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 DANILO O. VICTORINO JR.

TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES INTO INFINITE OPPORTUNITIES



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CENTRAL OFFICE EDSA Diliman, 1100 Quezon City Tel: 929-6071 to 79; 9268090 to 91 and 926-31 69 • **CAR** Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet Tel: (074) 422-5064/2435/5393 • **REGION 1** Brgy. Bayaas, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan Tel: (075) 632-2776 • **MARIIS** Minante I, Cauayan City, Isabela Tel: (078) 307-0288 • **REGION 2** Minante I, Cauayan City, Isabela Tel: (078) 307-0265/ (078) 307-0059 • **REGION 3** Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan Tel: (044) 766-2467 • **UPRIIS** Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija Tel: (044) 958-9709/ (044) 958-9711/ (044) 958-9712 • **REGION 4A** National Highway, Brgy. Santa Clara Sur, Pila, Laguna Tel : (049) 559-0727 • **REGION 4B** Bayanan II, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro Tel: (043) 288-7267 • **REGION 5** Panganiban Drive, Naga City Tel: (054) 473-8967 • **REGION 6** Brgy. Tacas, Jaro, Iloilo City Tel: (033) 329-6596 • **REGION 7** J.A. Clarin St., Brgy. Dao, Tagbilaran City Telefax No: (038) 501-9421/(038) 501-9544 • **REGION 8** Marasbas, Tacloban City Telefax Tel: (053) 323-6743/(053) 323-9195 • **REGION 9** National Highway, Tawagan Norte, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur Tel: (062) 215-4167 • **REGION 10** Villarin St., Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City Tel: (088) 858-3256/ (088) 880-2530 • **REGION 11** Bolton St., Davao City Tel: (082) 224-0717 • **REGION 12** Villarica, Midsayap, Cotabato Tel: (064) 229-8562 • **REGION 13** Bancasi, Butuan City Tel: (085) 342-5353 / (085) 815-2603 • **ARISEP** Brgy. Tomana East, Rosales, Pangasinan, 2441 Tel: (075) 582-3187 • **CMIPP** CLSU Compound Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija Tel: (044) 456-0272/ 456-0716 • **JRMP** Brgy. Tacas, Jaro, Iloilo Tel: (033) 330-8074 / 330-8682 • **MMIP** Villarica, Midsayap, Cotabato Tel: (064) 521-4463 • **PIP** Capitol Site, Brgy. Dalakit, Cataman, Northern Samar Tel: (055) 500-9150 • **BBMP** Matatalaib, Tarlac City Tel: (045) 982-0443/ (045) 982-2948 • **URIP** Trento, Agusan Del Sur Tel: (085) 255-2939



About the Cover



Stairways to the Sky. Carved into the mountains by the indigenous people of Ifugao over 2,000 years ago, the Banaue Rice Terraces had truly transformed great challenges of labor into infinite opportunities of agriculture and tourism. Built with minimal equipment, largely by hand, these so-called “National Cultural Treasure” and the “Eighth Wonder of the World” were nurtured by the ancient irrigation systems from the rainforests above the terraces. Thus, providing vital testament to the substantial role of irrigation development as protagonist to the Philippine agricultural landscape.

The cover photo by Mr. Danilo O. Victorino, Jr. bagged the first prize in the Conventional Category of the 2nd NIA National Photo Contest with the theme, “Kalikasan at Patubig”, on March 19, 2018.

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

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Produced by:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION STAFF

For Comments/ Suggestions/ Contributions: Call Us @ (632) 921-37-41
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EDITORIAL

GOVERNANCE



Photo by: MAAN F. CATAN

When we talk of governance we think of systems, rules, processes, and practices by which a company is run, directed and controlled taking into consideration its different stakeholders and their diverse interests. In our modern world, the governance concept had evolved to "good governance" that is now defined to having "transparency", "fairness" and "accountability".

Soon as the Administrator gave his very first speech during the flag ceremony of April 3, 2017, Gen Ricardo R Visaya (Ret) laid down the pillars of his governance which also (encapsulated or capsulized) his commitment to the Agency and the irrigation sector as he took over its' helm. He spoke of (1) Eradication of graft and corruption, (2) Institution of measures to improve the delivery of service, such as but not limited to modernization of equipment for operations and project implementation, (3) Strengthening of the NIA organization, and (4) Development of human resources and improvement of their capabilities. Just like other governance paradigms, we have experienced preparation of action plans, and subjected to internal controls for performance measurement and disclosures of the same to the stakeholders.

Now, what comes to mind is "where are we now" in terms of these commitments. The governance of our Administrator proved unprecedented, with so much

efforts placed for the realization of the four pillars. We have witnessed a number of NIAns given sanctions because of actions not in accordance with "what is right and what is legal". In addition to the re-fleeting of heavy equipment for the maintenance of our irrigation systems, NIA had set on its on-line monitoring to a more updated monitoring of physical and financial accomplishments of the agency from the field offices up to the regional offices and to the Central office. Thus, any intervention /assistance from the Central office can be delivered at the fastest time possible. NIA is also actively participating in the Project DIME of the DBM which aims to ensure that every dime of the people's money is spent well and as such, monitoring of fund utilization with the physical accomplishments using digital data for imaging technologies like drones and satellites are now being carried out. In-fact a monitoring room was set-up near the office of the Administrator.

To further strengthen the organization, new employees have been recruited to complement the work demands of our core and support processes. But strengthening is not only beefing-up the work force but also strengthening the Agency's organizational structure for it to better address the demands of the external environment and be compliant with the global scenario. The NIA Strengthening proposal is now

on its final fine tuning as the National Irrigation Master Plan is being worked on. Complementing this pillar is the upskilling of the existing manpower thru trainings, conferences, scholarships both locally and internationally. NIA Management clearly recognizes that the most important asset of an organization is its' human resource and therefore, the investment to its social capital is no waste. As of November this year, we have a total of 2,080 NIA employees, managers and top management who were given the privilege to be trained to improve their competencies. Our employee benefits are well provided both in monetary form and in other forms such as our health programs, improvement of workplace and better observance of celebrations. This issue of NIA Digest further showcases how the four pillars of governance by our Administrator are being operationalized this 2018. We look back to April 3, 2017 and we are thankful that the image of NIA as the best irrigation agency in Asia is nearing fulfillment.

We look back to our pinwheels last January 6 and we can all SHOUT PRAISES AND GRATITUDE TO THE BEST MANAGER IN THE HEAVENS FOR A 2018 FULL OF BLESSINGS AS CHALLENGES WERE TRANSFORMED TO OPPORTUNITIES.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	NIA RO1 POLISHES FOI INTERNAL GUIDELINES	ORIENTATION ON FOI FOR NIA R5 EMPLOYEES/8888 CITIZENS' COMPLAINT HOTLINE JANUARY-DECEMBER 5, 2018 SUMMARY
2		
3	AKLAN'S SOLON INSPECTS NIA'S P370M PROJECT	NIA CONDUCTS EVALUATION OF CONTRACTORS PACKAGES FOR MMIP PROJECTS
4		
5	IRRIGATION PROJECT REVIVES ABANDONED RICE TERRACES	NIA AND CHINA CAMCE INK CHICO RPIP CONTRACT
7		
8	GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY AT BRIDGE AND SIPHON	NIA INAUGURATES NEW P74 M LIBMANAN PUMPING STATION
9		
10	NIA BREAKS GROUND AS IT BRINGS NEW HOPE TO THE FARMERS IN SORSOGON	
11		
13	HURDLED CHALLENGES	
15	FOR THE FARMERS' GOOD, DO NOT DELAY	
17		
19		
21		
23		



NAVIGATING SERVICE
EXCELLENCE THROUGH
RE-FLEETING PROGRAM

THE BLOODLINE OF SUCCESS
THROUGH THE CULTURE OF BEST
PRACTICES

PASA SRIP REVISITED

NISRIIP: TURNING POSSIBILITY INTO REALITY

SIMPLE ACTIONS CHANGE THINGS

24

THE GIFT OF FIDELITY:
INDAY CABRALES, NIA'S BEST
REGIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR

25

SNAP, NIA INAUGURATE 8.5 MW
HYDRO POWER PLANT

27

UPRIIS RECEIVES OFFICE OF THE
YEAR AWARD

27

UPRIIS CELEBRATES SUCCESS AS
NIA'S OFFICE OF THE YEAR

27

JICA WRAP UP MEETING/FINAL PRE-
SENTATION OF FINAL REPORT FOR THE
PREPARATORY SURVEY OF MMIP II

29

KOREAMAZING

31

PLACING HIGH STAKE TO
NIA's SOCIAL CAPITAL

NIA RO1 POLISHES FOI INTERNAL GUIDELINES

By: Oscar S. Navata, Public Relations Officer A, NIA Region I

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Program has formally jump-started in Regional Office 1 (RO1). The enthusiasm to implement the program started to rise when the salient features of the FOI Agency Manual were discussed by Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez to NIA RO1 officials and employees in a forum held last March 22, 2017 at the Regional Training Center in Bayaoas, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan.

Respecting the right of every Filipino citizen to freely access information was underscored as the moving spirit behind Executive Order (EO) No. 2, entitled, "Operationalizing in the Executive Branch the People's Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies to Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service and Providing Guidelines Therefor". The EO which was signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on July 23, 2016, requires all executive departments, agencies, bureaus, and offices to disclose public records, contracts, transactions, and any information requested by a citizen. Such constitutional right includes, but not limited to access to public records, documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, among others.

A month after the forum, NIA RO1 pilot-tested its Omnibus Guideline and Procedures (OGP) in an attempt to implement the program smoothly, consistent with the provisions of the Agency Manual. The highlights of the OGP feature regular updating procedures of the NIA RO1 website for quick retrieval of data for the benefit of those who would want to access information or feedback through the internet. The OGP which was issued on June 13, 2017 also stressed the importance of the prescribed computer-generated tracking system of documents in order to speed up efficient retrieval and release of requested information which normally passes through



FOI Workshop. Participants exchange clever ideas during the workshop on the FOI implementing guidelines. The outdated in-house Omnibus Guideline and Procedures (OGP) which was pilot-tested in the region last year will be improved by the dynamic FOI Team composed of selected officials and employees of NIA RO1

different office channels before it reach the requesting party. However, it was found out that most citizens still prefer to access information through phone calls and personal appearances to follow up requests.

At present, NIA RO1 continues to monitor the progress of the implementation of the FOI and wants to ensure that the information requirements of the transacting public would be well attended to as NIA keeps its commitment to pursue good governance through excellent public service. As discussed during the recent FOI coordination meeting, access to information in so far as NIA RO1 is concerned is mostly elicited by its farmer-clients. It is estimated that around 85-90% of FOI transactions were logged in under "client category". On the other hand, the combined number of stakeholders composed of government agencies, contractors, civic/people's organizations, local government representatives and walk-in citizens, i.e. students, etc., reflect a small percentage of FOI transactions that were initially tallied. This simply means that the participation of institutional development and operations groups in NIA RO1 for the implementation of the FOI program is crucial.

Institutional Development Officers (IDOs), Water Resource Facility Technicians (WRFs), and other field personnel who constantly provide comprehensive administrative and technical assistance to the Irrigators Associations (IAs) must get involved in the actual documentation of FOI transactions which are intrinsic in the organization and ample in the vicinities of their respective work area. This can be inferred from the fact that the bulk of trouble shooting and nurturing activities to strengthen the IAs on a daily basis transpire most of the time at the job site. Thus, the need to monitor, evaluate and list down FOI-related transactions at the field office level must also be in place to enable NIA RO1 to submit its substantial and credible FOI reports regularly.

To date, exchange of information between NIA (service providers) and farmers (clients) is wide-ranging. These basic transactions in irrigation development usually happen in the latter's "comfort territories" that include IA offices, barangay halls, covered courts, waiting sheds, LGU conference rooms, residential areas, among other real-world venues to carry out various institutional development programs that would elicit clients' access to information from time to time. In short, the need to operationalize clear-cut supplemental guidelines and procedures to address certain grey areas in the Agency Manual are a must in pursuit of the noble objectives of the FOI. 📄

Orientation on FOI for NIA R5 Employees

By: Analene J. Escolano, Public Relations Officer, NIA Region 5



NAGA CITY - The National Irrigation Administration Region V has recently conducted an orientation on Freedom of Information (FOI) and Hotline 8888 last April 18, 2018 held at the Regional Office Training Hall in Naga City.

Present in the activity was Department Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez of the NIA-Public Affairs and Information Staff from the Central Office, who served as Resource Speaker to the orientation, with the participation of staff and employees from the regional and field offices of NIA Region V.

The orientation aimed to inform and familiarize key officials and employees within the region about the salient features of the FOI. Regional Manager Ramon A. Bugacia in his message asked the participants to become vigilant in dealing with complaints.

Manager Bermudez reiterated the need to immediately respond to queries within 15 days for FOI, five days for Anti-Red Tape Act, and 72 hours for complaints received through Hotline 8888. 📄



8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline

January-December 5, 2018 Summary

There are a total of 255 tickets or complaints lodged to the 8888 Citizens' Complaint Hotline from January-December 5, 2018.

247 of those tickets were properly and adequately addressed and the Hotline accepted it as a closed ticket.

The nature of the complaints for NIA are:

- Complaint against government regulations/processes/services
- Complaint against government official/employees

To Offices and Personnel:

Please be reminded of Section 5 of the Executive Order No. 6, which states that "a citizen's" concern lodged through any of the communication channels shall have a concrete and specific action within 72 hours from the receipt of the concerns by the proper government agency or instrumentality".

Quarter	Tickets	Tickets closed	Remarks
1st	63	63	close
2nd	93	93	close
3rd	53	53	close
4th	46	38	8 tickets on-process
TOTAL	255	247	

AKLAN'S SOLON INSPECTS NIA'S P370M PROJECT

By: Engr. Raquel D. Reontoy, Aklan-Capiz IMO Region IV

Aklan – The Honorable Congressman Carlito S. Marquez, Lone District of Aklan, and his staff inspected the on-going construction of diversion dam located in Kinalangay Nuevo, Malinao, this Province on July 27, 2018.

National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) investment of P370.832M is under contract by Silver Dragon Construction Lumber and Supply, BSP and Company, Inc. (Joint Venture).

NIA-Region VI Regional Manager, Engr. Gerardo P. Corsiga, travelled from Iloilo and briefed Congressman Marquez on the status of the construction of two diversion dams and its appurtenant structures, including supply, delivery, Installation, and commissioning of steel gates.

Engr. Lorena B. Sioco, Acting Division Manager A of Aklan-Capiz Irrigation Management Office (ACIMO), and Engr. Nida C. Salinas, the Assistant Project Engineer and the designer of this project, were also at the project site.

Former NIAns, Engr. Jose R. Oredina and Engr. James G. Villanueva, are the Project Manager and Project Engineer respectively of the contractor.

"Happy na natuloy ang much awaited project natin to irrigate 4,271 hectares of rice land in the East and West Sides of Aklan RIS", said Congressman Marquez.



RIM Gerardo P. Corsiga (center), together with Engr. Lorena B. Sioco. Engr. Nida C. Salinas (partly hidden), briefs Congressman Marquez about the AKLAN RIS project. (Photo by: JR Laluma)



DIVERSION DAM PROJECT SITE, Kinalangay Nuevo, Malinao, Aklan. From left: Engr. Lorena Sioco, NIA Regional Manager Engr. Gerardo P. Corsiga, Congressman Marquez, and Engr. Jose Oredina. (Photo by: R.D. Reontoy)



From left: Mr. Cipriano Casidsid, Mr. Bayani Cordova, Engr. Lorena Sioco, Engr. Nida C. Salinas, NIA Regional Manager Engr. Gerardo P. Corsiga, Engr. Jose R. Oredina, Congressman Marquez, and Atty. Leovigildo Mationg. (Photo by: JR Laluma)



Engr. Nida Salinas of NIA presents to Congressman Marquez the project plans and profile. Looking on is Engr. Jose Oredina and NIA staff. (Photo by JR Laluma)

NIA CONDUCTS EVALUATION OF CONTRACTORS PACKAGES FOR MMIP PROJECTS

By: **Salimbay Sangeban** Public Relations Officer, MMIP

March 5-10, 2018, the CPE Team Ma. Lourdes J. Garriga, Christian June C. Maquiling, Antonio B. Gujeling, Geoffrey B. Catulin and Elmar P. Pagaduan from Region 2, 10 and Central office conduct an evaluation at LMC of CY 2015 and 2016 contracts works implemented by MMIP II. The Constructors Performance Evaluator (CPE) is the Implementing unit organized by NIA-CPES to evaluate the performance of Contractors.

The four days evaluation was conducted under Davao Rock, Gemma, Llan, FFJJ, Betterworks, and FIAT Construction. The CPE Team presented their findings and observation in the evaluation during the exit conference. The contractors welcomed the comments and committed to improve their works, provide the needed resources/facilities that should be deployed in the area and do what should be done in accordance with the approved plan and standard specifications.

The exit conference ended with signing of final rating of the contractors' based on the result of the evaluation. This rating will be submitted to Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP) for further evaluation for the renewal of contractor's license. 📝



On the Meeting table are the CPE Team, MMIP II Officials and Contractors of Packages Evaluated during the Exit Conference at MMIP II Conference Room, March 9, 2018.

The Gift of Fidelity: Inday Cabrales, NIA's Best Regional Employee of the Year

By: **Maria Teresa Amaya Empleo**, PRO, Region 9



The year was 2006: it was high noon when the *habal-habal* (motorcycle taxis) entered the narrow barangay road of Brgy. Tawagan Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, the sun was merciless and the dogs barked as if there's no tomorrow, attacking all sides of the motorcycle, their fangs out ready to burrow in with every chance they get. Norma C. Cabrales, "Inday" as she is fondly called, was the Institutional Development Officer (IDO) assigned in the area, she could only manage to shoo them away with her umbrella, and with her feet up already embracing the driver's torso they managed to escape unscathed. It was ISF collection time, the farmers were ready, the IDO traumatized.

The boat roared to life, it was about mid-morning when the *kapitan* gave the go signal with only 8 passengers in a 15-capacity vessel, Inday was one of them. In the 80's, medium-sized boats with no outriggers serve as transportation for people coming in and out of Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay. The Payao-Kabasalan strait would cross an open sea before tapering into a river which is known to be infested with crocodiles.

Continue on page 24

IRRIGATION PROJECT REVIVES ABANDONED RICE TERRACES


By: Mylene Malecdan, Public Relations Officer A, NIA CAR

About a year ago, portion of the rice farms in Kiangnan and Asipulo, Ifugao were deserted, sprawled only with tall grasses and bushes, bearing no mark of the picturesque and productive terraces they once were when they were being cultivated for the traditional heirloom rice.

According to Kagawad Norma Balawon of Barangay Julongan, Kiangnan, Ifugao, these patches of rice terraces were abandoned about 10 years ago due to lack of irrigation water and the local migration of farming families to other areas in search of a different future. Recently, these abandoned rice terraces are slowly coming to life, thanks to the newly constructed irrigation canals and the hardworking farmers who are resolute in making these farms productive again.

In 2017, the expansion of the existing Bagnit (*Nunggawa*) Communal Irrigation System (CIS) was implemented under the Extension/Expansion of Existing CIS fund of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). This irrigation project involved the repair and rehabilitation of the existing canal and construction of additional 2.5 kilometers of concrete canals with protection works and other structures to extend the irrigable area of the existing CIS, which used to irrigate portion of the rice terraces in Barangay Julongan, Kiangnan, Ifugao. With the project, new irrigable area of 15 hectares was generated in the barangay and the extension of the canal expanded the irrigable area in the nearby area in Barangay Nunggawa, Asipulo, Ifugao. According to Manuel Dulnuan, Jr., one of the beneficiaries who took part in the construction of the irrigation system, the hauling of construction materials was labor intensive because the location of the canal was outlying, far from the available road.

Dulnuan shared that he used to work for a private mine in Benguet and had a near-death experience during one of the typhoons. He came home to his hometown in Kiangnan, Ifugao and farming is one of his livelihood sources. With the project, water will now be more sufficient and reliable, especially during summer.

The irrigation system will be turned over to the Julongan Irrigators Association for operation and maintenance of the newly completed irrigation facilities. 





These picturesque rice terraces along the outskirts of Kiangnan, Ifugao form part of the service area of Bagnit CIS. #Photo by Jean Ananayo

Portion of the rice terraces in Kiangnan, Ifugao which are now being cultivated for the first time after its abandonment Photo by Mylene Malecandan

NIA AND CHINA CAMCE INK CHICO RPIP CONTRACT

By Dorothy Belle De Leon, Public Relations Officer A, Region II

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and China CAMC Engineering signed the contract for the construction of Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (Chico RPIP).

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik, and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, together with the Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of People's Republic of China Jin Yuan and Assistant President of China CAMC Liu Shencheng, sealed the deal for the construction of pump, sub-station, diversion main canal, lateral canals, appurtenant structures, service/ access road, and terminal facilities for CRPIP on March 8, 2018 at NIA Central Office, Quezon City.

CRPIP, one of the flagship projects of the Duterte Administration under the "Build, Build, Build Program", has a total budget of P4.37 billion. It

is expected to provide efficient and reliable irrigation service to 8,700 hectares of riceland, 6,800 hectares of which are located in Cagayan and 1,700 hectares in Kalinga. The project will benefit 4,350 farmers from 22 barangays once CRPIP is completed.

The Chico River, known as the longest tributary of the Cagayan River, is the project's source of water.

The pumphouse will be built in Katabbogan, Pinucpoc, Kalinga while the Project Management Office that had its groundbreaking on August 17, 2017 is located in Naruangan, Tuao, Cagayan.

Acting Regional Irrigation Manager Constancio Bana-ay, Project Manager Roland Apaga, and department managers from the Central Office witnessed the momentous event. 🇵🇭🇨🇳



GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF BRIDGE AND SIPHON

By: Salimbay Sangeban Public Relations Officer, MMIP

March 15, 2018, the Ribbon-Cutting and Ground-Breaking Ceremony jolted the start of the construction of Bridge and Siphon at Barangay Linandangan, Pagalungan Maguindanao.

The event was attended by Former Congressman Datu Jimmy Matalam, Pagalungan Mayor Salik P. Mamasabulod, AFP, MILF Field commanders, leaders, farmers, Contractors, observers and NIA's, Acting Project Manager Engr. Akas A. Basilan spearheaded the symbolic groundbreaking ceremony in the area. The Pre-Construction Conference was also conducted on that day, wherein Hon. Mayor Salik P. Mamasabulod and former Congressman gave a message of support and encouraged their constituencies to cooperate in the implementation of the project. They also hope that this project will be completed smoothly to fulfill the dream of the farmers in the area since they have long been waiting for this project to be accomplished.

Acting Project Manager Akas A. Basilan emphasized that groundbreaking symbolized the importance of the project. He appealed to the local leaders, MILF Commanders in the area, farmer beneficiaries and to the contractors to support and help in the implementation of the project. He further encouraged beneficiaries to inform/approach the management whatever problem hinders the implementation. He also added that this project is for the farmer beneficiaries, a project that could be a legacy to the next generation and can uplift the living condition of the people in the area.

An Overview of the Meeting, Briefing Proper, Social Aspect of Irrigation, and Open Forum were also among the highlights of the event.

The project irrigates 1,142 hectares covering the areas of Pagalungan and Datu Montawal Maguindanao with 336 potential farmer beneficiaries and target to finish within 510 Calendar days. 🏗️



NIA INAUGURATES NEW P74-MILLION LIBMANAN PUMPING STATION

By: Analene J. Escolano, Public Relations Officer, Region V

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) – Bicol inaugurated the new P74-million pumping station of the Libmanan-Cabusao Pump Irrigation System (LCPIS) located in Awayan, Sipocot, Camarines Sur on October 11, 2018.

Engr. Ramon A. Bugacia, NIA regional manager in Bicol region, said that the new pumping station, completed in May 2018, has four units of brand new 250 HP diesel engines and pumps. These pumps will irrigate 2,195 hectares of rice land, which will benefit 1,728 farmer-beneficiaries in 10 barangays in Libmanan and two barangays in Cabusao, Camarines Sur.

The LCPIS was originally constructed in the early 1980's under the Integrated Area Development program of the Philippine government with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The original pumping station had four units of electrically-driven engines and pumps. In 1998, the electric engines were replaced with diesel engines.

In his message, NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya said that the continuous improvement of irrigation projects will help boost farmers' rice production that will eventually uplift their way of living.

Camarines Sur has the largest potential irrigable area of 123,700 hectares among the six Bicol provinces. As of June 2018, NIA has already irrigated a total service area of 77,043 hectares in Camarines Sur attaining 62.28 percent of irrigation development.

NIA aims to provide more irrigation system to unirrigated areas in the region. It continues to undertake programs and projects that will primarily boost agricultural productivity, thus increasing farmers' production and income. 📷



NIA BREAKS GROUND AS IT BRINGS NEW HOPE TO THE FARMERS IN SORSOGON



Naga City (NIA Bicol) – “When we break the ground, it means that a new hope is being brewed to happen...” says National Irrigation Administration Chief Ricardo R. Visaya during the groundbreaking ceremony of Ibingan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) held on June 25, 2018 in Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon.

The P381-million irrigation project is set to provide water to 489 hectares of ricelands in the province, benefitting 584 farmers in Sorsogon. The project includes the construction of 27.20-meter high zone earthfill dam, 0.6591 MCM of water reservoir, 86 units of canal structure comprising 39.201 kilometers, 18 units of road structure encompassing 7.8466 kilometers, and other pre-construction facilities including 1.6491 kilometers of access road, project facilities, and compound development.

Ibingan SRIP covers the barangays of San Antonio, San Ramon, Lupi, Quidolog, San Juan, Sto. Domingo, Rizal, Gogon, San Isidro, Bulawan, Sta. Lourdes, Ulag, Calao, San Fernando, and Carayat in Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon and barangay Bagacay in Gubat, same province. The primary source of water for the project is the Ibingan River.

Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero, as the guest of honor during the groundbreaking ceremony said that the construction of irrigation systems and other infrastructure projects is part of the Build, Build, Build Program of the present administration aimed to provide a sustainable development in the community, particularly in the rural areas. Also present during the event were Sorsogon Governor Robert Lee Rodriguez, Congressman Deogracias B. Ramos, and other NIA and local government officials. 📷



By improving irrigation and drainage systems/facilities, farmers will be able to have an increase in rice production, thus attain a higher income that will suffice the needs of their families

NAVIGATING SERVICE EXCELLENCE THROUGH RE-FLEETING PROGRAM

By: Luzviminda R. Peñaranda, Senior Public Relations Officer, PAIS

RRV's No. 2 Agenda:

Institute measures to improve delivery of services, such as but not limited to, modernization of equipment for operations and project implementation.

"The heavy equipment in sight are the first we received after almost 30 years. Ganoon katagal na walang bagong heavy equipment ang ating Ahensiya", said Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin.


He represented NIA in accepting the said units during the turnover ceremony of the newly-acquired 17 units of wheeled-type excavator on September 10, 2018, a simple yet historic event held at the Central Office in Quezon City. This is the first tranche of a three-year re-fleeting program of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), covering CY 2017 to 2019.

Fifty-three units of different types of equipment, light and heavy, were acquired through funds from the Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP), covering the years 2012 to 2015, while 53 units of light and heavy equipment were procured through the funding source of National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NISRIP) in 2014 and 2015. On the other hand, 20 units of Pick-up DC procured in 2013 and 17 units wheeled-type excavator programmed in 2017 and delivered in 2018 were funded through the corporate operating budget (COB).

It was in 2015-2016 that Equipment Management Division (EMD), Central Office received surge of requests from Irrigators Associations and Irrigation Systems' Office for heavy equipment needed in the operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities. However, these requests were acknowledged with regrets for there was no sufficient fund for this.

With commitment to ensure timely and adequate equipment support for the maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and restoration of national, communal, and small irrigation systems nationwide, then Administrator Florencio P. Padernal initiated the plan to procure





excavator wheeled type. The re-fleeting program of heavy equipment is included in the Administrative RRV Four-Point Agenda.


As of September 2018, EMD Inventory of Existing Equipment showed NIA has a total of 1,203 units of existing heavy equipment where 7.07 percent or 85 units, inclusive of 17 newly-procured units, are in good operating condition (A1), 93 units or 7.73 percent exceeded economic life, less reliable and operating intermittently (A2), 434 units or 36.07 percent needed major repair (A3); and, 591 units or 49.13 percent are for disposal (R).

The first phase of heavy equipment programmed for CY 2017, i.e., 17 units were already delivered to field offices, equipment requirement of which was based on the region's service area. The timely arrival of wheeled-type excavator was proved to be significant in the restoration of the Tabuk Supply Canal 2B, part of the Upper Chico River Irrigation System (UCRIS), which was damaged in the evening of September 28, 2018 by Typhoon Ompong. Farmers and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) personnel of Kalinga IMO exerted effort to construct a provisional embankment made of 800 bags of mud soil. The immediate restoration of the canal, though temporary, will save about 600 hectares of standing crops which are still under vegetative stage and critically need irrigation, a noteworthy news from Ms. Mylene Malecda, Cordillera Autonomous Region Public Relations Officer.

"Thanks to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for his strong support to NIA in its irrigation development program... I hope that this would serve as an essential instrument towards the achievement of a new milestone for the Agency", said SDA Bagasin.

The realization of Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya's Number 2 Agenda, improvement of service delivery through equipment modernization, seemed oasis after almost three decades of drought.

With the challenge to increase irrigation development, NIA has lined-up procurement of various service vehicles, light, and heavy equipment.

Indeed, the determination and concerted efforts of dedicated men and women of the Agency and strong leadership of the men on the helm to provide excellent service through re-fleeting program affirm NIA's role in the improvement of Filipino farmers' quality of life. 

CHICO RIVER PUMP IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Chico River Pump Irrigation Project is one of the flagship projects of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte that will be implemented by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). It has a project cost of P4,372,897,000.00 and will take three years of construction from 2018 up to 2021. Loan agreement was already signed between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China last April 10, 2018. Its groundbreaking will be held on June 08, 2018.

The project includes the construction of pump house, sub-station, transmission line, diversion main canal, lateral canals, appurtenant structures, service/access road, and terminal facilities. It will generate and irrigate about 8,700 hectares in the municipalities of Tuao and Piat in Cagayan and in the municipality of Pinukpuk in Kalinga. It is projected to create 14,784 jobs during project implementation and 8,700 permanent jobs when the project becomes completely operational.

BALOG-BALOG MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT (BBMP) PHASE II

The Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project Phase II (BBMP II) of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is located in the Province of Tarlac. It has a project cost of P13,370,000,000.00 which began in 2013 and will be finished in 2020.

The project includes the construction of a 105.5-meter Balog-Balog high dam and its appurtenant structures, forming a reservoir with a storage capacity of 420 MCM for irrigation and hydropower generation and irrigation

facilities. This covers an aggregate area of 34,410 hectares of agricultural land in the province. This is to generate thousands of employment opportunities and to help in upgrading the economic condition and living standards of the project-affected families, stakeholders, and other beneficiaries.

The construction of the dam started on June 21, 2017 and has already 14.43 percent physical accomplishment as of April this year.



HURDLED CHALLENGE

By: Dorothy Belle De Leon, Public Relations Officer
Edgar L. Ubaldo, Public Relations Officer, NIA-TE
Salimbay Sangeban Public Relations Officer, MMAR



Administrator RICARDO R. VISAYA and Deputy Administrator ROMEO G. GAN signing the contract of Chico River Pump Irrigation Project with LIU SHENCHENG Assistant President and YAN HAILU General Manager of No. 4 Engineering Department of China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd.



CHALLENGES

A, Region II
BBMP
IP

Photo by: JENIEL B. BUDAY

MALITUBOG-MARIDAGAO IRRIGATION PROJECT PHASE II

The Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project Phase II of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is located in the provinces of Cotabato and Maguindanao with a total project cost of P5,444,840,000.00. The construction already begun in 2011 and is expected to become operational in 2020. With an allocation of P300 million for the year 2018, all contract works were already bid-out. As of April 2018, the actual physical accomplishment of the project is 44.44 percent.

The project includes the development of Lower Malitubog and Pagalungan Extension areas. The Lower Malitubog area which covers 6,590 hectares will be served by main canal of the Upper Malitubog area which covers 2,206 hectares while the Pagalungan Extension of 988 hectares will be served by extending Lateral A of the Upper Malitubog.

Dubbed as “*peace project*”, MMIP when completed is projected to increase rice production and ensure food sufficiency in the area, as well as to improve the living condition of farmer beneficiaries and access to basic social services. 🏡



FOR THE FARMERS' GOOD, DO NOT DELAY

By: Jayson Cabrera, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS-C.O.

NIA wants no delays in the implementation of its projects because Farmers will be affected. NIA's top priority has always been the welfare of the Filipino farmers.

As the lead government agency mandated to develop all possible sources of water for irrigation, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has been known since 1970s in its practice of participatory approaches to attain irrigation development.

In order to practice transparency and convergence among the stakeholders of irrigation development, NIA continues to support this participatory framework through the conduct of Stakeholders Forum.

"Gusto naming maging transparent sa inyong lahat. We would like you to know what we have done, what we are doing, and what we will do.", said Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya.

Through its field offices, NIA regularly conducts Stakeholders Forum in all the provinces in the country to encourage the support of all stakeholders. It is done through a presentation of the current irrigation development status in provincial, regional, and national levels, as well as the Agency's on-going and pipe-lined irrigation projects in the province/region.

This is usually a whole-day affair which comprises of the following agenda:

- Overview and Rationale of the Forum
- Agency Report

- a. Status of past and present irrigation projects in the region,
- b. Current status of irrigation development in province/s, including the different municipalities under each,
- c. In cases where there are big ticket projects covered by the region or province, there is a project implementation report, and
- d. Briefing on internal security and peace and order situation by the AFP, which is an invited resource person

- Open Forum
- Covenant Signing
- Breakout Sessions
 - a. Farmers' Group
 - b. NIA Employees
 - c. Regional Management Staff

After the morning program, there are breakout sessions where the sectors are given more time to engage NIA officials with a more in-depth discussion on issues and concerns. It is expected that NIA officials and the sector attain productive resolutions and action to these concerns/issues.

The active involvement of farmers and other key relevant interested parties in irrigation serves as a way of ensuring that a regular communication among the stakeholders and members of local communities is established. This plays a vital role in providing consultation and feedback in relation to identified areas, particularly, in speeding up project construction and delivering timely irrigation water.

The event also enables the Agency to closely respond to the changing needs and demands of the farmer-beneficiaries and other relevant interested parties. The increase of farmers' awareness in the project implementation to prevent graft and corrupt practices in the government sector.

In order to ensure that the Agency consistently delivers sustainable, reliable, and efficient irrigation service to the farmers, significant issues and concerns are openly discussed. Hence, innovating and generating action plans and programs to immediately address and resolve these issues appropriately.

Highlighting the event is the signing of the Covenant of Support for faster and smoother implementation of irrigation projects. The Agency is now ascertaining its vital contribution to the inclusive agricultural growth of the country through efficient, sustainable, and reliable irrigation service, hence assuring the highest irrigation service and satisfaction of the irrigating Filipino farmers.

Stakeholders Forum is being carried out in all provinces of the country because NIA wants to show all stakeholders, especially the LGUs, governors, mayors, and congressmen what it has done, what it is doing, and what it will be doing. This is an opportunity for them to let NIA know how the Agency could help them and their constituents.

Administrator Visaya emphasizes in each Stakeholders Forum, *"Without the help of all concerned, we cannot easily accomplish our irrigation projects. But through your willingness to support, we shall have all the reasons to succeed."*

He further exhorts every stakeholder in the forum to coordinate, cooperate, and collaborate with each other so that the projects of NIA will be properly implemented. If everyone will work in unity and harmony, irrigation projects which are solely for the good of the farmers would not be delayed. 🙏



THE BLOODLINE OF SUCCESS THROUGH THE CULTURE OF BEST PRACTICES

*A Collaborative Work of
Sofia Carmelita G. Resurreccion, Supervising IDO NIA Region IV-A
Ma. Victoria B. Mamaril, Environmental Specialist B, PIDP-C.O.
Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS-C.O.
Wilma V. Granados, Senior IDO A, NIA CBIMO*

For 55 years, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has changed the Philippine agricultural landscape through its irrigation development programs, a valuable factor in attaining food self-sufficiency.

SANTAMASI: THE HONOR OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE

During the Rice Achievers Awards (RAA) 2017: Pagpupugay sa mga Natatanging Lalawigan, Bayan, Irrigators Associations (IAs), and SWISA, SANTAMASI bagged a special award and a cash prize of P100,000.00 on May 31, 2018 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City for its exemplary performance in the delivery of irrigation service. RAA is an annual nationwide event of the Department of Agriculture (DA) that recognizes the efforts of outstanding rice producers of the country.

Organized in mid-80's, SANTAMASI has been consistent awardee as Outstanding IA in National Irrigation System (NIS) Category in NIA Region IV from CY 1992-2002. With the dedication and commitment attributed to NIA's effort in implementing participatory approach in the management of irrigation systems, the IA was soon involved in the operation and maintenance, with 974 hectares and 34.95 kilometers in canal length entering into Joint System Management and later to Model III Contract where 82 percent CE was attained.



JOSELITO TIBAYAN: RISING IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITY



Born and raised in a simple family, Mr. Joselito Tibayan is one of the most respected personalities for dedicated service to the farmers. As a shy high school graduate, it was not easy for Mr. Tibayan to transform his social status. His strong principles, discipline, and desire to succeed served as the pillars in realizing his dreams. In 1985, he started working on a factory in Manila and became a simple farmer in 1987.

In 1993, Mr. Tibayan served as an instrument to establish the Palangue Agrarian Reform Cooperative (PARC) with only 17 members. The cooperative aims to strive towards the welfare of the farmers through nutrition farming, agricultural marketing, and agri-services production, among others. In 1995, it was officially registered with 34 farmer-members and a capital of P21,100.00. With its registration to the Cooperative Development Authority in January 25, 2010, grants and donations from various sectors of society were opened for the cooperative.

In August 2017, the cooperative is composed of 248 regular members and 21 associate members with a total asset value of P10 million. Mr. Tibayan is now on his 25th year in the cooperative which focuses on the marketing of vegetables, sharing of knowledge in nutrition farming, agricultural services operation, production loans and forced savings. Eventually, the cooperative also started to cater various services such as buying and selling of agri-inputs, savings deposit, contractual services, and barangay drug stores, as well as micro, macro, emergency, and ATM loans.

"Ang maunlad na kooperatiba ay hindi sa laki ng asset nakikita kundi sa kalagayan ng mga miyembro nito", said Mr. Tibayan.

Indeed, Mr. Tibayan conquered it all. In 1999, he was recognized by the Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council as the most outstanding farmer, as well as *"Pinakamahusay na Ampalaya Farm Owner"* during the 'PINAKA Contest'.

Some of his notable awards include Most Outstanding Farmer and Most Outstanding Agrarian Reform Beneficiary (DAR, 2003), Outstanding Regional Magsasaka Siyentista Award (STARRDEC, 2010), Gawad Bayani (2011), East West Seed Farmer Hero (Province of Bulacan, 2012), Barangay Bayani Happy Truck (2015), East West Seed Farmer Hero (CCAFP Indang, Cavite, 2017), and Gawad Caviteneno (2018) as an outstanding Caviteneno in the field of cooperative and voluntary service to the people and nation.

RAMIL BUELLA: BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN EVERY CHALLENGE



Mr. Ramil Buella, one of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), used to live along the irrigation canal in Tigman-Hinagyanan-Inarian River Irrigation System (THIRIS) in Region 5. He earns a living from selling of boiled corn in the area.

In 2012, he accepted an amount of P70,000.00 from the Participatory Irrigation Development Project for payment of his affected house and temporarily set back from the main canal. He used the money to lease a small farm near the area. In 2015, the family moved into their new home consisting of core house with basic amenities at the resettlement site provided by the local government of Calabanga, Camarines Sur. The leased farm had provided good income for the family, enabling them to buy a secondhand vehicle and venture into fruits and vegetable vending business. The family managed to buy a small farm at the adjacent barangay which he planted corn and vegetables.

NOEL PAYLA AND FAMILY: THE BLOODLINE OF SUCCESS

Mr. Noel Payla and his family were living precariously in a shack along the irrigation canal, which had to be demolished to give way for the civil works under PIDP. He agreed to receive P14,052 as cash compensation for the house.

In addition to the cash compensation, his family, through the help of NIA, was granted a house and lot by the Provincial Government of Compostela Valley at its designated resettlement site. Mr. Payla used his compensation money to buy a secondhand side car for her fish vending business.

Apart from his fish vending business, he also received skills training and starter kit for a piglet worth P5,500.00. To date he has already completed up to 7th fattening cycle and has generated a total net income of P15,820.00.

Indeed, the Agency's achievements and the stories of farmers' success have proven that water is life, the driving force that transforms the lives of greater Filipinos through rice productivity, innovative strategies, and best practices, among others.





PASA SRIP REVISITED

By: Luzviminda R. Peñaranda, Senior PRO, PAIS

Four months after Pasa Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (Pasa SRIP) was inaugurated, a final inventory was conducted on November 19-24, 2018 by the Construction Management Division, Engineering Department, Central Office.

PASA SRIP is a grant aid of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) amounting to \$21.70 million or P935.68 million (US\$ = P43.00), and Government of the Philippines (GOP) counterpart amounting to P93.43 million. Hence, the total project cost is P1.029 billion.

The Philippine Counterpart consists of Civil Works, Institutional Development Program, Construction Survey, Parcellary Mapping/Survey, Right-of-Way Negotiation, Field Support Supervision and Monitoring, Contingencies and Indirect Cost. On the other hand, Embankment Dam and Irrigation Facilities, Construction of Multi-purpose Access Road, Reforestation and Watershed Management, and Technical Cooperation comprised KOICA Grant.

As of October 31, 2018, the accomplishment for the Philippine Government Counterpart is 93.24 percent while 99.63 percent for KOICA Grant, having a total project accomplishment of 99.05 percent. During the final inventory, improvement on findings and observations of Main Canal, Lateral A, Lateral A-1, Lateral B, Lateral C, Lateral C-1, and Lateral D were recommended.

The project inventory showed that there are no remaining works/activities left as per program. However, remaining amount is programmed for priority activities which include repair and restoration of irrigation facilities damaged by two typhoons (Ompong and Rosita) during the project implementation.

Pasa SRIP has a potential service area of 980 hectares, and a firm-up area of 846 hectares with 619 farmer beneficiaries. At, only 322 hectares is ready for operation while the remaining 524 hectares is subject for land development. 🏡

Source: Final Inventory Report of Pasa SRIP, SRIP-PMO





NISRIP: TURNING POSSIBILITY INTO REALITY

By: Ana Paula C. Estanislao, Irrigators Development Officer, NISRIP PMO

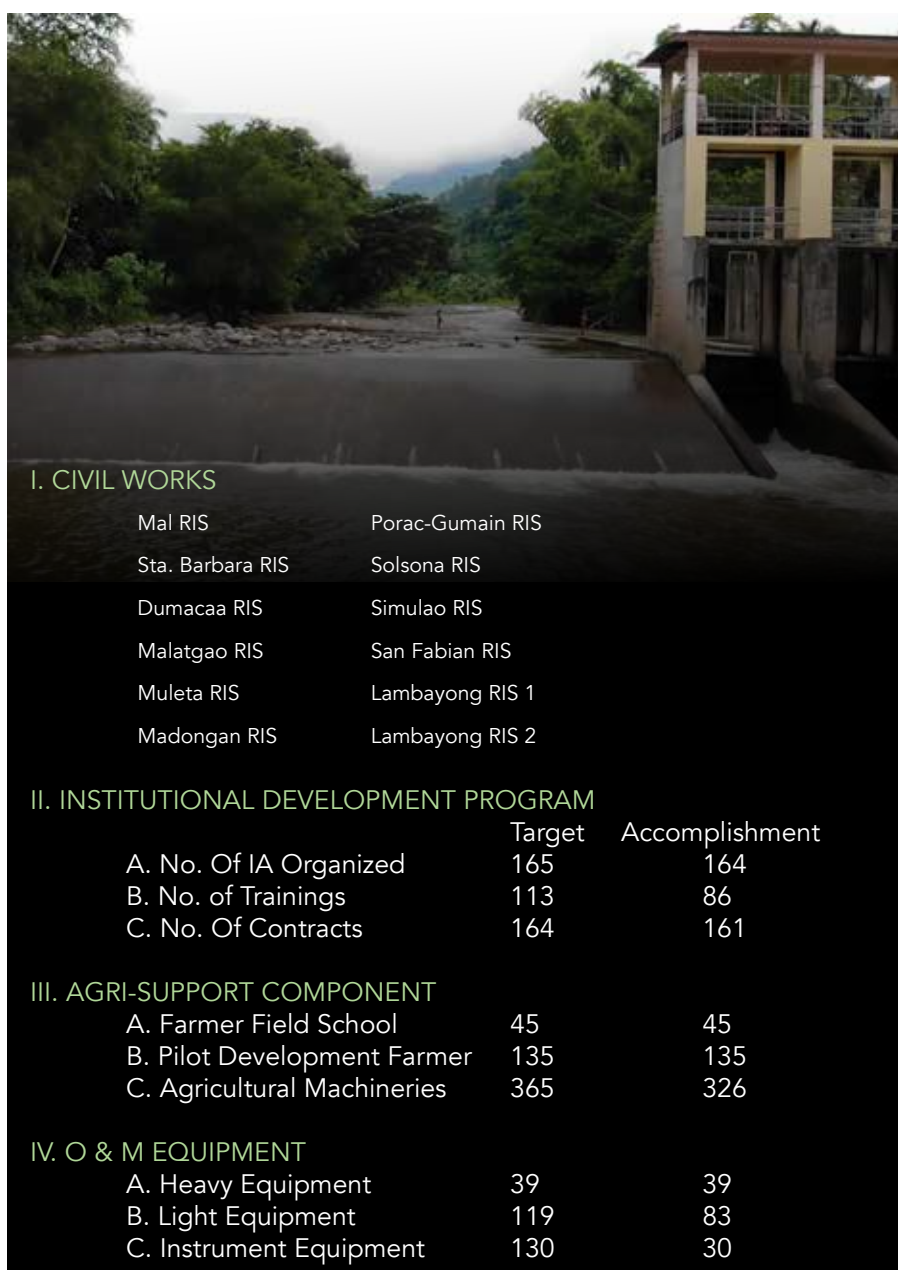
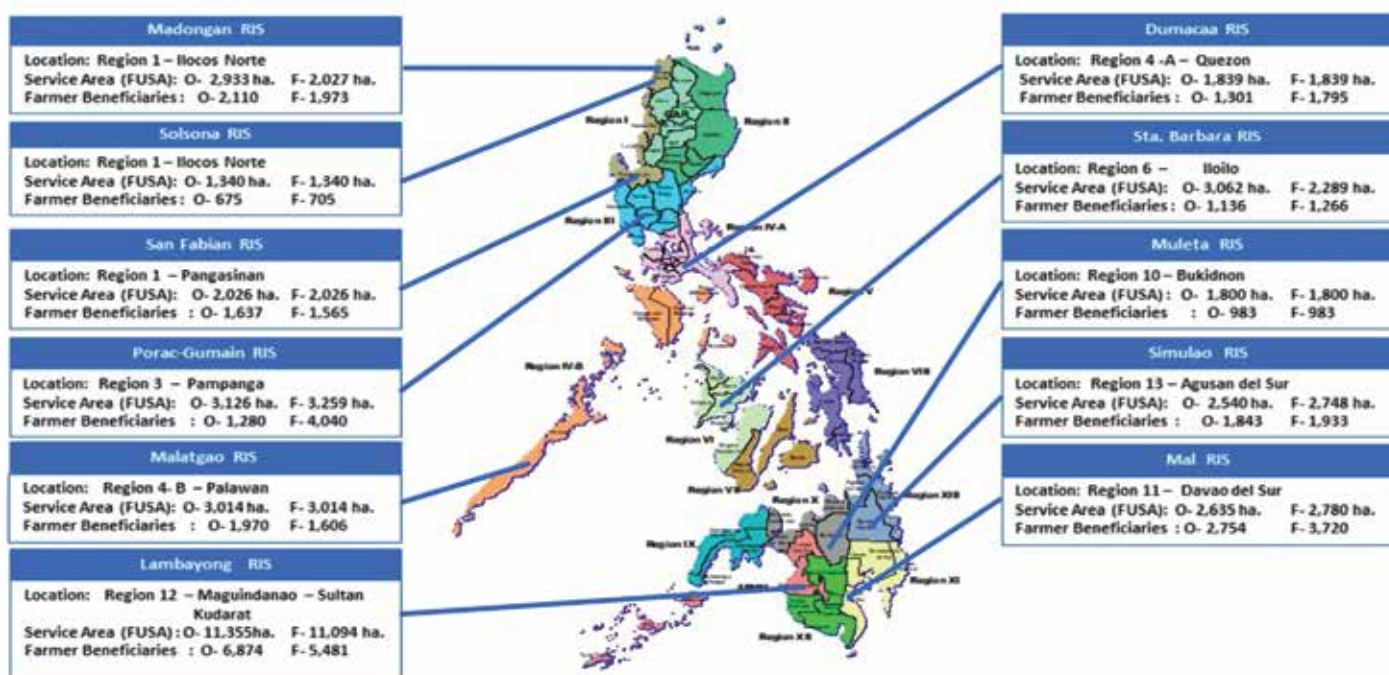
The National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NISRIP) has been designed with due consideration to the varied needs of rehabilitating National Irrigation Systems (NIS for sustainable Operation and Maintenance (O&M) within the development framework of the Philippine Government and the Framework of Assistance of the Japanese Government to the irrigation sector. O&M sustainability has been one of the major issues under the Rationalization Plan of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). However, close monitoring and third party irrigation project evaluations show that provisions of basic infrastructure together with institutional development and agricultural support services and O&M equipment contribute effectively in improving and sustaining the O&M of the irrigation systems resulting in increased of rice production. Corollary thereto, the project design of NISRIP has been focused on its soft component such as IA strengthening, Irrigators Associations, Local Government Unit (LGU) partnership, and Agricultural Support Service, as well as rehabilitation of irrigation systems and the provision of O&M equipment and post-harvest facilities.

MAL RIS BEFORE AND AFTER



INAUGURATION OF STA. BARBARA RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Rehabilitating NIS Projects



The NIS RIP rehabilitation work of Mal River Irrigation System (RIS) in Matanao, Davao Del Sur, a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-funded project together with NIA Regional Office XI had its Inauguration and Turnover Ceremony on September 21, 2018 at Digos City, Davao Del Sur. The Mal RIS has a service area of 3,200 hectares with farmer beneficiaries numbering 3,720 with 111 TSAG.

Meanwhile the Sta. Barbara RIS was inaugurated on December 03, 2018, located in the municipalities of Leganes, Pavia, Sta. Barbara, and Iloilo City in Iloilo province. The project is expected to provide timely and reliable irrigation service to 2,289 hectares of agricultural land benefitting 1,266 farmers and their families.

The contract amount includes the construction of 12.1 kilometers of concrete canal lining, construction and repair of 65 units of related structure, 113 units repair/replacement and new steel gates, and 7.6 kilometers of gravel surfacing.

The inauguration was followed by the turnover and contract signing ceremony of one IA building (84 square meters) and four units of combined IA offices and warehouses (200 square meters each).



photo by Val Cuenca ABS-CBN News


SIMPLE ACTIONS CHANGE THINGS

By: Janeta G. Lorono, Public Relations Officer, Region X

The National Irrigation Administration Lanao del Sur Interim IMO, through its Institutional Development Program conducted the Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC) to Maruhom Sedick and Sheik Farmers Irrigators Association of Ditsa-an Ragain, Lanao del Sur on September 04-06, 2018, and Maasui River Stone Farmers Irrigators Association of Masui CIS, Lanao del Sur on October 10-12, 2018.

Faced with problems on how to recover from the Marawi Crisis, the training aims to capacitate the IAs to overcome adversities and transform them into opportunities. This also strengthens them in performing their tasks and responsibilities relative to irrigation in attaining their goals and objectives despite the crisis they experienced.

Another training conducted was the System Management Training Workshop on November 14-16, 2018 to Masui River Stone FIA. This dealt about awareness in the operation and maintenance (O&M) of irrigation facilities through proper management in the O&M activities and the IA officers to be mindful of its areas, farmer-beneficiaries, and responsibilities of the system.

Through this simple step, the Agency envisions a functioning IA, producing good crops and helping farmers uplift their lives in the community. Full of hope that through concerted effort, their lives would improve and more success will come their way. 

In her assignment as an IDO in Payao, Inday had traversed this route a couple of times already, but that day proved to be more perilous than the rest. Nearing Payao and right along the river, the *kapitan* made an announcement that they will have to stop and wait for high tide as it was not possible anymore for the boat to go forward under shallow waters.

For hours, they remained stuck in the boat. When lunch came, they ate the raw crabs and shrimps the *kapitan* offered which they only cured in vinegar to make it a bit tangy, sightings of crocodiles lurking around made it less reassuring. Nonetheless, Inday made it to the general assembly of the Irrigators Association in Payao albeit late but alive, more importantly. Later, she had known, the *kapitan* deliberately extended the waiting time because pirates were reported to be in the area, too.

The hour hand of the clock was at six, around that time in the morning when Inday would head off to the office. She wanted to be more early than usual, there seemed to be not enough time in a day to finish all the paperworks in the Administrative down to the BAC Secretariat and all the other things in between.

The former Regional Manager Engr. Alejandro L. Alberca would come in the office as early as 6 o'clock in

the morning as well and most of the time, he would find Inday in her workspace already facing her computer, foregrounded with empty tables and chairs. From his field work, Manager Alberca would typically dropped by the office even late in the night and he would still find Inday in the same spot as he would normally see her in the morning, still absorbed at work. One night he approached her and said, "*Pauli na 'day, sakto na na karong adlaw, di na na maayo sa imung lawas.*" (Go home, 'day, that's enough for the day, it's not good for your health.) She was surprised to know that the manager knew her by name.

These stories were just some of the many stories of struggles, challenges, and even comedic adventures of Inday Cabrales gathered throughout the 30 years of her dedicated service to the agency. But the greatest story there is in her career is the story that transpired last June 20, 2018 at NIA Central Office, Quezon City when she was awarded as the Best Regional Employee of the Year for CY 2017, beating all other 14 regions in the country. She received a plaque of recognition and a cash prize of P50,000.00 from NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya during the Awarding Ceremony of the 55th NIA Anniversary celebration.

When asked what was in her mind while receiving the award, she had

this to say, "*Bisag di ko katoo na ako, nahuna-hunaan nako na dili lang usa ka tuig ang evaluation para ani na award, God evaluated me for 30 years, nakita niya tanan nakong nagagian. Kini na award instrument lang ni sa iyang kaayo, that He will reward a faithful servant.*" (Even if I can't believe that it's me, I was thinking that the evaluation for this award did not only happen for a year, God evaluated me for 30 years and He saw all that I went through. This award is an instrument of His goodness, that He will reward a faithful servant.)

A loving wife to NIA engineer, Wilson Cabrales, Inday, now 56 years old, is a mother of two. She is the eldest of four in the family and being born in a financially hard up household. She had taken on responsibilities early in life. Growing up, she would help her mother sell all sorts of desserts/snacks from *yema* (classic Filipino candy), *bukayo* (sweetened coconut strips), *bingka* (rice cake), and banana cues. She managed to finish college by becoming a working student to a relative and later part, self-sustained her studies. She entered NIA in her early 20's and had been assigned in different capacities as IDO, Property personnel, and now as Senior Industrial Relations Management Officer (IRMO), but most of her youth she had spent as an IDO working at the grassroots level, dutifully carrying out every mandate of the Agency. 📖



Officials of the governments of the Philippines and Norway, the National Irrigation Administration, Norfund, SN Aboitiz Power, and the local government of Ramon, Isabela stand ready for the ceremonial switch on of the MARIS Main Canal 1 HEPP.

SNAP, NIA INAUGURATE 8.5 MW HYDRO POWER PLANT

By: Melissa C. Agbisit, Acting Senior Industrial Relations Management Officer, MARIIS

RAMON, Isabela - The National Irrigation Administration and SN Aboitiz Power-Magat, Inc. inaugurated the 8.5-megawatt MARIS Main Canal Hydro Electric Power Plant on January 26, 2018 at the NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System - Dams and Reservoir Division.

The MARIS Main Canal HEPP located in Barangay Ambatali, Ramon, Isabela is the first hydropower plant constructed by SNAP through its product innovation program.

Completed during the last quarter of 2017, the P2.15-billion run-off-river plant started its construction in 2015 through a signed Memorandum of Agreement between the NIA and SNAP-Magat for the development, construction and operation of the then dubbed 8.54MW MARIS Main (South) Canal Hydro-Electric Power Plant.

The inauguration was attended by representatives from SN Aboitiz Power-Magat and their Norwegian partner Norfund, the NIA, the provincial and local government units and, the national governments of Norway and the Philippines.

Positive Power

SNAP President and Chief Executive Officer Joseph S. Yu said that the project is a display of synergy of local and international expertise, partnership and collaboration with provincial and local governments, agencies and communities, and full collaboration with the National Irrigation Administration. He said it is the company's way of contributing positive power to the community.

Kristin Clemet, Chair of the Norfund Board, shared that the MARIS Canal Project is a milestone as it is the first power project constructed by SNAP.

"It utilizes the irrigation water flow and the elevation difference to produce clean electricity with minimal consequence to the environment," she said.

She added that the Norfund, a state-owned fund that invests in the establishment and development of profitable and sustainable enterprises in developing countries and aims to contribute to economic growth through investments in clean energy power plants that increase the access to clean and stable energy for the population, is very pleased to have participated in making the project a success.

Great Partners, Great Management, Great Projects

With pride, Mr. Antonio R. Moraza, President and Chief Operations Officer of Aboitiz Power Corporation, shared that MARIIS Canal HEPP was executed very successfully on time, on budget, and without any accidents. He said that this is possible as great partners and great management make great projects. He added that the facility is a testament to innovation and to stakeholder engagement.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya said he is greatly honored to be part of the occasion as the event is another milestone for the Agency. He shared that with Presidential Decree No. 552, the NIA charter has been



Engr. Czar M. Sulaik, NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations, together with NIA-RO2 management and MARIIS-DRD Manager, looks on as Project Manager Eliseo Ana explains the operation of the MARIS Main Canal HEPP.

"Safeguards have been agreed upon between SNAP and NIA so that benefits that this project will provide will be attained to the fullest," he said.

70 Years of Philippine-Norway Relations

Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines, Erik Forner said the inauguration of the hydro-electric power plant is very timely as 2018 marks this 70th year of diplomatic relations between Norway and the Philippines.

"Norway wants to be a serious and long-term partner with the Philippines, both in policy-making and in business," he shared.

Ambassador Forner added that energy is fundamental for any country's economic progress and potential and it is Norway's vision to contribute further in developing sustainable energy resources and supporting economic progress in the Philippines.

I-POWER-Mo!

Undersecretary Jesus Posadas of the Department of Energy represented DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi during the event shared the latter's message. He said the inauguration of the MARIS Main Canal HEPP is significant for the DOE as it reflects the energy sector's initiative to push integrated resource management of water.

"The DOE commends NIA and SN Aboitiz Power for demonstrating what can be done for the country when the government and the private sector come together for common and mutually beneficial cause," he said.

He added that projects like the MARIS Main Canal HEPP promotes energy sustainability, opportunities for social and economic growth, better productivity, cleaner air, healthier community, and a low emission economy. 🇵🇭

amended to include the comprehensive development of hydropower. He explained that not veering away from the Agency's mandate of providing irrigation services, the Agency has ventured into vast hydropower opportunities within its irrigation facilities with about 357 potential sites for hydro-electric power plant including the 8.5 MW HEPP.

The Administrator commended SNAP for their high quality of standards and professionalism.

"The agency looks forward to doing more collaborative efforts on our quest for more hydroelectric power plants in the future", he added.

He assured the farmers that this hydro-electric power plant will not affect irrigation services as the water will just pass through the turbines, generate electricity, and the water goes back to our irrigation canal.



NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya and SNAP President and Chief Operations Officer Joseph S. Yu sign the MARIS Main Canal 1 HEPP Operations Manual.



Engr. Czar M. Sulaik, NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector, together with NIA-RO2 management and MARIIS-DRD Manager, Eduardo P. Ramos, pose after a quick tour of the MARIS Main Canal HEPP (background).

UPRIIS RECEIVES OFFICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

By Ma. Elizabeth N. Lopez, UPRIIS Public Relations Officer-A

Among the awardees in this year's 55th Anniversary Celebration of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS).

Hailed as Office of the Year Awardee among the seventeen regional and operations offices nationwide, the plaque of recognition with an equivalent cash prize was awarded to Acting Department Manager of UPRIIS, Engr. Rosalinda B. Bote during the NIA Anniversary Program held on June 20, 2018 at NIA Central Office, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City.

It can be noted that aside from the concerted efforts of UPRIIS Head and Division Offices Officials and Staff, UPRIIS also owes the said recognition to its former Department Manager, Engr. Florentino R. David who had exerted hard work and had shown exemplary performance that also made UPRIIS win the most coveted title.

Moreover, Barangayan Siete Irrigators Association, Inc. under UPRIIS Division V Office was also awarded Fourth Placer Most Outstanding IA, NIS Category. President Gaudencio L. Gadong received the Plaque of Recognition and an equivalent cash prize. 🏆



Barangayan Siete Irrigators Association

UPRIIS CELEBRATES SUCCESS AS NIA'S OFFICE OF THE YEAR

By Ma. Elizabeth N. Lopez, UPRIIS Public Relations Officer-A

As NIA reaches another milestone in the celebration of its emerald year, molded and shaped through time in providing quality irrigation services to our partner farmers, UPRIIS has continually aimed to reach success in all its undertaking. The 55th Anniversary never failed UPRIIS.

Awaiting with excitement to create a historic anniversary celebration, UPRIIS head and division offices employees gathered together at UPRIIS Head Office Gymnasium, Cabanatuan City on June 22, 2018. A festive mood welcomed the guests as food booths of local delicacies and products surrounded the venue. Former Department Manager Engr. David was the guest speaker and former NIA Administrator, Engr. Antonio S. Nangel who has once served as Operations Manager of UPRIIS also graced the event.

What added more to the excitement were the annual ceremonies conducted during the program. There are

eighteen promoted employees from January to June 2018 who took their oath of office in front of a big crowd of anniversary attendees. Four UPRIIS retirees from the same period were honored for their dedicated years of public service. UPRIIS sportsfest winners were awarded with trophies and cash prizes. Eighty-seven employees were also recognized as loyaltee awardees and had received an equivalent cash grant.

Moreover, the Presentation of the Office of the Year Award was carried out allowing an opportunity to all UPRIIS employees to take a group photo with the awarded Plaque.

There is no greater joy than seeing the fruits of labor of UPRIIS. NIA continuously create an infinite opportunity to everyone, the challenge is to grab the opportunity. Holding on to the award in the coming years is a big challenge but holding on to the standard of being an Office of the Year Awardee may always be maintained. Thus, opportunity never ends. 🏆



JICA WRAP UP MEETING/FINAL PRESENTATION OF FINAL REPORT FOR THE PREPARATORY SURVEY OF MMIP II

By: Salimbay Sangeban Public Relations Officer, MMIP

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Wrap up Meeting/Final Presentation of the final Report of Sanyu International regarding the MMIP II final evaluation of the study conducted last August 06, 2018 at Alnor, Cotabato City. The Meeting was attended by Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector, Engr. C'zar Sulaik, Reyne B. Ugay, NIA C.O. Design Head, JICA Rep. Sherilyn Aoyama and Etsuko Masuko, MILF members and Commanders Representative, and MMIP II Officials.

Deputy Administrator Sulaik explained the purpose of the meeting to the MILF members. The JICA made a courtesy call to the MILF group during the conduct of preparatory survey to inform them about the output of the preparatory survey. The JICA Rep. thanked the MILF group with the cooperation and support they gave during the conduct of the study. Ms. Sherilyn Aoyama informed everyone regarding the result of the study after the series of evaluation conducted in the project area. In line with the collaboration between NIA and JICA, she said that the implementation of MMIP remaining works will be now funded by NIA using Philippine government fund and no longer JICA as decided Philippine Government, however the study can be used by MMIP to complete the project.

As to the result of the JICA study, there will be different options to address the flooding issues at MMIP service area. This option was also presented by Engr. Sulaik to the group and the NIA will decide on what option will be finally used for the project.

Engr. Akas A. Basilan, Acting Project Manager, expressed his appreciation to the of JICA and said that this study will help and guide the MMIP for the successful completion of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM with sharing of lunch together before the JICA group returned to Manila. 🍽️



On the Meeting table are, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector , Engr. C'zar Sulaik, Acting Project Manager, Engr. Akas A. Basilan, JICA Rep. Sherilyn Aoyama and Etsuko Masuko, Reyne B. Ugay NIA C.O. Design Head, MILF group, and MMIP II officials,

KOREAMAZING

By: Steve E. Cordero, Kervy Ann F. Barlis, Sheila B. Atonio

The Korean Wave or Hallyu is undeniably within the Filipino stream. It all started when Korean dramas were first aired on local television. Thereafter was an unstoppable wave that made popular music, food, fashion and even cosmetics no longer foreign to Filipino taste and preference.

Beyond K-Pop, K-Drama, Kimchi and Soju, South Korea is also a leading economic force in East and South East Asia. The unprecedented advancement of the country in technology, infrastructure and manufacturing has led it to be an economic engine in the region and the entire world. As such, from an Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) recipient, South Korea is now an official donor of development assistance to growing countries including the Philippines.

The Iloilo Province is one of the recipients of these development assistance provided by the Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund (KEDCF). This is through the implementation of the Jalaur River Multi-Purpose Project Stage II (JRMP II) under the management of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). Eighty percent (80) of the project

was funded through a tied loan with the KEDCF through the Korea Eximbank in 2012.

On top of the many benefits that can be derived from the project such irrigation, bulk water and hydroelectric power, JRMP II also aims to strengthen the partnership of the governments of South Korea and the Philippines in inclusive economic development and stability.

As part of the Project Implementing Team of JRMP II, we had the chance to experience amazing Korea through an Invitational Training for JRMP II sponsored by the Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC). The training ran from April 4-17, 2018 and aimed to expose and educate participants about concrete dam construction and water resource management. KRC is a public enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), for designing the "happiness" of Rural Community. This includes implementing, operating and managing Water Resource Facilities, Irrigation and Drainage, Farmland Consolidation, Rural Road Network, Ground Water Development and Rural Comprehensive Development. In joint venture with Saman and Dasan,

KRC also prepared the Detailed Engineering Design of the JRMP II dams, canals and appurtenant structures.

From this "once in a blue moon" experience, we collected our realizations and lessons from various places and projects that we visited. We feel that these realizations are important to us as project implementers and to our dear readers who will be stakeholders and beneficiaries of JRMP II.

1. Perfect Combo

Not unknown to many, Korea found a perfect pair to support its unprecedented growth, that is through Agriculture and Rural Development! The Saemaul Undong or "New Community" Movement which started in 1970s kicked off the development programs for the rural community in Korea. Banking on principles of diligence, self-reliance and cooperation, the movement aimed to bridge the gap of rural and urban development and support the growth of other industries through sufficient food, sustainable energy and other rural resources. Today, Korea's agriculture sector produce sufficient food for its people. Rice production has been sufficient through various irrigation



and dam projects which ensured timely and sufficient water for food production. Rural communities are also equally growing as the urban cities.

Learning from this Korean Combo, the Philippines can also achieve the same development Korea reached. This trend is now undertaken by NIA though the modernization of its irrigation projects, including construction of new ones that are not only climate resilient but also multi-purpose in nature.

2. Cool and Clean

This phrase pertains to environmental management which continuously been a challenge in implementing large infrastructure projects.

In Korea, environmental management plays an indispensable role in ensuring that projects are efficient and sustainable. The country has massive infrastructure development plans including the management of more than a thousand dams. As such a careful and inclusivemanagement plan is a must. The goal is to ensure that these water impounding structures are cool and clean which are hallmarks of effective management of project impacts. This includes watershed and water resource management and even goes to cover resettlement management and other social issues.

In JRMP II, the same is our goal for environmental management, a cool and clean reservoir that will ensure sufficient water for farm lands, for houses and for industries. Plans and programs for project impact management during and after project completion are in place to ensure sustainability of project.

3. Models

In Korea, models are not always people strutting in the catwalk, some are scaled miniature of infrastructure projects like impounding dams, sluice gates, and irrigation canals. Through this hydraulic models,



detailed designs of structures are reviewed and evaluated in relation to climate, rainfall and flooding data. Climate risks are calculated and mitigating measures are developed through models.

Hydraulic Modeling and Testing has been a trend for Korean Dam designers. Even existing dams were subjected to the same though they have long been constructed to ensure that these structures will be adaptive to climate change.

In fact, the same were also used in Korea's monumental sea dike, the Saemangeum Project. A one hectare research facility of the Hydraulic Research Center of KRC was dedicated for the hydraulic model of the project. The results of the model and testing for Saemangeum made the project more acceptable to its stakeholders and critics. The JRMP II was also subjected to the same model and testing. A scale model of the dams were produced and simulated to ensure that the design considerations will be met.

4. The future is now

These words were turned into actions in Korea's vision for a creative and inclusive economy. All plans and programs are currently implemented to address future issues and needs. The Saemangeum project, the world's longest sea dike was envisioned to accommodate future expansions of various agricultural, manufacturing and IT industries of Korea.

NIA also aimed to address future needs for irrigation, bulk water and

power in Iloilo through JRMP II. However, the continued delay in project implementation the benefits of the project are much-needed now than in the future.

5. Bruised and Battered but still Better

While we think that the delays and criticisms in the implementation of JRMP II are discouraging, we found refuge in the story of the Saemangeum Sea Dike Project which took 19 years to complete. Within the said span of time, the project construction was halted twice because of project opposition and court hearings. But in all of these issues hurled against the project, the government of South continued to affirm and confirm the necessity of this monumental project to welfare of the country and its people.

A writ of kalikasan, tedious FPIC process among many other challenges can never deprive the people of Iloilo with the benefits of JRMP II. While the project is about to commence its implementation, support from the farmers, Indigenous Peoples Communities, government leaders, religious groups, business groups among others are outpouring because project benefits are clearer and much-needed.

If former Philippine Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Herman Ongkiko would describe it, ODA projects like JRMP II makes the Filipino implementers better. Not only that we are accepting development assistance funds from other countries but we also acquire knowledge and technology. All of these in an effort to make our country better! 🇵🇭



PLACING HIGH STAKE TO NIA'S SOCIAL CAPITAL

Many managers of corporations often think that money or capitalization, equipment or machineries, and real estate or land are the organization's most important assets.

Contrary to this, NIA Administrator Ricardo R Visaya believes that the most important assets of the Agency are the human resources or human capital. This belief is embodied in the fourth pillar of his leadership, "Develop human resources and improve their capabilities".

The building blocks of this pillar are the several trainings provided to NIA rank and file employees, NIA, in supervisory positions, managers from Central, Regional Offices and Irrigation Management Offices. Trainings, workshops and scholarships for graduate studies, were sourced out whether locally or internationally. Placing high stake to NIA's human capital is a risk taken to support and capacitate NIAs for a more efficient and more effective performance of their jobs and ascertain the highest satisfaction of NIAs' customers.

Sectors owning the trainings/workshops/scholarships in collaboration with the Training and Career Development Section of NIA ensured that these are equitably distributed to address the needs of the Agency's core functions and support activities. In addition to these types of training, several ISO-related workshops and trainings were also conducted.

The wide range of capacity building programs can be classified under six major headings that corresponds to the core functions of the agency, support processes, ISO, and others.

Aside from the in-house trainings and workshops, there were also 15 international activities attended by NIA top management, managers and employees.

Details	Phases of Irrigation Development	
	Development (D)	Construction (C)
Trainings Conducted/ attended under various phases of irrigation development	1. Hydraulic Engineering Center (HEC) HMS and HEC (RAS) 2. River/ Reservoir and Watershed Flow and Sediment Modeling and Open Channel Hydraulics and Flow)	Several trainings on Construction Management and Supervision
Participants	1. Twenty-two (22) from Engineering Department 2. Thirty-two (32) from Engineering Department	
Period of Conduct	2nd Quarter	1st and 2nd Quarters



System Development			Support Activities	ISO Trainings	Other Trainings
Operation (O)	Maintenance (M)				
<div>1. Workshop on Inventory of Areas for National Irrigation Systems, Communal Irrigation Systems, Pump Irrigation Systems and other Government-Agency Assisted Irrigation Projects.</div> <div>2. Refresher Course on Derivation of Water Duty, Method of Irrigation and Water Delivery and Distribution (WDD) and Soil, Water and Crop Characteristics Important to Irrigation Schedule.</div> <div>3. Institutional Development Program (IDP) National Review and Planning Workshop)</div>	<div>1. Training/ Workshop on use of Hi-frequency Radio System</div> <div>2. Training of Trainers for IA Agri-Business and Entrepreneurial Irrigation Projects.</div> <div>3. Training of Trainers for IA Value Chain in Business planning</div> <div>4. Training of Trainors for farming as a Business under the IA Assistance program</div> <div>5. Policy Dialogue and workshop for NIA's IDP Implementation</div>	<div>1. Training on the Basic Knowledge in System Development</div> <div>2. Competency Based Trainings and Workshops (Orientation), Functional Review and Competency Analysis; Competency for Core and Leadership; Writing Technical Competency</div> <div>3. Seminar Workshops on Management Capability Building (five batches)</div> <div>4. GAD Trainings and Workshops (Magna Carta of Women, Solo Parent Act, GST, GAD Orientation, GAD Budgeting, and Gender Mainstreaming and Evaluation Framework)</div> <div>5. Training on Photography, InDesign and Layout</div>	<div>1. Several Orientation, Trainings, and Workshops on ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) and QMS Documentation</div> <div>2. Knowledge Management Training</div>	<div>1. Orientation seminar on TRAIN Law</div> <div>2. Orientation on NEDA Guidelines and Procedures for Entering into Joint Venture Agreement between Government and Private Entities and on Swiss Challenge.</div> <div>3. Basic Orientation on Safety and Health Seminar</div>	
<div>1. One-hundred seventy-one (171) EOD Engineers nationwide</div> <div>2. Thirty-nine (39) employees nationwide</div> <div>3. Sixty (60) IDP Implementors nationwide</div>	<div>1. Ten (10) pax from UPRIIS and MRIIS</div> <div>2. Forty (40) SIDOs/ IDOs nationwide, IDD CO</div> <div>3. Thirty-six (36) Regional IDS, IDD C.O</div> <div>4. One-hundred fifteen (115) nationwide IDP Implementors.</div>	<div>1. Forty-six (46) from CO</div> <div>2. NIA Core Team and TWG</div> <div>3. 175 RMs/PMs, Managers</div> <div>4. Five-hundred seventy (570) employees, managers, and Top Management Officials</div> <div>5. Thirty-five (35) layout artists nationwide and PAIS staff)</div>	<div>1. Two-hundred seventy-one (271)</div> <div>2. Thirty-five (35)</div>	<div>1. Sixty-three (63) Finance personnel nationwide</div> <div>2. Forty-four (44) Participants from C.O</div> <div>3. One-hundred eighty-five (185) nationwide</div>	
1st and 2nd Quarters	2nd and 3rd Quarters	1st to 4th Quarter of November 2018		2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarter of November 2018	

USCID UNITED STATES COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION
 AND DRAINAGE OCT 15-19, 2018 ARIZONA



Sustainable water
 management
 in response to
 climate change
 August 30 -
 September 15,
 2018



15th INWEPF
 Symposium
 and Steering
 Committee
 Meeting
 November 19-24
 at Nara, Japan

The wide range of capacity building programs can be classified under six major headings that corresponds to the core functions of the agency, support processes, ISO, and others.

Aside from the in-house trainings and workshops, there were also 15 international activities attended by NIA top management, managers and employees.

International Activity by Type	Number	Participants	Title/Subject Matter	Conduct	Location
	10	One-hundred twenty-six (126) participants nationwide	On-farm Level Development, Post-Qualification Evaluation, 8th World Water Forum, China Head and Field Offices, 15th INWEPF Symposium and Steering Committee Meeting, Inauguration of ASEAN Power Grid Summit, Water Management and Reforestation, 2018 ICID International Conferences, and Workshop on Modernizing Irrigation and Drainage Systems in Response to Climate Change	January to November 2018	Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, China, Brazil, Canada, and USA
Short Courses	4	Four (4) participants from C.O. and Field Offices	Agri-business and eco-tourism, Water Resource Development, Sustainable Water Management in Response to Climate Change, and Training on the New Technology of Agricultural Engineering in Agricultural processing in Developing Countries	February 2018 and August to October 2018	China, Korea, and Japan
Post Graduate Course	1	CO	Water Resource Management	2018 to 2020	Korea-KOICA

We are now an ISO 9001:2015 compliant. Understand and practice of competency-based performance



As of November 30, 2018, there are a total of 1,949 local training/workshops participants and 131 international activities participants/attendees or a total of 2,080 NIA employees, managers and top management who were given the privilege to be trained to improve their competencies. This pro-active move by the Top Management to capacitate NIA's manpower to make the Agency performing at international standard for irrigation Agencies is a solid motivation for the employees to be best performers applying their learnings and action plans to their current jobs. 📚

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create a dedicated group to focus on the modernization of irrigation systems based on the results of scientific and technological research.
2. Implement pipe system and other design alternatives to minimize maintenance cost & promote effective irrigation service delivery, eliminate illegal diversion of water and maximize

- Design of irrigation structures which are more climate resilient
- More accurate figures of irrigation development
- Improved conduct of construction management and supervision



Learning from this Korean Combo, the Philippines can also achieve the same development Korea Reached. This trend is now undertaken by NIA through the modernization of its irrigation projects, including the construction of new ones that are not only climate resilient but also multi-purpose in nature

1. Water Usage:

- a) Available water use optimization by proper cropping scheduling anchored to the updated climatic types
 - b) Use of HDPE pipes and Geosynthetic mattresses, materials to minimize seepage and improve conveyance capacity of our irrigation canals
 - c) Storage of water during wet season to be used on dry months
 - d) Utilization of the available water for mini-h generation
2. Flood Control: River engineering and appropriate drainage design



photo by TEODORO PELAEZ



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For Comments/ Suggestions/ Contributions: Call Us @ (632) 921-37-41
www.nia.gov.ph www.facebook.com/nia.gov.ph/ niapais@gmail.com