



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

# CURRENTS

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## The New Chief: from Military to Irrigation

Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya at the Main  
Canal of Tigman-Hinagyanan-Inarihan RIS (THRIS)  
Calabanga, CamSur





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## Editorial

Way into the 2nd quarter of 2017, PAIS will continue with its' plan to help "educate"/ "inform" co-employees understand the core values of NIA which we are mouthing every flag-ceremony, ever since our agency was eagerly rallying towards being ISO certified.

For the 1st issue of Currents for 2017 (Jan-Feb) we discussed about the 1st Core Value of "Commitment". For this issue, it is the core value "integrity".

The word "integrity" stems from Old French "intégrité" or directly from Latin "integritatem" which means "soundness, wholeness, completeness,". In this context, integrity is the inner sense of "wholeness" deriving from qualities such as honesty and consistency of character. "Integrity" is the wholeness of character where the desires of the heart do not conflict with one's values which are translated into one's actions. It is a model of consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations, and outcomes. Integrity, therefore, can be regarded as the opposite of hypocrisy.

Authors in human resources have identified honesty, decency, and trustworthiness as features of workplace integrity. Employees trust their leaders who have consistency with their words and who keep their commitments in the same way that we are trusted by our clients. Trust is the bond that holds all relationships together and trust is based on integrity.

In the workplace, the ultimate demonstration of outstanding integrity is high-quality work. There was a point in NIA's history that the agency had an Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP). An IDAP Committee was even created from the Central Office down to the Regional Offices but it died a natural death, its existence never felt as there was not much support and importance given to it.

# A Hallmark of Integrity




When NIA embraced “integrity” as a core value, we are announcing to the world that the agency, its leaders, its managers, its rank and file employees are all synchronous in their hearts and that they act according to the common values, beliefs, and principles they claim to hold. As such, NIAns are saying we are flawlessly honest as we are living with our highest virtues and values in dealing with each other and with our clients.

A NIAAn with an “outstanding integrity is someone who does or strives to deliver excellent work in every circumstance. When one starts a little earlier, work a little harder, stay a little later and ponder on every detail, then that is a practice of integrity in the work place. NIAns all over the country are therefore expected to produce high quality Program of Works, high quality Feasibility Studies

and Detailed Design Plans and construct high quality irrigation system. Moreover, NIA practices indisputable human resources procedures and programs resulting to a motivated manpower. Our procurement process is untainted and results to quality and functioning outputs. Our financial performance would be of the highest absorptive capacity possible. Affected sectors of the society by irrigation projects are treated fairly and justly but without prejudice to government. Our clients are provided with the right information about Agency activities and their concerns/queries immediately attended to in accordance with existing Agency policies. High-quality work will result to lesser AOMs; lesser rehabilitation works; more efficient irrigation system performance and lesser client complaints.

It is easy to dream of all these ideals but in the workplace we are always confronted with situations where our values are challenged and are pushed into a position where we have to make a choice between two values. In such cases, we act on the value that is highest in our personal hierarchy and you can tell how high your level of integrity is by simply looking at the things you do/decide in your day-to-day life, it does not matter if you are the utility worker, a data encoder, the security guard, a leave verifier, the payroll clerk, or the Administrator.

In a nutshell, integrity is all about being honest about who you are, where you are on the inside, and what your next move will be whether in your personal life or your professional life (your choices). As a NIAAn, let us uphold our hallmark of integrity which our clients will resound. 

# Gen. Visaya

## delivers his commands to

# Irrigation sector

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

NIA, Quezon City – The newly installed irrigation chief Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.) talked about his plans and actions for the irrigation sector during the agency's flag raising ceremony, April 3, 2017.

The new administrator admitted that the nature of work in the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is way different from his previous assignments in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

*"It's true that this setting is unusual to what I am accustomed back in AFP but I assure you that I have the experiences and resolve to learn the ropes",* he said.

The former military chief turned irrigation chief believed that the country is fortunate to have vast farmlands and that agriculture remains a primary feature to which our country prides on.

*"That is why we are giving tantamount attention to it (agriculture) by developing sustainable irrigation systems",* he added

### Get to know him

Before heading to irrigation sector, Gen. Visaya came from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who served

more than five (5) months as the 48th AFP chief of staff. As he turned 56, he retired from his post after 37 years of military service.

Gen. Visaya, a native of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Matikas" Class of 1983. He was previously the 28th commander of the Southern Luzon Command based in Quezon before he takes over the realm of AFP.

He also led various vital positions in the AFP organization. As a former Brigade Commander, he was able to command some of the prestigious brigades - the 104th Brigade in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao Provinces and Basilan, and 901st Brigade in Bicol Region. He was also designated to lead the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

Some of the courses he finished were the Scout Ranger Course, Intelligence Officer Basic Course, Executive Course on Security Studies in Hawaii. He holds a Master in Project Management at the Australian Defense Force.

### Into his plans and actions

In his speech, Administrator Visaya firmly laid down the foundation of his commitments to the agency and the irrigation sector. These include (1) Eradicate graft and corruption, (2) Institute measures to improve the delivery of service, such as but not limited to modernization of equipment for operations and project implementation, (3) Strengthen NIA organization, and (4) Develop human resources and improvement of their capabilities.







He honestly admitted that just like in any government organizations, ‘graft and corruption’ is one of the challenges that needs deeper attention and intense action. The Administrator is hopeful that the efforts of the current administration to get rid of corruption will pave the way to a more transparent and trustworthy public service.

He also assured that the fuel of our agriculture (irrigation systems) will be remarkably sustainable. The irrigation chief will look into fast-tracking of repair and rehab works to immediately support the agricultural productivity of the country.

He noted that valuing and respecting the employees of an organization are vital in building an able and willing workforce towards a common goal. Thus, boosting their morale will be of great help in attaining targets.

*“Excellent performers beget excellent results”, Visaya said.*

The NIA chief also wanted to acquire more modern and state-of-the-art technologies and equipment to upgrade the services and performances of the agency.

### Looking Forward

At the end of his speech, he asked for everyone’s support and commitment to steer the agency towards a better position.

*“ I will promote dependability and teamwork because I alone cannot accomplish these things hence I seek everyone’s support and together we can do better, he emphasized. ”*

He reminded the group to do their respective jobs well, rightly and legally. He informed everyone that he will personally check on delayed irrigation projects all throughout the country, because delayed projects deprived beneficiaries of benefits from these projects. 🏠





# Get to know the **New Deputy Administrator** for **Engineering and Operations...**

By: Jane B. Huqueriza, PRO and Rosalinda A. Segocio, Ph.D., Acting Administrative Services Officer - NIA-Caraga



## *The Caraga Experience...*

His management skills and accomplishments made him the best candidate to head a region (NIA-Caraga) beset with many problems: unmet targets, slow moving projects, low ISF collection, alleged corruption investigation, political intervention, media interference, lack of funds for project-charged manpower, and other organizational problems. He faced these challenges head-on.

Then IMO Manager C'zar M. Sulaik was transferred to NIA Caraga in October 2014 as Acting Regional Manager (RM). His first two (2) months was focused on assessing the real situation of the region- the organization, its key personnel, the employees, status of project implementation, relationship with the media, and

interagency linkages. He identified the problems faced by the office by conducting series of meetings with the different sectors, and listening to complaints, issues and problems. He never failed to give updates to higher management and asked assistance when needed. He recognized that he cannot handle things all by himself, and needed the support of the central office, other regions, and everybody around him. He tackled gaps on middle management due to re-assignment of the 15 personnel under investigation by outsourcing from other regions, and trimmed down project-charged personnel due to lack of funds.

He handled problems with the media, by calling for a press conference in February 2015 and laid down all the projects and activities as well as the

yearly budget, emphasizing that budget for CY 2015 projects was much lower than in 2012, which resulted to forced leave of a part of the project personnel. Requests from media to visit particular projects like the controversial MAP and Andanan RIS, which was destroyed, by flood were facilitated. A media tour was organized to let them see the projects of Surigao del Sur, which was also the subject of issues and intrigues. There is a schedule for quarterly meetings with the media to ensure transparency and balanced reporting.

Relationships with the local government units were also strengthened, project implementation were fast tracked, regular regional management conferences held, and meetings with problem contractors were called. An open communication between management and the employees was encouraged.

Problem with lack of manpower due to lack of funds was also brought to the attention of the central office by requesting for daily-COB charged personnel, which was positively answered. Under his leadership, the first of its kind project of NIA-Caraga, Kitcharao Small Reservoir Irrigation Project was also inaugurated.





### *Caraga's Blaze to Change...*

In an effort to bring back the glory days of the region, the new management under Acting RM Sulaik installed strategies to enhance the system for better management. Although some have misgivings on the possible consequences of the new technique, the effort poured by the management and the tangible outcomes erased their doubts. The most unique quality he endeavours was to create a better working environment to his colleagues to boost their confidence, and strengthened the unity that has been challenged by others.

As he continues to share his expertise to the employees, he simultaneously administers to the welfare of our Farmer Irrigators by developing beneficial programs for Institutional Development for them to be viable and self-reliant Irrigators Associations (IAs). His endeavour did not stop from there, but instead he plans for ways that will help our farmers uplift their economic condition by increasing production through sustainable irrigation services.

During meetings, he emphasized that as we continue to serve the farmers, we must also foster partnership with our Local Government Units (LGUs), whose goals also include serving the community especially the agricultural sector.

Building camaraderie with the media people is also one of his agenda to disseminate valuable information through the right people at the right place and at the right time; this action will ensure the public that the agency observes transparency.

### *Rise to the top...*

With the above management strategies, employees' positive feedbacks can attest to the changes the region is undergoing. Central Office is experiencing a renewed region, true to its commitments and have recognized the fruits of the effort the new management is doing.

In September 7, 2015, Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik was appointed full-pledged Regional Manager of CARAGA, Region 13.

The Regional Manager rose from the ranks. From humble beginnings as Engineer A under the NIA-Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) at NIA Central Office in 1990 to Senior Engineer A, and on to Supervising Engineer A. He was transferred to NIA Region 12 and became Provincial Irrigation Superintendent in 2001 of Cotabato Provincial Irrigation Office (PIO) which later retitled to Division Manager for Cotabato Irrigation Management Office (IMO). As the Provincial Irrigation Officer and later as IMO Manager he was collecting awards as a consistent performer year after year. He was also awarded as one of the Most Outstanding IMO Manager for CY 2014.

On March 21, 2017, Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik as the new Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations, took his oath of office before Secretary Jun Evasco. 🏛️





# #WWDPH2017

By: Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, PAIS-CO, PRO

## 1st NIA National Photography Competition

In support of the 2017 World Water Day celebration with its theme “Water and Wastewater”, the Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) headed by Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez came up with the 1st NIA National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Photography Competition with the theme “Irigasyon at Buhay”. Open to all NIA employees, the competition had two categories; the Conventional Category (photos taken using all types of traditional or conventional cameras like Single Lens Reflex (SLR) or Digital SLR, compact cameras, and the like) worth P 10,000 pesos and Mobile Category (photos taken using applications in all types of mobile devices like smartphones and tablets) worth P 5,000 pesos and two special awards, the Most Gender Sensitive photo with P 3,000 pesos cash prize and the Most Popular worth P 3,000.00 pesos to be awarded to the photo with the most number of likes on social media.

The competition had 37 and 13 entries for the Conventional and Mobile categories, respectively. The entries were judged by Ms. Dianne Magbanua, a photojournalist from GMA 7; Mr. Omac Principio, a freelance photographer; and Mr. Norlito Quimel, a member and a former President of the Camera Club of the Philippines.

## Awarding

On March 20, 2017, a simple awarding ceremony at the NIA Central Office recognized the talented photography enthusiasts. OIC Administrator/Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Estrella E. Icasiano and Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C’zar M. Sulaik gave away the certificates and cash prizes to the winners per category.



Deputy Administrator Sulaik receives the certificate and P 3,000.00 cash prize of Mr. John Michael Gubat of NIA-Cotabato IMO for the Most Popular Photo with 1.7k likes.



PAIS Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez receives the certificate and P 3,000.00 cash prize in behalf of Ms. Mylene Malecdan of NIA-CAR for the Most Gender Sensitive Photo.



Mobile Category winner, Mr. Alger Pascual from NIA-CMIPP-IC, accepts his certificate and P 5,000.00 cash prize from Deputy Administrators Sulaik and Icasiano.



Mr. Melvin Hernandez (together with Engr. Gloriosa Hernandez) of NIA-Region 4A accepts his certificate and P 10,000.00 cash prize from Deputy Administrators Sulaik and Icasiano for the Conventional Category.

## Photo Exhibit

All entries of the 1st NIA National Photography Competition were exhibited in the NIA Central Office lobby during the weeklong World Water Day Celebration, which run from March 15-22, 2017.





Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Estrella E. Icasiano together with Mr. Norlito Quimel (one of the judges of the photo competition) take a look and admire the photos of the "Irigasyon at Buhay" exhibit.



*Conventional Category*  
Shot by: Mr. Melvin Hernandez



*Mobile Category*  
Shot by: Mr. Alger Pascual



*Most Gender Sensitive*  
Shot by: Ms. Mylene Malecdan



*Most Popular*  
Shot by: Mr. John Michael Gubat

## Kick-off Activity

The kick-off activity on March 15 is a photo exhibit featuring photos from different WWD member agencies. Located at Market! Market! G/F New Wing Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, the exhibit runs from March 15-17, 2017.



DENR Assistant Secretary Nonita Caguioa welcomes participants, guests, and visitors in the World Water Day photo exhibit on March 15, 2017.



NWRB Executive Director Dr. Seville David, Jr., DENR Asec. Caguioa (center), and Manila Water's Mr. Fernando Busuego cut the ribbon to officially open the WWD Photo Exhibit.





## Significant Events

### Pasig River Tour

PAIS representatives join the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission's (PRRC) Pasig River Tour on March 16 traversing the waters of the Pasig River from Guadalupe Ferry Station in Makati City to Pinagbuhatan Ferry Station, Pasig City.

PRRC showed the participants the result of their hard work and perseverance in the challenge of the 90's declaration that the river is biologically dead.

*"The commission is inching closer in its goal to make our Pasig River as it was used to be"*



said Mr. George Oliver dela Rama, head of the PRRC Public Information, Advocacy, and Toursim Division in his message as he welcomes the river troopers before boarding the ferry.



ALL SMILES. Representatives from Maynilad, Manila Water, DENR, BSWM, NIA, and other agencies/institutions who joined the PRRC representatives after alighting from the ferry.

### WWD Awards

West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) and the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) led honoring the 14 water champions who have made a difference in the area of water access and environmental sustainability at the WWD Awards held at the Quezon City Sports Club on March 22. The awarding ceremony served as the culminating activity of the Philippines World Water Day celebration. Honoring water warriors of different fields, the activity pays respect and high esteem to those people that give much to the preservation, conservation, and love for our waters.



Ms. Maynilad Water Warrior and Ms. Earth International 2015 Angelia Ong hosted the WWD Awards



Batch 1 of awardees lined-up for the much-awaited giving out of trophies for the WWD Awards.

Some of the awards given were: Laguna Lake Development Authority's Kampeon ng Lawa, Local Water Utilities Administration's Huwarang Lingkod Tubig, NWRB's Water-Wise City Award, DENR-NCR's Kampeon ng Katubigan, DENR-EMB's Water Leadership Award, PRRC's Huwarang Alagad ng Ilog Pasig, and Maynilad's three (3) awards: Water Warrior for Community Mobilization, Water Warrior for Capacity Building, and Water Warrior for Environmental Sustainability.



Global Underwater Explorers (GUE) receive Kampeon ng Lawa Award for their voluntary work in partnering with LLDA in 2016 to initially explore the underwater condition of Pandin Lake, the first ever freshwater body that was dived in the Philippines.



# THE PHILIPPINES JOINS THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING WORLD WATER DAY

World Water Day (WWD) is celebrated worldwide on March 22 of every year to remind the world of the importance of fresh water to mankind and to advocate sustainable management of fresh water resources. Its celebration dates back to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development where an international observance for water was recommended. The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. It has been held annually since then.

Each year, the UN-Water, the entity that coordinates the UN's work on water and sanitation, sets a theme for World Water Day. The theme usually highlights a specific aspect of freshwater or corresponds to a current or future challenge. This year's theme is "Water and Wastewater".

Why wastewater? The discharge of wastewater into the environment poses a serious threat. Wastewater when discharged to fresh water bodies and marine waters without being treated can cause water pollution which in turn is harmful to aquatic life. When discharged on lands, it can leach into underground water tables and potentially contaminate aquifers and underground water.

Wastewater for irrigation may contain unsuitable chemicals and high concentrations of nutrients needed for crops. This can result in delayed and under yielding. Moreover, wastewater used for animal farming may also contain harmful things and chemicals dissolved in them, and there is a

chance that humans that eat such animals may be harmed too.

Wastewater is also a big health issue, as it carries and transports a myriad of diseases and illnesses. According to the World Health Organization about 2.2 million people die each year (globally) from diarrheal disease, mostly children in developing countries.

All ecosystems are connected and they all ultimately depend on water. Similarly, all water (surface and underground) is connected. This means careless wastewater discharge can have some serious ripple effect. If one part of the ecosystem chain is destroyed, it can upset its entire food chain.

However, if harnessed properly wastewater is a huge resource that can bring a lot of health and economic benefits, increase food production, reduce poverty, enhance fishing, tourism, rural and urban livelihoods.

Storm water, urban runoff and effluent from animal farms can be captured for irrigation and other farming needs. This kind of wastewater is usually high in nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, micronutrient, and organic matter) and farmers love it. In doing so, farmers were able to save on fertilizer cost and also preserve surface and underground water that they would have otherwise used.

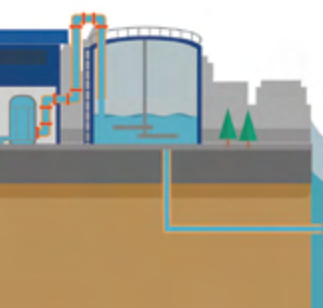
Wastewater can also be used to generate energy. Sludge collected from a treatment plant can be biodegraded in a controlled environment and then combusted (burnt at high temperatures) to

release Methane (a gas similar to natural gas). This can be used in boilers at homes and in buildings, as well as for cooking and heating purposes. This sludge from treatment plants can also be combusted to produce electricity. Reclaimed wastewater can also provide water for irrigation and industrial purposes. Thus, freeing up fresh water which can be used somewhere else, such as for drinking water.

At the household level, water used in the kitchen can be collected and used to water flowers and lawns. Families can also reduce the amount of wastewater they produce by smart use of bathrooms. Saving a few liters of water a day means a significant savings on water by the end of the year!

In the Philippines, World Water Day celebration is being spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the River Basin Control Office and the National Water Resources Board with the support of other water government agencies/institutions, private sector and non-government organizations/civil society. It is usually a weeklong celebration, dubbed as "Philippine Water Week", with a series of activities that starts on 15 March and culminates on 22 March.

The Philippines first joined the global celebration in 1996. Then President Fidel V. Ramos issued Administrative Order No. 258 dated 04 March 1996 enjoining all instrumentalities of the government to join the global observance of World Water Day on 22 March 1996 and in every year thereafter. 🏢







## NIA C.O. hosts Training-Workshop on GAD Planning and Budgeting

By: Elaine Villanueva, Property Section, Acting Material Planning Services Chief


NIA Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point Person, Administrative Department Manager Atty. Ailyne Agtuca-Selda, led a 3-day Training/Workshop on GAD Planning and Budgeting on February 27 – March 1, 2017 at the NIA Conventional Hall, 5th floor, IEC Building, NIA, Quezon City. The activity focused on enhancing the preparation of GAD Planning and Budgeting and GAD Accomplishment Reports.

The interactive seminar has been

conceptualized in accordance with Philippine Commission on Women-National Economic and Development Authority-Department of Budget Management (PCW-NEDA-DBM) Joint Circular No. 2012-01, pertaining to the Guidelines for the preparation of Annual GAD Plans and Budgets and Accomplishments Reports to Implement the Magna Carta of Women.

The activity was participated by a total of eighty-eight (88) personnel

from the Administrative and Finance Division/GAD Focal Point, and Engineering and Operations Division of the National Irrigation Administration nationwide.

Ms. Lorenza Acosta Umali who is a GAD Specialist on Women and Development (particularly Women in Agriculture), Gender Analysis, Planning and Budgeting, and Research and Policy Analysis, was tapped as resource person of the said seminar. 

## Annual Procurement Plan (APP) Preparation and Planning Session/Conference

By: Procurement Section, Administrative Department







## Understanding Records and Archives

By: Portia Sandoval Angulo, HRD-CO, Industrial Relations Management Officer A

The Cordillera Administrative Region Training Center witnessed the gathering of the Records Custodians/Records Keepers and the duly designated Documents and Records Controllers of the Central Office, UPRIIS, Region 4A and Quezon IMO. Said individuals were welcomed by Regional Manager John L. Socalo in the chilly climate of La Trinidad, Benguet as they had to travel all the way up north to attend the Seminar-Workshop on Basic Records and Archives Management. This activity was

organized by the Training and Career Development Section of the Human Resources Division in partnership with the Records Control Team that took place on 9-10 May 2017.

Instead of sending the group to a public seminar on records, the NIA commissioned the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) to conduct an in-house program of the above. It took almost a year for NAP to approve our request for an in-house seminar due to a long line

of request from agencies seeking the former's assistance for the latter's ongoing ISO certification.

The NAP deployed three (3) experts namely Mesdames Maita Espina-Abunales, Gina M. Papa and Virginia S. Raymundo to talk about the topic. Before dwelling on the actual topic, the speakers established the foundation of the subject matter by giving the participants an idea of Republic Act No. 9470 or the National Archives of the Philippines Act of 2007.

*Continued on page 14...*

### “ From Procurement Professionals to Procurement Specialists ”

This planning session/conference is designed to review and monitor the effects on the series of Trainings/ Seminars on Accomplishing Forms in Compliance with the Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG). It was participated by NIA personnel nationwide, who are directly involved in the preparation and submission of: Annual Procurement Plan (APP), Annual Procurement Plan for Common-Use Supplies and Equipment (APP-CSE), Project Procurement Management Plan (PPMP), Certificate of Compliance on PhilGEPS Posting (COC) and Procurement Monitoring Report (PMR). The event took place at the Convention Hall, 5th Flr. DCIEC Bldg., NIA Central Office, EDSA, Diliman Quezon City.

The conference was likewise attended by Ms. Estrella E. Icasiano – Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector; Administrative Department Manager; other Department Managers, Regional Managers, Project Managers and Division Managers. The participants are the recommending authorities, approving authority/Head of Procuring Entity (HOPE) based on delegated authority in the preparation of the Annual Procurement Plan.

At the end of the training-seminar, the participants were (a) able to know the procedural requirements in the preparation and submission of required reports; (b) well-

Ms. Estrella E. Icasiano  
Deputy Administrator for  
Administrative and Finance Sector



informed and educated on the preparation of APP, APP-CSE, PPMP, and PMR using the prescribed forms from the GPPB, PS-DBM and PhilGEPS; (c) aware on the deadlines in complying with GCG requirements; and d) aligned with the CY 2018 approved projects with CORPLAN and approved budget.

Lastly, the conference greatly enhanced the offices' performance in strictly complying with the GCG requirements as good implementation starts from good planning. 🏢



*Continued from page 13 (Understanding Records and Archives)*

The activity provided participants a basic overview of records management, technologies, concepts, rules and regulations and procedures to be able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitude as well as values accorded to the office implementation of a sound record management. Specifically, the following subtopics were discussed by the subject-

matter-experts: a) records creation and control, b) mail management, c) archives administration and d) security of records. Workshops on files management and records center administration were also given to participants.

By attending the seminar-workshop, the participants whose responsibilities include

the management of records from creation until final disposition realized the importance of properly maintaining their records. The lecture made them aware too of their huge accountability and how they can prevent the consequences of improper records management.

With the seminar-workshop they attended, we are hopeful that the participants now know how to handle their records properly. 📁

## Know the New Right-of-Way Act

By: Portia Sandoval Angulo, HRD-CO, Industrial Relations Management Officer A



The law on Right-of-Way (ROW), Republic Act No. 897, was repealed through Republic Act No. 10752 or "An Act Facilitating the Acquisition of Right-Of-Way, Site or Location for National Government Infrastructure Projects" approved on 7 March 2016 by the former President Benigno S. Aquino III.

The Legal Services coordinated with the Human Resources Division to conduct a seminar regarding the New ROW Act. ROW problems hinder smooth implementation of irrigation projects.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was requested to discuss the new law. Personnel from its Right-of-Way Acquisition and Enforcement Division, Legal Service Atty. John Alexander Belderol and Mr. Sonny Macasil discussed the contents of RA 10752. The lawyers from our own Legal Office supported

the main speakers and answered questions and cases unique for NIA.

Two batches on the Orientation was held, one in Baguio City on April 28-29, 2017 and one in Bohol on May 9-13, 2017.

Both occasions were well attended by the ROW Officers or duly designated ROW negotiators from each region and project offices. Representatives from the different

offices of the Central Office such as Construction Management Division, Project Planning Division and Financial Management Department were also present. The following were achieved during the program: a) understanding and appreciation of the salient features of RA 10752, as well as the differences of RA 8974 and RA 10752. b) understanding and application of the concept and principles of RA 10752.

A ROW manual in accordance with RA 10752 was drafted by our Legal Office. It was disseminated to the participants for comments and suggestions and to be used in the acquisition of ROW in the construction of irrigation projects of our Agency.

The participants and the organizers as well as the lecturers were grateful of the training as it would equip them with more knowledge in the performance of the job in ROW negotiations. 📁







**There is a need to institutionalize a public complaints hotline involving all agencies of the government and build on existing public feedback mechanisms for the realization of the government's policy to eradicate red tape and corruption**



**- President Rodrigo Duterte**



# NIA JOINS HOTLINE 8888 PROJECT WORKSHOP

By: Maria Luisa A. Frias, PAIS - CO, PRO Assistant A

With that pronouncement of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Cabinet Secretary Leoncio B. Evasco, Jr. underscores the implementation of a hotline that will allow citizens to report inefficiencies and corruption in government.

The 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline was institutionalized through Executive Order No. 6 signed by the President on October 14, 2016, and will serve as a mechanism where citizens may report their complaints and grievances on acts of red tape. Red tape acts include complicated transactions and unnecessary procedures that are prone to corrupt practices.

Since the Complaint Center is supervised by the Office of the Cabinet Secretary (OCS), Hotline 8888 Project Workshop was called for all line, commissions and housing

agencies under the OCS on April 18, 2017 at the Mabini Hall, Malacañan Palace.

Atty. Christine Lovely Red, Director for Legal Affairs of the OCS presided the one-day workshop. Current status of the Project are the finalizations of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), Manual of Operations, Hiring of Call Center Agents and Procurement of equipment needed for the project.

Hotline 8888 is currently being serviced by Civil Service Commission (CSC) Contact Center ng Bayan 16565. This complaint center is also directed to provide other communication channels including short message service, electronic mail, website and social networking sites, and will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week excluding national holidays and work suspensions.

The complaints will be referred to the concerned government agency for appropriate action. This complaint center will have designated focal and technical officers for each office who shall assist the OCS in its collaboration efforts and interconnection and integration of public feedback mechanisms.

Moreover, commonly-raised issues against the agency were tackled in the workshop. OCS stressed out that concerned state agencies are required to come up with a "concrete and specific" action within 72 hours or three days from the receipt of the complaint.

Meanwhile, Hotline 8888 Project is included during the cascading of NIA's Freedom of Information Manual to regional offices. 🏢



# PHOTO NEWS

## FOI Updates



## INWEPF Preparations

Senior Deputy Administrator Ret. Gen. Abraham B. Bagasin with NIA officials welcomed the representatives from Japan, Korea and Thailand who arrived in the country on May 9, 2017. Former Administrator Florencio F. Padernal joined the group. The representatives were here to check the venue of the forthcoming INWEPF Conference in November. A formal opening was held on May 10 at the IEC Convention Hall and in the following day, May 11, the group visited the Pantabangan Dam in Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS) located in Nueva Ecija.





**NIASLA Assembly**



**NIAEASP Assembly**



**Boodle Fight = Unity**



**Management Committee (MANCOM) Meeting with Administrator Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.)**







**Limelight**

# Sentimental Journey to Japan: An impression

By: Augustrese S. Torres, Systems Management Division, Manager

My first travel to Japan was in July to September 1982. I was a young civil engineer attending the course in Agricultural Land and Water Resources Development. I was back to Japan after 34 years (September 25-October 8, 2016) as a replacement to a participant who could not make it due to some personal reason. The training was on Maintenance Management for Irrigation Facilities. The Agency sent 15 participants 11 of whom came from seven (7) Regional Offices and four (4) from Central Office. This is for me a priceless opportunity. It was indeed what I called destiny.

Japan has transformed into an advance country in terms of technology but at the same time had maintained its cultural traditions and preserved its natural environment. What I saw in the earlier visit, remained.. unchanged on my last visit. Mountains are forested. Harmony exists between agricultural lands and industry and other infrastructures, towns and villages. Economic zones are located in strategic places with so many trees around it.

Japan, is a model country worldwide - specifically in terms of research and technology. These advances are manifested in its' modern gadgets and equipment and its transportation system like

the Shinkansen (bullet train). The speed of the bullet train is about 320 km/hr, but no seatbelt was required during the trip. This is how confident they are of a 100 percent reliability of that modern equipment. That is beyond my imagination. Farm to market roads are all concretized which could easily transport agricultural products to the markets. Highways are everywhere. You can reach all the location in Japan you want. It could either by bus, trains, ship and airplanes, which are all safe.

Japanese people are inspiring because they are courteous and polite. The politeness and courtesy is everywhere, from the cities to the prefectures (provinces), by the old and young alike. The same smile and sincerity will be felt in one's heart. They are respectful to all the people they met. They are industrious and dedicated workers, from the airports, convenient stores, canteen, restaurants, department stores, shopping malls, private company or corporations, the government offices and the Land Improvement District (LID) which is equivalent to farmers association. A warm welcome is always there. They are hospitable and accommodating people. They arrange things systematically. They are really an inspiration to everyone. Everybody is invited to learn and gain knowledge in their

respective field of endeavor. They show their culture and tradition to everyone so that their beliefs could easily be understood.

My stay in Japan was very comfortable, enjoyable and educational. The experience learned and the technical knowledge I've gained from the training will be one of the best tools in the operation and maintenance activities in irrigation systems in the Philippines. The training itself dealt with the maintenance management of irrigation facilities. The DUSTING (screening/thrash) equipment are new to us. This helps clear the canals from debris and other unnecessary materials that clogged the waterways. The concrete canals with middle concrete divider or a double way canal, makes the repair and improvement works easy, without interrupting the supply of water for power, domestic and irrigation. All headgates are automated and controlled by remote button at the Project Offices. The STOCK MANAGEMENT dealt with the field survey data on the status and condition of canal lining and reinforced concrete canals. The data is useful for the facility status evaluation sheet based on the investigation results of functional diagnosis. The same keen attention was given when





the studies on the countermeasure construction work method and the calculation functional preservation cost were solved. The Research and Development program can be understood more and can be adopted. Installation of a remote control headgates even in a pilot area only in the irrigation system can also be replicated. We hope that the best irrigation practices observed in Japan will be applied in our country thru the National Irrigation Administration.

My heartfelt gratitude to National Irrigation Administration Officials; the Japanese experts in NIA-Mr. Mabuchi & Mr. Nishida; Japan International Cooperation Agency, (JICA, Philippines)- Mr. Ueno & Mr. ITO; to Mr. Hirara- JICA of Tsukuba International Center and Mr. Tajiri of JICA, Tokyo Headquarter, for the opportunity given to us . Appreciation is also extended to our Coordinators-Madam Nakano and Madam Furukawa; Mr. Ochii -JWA resource person and Mr. Utsunomiya, JICA expert in NIA, who were with us in the entire duration of the training, and to all other resource persons from MAFF, JWA and LID. This Technical Cooperation should be continued in the future. To end, this is my sentimental journey back to Japan, **MARAMING SALAMAT PO!**  
**DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU.** 🇯🇵

# NIA's Quest for ISO 9001:2008 Certification

By: Luzviminda R. Peñaranda, PAIS-C.O

One of the exciting events in four (4) offices of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) led by the Central Office (C.O.) took place - the Stage 2 Audit, the last leg in getting the ISO 9001:2008 Certification last April 4-5, 2017. The other three offices are: Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS) Head Office, Region 4-A and Quezon Irrigation Management Office (QIMO).

A short meeting commenced on the first day with the representatives of AJA Registrar's Inc., the Certifying Body, NIA top management officials, and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Core Team Leaders. Deputy Administrator (DA) for Administrative and Finance Sector Estrella E. Icasiano led the composition of NIA Quality Management System (QMS) as QM Representative. She welcomed everyone on the first day of audit with aplomb.

"We are excited, we are a bit scared, but as always we are confidently ready with a heart. We work harder on this Certification," DA Icasiano stated. She was very optimistic to be certified with all the preparation, diligence and commitment of each NIA. She believed the Certification has a more significant meaning for NIAs especially with development on the NO irrigation service fee (ISF) policy. NIA is still pursuing the Certification and still striving to give the farmer clientele the best service that is based on globally accepted standard as NIA gives the service for free. "*Yun ang maganda dun, libre na nga inauupgrade pa namin. Kaya iba ang dating sa amin nitong ISO certification,*" DA Icasiano affirmed.

The AJA Registrar's Inc. consists of Ms. Meri Ann Domingo, team leader. Ms. Lauren Calmerin and Ms. Ella Ajero. The team leader started with the re-confirmation of the Agency's information of four sites (NIA C.O., UPRIIS, Region 4-A, and QIMO and these would be simultaneously audited.

Ms. Domingo then stressed the objectives of Stage 2 Audit, namely: to ensure that any findings during Stage 1 audit have been satisfactorily addressed by the organization; to determine the effectiveness of the management demonstration of leadership in respect of the management integration into normal business activities; the importance of conformance to the requirements of management system throughout out the organization; to attend to the appropriateness of the documented plans on how objectives shall be achieved; to assess the practices of the management system to ensure continual improvement.

*Continued on page 20.*





*Continued from page 19.*

She also affirmed the Audit's methodology of 3Ps: paper, practice and people based on evidence of compliance on NIA's written documentary procedure. The Auditors would check on people's competency, actual practices in the office and the evidence of QMS implementation. Ms. Domingo cited and explained the three classifications of Audit findings, such as: major nonconformity, minor nonconformity, and Observation. She then disclosed that possible findings for this audit must be properly complied within the given period of time to prevent elevation to minor/major nonconformities.

The team leader arranged the two-day Audit schedule for Offices/ Department in the C.O. with corresponding Auditor guided by two members from ISO Secretariat. Stage 2 Audit took place simultaneously in the different NIA offices/department/sites.

The Closing meeting was held upon the completion of auditors' evaluation reports from the four sites. In the presence of NIA top management officials, QMS team leaders, staff, and ISO Secretariat, Ms. Domingo disclosed the final evaluation result – 17 Observations/ Opportunity For Improvement

(OFIs) and two (2) minor nonconformity (NCs) which cover Clauses 6.3 (Infra) and 7.5.1. She said minor NCs would not hinder Certification, only submit the Planned Corrective Action within 30 calendar days. Everybody was jubilant as Ms. Domingo finally announced a Zero Major NC!

### **Pre-Assessment Audit**

Pre-assessment Audit is a requirement of the ISO 9001. Its objective is to check the documents required by the ISO 9001 and the readiness level of the Agency's QMS based on the provided document procedures that conform to the ISO standards. Likewise, Quality Objectives will be checked, the compliance on legal requirements and the complete conduct of the Internal Quality Audit and Management Review. Pre-Assessment was done on March 13, 2017. AJA Registrars' Inc., through Mr. Allan Carandang, Audit team leader, rated NIA 95% document complete.

### **Stage 1 Audit**

A week after pre-assessment audit, Stage 1 Audit was conducted on March 20, 2017. The Audit included the additional document requirements for the three sites. The different forms to be used

in Stage 2 Audit were briefly introduced. Ms. Ingrid Manglapus of AJA Registrar's Inc. stated the following objectives: to assess the adequacy of the QMS developed at the time of Stage 1 in terms of its coverage of all relevant ISO clause requirements; to ensure that all processes of the organization involved in the scope of work of the involved sites have been addressed within the Management System; to identify the involvement of organization or functional unit in the implementation of the Management System requirements to allow company specific planning for audit activities in the Stage 2 and subsequent Surveillance Audit. A full copy of the management system is required to be readily available to the auditors.

Audit evaluation resulted to 14 findings for all four (4) sites. The auditors explained that these findings must be addressed prior to Stage 2 audit. Further, these findings are minor and may be complied within two weeks. To sustain the momentum, DA Icasiano scheduled the Stage 2 Audit.

Everyone is optimistic that ISO Certification is within the reach.

Teamwork! The word apt to describe NIAs in quest of ISO certification. 🏆

