, play, and have fun with each other.

F is for full of wisdom. NIA retirees who are either local officials or businessmen at present graced the activity and shared their experiences, knowledge, and advice. The guest speaker was Engr. Orlando Bulseco, former project manager of UCRIS and former regional manager of NIA-Regions 1 and 2 where CAR provinces were under before NIA-CAR was created. He discussed nine sustainable resources development and underscored on qualities NIAns must possess: honesty, truthfulness, and integrity, as well as cooperation, coordination, and discipline. All messages from the retirees challenged the NIAns to possess the same commitment that their predecessors displayed.

F is for fun. The temperature was scorching hot reaching as high as 33°C but it did not stop the smiles, laughs, jokes and witty banters which filled the atmosphere during the entire three-day activity. The parade introduced the delegates to one another, NIAns to fellow NIAns, NIA retirees, Kalinga and UCRIS-Quezon irrigators, and farmers. The games facilitated healthy competition as well as entertainment. The elder-players in their never-before-seen activity joined their teams in playing basketball, volleyball, and darts (RIO-ABIM IO and Kalinga IMO were both overall champions in the sportsfest). The collection caravan teamed up NIAns with the irrigators associations in collecting irrigation service fees from UCRIS beneficiaries in Tabuk, generating a total income of more than P0.5 million in just three hours from the six teams (The Apayao group won!)

F is for fellowship and friendship. It was a NIA-CAR family gathering with a spirit of pleasant competition, teambuilding and fellowship. New friendship bloomed, while old ones were

rekindled. The fellowship night featured the powerful voices of NIAns as well as their dance skills, from the upbeat cultural presentations and graceful pearly shells to the festive grand march.

And yes, F is for the Forest. For three years now, NIA has embarked on re-greening the Philippines thru its Synchronized Tree Planting dubbed "Trees, Water, Life." In coordination with the local DENR offices, just like the other NIA offices nationwide, NIA-CAR together with the Irrigators Association and other groups conducted the tree planting on June 6. There were 3,486 fruit and forest tree seedlings planted on eight different sites covering an area of about four hectares. The endeavor is for the future of the irrigation systems. ★

NIAns team up with IAs in a collection caravan contest.



Engr. Orlando Bulseco, the guest speaker during NIA's 51st anniversary, receives tokens of appreciation after his speech. Engr. Bulseco was the former project manager of UCRIS, regional manager of NIA-Region 1.



All NIAns from the different offices in CAR dance together in a rare opportunity during the fellowship night in celebration of NIA's 51st Anniversary.

"I never had a policy; I have just tried to do my very best each and every day."

-Abraham Lincoln



Viable Ventures

MOVING FORWARD: PIDP Conducts Distress Management and de-Briefing Session for YOLANDA Survivors

| By: Lilia V. Dapuran, PRO, Region 8



The participants listen intently to Fr. Divino in his Distress and de-Briefing lecture.

The magnitude of devastation super typhoon Yolanda brought to Region 8 was beyond imaginable proportion and left people in a zombie-like state, walking with their blank stares, as if the world has crashed on them with nowhere to go. Although in some point in our lives we have experienced a certain “Yolanda,” the Yolanda that battered the people of Region 8 can be considered the Mother of all Yolandas.

The survivors of the calamity cannot come yet into terms of what happened. It was as if everything was lost in a blink of an eye. Their trauma needs healing for them to return to their sound state. On this premise, the Participatory Irrigation Development Program (PIDP) conducted a 2-day Distress Management and de-Briefing Session for PIDP-IMT implementers and selected regional and field staff. The 2-day activity was held at Ormoc Villa Hotel on March 13-14, 2014.

Fr. Luisito D. Divino, CICM facilitated the 2-day session. He was the former Pastoral Director of the Vicariate of Tabuk-Kalinga and Apayao from 2002-2006. Presently, Fr. Divino is the Rector-Administrator of Home Sweet Home, a Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM) retirement community in Baguio City. His active involvement

in retreat and recollection giving, spiritual formations, and Distress Management seminars to various groups and entities has made him the most effective resource speaker.

The Distress Management and de-briefing session was simply dynamic because Fr. Divino got the undivided attention of the participants by masterfully navigating his every topic with pun and anecdotes. His play of words was like revisiting “Classroom lessons,” a re-education. Without being a bore, Fr. Divino channeled his thoughts by giving a peek into his life which was so full of drama and inspiration. Fr. Divino also experienced “Yolanda” early in his childhood. His story somehow gave a mental relief to the typhoon survivors – hearing that someone shares their troubles.

One of the highlights of the workshop was when Fr. Divino, in his attempt to address the negative effects of Yolanda in the lives of the participants, instructed everyone to draw anything that would convey their experience of the super typhoon’s wrath. As expected, the images depicted grim apocalypse-like situations, which means there was still a need to unclog the heaviness in the minds of the participants. On cue, the Resource speaker then engaged the participants in yoga-like exercises and with eyes closed they embarked in a journey to their own “little nirvanas” to release all the unnecessary elements in their systems. The activity was capped with the tearing of the drawings and trampling them over. After which, he directed the group to gather all the energy they could muster



Flashback: the employees holding their drawings depicting their grim experience of the super typhoon Yolanda which need de-clogging.

and loudly and triumphantly shout “YES, we have conquered YOLANDA.”

The de-briefing session was rediscovery of the sometimes misunderstood thing called life. We often forget that life is a journey and has limits. The Yolanda that hit us is part of the non-equations of life that we have to hurdle according to Fr. Divino. He said that to overcome distress, we should create a space. Space, he added, is a room for growth, improvement, progress, and creativity. To get out of

stress and overcome “Yolanda” in our lives, he said, one should have affirmative responses. We should know how to affirm and be positive in life.

The participants, after the two-day session, were truly recharged and given renewed mechanism to cope with stress and other challenges in life. It is, indeed, a foot forward towards positivity and a step in realizing that life is still wonderful. ★

While natural disasters capture headlines and national attention short-term, the work of recovery and rebuilding is long-term.

-Sylvia Mathews Burwell



The participants pose for a group picture after the session

Gov., stakeholders push Dam implementation

By: Danielle Parian-Pijuan, PRO, Region 6



Dr. Lino Aldovino, Dam Expert, speaks before the JRMP stakeholders

At the JRMP II Stakeholders' Dialogue hosted by JRMP II on April 2, 2014 at the Provincial Capitol, the stakeholders of the nine affected barangays and seven indirectly affected barangays expressed their anticipation for the implementation of the project, which they believe can help alleviate poverty in the project affected areas. On the other hand, line agencies showed their commitments in helping the project according to their mandates.

Gov. Arthur Defensor Sr., ever supportive of the project, encouraged the Indigenous People (IPs) to once and for all express their apprehensions about the project while all the JRMP II management and dam experts are present. Dr. Lino Aldovino, an experienced hydrologist and dam expert, assured the IPs that the dam adapted the Roller Compacted Concrete type design, with a concrete embankment that could withstand an 8.5 magnitude earthquake and 220km/hour storm surge.

On the other hand Hon. Juvy Camarig, Punong Barangay of Binolusan Pequeno, Calinog expressed her hopes for the project, she said “I fully support the project, I strongly believe that JRMP-II will help uplift our lives in the mountains, this is our hope for a brighter future, we have been poor for so long already, there has to be a change,” reflecting the same sentiments of her co-participants.

The activity provided a venue for the stakeholders to convene, clarify recurring issues, and partake in the realization of the most anticipated developmental project in the province of Iloilo. ★



RIM Corsiga (right) presents the JRMP II Resttlemen Plan to Gov. Defensor (left)

WORLD BANK- PIDP 9TH IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT MISSION: Positive notes on its continuing efforts to achieve PDO

By: Ma. Victoria J. Mamaril, Environmental Specialist, PIDP

The World Bank -PIDP Task Team, in close collaboration with the National Irrigation Administration and other partner and oversight agencies, undertook the 9th Implementation Support Mission on May 5-16, 2014. The mission aims to assess the progress of project implementation as well as the likelihood of attaining its development objectives.

The review was carried out through meetings with key implementers at the central and field offices and field visits in selected PIDP covered NISs in Regions 2, 3, 4-A and 4-B including interactions with Irrigators Associations (IAs). The findings and recommendations were discussed in a Wrap-Up Meeting on May 16, 2014.

The over-all project performance was found to be moderately satisfactory. The mission found that the trend

towards achievement of the Project Development Objective (PDO) continues to be positive. The project achievements and over-all progress of implementation is reported at 50% physical accomplishment. Under the loan proceeds, disbursement and utilization rates are 40.70% and 27.70% respectively.

Accomplishments under the Irrigation Sector Restructuring and Reform are well advanced as per mission findings. The implementation of the NIA RatPlan had been successful with all the retirees fully paid.

Substantial progress and continuing improvement in the implementation of Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) was reported in the 58 NISs covered by PIDP with over-all accomplishment of 66%. The IAs visited by the team showed a stronger sense of responsibility with regards to IMT

implementation and performance of their share of O&M responsibilities.

The assessment on the Irrigation Infrastructure Development component was found generally satisfactory. The completion of civil works resulted in significant impact on the level of satisfaction of IAs with the irrigation services. The mission recommendations focused on the quality assurance and supervision on on-going works and putting these on a fast track mode. The over-all physical status for civil works is 29.98%.

The implementation of the Environmental and Social Safeguards was noted to be progressing. The preparations of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for 11 NISs are on-going while the Contractors' Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) for 13 NISs had been submitted to the PMO.

The mission commended the Project Management Office for its continuing efforts towards the achievement of Project Development Objectives.

The mission was led by Ms. Maria Theresa G. Quinones (World Bank Task Team Leader) and Engr. Modesto G. Membreve (Acting Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations) through Engr. Gene P. Ragodon, Jr. (PIDP Project Manager).★



1. 9th Implementation Support Mission Wrap-Up Meeting attended by Administrator Claro V. Maranan, Senior Deputy Administrator Felix M. Razo & Department Managers on May 16, 2014

2. Mission Field Visit in Sta. Maria Mayor RIS, Region IV-A

3. Dummun Diversion Dam Completed Ahead of Time



World Bank and PIDP visit MIMAROPA

By: Myra B. Madriaga, IDO, Region 4-B

Regional EOD Acting Division Manager Cesar M. Pobre (1st from R) assisted the PIDP and World Bank Task Team in evaluating the Lateral A steel gate of Baco-Bucayao RIS



Consultants from the World Bank and the Task Team of the Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP) visited MIMAROPA on May 12-13, 2014 to address relevant concerns and assess the current situation of PIDP-supported projects in the region.

Aimed to monitor the current status of the project and deal with the challenges and difficulties in its implementation, the team personally observed the situation of the Baco-Bucayao River Irrigation System (BBRIS) focusing on the proposed repair and rehabilitation of irrigation structures damaged by typhoon Yolanda. The team also talked with the IAs and other stakeholders to intensify their evaluation.

During the joint meeting with NIA personnel and exit conference, Maria Theresa G. Quiñones, Senior Operations Officer and leader of the PIDP Task Team emphasized that the three pillars of PIDP: 1. Rationalization Plan; 2. Institutional Strengthening at IMT; and 3. Infrastructure Development should be sufficient to sustain the objectives of the project.

Particularly, Dorothy Lucks, World Bank specialist for the Institutional Development at Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), encouraged the implementation of Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) in which the success of NIA's Rationalization Plan depends on. She expounded that IMT is an opportunity, not a challenge.

For the three national irrigation systems (NIS) in the MIMAROPA Region benefitting from PIDP– Baco-Bucayao RIS (Oriental Mindoro), Pagbahan RIS (Occidental Mindoro), at Batang-batang RIS (Palawan)– the team assured to immediately attend their needs to address problems faced by the systems.

The visit is a part of the 9th World Bank-PIDP Implementation Support Mission, a regular monitoring activity by the World Bank and PIDP-PMO to assess the situation of PIDP sub-projects, done every four to six months. The mission has already visited CAR, Region 2, Region 3, and Region 4-A prior to its visit in Region IV-B. ★



Ms. Maria Theresa G. Quiñones, Senior Operations Officer and leader of the PIDP Task Team, explained the three Pillars of PIDP and the objectives of the World Bank mission



Acting Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas, Jr. accompanies the PIDP and World Bank Task Team during their inspection at Baco-Bucayao RIS located at Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

NIA EMPLOYEES ATTEND TRAINING COURSE IN JAPAN

By: Maria Luisa A. Frias, PAIS- C.O. with Engr. Isidora M. Camaya, IEC, Operations Department



Eight NIA personnel successfully completed the Country Focused Training Course on Farmland through Geographic Information System (GIS) on May 19-30, 2014 structured by Japan International Cooperation Agency-Technical Cooperation Project 3 (JICA-TCP3) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), National Institute for Rural Engineering (NIRE), Federations of Land Improvement Association (FLIA), and other related organizations in Tokyo, Tsukuba, Nagoya, and Kobe, Japan.

The successful trainees include the following: Dexter F. Tinapay-Sr. Engineer A, NIA-Davao del Norte, Region 11; Jonn Brent S. Atraje-Engineer A, NIA-UPRIIS, Nueva Ecija; Ave Jane T. Vargas-Sr. IDO, NIA-Mindoro Oriental, Region 4B; Isidora M. Camaya-Chief Researcher Analyst, Irrigation Engineering Center-Office of the Division Manager, NIA-Central Office; Angelina P. Angeles- Manager, Corporate Planning Services (CORPLAN), NIA-Central Office; Liezl G. Jarangue-Sr. Water Resource Facility Technician, Barotac Viejo, Iloilo IMO, Region 6; Julieta E. Gallardo-Sr. Institutional Development Officer, Aklan-Capiz IMO, Region 6; and Yolanda O. Razo-Principal Engineer C, NIA-Davao City, Region 11.

According to the trainees, the training primarily aimed to boost comprehension on the establishment of accurate farm lot database and its optimum utilization motivated them in data management analyzed through Geographic Information System (GIS) to extract accurate information for effective decision-making in water delivery distribution, asset management and disaster counter-measures.

Through this training, participants have recognized the importance of Information System entity that serves as technical support in operation and maintenance of water ecosystems. They realized the immersion in technical world of Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, specifically at Geographic Survey Institute (GSI), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and Pacific Surveying Company (PASCO) that showed advanced computerization mapping system and surveying

techniques. They also learned the associated existing laws and policies of each country (Philippines & Japan) with regards to land and water utilization and management and evaluated influences for an efficient and effective water resource management like government support, government employees' dedication to their jobs, strengthened farmers organization, literacy, and cooperation.

The trainees also visited two of Japan's Prefectural Federations on Land Improvement such as the Aichi Prefectural Federation of Land Improvement Association and the Hyogo Prefectural Federation of Land Improvement Association. These Federations provide information and education on land improvement projects; surveys and research on land improvements; and technical assistance and other forms of guidance related to tasks performed by the federation. In Aichi Prefectural Federation, participants/trainees experienced field exposure on the company's coverage area using tablets for area monitoring of crops planted.

Part of the training are the ocular visits to Regional Agricultural Administration Office wherein the trainees were toured to Miyata Irrigation System and Dondo Dam, in which the latter supplies industrial and public water in Kinki region.

The training encompasses significant components of a successful institution/agency for adoption to achieve a sustainable operations and maintenance of irrigation systems, given emphasis in planning, monitoring and provision of technical support to the irrigation field operations managers. ★



Control Room of Miyata Irrigation System -Monitoring of the status of irrigation water flows in each facility within the irrigation system.



Dondo Dam - One of the Dams under Kinki Regional Agricultural Administration Office that Supplies Industrial and Public Water in the Region.



FEATURE STORY: A MAN MADE OF CALCIUM CARBONATE

By: Michael Joshua C. Bautista, Data Encoder, UPRIIS



“Try not to become a man of success but a man of value...”

-Albert Einstein

A single grain of sand enveloped by layer upon layer of tissue inside an oyster or mussel transforms into a beautiful pearl over a period of time.

Since time immemorial, the pearl is considered as a beautiful jewel that constantly symbolizes purity and natural perfection. The pearl also symbolizes the 30th year anniversary of a particular event in most countries, and as for me, this type of celebration became my gateway to becoming a government employee.

Let me start by giving you a brief background about myself. Three years ago, I gave up my job as a training manager for a business process outsourcing contact center (“call center”) for the sake of my two year old daughter and newly-born son. Yes, I was 23 at the time and a single parent. It was really hard for me to raise and have time for my children when I have to go back and forth from Pasay to Cabanatuan almost every day.

Anyway, one day, my father asked me to write an article for him about their upcoming 30th high school reunion. Fortunately for me, one of his classmates was Engr. Josephine B. Salazar, one of the Division Managers of the National Irrigation Administration (at the time). She was impressed by my article that she told my father that if I was looking for a job, she can hire me as a technical assistant. I submitted my resume and got hired within the month.

Fast forward to the present, I am currently a data encoder and in addition to the usual duties and responsibilities of

the position, I also became the IT administrator and timekeeper of the biometric system. Life was hard at first since I was not in-control of my time. I was asked to work through the long hours of the night to finish a report or a presentation and even made to work through the weekends and the holidays. It is only through sheer loyalty to Engr. Salazar and to the overall performance and glistening image of our division office that I accepted every workload and finished every task ahead of schedule.

Being a workaholic by heart and reputation (and a closet perfectionist), I try to attend to every work assignment with utmost care and dedication. For me, nothing is ever easy. Every task, no matter how small, has an impact to the organization. So I do my part as one of the division office’s soldiers and give it my all so that the division’s reputation remains untarnished.

Well, enough of that. If you think working 8am to 5pm is tough and tiresome, try adding a little spice by going to school at night because that is exactly what I do. Being an ex-prodigal and impertinent son during my irrational youth, I was not able to finish my studies. Taking parental advice from Engr. Salazar, I enrolled at a local university in hope of graduating as an IT specialist (and I will this coming March 2013) to improve my chances of getting promoted. Since I already got my civil service eligibility, all I need now is a diploma.

Anyway, working in a government agency as a data encoder may not be as classy or financially impressing for most people but I actually came to love it. Most of the time is just minimal typing work and minor tinkering with the computer. I get to sneak a peek at my lecture when I am doing

nothing. I get paid a little above minimum wage and given the regular bonuses that are enough to provide for my family. And best of all, I get to see and play with my children every day when I wake up.

But with all the blood, sweat, and countless sacrifices of time and effort comes the biggest and best payout of all. I am not talking about the productivity incentive bonus or the viability incentive grant and not even the awesome collective negotiation agreement bonuses but something priceless.

All in all, life is good. Working for the government is pleasurable and fulfilling, knowing that every employee is doing their part in helping achieve a reality wherein corruption no longer holds the people by the necks and sincere aid is given for the success of the farmer clientele. I know because I am constantly exposed to that kind of environment.

We all start out as dirt, as a single grain of sand. In time, through all the trials and challenges that life throws at us and envelops us with, we become stronger. We develop better character and this, in turn, improves our personality to make us better people.

We are pearls in our own right. I know I am and through the constant polishing of the National Irrigation Administration, I began to shine just a little brighter. One tiny pearl, amidst the countless, selfless, and faceless jewels of our nation.★

This piece was written during the News, Feature, and Editorial Writing Workshop on September 2012 organized by the Public Affairs & Information Staff.

om Luis' wrath



Engr. Florencio Padernal (left) shares a ride with Isabela Gov. Faustino MARIIS operations manager Mariano Dancel on a mechanical reaper

ould out livelihood pro-
ho will be left without
chanized farming.
si Mayor ng pang live-
giggery at sa mga kon-
alakas na, kaya doon
mag-aani (The Mayor
out funds for liveli-
e piggery. Then there
mber of construction
here the harvesters

would go for now)," said Vicente.
With the advantages of using the
reaper, Vicente said many cooperatives
have also invested in these machines
and charge only P2,000 per-hectare of
land harvested.
And with the obvious advantage of
using reapers realized in Roxas, Vicente
expects that the method of mechanized
farming will spread throughout the
Isabela-Cagayan region.

Top NIA officials assume new posts

By Ferdie G. Domingo

CABANATUAN CITY, Nueva Ecija—Engr. Florencio Padernal, National Irrigation Administration head, has replaced 11 top officials, including an assistant administrator and the chief of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS).

In NIA Board Resolution 8084, relieved from their posts were assistant administrator Julius Maquilang, UPRIIS operations manager Josephine Salazar, and regional managers Reynaldo Puno, John Celeste, Vicente Vicmado, Efrin Roquera, William Ragodon, Mario Sande, Alejandro Alberca, department manager Florentino David and division manager Guillermo Mercado.

The resolution was adopted during the agency's 896th regular board meeting last August 9.

The turnover was held at NIA-UPRIIS gymnasium in the presence of former administrator Engr. Antonio Nangal along with NIA employees association president Ernesto Ponce and irrigation association president Danilo Villanueva.

Retained were eight other officials namely regional managers John Socolo of the Cordillera Administrative Region, Antonio Lara (Region 2), Gerardo Cosiga (Region 6), Romeo Quiza (Region 3), Diosdado Rostales (Region 9), Al Saul (Region 12), Encarnacion Soriano (Region 13) and Mariano Dancel, department manager of the Magat River Integrated Irrigation Systems (MARIIS).

The NIA Board is composed of Sec. Francis Pangilinan, presidential adviser on food security and agriculture modernization, as chairman and Padernal as vice chairman with members—Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, National Economic and Development Authority head Arsenio Balisacan, National Power Corp. president Gladys Cruz-Sta. Rita and private sector representative Ismael Tabije.

Padernal replaced administrator

Claro Maranan early last July. Maquilang was designated regional manager of Region 10 while Salazar was named regional manager of Region 3, swapping post with Puno, whom she replaced in 2011.

Celeste moved from Region 11 to Region 1, replacing Vicmado who went to Region 5.

Celeste was replaced by Alberca who was replaced in Region 7 by Sande, formerly with the office of the administrator. Vicmado, barely five months in his post, replaced Ragodon who took over Region 4-A from Roquera, now head of Region 4-B.

David, formerly the department manager of the internal audit services (IAS), was named manager of the central office operations department. He was replaced by Mercado of IAS.

Salazar received the operations manager award for her "exemplary leadership and good governance" from NIA's Personnel Reward and Incentive System Evaluation (PRAISE) committee for her handling of "PRIIS which contributed significantly to NIA's corporate viability and more importantly to the food security program of the government".

UPRIIS, the operator of the World Bank-funded Pantabangan Dam, posted an irrigation service fee (ISF) collection of P297.9 million in 2013, up from P230.196 million in 2012.

A holder of a masteral degree in regional development at the University of Queensland, Australia in 2004, Salazar became the youngest and first-ever female operations manager to head a NIS administratively supervised by the male-dominated NIA in its 51-year history.

UPRIIS is the country's largest national irrigation system (NIS). It serves 102,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Central Luzon, which also hosts the Angat-Manila River Irrigation System that runs and operates the Buxton Dam in Bulacan.

NIA project

ILIGAN CITY – More than 400 hectares of farmlands dedicated to rice production will soon receive dependable water supply for irrigation once the Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP), costing P152 million, is completed in Lahao del Norte province. This was revealed during the recently conducted Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) meeting held at Macapagal Training Center, Capitol grounds, in Tubod town last September 18. The PIDP is a joint rehabilitation project of the Philippine Government and World Bank implemented through the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). "We appeal to those that will be affected during the construction of PIDP to make some small sacrifices because in the end we shall reap big benefits," said NIA-Mandarin Sub-Office head Engr. Sofronio Deljero. (Camcer Ordonez Imam)

Isabela expects P8.3-B yield despite storms

BL PERANTE

Isabela — Despite the
typhoons and the
last summer that hit
Nueva Valley Region,
NIA Administration-
rated Irrigation Sys-
tem rice crops planted
this season.

The Nino phenomenon
hydrated many dams
our Magat Dam in
planting season, still
irrigate some 81,000
83,000 hectares of

rice lands in the province," said NIA-MARIIS Operations Manager Mariano Dancel.

With an expected average production of 100 cavans per hectare at 54 kilograms per bag at P19 sums up P1,026 a sack of pelay that is equivalent to P102,600 income per hectare. Multiplied by 81,000 hectares it would yield a total of P8.31 billion.

Dancel said it is his agency that determines the volume of water to be used for power generation depending on the irrigation requirements in the covered area.

"We control the volume of water being used by the Magat Hydro-electric

Plant in Ramon town for its power generation that it can not just release water more than our irrigation requirements. No matter how critically low was the water level of the reservoir at planting time, we already have programmed the needed water that could secure our rice lands until the rainy season," said Dancel.

While Dancel's group was able to irrigate rice lands in Isabela including Santiago City and Quirino Province regularly covered by MARIIS, the agency has managed to come up with a number of diversion dams that can catch waste water from farms upstream.

Solve squatting problems in irrigation canals, NIA urged

By STEVE A.
GOSUICO

PALAYAN CITY, Nueva Ecija — Local chief executives in Nueva Ecija have sought the help of the National Irrigation Administration chief in addressing the squatting problem plaguing NIA's irrigation canals and waterways, saying these illegal housing structures block the flow of water supply to farmlands that can possibly turn them into virtual wastelands.

During an open forum at the holding of the Nueva Ecija water summit here, Riazal Town Mayor Rafaelito V. Andres asked NIA chief Florencio F. Padernal about the alleged worsening squatting issue and the possible measures that can be taken to solve it.



Padernal

was primarily held to prepare the province against the possible onslaught of El Nino phenomenon during next year's dry crop season.

In asking Padernal, Andres cited the squatting problem confronting Gapan City and his town, which lies next to Pantabangan Dam, saying it has already become a political issue.

"As local chief executives para sa amin, politikal, mahirap silang paa-lisin," he told Padernal, referring to those informal settlers whose houses obstruct agricultural waterways and thereby diminish

the irrigation capacity of these canal systems.

The NIA chief, however, said they will thoroughly study the matter and try to integrate these issues with the NIA's 10-year master development plan which is designed to solve the country's irrigation gap through continuous dialogues with farmers and irrigator-groups nationwide.

But Board Member Belinda Palilio, who was also present during the summit, reminded the congregation that the province has an existing provincial ordinance banning the putting up of illegal structures along NIA irrigation canals and waterways.

She also sought Padernal's help in enforcing the said ordinance, realizing that the squatting issue has already become huge.

Pado also stressed there is an urgent need to re-visit the said provincial ordinance banning these illegal structures on NIA canals. "Nakakalimutan tong i-implement kaya dapat la-mang mauli itong ipanalis," he said.



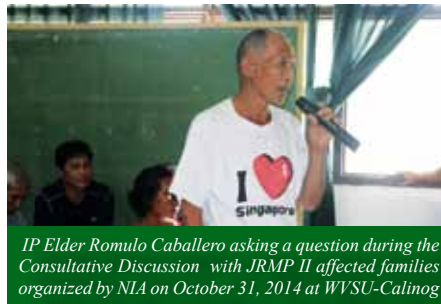
NIA-JRMP II partners with NCIP, upholds rights of IPs

By: Steve Cordero, IEC Team Leader, JRMP II

One of the agencies that have a vital role in the project implementation of National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) Jalaur River Multi-Purpose Project Stage II (JRMP II) is the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). The NCIP has since been an integral and valuable partner of NIA-JRMP II particularly since certain project areas are within the Panay Bukidnon Indigenous People Community (PBIPC). In fact, JRMP II Project Manager and NIA Region 6 concurrent Manager Gerardo Corsiga maintained that full compliance of the Indigenous People's (IP) Rights Act is a mandatory and a guiding principle of the project.

The IP Rights Act as enshrined in Republic Act (RA) 8371 provides for the issuance of the IPs' consent prior to the implementation of a project through a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). NCIP ensured protection of the PBIPC.

With strict compliance in place, JRMP II got the first FPIC in 2012 purposely for the conduct then of the project's feasibility study. Currently, the second FPIC application is on the process of facilitating and acquiring consent of the IPs for the



IP Elder Romulo Caballero asking a question during the Consultative Discussion with JRMP II affected families organized by NIA on October 31, 2014 at WVSU-Calinog

construction phase. Until such is granted, NIA maintains that no construction activity shall start in view of the pendency of its application. And even on the construction stage once the second FPIC is granted, NCIP will be in close supervision.

"From day one, we at NIA and our counterparts in our partner government agencies are committed to the compliance of all laws governing the project. More so with the NCIP, our partners for the protection of our brothers and sisters in the IP community," said Corsiga.

"This is a pro-people, pro-development project and our commitment is for its full implementation so we can have full realization of the huge benefits. And we are doing this rightly, accordingly as set forth by law and guided by the ultimate



IPs from Calinog clad in their indigenous costumes atop JRMP II's float during the Dinagyang Sponsor's Mardi Gras on January 25, 2014.

goal of bringing much-needed benefits to thousands of Ilonggo families, our IP communities specially included, and our farmers," he added.

Simultaneous to the process of application for the second FPIC, JRMP's Information, Education, and Communications (IEC) Team is presently conducting visits on barangays (villages) outside of the IP community. Project updates and information on JRMP II are shared and discussed with the locals alongside community visits of NIA.

Further still, also complied and in place is the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Action Plan (LARAP) for JRMP II as prepared by NIA. Under the LARAP, resettlement and livelihood opportunities will be provided by NIA to its project affected families and these include both the IPs and non-IPs.

"Iloilo is so blessed with this project (JRMP II) and other projects," said NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal. "These are good projects that should be replicated throughout the country. My full support to the region and to all its Irrigation Management Offices... we will fast track the implementation of these projects so our stakeholders would soon feel and see the benefits NIA projects can deliver. And we will deliver."★

DYNAMIC PEOPLE



IP Elders Romulo Caballero and Federico Caballero sign the manifesto of support for JRMP II Implementation during the Hugpong Jalaur Dialogue organized by the Calinog Indigenous Peoples Organization on August 26, 2014 at the Calinog Parish Hall.



IP Elders from Garangan, Masaroy and Agcalaga or GMA (IP community with Ancestral Domain Title) sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the JRMP II Free Prior and Informed Consent for Feasibility Study. (photo taken May 25, 2012)

Mangyans: MIMAROPA's Future Partners

| By: Aileen Vernice G. Bahia, PRO, Region 4B

Using his sickle, Mang Samuel of a Mangyan tribe fervently cuts off the grass along the canal of Baco-Bucayao River Irrigation System (RIS) together with the other natives hired by the Baco-Bucayao RIS/Mag-asawang Tubig RIS (BBRIS/MTRIS) Federation of Irrigators Association. The activity, initiated by the IA Federation, was conducted early morning of September 25, 2014 to fast track the canal clearing of the said area for the upcoming planting season.

Mangyan is the collective name of eight ethno-linguistic group inhabiting most of the highland region of Mindoro. This indigenous group has been given attention for their potential as partners of NIA in the irrigation development of the province.

Way of Living

Mangyans are subsistence agriculturists through swidden or kaingin system, a type of cultivation which practice "field rotation" after the soil is exhausted rather than the popular "crop rotation" practiced by lowlanders. But, most of them also rely on planting rice, corn, and vegetables to support their everyday living.

There are times that Mangyans go down to lowlands to sell their handicrafts, even charcoal, in exchange for clothes, foods, and even money. Though in some areas of Mindoro, there are Mangyan communities whose people live a better life in concrete houses, dresses like lowland people, owned rice and corn plantation, and even have vehicles.

Potential Partners

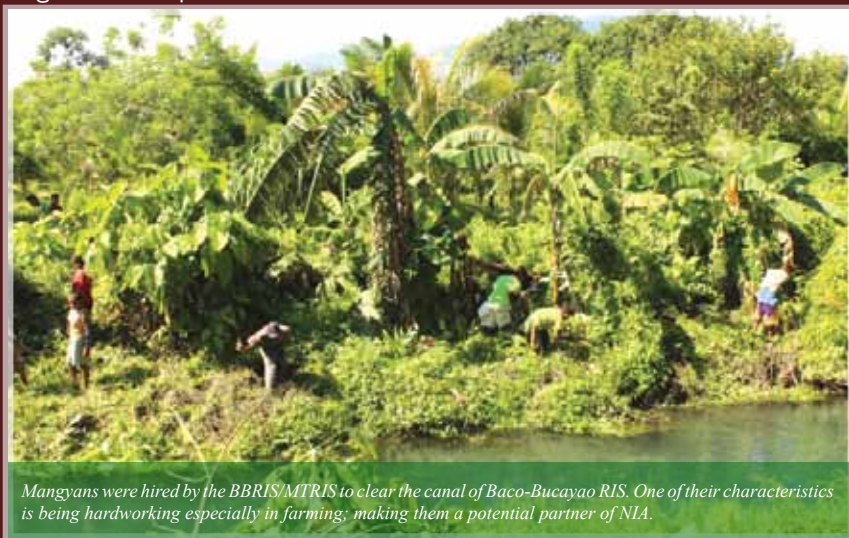
Mangyans are known for being naturally shy, withdrawn yet hardworking individuals. These mild-mannered and peace-loving people avoid trouble at all cost making them as potential diplomats among the indigenous people (IP) and the government.

With the issues in the right of way, the Mangyans' characteristics are appropriate in terms of negotiation with their fellow tribesmen. They can be of great help to NIA in discussing the positive intentions of the agency in the development of their community.

NIA continuously extend their support and services for its beneficiaries. Furthermore, such endeavors will be more efficient with help of the IPs in irrigation development. ★



<http://www.lionhearttv.net/2011/08/philippines-tribes>



Mangyans were hired by the BBRIS/MTRIS to clear the canal of Baco-Bucayao RIS. One of their characteristics is being hardworking especially in farming; making them a potential partner of NIA.



Mang Samuel of the Mangyan tribe clears the canal of Baco-Bucayao RIS together with his tribesmen. They were hired by the BBRIS/MTRIS IA Federation to fast track the said activity.

DYNAMIC PEOPLE

Cycle of "Life"



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