

Transition/ 1st
Surveillance Audit by
a Third Party



CURRENTS

Volume 38, No. 2, 2018



nia.gov.ph

CONTENTS

Volume 38, No. 2, 2018

Editorial

- 3 NIA Explores Opportunities Through Challenges

Plans and Programs

- 4 2018 2nd NIA Managers' Conference

Special Feature: Atty. Jiselle Rae Aumentado Villamor

- 5 Maximizing the Utilization of Irrigation Water Through Hydro and Floating Solar Power Projects
- 6 QMS 9001:2015 Management Review of the NIA
- 7 Developing and Improving Human Resources

Special Events

- 8 Celebrating the Birthday of SDA Bagasin
- 9 Celebrating the Birthday of the DAEO
- 10-11 A Taste of Food and Wine of the Philippines
- 12-13 NIA: Painting the Philippine Map Green
- 14 P4.37-Billion Chico River PIP Breaks Ground
- 15 Bulo SRIP: Another Project Opened
- 16-21 NIA @ 55: Transforming Challenges into Infinite Opportunities
- 22-23 Transition/ 1st Surveillance Audit by a Third Party towards ISO 9001:2015
- 24 Breaking the Ground for Ibingan SRIP's Earthfill Dam
- 25 NIA Confers Rice Achievers Awards 2017

- 26-29 *Photo News*

Limelight

- 30-31 It's Time to Go
- 32 Character & Reputation

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



www.nia.gov.ph



niapais@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/nia.gov.ph/

EDITORIAL BOARD

Administrator:

GEN RICARDO R VISAYA (Ret)

Senior Deputy Administrator:

BGEN ABRAHAM B BAGASIN (Ret)

Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector:

ENGR. C'ZAR M. SULAIK

Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector:

MGEN ROMEO G GAN (Ret)

EDITORIAL STAFF

Executive Editor and Consultant: Pilipina P. Bermudez

Editor-in-Chief: Eden Victoria C. Selva

Associate Editor: Luzviminda R. Peñaranda

Managing Editor: Clarizze C. Toribio

Copy Editing and Editorial Staff

Copy Editor/ Writer: Pops Marie S. Dadea

News Editor/ Writer: Josias M. Mercado

Feature Editor/ Writer: Frya Camille D. Ballesteros

Literary Editor/ Writer: Jayson B. Cabrera

Graphics and Layout Team

Design and Layout Artists: Remster D. Bautista

Ana Cristel K. Untivero

Christian Rey E. Luz

Photographer: Allan John O. Zita

Administrative Support Staff

Arnel M. Reves

John Neil O. Villanueva

Mark V. Daradal

Andrian Christian C. Polinar

NIA EXPLORES OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH CHALLENGES

“Problems can become opportunities when the right people come together.”

- Robert South

NIA celebrates its 55 years of serving the Filipino farmers through faithfully fulfilling its mandate of developing water resources into effective and efficient irrigation systems nationwide.

In 1974, Mr. Amnon Golan of World Bank recognized NIA as “the finest irrigation agency in the whole of Asia”. However, NIA has never been exempted to challenges. Among them were regimes that the Agency endured dearth in irrigation investment that curtailed irrigation development and a prospect for non-viability, inevitable effects of climate change, and the election promise of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte that came to life when he signed the Free Irrigation Service Act (RA 10969) on February 2, 2018.

Not to impede NIA’s mandate, all endeavors have been explored to keep the Agency responsive alongside the mission to improve the farmers’ quality of life. Based on the inventory as of December 31, 2017, the estimated total irrigable area in the country is 3,128,631 hectares, out of which 60.35% or 1,887,986.49 hectares have been developed with 1,240,644.51 hectares remaining area to be developed.

The climate change adaptation works of the Agency include bio-engineering slope protection (Coconet) being implemented in National and Communal Irrigation Systems nationwide. Likewise, the Pasa Small Reservoir Impounding Project (Pasa SRIP) funded through a grant from the Korea International

Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is implemented with the purpose of reducing the adverse impact of climate change through the construction of water impounding facilities.

With the able leadership of the men on the helm, NIA delved into other water-based income by inviting private entities to venture on solar and hydropower projects utilizing irrigation facilities nationwide, as well as exploring the linkage with other local government units the feasibility of agro-tourism destination. These have been conceptualized but now it leaped from the drawing board and slowly coming to life. Revenues from traditional sources of income have been augmented through government’s subsidy.

Solutions are sought to innovate even in very limited resources. Trainings are funded through savings from traditional celebration of anniversaries and other special events, such as Christmas programs, preferring a more subdued celebrations. Indeed, investment for human resources is one of the priorities.

Unity worked for Team NIA. The Agency became ISO 9001: 2008 certified in July 2017. To date, as we expand our vision, NIA gears for ISO 9001:2015 certification. Thanks to the men and women whose unparalleled commitment made NIA, even at age 55, resilient like a mythical phoenix rising above challenges and soaring to endless opportunities. 🏰

2ND NIA MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

■ Frya Camille D. Ballesteros, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS-CO

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) held a Managers' Conference at the 3rd Floor, IEC Building, NIA Central Office on June 11, 2018. It was attended by all Regional, Project, and Department Managers of NIA presided by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya. The highlight of the forum was the Proposed Organizational Strengthening and Restructuring of Regional Offices presented by Corporate Planning Services Manager, Engr. Rogelia C. Dela Torre.

The Agency needs to settle the Organizational Strengthening to be responsive to the current and forthcoming demands of NIA.

"Marami pang nakita na kailangan pang pag-usapan kaya paulit-ulit ito. Para sa atin ito, kung may makita pa, pag-uusapan natin uli para ma-consolidate", Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham Bagasin said.

"It is one of the references dun sa mga request project natin. Kailangan natin mai-finalize ito to be responsive sa mission natin", Administrator Visaya added.

The conference also focused on the Agency's 2018 Delegation of Authority. They have discussed on the division of authority, command, duties, task, and accountability of offices to suit the demands for active and dynamic governance. Another meeting was set to finalize the Delegation of Authorities. It will be on the 12th of July 2018.

Other important and relevant matters were deliberated during the meeting, such as the Process Flow on Financial Releases discussed by Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations, Engr. Czar M. Sulaik, Financial Status of the Agency (ASA Releases and Cash Utilization) presented by Financial Management Department Manager, Ms. Editha D. Morales, and the Preparation Updates for the 55th Founding Anniversary of NIA by Human Resource Division Industrial Relations Officer A, Ms. Portia Angulo.

NIA started and will continue to conduct Managers' Conference to cover important aspects and plans for a more efficient and transparent agency. 🏢

Special Feature

MEET THE NEW CORPORATE BOARD SECRETARY **ATTY. JISELLE RAE AUMENTADO VILLAMOR**

The new Corporate Board Secretary, Atty. Jiselle Rae Aumentado Villamor, is a member of the Philippine Bar.

Atty. Jiselle, as she is fondly called, has extensive experience in legal and compliance processes, formulation and recommendation of policy agenda for Board adoption, and litigation practice. Her practice focuses on land title and deeds, persons and family relations, criminal law, and general corporate law.

She has also considerable experience in policy development and advocacy, as well as legislative research. She served as the Head of the Policy and Legislation Department of the League of Cities of the Philippines. She has represented the local government units, particularly cities, in committee hearings before the House of Representatives and Senate, and various national government agencies.

As a volunteer lawyer at the Child Justice League, she provides *pro bono* counsel to abused, trafficked, and indigent children, as well as those who are in conflict with the law.

Atty. Jiselle received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Silliman University in 2010, where she graduated as *Cum Laude*, and her law degree from Lyceum of the Philippines University in 2015. 🏢



MAXIMIZING THE UTILIZATION OF IRRIGATION WATER THROUGH HYDRO AND FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECTS

■ Jayson B. Cabrera, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS-CO

While the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) continues to hold firm in its mission of constructing, operating, and maintaining irrigation systems, it does not stop venturing into some productive means of maximizing the utilization of irrigation water.

This year, NIA had been inviting interested parties to invest in hydroelectric power project in the 379 identified potential sites nationwide. Incidentally, four are already operational – the 8.5 MW MARIS Main (South) Canal Hydroelectric Power in Isabela, Rizal Hydropower Plant in Nueva Ecija, Bulanao Mini-Hydropower Plant in Kalinga, and Marbel #1 MHPP in Southern Cotabato.

Recently, NIA also opened its dams and reservoirs for floating solar power project as the SN Aboitiz Power Group has proposed a water-based solar power project in Magat Dam in Isabela which features solar panels fixed to floats on the water surface. It will conduct a 2,500-square meter pilot project over the Magat reservoir, a small-scale preliminary study prior to the performance of the large-scale project. The floating solar power project's actual size is yet to be decided after the study.


As NIA had its research regarding this project, it was found out that water-based solar power project is more beneficial than the land-based one because the latter converts large portion of agricultural lands into solar plants. Doing so makes irrigable farmlands smaller. This results to the decrease in food production which poses a threat to the country's food security. It also defeats NIA's purpose of constructing and developing more irrigation systems in the country to ensure rice sufficiency. Instead of indulging into

land-based solar project, NIA thus offers its dams and reservoirs for the water-based project which can achieve the same purpose of increasing power production while saving agricultural lands.

Looking on how much energy this water-based project can produce, Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya said that one hectare of solar field can produce one megawatt (MW). For instance, in Magat Dam with a reservoir of 4,500 hectares, if 200 hectares will be utilized for water-based solar power, 200 MW will be generated and 200 hectares of agricultural lands will be saved.

This project can also be beneficial by providing additional income to the government, prevent the decrease of the water level in the dams and reservoirs due to evaporation, and provide sanctuary for marine life as it prevents fishes and other species from dying due to hot temperature. Interestingly, this could also be a tourism promotion for NIA's dams and reservoirs. The solar power plant will be picturesque to the visitors' eyes as it will be an array of panels affixed to a flotation mechanism above the water surface.

NIA would never regret entering into this project. Magat Dam is just the first NIA irrigation facility to be installed with this. There are still many big dams and reservoirs to be utilized for this purpose, such as the Pantabangan Dam and Casecnan Dam in Nueva Ecija.

Both hydro and floating solar power projects of the Agency are non-irrigation related projects which would add to the further development of irrigation systems in the country. 

QMS 9001:2015 MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF THE NIA

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

Management Review or Readiness Assessment is the 10th task of the Agency in its preparations for the Technical Guidance on Transition and Expansion of the Certified Quality Management System (QMS) to ISO 9001:2015. This activity took place last May 29, 2018 at the DCIEC Convention Hall.

In attendance to this activity were the Central Office Department Managers, Internal Quality Audit Members of NIA Central Office, UPRIS, Region IV-A and Quezon IMO, NIA Top Management Officials, and ISO Mentors from the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP). There were six major chunks of information that were presented and deliberated:

1. *Background Information on NIA QMS,*
2. *Updates on the Status of QMS Implementation where the works of the different teams were shared (Risk Management Team, Documented Information Team, Quality Workplace Team, Training and Education Team, and the Knowledge Management Team),*
3. *Results of the IQA conducted by the IQA Teams to the different C.O. organizations, as well as to the other field offices covered for the ISO. Of the 327 Audit Criteria, 268 or 82% were conformities and 48 or 15% were OFIs (Opportunities for Improvement and 11 or 3% as Non-Conformities),*
4. *Performance of different Agency processes like Management Processes, Core Processes, Support Processes and ISO Core Team Processes, as well as the Agency's Service Conformity which is basically reflected in our 2017 Performance Scorecard with a total score of 92.67%,*

5. *Areas for Improvement which include the submission of the Agency's organizational strengthening and exploring other sources of income as a GOCC such as hydropower, bulk water supply, and solar power; trainings of personnel as well as automation of processes, and*

6. *Actions from previous Management Review.*

NIA Top Management participated actively in providing their valuable inputs on risk and opportunity assessment being undertaken by the Agency and the conduct of an ISO hour by each department. On their part, the Mentors from DAP gave their observations on the Management Review. Most notable are the general observations, which are, Management Teams to:

- *review the effectiveness of the Quality Management System and*
- *review effectiveness of its actions taken to address the risks and opportunities.*

The Management Review enabled the Top Management to appraise the QMS and ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy, effectiveness, and alignment with the strategic direction of the Agency. 🏢



DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING HUMAN RESOURCES

■ Jayson B. Cabrera, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS – CO

Trainings are necessary to further capacitate the employees so that the goal of efficiently achieving the agency's mission and vision would be met.

The Four-Point Agenda of Administrator Ricardo R Visaya includes “developing human resources and improving their capabilities”. Being one with the Administrator's agenda, the Human Resources Division of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Central Office has facilitated various trainings, seminars, and workshops for the said purpose in the second quarter of 2018. These are as follows:

NAME OF TRAINING/ SEMINAR WORKSHOP	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	VENUE	OBJECTIVE/S
Gender Sensitivity Training	April 04–06 April 11-13 April 18-20 April 26-27 May 02-04	154 various Central Office Personnel in five batches	Classroom B	To minimize gender discrimination and mainstream and promote gender and development in the workplace.
Seminar-Workshop on Management Capability Building	April 04-10 April 07-11	29 Regional and Project Managers and 28 Division Managers of CAR, Region 1 and Region 2 in two batches	Region 3	a) To understand the Project Management Framework based on the Project Management Institute's Guide, b) To improve communication skills from developing interpersonal and presentation skills, and c) To promote ethical and accountable service to the public.
Gender Mainstreaming and Evaluation Framework	April 18-20 April 25-27	86 Gender and Development Focal Point System Members in two batches	Classroom A	To track progress in gender mainstreaming efforts and provide a holistic view of the gender mainstreaming process as well as identify areas of strengths and pointers for improvement.
Orientation-Seminar on TRAIN Law	April 24	63 Accountants, Finance People/ Tax Practitioners, Administrative Officers, and HRD Practitioners	Convention Hall	To inform and update the participants on the underlying structure and general provisions of TRAIN and provide them a venue for clarifying confusing clauses and stipulations under the newly implemented tax law to ensure observance of the law.
Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC) HMS and HEC RAS Training	May 09-11	22 Personnel from Civil Works, Design Section of Design and Specification Division and representatives from Project Planning Division	Classroom B	a) To fully understand the basics of Hydrological and Hydraulic modeling of watersheds and rivers with the use of HEC HMS and HEC RAS, and b) To be familiarized with different scenarios in hydrological and hydraulic modeling
Orientation on QMS ISO 9001:2015	May 30	467 Central Office Personnel	Convention Hall	To provide information about the international standard of 9001 version 2015.
River, Reservoir, and Watershed Flow and Sediment Modeling and Open Channel Hydraulics and Flow	June 05-08	32 Personnel from Civil Works Design Section of Design and Specification Division and Regional Designers	Region 3	a) To review the basic theory of open channel flow and flow through hydraulic structures, and b) To enhance knowledge in Hydraulic Engineering

The Agency continues to consider additional trainings, seminars, and workshops as well as the agency restructuring program to make sure that human resources are equipped with knowledge and skills and develop right work attitude in the performance of their functions. 🏢

CELEBRATING THE 59TH BIRTHDAY OF SDA BAGASIN

■ Kit A. Maglangit, Senior Executive Assistant, OSDA

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) happily celebrated the 59th birthday of Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin on April 30, 2018 at the NIA Central Office Covered Court. All employees trooped to the Covered Court, together with the Top Management Officials, including Regional, Project, Department, and Division Managers of Central Office, some former colleagues, and personal guests, in a simple “boodle fight” lunch.

Earlier in the day after the Agency’s Flag Raising Ceremony, a simple breakfast of *lugaw* and *puto* for everyone was prepared by the staff of the Office of the Senior Deputy Administrator as their birthday gift to General Bagasin.

The Senior Deputy Administrator took the opportunity to express his gratitude to everyone in celebrating his birthday the NIAN way. In his birthday message, General Bagasin called on all NIA employees to continuously work hard towards the attainment of the Agency’s mission and be prepared for all the challenges that NIA may confront in the forthcoming months and years. 🇵🇭





CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF THE DA EO

■ Rachel Aggabao, Technical Assistant, Office of the DA EO

Our Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations (DA EO) Sector, Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik (CMS), celebrated his birthday on May 20, 2018. It fell on a Sunday yet colleagues from far up north and down south were unstoppable in greeting him on his red letter day.

If CMS had his way, he would have opted for a very simple celebration. It was enough for him to be remembered. He was already filled with gratitude with the kind words and generous wishes that he received. He did not want people to spend time and effort for a feast that was least important to him, especially considering everyone's preoccupation at work. Also, his birthday happened to fall during a sacred time for him and our Muslim brothers, the Ramadan, where daily fasting is religiously observed from sunrise to sunset. Thus, his preference for a quiet birthday.

But the jolly and good fellow that CMS is, his colleagues did not let his birthday pass without celebrating it. On May 17, 2018, NIA-Region VI (Iloilo) feted a surprise dinner for him. The occasion coincided with the Association of Regional Directors and Operations Managers' (ARDOMA) Meeting. It was the turn of our supportive Administrator Ricardo A. Visaya along with Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Romeo G. Gan, the Project, Department, and Division Managers, to gather together for a dinner for CMS when he reported back to Manila on May 21, 2018. Both events were pleasantly heartening and inspiring for the Deputy Administrator.

The DA EO hosted a simple breakfast of arroz caldo and puto at the Central Office after the Flag Raising Ceremony on May 21 as a gesture of his warmth and appreciation for everyone. On his birthday, he wanted to reach out to as many colleagues and friends who have walked with him through the years on his journey at NIA. He would like to express his heartfelt gratitude and return their good wishes. 🙏

"There are two great days in a person's life - the day we are born and the day we discover why."

– William Barclay

A Taste of Food and Wine of the Philippines

■ Clarizze C. Toribio, Information Officer A, PAIS-CO

Since I entered NIA in 2009, NIAns were always celebrating its anniversary like a festive reunion. We get to see faces from the field offices nationwide. We make friends and frenemies, build camaraderie, and share our culture with each other. We get to show our talents in singing and dancing, and sports. We also get to buy souvenirs and delicacies from the different provinces of the Philippines in our *tiangge*.

This 55th NIA Founding Anniversary is a year to celebrate in a different way—in a simple manner. You might remember that Administrator *Bong Visaya* highlighted in his speech during the Denim and Diamonds Christmas celebration his stand on celebrating the anniversary modestly and use the saved funds for capability development of the employees... and it happened.

After the awarding ceremony in the afternoon, most NIAns from the Central Office and some from the field offices stayed late for the anniversary night. The party started at seven in the evening with Mr. Marky Diosana and yours truly as the hosts.

Deputy Administrator *Romie Gan* welcomed everyone in the event. *Fun Fact: This is his first time to celebrate NIA's Founding Anniversary.* This gentleman, who is a retired Major General shared the value of **cooperation** in his message. His welcome remarks was followed by production number from the NIA CO Dance Crew (CODC) who danced in the tune of *Bboom Bboom* by the K-pop all-girl group *Momoland* which is a trending dance. But wait there's more, together with the NIA CODC, we managed to teach the Top Management Officials and the different managers how to Bboom Bboom. The "bosses" were so cooperative and managed to dance the whole chorus. Who says our leaders are just all for work and seriousness? They also know how to have fun!

During the Anniversary Night, the NIAns paid tribute to the retirees of 2018 through a short "*Salamat Mabuhay*" segment. Seventy-six loyalty awardees were also acknowledged for their years of service in the Agency. The awarding of the fun game winners organized by the NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP) was also held that night.

There was the usual opening of the dancefloor for the employees who love dancing. Dance instructors were available with the 59th Infantry Battalion Combo playing the music for everyone to enjoy. Alcoholic drinks and cocktails were also served by Tanduary ladies. Dinner was served by the NIAEASP Canteen and NIA Cooperative.

Raffle prizes were also given to the lucky NIAns whose stubs were drawn. Top prizes were donated by the Top Management Officials.



One of the highlights of the Anniversary Night is the Food and Wine Festival. Even if our friends from the field offices were not there, we can still feel their presence through the various food and wine they shared with us. Delicacies from Luzon to Mindanao were served to the CO NIAs.

CAR	-	<i>Strawberries, Bignay Wine, and Brewed Coffee</i>
Region I	-	<i>Chicharon, Kamote Chips, Bagnet, and Basi Wine</i>
Region II	-	<i>Two Lechon Baboy, Bignay wine</i>
MARIIS	-	<i>Lechon Baka</i>
Region III	-	<i>Two Lechon Baboy, and Chicharong Baboy</i>
UPRIIS	-	<i>Lechong Baka</i>
Region IVA	-	<i>Broas, Lambanog, Balot, and Fresh Mangoes</i>
Region IVB	-	<i>Tahong, Cashew Nuts, and Lato</i>
Region V	-	<i>Fresh Pineapple and Assorted Pili Nut Products</i>
Region VI	-	<i>Piyaya, Barquillos, Butterscotch, and Biscocho</i>
Region VII	-	<i>Two Lechon Baboy, Dried Mangoes, and Otap</i>
Region VIII	-	<i>Two Lechon Baboy, Binagol, and Moron</i>
Region IX	-	<i>Turkey, Alimango, and Curacha</i>
Region X	-	<i>Iligan Nuts and Ham</i>
Region XI	-	<i>Pomelo and Durian</i>
Region XII	-	<i>Tuna Sashimi</i>
CARAGA	-	<i>Shrimps and Crabs</i>



What an experience to taste the different Philippine Food and Wine. Whose tummy wasn't happy? Thank you for everyone's generosity!

The 55th Founding Anniversary of NIA may be different from what we were used to, but we can all have fun despite the simple celebration. Kudos to the Top Management Officials and the Anniversary Committee for pulling off this modest yet successful event. 🎉



NIA: PAINTING THE PHILIPPINE MAP GREEN

■ Jayson B. Cabrera, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS-CO


Aside from keeping the country's agricultural lands green through irrigation, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) also contributes in keeping the mountains' forestlands green as well through the National Tree Planting Activity held every NIA Anniversary Week, which is actually done simultaneously in all regions of the country. This serves as the kick-off activity for the celebration of its Founding Anniversary. This year, when NIA turns 55 years old, a total of 48,638 seedlings were planted by thousands of NIA officials, staff, and friends to the different locations in the archipelago.

Selected species are a combination of fruit trees, forest trees (endemic species) and industrial tree species. These are commonly planted in watershed areas of an irrigational system.

The selected participants from the Central Office joined the Region 3 Tree Planting Activity held at Porac-Gumain River Irrigation System in Barangay Nabuclod, Floridablanca, Pampanga. The site is the resettlement area of the Aetas. It is also the watershed area of the proposed Upper Gumain Dam.

The activity started at around 9:00 am with heavy and occasional rain showers. Green raincoats were distributed together with trowels, white towels, blue long sleeve shirts, and salacots. The wet weather did not stop NIAs in letting the seedlings rest in the slippery and muddy slopes of that mountainous area. The rainwater did not become a hindrance to that tree planting activity. It rather served as a natural irrigation system for the newly planted seedlings.

All seedlings assigned for the Central Office and Region 3 were already planted as early as 10:00 am. Indeed, an activity done by several hands can be carried out easily, fast, and efficiently. An activity done for a noble purpose is always accomplished successfully. May all those seedlings grow fully and become sturdy trees in the years to come giving lots of benefits to our country's ecosystem.

The National Tree Planting is NIA's way of greening the Philippines as it has always aimed to paint the Philippine map green by bringing irrigation water to the farmlands in the entire country. 



National Irrigation Administration
TREES. WATER. LIFE. 2018
Greening the Philippines the NIA way!



OFFICE	SPECIES	Number of Seedlings	Hectares Covered	Number of Participants
Central Office	mahogany, narra, and mangium	500	0.5	50
CAR	agro-forest and forest trees	2,635	1	360
Region 1	atis, guyabano, camachile, mahogany, tamarind, narra, and rambutan	1550	3.2	362
Region 2	narra, guyabano, mahogany, and fruit-bearing trees	1,883	4	735
Region 3	mahogany, narra, and mangium	3,000	2	250
Region 4A	rubber tree, narra, guyabano, cacao, molave, dwarf cabalyero, kawayan, and mango	3,200	4.2	528
Region 4B	narra, mahogany, fruit-bearing, bangkal, guyabano, coffee, calamansi, jackfruit, cacao, ipil, sampaloc, cashew, and agohe	2,770	5.74	438
Region 5	fruit-bearing trees and hardwood	1,500	0.3	405
Region 6	talisay gubat, hardwood/bacan, fruit-bearing trees, and mangium	5,000	15.6	552
Region 7	narra, mahogany, narig, kalingag, nato, agohe, mahogany, cacao, jackfruit, lanzones, and mangosteen	2,132	0.54	475
Region 8	mahogany, narra, kolo, yakal, mango, calamansi, kamagong, jackfruit, chico, lanzones, and santol	2,075	2.17	634
Region 9	mahogany, durian, pomelo, jackfruit, santol, marang, coffee, rambutan, lanzones, falcate, narra, and cacao	1,555	4.15	448
Region 10	falcate, narra, cacao, guyabano, durian, rambutan, mahogany, bagrass, jackfruit, mango, and pink trumpet	1,340	7.9	414
Region 11	Hardwood - nato, bitanghol, Molave, ulayan, mahogany, and narra	1,850	8.85	312
Region 12 + MMIP	mahogany, molave, and narra	1,500	1	134
CARAGA	fruit trees, mahogany, palcata, narra, patong, and bamboo	3,948	10.7	653
MARIIS	mahogany, fruit trees – guyabano, and jackfruit	6,000	6	548
ARISEP	mahogany and acacia auri	200	0.06	104
UPRIIS	narra and mahogany	2,300	4.86	100
CMIPP	cashew	2,000	3	56
BBMP	tamarind, atis, anonas, santol, mahogany, and lanete	1,700	65	210
TOTAL:		48,638	150.77	7,768



P4.37-BILLION CHICO RIVER PIP BREAKS GROUND

■ Dorothy Belle C. De Leon, Public Relations Officer A, NIA Region 2

The 4.37 billion-peso Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (CRPIP), the first NIA flagship infrastructure project under President Rodrigo Duterte's Build, Build, Build Program, broke ground on June 8, 2018.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya and Mr. Jin Yuan, the Economic and Commercial Councillor, Embassy of the Republic of China, together with Acting Regional Irrigation Manager Constancio G. Bana-ay, Jr., Acting Project Manager Roland V. Apaga, Cagayan Governor Manuel N. Mamba, Kalinga Governor Jocel C. Baac, Congressman Allan Jesse Mangaoang of the Lone District of Kalinga, and Pinococ Barangay Captain Saturnino B. Tamdog, led the ceremonial groundbreaking in Sitio Karaw, Pinococ, Pinukpuk, Kalinga.

The project components include the construction of Pump House in Katabbogan, Pinukpuk, Kalinga, appurtenant structures, installation of six units of electric motor-driven pumps with an individual capacity of 3,000 liters per second, 30 kilometers of transmission line, construction of two conveyance tunnels, 4.403 kilometers of main diversion canal, 33.596 kilometers of main canal, 100.48 kilometers of lateral canal, roads, irrigation and drainage facilities, eight kilometers of access road, and 84.387 kilometers of service roads, as well as the construction of Project Management Office in Naruangan, Tuao, Cagayan and

institutional development. CRPIP will be constructed by China CAMC Engineering Co. Ltd.

Once completed, the water delivery will be efficient and substantial to irrigate 8,700 hectares of riceland in 22 barangays of Cagayan and Kalinga, benefitting 4,350 farmers and their families. It is also projected to create 14,784 temporary jobs during project implementation and 8,700 permanent jobs when the project becomes completely operational in three years' time. Furthermore, CRPIP targets to contribute 36,217 metric tons of milled rice to the country's rice consumption, to incur \$15.57M savings from rice importation, and to yield an incremental income of P75,193/hectare/year inclusive of high value crops.

"This project is our best gift to tomorrow's China-Philippines Friendship Day", said Councillor Yuan in his message. As June 09, 2018 serves as the 43rd commemoration of the Filipino-Chinese Diplomatic Relations which was initiated in 1975, he also commended NIA for doing very efficient work in the program preparation. The ceremony was well attended by almost 2,500 farmers, more than a thousand local, national, and international dignitaries.

Governor Mamba expressed his gratefulness to President Duterte for his hometown is a recipient of

such a big project. He also encouraged his constituents to support the project because it has been a culmination of their lifelong dream.

Governor Baac, who shared that work was suspended in Kalinga PLGU to celebrate and attend the occasion, requested NIA to add more farm lands to be irrigated in Kalinga, in addition to the 1,150 hectares already included in the design plans. He appealed that if possible, since the water source is Kalinga, the benefitted area be increased to at least half of Cagayan's total service area.

Administrator Visaya said that the appeal will be one of the serious priorities that NIA will be looking into before the submission of 2019 Budget Proposal.

CRPIP is the first Chinese soft-loan funded infrastructure project in the Philippines. The scheme of development is through pumps where the water is lifted from the source, without the construction of any type of dam. Contrary to the belief of some concerned people, no areas will be submerged. 🏗️



UNITED. Officials of the Philippine Government and People's Republic of China make a united show of a clenched fist, which is the campaign slogan of President Duterte connotating change. Relative to the project, the Duterte fist is a symbolism of commitment and integrity during the implementation of the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project.



CEREMONIAL SWITCHING ON. (From Left to Right) Administrator Visaya, Chico RPIP Acting Project Manager Roland Apaga, and Acting Director Constancio Bana-ay, Jr. shows the parts and scheme of the CRPIP Diorama Model to Councillor Yuan after it was switched on.

BULO SRIP: ANOTHER PROJECT OPENED

■ Margarette P. Abella, Administrative Assistant, Designated PRO, SRIP - PMO

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya spearheaded the ground breaking and capsule laying of P990.37-million Bulu Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (Bulu SRIP) Project Management Office (PMO) at Barangay Kalawakan, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan on April 30, 2018. With him are SRIP-PMO Project Manager, Engr. Ferdinand G. Sales, NIA Region 3 Manager, Engr. Josephine B. Salazar, Engineering and Operations Division Manager, Engr. Virgilio J. Ilao, and Public Affairs and Information Staff Manager, Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez.

The project aims to increase the agricultural productivity of the province to further improve and respond to the welfare of the beneficiaries. Over 500 local farmers will benefit from the project through the irrigation of 35 and 535 hectares of agricultural lands at Kalawakan, DRT and Malibay, San Miguel, Bulacan, respectively.

The said event was attended by officials and distinguished guests, namely: Hon. Lorna C. Silverio, Representative of the 2nd District of Bulacan and official members of the Irrigators Associations (IAs).

The highlight of the event which was the laying of the capsule started at nine in the morning followed by a simple program which lasted until 12:00 noon. After the program, the Administrator and other key NIA officials were interviewed by the media regarding the project and other possible projects that would take place.

NIA is now ascertaining its vital contribution to the inclusive socio-economic growth and agricultural development of the country through an efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation service to the Filipino farmers. 🏗️



**"We celebrate because we acknowledge the major significance of irrigation to our nation. We rejoice because NIA recognizes such significance by being committed to its mission."
- Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya**

NIA @ 55: TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES INTO INFINITE OPPORTUNITIES

■ Pops Marie A. Santos-Dadea, Public Relations Officer, PAIS-CO

“We celebrate because we acknowledge the major significance of irrigation to our nation. We rejoice because NIA recognizes such significance by being committed to its mission”, Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya said as he officially opens the Agency’s 55th Anniversary Celebration.

NIA’s 55th Anniversary fete was celebrated throughout the NIA regional and project management offices nationwide. Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya said during last year’s celebration that all NIAns should feel our Agency’s anniversary, not just each regions representative in sports competition, the chorale group, and the dancers that are joining the festivities at the Central Office.

“This week is dubbed as the irrigation week. It could have been a week-long celebration as the National Irrigation Administration turns 55, but it is more frugal to hold its celebration in just one day”, Visaya added during the June 18, 2018 Flag Raising Ceremony and opening of the Agency’s anniversary.

The Irrigation Chief’s message was simultaneously heard throughout the NIA Offices nationwide through live streaming. This was also to acknowledge the importance and hard work of field offices as the forerunners in achieving the past year’s accomplishment and also to challenge all NIA official and employees in the years to come.



Special Events



After the Agency's Flag Raising Ceremony, Central Office employees flocked the NIA grounds to witness the unveiling of the NIA 3D Letter Standee. Joining Administrator Visaya were 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.



Employees wasted no time to have their selfies and groupies with the newly unveiled NIA 3D Letter Standee.



JUNE 19, 2018

"FUN GAMES"



THANKSGIVING MASS

JUNE 20, 2018

A thanksgiving mass started the day to give praise and glory to the Father for giving NIA another year to celebrate, to conquer, and to transform new challenges into infinite opportunities. It started at nine in the morning at the NIA Chapel officiated by Fr. John Crisostomo. After the mass, Fr. John, together with Administrator Visaya, Senior Deputy Administrator Bagasin, Deputy Administrators Sulaik and Gan, some regional and department managers, and some C.O. employees, joined in the blessing of our new NIA bus, covered court, and the Operations Room. These three are the recent improvement of our services.



BLESSING



PROGRAM PROPER



NIA's 55th Founding Anniversary program started at three in the afternoon with no less than Cabinet Secretary Leoncio "Jun" B. Evasco, Jr. as the guest of honor. Secretary Evasco honored NIA for a job well done, especially during this administration for big projects after big projects are having its groundbreaking and/or inaugurations. He praised our top management and whole NIA workforce for putting in the hard work, effort, and perseverance in conquering all the challenges coming the Agency's way and transforming them into opportunities that transcend into better services for the Filipinos.

In his anniversary message, Administrator Visaya proudly reported that through the Build, Build, Build Program of the Duterte Administration, big projects that haven't seen the light for the longest time have finally turned into a reality. *"Nandiyan ang Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project in Tarlac which was supposed to start in 1986, the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project in Iloilo which was stalled for 15 years, Chico River Pump Irrigation Project in Cagayan also stalled for 9 years, Ilocos Norte Irrigation Project-Phase II also stalled for 20 years. These are a few of the big projects na natulog mostly for political reasons. This time, it is the resolved of the President to give the best for the Filipino people regardless of political color",* he stated.

For his parting words, the Irrigation Chief said that we will continue to celebrate the NIA anniversary for it is a reminder of our commitment to improve the lives of the farmers and the contributions of the Agency to the agricultural sector of our country. 🇵🇭



CY 2017 NIA-PROGRAM ON AWARDS AND INCENTIVES FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE (PRAISE) AWARDEES



Department/Regional Office of the Year: **Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS)**, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija



Project Management Office of the Year: **Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project - Irrigation Component Phase II (CMIPP-IC II)**
Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija



Division/Irrigation Management Office of the Year: **South Cotabato Irrigation Management Office**, Region 12



Best Regional Employee of the Year Award: **Norma C. Cabrales** from Region 9



Best Central Office Employee of the Year Award: **Patrick R. Rillon** of the Corporate Planning Services

CY 2017 OUTSTANDING IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATIONS (NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM CATEGORY)



Villa Fuente Irrigators Association
Most Outstanding IA, NIS Category
IA President: Mr. Villamor Villarta
MARIIS



San Isidro Farmers Irrigators Association
1st Runner-up, NIS Category
IA President: Mr. Jovanil S. Combate
Davao City, Region XI

CY 2017 OUTSTANDING IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATIONS (COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM CATEGORY)



San Agustin-Ruparan Barangay Irrigation Development Assot
Hall of Fame Award, CIS Category
IA President: Mr. Mario B. Tiburcio
Digos City, Davao del Sur, Region XI



Bued CIS Dam #1 Irrigators Service Association, Inc.
Most Outstanding IA, CIS Category
IA President: Mr. Victoriano P. Petiña
La Union, Region I



Batinao, Cabacungan, Sto. Niño Irrigators Association (BACASIFIA), Inc.
1st Runner-up, CIS Category
IA President: Mr. Caraciolo O. Jaso
Compostela Valley, Region XI

CY 2017 CARP-IC MOST OUTSTANDING IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATIONS



Gravity Irrigators Service Association, Inc.
Most Outstanding CARP-IC IA
Hall of Fame Awardee
IA President: Mr. Anecito V. Darwin
Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte
Region XI



Bulacanon Irrigators Association, Inc.
Most Outstanding CARP-IC IA
Hall of Fame Awardee
IA President: Mr. Rufino C. Floresca, Sr.
Makilala, Cotabato Region XII



Linugos Farmers IA, Inc.
1st Runner-up
IA Secretary: Ms. Nilda Udarbe
Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental
Region X



Bued CIS Dam #1 Irrigators Service Association, Inc.
1st Runner-up
IA President: Mr. Victoriano P. Petiña
La Union, Region I

TRANSITION / 1ST SURVEILLANCE AUDIT BY A THIRD PARTY TOWARDS ISO 9001:2015

■ Eden Victoria C. Selva, Public Relations Officer IV - CO

As early as January this year, the Agency has been preoccupied with the preparations for the QMS Certification Audit by the 3rd Party Certifying Body, AJA Registrars Inc. The effort is geared towards the award of an ISO 9001:2015 Certificate. Several Teams were created within the Agency to carry out the requirements for the process. The activity was called a *Transition Audit* as NIA is moving from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015.

The ISO QMS Team of the NIA has been rallying towards ISO 9001:2015 because the ISO 9001:2008 will expire by September 23, 2018. Normally, there is a transitional period of three years after the publication of each new version of ISO 9001. This period provides the organizations a period to adapt their quality management to match the latest version. Organizations must therefore implement the new ISO 9001:2015 standard before September 23, 2018 in order to continue complying with ISO 9001.

ISO 9001 is the world's most popular and most commonly used standard for quality management systems.

According to Luc Marivoet¹, a “*standard is not a law, but an agreement or best practice that an organization can apply voluntarily and which reflects a good level of professionalism*”. A Quality Management System (QMS) is an instrument with which an organization can determine how it can meet the requirements of its customers and the other relevant interested parties that are involved in its activities.

An ISO 9001 Quality Management System: *(sourced from handouts of ISO trainings)*

- shows that you provide products and services of consistent quality;
- shows that you provide products and services that meet the customer's requirements, comply with the law and legislation, and meet the organization's own requirements;
- can help you streamline your business processes and continuously improve them;
- helps you increase customer satisfaction;
- is positive for your image: you show that you comply with internationally recognised quality standards. This is often a requirement for customers and suppliers to do business with you.

The first three clauses in ISO 9001:2015 are largely the same as those in ISO 9001:2008, but there are considerable differences between ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 9001:2015 from the fourth clause onwards. The last seven clauses are now arranged according to the PDCA cycle (Plan, Do, Check, Act). Clauses 4, 5, 6, and 7 of ISO 9001:2015 come under PLAN, Clause 8 comes under DO, Clause 9 comes under CHECK, and Clause 10 is covered by ACT.

ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 9001:2015 also use different terminologies as is reflected in the succeeding table.

ISO 9001:2008	ISO 9001:2015
Products	Products and Services
Documentation, Quality Manual, Documented Procedures, Records, and Instructions	Documented Information
Work Environment	Environment for the Operation of Processes
Monitoring and Measuring Equipment	Monitoring and Measuring Resources
Purchased Product	Externally Provided Products and Services
Supplier	External Provider

¹quality expert of Pauwels Consulting which assists companies in setting up and monitoring quality systems

ISO 9001 is managed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in Geneva, Switzerland. ISO is an independent membership organization and the world's largest developer of voluntary international standards. However, ISO does not provide certification or conformity assessment which is performed by accredited certification bodies like AJA Registrars Incorporated.

A new version of ISO 9001 appears about every seven years. The most recent ISO 9001:2015 standard is constructed around seven quality management principles:

1. *customer focus,*
2. *leadership,*
3. *engagement of people,*
4. *process approach,*
5. *improvement,*
6. *evidence-based decision making, and*
7. *relationship management.*

Comparing the clauses ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 9001:2015, the differences are:

ISO 9001:2008	ISO 9001:2015
0. Introduction	0. Introduction
1. Scope	1. Scope
2. Normative Reference	2. Normative Reference
3. Terms and Definitions	3. Terms atd Definitions
4. Quality Management System	4. Context of the Organization
5. Management Responsibility	5. Leadership
6. Resource Management	6. Planning
7. Product Realization	7. Support
8.Measurement, Analysis, and Improvement	8. Operation
	9. Performance Evaluation
	10. Improvement

The most awaited day was June 26-27, 2018, when the 3rd party audit team AJA Registrars Inc., composed of Mr. Melvin Grueso (TL), Ms. Merian Domingo, Mr. Nicanor Altares, and Ms. Thea Santiago came to NIA for the Audit proceedings. The first body to be audited was the NIA Top Management who were a paramount example of team work as each answered confidently the questions thrown by the Auditors. The show of support was very evident. The remaining hours of the day was spent on the audit of each office. After all the offices were audited, the Audit Team held a private audit process meeting. A closing meeting was held early in the evening where the audit findings from the other areas (UPRIIS Head Office, Region 4A, and Quezon IMO) and that of the Central Office were shared to the NIA Top Management and Department Managers. The result gave the NIAns a great relief and fulfillment for a job well done as there were only eight Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) and one minor Non Conformity (NC). The NC which was shared by all audited offices was that of Clause 7.5 of ISO 9001:2015, *“All documented information must go under proper review and approval procedures to ensure it is fit for its intended purpose.”*

Another basis for the NC was Clause 9.3 *“Management review - At least once a year, the top -level management must review the QMS in order to determine its:*

- Appropriateness – Does it serve its purpose and satisfy the needs of the organization?
- Adequacy – Does the QMS conform to standard requirements?
- Applicability – Are activities performed according to procedures?
- Effectiveness – Does it accomplish the planned results?

The review must evaluate possibilities for improvement and needs for changing the QMS, Quality Policy, and objectives. Considering the inputs for the management review, such as the results of the previous management reviews, changes in the context, customer satisfaction survey results, performance of the QMS and suppliers, etc., the top management must make decisions regarding opportunities for improvement, need for changes in the QMS, and resources needed for the upcoming period.”

NIA committed to address/comply with the NC in 10 days' time instead of the 30 days given as deadline by AJA. 🏢

BREAKING THE GROUND FOR IBINGAN SRIP'S EARTHFILL DAM

■ Jose E. Collantes III, Right-of-Way Officer, SRIP-PMO

The construction of much awaited efficient irrigation system is underway in Sorsogon Province as the Ibingan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the Municipality of Prieto Diaz had its Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 25, 2018.

NIA Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, together with Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero who contributed a lot in making this project approved, led the breaking of the ground and laying of the capsule for the 27.20-meter high dam with a storage capacity of 0.6592 MCM. This will cover 14 barangays of the town with a total service area of more or less 489 hectares, benefiting 584 farmers and their families.

In his message, Administrator Visaya said, “Let us together look forward to the smooth implementation of this construction. No barriers as hard as the wall of this dam to be constructed can stop NIA from doing its mission to break many new grounds for irrigation purposes.”

On the other hand, Senator Chiz, while delivering his message, recalled the efforts and enthusiasm of his father, the late Congressman Salvador Escudero III, who introduced the principle of economic development through sustainable agriculture. He is thankful that such will continue to be achieved through the construction of the Ibingan SRIP. 🇵🇭





NIA CONFERS RICE ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2017

■ **Josias M. Mercado, Public Relations Assistant A, PAIS-CO**

Now on its fifth year, the Rice Achievers Awards (RAA), an annual DA-wide event, recognizes the efforts of outstanding rice producers in the Philippines. The program is one of DA's ways of motivating and showing appreciation for institutions, groups, and individuals for their contributions in its food self-sufficiency thrust. It aims to recognize the country's top rice producers for their steadfast efforts to the inclusive growth of rice farming industry.

The RAA is given to outstanding provinces, cities/municipalities, Irrigators Associations (IAs), and Small Water Irrigation System Associations (SWISAs). In partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA) Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Technical Working Group (TWG) led the evaluation of all IAs from NIA and SWISAs. Last May 31, 2018, Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector, Engr. Bayani P. Ofrecio, Operations Manager, and some members of the NIA TWG attended the awarding ceremony at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City.

For CY 2017, seven provinces and 15 cities/municipalities were awarded with trophies and cash prizes amounting to P4 million and P1

million respectively. On the other hand, eight IAs for the national and communal irrigation system categories and three SWISAs were given recognition. Each awardee received a trophy and a check amounting to P500,000.00. Apart from provinces, municipalities and cities, IAs, and SWISAs, more than 400 agricultural extension workers and 65 local farmer technicians received prizes including P20,000.00 in cash. Special awards were also given to 15 provinces, seven IAs, and 10 SWISAs.

Under the National Irrigation System (NIS) Category of the Outstanding IAs, Kasaganahan Irrigators Association (Region 8), Molave-Mahayag Farmers Irrigators Association (Region 9), Bagong Silang Irrigators Association (Region 2), and Durian-Dacudao Irrigators Association (Region 11) were awarded. Meanwhile, the awardees for the Communal Irrigation System (CIS) Category were the United Farmers Association, Inc. (Region 11), Lalawan Sawaga Simaya Irrigators Association, Inc. (Region 10), Barbaza Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. (Region 6), and Baleguian Organic Farmers Irrigators Association, Inc. (Caraga Region).

Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, and DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol served as the Guests of Honor and Speakers for the event. 🏆

PHOTO NEWS

THE
4 RECORD



NIA Central Office – Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya takes pride in switching on the Operations Room showcasing online monitoring of projects, teleconferencing, and other modern monitoring facilities on June 18, 2018 at the Administrator's Conference Room. It is in line with Administrator Visaya's Four-Point Agenda, specifically, in instituting measures to improve the delivery of services, such as but not limited to, modernization of equipment for operations and project implementation.



NIA CAR – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted its latest Stakeholders Forum in the Province of Abra on May 30, 2018 at the Divine Word College Gymnasium, Zone 6, Bangued, Abra. The forum aims to discuss the status of irrigation development of NIA – CAR, as well as the status of the Agency's on-going and future irrigation projects.

NIA Top Management officials and staff, Irrigators Associations (IAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), Congressional Representatives of the provincial districts, Party List Representatives, some uniformed personnel, and other stakeholders attended the event.

NIA Central Office – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Top Management Officials and the executives of MAC Builders led the Contract Signing Ceremony for the construction of the P381.51-million Ibingan Earthfill Dam and its appurtenant structures under the Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) on May 15, 2018 at the Administrator's Conference Room.

Ibingan Earthfill Dam is located in the Municipality of Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon. The project includes concreting works, excavation, reinforcing steel bars, and embankment. It aims to provide substantial and timely water supply for irrigation in support to the agricultural development of the Government.





NIA Central Office – Cabinet Secretary Leoncio B. Evasco, Jr. chaired the 936th Regular Board Meeting of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on May 22, 2018 at Administrator's Conference Room. It aims to discuss different agenda, such as the detailed engineering in the Agency Budgetary Requirements (2018) and the request for the Certificate of Budget Inclusion of the Kabulnan-2 Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (K2MIPP), a multi-use infrastructure project consisting of irrigation, water supply, and hydroelectric generation facilities utilizing the potential of the Kabulnan River in Cotabato City.

The acceleration of infrastructure and development of industries is part of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's 10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda envisioned to reduce poverty from 21.6% in 2015 to 13-15% in 2022 through infrastructure platforms.



NIA Caraga Region - Heeding the move for transparency in project implementation, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) had been conducting Stakeholders Forum in all the provinces, the latest of which were in NIA - Caraga Region (Agusan Del Sur and Surigao Del Sur Irrigation Management Offices) and Cagayan De Oro (CDO) City on April 25 and April 26, 2018 respectively.

These two stakeholders fora aim to discuss the status of irrigation development of NIA – Caraga Region and CDO, as well as the status of the Agency's on-going and future irrigation projects. Capping the event was the signing of the Covenant of Support for faster and better implementation of irrigation projects and provision of sustainable and reliable irrigation service in the provinces.



NIA Region 4A – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) conducted its latest Stakeholders Forum in the Province of Batangas on June 29, 2018 at Batangas Country Club, Bolbok, Batangas City. The forum aims to discuss the status of irrigation development of NIA – Region 4A, as well as the status of the Agency's on-going and future irrigation projects.

NIA Top Management officials and staff, Irrigators Associations (IAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), Congressional Representatives of the provincial districts, some uniformed personnel, and other stakeholders attended the event

Photo News



NIA Region 1 – Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya visits NIA Region 1 for the second time since his appointment early last year. After warmly received by regional officials and employees headed by Regional Manager Vicente R. Vicmudo, the Administrator delivered an impromptu speech, highlighting the Agency's high-ticket projects and the status of irrigation development nationwide.

In closing, he urged the cooperation of everyone to do their job well for the sake of the Filipino people. After a brief meeting with Manager Vicmudo, Administrator Visaya and party proceeded to the Province of Abra to preside a stakeholders' forum.



Kick-Off Meeting for the 17th Implementation Support Mission for the Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP)

NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building
NIA Compound, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
May 28, 2018



Management Review of the Quality Management System of the National Irrigation Administration

NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building
NIA Compound, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
May 28, 2018



NIA Central Office – The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Mission meets with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) key officials headed by Senior Deputy Administrator Abraham B. Bagasin and Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector C'zar M. Sulaik to establish possible partnership in irrigation development on May 23, 2018 at Administrator's Conference Room.

NIA, as the lead government agency mandated to develop all possible sources of water for irrigation, continues to uphold its mission of providing efficient and reliable irrigation services to Filipino farmers through the acceleration of infrastructure and development of farming industry.



NIA Central Office – Senior Deputy Administrator (SDA) Abraham B. Bagasin leads the oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected Board of Trustees (BoT) and officers of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (NIASLAI) on May 09, 2018 at the Administrative Department Conference Room. The said ceremony is in line with Administrator Visaya's Four-Point Agenda, particularly, in the development of human resources.



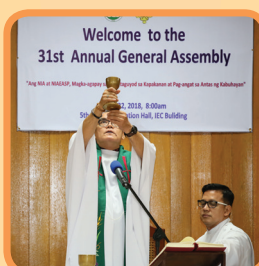
NIA Central Office – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Top Management Officials headed by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya led the signing of the Budget Partnership Agreement (BPA) with Mr. Raul Socrates Banzuela, National Coordinator of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) and Mr. Arze Glipo, Executive Director of the Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF) on April 04, 2018 at Administrator's Conference Room. BPA is an agreement between NIA and civil society organizations (CSOs) defining the roles, duties, responsibilities, schedules, expectations, and limitations in the participation of CSO in budget preparation and in the execution, monitoring, and evaluation of specific projects and programs of the Agency. It aims to institutionalize citizens' participation as a component of the National Government's budget process, anchored on transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilization of public funds.



NIA Central Office – In a simple ceremony, Administrator Ricardo R Visaya administers the Oath-taking of the newly elected officers of the Society of Irrigation and Drainage Design Engineers of the Philippines (SIDDEP) of the National Irrigation Administration on May 21, 2018 at the Administrator's Conference Room. In line with his Four-Point Agenda, the Administrator perceived the event as another step in developing the human resources as the best asset of the Agency.



Orientation on ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System
National Irrigation Administration - Central Office
NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building
NIA Compound, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City



The 31st Annual General Assembly of the National Irrigation Administration Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP)
NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, IEC Building
NIA Central Office, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
June 22, 2018 (Friday)

IT'S TIME TO GO

■ Augustrese S. Torres, Division Manager, Systems Management Division, OD

The members of the graduating class of the retirees Batch 2018 will bid goodbye to our dear institution, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), after being public servants for most, if not all, of our productive years. We entered NIA when it was just in its early years.

Some of us will leave just a faint footmark of the many years of service to the Agency, while others who managed to set a unique standard in the government service will have their names mentioned once in a while. We should be proud of ourselves on whatever contribution we have left behind, worthwhile or petty. We should be proud that we have survived the test of time. Walk your path with pride. Here at Central Office, about 26 staff will leave and transfer the baton of leadership to a much younger generation. The phenomenon of compulsory retirement of the Agency's more experienced employees is happening in all irrigational offices nationwide. It is indeed time to go.

This is a welcome opportunity for me to bid farewell as I come close to my day of retirement from public service which is on August 1, 2018 to be exact. First of all, I would like to share with you a note from a friend, "On the Day of Your Retirement". The opening statement says:

"As you enter the threshold of your journey to a new life, I am equally saddened for I am convinced that NIA will be losing a capable captain in its ranks. We have witnessed your 43 years of government service with exceptional devotion and enthusiasm in resolving issues in the office and even in the field which are enviable and yet contagious.

Unlike others, who failed to meet the age limit of retirement, and succumbed early, you are fortunate to have a strong and healthy body, punctuated by a boyish look. This will carry you further in the horizon.

Retirement should not be the right term. We know your interest with NIA is unbounded. The people you worked with and the farmers you served shall continue to linger in your mind. It shall only be the beginning of a new profession, relationship with NIA in a different dimension.

Your service with the government might have ended, but your service with the humanity may just be blooming, that gift of wisdom should be allowed to radiate, for the benefit of larger audience of your community.

*Your community earnestly awaits you. No more listing of generated and irrigated areas, but how much you **generate inspiration** to others, working for a common cause.*

*The parishes where you belong have opened their doors for your arrival. No more concern of the cropping intensity, but your **intensity to influence** the purification of others religiously.*

*And finally, your family is waiting for you with open arms. Instead of thinking on collection efficiency, it should be the **recollection of the memories, moments, and sacrifices** of your family when you were out on official business, to serve the greater number of Filipinos. From our end, we wish you good luck and surely we will be missing you. Thank you!*

I can only say, "Salamat kaibigan, for your heart-warming 'NOTE', and I am very much grateful for that.



And now, it's time to say thank you, to our alma mater, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

Thank you for the numerous **opportunities**, for the **professional development** and for the **personal growth** that this Agency provided me over the past 43 years. I have enjoyed working with NIA and appreciate the **learnings** and **support** extended to me during my tenure.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the past and present management on the memorable span of time we work together and to my co-workers and staff for all the support. I feel **fulfilled** in spending a great part of my lifetime and will ever cherish the memory of my association with you and be a part of this Agency. I hope and wish NIA more success.

While I look forward to the next chapter of my life and **enjoying my retirement**, I will surely miss the work and all my colleagues in NIA.

IT'S TIME TO GO. I would like to leave quietly, slowly, and unnoticed.

The LORD is good. Let us give thanks and praise to HIM, all the time!

Maraming salamat po. 🙏



CHARACTER AND REPUTATION

■ Jane B. Huqueriza, Public Relations Officer A, NIA-Caraga

We often judge the person on the way he acts, talks, and even in his style. But what really matters is he how handles it. According to Dwight Lyman Moody, *"If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of me"*.

It is always an emotional battle to maintain a good reputation as one needs to set standards and rules for oneself. Even when we were young, our parents reminded us how to behave properly especially in front of others and punished us if we were acting against their will.

Reputation is what people think of us. Ideally, we should look up to personalities who set high-quality standard and good example to our society. In this modern world, technologies and social media have become the biggest sources of information. Whether they are reliable or not, we still tend to have confidence on them. Some of us are inclined to idolize not the person's character, but his physical attributes and talents even though his behavior has already shattered his reputation.

Each of us has built foundations where our present person is molded. Our character, as defined in Oxford Dictionary, is the mental and moral qualities distinctive to individual. This is why we put more time and effort to enhance our character. Past mistakes and challenges are part of our character but these are guides so that we may transform them into opportunities.

Government employees are not exempted as they are expected to act according to R.A. No. 6713 - Code of Conduct & Ethical Standard for public officials & employees. Moreover, R.A. No. 6966 Sec. 4 dictates the qualifications of Board Members which state that each member must be of good reputation and moral character. It really points out that it is essential that they must possess these qualifications to be considered.

"Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow", once said by famous US President Abraham Lincoln. Therefore, let our trees always project the shadow which will give comfort and peace to the people around us. 🌳

INEFFECTIVE VERSUS EFFECTIVE EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND THE BUSINESS IMPACT

Ineffective Supervisors Employee Management Skills	Successful Supervisors Employee Management Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Avoid difficult workplace issues★ Have zero credibility and respect of staff★ Make poor hiring decisions = hire the wrong employees time and time again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Address difficult employee situations with confidence – from basic tardiness issues to firing problem employees★ Understand how to identify and fix employee morale issues 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Aren't able to recognize when their employees are unhappy★ Are afraid of firing problem employees★ Have high employee turnover – especially of their best employees★ Open the company up to legal problems from disgruntled current and former staff  	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Don't waste time and money hiring the wrong candidate time and time again.★ Understands how to coach, mentor, and encourage employees and teams to do their best work★ Have employees who are excited about working for them = higher productivity, less workplace drama  