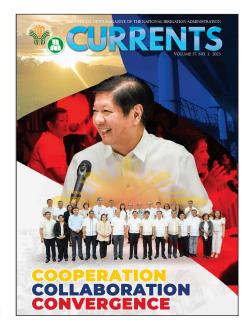


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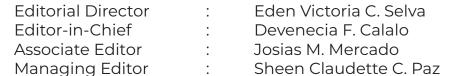


ABOUT THE COVER

The cover of NIA Currents 1st Semester 2023 highlights President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. during the Rice Industry Convergence Meeting on May 31, 2023 at NIA Central Office.

Holding the highest position of the land, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. serves as the country's navigator towards agricultural growth and sustainable development. Indeed, an inspiration for every Filipino to take part in nation-building.

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Editor's Note

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) once faced controversies as issues on alleged graft and corruption were raised in the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee. The probe conducted by the Committee focused on allegations against several anomalous infrastructure projects of NIA costing millions of Pesos. Identified irrigation projects include among others Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project-Phase II (BBMP-II), Bulo SRIP in Bulacan, Marimay SRIP, Dumuloc SRIP, and Balbalungao SRIP. The Agency was even held responsible on floodings that occurred during Typhoons Egay and Falcon which devastated several towns of Bulacan. It was said that the Agency failed to coordinate with the Local Government Unit of Bulacan when dam water was released.

As issues are still pending hearing and resolution in the Senate, it is best not to dwell on the legal and other intricacies of the allegations against the Agency. We leave these to the hands of the experts hoping that "truth will set us free", as the saying goes.

But rather, supported by detailed facts and documentary proofs of accomplishment, the Agency's Top Management spearheaded by its Acting Administrator, Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen never failed to uplift the spirit of each NIAns as he continuously faced controversies without fear or distraught. Bombarded with allegations of corruption committed by previous administrators, Engr. Guillen, altruistically responded and defended the Agency

against those who intended to malign its image and besmirch its existence for the past 60 years. His experience in the public service and being an Engineer by profession, Administrator Guillen, had a full grasped of NIA's significant role in the agricultural sector. From the time he was appointed as Acting Administrator up to the present, his administration is always in the limelight. Whether allegations of corruption or advocacies on the betterment of lives of Filipino farmers, Engr. Guillen, had remarkably stand still and upholds the very existence of NIA.

Fellow NIAns, we are in the midst of controversies and allegations of corruption. These are not new to us as it has become part of NIA's "life". Taunted with issues of ghost irrigation projects, through the years, our leaders have fiercely combatted this battle via all forms of media. We know what is the truth. We know what is the fact. We know what is only a gossip and mockery of the fact. Let us put our trust, confidence, and support on our incumbent Acting Administrator Engr. Guillen as he endures the hullabaloos of corruption lingering our beloved Agency. In silence, we will share on this battle of controversies by doing our tasks productively and efficiently. We will continue to serve our farmer clientele with the end goal of uplifting their lives. Shrugged off all negativities of corruption and with ONE VOICE... ONE ASPIRATION...let us work hand in hand with our Acting Administrator Engr. Guillen...let us bring back the glory of NIA, free from controversies of corruption!

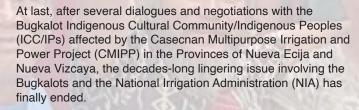


NIA, BUGKALOT DISPUTE NOW SETTLED









On February 8, 2023, posters from the Bugkalot Indigenous Cultural Community/Indigenous Peoples were displayed in one of its barricades as a show of support to the efforts of the NIA and PSALM that resulted to a positive development in this long-lingering issue.

Successful negotiation NIA, PSALM, BADEMC. Thank you, NIA Administrator Mr. Eddie Guillen!!!" shows in one of its posters.

All these are offshoot of the dialogue led by Acting Administrator Guillen on January 21, 2023 that bring about a signed resolution of the Bugkalot ICC/IPs on the continuous good relationship and partnership between the NIA, PSALM, and Soosan Ens Co. for the ensured operation of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP) and to finally settle requests of the Bugkalots.

Under the leadership of Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen, the Bugkalot ICC/IPs voluntarily opened the barricades to the CMIPP in Barangay Pelaway, Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya on February 13, 2023 after the successful negotiation among the Bugkalot Ancestral Domain



Environmental Management Council (BADEMC), Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), and the NIA, with the assistance of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Prior to this, the impacted Bugkalots received the advance payment of Disturbance Fee from the NIA and PSALM pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Corporate Social Responsibility. This is part of the NIA and the Bugkalot IPs agreements to finally settle concerns and requests over the operation of the CMIPP situated within their ancestral domain. Continuing coordination between the NIA and the BADEMC is ongoing to ensure resolution to all issues surrounding the Bugkalots and CMIPP.

"Ang buong Bugkalot ay nagpapaabot ng isang marubdob na pasasalamat sa ating mahal na Pangulo Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. na pag-upo sa Malacañang, binigyan agad ng direktiba ang NIA, PSALM, at NCIP para i-ayos ang gusot dito sa ating lugar na Casecnan. Hindi po tumagal, hindi po umabot ng isang taon na panunungkulan, tayo pong mga Bugkalot ay pinatawag at binigyang-pansin ng ahensiya ng National Irrigation Administration at ng PSALM. Napansin po ang ating hinaing. Kami po ay nagpapasalamat ng sobra-sobra at umaapaw sa mga nakikita po naming programa ng gobyerno na nagbigay sa amin ng muling pag-asa para ang aming mga matagal nang inaasahan at nagkaroon ng kaliwanagan", BADEMC Chairman Daniel P. Pasigian said.

As the Agency ensures the protection of dam integrity for public safety and unhampered delivery of irrigation service, NIA, headed by Acting Administrator Engr. Eddie G. Guillen, makes sure that the welfare of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples is also a priority.



The construction of the P664.75-million
Bayuyan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project
(Bayuyan SRIP) officially started as NIA Acting
Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen
led the Groundbreaking and Capsule-Laying
Ceremony of the project on March 16, 2023 at
the Gatekeeper's Quarters, Barangay Bayuyan,
President Roxas, Capiz.

As the biggest irrigation project of NIA in the Province of Capiz by far, Bayuyan SRIP covers 594 hectares of agricultural land on eight barangays in the Municipality of President Roxas, namely, Bayuyan, Badiangon, Culilang, Goce, Carmencita, Cubay, Ibaca, and Sto. Niño. With 540 farmer-beneficiaries, the project is expected to be completed by December 2025. Aside from the provision of year-round irrigation to the local farming communities, the project will provide other incidental benefits, such as flood control, environmental and watershed management, agro-tourism promotion, and aquaculture development, among others.

Present during the event were NIA Deputy
Administrator for Engineering and Operations
Sector Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, NIA Region
VI Manager Engr. Rory F. Avance, JRMPII Project Manager Engr. Jonel B. Bores,
Aklan-Capiz Irrigation Management Office
(IMO) Division Manager Engr. Raymond
B. Mojares, representatives from different
National Government Agencies (NGAs), and
Local Government Units (LGUs), NIA regional
employees, Irrigators Association (IA) officers
and members, farmers, and media partners.



NIA OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS DOORS TO PPP

The collaboration between NIA and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center to maximize the utilization of NIA's assets and irrigation projects has officially started as NIA Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen and PPP Center Executive Director Ma. Cynthia Hernandez signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on March 29, 2023 at NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Central Office.

The partnership of NIA and PPP Center aims to maximize the technical services of the latter in terms of NIA's capacity-building for the utilization of various PPP modalities for irrigation projects. Primarily, the partnership aims to obtain the optimal value of NIA's resources through PPP, and to engage on other financial and revenue-generating activities that will strengthen the Agency's viability as a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC).

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. aims to revitalize the country's irrigation sector. Thus, NIA eyes Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to fast-track irrigation development which will further sustain the irrigation needs of greater Filipino farmers and will ultimately answer the President's call to strengthen food security.









In support to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s battlecry for unity to achieve lasting peace that paves the way for national progress and the Department of Agriculture (DA) Food Security Program, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), under the leadership of Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen, fast-tracks the completion of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project – Stage II (MMIP-II) in the Municipality of Pikit, North Cotabato. Despite numerous challenges on peace and order, security, and natural calamities, the project is expected to be completed by December 2023.

Together with Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik and

NIA Region XII officials, Acting Administrator Guillen personally looked into the project site of MMIP II at Liguasan Marsh, Pikit, North Cotabato on February 10, 2023, an area rarely visited by national government officials. He talked to its residents on the positive impacts upon the completion of MMIP II in their way of living and later on met with the Irrigators Association (IA) Presidents and members of the project wherein the NIA Chief highlighted the importance of the farmer-irrigators' support and cooperation in the realization of the MMIP-II.

With 88.06% overall physical accomplishment as of January 15, 2023, the P5.133-billion MMIP-II which covers an area of 10,541 hectares is envisioned for the completion of the mega project including its



missionary purpose of providing livelihood income to MILF combatants and generating peace and order in the Lower Malitubog area. Scheduled for completion in 2018, various challenges slowed down the project implementation for several years.

With the goal to complete this 'peace project' in 2022, MMIP-II was reinforced by NIA Region XII, spearheaded by Regional Manager Engr. Diosdado A. Rosales, with the support of the Local Government Units (LGUs), other line agencies, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The completion of this peace building irrigation project will not only improve the lives of the farmers, but also transform its areas into then battle fields to peaceful agricultural fields.

At present, residents cannot even plant corn because of the area's susceptibility to flooding. Witnessing first-hand the plight of the people in the area, Administrator Guillen believes that investing more irrigation projects in the area will surely impact the lives of more MILF combatants and families as what happened to MMIP Phase I areas.

In consonance with the 5-Point Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity Agenda of the President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. towards healing and reconciliation in the Bangsamoro, NIA Administrator Guillen, aims to implement another P2.1-billion worth of irrigation project in the Lower Malitubog area to irrigate about 800 hectares of additional agricultural land. This coincides to the directive to prioritize, intensify, and accelerate the implementation of development initiatives such as irrigation facilities for the improvement of BARMM. With the objective of promoting peace and the spirit of bayanihan, NIA continues its irrigation development thrust on war zone areas.

Once this project is realized, it will further boost the agricultural productivity in the area that would redound to achieving peace and order and socioeconomic development and ultimately improve the lives of our farmers in this part of Central Mindanao. Indeed, a legacy of peace and economic growth for the nation.





NIA CONFERS WWD.PH 2023 Awards to Outstanding IAs

As part of the Culminating Activity of the World Water Day Philippines (WWD.PH) 2023, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), under the leadership of Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen, confers the WWD.PH 2023 Awards to Outstanding Irrigators Associations (IAs) on March 22, 2023 at the SMX Convention Center, Function Room 1, SMX Convention Center, Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia (MOA) Complex, Pasay City.

Organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), and Maynilad Water Services, Inc., WWD.PH Awards is a platform for honoring champions for water and environment that made strides in achieving water and water-environment sustainability in the Philippines. As an active water partner, NIA sponsored three Most Outstanding IA Awards: 1) Most Outstanding NIS IA which was conferred to Makabilog Maynabo Tambo IA of Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, UPRIIS, 2) Most Outstanding CIS IA which was bestowed to San Agustin San Luis IA of San Luis, Pampanga, Region III, and 3) Most Outstanding CARP-IC IA which was given to Bayawan United Farmers Irrigators Association (BUFIA), Inc. of Negros Oriental, Region VII.

DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, NWRB Executive Director Sevillo David, Jr., Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez, River Basin Control Officer (RBCO) Executive Director Nelson Gorospe, NIA Region III Manager Engr. Josephine B. Salazar, NIA UPRIIS Department Manager Engr. Rosalinda B. Bote, CARP-IC IDD Manager Ricardo C. Lopez, BUFIA President Bernard A. Duhaylungsod, Makabilog Maynabo Tambo IA President Rolando R. Maniquis, San Agustin San Luis IA President Romeo T. Malonzo, Acting Chief of IAOCBS-IDD Maricel M. Del Rosario, NIA UPRIIS Division III Manager Engr. Elenita L. Toquero, Pampanga-Bataan (PamBat) IMO Manager Engr. Isabelito V. Bitangcol, Supervising Institutional Development Officer Maria Theresa C. Lee, Institutional Development Officer Corsine P. Infiesto, and officials and delegates from different water agency partners are present in the event. ∞













NIA Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen led the inauguration of the newly rehabilitated Padada River Irrigation System (Padada RIS) located in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, along with Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du, NIA Region XI Manager Engr. Jimmy L. Apostol, and Davao del Sur IMO Division Manager Engr. Dexter F. Tinapay.

Padada RIS is one of the National Irrigation Systems (NISs) of Davao del Sur and the oldest in the Region. It has a service area of 3,512 hectares planted with rice and banana, benefitting 2,249 farmers and their families. Representing the farmers during the inauguration is Mr. Allan M. Abillion, President of the Padada RIS Federation of Irrigators Association.

Likewise, as a strong gesture of support of the local government, Davao del Sur Lone District Representative John Tracy F. Cagas, and Hagonoy Acting Mayor Jesus Jay S. Dureza were also present at the event.

With a total project cost of P202.813 million for the rehabilitation, the major works included foundation treatment, downstream apron extension, upstream section modification, outlet work protection works, among others which started from September 2021 and was completed in January 2023.

NIA SUPPORTS MASAGANA RICE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



WELCOME
HIS ENCELLENCY
FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.
President of the Republic of the Philippines
RICE INDUSTRY
CONVERGENCE MEETING
NATIONAL REMATING AMOUNTATION
15 MAY 26**

15 MAY 26**





President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., as concurrent Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary, lead the Convergence Meeting for Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP) on May 31, 2023 at NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Central Office.

Together with the various heads of agencies, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen expressed his support to the agricultural industry's thrust toward food sufficiency and food security as the NIA remains committed to its mandate of providing quality irrigation services nationwide.

"The NIA vigorously pursues irrigation infrastructure projects nationwide as it is one of our opportunities for Wealth Creation for our farmers, the agricultural sector, and our country", Administrator Guillen highlighted in his message.

As Food Security is the top-notch priority in the President's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda, the Department of Agriculture's Masagana Rice Industry Development Program was formulated with the objective of raising the level of production of important commodities including rice and strengthening the value chain from the farmers up to the consumers. The convergence initiative aimed to pool resources, share knowledge, and coordinate efforts to achieve sustainable rice production and uplift the lives of our farmers by increasing their income.

The cooperation, collaboration, and convergence of the different stakeholders, such as national government agencies (NGAs), legislators, research institutions, Irrigators Associations (IAs), and the private sector is deemed vital for an integrated plans, program, and projects in advancing agricultural productivity of the country. During the Rice Industry Convergence Meeting, the MRIDP targets to reach 97.5% rice sufficiency in the country by 2028.

This resulted to strengthening of ties through signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) between the Department of Agriculture and its agencies, NIA and DPWH, and with the private sector such as Nature Tech Innovation Group and Go Negosyo. All these convergence initiatives towards the effective implementation of the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program for rice sufficiency and food security.

President Marcos emphasized modernization and innovation in the agriculture sector to attract the youth into farming and agribusiness. "Napag-usapan din natin, speaking of new technologies, is bringing down the average age of the Filipino farmer. And to do that, again, we engage them with new technologies because they will be the ones who will operate those systems, those new technological systems. And that will make it interesting for young people to come into the sector", the President said.

NIA Top Management Officials, Central Office Department Managers and Regional Managers, attached agencies and bureaus of the DA, national government agencies (NGAs) such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Landbank of the Philippines, National Food Authority (NFA), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), members of the House of Representatives, Irrigators Associations (IAs), and the private sector attended the said convergence meeting.

"Kaya natin ginagawa ito, hindi lamang para mapakain natin ang buong Pilipinas pero para pagandahin natin ang buhay ng ating mga magsasaka – disente naman ang buhay nila, mapag-aral nila 'yung mga anak nila", President Marcos added.

As President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. approved the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program, the NIA assures its commitment in prioritizing the welfare of the Filipino farmers through its continued irrigation infrastructure projects nationwide.

NIA SIGNS 2 MOUS ON IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT





NIA Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen, NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Engr. Robert C. Suguitan, China Power Engineering Consulting Group International Engineering Co., Ltd. (CPECC INTL.) Vice President Zhao Jiang, and Ocean Eagle Energy Philippines, Inc. (OEEPI) President Atty. Celestino Gerald L. Cabrera signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 15, 2023 at NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building B, NIA Central Office. Basically, the MOU is directed for an efficient implementation of the Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project.

NIA's mandate includes the construction of multipurpose water resources projects designed primarily for irrigation and secondarily for hydroelectric power development. Eyed with this purpose, the Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project is already on the process of validating/reformulation of its Feasibility Study (FS) simultaneous with Detailed Engineering Design (DED).

Having the technical capacity and experience to develop infrastructure projects, OEEPI offered to work with NIA on the development of the said project. This covers from updating and validating of FS to providing the necessary technical and commercial support to secure the project's approval from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Department of Finance (DOF). It aims to expedite the process and ensure the successful project implementation.

With its connection with international financial institutions which could secure the financing required for the project implementation, CPECC INTL. would make the project not only technically feasible but also financially viable, socially acceptable, and environmentally sustainable.



On June 16, 2023, NIA Acting Administrator Engr. Guillen and Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lee Byung Ho signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on food security, disaster prevention, and climate change response at NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building B, NIA Central Office.

The MOU Signing was conducted with the objective of fostering cooperation between NIA and KRC in the development and implementation of projects related to water resource development and management, irrigation and drainage facilities improvement, and other related initiatives through Multilateral Development Bank, and Korean Government's grants and loans, among others.

KRC Chief Executive Officer Lee Byung Ho, Global Agriculture Policy Institute Chairman Lee Sang Mu, KRC General Director Kim Dong In, KRC Project Manager for JRMP-II Whang In Churl, and KRC Deputy Directors Lee Seok Chan and Choi Dong Hoon attended the MOU Signing. NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Engr. Robert C. Suguitan, and NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du were also present in the ceremony.





PUTTING EMPLOYEES FIRST:

NIA'S QUEST FOR ISO 45001:2018 CERTIFICATION
SIGNALS A STRONG FOCUS ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY









As part of the Agency's commitment in attaining its ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) Certification, the Veritas Assurance International, led by Audit Team Leader Engr. Paul C. Mondoñedo, conducted the Stage 2 Third Party Audit of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) under the leadership of Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen.

The ISO Audit is one of NIA's efforts in prioritizing the safety and welfare of its employees. The Scope of Certification includes public administration covering the provision of irrigation services through the development, construction, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems.

The Opening Meeting was held at NIA Administrator's Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building B, NIA Central Office. The Process Areas/ Functions/Requirements for the Audit of Top Management Officials include the Context of the Organization, Commitment of the Management, OHS Policy, Organizational Structure, Risk Management, OHS Management Plans and Programs, OHS Performance/Evaluation of Compliance Obligations, and Management Review. An On-site Random Sampling will used as audit methodology.

Central Office Department and Division Managers, ISO Core Team Members, and Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Team Chairpersons were present during the audit. NIA's pursuit of ISO 45001:2018 Certification attests to its commitment to promote employee well-being and safety. This third-party audit is a critical step towards achieving that goal, and it will position the agency as a leader in the industry.



THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION'S ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) proudly commemorated its 60th Founding Anniversary with a week-long jubilee aptly themed "NIA Para sa Progresibong Pilipinas." This vibrant celebration encapsulated the Agency's remarkable journey, highlighting its achievements and unwavering commitment to empower Filipino farmers. The festivities served as a powerful testament to NIA's role as a cornerstone of national progress, advancing agriculture and ensuring food security for the nation.



A VIBRANT LAUNCH AND INSPIRING WORDS SET THE STAGE

The festivities commenced with a dazzling parade, representing each NIA regional office in a spectrum of colors. Leading the ceremony was NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Engr. Robert C. Suguitan, alongside Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector and 60th Anniversary Chairperson Ralph Lauren A. Du. Central Office department and division managers, regional/project managers, and employees from nationwide field offices joined the vibrant event.

In his opening remarks, Engr. Suguitan emphasized the historic significance of this Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, urging NIA employees to reflect on the Agency's accomplishments and their profound contributions to national progress over the years.



A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY THROUGH MILESTONES

Embracing the spirit of the anniversary theme, NIA proudly hosted the captivating "NIA Milestone Exhibit" at the NIA Convention Hall. Conceptualized by the Office of Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) led by Department Manager Eden Victoria C. Selva and with the assistance of the General Services Division, the exhibit took visitors on a captivating journey through six decades of NIA's history.

Like a life-giving river, NIA has flowed for 60 years, irrigating hope and prosperity for Filipino farmers and the nation. Now, they set their sights on new horizons, determined to unlock a torrent of achievements, and build enduring milestones in irrigation service.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CELEBRATION: RECOGNITION, GRATITUDE, AND INSPIRATION

A standout event was the NIA Singing Idol Competition on June 19, 2023, graced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar as the Guest of Honor and Speaker. Senator Villar lauded NIA's dedication to serving farmers and shared her vision for advancing Philippine agriculture.

The Anniversary Mass on June 20, 2023, presided over by Rev. Fr. Jerry Orbos and organized by the NIA Catholic Community, symbolized heartfelt gratitude for 60 years of fruitful service.

On June 21, 2023, Senator Imee Marcos commendably highlighted the profound historical importance of Irrigation Development in the Philippines, citing key milestones such as the iconic Banaue Rice Terraces and the construction of the Magat Dam in the 1970s. In a fervent call to action, she challenged the NIA to expedite project implementation, consolidate irrigators associations into cohesive farmers' cooperatives, and embark on new large-scale irrigation initiatives, aiming to inaugurate another golden age in this vital sector. Senator Marcos's impassioned plea for sustained innovation and expansion serves to underscore the pivotal role of irrigation in propelling agricultural progress, promising a hopeful trajectory for the future as the nation commemorates six decades of NIA's unwavering service.

The Anniversary Toast delivered on June 22, Deputy Administrator Ralph Lauren A. Du urged all NIA employees to persist in their wholehearted dedication to Filipino farmers, stressing the pivotal importance of unity in propelling the agricultural sector forward.

The festivities were further enlivened by the Announcement of the Outstanding Irrigators Associations, the bestowal of the NIA PRAISE Award, and the presentation of the NIA Hymn, NIA Digital Short Film, and 4th NIA National Photography Competition, infusing the celebration with vibrant energy.

Both the NIA Short Film Making Contest and the 4th NIA National Photography Competition, revolving around the theme "Tubig. Lupa. Tao." (Water. Land. People.) were designed to raise awareness about the interconnectedness between humanity, nature, and irrigation, adding depth and purpose to the event.

LOOKING FORWARD: A LEGACY OF DEDICATION AND PROGRESS

As NIA reflects on its 60 years of service, it remains steadfast in its mission of providing efficient, reliable, and sustainable irrigation services to support the nation's farmers and contribute to the overall progress of the Philippines. The celebration not only honored the past but also set the stage for a future marked by continued excellence and dedication to the agricultural landscape of the nation.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON PIDDIG'S BEST PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Piddig is a municipality located in the eastern part of Ilocos Norte Province. The main sources of income for its residents are agriculture, fishery, livestock, and forestry. During Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen's tenure as Municipal Mayor, the poverty rate in Piddig decreased significantly from 20.79 percent to 5.59 percent. Thanks to the successful implementation of the Convergence Initiative Project. Its success can be attributed to the support of national government organizations and the cooperation of local farmers. Recognized as one of the topperforming local government units, Piddig serves as an example of how agricultural projects can be scaled up with the right factors in place.

As part of Administrator Guillen's 7-Point Strategic Policy Agenda. the Institutional Development Division (IDD), headed by Acting Division Manager Martin T. Tacloban, organized a Knowledge Exchange on Piddig's Best Practices in Agricultural Development in March and April 2023. The activity was conducted in four separate batches, each with a specific schedule. Participants included implementers of institutional and technical development, Public Relations Officers (PROs), and Regional Irrigators Association (IA) presidents from various regions across the country.

This activity involved discussions with the Piddig Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU), the Piddig Basi Multipurpose Cooperative (PBMC), and the Zanjeras IA. It also included a field visit to observe and learn about best practices in the area. The objective was to identify and learn strategies that IDP Implementers and IA Presidents can utilize to guide farmers towards more efficient and modernized agricultural technology.



Piddig takes pride as the only town in the Ilocos Norte with its own radio station, DWCI (105.1 FM). This serves as the community station of the town of Piddig.



The Department of Agriculture (DA) handed over the Rice Processing Complex II in July 2015, since its inception, farmer-members have benefited from higher market prices for their produce while also providing consumers with an affordable and easily accessible supply of locally produced rice.



Coffee roasting facility is located at the sunflower farm. With the development of approximately 1,200 hectares of high-quality Arabica, Excelsa, and Liberica coffee plantations, the local government unit in Piddig launched the country's first and largest coffee convergence program.



Participants were able to visit the Bonga Pump No. 1 IA, Inc. headed by Mr. Oscar Aguilar. It is known as one of the Most Outstanding IA - NIS Category.



The day tour started at the Office of Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU) of Piddig where the staff introduce their projects and programs beneficial to its people which is the Convergence Initiative Project.



An AVP entitled "The Heart of Piddig" exhibits a collective accomplishment of Convergence Initiative Project, such as significant progress in promoting economic growth, reducing poverty, and enhancing food security.



Piddig Sunflower Farm offers a stunning landscape of sunflower maze, bougainvillea, blue ternatea, roses, and assorted vegetables.



Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP) that covers over 300 hectares and benefits five barangays namely Abucay, Boyboy, Callusa, Loing and Bimmanga.



On the second day of the activity, participants visited the Madongan River Imgalion System located in Dingras, Ilocos Note, with a service area of 3,821 hoctares and 3,457 farmer beneficiaries. Because of the cascading waterfalls from the dam, the irrigation system has become one of the best tours at attractions in the province. Migrant IPs from Apayao took advantage of the opportunity to build cottages made of light branno and copin grass to rent out to visitors, which were later managed by San Marcelino IA, one of the eight IAs of the Federation of Madongan RIS. 322



President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. gave his trust and confidence to a former Municipal Mayor of Piddig, Ilocos Norte, Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen to lead the irrigation sector. The newly appointed Acting Administrator took his Oath of Office before Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin on December 9, 2022 at the Malacañang Palace, San Miguel, Manila.

With all his significant accomplishments and outstanding performance in the implementation of innovative public service delivery programs and good governance during his incumbency as Municipal Mayor, Engr. Guillen proved that he can help the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in developing sustainable irrigation systems and uplifting the lives of Filipino farmers.



BEFORE HEADING TO NIA...

Engr. Eddie Guillen holds a Civil Engineering degree from the Mapua Institute of Technology. He also took up Strategic Business Economics Program (SBEP) at the University of Asia and the Pacific in 2015 and attended the Workshop on Value-Added Agricultural Products at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office – International Cooperation and Development Fund (TECO-ICDF), Taiwan in 2017.

In 2010, Engr. Guillen was first elected as Piddig Mayor. In his first term, the poverty incidence in Piddig was reduced from 33.7 percent to 5.6 percent within less than 20 years. He also served as the Local Government Unit (LGU) Consultant on Administration and Economic Enterprise Development until 2019. During his service as consultant, Engr. Guillen served as one of the presenters in the "Festival of Best Practices" organized by the Manila-Based Local Government Academy

to highlight the best practices of local government units in the country. Furthermore in 2019, he took once again the position as Municipal Mayor where LGU Piddig became more successful in local agri-business and turned out to be globally competitive.

An active participant in various national fora as presenter and resource speaker, he took part in an international forum as well. He was one of the Philippine representatives who participated in the TECO-ICDF Workshop on Value-Added Agricultural Products exclusive for ASEAN and South Asian countries in Taiwan from June 8-27, 2017. During the workshop, he shared an extensive experience in trying to develop markets for value added products in Piddig, Ilocos Norte.

Despite being a small town, Piddig has made a tremendous impact. Engr. Guillen's expertise in local governance, sustainable and inclusive rural development, convergence initiative projects, development planning and implementation, and community organizing and institutional development made the municipality rise to the top.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HIS PLANS AND PROGRAMS...

When Engr. Eddie Guillen took the helm of National Irrigation Administration, he laid out his 7-Point Strategic Policy Agenda to guide NIA's strategic initiatives;



Irrigation Infrastructure Development to maximize its efficiency through Harmonization and Convergence;



Irrigators Association Capacity Building to promote Local Circular Economy of Agriculture through empowerment of Irrigators Association (IA) and Farm Consolidation;



Climate Smart Irrigators Association Farming System to strengthen the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture;

Monitoring and Evaluation to measure progress toward achieving specific goals and objectives of the Agency;



Management and Governance for smart National Irrigation Administration (NIA);



Capacity Building of the Human Resources for upskilling and reskilling of Human Resources Development of NIA employees; and



Strategic Communication and Advocacy to improve NIA's Strategic Communication and Public Relations with Farmers Irrigators Associations and Stakeholders.

This is anchored on NIA's strategic objective in contributing to the "Wealth Creation Capacity of Agriculture in the Philippines". It will also serve as the framework for prioritizing, programming, and implementing irrigation projects.

With all the success and favorable outcomes of his advocacies and programs during his tenure as Municipal Mayor in Piddig, Ilocos Norte, he is finally introducing "Convergence" to the National Irrigation Administration. The new NIA chief strongly believes that convergence is a holistic approach to increase rice productivity and develop irrigation projects and this initiative is a big leap and a paradigm shift in agricultural sector.



Fondly called by his colleagues as "RCS", "Uncle Bob", or "Sir Bob", Engr. Robert C. Suguitan was born in the town of Dingras, Ilocos Norte. Hesitant at first to accept the role of Senior Deputy Administrator, the second in command of the NIA Top Management, knowing how massive the responsibility is the position of SDA, NIA Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen kept pursuing RCS as he acknowledges his numerous contributions to the Agency. Finally, RCS opened a new chapter of his life as the new NIA Senior Deputy Administrator on May 3, 2023.

A Self-Made Leader..

Engr. Suguitan is a humanized meaning of the word dedication as he has been a devoted employee of NIA for over four decades. At the age of 24, he started from the bottom as Engineer trainee at UPRIIS. As time goes by, he rose through the ranks and became the Supervising Engineer. He was transferred to NIA - Special Project Staff Project Development and Implementation (NIA-SPSPDI) as Principal Engineer and later become the Project Management Officer of the same unit under the Engineering Section.

Due to his commitment, he was recognized and became the Assistant Project Manager of the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project IC (CMIPP-IC) until 2009. He was promoted to Department Manager of Internal Audit Services (IAS) for two years. His knowledge and dedication garnered him respect and admiration from his staff, peers, and his superiors, as he swiftly advanced to the position of Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector (DAEO). He retired in 2013, but rest was not an option for him. He worked as a consultant for SN Aboitiz, BBMP-II, and NIA Consult, Inc.

Goals and Commitment to NIA as Senior Deputy Administrator...

As an advocate of employee empowerment, one of his priorities is to provide trainings to NIA employees to increase the level of knowledge in their respective jobs. He firmly believed that by upgrading their skills and competencies, this will boost the capacity of the organization in discharging an efficient and effective public service to our nation. As Uncle Bob always remind NIAns, "Itanim natin sa ating puso at isipan kung ano iyong nilalaman nung sinusumpaan natin." He encourages that everyone should work together towards the attainment of the Agency's vision, mission, goals, and objectives.



NIA JOINS THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), under the leadership of Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen, joined the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the nation in commemorating the National Women's Month Celebration with 2023-2028 theme: "WE for gender equality and inclusive society."

WE stand for Women and Everyone, emphasizing the role of women and everyone in achieving gender equality and Women's Empowerment, which can be achieved only when agencies, institutions, private partners, and duty-bearers from the national to the local level provide equal rights and opportunities to women. The celebration of Women's Month provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the progress that women have made in society as well as the challenges that continue to face them.

With women and everyone in synergy, we can make gender equality a possibility! ==

















































LARISIP: FROM VISION TO COMPLETION

BY: NORIE C. SINSUAN, INFORMATION OFFICER B, NIA LARISIP

In support of the government's program for food security and inclusive growth of the climate-resilient agricultural sector, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is exploring all means to develop irrigation projects and rehabilitate existing irrigation systems in order to increase crop production.

One of the major projects that NIA envisioned to implement is the San Roque Multi-Purpose Project-Irrigation Component (SRMP-IC) in the Province of Pangasinan and some parts of Tarlac and Nueva Ecija. It envisioned to provide year-round irrigation to some 52,394 hectares and was proposed to rehabilitate three existing National Irrigation Systems (NIS), namely, Agno River Irrigation System (ARIS) with 26,850 hectares, Lower Agno River Irrigation System (LARIS) with 12,650 hectares, and the Ambayaoan-Dipalo River Irrigation System (ADRIS) with 12,894 hectares.

The Lower Agno River Irrigation System Improvement Project (LARISIP) is the third and final phase of the SRMP-IC with ARIIP and ARISEP as the first and second phase, respectively. Approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) on September 12, 2017, the Project was implemented from January 2018 to December 2022 with an objective of providing a new water source to the LARIS.

After five years of implementation, the P3.5-billion Project has finally come to completion. The closing date of LARISIP was on December 31, 2022, however an extension of six months from January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 was approved for the winding up activities involving the preparation of Project Completion Report, Project Inventory, and other preparatory works prior to change of status from Project to System.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

LARISIP is one of the big-ticket flagship infrastructure projects of the government. The Project Management Office (PMO) has completed the construction of its major components, including the excavation and disposal at the left bank area of the Re-Regulating Pond, the Modification of Bakit-Bakit Check Gate, and the construction of Lagasit Dam, Andulan Check Gate, and slope protection of the Banilla River.

The completed excavation and disposal at the left bank area of the re-regulating pond has increased the pond area with 21.80 hectares to accommodate and support the increase of irrigation water to sufficiently supply the water requirement of LARIS with a service area of 12,650 hectares.

The existing Bakit-Bakit Dam in Rosales, Pangasinan which regulates the diversion of water to LARIS network of canals was also improved with the modification of its check gate structure to prevent future blockage caused by debris from upper Banilla River, as well as flooding in nearby areas. LARISIP also undertaken the construction of Slope Protection of Banilla River that will serve as a drop-off point of irrigation water coming from the re-regulating pond. Meanwhile, the Lagasit Dam in Balungao, Pangasinan was also constructed to provide additional water source for the Project's service area.



It also carried out the construction and rehabilitation of the ADRIS and LARIS network of canals with a total of 186.576 kms canal lining, 109.947 kilometers of earth canal, and 1,306 units of structure that will service the area of Rosales, Sto. Tomas, Alcala, and Bautista in the Province of Pangasinan, Moncada and San Manuel in Tarlac, and Cuyapo in Nueva Ecija. Drainage was improved by straightening and enlarging natural waterways. Road surfacing for access and service roads for laterals and sub-laterals were also rehabilitated.



AGOS NG AGNO: WHERE NEW HOPE FLOWS

In improving the quality of our farmer's life, LARISIP has gained the trust and confidence of its farmer-beneficiaries through the construction and maintenance of quality irrigation facilities.

During the dry-run for the partial operation of LARISIP in December 2020, the group of Mr. Reynaldo M. Escobar Jr., President of Sitanglab IA, Inc. expressed their excitement upon witnessing water that finally flows through irrigation canals constructed by the Project.

"Noong nakita naming nagkatubig, tuwang-tuwa kami. Halos ayaw na sana naming maniwala noon sa proyekto dahil sabi nga, 'To see is to believe'. Pero ngayon kitang kita na namin kung gaano kami matutulungan nito", Mr. Escobar shared.

Likewise, Mr. Ruben Tugade, President of CAPARA Farmers IA, Inc. expressed their gratitude to NIA-LARISIP during the monitoring visit of NEDA on November 23, 2022 for its implementation would surely contribute to the increase and sustenance of their rice production, in addressing low productivity, and income generation for them-local farmers.

"Mas maganda at mabilis ng nakakarating ang tubig sa mga sakahan namin ngayong may concrete na ang mga canals. Dati ay umaabot ng tatlong araw bago makarating (ang tubig), pero ngayon ay isang araw na lang mula ng inayos ng LARISIP", Mr. Tugade said.

Undeniably, the completion of LARISIP is not only an accomplishment for NIA but most especially a fulfillment to every farmer's hope – to increase crop yield, enhancing agricultural productivity, and increase income for them to enjoy higher quality of life.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR LARISIP?

At present, LARISIP is undergoing series of Partial Inventory in preparation to the official Turn-Over of the Project to System for operation and maintenance. The Inventory Team and Project Completion Report Team composed of different sub-committees from NIA Central Office, Regional Office I, and Pangasinan Irrigation Management Office (PIMO) were constituted to conduct inventory and validation of the completed LARISIP with reference to Infrastructure and Facilities, Finance, Agricultural and Institutional Development, Equipment and Physical Resources, Agro-Economic and Budget, Lands Acquired, Personal Services and Trainings, and O&M Organization.

After the inventory, a test run will be jointly undertaken by the Technical Staff (i.e., Regional Design/Construction Engineer or his representative) and IAs to determine the functionality of the completed irrigation facilities. During the test run, walkthrough and inventory of the facilities will be conducted by both parties while water is allowed to flow along the canals, structures, and other facilities. IAs organized by LARISIP will be invited for them to take a closer look of the system, enabling them to identify and better understand the function of these facilities which would ultimately commit and prepare themselves to the proper orientation and maintenance of the irrigation system.

The official turnover of LARISIP to Regional Office I is scheduled before end of June 2023. Part of the activity will be the turnover of LARISIP documents including inventory reports and the acceptance of the same by NIA Region I.





The completion of LARISIP will mark the realization of the SRMP-IC's vision of rehabilitating and integrating the three NISs, namely, ARIS, ADRIS, and LARIS, to bring agricultural development within the project area. Some 10,372 farmer-beneficiaries and their families are expected to enjoy a rising standard of living and continue their role in providing available and affordable food for the Filipino people.



EMPOWERING FARMERS AND WEALTH CREATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

The Association of the Regional Directors and Operations Managers of the Philippines, Inc. (ARDOMA) held its conference in Ilocos Norte on February 23-26, 2023. Part of the conference was the field visit to the Municipality of Piddig, Ilocos Norte, led by former Piddig Municipal Mayor and current NIA Acting Administrator, Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen.

Piddig was recognized as a Galing Pook Awardee 2022 for being one of the country's top-performing Local Government Units (LGUs), despite having no industry player to boost the economy. Engr. Guillen championed several programs aimed at improving the lives of farmers and achieving sustainable agricultural development, resulting in a reduction of poverty incidence from 30% in 2010 to 5.59% in 2022. He established the Revenue Generation and Land Administration (REGALA) System to

institutionalize the digital use of technology to identify the development of agricultural lands, and urged farmers to organize themselves into cooperatives to help them sell their produce at a higher price.

ARDOMA was also introduced to the Piddig Wagyu Cross and Branded Beef Development Program, aimed to upgrade the native cows in the Ilocos Region through artificial insemination of Wagyu semen. The association members were given the chance to meet and greet the eldest son of the President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. and Ilocos Norte 1st District Representative, Hon. Ferdinand Alexander Araneta Marcos III. The Association expressed gratitude to Engr. Guillen for imparting knowledge on agricultural development and encouraged members to support his ideals.



NIA USHERING 2023 PROGRAM:

CELEBRATING PROGRESS AND GRATITUDE

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) started the year with a bang as it held its fifth New Year's Call on January 18, 2023 at the NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Central Office. The theme for this year's gathering was "NIA Para sa Progresibong Pilipinas", highlighting the Agency's commitment to the progress of the country's agricultural sector and its stakeholders.

Led by NIA Acting Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen, the event was attended by NIA Senior Deputy Administrator Atty. Eryl Royce R. Nagtalon, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik, and Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A. Du, Department and Division Managers, Regional Managers, Project Managers, and other NIA officials.

The New Year's Call is an annual gathering that serves as a platform for the Agency to present its plans and programs for the welfare of its employees, farmers, and the agricultural sector. The event marked the beginning of NIA's plans and initiatives for CY 2023, giving everyone a glimpse of what to expect in the coming months.

Before the New Year's Call, the Agency also conducted its Ushering 2023 program on January 9, 2023 in NIA Central Office. The program was led by NIA's Top Management Officials and was attended by Department Managers and employees from all NIA offices nationwide.

One of the highlights of the event was the NIA Gratitude Wall which was adorned with colorful boxes representing the things that NIA employees are grateful for. It serves as a symbol of appreciation and recognition for the Agency's efforts in transforming the lives of Filipinos through irrigation development.

NIA's commitment towards national development was further emphasized through the #bayaNIAn campaign which aims to promote unity and cooperation among Filipinos towards the progress of the country. It is aligned with the call of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. for a stronger sense of nationalism and the inclusive growth of the nation.

As NIA moves forward with its plans for 2023, it remains steadfast in its mission to revitalize the country's irrigation and agricultural sector through the collective efforts of its officials and employees, government agencies, farmer-irrigators, and the general public. With its commitment to progress, NIA is poised to make significant contributions to the country's overall development.









Clothing is one good way to express ourselves and it speaks a lot about our inner identity, but clothes we wear can also affect our character, behavior, and most especially our confidence. Wearing what we love and comfortable for us can boost our mood and it touches how should we start our day. Do not think twice to put on your best wardrobe and show them your style!



Plain dress is a common office attire, but matching it with a cardigan and statement bag is taking it to a more fashionable level. Simple is elegant indeed!

An outfit matching with eyeglasses is not always on the geek and nerdy side. Pairing it with a smart casual clothing and that pair of signature shoes is a cool combination!





A girly checkered dress matched with a plain white sneaker is a one pretty outfit. Street style is definitely on trend right now!





Some said that this attire is already outdated and this generation will consider it as a trend. Tucking-in will always remain a classic style and a nice get-up!

A floral fabric or design will always be a good choice during sunny days. This color-matched attire will surely brighten your day!





This typical striped polo shirt will always be versatile and in style. Blending your printed top with a plain bottom is definitely a smart-style! ##

ON THE FIELD: UNITED, WE STAND!

THE SAN AGUSTIN-SAN LUIS IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION STORY

The San Agustin-San Luis Irrigators Association (San Agustin-San Luis IA) is a Communal Irrigation System (CIS) under the supervision of the Pampanga-Bataan Irrigation Management Office (IMO) in Region III. The association comprises a massive service area of 362 hectares of farmland with 199 farmer-beneficiaries. This includes three sectors in San Agustin, Sta. Monica, and San Luis, Pampanga.

On January 27, 2011, the IA was formally organized through Pampanga-Bataan Irrigation Management Office (PAMBAT IMO) and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In 2012, the construction of the system commenced, and its rehabilitation was conducted in 2015 and 2020. This involved the construction of concrete canals and the installation of engine pumps to provide stable irrigation to their rice fields. The IA conducts regular meetings with the NIA and other government agencies to fortify their association. The San Agustin-San Luis IA faced a significant challenge due to the fuel price hike. Fertilizer costs were also on the rise, while the cost of palay is low. The price hike in fuel has a significant impact on the operation of engine pumps, which is crucial for irrigation. IAs rely on engine pumps to provide water to their farmer members, and the increased cost of fuel can lead to decreased access to irrigation water.

The following are the recognition and awards of San Agustin-San Luis Irrigation System from 2014 to 2021

- Most Active Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization for CY 2014
- Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation System for CY 2018 of NIA PAMBAT IMO
- Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation System for CY 2018 of NIA Region III
- Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation System for CY 2019 of NIA PAMBAT IMO
- ♦ Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation
- ♦ System for CY 2020 of NIA PAMBAT IMO
- Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation System for CY 2020 of NIA Region III
- Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation System for CY 2021 of NIA PAMBAT IMO
- Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation System for CY 2021 of NIA Region III
- Most Outstanding Irrigators Association of Communal Irrigation System for CY 2021 Nationwide

The officers of San Agustin-San Luis IA armed themselves with organizational management skills and knowledge by continuously attending seminars and trainings conducted by the NIA and other involved agencies. The members of the Association, with the help of NIA's Institutional Development Program, have studied intensively the structure, rules, and policies that allow them to effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities.

As a result, they have managed to improve their skills when it comes to independently operating and maintaining their irrigation system. Also, the water delivery schedule and other guidelines were strictly followed and observed. As a result of the association's dedication and perseverance, it was recognized by the national and local governments, which is indeed an indication of its success.

Making a five-year strategy plan with the Board of Directors' visibility in day-to-day operations has been one of their plans to maintain their vision of achieving efficient irrigation and a thriving way of life for its beneficiaries. One of the plans of the IA is to improve water management practices and provide education and training to their members to further increase their income.





In October 2018, the Association started building their office, which comprises a heavy equipment garage and an engine pump location. In 2012 and 2013, the IA acquired a hand tractor awarded by the Department of Agrarian Reform. In 2016 and 2018, a Kubota Four-Wheeled Tractor and a Kubota Harvester DC60 Model were awarded by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

In 2020, two STW units (8 horsepower) were granted by NIA. In the same year, a 135-HP diesel engine was given by NIA as an award to the above-mentioned beneficiary, inclusive of complete accessories and a motor controller that were delivered and installed for them. The following year, they were able to produce a second-hand combined harvester using the proceeds from the previously awarded harvester by DAR.

CY 2023 1ST QUARTER

PROJECT PERFORMANCE REVIEW / ASSESSMENT FOR ALL ONGOING ENGINEERING-MONITORED PROJECTS

NIA Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Sector Engr. C'zar M. Sulaik led the conduct of the CY 2023 1st Quarter Project Performance Review and Assessment for All Ongoing Engineering-Monitored Projects on April 2-4, 2023 at NIA Convention Hall, 5th Floor, DCIEC Building, NIA Central Office.

With the objective of thoroughly and comprehensively evaluating the progress of project implementation of all ongoing foreign-assisted and locally-funded projects and programs, the said project performance review and assessment covers Regions II and III, the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS), the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project (CRPIP), and the Balog-Balog Multipurpose Project, Phase II (BBMP-II).

NIA Engineering Department Manager Engr. Reynaldo L. Baloloy, Construction Management Division Manager Engr. Minene P. Evangelista, Systems Management Division Manager Engr. Eusebio S. Villamanto, managers from participating NIA Field Offices, and other NIA Central Office key personnel were present in the event.





Name:	
Office/Organization:	
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Please rate this publication based on the following parameters:

EXCELLENT SATISFACTORY SATISFACTORY IMPROVEMENT POOR 1

The content is logical and organized.

5 4 3 2 1

The ideas are clearly presented.

5 4 3 2

The topics are interesting and relevant.

5 4 3 2 1

The language is appropriate to the target audience.

5 4 3 2 1

The layout is visually pleasing.

5 4 3 2

The publication provided additional knowledge and information.

Letter to the Editor

The Editorial Team encourages readers to circulate articles in this news magazine with proper acknowledgment. Everyone is also invited to contribute articles (with at least four photos/illustrations with credits) and suggest topics, or refer individuals and organizations to be featured. Please email pais@nia. gov.ph or mail to: THE EDITOR, NIA Currents, Public Affairs and Information Staff, NIA Central Office, EDSA, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City.

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AROUND THE CORNER:

DALOY

The Official Newsletter of NIA Region III

"Daloy". This Tagalog term means "flow", usually pertaining to water – stream, river, and irrigation, among others.

Known as the rice granary of the Philippines, Central Luzon plays a significant role in the sustainable agricultural growth and development of the country.

NIA Region III serves its farmer-beneficiaries in the provinces of Bulacan, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, and Zambales. With several irrigation systems nourishing the vast farmlands of the region, this "daloy" serves as the bloodline of the farmers and backbone of the agricultural sector.

Coining "Daloy" as the name of the Official Newsletter of NIA Region III, NIAns of Central Luzon continue to ensure that irrigation services are being well-provided to their farmer-beneficiaries as their primary and sworn mandate.





Inauguration of Bulo Small Reservoir Irrigation Project

NIA Region III – Led by Administrator Ricardo R. Visaya, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) inaugurated the P990.37-million Bulo Small Reservoir Irrigation Project in Brgy. Kalawakan, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan on May 20, 2022.

The construction of Bulo Dam started in March 2018 and w completed in March this year. With 314 farmer-beneficiaries, Be SRIP will provide irrigation service to 570 hectares of agricultur lands: 35 hectares of farmlands in Barangay Kalawakan in the municipality of Dofia Remedios Trinidad and 535 hectares Paranes Melitiva in the municipality of 51 hectares.

Bulo Dam will also serve as a flood control structure to prevent flooding in San Miguel town and adjacent municipalities wherever strong typhorons drom pleavy rains in Bulacan. The old was originally constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DWHH) in 2913 as Blood-control project for the downstream Bulo River of San Miguel town. However, it was destroyed by heavy rains spaymed by Typhono Pedrig in September 2011. Toolowsters as well as the specific of the service of the service of the service paymed by Typhono Pedrig in September 2011. Toolowsters

A scenic and fitting venue for recreational activities is also set to be Bulo Dam's another purpose as the Agency ventures to maximize the utilization of its dams and reservoirs nationwide. Once the water level in Bulo Dam reaches its normal level, NIA will release fingerlings in the reservoir to continuously help the farmers in having extra source of income.

having extra source of income.

The ribbon cutting and unveiling of marker was initiated by NIA Administrator Visaya along with NIA Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Sector Ralph Lauren A, Du, NIA Region

ev. Fr. Derick James Vergara of Barangay Kalawakan Catholic dission presided the blessing of the marker, dam structure and the

In the program proper, an audio-visual presentation briefer of the dam was shown. Highlighting the program is the turmover of management of Bulo SRIP from the Regional Office to Bulacian Aurora-Neuez Ecija Irrigation Management Office (BANE IMO

Also present in the event were Doña Remedios Trinidad Mayor Marita Flores and Malibay-Kalawakan Irrigators Association (IA) President Sotero Sitchon, together with his IA members benefitting tren the noise.

in her message, NIA Region III Manager Salazar said, "Kung matatandaan po natri noong nalaraang April 30, 2018, magkakasama din po tayo dito. Dito po ginanap 'yung groundbreaking kasama po 'yung capsule laying ng Bulo. Pagkatapas po ng apat na taon, jinipirisritat kop po sa inyo ang Bulo

Closing the inauguration ceremony, Administrator Visaya encouraged the farmer-beneficiaries to take care of the Bulo Dam as he said, "this will really be a big help to our farmers in San Miguel and DRT. Kay Pangulong Sitchon, sana po ay samahan riyo 'ya, jangatudo yo pan guyana with our personnel ng NIA dito. Ingatan po natin ito. Alagaan po natin ito para di na maulit ang naeksiza inir."



BREAKING BARRIERS

THE WOMEN ENGINEERS OF NIA



Despite significant progress towards gender equality over the last century, women continue to be underrepresented in various industries, including Agriculture and Engineering. When people hear the word "engineer", they often think of a picture of a man with a hard hat. This has all changed because women now have a lot of job options.

Education is essential in depicting how women today differ from women hundreds of years ago. Thanks to the women who fought for equal rights, they now have more freedom and equality.

Meet the women engineers of NIA who continue to break stereotypes and barriers of society.



Supervising Engineer A, CARP-IC

I was initially drawn to the field of engineering out of curiosity and my desire to understand why my older brother had chosen not to continue studying Civil Engineering. This curiosity led me to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering.

My friend Kristelle, who is currently with CMD, and I were looking for a job back then when we happened to pass by the NIA and submitted an application letter. Prior to that, my friend's father asked me if I wanted to work at NIA and referred me to try at CARP-IC and I also submitted an application letter. On the day of the interview, the Project Manager, Division Manager of Engineering, IDD, Admin and Finance, and other CARP-IC personnel were present as they had just concluded a meeting. While they were talking to me, I felt that I wanted to work with them, and this is where my CARP-IC story began.

As an engineer, we conduct field inspection in different regions and have the experience to meet different people with different cultures, opinions, backgrounds and hinanaing sa buhay. Kailangan open-minded ka makinig sa mga concerns and needs nila para mas maintindihan mo yung situation nila in a way na igagalang mo pa rin ang culture and traditions nila. Also, I had the opportunity to witness the turnover of several projects. Seeing the actual impact of our work on the Agrarian Reform Communities and how the efforts of NIA have made a positive difference in the lives of the farmers is truly rewarding.

What I like most about my job is conducting field inspections. Not only does it allow me to ensure the success of the project by monitoring progress, ensuring quality, and identifying risks, but it also provides an opportunity to communicate with and aid the farmers. Additionally, field inspections offer a chance to appreciate the beauty of the natural environment, including the scenic rice fields, corn fields, and other landscapes. Pampatanggal pagod sa initian at malayo-layong lakaran.

While my technical skills may be average, I have that soft skills that have helped me work effectively with my colleagues and contribute to a positive team environment. My ability to listen actively to others, communicate respectfully, and openness to opinions and suggestions have been essential to my success.

Challenges that I faced in my work is meeting deadlines. Hindi naman natin maiwasan ang deadlines. Kaya, it's important to remember that it's okay to ask for help from your colleagues, especially if you know they can assist you. Do not hesitate to reach out to them, and in return, be willing to offer your assistance to them when they need it. Pangalawa, interpersonal conflicts. Kahit saang workplace, mayroon at mayroon talagang conflicts or disagreements with colleagues. How I deal with it is to approach these situations calmly and professionally kahit minsan gigil ka na. Try to understand the other person's perspective and the reasons behind their actions. Intindihin mo na lang, girl.

The difference between women in the past and women today is that if you have watched Maria Clara and Ibarra or listened to your teacher back in high school discussing Noli Me Tangere, a novel by Jose Rizal, you may see the differences. However, we should remember that women throughout history have had different experiences and personalities, and it is important to

recognize and respect these differences. This is just my opinion, but in the past, women were often limited in terms of education and employment opportunities. They were usually expected to prioritize their roles as wives and mothers and were discouraged from pursuing careers. Today, women have made significant progress in terms of equal treatment and opportunities. There is now more attention given to acknowledging and appreciating differences and inclusion, especially in areas like education, employment, and politics.

Embrace your unique perspective. As a woman in a male-dominated field, you can bring a unique perspective and valuable contributions. Do not be afraid to share your ideas. By pursuing your passions, believing in yourself, and seeking support, you can thrive in a career in Engineering. Babae ka! Hindi babae lang.

My philosophy in life: Living in the present moment. Sa akin, rather than dwelling on the past or worrying about the future, mas importante sa akin kung anong mayroon ngayon. Mas gusto kong mag focus on the present experience, without judgment or distraction, and accepting things as they are in the moment. Challenging siya, lalo na sa mundo nating napakabilis at puno ng what ifs. Pero kung naka-focus ka lang sa present, we can experience happiness, contentment, and fulfillment in life.





Section Chief Project Benefits Monitoring and Evaluation Section

Project Benefits Monitoring and Evaluation Section
Construction Management Division, Engineering Department

In the realm of engineering, a name that stands out with distinction is Engr. Sweetclaire L. Gamboa, PhD. As the Section Head and Principal Engineer A of the Construction Management Division, her journey is one of determination, adaptability, and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

In her early years, Engr. Gamboa's ambitions were anchored in becoming a teacher. However, the passage of time brought about a broadening of horizons, a deepening of knowledge, and a shift in life aspirations. From dreaming of being a soldier like her father, who served in the Philippine Army, to exploring the field of engineering, her path was one of continuous evolution.

Following her high school graduation, a pivotal crossroads awaited. Guided by the influence of cousins who were engineering graduates and her own affinity for mathematics and technical drawings, Engr. Gamboa embarked on a journey in Civil Engineering. This decision was no trivial matter; it demanded a tenacious spirit to navigate the challenges of both academia and the professional world.

A steadfast focus on the positive aspects of her chosen path propelled her forward. Engr. Gamboa's dedication remained unwavering as she pursued higher education, earning not only a Master's degree but also a Doctorate, specializing in Engineering Management. These degrees have not only been a testament to her commitment but have also been invaluable in shaping her current role.

The question arises: How did she find herself at NIA (National Irrigation Administration)? A familial connection resonates in her story. Her mother's employment with the agency nurtured a familiarity with the NIA environment from a young age. Post-college, her academic alignment with the demands of the job led her to seize opportunities. Her journey unfolded across diverse settings—Casecnan (CMIPP), Agno River (ARIIP), and even work abroad in Kuwait. Each experience enriched her skill set, contributing to her holistic understanding of the field.

Engr. Gamboa's contributions as a woman engineer are particularly noteworthy. She dispels any notion of gender-based limitations, demonstrating that competence knows no gender boundaries. Her philosophy centers on collaboration over competition, asserting that while capabilities might differ, the capacity to contribute remains equally profound. As a woman in a predominantly male-dominated field, she recognizes the importance of fostering harmony among generations and genders

to collectively steer the course of engineering endeavors. Her role as a Section Head necessitates not only technical acumen but also exemplary leadership. Engr. Gamboa believes in motivating her team with a heartfelt commitment. Her approach is grounded in shared effort and the encouragement of upward momentum, fostering a sense of unity, and collective accomplishment.

Navigating the engineering landscape requires resilience. Engr. Gamboa's affinity for challenges is palpable. A multitude of projects spanning the nation necessitates effective communication, problem-solving, and coordination. The real measure of success lies in not just document

verification but in on-site validation, ensuring that projects tangibly benefit communities. Her advice resonates with aspiring female engineers: patience, determination, strategic thinking, adaptability, and humility. These traits, combined with a practical approach and an openness to learning, form the bedrock of her success.

Engr. Gamboa's life philosophy is refreshingly simple yet impactful. Her unwavering faith, prioritization of family, resilient attitude, and commitment to personal integrity resonate as guiding principles. Ultimately, she stands as a testament to the empowerment of women in engineering and as an embodiment of the transformative power of perseverance, dedication, and unwavering belief.



ENGRACHIOGRAD ELLEGATANES ABITE

Senior Engineer A, JRMP-II

Engineering is not my first choice; I was enrolled then in the Accountancy Program in our University and it took me two years before I realized that I did not want to pursue the said program and I missed my math subjects. Math subjects in Accountancy was not that complex unlike in Engineering. That is why I got the taste of my own medicine, math subjects in Engineering were indeed hard but they were challenging so overall it was still a fun learning for me.

I was just influenced by my friend to apply in various government offices back then while I was working in a private company, and one of those offices was NIA. The first time I entered NIA, I felt good. It was peaceful and quiet in the lobby, and the guards were so welcoming, which was an added point for me.

My experience in the organization is fun and exhausting (in a good way). It is always an enriching experience for me that I get to learn new things every day. I do believe that is one of the reasons why I stay in a certain company because it makes me think more; it lets me push myself into my limit and even beyond it. It even makes me feel productive because I do not get to work on the same things each day of my life. You need to know your job by heart because there are a lot of lives involved. It is exhausting but it is for others, always for others, not just for myself. Furthermore, the thought that I am part of the success of a certain project which can bring improvement to the lives of the farmers is very humbling. I may not be the one who could directly provide for them but at least I get to participate in the process which somehow, I feel I touched their lives in the littlest way. Lastly, one thing I like about my job are my superiors, especially RMVPM Jonel B. Borres and Engr. Phyll N. Duran, they are not selfish when it comes to the growth of their staffs. They are so generous in their knowledge and experience; I can ask them anything without hesitation or even thinking that I may sound dumb or stupid because they are so understanding and they know how to collaborate in a way that you will not feel intimidated by them. In JRMP-II, we treat each other with respect, trust, and sense of belongingness. It is very much like a family.

The skills I found vital to my job are communication skills, interpersonal skills, and problem-solving skills. Surely, there are more skills needed but these are the three things which first came to my mind. Communication skills because you get to coordinate with different offices and agencies. Not just only to coordinate but to think as quickly as you can while you are talking with different personnel/officials. We must know how to effectively communicate and collaborate with those people in a correct and courteous manner. One of the trainings I think of, which Engr. Phyll Duran has been imparting to us, is to hone our problem-solving abilities. He often invites us to sit in front of him and asks us how we would address a specific problem if we were in his position, and we will then discuss how to solve those problems/situations. He urges us to think profoundly rather than to settle on mediocre thinking.

There was this instance that I did a very big mistake of providing a certain data to different agency, and as a very detailed person, it was indeed a very frustrating and a hell of an experience for me. I did not want the project to be affected and be put in a difficult situation. My initial reaction was to make myself solely responsible for it and tell it to Sir Phyll because I am not scared to own up my mistake every time I would make such.

But to my surprise, Sir Phyll just simply laughed at me. He let me explain my side first, and the next thing I knew was that we were thinking of a solution for it. It made me realize and think that I should always respond rather than react to every problem or challenge. The difference on the women in the past from today is the growing number of who are accustomed to living alone independently. In the past, women were taught that starting a family was the ultimate goal in life and there is nothing wrong with that, it is just that being a woman and living alone on her own is okay; it will make one even stronger and rely not on other's happiness and satisfaction. Women today are even bolder to decide for themselves as compared in the past, in which they are seen and heard more and better. Their voices are louder and their roles are more identified. My advice to those who are pursuing an engineering career is to just be more proactive and be a risk taker. You should not be shut down of your dream just because this path is designed for men, no, this is also for us women, there a lot of women in this industry where they are thriving and leading. Lastly, do not let fear and failure stop you from reaching your goals, always treat your fear a fuel and your failures your masts (of a tower crane) in reaching your dreams.

My philosophy in life is "Do not let anything or anyone define who you are, but let only God do it for you."



ENGLOS CHARLES INGADAO MOSQUEDA Supervising Engineer Systems Management Division Operations Department

Hindi ako attracted sa Engineering, it's more of my mother's choice and curiosity na din since high regard ito sa school. I am an Agricultural Engineer. Dito lahat ay meron, may structural,mechanical,electrical, kumbaga nilagay sa isang course kaya parang kumpleto na din. Marami akong natututunan kasi nga different kind of expertise, yun yun nakapagconvince sa akin to stay sa Engineering.

May mass hiring kaya nag-apply ako. NIA caught my interest kasi yun work is related talaga sa pinag-aralan ko. I got hired as COS sa NISRIP, then naging IDO year 2013. Nagtuloy-tuloy na siya, from field office, then Project Management Office, then now dito na sa SMD.

Noong naging institutional worker ako, diverse yun mga taong nakikilala ko. Ibat-ibang personality ang nakakasalamuha ko sa parang bagong experience sa akin. Mas nahahasa yun capacity to adapt, mas nagiging flexible ka. Lalo na dito sa SMD, hindi ka limited sa isang function lang. Dahil nautos sayo, kailangan mo aralin, alamin, at pag-isipan. Yun yun enjoyment ko kasi hindi ka lang nagtratabaho, patuloy pa rin yun learning mo. Isang factor din ang boss at atmosphere sa workplace kung bakit mas naaeenjoy ko yun work ko dito. If nararamdaman mo na may value ka sa opisina, mas naeenjoy mo yun work mo.

Rejection. Aminin natin na kapag yun nagtrabaho ka at binigay mo yun puso mo at nareject ka,diba masasaktan ka? Nakakasira ng pride pero tinake ko siya as challenge kasi if hindi pasado sa boss ko, it means hindi enough. Kailangan mo aralin at dagdagan yun knowledge mo para maabot yun certain standards na kailangan ng boss mo. Everytime na narereject ka, it's an opportunity na to learn more or to acquire more na wala sayo at present.

Another one is since I'm an Agricultural Engineer, may mga boss na hindi naniniwala sa skills mo. But sa current boss ko, it doesn't matter kung ano yun foundation ko as long as nadedeliver ko yun output na kailangan nila.

Women now is more privileged compared sa women in the past. Yun privileges natin ngayon is the fruit of their perseverance and their hardwork to prove that women can do also what men can do. Kaya nga credits to them kasi yun ang naeexperience natin ngayon.

Regardless sa gender/sex, if you really want to take engineering, pursue it kasi yun ang pangarap mo. If you will think that you will be successful in the future, why not. Kung hardworking ka and diligent ka, kaya mo din.

My philosophies is based sa Ecclesiastes 3: There is time for everything. Kumbaga there is a time to complain, to accept, to rejoice, and a time to weep. As part ng values ng tao, we learn to be patient and not to be greedy kasi merong time para sa lahat. May mga challenges na dumarating sa atin so ibig sabihin part of the journey is that you have to wait for the right time for that thing to become yours.

And Proverbs 3: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths. If sometimes ay full of uncertainties ka, magpray lang everyday para masurvive mo yun. ∞



Spotlight





























