The Agency hosts the 14th INWEPF Symposium and Steering Committee Meeting

GBABAGO

NIA gives green light for the FS of potential hydropower sites NIA CO celebrates Christmas in Denim and Diamonds Celebrating the 57th Birthday of Administrator Visaya

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION

YA

Volume 36, No. 6, 2017

NIA JOINS BIYAYA NG PAGBABAGO

"Ang pinaigting na pagsuporta ng ating ahensya sa layunin ng gobyerno upang maisulong ang batas ukol sa Libreng Patubig para sa ating maliliit na magsasaka", said NIA Administrator Ricardo P. Visava during the statement of support and commitment for the

R. Visaya during the statement of support and commitment for the Launching of Biyaya ng Pagbabago at Freedom Park, Davao City on December 9, 2017. see page 9

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Editorial

only two big events by NIAns at Central ce the Agency's

There are only two big events celebrated by NIAns at Central Office since the Agency's existence – NIA Anniversary in June and NIA Christmas Party in December.

When the new management took over its helm last year, there were secret fears that the 'generalization' of NIA will mean a military like work environmentdrab and no fun. The fear was somehow substantiated during the 54th Anniversary Celebration which was on the verge of not being pushed through as traditionally observed, but the succeeding months dissipated all the fears. We were introduced to the bands of the Armed Forces of the Philipines (AFP). Halloween did not pass by unnoticed with the "Trick or Treat" event for the children and grandchildren of all NIAns, as well as its service providers and friends. Children aged from 0 to 13 in Halloween costumes walked from floor to

floor and went home with loads of treats. Slowly coming to center stage was the wellness program of free vaccinations and Zumba every Tuesday and Thursday. The birthdays of our big bosses were celebrated with boodle fights symbolizing camaraderie and equality among management and employees. December came and the children's party, long gone in NIA Christmas celebrations, resurrected. The big bosses, Christians, and non-Christians alike, acted as Santa Clauses. The NIA 2017 Christmas Party with a theme, "A Feast of Fun, Full of Love", was celebrated with a twist – a Christmas Ball in denims and diamonds!

Each event throughout the year was achieved with arduous preparations and we saw how each sector in the Agency contributed their talents, skills, and resources, and worked as one to make each event a success. The top management planted the seed of synchrony and the employees were tasked to nurture it.

The year 2017 started with blowing our worries away, and letting our prayers and hopes float into the heavens. We lived the year learning a new culture hesitatingly, then, working and meeting our official goals painstakingly guided by the four pillars of commitment of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, we were reminded of discipline and patriotism, and singing 'Lupang Hinirang' and 'Ako ay Pilipino' from our hearts. Slowly but surely, NIAns are healthier, working in unison to meet our set goals and inclusively enjoying at the same time.

In general, 2017 was a great year! A metamorphosis for all NIAns.

THE AGENCY HOSTS THE 14TH INWEPF SYMPOSIUM AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Eden Victoria C. Selva, Public Relations Officer IV, PAIS – CO

a very busy year for the country having hosted the 30th and 31st ASEAN Summit, the 30th last April and the 31th only a week before the International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPF) activity. Three international events are no mean feat for a country like ours.

he year 2017 proved to be

INWEPF Philippines Committee with NIA as the lead convenor hosted the 14th INWEPF Symposium and Steering Committee Meeting last November 20-25, 2017 held at the Clark Special Economic Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga. The Philippines accepted the Chairmanship from INWEPF Cambodia Committee last December 2016.

INWEPF is an international network of 17 rice farming countries where the Philippines is a member. Its purpose is to provide an avenue to promote the understanding of the value of water, specifically, for agriculture and ecosystem in paddy fields. This year's INWEPF has a theme, "Strengthening Global Partnership for Sustainable and Climate Resilient Irrigation and Drainage Systems in Paddy Fields". The activity was attended by delegates from 15 countries with participants coming from the academe, government agencies, private sector, and research organizations.

There were 10 technical papers presented and these centered on research and development and extension (RDE) works of Japan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. These papers were on irrigation performance preservation, sustainable water source, food sufficiency, and institutional development/partnership with water users. Five of the papers were from the Philippine participants. The specific papers were as follows:

1. Assessing the Operational Reliability of the Angat Multipurpose Reservoir, Philippines,

2. Enhancing the Participation of Irrigators Associations in National Irrigation System Modernization in the Philippines,

3. Effects of Alternate Wetting and Drying Technique on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Irrigated Rice Paddy in Central Luzon, Philippines,

4. Utilizing Coconet for Slope Protection: Impacts and Techniques,

5. Embedding Climate Change Resiliency in Rice Irrigations Systems in the Philippines,







6. Gaining Rice Self Sufficiency in Sri Lanka: Challenges Faced,

7. Improved Water Management for Rice Irrigation In Bangladesh: Technologies Adopted,

8. Developing Flood and Drought Forecasting Systems for the South Asia Region,

9. Overview of the Direct Payment Scheme for Ensuring Multifunctionality, and

10. Bilateral Technical Exchange Triggered by the INWEPF between the Philippines and Cambodia.

The hosting of the 14th INWEPF Symposium had given the Philippines and NIA in particular the opportunity to directly host an international symposium and learn firsthand lessons from the discussions shared by the different participants. These lessons which



may as well serve as a jumping board for our Agency to consider in future planning include the following:

1. Irrigated rice production viz greenhouse gas emission,

2. Storage reservoir functionality viz shifting water supply and demand,

3. Rice sufficiency breakthrough viz emerging CHALLENGES,

4. Irrigation system performance viz climate change impact,

5. Irrigation System modernization viz water users association response,

6. Early forecasting system viz flood and drought occurrences,

7. Bio-engineering scheme application viz irrigation canal stabilization,

8. Aging Farmers viz Farming Modernization, and

9. Multipurpose reservoir viz conflicting water uses.

On the other hand, the 15th INWEPF Symposium and Steering Committee meeting will be held in Nara Prefecture, Japan on November 2018.



16th Implementation Support Mission: World Bank Commended PIDP for a Satisfactory Performance

Ma. Victoria J. Mamaril, Environmental Specialist A, PIDP

"Amidst some challenges the Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP) is facing towards its nearing completion, the Project continues to have a good progress in its implementation", Ms. Theresa G. Quiñones, World Bank Task Team Leader, confirmed during the Wrap-Up Meeting for the 16th Implementation Support Mission on December 12, 2017. The said meeting was attended by the NIA Top Management Officials headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan. Also present were the Department Managers, Division Managers, and representatives from different sectors of the Agency. Representative from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Mr. Rhonel Santos and Mr. Ricky P de la Cruz from the Office of the Cabinet Secretary also attended the activity.

The Mission findings state that, "The overall achievement of Project Development Objective (PDO) has improved with manifestation in the increase in the area provided with irrigation facilities, improved cropping intensity, and strong Irrigators Association (IA) performance".

The implementation of Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) sustained its progress with 99% of the IAs already signed the Modified IMT Contracts under Memorandum Circular 13, series of 2017. All of the PIDP National Irrigation Systems (NIS) have recorded a satisfaction rating of 80% for the services received from the Agency and the Project. During the Mission field visits, there was a clear evidence that the IAs are strengthened and more abled to engage with modified contract responsibilities.

There has been a good achievement in the implementation of the civil works in the four Core B NISs [Bonga Pump 2 (Region 1), Camiling River Irrigation System (RIS) (Region 3), Baco-Bucayao RIS (Region 4B), and Lower-Binahaan RIS (Region 8)], with high hopes that all works in the four Core B NISs will be completed ahead of project closure with a satisfactory quality. It was then agreed that the respective Regional Irrigation Offices (RIO)/Irrigation Management Offices (IMO) will continue to closely supervise the works and ensure that good progress is maintained. Accomplishment for this component is 84.52%.

The Mission is happy to note that the PIDP has undertaken a significant movement on the social safeguards aspect. Twenty (20) out of 27 projectaffected persons (PAPs) who remained unpaid during the last Mission were already paid of their compensations. The amount due for the remaining seven unpaid PAPs is deposited as a reserved fund in the respective IMOs. While both the NIA and PIDP continue to satisfactorily address the environmental, health, and safety issues in the PIDP NISs, the Mission reiterated that there is a need to enforce occupational health and safety standards of the workers in the construction areas.

The advocacy on Gender and Development in different PIDP NISs was appreciated by the Mission Team as women continue to make a significant impact on the project. Aside from playing a significant role in the IA Operation and Maintenance responsibilities, women are particularly active in the livelihood programs as part of the Resettlement Action Plan.

The implementation of the project sustained its satisfactory rating as per mission findings. The overall physical accomplishment is 83.58% compared to 81% in the previous Mission with a disbursement rate of 79% as of the mission period. Furthermore, the Mission recognizes NIA's effort to reduce the delay in the submission of the audit report and requested to ensure timely closure of book of accounts for CY 2017.

The two Consultancy Services (Impact Assessment Study and Project Completion Report) are on-going and already in the procurement process. The PIDP management and staff continue to carry out activities in all components towards the nearing loan closing date and project completion.



World Bank Mission Team inspects the ongoing civil works in Lower Binahaan RIS in Region 8 during their field visit.



Ms. Theresa G. Quiñones, World Bank Task Team Leader gives the findings of the 16th Implementation Support Mission



NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya (second from right) leads the review of the World Bank Aide Memoire during the Wrap-up Meeting



PIDP Project Manager Eleuterio C. Luz discusses the status of PIDP implementation during the Kick-off Meeting on November 28, 2017 held at the NIA Penthouse

PIKL-PE 2017: A SUPPORT TO PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant, PAIS – CO



The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), in partnership with the Irrigators Associations (IAs) nationwide, conceptualized and organized the threeday Philippine Irrigation Knowledge Learning and Policy Engagement (PIKL-PE) 2017 with the theme, "Irrigators Associations Rural Transformation from Free Irrigation Service", from December 13-15, 2017 at Waterfront Insular Hotel, Lanang, Davao City. The said event was conducted with the hopes of providing various policy platforms for consolidation of issues and concerns, interaction with partner stakeholders, and cooperation among the farmerirrigators and the NIA in advocating the need for funding support for irrigation purposes.

The assemblage has been one of NIA's strategies to empower the leadership and representation of IAs as an active sector in Philippine society. The event gave opportunity for IAs to showcase their irrigated agriculture achievements

through the following policy platforms: 1) Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 to expand economic opportunities in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, 2) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly, Goal 1 to end all its forms everywhere, Goal 2 to end hunger, achieve and promote sustainable agriculture, Goal 15 to promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and Goal 17 to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Crafting policies on IA sustainability is a way of contributing to rural development through income generation as one of the key elements in the viability of any organization. In that matter, IAs can raise funds in order to withstand the needs for various resources. Through interactive learning and breakout sessions, all stakeholders were able to share their knowledge about products and processes related to innovation, such as smallholder agriculture and family farming. On the other hand, different issues and concerns affecting Irrigators Associations and farmerstakeholders, such as the creation of party list for National Confederation of Irrigators Associations (NCIA), revision of the Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) Bill, shifting of rice lands into other crop lands, requirement for quarrying and fees collected by the DENR, President's

Proclamation to free the IAs from taxes, formulation of Unified IA Policy, and levy on rice/palay, were all discussed to the concerned office, agency or organization.

As a sign of gratitude to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for giving rice farmers a free irrigation service in accordance with his campaign promise, the Provincial Federation Presidents (PFPs) of the NCIA representing the 8,766 IAs nationwide with 1.32 million irrigated rice farms and 1.1. million members convey their manifesto of support for President Duterte to eradicate poverty, hunger, and rice insufficiency. The PFPs also donated 175,275 kilos of rice for the disposal of the President. The said policy engagement serves as a support for attaining the Agency's mission of providing inclusive economic growth and development in Philippine agricultural sector. 🕮





NIA GIVES GREEN LIGHT FOR THE FS OF POTENTIAL HYDROPOWER SITES

Jhon Vince Santoalla , Public Relations Assistant, PAIS – CO

NIA Central Office – NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya approved the nine Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to seven Hydropower Developers, December 22, 2017 at NIA Conference Room.

The said MOU gave permission to the developers to conduct feasibility study (FS) on the development of proposed Hydroelectric power plants within several NIA irrigation systems.

As stipulated in the MOU, the said feasibility study is at no cost to NIA. It will also have an inextendible term of one year from effectivity.

Further, the memorandum does not also vest preferential or exclusive right to the developer/s to develop/ implement the project upon completion of the FS. "Wala naman gastos dito ang NIA. Wala din naman masisirang irrigation systems natin kasi part din ng MOU natin na ang developer shall not remove, displace, destroy any improvement during the course of the study", said Administrator Visaya.

Those developers include C Squared Prime Commodities (CSPC) Corporation which is interested in putting up conventional Hydroelectric Power Plant (HEPP) in Agno River Irrigation System (ARIS) in Pangasinan, the PHILCARBON, Inc. which intends to develop a 600 kW HEPP along MARIS Magat F in Cordon, Isabela and the Iraya Energy Corporation which proposes to develop a 1MW HEPP along MARIS (South) Main Canal in Ramon, Isabela.

Other developers were Matuno **River Development Corporation** which plans to develop 8 MW runof-river mini-hydro project along Matuno River in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, the Tokyo Electric Power Services Company, LTD. (TEPSCO) which aims to develop a power plant along the Bayongan Diversion Chute in Ubay, Bohol, and the DA Green Power Consultancy which proposes to install Helios Powerball along Balingasag Canal, Daguitan RIS Canal, and Ormoc BAO RIS Canal in Misamis Oriental, Tacloban, and Leyte respectively.

On some of his speaking engagements, the NIA Chief wanted to pursue optimizing the potential of NIA's existing irrigation systems. He agreed to the idea of putting up eco-tourism destinations, as well as hydropower plants and floating solar power to all potential irrigation sites owned and managed by the agency.

There are 357 potential hydroelectric power sites identified. These sites, upon development, will provide electricity to far-flung communities and will further boost the economic development of the country as a whole.



NIA JOINS BIYAYA NG PAGBABAGO Jhon Vince Santoalla , Public Relations Assistant, PAIS – CO

"Ang pinaigting na pagsuporta ng ating ahensya sa layunin ng gobyerno upang maisulong ang batas ukol sa Libreng Patubig para sa ating maliliit na magsasaka", said NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya during the statement of support and commitment for the Launching of Biyaya ng Pagbabago at Freedom Park, Davao City on December 9, 2017.

The Office of the Cabinet Secretary (OCS), in partnership with 12 agencies under the Office of the President alongside Kilusang Pagbabago, initiated the "Biyaya ng Pagbabago Tungo sa Masagana at Matiwasay na Buhay Pilipino" (Biyaya ng Pagbabago) Program, which aims to provide better living



conditions for Filipinos.

The program targets to bring the various poverty alleviation programs of the national government to the communities to reach the people down to the grassroots level. It is a show of support for the Duterte administration's agenda of improving the lives of poor Filipinos.

Before the launching kicked in, there was a caravan organized by the OCS to give the public sufficient information on the government's pro-poor programs and to enjoin other agencies and civil society groups to commit to

the administration's goal of alleviating poverty.

The nationwide caravan commenced in Luzon, starting from Ifugao, all the way to Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Parañaque, Cavite, Batangas, Quezon, Marinduque, and Camarines Sur.



After which, the selected participants continued to Northern Samar, Tacloban, Ormoc, and Cebu City in Visayas, and to Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon in Mindanao until they reached Davao City where the culmination activity and launching of Biyaya ng Pagbabago took place.

During the program, the heads of different government offices pledged their respective initial commitments to their beneficiaries. They also gave their support to continue the plans and programs that will uplift the lives of those who are on marginalized sectors. *Continued on next page.*

NIA turned over its completed irrigation systems to eleven identified irrigators associations. These includes Bala Kanapulo Communal Irrigators Association, Inc., Bankerohan Sur Irrigators Farmers Association, Inc., Albatana-Blucon Malabis Communal Irrigators Association, Inc., Buhangin Davao City Callawa Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc., Balingaeng Los Amigos Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc., Lupon Banaybanay Federation of Irrigators Association, Mandaya-Manorigao Farmers Irrigators Association, Barangay Mapawa Irrigators Association, Inc., Comval, Miral Balutakay SRIP Federation Communal Irrigators Association, Inc., Padada Irrigators Association, Inc., and Pamacuan Communal Irrigators Association, Inc. These projects are set to irrigate 4,706 hectares and will



benefit 3,670 farmers. Present during the occasion were Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr. and House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez who both expressed their full support to the program.



"You cannot expect that everyone will join you, but if they are convinced that government is doing something for the people, it is already good", said CabSec Leoncio Evasco. Participating agencies for the "Biyaya ng Pagbabago" were

the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), National Food Authority (NFA), National Youth Commission (NYC), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Presidential Action Center (PACE), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).



BAC Comprehends the New IRR of RA9184

Portia Sandoval Angulo, Industrial Relations Development Officer, HRD-CO

Based on the CY 2014 and CY 2015 reports of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), procurement was mentioned as a cause of delay in project implementation and underspending in government agencies. These issues in public procurement are common attributes of agencies classified as underspenders. It was noted that in CY 2015, problems in scheduling of procurement, delays in bidding and inaccuracy in the technical specifications, and costing were the top challenges in procurement. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) was among the big underspenders in that year along with 11 other agencies.

Circumstances, such as specified above and the dissemination of the most recent revision of Republic Act (RA) No. 9184's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), led to the proposal to conduct an Orientation-Seminar on the 2016 Revised IRR of RA 9184. The latest and third IRR revision is in accordance with Section 75 of the RA 9184, also known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, prescribes the standardization and regulation of the Philippine government's procurement activities. It is expected to provide favorable result in the

process of procurement as 38 major procurement issues were considered in revising it. The orientation-seminar on the 2016 Revised IRR of RA 9184 was a collaboration among the Procurement and Property **Division**, Human Resources Division, and the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), the agency is authorized to formulate public procurement policies, rules and regulations, and amend whenever necessary, the IRR. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of each office comprising of Head of Procuring Entity, Members, Secretariat, and Technical Working Group attended the orientation. Around 800 personnel composed the 11 batches of the orientation-seminar conducted from August 22 to December 8, 2017 at various training venue.

The two to three day orientationseminar for each batch aimed to familiarize participants and equip them with the tool to ensure successful implementation of the cited policy. In particular, it intended a) to provide understanding and appreciation of the salient features of the revised policy, b) to put into use the concept and principles of the law, and c) to adopt the streamlined procurement process in the agency, strictly in accordance with the revised provision.

The GPPB was invited to share their expertise on the professionalization of procurement officials. GPPB-TSO Executive Director, Atty. Dennis S. Santiago, led the discussion to the 9th batch of participants. Atty. Tareeq Yahya Timhar A. Radjaie, OIC Head-Capacity Development Division B and Atty. Charity Anne Osdon, Procurement Management Officer V were also there to provide lectures and clarification for significant matters. The topics discussed during the activity were the following: a) overview of the revised IRR of RA 9184, b) procurement planning, c) standardized bidding procedures for goods and infrastructure projects, d) standardized bidding procedures for consulting services, e) alternative methods of procurement, f) Philippine bidding documents for goods and infrastructure projects, g) penal, civil and administrative provisions, h) protest mechanism, and i) blacklisting guidelines.

The BAC's common

understanding/interpretation of the procurement law was achieved and awareness of the revised policy increased would help to avoid violation of said law.

Photo News

PHOTO NEWS

4^{THE}RECORD

La Trinidad, Benguet — National Irrigation Administration's top management officials urge NIA-CAR officials to persevere in solving problems that beset ongoing irrigation projects on Tuesday, November 14. While everyone takes a non-working holiday to give way to activities related to the 31st ASEAN Summit, the top officials of NIA headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, and NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, took the opportunity to meet and discuss with the heads of different offices and sections of NIA-CAR.





December 12, 2017 — On behalf of the NIA Top Management, Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin turned over the obligations and responsibilities of an RIM to the Biliran-Leyte del Norte-Leyte del Sur IMO Manager, Fermina B. Aling, as the Acting Regional Manager in Region 8 pursuant to Office Memorandum No. 165, series of 2017 due to the reassignment of RIM Jimmy L. Apostol to Region 11, Davao City. SDA also attended and witnessed the Tribute to Retirees and Christmas Party of the Region.

Photo News



A brief meeting conducted at NIA Regional Office on December 29, 2017 with the presence of the NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, together with the Acting Operations Manager, Engr. Bayani Ofrecio, to evaluate the irrigation facilities and areas damaged by Typhoon Urduja and Vinta.

The NIA Administrator stressed out that in this kind of situation, the responsible office should take immediate actions and extend whatever support to the affected areas and to the Irrigators Associations.

CONTRACT SIGNING



MOU with DA Green Power Consultancy represented by CEO Engr. Archimedes M. Flores and Engr. Norlito N. Morales.

MOU with Philcarbon, Inc. represented by Philcarbon, Inc. President Ruth Yu-Owen for the conduct of FS for the development of hydroelectric power plant along Magat F, MARIIS.





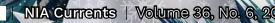
Frya Camille D. Ballesteros, Public Relations Assistant, PAIS CO



The most awaited month that is full of celebrations, wishes, surprises, and fun has come to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as it welcomes the month of December with a lighting of the giant Christmas tree. It was adorned with enormous white snowflakes made by popsicle sticks to emphasize the White Christmas concept and blue Christmas lights in consonance with the NIA's Christmas Party theme, "Denims and Diamonds". The event was held in the afternoon of December 4. It is not only to prepare for the day of Christmas but also to reflect upon the selfless giving, love, and guidance of God for our community, for our agency, and for each one of us.

The ceremony started with a prayer followed by the NIA Central Office Chorale who sang different Christmas songs with all their hearts. The occasion became more meaningful with the presence of Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, department heads, and division managers. As the giant tree lights, NIAns are all smiles, and faces full of gratitude and delight.

One of the prettiest things that can be seen in this season is the beautiful display of Christmas lights adorning trees. Christmas lighting in this Yuletide season enables us to remember that our Lord came in this world to save and redeem us. It also means that as we witness the lighting of Christmas tree, we must look deep into our hearts as well. Are we satisfied with all the things we have done? God has given the gift of life for us to provide light to others. Nothing beats that pure happiness and joy we experience by being a blessing to people around us.



It is Christmas season once again! Christmas trees and sparkly decors can be seen, Christmas carols can be heard everywhere. During this time of the year, people rush to the mall and purchase many things because it is the perfect time of giving gifts.

While adults are enjoying the time, children find it more exciting and magical. Their eyes are lighting up with much anticipation for the gifts they are bound to receive. With that, National Irrigation Administration held another Kiddie Party at the Central Office Covered Court on December 18. It was attended by NIA employees' children, grandchildren, nephews, and relatives aged 12 years old and below. The event was also opened to the children of NIA friends: M8, Tough guards, employees of NIAEASP and NIA Cooperative.

The celebration became extra special with the attendance of NIA top management and department managers. Present during the Christmas Giving

Frya Camille D. Ballesteros, Public Relations Assistant, PAIS CO



gift-giving were Administrator Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya, Deputy Administrator Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, Administrative Department Manager Atty. Aileen C. Agtuca-Selda, and Public Affairs and Information Staff Department Manager Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez. They all became the Santa Claus of the party as they distributed the gifts to all the children. Certainly, Christmas is a time of giving and sharing with people around us, but that is not limited to the people we love and care for. It is also for the people that we never met and for those who are not so fortunate in their lives. What is more important than celebrating Christmas time is how we can teach the children the real lesson of the season. "IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE!". 🖽





By: Clarizze C. Toribio, Information Officer A, PAIS-CO

time to be merry, in keeping with the season, these truly describe what Christmas is.

The NIA Central Office employees glammed up in denim and diamonds as they celebrate Christmas last December 19, 2017 with the theme, "A Feast of Fun, Full of Love".

There was great excitement in the morning as the office held the first ever NIA Children's Christmas Party attended by the kids that are part of the NIA Family. Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, a Muslim, served as the NIA Santa Claus to

> the kids. On the other hand, Christmas Ball was held in the evening.

The Denim and Diamonds Christmas Ball was graced by the NIA Top Management and other guests from different offices. Mr. Mark Daniel Diosana and Miss Clarizze Toribio hosted the event.

Christmas is always in our hearts

One of the highlights of the ball is showcasing the NIAns singing talent through the Christmas Chorale Competition participated by the employees of the Offices under the Office of the Administrator, Engineering Department and Special Projects Group, Operations Department, Administrative Department, and Finance Department respectively. Each participating group sang two songs: "Christmas in Our Hearts" (common piece) and a choice piece.

The following are the winners of the Christmas Chorale Competition:

1st Place : Offices under the Office of the Administrator

2nd Place : Engineering Department and Special Projects

3rd Place : Administrative Department

ebrates Christmas in

Blessings and Hopes shine above denim and diamonds

Another highlight of the ball is the much-awaited announcement from Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya. This ball is the first time that this gentleman together with Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, and

> Deputy Administrator Romeo G. Gan, celebrated Christmas as part of the NIA Family.

Diamono

During the Administrator Visaya's speech, he announced that NIA qualifies for the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) to be given on January 2018. The good news made the event extra enjoyable. He also stressed strong commitment on his 4-Point Agenda delivering his accomplishments and plans for the betterment of the Agency.

Aside from the announcement on CNA 2017, Administrator RRV also mentioned his thoughts on the Anniversary celebration: "We will use the budget with discipline... ...We will celebrate the anniversary in a modest way and make use of the budget to improve the well-being of our personnel. Sabi ko sa inyo, 'Our men, our best assets'."

Administrator Visaya ended his message with a toast saying: *"May we have more successes to come in 2018!"*

Christmas is truly a time for sharing. Goodies were given to all employees. Gadgets and appliances were also raffled not just for the NIA employees but also for the people who have been part of the NIAns' daily lives: the staff from the M8 Services, Tough Guards, NIA Cooperative, and NIAEASP Canteen.



A time to give, a time to receive. Regardless if you are a giver or a receiver, never forget that Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without LOVE. So spread the love not just on Christmas Day but everyday.

Consolation: Finance Department

Consolation: Operations Department

NIAns celebrate the 57th Birthday of DA Gan

Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant, PAIS – CC

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) celebrated the 57th birthday of Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan last November 10, 2017 at the NIA Central Office Covered Court. As a context of Filipino culture and military practice of eating a meal, a simple boodle fight was prepared by the Office of the Deputy Administrator to denote another chapter of his government service in the Agency.



The celebration was attended by the NIA Top Management officials, employees and staff at Central Office, Project Managers, and Regional Managers. Being a former military official, the venue was ornamented with militaryinspired decorations.



The Deputy Administrator perceived his birthday as a start of a new year of challenge towards the achievement of another milestone for the Agency through a more transparent, responsive, accountable, and financially viable administration that serve as a key factor to the growth of the Philippine agricultural sector in the forthcoming years. Hence, another year that is worthy to be celebrated.



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Celebrating the 57th Birthday of Administrator Visaya

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The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) celebrated the 57th birthday of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya last December 8, 2017 at the NIA Central Office Covered Court. The celebration was organized to signify an important day to the Administrator. The said event was attended by the Top Management



officials, employees and staff at Central Office, Project Managers, Regional Managers and some Division Managers from Irrigation Management Offices, some former colleagues, and other personal guests.

As a former military official, the venue was designed to resemble an army camp using various recycled materials from the General Services Division. A simple boodle fight was prepared for lunch. The event reminded us of the three basic principles in life: humility, gratitude, and commitment.

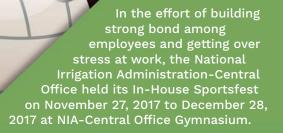
The Administrator seized the opportunity to express his gratitude for his first birthday celebration in the Agency and take it as a reminder to continuously work hard towards the attainment of the NIA's mission of providing an active participation to the inclusive agricultural growth of the country.



Sports

The Best Game By Millefler Sentiage

Lailyn B. Villaflor-Santiago, Secretary, NIAEASP-NCR



The event was participated in by five NIA-Central Office and one guest participant, namely: Administrative Department, Finance Department, Engineering Department, Operations Department Special Projects Group, and National Water Resources Board (guest participant). Bagging the championship and marking the 1st Runner-Up for the different sports categories are as follows:

Mixed Volleyball	Administrative Department – Champion Finance Department - 1st Runner-Up
Mixed Badminton	Engineering Department – Champion Special Projects Group – 1st Runner-Up
Junior Basketball	Administrative Department - Champion NWRB – 1st Runner-Up
Senior Basketball	Administrative Department – Champion Engineering Department – 1st Runner-Up
Overall Champion	ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT





Witnessing this once a year event is indeed a great opportunity to see how every employee, regardless of their ranks, strives to win by playing hand-inhand and lift each other's morale and spirit. On the other hand, their co-employees enjoyed watching the game and cheered for them to win. Not to mention the health benefits of sports, the said event brought fun and created warm camaraderie among employees. Both players and spectators felt young again and went over their stress at work.

The unending support of NIA Top Management officials and enthusiasm of the NIAEASP-NCR officers brought out the great success of the event. We look forward to the next NIA-Central Office In-House Sports Fest as this will instill a sense of unity and grow further the spirit of solidarity among NIA employees, which drives the way for the success of the Agency.

