

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

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

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

CURRENTS

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NIA celebrates 53rd Anniversary

By: Jhon Vince Santoalla, PR-Assistant, PAIS-CO



"Ang NIA at Magsasaka magkatuwang sa Ginhawa"

marks the beating tune of NIA as the agency celebrated its 53 years of partnership with our agricultural heroes – the farmers. Three days festive spirit and vibrant atmosphere from June 20-22, 2016 at NIA Central Office were shared by employees NIA nationwide.

All were cheerful and active during the "Parade of Colors" where regional offices have their own tricks and tools to show what they've got. Loud music, street bands, and festive props made

satisfied the eyes and ears of all viewers. The crowd gets wilder when Region 8 Manager Romeo G. Quiza brought again actor – Richard Yap, popularly known as "Sir Chief" and "Papa Chen".

Meanwhile, Dr. Florencio F. Padernal and PAFSAM Secretary Fredelita C. Guiza gladly welcome all the regional offices with photo opportunities at the end of their parade. Genuine smiles, waving hands, and grooving body were evident all throughout the course of parade. The spirit of fun and joy continue to penetrate the area paving way for a great start.

"Thank you for all your cooperation and patience! Salamat dahil ngayon maipagmamalaki na natin ang NIA" said Dr. Padernal during his speech in the special flag raising ceremony right after the parade. He told everyone that he was overwhelmed with what the agency attained today due to collective efforts to bring back the glory days of NIA. He also announced a book entitled "NIA Today an Aide Memoire" containing accomplishments and current undertakings of the agency will be freely given to all the heads. He said that the book can be a guiding tool of the agency in continuing great works for us to attain great future.

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Partner for life, Partner for lives

It's been more than 50 years of consistent and strong partnership between our Filipino farmers and NIA. This year's celebration theme "Ang NIA at Magsasaka magkatuwang sa Ginawa" revolves around one of the prime duties of the agency - to help our Filipino Farmers in attaining quality life. Fifty-three years of continuous support, dependable assistance, and unswerving services toward the highest satisfaction of our Filipino farmers.

NIA, true to its commitment to be a long standing partner of our Filipino farmers see the sector as a sleeping giant that needs proper attention and efforts. Its potential to be the next big thing in Philippine economy is within its nature. With its vast agricultural lands one can truly decipher that the country can be self-sufficient, self-sustaining nation capable of feeding every Filipino. We just need to realize that it is time for us to change the game.

That is why NIA unceasingly explores every opportunity to live up with its mission. According to the agency's statistics, from 2004-2015 mark

dramatic increases in Irrigation Development in the Philippines as it posted a 12% growth in irrigation development. Due to the massive construction of new irrigation systems, NIA said that a balloon impact and much greater increases maybe felt and projected this year up until next year.

Accordingly, the agency also successfully defended its budget increase requests in 2015 – 2016 by 36.18% and 13.89%, respectively. This means that the government smartly shifting its perspective towards the great potential of agriculture. With great budget comes variety of irrigation projects results to a wider irrigated areas paving way to intensify farmers' crops which in return increase their income.

The effort to increase the number of organized Irrigators Associations is evident as it cumulatively reached 8,199 as of December 31, 2015. This organization entails package of capability-building program including: basic leadership and development course, financial management training, system

management training, and value formation seminar vital in operation and maintenance (O&M) of irrigation systems. The National Congress and Consultation were also held to immediately address issues and concerns of our farmers in terms of irrigation.

Clearly, NIA is consistently doing its part to bring to Filipino farmers the quality lives they deserve. Yes, there will be struggles and challenges in the future but still one strong foundation will remain, it's the partnership between NIA and our farmers built on a solid rock through the years.

These are some of NIA's continuous effort to uplift and encourage our Filipino farmers that they are one of the important sectors of the country. Producing food for every Filipinos is a notable profession that requires tons of heart and passion. Absolutely, our farmers are the true heroes from generation to generation as they are selfless and generous enough to work and they deserve an improvement in their quality of life. #

BIG EVENTS

Continued from page 1

Also in the lineup for first day is the Regional Booth Fair. Dr. Padernal and Secretary Guiza led the ribbon cutting of the Regional booth fair. The group roved around various booths which offer different delicacies and local products. The requests for 'free taste' were granted and even gave some of their products for free with photo ops at the end of every booth.



The day ended with angelic and symphonic voices trying to grab the crown of best group in choral competition. The said event is an annual and regular competition included in every anniversary celebration of the agency. This year, four (4) groups have their voices ready to sing on the stage with their OPM Choice Piece and Common Song 'Nais Ko' arranged and composed by Mr. Ryan Cayabyab.



Region 11 made it to 3rd spot as they sung one of their local songs as their choice piece. The umbrella props of Region 1, who landed 2nd runner up, truly connect them with the current season. The heart and joy of singing became the key ingredients of NIA Central Office Chorale to grab the 1st runner up. The team all the way from Region 8 defended again their crown as they emerged as the 2016 Chorale Competition Champion through their choreography and artistry. But all appeared as winners when all regional managers from their respective regions joined them to receive the awards.

In this kind of competition, the true winners are those who witnessed and listened to this heaven like voices penetrating in ears down to the hearts. It was very evident that NIAns are not just office-based personnel that can deliver quality services but also individuals who can show off great and amazing talents.#



Cultural Competition

Dancing became the center piece of the 2nd day celebration of NIA Anniversary. At least three (3) groups prepared their respective choice dance and common dance 'Sayaw sa Bangko'. All were astounding with their props and costumes which entertain a feeling of historic and patriotic era of the country.

As the music plays, graceful movements and genuine smiles took place in NIA grounds. Every beats and movements has a story to tell and affection to share. From a special number to official contender, the group from CAR made it to 3rd place as they perform their local Ifugao dance depicting different rituals and traditions. Consequently, Region 10 grabbed the 2nd place of the folk dance competition as they move in unity and harmony. The group from CMIPP showed everyone what dynamic choreography is all about as they landed graciously on the 1st place which gave them the right to 'own the stage'.

Along with the earned bragging rights, all received trophies and cash prizes as a result of their efforts to compete and entertain.



PRAISE Awardees

On June 22, 2016, NIA held its anniversary program proper highlighting "the annual conferment of awards for those who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements and excellent contributions that brought about substantial benefits to the Agency". (PRAISE Com. Res. No. 001, series of 2016). For this year, prudent deliberation of the NIA Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Committee culminated with the following award categories:



Engr. Wilfredo C. Gloria, Department Manager of MARIIS, (center) receives the Regional/Operations Manager of the Year Award. With him are NIA top management officials and MARIIS officers and staff. Likewise, the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System with office located at Cauayan City, Isabela garnered the Best Regional/Operations Office of the Year Award.



Engr. Alexander G. Coloma (center) of Casecan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project – Irrigation Component Phase II (CMIPP-IC II) accepts the Project Manager of the Year Award. Joining him are Administrator Florencio F. Padernal (rightmost), (left to right) NIA Board Member Silvestre Bonto, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Estrella E. Icasiano, and Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector Erdolfo B. Domingo. Correspondingly, CMIPP-ICC was awarded as the Best Project Management Office of the Year. Its office is located at CLSU Compound, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.



Engr. Carlito A. Carrasco (6th from left) of Compostela Valley Irrigation Management Office (IMO) receives the Best Irrigation Management Office Manager of the Year award. With him are NIA officials and Region 11 staff. Similarly, Compostela Valley IMO was awarded as the Best Irrigation Management Office of the Year, the office of which is located at Compostela Valley, Compostela Valley Province.

Praise and recognition for commendable achievement of Irrigators Associations' (IAs) are essential elements in NIA-IA partnership in attaining agency's goals and objectives. This is an avenue where IAs are motivated to exert more effort and challenged to perform better. Therefore, the Agency's anniversary is the best medium to show how we value and recognize our Partners' significant contribution. After careful and comprehensive assessment, the following IAs emerged as the Most Outstanding IA, CY 2015 National Level in different category:



San Agustin Ruparan BIDA (SARBIDA)
Mr. Jaime E. Mantilla, IA president
Communal Irrigation System (CIS) Category.

Administrator Florencio F. Padernal leads NIA officials in granting SARBIDA officers and members the Plaque of Recognition and cash award of P100,000.00. SARBIDA is located in Digos City, Davao del Sur and one of the IAs serve by Davao del Sur Irrigation Management Office (IMO) with IMO Manager Manuel L. Rañeses.



**San Isidro Farmers IA (SIFIA)
National Irrigation System (NIS) Category**

SIFIA officers and members receive Plaque of Recognition and Cash Award of P100,000.00 from NIA officials led by Administrator Florencio F. Padernal. SIFIA is in San Isidro, Carmen, Davao del Norte with Mr. Jovanil Combate as IA president. Manager Cornelio Bautista heads the Davao del Norte IMO.



**Upper Sinayawan FIA (USFIA)
Hall of Fame Awardee, NIS Category**

Consistent excellent performance culminated for Upper Sinayawan FIA to be the Hall of Fame Awardee. Ms. Alma L. Maravillas, USFIA president, with IA officers and members receive the Plaque of Recognition from NIA top officials.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program – Irrigation Component (CARP-IC) bestowed to the Gravity Irrigators Service Association, Inc. the coveted Most Outstanding CARP Irrigators Association for CY 2015 Award. The IA is served by the Upper Tuganay CIS in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte.



**Upper Sinayawan FIA (USFIA)
Hall of Fame Awardee, NIS Category**

Mr. Anecito V. Darwin, IA president, together with IA officers and members receive the cash award of P30,000.00 and the Plaque of Appreciation from the NIA top management officials led by Administrator Padernal (in a suit) and (7th from right) CARP-IC Project Manager Delsy J. Revellame.

Incidentally, the four IAs belong to only one region, Region XI, under the able leadership of Regional Manager Felix M. Razo. Indeed, this is another feather in the cap of men and women who are behind the excellent performance of these IAs and apt for the theme ***“Ang NIA at Magsasaka, Magkatuwang sa Ginhawa”***. What a way of celebrating the 53rd NIA Anniversary!

Sports Fest & Fun Games

To make the 53rd NIA Anniversary even more fun and exciting, the tradition of promoting camaraderie, teamwork, unity, and of boosting the NIAns morale through a physically and socially-filled five-day Sports Festival was held. This year's sports competition includes men's and women's volleyball, badminton, chess, obstacle race, step no-step yes race, and roll-over ball relay. Also, a senior men's basketball exhibition game gave much hyped and excitement to the crowd.

OVERALL STANDING	
Champion	Region 6
1st Runner-up	Region 8
2nd Runner-up	Central Office
3rd Runner-up	Region 4A

Overall Champion



Team Region 6 receiving their overall Champion Award



1st Runner Up Award was handed to the head coach of Region 8



Central Office players receives the 2nd Runner-Up Award



Players from Region-4A having their group picture for 3rd Runner-Up Award

President Benigno S. Aquino III made May 26, 2016 special for Tarlaqueños for he led the launching of the Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project (BBMP) Phase II at NIA Campsite, Brgy. Sula, San Jose, Tarlac.

NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal together with Region III Manager and concurrent BBMP Project Manager Josephine B. Salazar, NIA management and staff, and local leaders of Tarlac welcome the President.

The project involves the construction of the BBMP earth-fill dam at the upper Balsa River and the construction of irrigation canals and structures for a year-round irrigation supply to 34,410 hectares covering nine towns and one city of Tarlac Province. The total cost of this project is PhP 13.37 billion.

Upon completion, the project will increase cropping intensity from 124% to 200%, thereby increasing crop production and farmers' income level. This mega dam has a storage capacity of 560 MCM which can mitigate flooding in low lying areas and a potential power generation of 43.5 MW.

It will also provide the upland communities with livelihood opportunity by engaging in commercial inland fish production on at least 150 hectares in the 1,755 hectare reservoir area.

President Aquino in his speech, apologized especially to the farmers for the long delayed

PNoy Launches Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project Phase II

By: Edgar L. Ubaldo, PRO BBMP



BBMP II construction. He also explained the reasons why the project took so long before he signed / approved the project budget.

"Humihingi po ako ng dispensa sa inyo kung bakit di ko po agad inapruban ang proyektong ito sa ilalim ng aking administrasyon. Sinuri po natin ng husto ang pondo ng proyektong ito at sinigurado ko na tama ang lahat at naayon sa proseso."

The President also cited the importance of this project for Tarlac and neighboring provinces in coping up for a bountiful rice harvests. *"Minamarkahan po natin ang isa na namang proyekto na magdadala ng benepisyo sa ating mga boss, panibagong*

patunay ito sa ating administrasyon na laging nakatutok sa kanyang mandato na pagsilbihan at sundin ang taong bayan."

Meanwhile, Administrator Padernal also stated to the crowd that the BBMP II commenced in 2015 and targets completion by 2018. He also explains the details for the construction of this project.

Tarlac Governor Victor Yap meanwhile thanked the NIA management especially the President for his political will to finally continue the project after many years of delay. He also cited that *"50 years back and forward nasa panaginip lang po natin ito noon, pero sa isang iglap maisasakatuparan na ngayon."*#



Negros Island Regional Irrigation Office, NIA's youngest RIO

By: Florentina L. Magbanua, Designated Information Officer, Negros Occidental IMO

Pursuant to Presidential Executive Order (EO) No. 183, s. 2015, Creating the Negros Island Region and NIA Board of Directors' Resolution No. 8327-16 s. 2016 followed by NIA Memorandum Circular No. 32, s. 2016, the Negros Island Regional Irrigation Office was created with Engr. Mario H. Sande as its first Regional Manager.

The quest for "One Island, One Region" started in 1994 and for over 20 years, the Negrenses remained hopeful that eventually a unified and coordinated development of the two provinces, the Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental will accelerate the transformation of Negros Island into a showcase of economic progress. After the signing of EO 183 on May 29, 2015, NIA was among the agencies that immediately responded to the mandate of this executive order.

On July 2, 2015, only 33 days from signing of EO No. 183, NIA Administrator, Engr. Florencio F. Padernal convened key personnel of Negros Occidental

IMO of Region 6 and Negros Oriental Satellite Office of Region 7 to initially discuss the possibility of creating a new regional office for Negros Island. Then on December 9, 2015, NIA management endorsed to its Board of Directors the Creation of Negros Island Regional Office (NIRIO). While waiting for the Board's approval, NIA management sent Engr. Modesto G. Membreve to Negros Island for a workshop on NIRIO staffing pattern and budgetary requirement on February 18-19, 2016. Finally, the NIA Board approved the Creation of NIRIO on May 23, 2016 with a mandate that NIA management should take appropriate action for the immediate operation of this newly created regional office.

"I take this new assignment as another milestone in my career" said Engr. Sande on his first address as NIRIO manager on June 13, 2016. *"I have a self-imposed goal to make this region operational within a month"* he added. Indeed, the following days were dedicated towards

the operationalization of the region. Engineering, operations, finance, and administrative sectoral meetings were done to establish regional data and resolved issues that may slow down the operationalization process of the region. The first Regional Management Conference was held on June 17 and on June 28, the following were named as acting chiefs; Today, Negros Island Regional

Engineering and Operations Division	Engr. Lorena B. Sioco
Construction Section	Engr. Jerry E. Gigare
Planning and Design Section	Engr. Helen T. Lacpao
Operations & Institutional Dev't. Section	Engr. Aida M. Elvinia
Finance Section	Dionecita D. Cabarse
Administrative Section	Florentina L. Magbanua

Irrigation Office is on its way towards the realization of Negrenses' vision of a coordinated planning and implementation of irrigation program in the whole island. It can be reached in Celis Street, Bago City, Negros Occidental with telephone Number (034) 4610-494 and email add: nianegrosislandrio@yahoo.com #

NIA, SNAP complete MARIS reservoir optimization

By: Melissa C. Agbisit, PRO, MRIIS



RAMON, Isabela - Officials of the National Irrigation Administration and hydropower company SN Aboitiz Power-Magat inaugurated the completed MARIS Optimization Project here on June 1, 2016.

NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal and SNAP-Magat Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Joseph S. Yu led the ceremony. Joining them were NIA Public Affairs and Information Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, Magat River Integrated Irrigation System Department Manager Wilfredo C. Gloria, MARIIS-Dam and Reservoir Division Manager Rodolfo E. Mejia. SNAP Technology Officer Kjell S. Valdal, HEDCOR President and Chief Operating Officer Rene Ronquillo, and SNAP-M Operations Manager Wilhelmino R. Ferrer were also present during the event.

PPP at its best

Padernal said the project is Private-Public-Partnership at its best. *"In this project, NIA and SNAP demonstrated the right way of conceptualizing a*

project, planning it jointly," he added. He said the agency has to document the project and use it as a case study. He said it could be used in training programs such as the Executive Course on Project and Construction Management. *"This is proof that PPP is really working,"* he added.

Yu said they are committed to support NIA's mission to provide irrigation for agriculture and secure the food supply for the country. *"This is our small role in nation-building,"* he added.

Padernal said irrigation water is the prime mover of rural development. *"If you give irrigation water, you help provide rural development, increasing the farmers' income,"* he added. He shared that NIA has increased irrigation development by four percent the 2015-2016 period.

Improved Agricultural Productivity

MARIIS Department Manager Wilfredo C. Gloria said NIA-MARIIS is committed to construct, operate, and maintain irrigation systems

consistent with integrated water resource management principles to improve agricultural productivity and increase farmer's income. *"This is our mission. And we are fortunate to have with us a partner who is very supportive of this mission,"* he said.

He added that the NIA could not have done the optimization of the MARIS reservoir without the SN Aboitiz Power. *"Today, we stand before an optimized MARIS reservoir. With its optimization, the reservoir storage capacity is now up to 107.75 masl, from its original level of 104.75 masl,"* he said.

The optimization translates to more water for irrigation and for power generation. *"This is a significant help for us in coping with the challenges brought about by long dry spells,"* he shared.

A Shared Commitment

The completion of the MARIS Optimization Project is a testament of NIA and SNAP's solid partnership and commitment to provide efficient service to our farmer-beneficiaries.

The project, completed on March 22, 2016 will add some eight million cubic meters of storage in the MARIS reservoir for irrigation. The project also included other dam improvements such as provision of two new gantry cranes, security fence, and safety handrails which will improve the dam operational safety and irrigation water delivery of NIA.

MARIS Optimization is a project of NIA, with SNAP-Magat as its project partner. Groundbreaking was on November 4, 2014 and site works began in January 2015.#



COCONET SLOPE PROTECTION PROJECT: TRAINORS'S TRAINING WORKSHOP ON PRODUCTION AND HANDICRAFT MAKING OF VETIVER GRASS

By: Ernesto L. Mapoy, Jr., IEC, OD

The Operations Department Manager and concurrent member of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)- National Technical Working Group (NTWG) for Coco Coir Engr. Romeo M. Lopez designated the Irrigation Engineering Center (IEC) Division Manager Mariano R. Catan, Jr. to conduct the monitoring, research, and development for the project implementation of Coconet Slope Protection National and Communal irrigation Systems.

The IEC has already gathered preliminary findings that vetiver grass for slope stabilization was already implemented by NIA for World Bank-financed project i.e. IOSP, ISIP and WRDR. However, during the JICA Bank financed BRISIP project in CY 2008 which pioneered the application of coconet mattress and vetiver grass, commonly known as bio-engineering technology for slope protection and soil erosion control, the use of vetiver grass as soil bio-engineering structure was proven effective in stabilization works on slope lands while the coconet serves as a support in growing the vetiver. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between OPAFSAM, DPWH,

NIA, and PCA on the convergence and integration on the use of coconut coir in government infrastructure projects aims to increase coco coir production and thereby increasing the income of coconut farmers and generating more jobs in the countryside.

Through the continuing effort of Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, the agency was granted with P268.228 million under Republic Act No. 10717, otherwise known as General Appropriations Act for CY 2016 for this project. In support to this, the NIA Central Office conducted a "Trainor's Training Workshop held on May 2-6, 2015 at DCIEC Building, participated in by one Project-in-Charge and one (Institutional Development Officer (IDO) from each Regional Office and three process observers from the Institutional Development Division, Central Office. The workshop was facilitated by two trainors recommended by DTI, and attended by support staff from Central Office. The workshop aimed to educate: (a) NIA personnel on the proper processing and procedure of planting, sustaining and harvesting vetiver grass, and (b)

the farmers/Irrigators Association (IA) through NIA personnel for the proper utilization/handicraft making of vetiver grass that will provide sustainable alternative source of income for farmer-beneficiaries.

During the opening program, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Erdolfo B. Domingo recognized the importance of training workshop for the Agency to improve farmer's quality of life by providing them with additional source of income. He even challenged the participants to produce handicrafts that will showcase each region during the 53rd Anniversary celebration this coming June.

After the five-day training, the participants produced handicraft and some created more than one product out of the vetiver grass. A total of seventy (70) handicrafts were produced with three emerging winners elected and surprise cash awards were given.

The training workshop was also graced by Manager Priscilia P. Flores from DTI-Region IV-A who delivered the Message of DTI Assistant Regional Director Marcelina S. Alcantara during the closing program.#



NIA-UPRIIS PICKED AS PILOT SITE FOR COCONET AND VETIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT

By: Maria Isobel F. Padolina, PRO, UPRIIS

NIA-UPRIIS has been selected to be the pilot site on the use of coconet and vetiver in the construction of irrigation systems in the country.

Through the project, it will expand the use of bio-engineering in the construction of irrigation systems and even on roads. The shift from the use of concrete to coconet in lining the irrigation canals involves slope stabilization, soil conditioning, soil erosion prevention, and hydroseeding plus it entails lesser cost to the government. It will also encourage the development of local coco coir industry that will serve as additional income to farmers.

The project was launched at Lateral A, Super Diversion Canal, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on May 27, 2016. It is a joint activity between NIA, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), and the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM).

Along with the launch is a short briefing of how the project will be applied to irrigation, its effect on the environment, and its various income-generating benefits which was witnessed by farmer irrigators' association members and other stakeholders present during the occasion.

The project was a product of teamwork evidenced by a memorandum of agreement signed by then OPAFSAM Secretary Francis N. Pangilinan, NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal, PCA Administrator Romulo N. Arancon Jr., and DPWH Secretary Rogelio L. Singson.#



DTI Under Secretary Zenaída C. Maglaya cuts the ribbon to launch the project along with UPRIIS Officials led by Manager Florentino R. David, DTI and OPAFSAM officials. (2nd and 3rd from left) IEC Manager Mariano Catan and Engr. Ernesto Mapoy of NIA Central Office join the event.



Coconet, a coconut coir-based product as slope protection for irrigation canals. DTI's Assistant Regional Director Marcelina S. Alcantara, NIA-UPRIIS Department Manager Engr. Florentino R. David, and DTI Undersecretary Zenaída C. Maglaya (2nd from left to right) led the ceremonial planting of vetiver on top of the coconet during the Project Launching hosted by NIA-UPRIIS Division V.



Vetiver Grass and Coconet as erosion control materials

STUDY ON BEST PRACTICES IN IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT IN SELECTED ASIAN COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL

The following are the excerpts from the Report made and submitted by the Study Team in cooperation with Institutional Development Division (IDD) Manager Bayani P. Ofrecio.

In pursuit of excellence in irrigation development, Administrator Florencio F. Padernal initiated the conduct of case studies on best practices of selected Asian countries, Israel and Japan in December 2015. The general objective of the study is to learn from the other countries' best practices in irrigation development.

Three study teams composed of top and middle management NIA officials visited Thailand, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Israel on the last week of February until the 3rd week of April 2016.

Conclusions drawn from the Study are the following:

1. In all the countries visited, farmer-beneficiaries are organized into WUAs – the equivalent of IAs in the Philippines. However, legal personalities of these associations vary from one country to another.

2. The role of WUAs in the O&M of irrigation facilities is very critical, that is, if they do not perform well, irrigation facilities will deteriorate and water delivery to farms will suffer.

3. Most countries practice turning over the maintenance of tertiary facilities to WUAs. The capacity building/training of WUAs are emphasized in the institutional development of these associations.

4. Diversification to high value crops other than rice will give farmers greater benefit in irrigation. In Thailand, some WUAs are engaged in fruit orchards farming and their incomes have increased tremendously. In India, centers of excellence (COE) in agriculture are established in most states and serve as show windows of technology and source of seeds for high-yielding crops, especially vegetables and fruits. One component of COE is a family-size irrigation system which serves the agriculture and domestic needs of a farm family.

5. Most WUAs collect water fees chiefly for their O&M expenses. In the Philippines, the amount of ISF collected is shared by NIA and the IAs. Vietnam used to collect ISF, but ceased in 2008. Nonetheless, it contemplates to restore ISF due to increasing O&M cost on the part of the government. Indonesia, on a pilot basis, collected ISF but has not sustained after the pilot initiative.

6. Decentralization of some government functions to local offices is key to efficient and effective management of irrigation activities. Example: construction of projects is

delegated to the local offices with monitoring and technical guidance from central government.

7. Common to all countries, minor repair and restoration works are assigned to WUAs, while major works of these types are performed by the central government.

8. Support facilities other than irrigation are provided by government with the exception of Israel where kibbutz/im avail of such facilities using their own resources.

Moreover, the team endorses the following recommendations:

1. NIA should sustain its institutional development program for IAs with added impetus on crop diversification and other livelihood ventures. This way, higher income for IAs and their members can be attained. In Israel, most of the kibbutzim are engaged in the production of off-season crops grown in greenhouses. In Thailand, some WUA members maintain fruit orchards. Both ventures yield good results and these good practices may be replicated in the country under a functional IA environment- a product of a sustainable institutional development program.

2. Pilot establishment of family-size drip irrigation system in selected sites all over the country to serve as show windows and learning laboratories for farmers. In this scheme, an overhead water tank is erected to supply the water requirements of vegetable farm, orchard, livestock and domestic chores, through a series of pipes with distribution outlets. This type of small scale irrigation which is very efficient in water use is practiced in India with good results and may be tried locally.

3. NIA should retain its mandate of transferring O&M responsibilities to IAs. This is recommended especially for the maintenance of tertiary facilities, and smaller irrigation systems and minor repair and restoration works consistent with the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) program.

4. Crop diversification must be vigorously encouraged considering these crops require lesser amount of water compared to rice. In Israel and India, high value crops are grown inside greenhouses and in open field environment. In these countries, so called COEs in Agriculture are established as show windows of scientific agricultural system.

5. Establishment of Agricultural Center of Excellence (ACE) in the Philippines to provide a suitable platform for rapid transfer of technology and support to the farmer. NIA can initiate this effort by establishing ACE – initially one each for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. A wide range of agricultural practices will be offered in the center to enable farmers with small and large farmlands and family-size farms (private irrigation systems) to benefit from new technologies. Growing crops in controlled environment, drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, fertigation, mulching, and nursery production may be among the technologies that will be taught in ACE.



GROUP PICTURE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Loving the Nature, Plant a Tree

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

Trees are like any other living organism, which will grow old and become weak. Hence, in order to sustain our lush greenery, we need to constantly plant new trees. Tree planting is a special kind of connection with nature when you plant a tree yourself.

On June 10, 2016, about a hundred NIA central office participants headed by Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Estrella E. Icasiano, Region 4A Manager, Engr. William P. Ragodon and other Department Managers was joined by employees of NIA Region 4A, Cavite-Batangas IMO, together with the Philippine Army 514 Engineer Construction Battalion (ECB) went their way to Sitio Palico, Barangay Bilaran, Nasugbu, Batangas for the annual activity. The group was able to plant 2,000 narra and acacia seedlings in an area of 5 hectares.

This program truly develops sense of ownership and strengthens sustainability of community-driven developments by providing avenues for community participation. For this year's implementation, Region 4A office comes up with a different strategy in coordination with the uniformed men that the seedling requirements



will be raised and managed by the Philippine Army involved in the activity.

Indeed, trees beautify our environment but their values lie beyond the aesthetics. They remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, increase biodiversity in our environment, prevent soil erosion, as well as provide shade and lower the atmospheric temperature. Trees secure the future of our environment for the generations to come. Visual exposure to trees is also known to reduce stress levels in our fast-paced world. #



Deputy Administrator Icasiano poses with Region IV-A RIM Ragodon & PA 514 ECB officials



Deputy Administrator Icasiano plants her tree with Administrative Manager Atty. Ailyn C. Agtuca - Selda.

PHOTO NEWS

Ribbon Cutting

NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal (extreme right) spearheads the symbolic cutting of the ribbon during the inauguration of the two-storey NIA Region 1 Training Center (RTC) in a simple rite held at the NIA Compound, Bayaogas, Urdaneta City on May 6, 2016. Assisting Dr. Padernal are (L-R) RIM John N. Celeste, EOD Manager Frida L. Nido, TIAR1 President Dominador B. Aquino, Ilocos Sur IMO Manager Adriano F. Amano, and Acting Pangasinan IMO Manager Teodoro D. Paragas (partly hidden).



Unveiling

NIA officials, representatives of Irrigators Associations and guests cheer on as NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal unveils the marker at the RTC lobby.



Contract Signing

Administrator Florencio F. Padernal (center) leads the signing of contract with Engr. Victor M. Angeles (2nd from right) and Engr. Alfredo P. Adriano (rightmost) of Northern Builders on June 28, 2016 at the administrator's conference room re: construction of Ambayaoan Siphon from Sta. 9+217 to Sta. 10-095 at ADRIS Main Canal under Agno River Irrigation System Extension Project (ARISEP). Joining him are Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Erdolfo B. Domingo (leftmost) and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Estrella E. Icasiano.

Woman Power: Breaking the Mold

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

Women these days can never be put on a box. Whether 60 or 16, many are out there going in equal footing with men.

Born to a farming family, Juana Guitering, 59 years old, learned the ropes of farming at a young age. She could hitch a carabao in First Grade, learned manual planting and harvesting of rice and corn at the young age of eight. Married to Tata Irineo, who became a full-time farmer, she let her husband have the upper hand in farming operations and management for decades. Tata Irineo specialized in corn farming and was adjudged Outstanding Corn Farmer of the Year twice. Through perseverance and hard work, they were able to send their children to school from their profits in corn yield.

In 2010, the last of her four kids was done with schooling. Her life, which revolved, not so much in helping her husband manage their farm but more so in taking care of her family and the entire household had suddenly come to a standstill. Suddenly, she has so much spare time. That was when she felt restless. The mother in her longed for something productive to busy her hands with. Her womanly instincts aspired to be of help even to her small community. So, she sought God in earnest prayer.

She found the answer to her prayer when her husband acquired a 2.5-hectare rice land in Agugaddan, Peñablanca, Cagayan. The area is traversed by the main canal of the Peñablanca River Irrigation System (PRIS). Since her husband is actively engaged in corn farming and supervising their Computer Shop, Nana Juana thought it's about time to step up to the plate; hence, she volunteered to manage the rice land.

"I said to myself that it is never too late to start tilling a land. At 43 years old, this might just be the opening I was waiting for," Nana Juana thought to herself.

And when she did step up, opportunities came pouring in. She was chosen as cooperator for Philippine Climate Change Adaptation Project (PHILCCAP), in which NIA PRIS is one of the two pilot areas in the entire country. (Under PHILCCAP, NIA would strengthen the resilience of vulnerable Participatory Irrigation Development Projects. PRIS had implemented one PIDP project, making the delivery of water more efficient.) Aside from that, she

was also selected as cooperator of different technology demonstrations spearheaded by the Peñablanca Local Government Unit and of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

As her decision to turn her land into an integrated farm was made, all of a sudden, her fear of the stigma that only men can successfully engage in farming rose to the fore. So many 'what ifs' flooded her mind. To prepare herself, she attended short courses and technology transfer trainings. As she herself had not finished formal schooling, she was very eager to learn. She not only opened her house as the venue for the courses she had to take but also invited the women in her barangay to join her. It seemed her life had suddenly found a whole new meaning. Her desire to curve her niche and be of help to the community is unfolding right before her very eyes, in the very comfort of her own home.

Integrated farming, a whole farm management system which aims to deliver more sustainable agriculture using many ways of cultivation in a small space (source: Wikipedia), especially caught her eye. With the help of her family, Nana Juana threw herself into learning, applying theories into practice and sharing her newfound knowledge to her fellow household wives in Agugaddan.

The 2.5-hectare land her husband bought was transformed into a demo farm which constituted of a riceland, fishpond, fruit and vegetable garden and Vermicomposting site. She raised ducks, free roaming chickens and hogs. She grew azolla to feed the tilapia in her pond and documented her expenses, sales, and profits. And although it took Nana Juana a while to get into the groove of integrated farming, eventually, it became self-sustaining.

"It was a labor-intensive. And success cannot be forged overnight. There were times when my failures seem to weigh me down. But I will always think back to how far I have gone. That thought always helped me stay on track," she shared.

With the revenue she and Tata Irineo generated, another parcel of land near Callao Caves was purchased. In addition, a three-storey boarding house was also put up in Tuguegarao City. On top of it, on March 27, 2015, her efforts was recognized. Nana Juana, then 58, was adjudged First Place in Nationwide Sharing of Best Practices of Woman Rice farmers held in Davao City. She won over 10 other contestants.

"I couldn't quite believe I won that day!" she beams as memories of her snagging the trophy flooded her. "If I had let my fears rule, look at what I should have missed."

Now, her farm is swarmed by visitors, wanting to learn agricultural concepts, to get to know the woman behind its triumph. Nana Juana, with her bubbly persona and get go attitude, is one of the few women who broke the mold and brought new meaning to the role of women in her community. She is never too late, isn't she? #

AZOLLA FARM

**Nana Juana &
Tata Irineo**

BIYAYA NG NIA GINHAWA NG MAGSASAKA

Teresita Lety G. Tandoc at Mc Kevin L. Francisco, NIA,
Region 1

Utang dito, utang doon,
Ganyan ang magsasaka noong unang panahon,
Butil, pataba at kalabaw lang noon,
Makinaryang pangsaka marami na ngayon.

Agos ng tubig na dumadaloy sa bukirin,
Siyang inaasahang bubuhay sa pananim,
Irigasyon isinulong upang malaking ani ay maangkin,
Benepisyo sa patubig binigyang halaga at napansin!

Higit limampung taon mula ng magsimula,
NIA nangalaga't kumalinga sa magsasaka,
Mula pagpunla hanggang sa paggapas magkatuwang sila,
Grupo ng magbubukid may mga pagsasanay pa!

Serbisyo sa patubig laging maaasahan,
Pinoy todo sipag para mataas na ani'y makamtan,
Pag-ani mula isa, naging dalawa, ngayon'y naging tatlohan,
Paggawa't pagkumpuni ng dams at reservoirs ginagam-
panan.

Sa NIA nabigyang pansin halaga ng bukirin,
Bigas na kakainin dapat sariling atin din,
Pag-angkat sa karatig-bansa'y di na kakailanganin,
Dahil aning bigas natin ay sapat na rin!

Kalamidad, unos, bagyo man ay dumating,
Tulong ng NIA mananatili sa mga manananim,
Tulad ng kawayan yumuko man, tutuwid din,
Agos ng patubig at pagsasaka tuloy-tuloy pa rin!

#

NIA AT MAGSASAKA

Elliz V. Bitangcol, PRO, Region 3

Tulad ng magsintang dalaga at binata
Na binigkis ng pagibig sa altar ay sumumpa
Na magsasama sa hirap at ginhawa
Sa hirap at ginhawa magkabalikat tuwina

Sa mata ng tao at sa basbas ng langit
Walang makapaghihiwalay kahit talim ng lintik
Aalagaan ang bawat isa kahit magpakasakit
Kahit sa pagtulog ay aalayan ng awit

Ang NIA at magsasaka ay tulad din nila
Binibigkis kapwa ng pagpapahalaga
Sa makabuluhang layunin at mga adhika
Magkabalikat tuwina para sa aning masagana

Kung tao'y pinagsama ng basbas ng langit
NIA at magsasaka nama'y binigkis ng tubig
Na di mapagwawalay ng kahit anong init
At di mapangangatal ng kahit anong lamig

Pangarap kapwa ay magandang kinabukasan
Tubig ay mapadaloy sa malawak na kabukiran
At sumibol ang butil, gintong butil ng palay
Yaman ng magsasaka at bukal ng kabuhayan

Nia at magsasaka na "ia" kung turingan
Ginapos ng simulain at ng pananagutan
Pagkain sa hapag ng buong mamamayan
Sa kanilang balikat ay mabigat na nakaatang

Mabuhay ang NIA...mabuhay ang magsasaka
Ang sambayanang Pilipino sa inyo ay umaasa
Lubos ang pasasalamat sa inyong pagtitika
Dalangin ng lahat habambuhay niyong pagsasama

#

ANG NIA OG IA

Josephine R. Jumao-as, MAP IA President (CARAGA Region)

chorus:

(in the tune of "Lagkaw")

1.

Dinhi sa atong dapit
Dunay proyekto taga-NIA
Ug karon among nakita
Makabinipisyo sa mag-uuma
ug kami magpasalamat
among naangkon ang kalampusan
ug atong Dios sa kahitas-an

Daghang Salamat sa taga-NIA
Sa walay hunong pagsuporta
Patubig mabinipisyo
Ampingan kay gasa man
Ang taga-NIA ug Irrigators
Kinahanglan maghiusa
Problima atong sulbaron
Aron kita mag malapuson

2.

Busa mga mag-uuma
Kamo akong apaga-awhagon
Proyektong gihatag sa NIA

Ato kini pagpalambuan
Proyekto sa taga- NIA
Atong ampingan sa kahangturan
Kay kini maoy naghatag
Sa kauswagan natong tanan.Chorus...
Repeat # 2...
Chorus...

Ending:

Kay kini maoy naghatag
Sa kauswagan natong tanan. 2X
#

An ISO to Remember

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



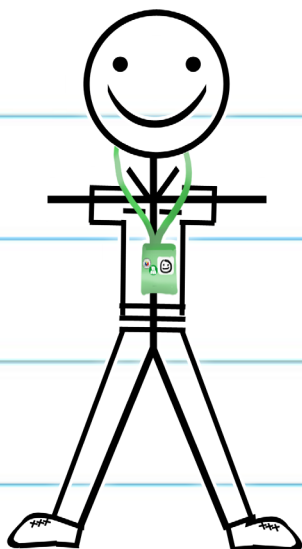
As NIA is forging toward the quality journey for its attainment on ISO 9001:2008 Certification, selected NIAs mostly from amongst the first two consecutive Training Course on Quality Management System (QMS) Documentation held at Baguio City and Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, respectively, participated in the Training Course on Internal Quality Audit (IQA) on ISO 9001:2008 conducted by ISO Consultants from Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) on May 2-6, 2016 at Sta. Rosa, Laguna. A mock audit at the Regional Office of Region 4A in Pila, Laguna was done on the last day of training. Region 4A being one of the sites applied for the ISO certification. Others are the Quezon Irrigation Management Office (IMO) and the Upper Pampanga River Irrigation Integrated System (UPRIIS) in Cabanatuan City.

To further the training on internal quality audit and to ensure that the observations/findings are properly assessed by the IQA Team Members, a Technical Guidance of DAP on IQA Preliminary Audit was called for the participants on June 15. Actual conduct of Internal Quality Audit in central office will commence on July 5 onwards.

The purpose of auditing a QMS is to determine the extent of conformity with the specified requirements and to determine the effectiveness of the established processes of the office. IQA is an important tool in the area of Quality Management for the ISO accreditation of the agency. It is a main driver for compliance to ISO standards.

Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance, Estrella E. Icasiano is the NIA's Quality Management Representative (QMR), Engr. Angelina P. Angeles, Corporate Planning Services Department Manager is the Deputy Quality Management Representative (DQMR) and Engr. Lydia S. Esguerra, Engineering Department Manager is the IQA Team Chairman.

While it is known that having the ISO accreditation may contribute to receiving other benefits for the agency, let us all remember that doing things right, effectively and efficiently in all aspect will result to an excellent output and a reward. Still, what we sow is what we reap.#



Ito si Jonjon

Isinasapuso ni Jonjon ang NIA Vision, Mission, Core Values, at Quality Policy

Kaisa si Jonjon sa pagpapatupad ng Quality Work Place

Isang mabuting halimbawa si Jonjon sa pagtupad ng kanyang tungkulin

Tularan si Jonjon.



INIHAHANDOG NG PATUBIGAN KOMIKS...

TONI

"ANG MAGSASAKANG TUNAY"

Ano nga po pala ang cloud seeding?

At kailan po nagsasagawa nun?

Ang cloud seeding ay ang paglalagay ng asin sa makapal na ulap upang makalikha ng artipisyal na ulan.

Nagsasagawa po ng cloud seeding sa mga watershed areas ng dam tulad ng Angat, Magat, Pantabangan at iba pa kung nasa "critical level" na ang tubig. Ganun din sa mga palayan na may mga pananim o "standing crops" na nanga-ngailangan ng irigasyon. At katuwang po natin ang Bureau of Soils and Water Management sa gawain na ito.

Siyanga po pala, nabalitaan po naming libre na ang ISF, yan po ang pangako ni Presidente Duterte nung sya e nangangampanya.



Opo tama nga po iyang balita na nakaabot sa inyo. Isa po ang "Free Irrigation" sa mga ipinangako ni Pangulong Duterte na ginagawan na po ngayon ng paraan para sa maddaling panahon ay maisakatuparan. Kasama po ang NIA sa hangarin ng ating Pangulo na tulungan at suportahan kayo.

Pero sa ngayon po, kailangan pa po natin na magbayad ng kaukulang ISF habang di pa nababago ang batas na nagbigay ng mandato sa NIA para kumolekta ng ISF (RA 3601). Di naman po lingid sa inyong kaalaman na ang koleksyon ng ISF ay matutulungan po ninyo ang NIA at lalong mapapahusay ang pagpapadaloy ng tubig sa inyong mga palayan.

Mas mabuti na yung libre bayad ng ISF, dagdag kita rin samín.

Tamang tama po may kopya po kami ng interbyu kay Department of Agriculture Secretary Piñol makinig po tayong lahat sa kanyang panawagan.



Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol

"Ako po ay nanawagan sa ating mga magsasaka na ngayong taon po na ito ay tapusin muna natin yung ating pagbabayad sa irrigation fees. Sapagkat kapag hindi kayo nagbayad ngayong taon na ito maaaberya po yung NIA natin.

Ang atin pong projected implementation ng libreng patubig ay 2017. Gusto ko lang po ipaliwanag kung bakit - alam po ninyo yung nakokolekta ng NIA from you na irrigation fees ginagamit po nila yang pa sweldo ng mga empleyado ng NIA. Ngayon kapag hindi kayo nagbayad dahil sinabi nga ni President Duterte, maaaapektuhan yung NIA.

Kaya ako po ay nakikiusap na sana maintindihan ninyo, tapusin po muna natin yung taon na ito. Anyway, ginagawan natin ng paraan - legal at lahat ng paraan upang matupad yung pangako ng ating pangulo. Isa lang po ang gusto kong maintindihan ng ating mga magsasaka kapag po si Duterte ang nangako, matutupad yan! Kaya nga po kailangan idaan natin sa maayos na proseso at wag natin biglain kasi maaaberya po ang NIA.

Ginagawa na po ng Technical Working Group kung anu-ano yung mga batas na dapat baguhin, ano ang dapat ibigay sa NIA para masuportahan po yung commitment ng ating pangulo na libreng patubig. Pero inuulit ko po matutupad yan dahil yan ang pinangako ng ating pangulo, pero kailangan lang po natin maghintay until such time na nabago natin yung batas - yung mandate ng NIA. Kapag di kayo nagbayad ngayon maaaberya yung NIA at mahihirapan po tayo sa pag operate ng NIA"

ITUTULOY...