

NIA



National Irrigation Administration

CURRENTS



MALINAO DAM
POBLACION MALINAO, PILAR, BOHOL
REGION 7



ABOUT THE COVER

Malinao Dam of Bohol Integrated Irrigation System (BIIS), in Region 7 under the stewardship of Acting Regional Irrigation Manager Diosdado A. Rosales is the first of 3-dam series to include Bayongan Dam and Capayas Dam. It covers the municipalities of San Miguel, Dagohoy, Ubay, Pilar and Alicia with a service area of 4,760 hectares benefitting 4,963 farm household.

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ISAPHIL at CDO

BY: JAN ALBERT K. ARAÑA, REGION 10



PASSING THE KEY of ISAPHIL's leadership from Engr. Eugenio O. Conde, Jr. (left) to Engr. Joecarnine L. Gubat (right). Witnessing the turn over are Engr. Dexter G. Patrocinio, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel (center) and Region X RIM Felix M. Razo.



Administrator Antonio S. Nangel expresses his full support to the newly elected ISAPHIL officers

The new set of Officers and Ex-Officio member of the Irrigation Stewards' of the Philippines (ISAPHIL) attended the 3rd Quarter Board of Trustees' Meeting at the City of Golden Friendship, Cagayan de Oro City on September 26-28, 2012.

Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and Abante Mindanao (ABAMIN) Representative Hon. Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr. graced the occasion as guests of honors. It was a promising event as they joined the ISAPHIL members showing full support to the new set of officers with its president, Joecarnine L. Gubat, who came from Region X.

Hon. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., congratulated NIA for fulfilling its mandate in giving our countrymen assistance against poverty and giving hope for better lives through its irrigation projects nationwide. He promised to give allotment from his Countryside Development Fund to support NIA projects especially in Mindanao.

Different challenges face ISAPHIL officers. The president issued his own challenge to the fellow officers, to work hand in hand in facing the different challenges that lie ahead during their term.

Engr. Gubat ended his speech quoting Mr. Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success."

Right after the meeting, the participants were treated to a relaxing atmosphere by visiting the different tourist spots in Northern Mindanao namely: The Divine Mercy Shrine at El Salvador City, Misamis Oriental; City Proper Tour at Cagayan de Oro; Camiguin Tour; and Dahilayan Adventure Park in Bukidnon. #

Alcala, Nangel inspect El Nido Irrigation Projects

BY: AILEEN VERNICE G. BAHIA, PRO-REGION 4B



Inspection at on-going Barotuan SIP (L-R) El Nido Mayor Edna Gacott-Lim, Engr. Raffy Caniamo Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, Palawan IMO Mario M. Hebreo, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and OIC-EOD Cesar M. Pobre

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala and NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel inspected different irrigation projects in El Nido, Palawan.

Inspection of said projects included the on going construction of Barotuan Small Irrigation Project (SIP) and Taberna-Maranlao Communal Irrigation System (CIS). Upon inspection, Secretary Alcala and Administrator Nangel committed an additional funding of P10M to Taberna-Maranlao CIS to generate an additional area of 100 hectares for implementation before the year ends.

Administrator Nangel informed Brgy. Captain Francisco Ulanday of Brgy. Aberawan that the proposed project with potential irrigable area of 300 hectares would be included in CY 2013.

Projects for consideration included the construction of New Ibajay (Cagbanaba) SIP with potential irrigable area of 200 hectares and Pasadeña SIP which is subject for re-design of irrigation structure.

With them were El Nido Mayor Edna Gacott-Lim, NIA IV-B EOD Acting Division Manager Cesar M. Pobre, Palawan IMO Acting Division Manager Mario M. Hebreo and Engr. Raffy Caniamo from the private sector.

Irrigable area of Taberna-Maranlao CIS. A banner of good news—irrigation development benefitting people of El Nido, Palawan known as one of the country's top tourist spots.



Inspection at Taberna-Maranlao CIS with (L-R) Project In-Charge Rogelio M. Java, OIC-EOD Cesar M. Pobre, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, Secretary Proceso J. Alcala and Palawan IMO Mario M. Hebreo

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NIA Administrator ANTONIO S. NANGEL Conferred As "DATU MANGOMPIA"

BY: SARAH S. RAMOS, IDO, REGION 10

NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel was crowned as the adopted son of the Sultanate of Masiu. He was given the traditional title as "DATU MANGOMPIA", meaning "THE ACHIEVER/DEVELOPER" during the 52nd Founding Anniversary of the Islamic Municipality of Tamparan, in the province of Lanao del Sur on October 19, 2012. The Chairman of the Sixteen (16) Royal Sultanate of Lanao and Lanao Advisory Council, His Royal Highness Honorable Mayor Sultan Topaan D. Disomimba, Al-Haj presented the Royal Scroll of Adoption and conferred the traditional title to Administrator Nangel.



Members of the Royal Sultanate of Masiu and several Municipal Mayors from the province of Lanao del Sur as well as the local folks of Tamparan witnessed the special event. The Congressional Representative of the 1st District of Lanao del Sur, Honorable Mohammad Hussien P. Pangandaman was one of the honored guests of the said occasion.

The crowning of Administrator Nangel was a rare event and seldom bestowed to anyone. Being named as Datu Mangompia, he is expected to be a role model of an "Achiever/Developer" in any Muslim community. It entails responsibility to provide support to the Sultanate he now belongs and be involved in any civic and social functions the Royal Sultanate may indulge in.

NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel delivered his Commitment Speech after being conferred as "Datu Mangompia" #



NEWS PHOTOS

MOA signing between NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and PNOC Renewables Corporation OIC-President and CEO Roger Victor E. Buendia

For actively supporting DA-Concerned Ladies in Environment And Nutrition (CLEAN), Administrator Nangel receives Plaque of Appreciation from Vice Chairman Madam Teresita V. Cruz, With them is Ms. Theresa J. Cruz, a NIAN and a DA-CLEAN Auditor.

NAFEDA and NIAEASP Officials pay courtesy call to the ever pro-active Administrator Antonio S. Nangel



Members of NIA-NCR Chapter join the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE) in celebrating the Civil Engineering Month on its "75 years of PICE Great Milestones in the Civil Engineering Profession"

Administrator Nangel and other NIA officials join the Lanao del Sur IMO personnel at Taraka, Lanao del Sur in one of ASN's provincial sorties.

NIA and PNOC INK MOA on HYDROPOWER

The National Irrigation Administration and PNOC Renewables Corporation signed the Memorandum of Agreement on November 7, 2012 for the establishment and operations of a hydropower plant in existing irrigation canals in selected sites within the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS). Four sites have already been validated and estimated to produce at least 3,000 KW. Two sites are still subject to validation.

The MOU expresses support and assistance to the newly formed cooperation between NIA and PNOC RC in the establishment and operations of hydropower plants in existing NIA irrigation canals.

Secretary Alcala, in his message, believed that the MOA signing is a concrete manifestation of collaboration and maximized utilization of resources by various agencies to give joy to the people especially those in the countryside. Along this line, he instructed NIA Administrator Nangel to identify possible sites in Mindanao and to submit to him the list not later than the end of November.

He said that these hydropower plant projects in Mindanao are great help in that area because they have been experiencing intermittent power shortages.



The MOA was signed by NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and PNOC Renewables Corporation OIC-President and CEO Roger Victor E. Buendia.

On the part of NIA Administrator Nangel, he initially thanked the Secretary for the support in this undertaking. He also informed that his plan do not end with hydropower plants in irrigation canals but also putting up potable water. He said that there are about 150 sites already validated nationwide for hydropower plants and identification of sites for potable water is ongoing.

DOE Secretary Petilla said that the MOA/ MOU signing is very significant to the country's search for sources of electricity and these projects once completed will provide electricity at a very low cost.

PNOC Renewables Corporation OIC President and CEO Buendia also said that this undertaking is very significant and could help in the rural electrification program of the government in collaboration with the NIA.

Incidentally, NIA is an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture while PNOC Renewables Corporation is a subsidiary of PNOC under the Department of Energy.



Earlier on, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by and between DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala and DOE Secretary Carlos Jericho L. Petilla.

SECRETARY ALCALA AND ADMINISTRATOR NANGEL GRACE 19TH NOMIARC FIELD DAY

BY: JENNEFER R. AGRIPO, BUKIDNON IMO, R10

The presence of DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala and NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel highlighted the Farmers' Field Days and Technology Forum with the theme "Forging Strong Public- Private Partnership for Food Security & Environmental Sustainability" at DA-NOMIARC, Dalwangan, Malaybalay City.

The event was also graced by no less than the Provincial Governor of Bukidnon Hon. Alex P. Calingasan, Regional Manager Felix M. Razo, Division Manager Jimmy L. Apostol, other personalities of DA attached agencies and the Irrigators Associations all over Region 10.

NIA steering towards delivering results on Food Security Program strengthens IAs as partners in attaining the flagship program.

New technologies were introduced to the farmers through techno-demo while issues and concerns were also raised during the forum. On the other hand, Sec. Alcala awarded the IAs with farm machineries and the IAs gave the Secretary and Admin Nangel a token as gratitude of all the assistance extended to them as stakeholders.



NIA CELEBRATES 2012 Christmas



*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.*

Luke 2:14

"PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO MEN" was the theme lifted from the Book as NIA celebrated 2012 Christmas program on December 20 at the NIA grounds.

Christmas is the happiest and most awaited season of the year. Filipinos from all walks of life leave no stones unturned for this is the Season of all seasons. The Philippines is a nation known to celebrate Christmas season the longest—September to Three Kings in January. September commences the "ber" months and the first Christmas song is played; countdown to Christmas Day has begun.

With this, the National Irrigation Administration Central Office has made every possible effort to make Christmas celebration festive each passing year. Committees are organized in preparation for the big event. Even in the midst of busyness, the season made hearts beat in unison preparing for the special event commemorating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the season officials and employees set aside time to spruce up offices. Christmas tradition such as "Parol" or Christmas Lantern and "Belen" or Nativity Scene adorn workplaces. To pump up the spirit and challenge everyone's creativity and teamwork, annual competition such as Office Christmas Decoration, Lantern-making and Sectoral Presentation were organized and held.

OFFICE CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST

Competitive spirit motivates nine (9) participants namely: Procurement and Property Division (PPD), Legal Services (LS), Medical & Dental Services, Human Resource Division (HRD), Systems Management Division (SMD)-Operations Department, Design Specification Division (DSD)-Engineering Department, General Services Division (GSD), Public Affairs and Information Staff (PAIS) and the Group-Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP); CARP-IC and Ombudsman to vie for the most beautiful office decoration. In the morning of

December 18, judges for this event—Ms. Evelyn De Guzman, COA; Ms. Girlie L. Eria, PNB; and, Mr. Hannibal M. Chavez, BFAR 4A walked around the workplaces with Christmas trimmings in western motif.



LANTERN-MAKING CONTEST

Along the PPD hallway, four (4) teams such as, PIDP, NIA Consult, Inc, CARP-IC and DSD-Engineering Department competed in the lantern-making contest on December 18, 2012. Judges for this event were Ms. Virginia Bartolome, BFAR-R4A; Ms. Girlie Eria, PNB; and, Ms. Evelyn de Guzman, COA.



2012 NIA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



A Thanksgiving Mass commenced the day as a tradition of NIAs for years after which a breakfast is shared. Fr. Daniel Allan D. Samonte officiated the mass.

Sectoral presentation of six group-participants featured song and dance in western motif. Officials joined in and made each performance extraordinary. Special bonding has established, for everyone gave their best as they let their hair down for a day!

Senior Deputy Administrator Antonio A. Galvez (AAG) encouraged NIAs "to set aside our ambition and look around, see those who are in need and share our blessings" as he welcomed everyone to 2012 NIA Christmas program.

Sir AAG ended his message with a challenge "to share what we have because Christmas is sharing."



And the winners are:

Activity	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize	Consolation Prize
Lantern Making Contest	NIAConsult Inc.	CARP-IC	DSD - Engineering Dept	PIDP
Office Christmas Decoration Contest	HRD	PIDP, CARP-IC & Ombudsman	Medical & Dental Services	
Sectoral Presentation	Ofc of DA for Administrative & Finance, and Financial Mgt Department	Ofc of Administrator, Senior DA, Ofc of Board Secretary, CORPlan, PAIS, Legal Services and IAS	Ofc of DA for Engineering & Operations, Engineering Department and Consultants	1. CARP-IC, PIDP & SRIP 2. Operations Dept & Consultants 3. Administrative Dept.



ADMINISTRATOR NANGEL READS THE WINNERS FOR SECTORAL PRESENTATION ASSISTED BY MS CLARIZZE C TORIBIO. WITH THEM ARE THE JUDGES MS. GEORGINA HERNANDEZ COA MS. VIRGINIA M. BARTOLOME BFAR AND MS. GIRLIE L. ERIA PNB.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT CHAMPION SECTORAL PRESENTATION



HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION CHAMPION OFFICE CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST



NIA CONSULT INC. CHAMPION LANTERN MAKING CONTEST

Administrator Antonio S. Nangel's Christmas Message

"Merry Christmas...! The year 2012 is a very good year for NIA; we have so many blessings, and should be thankful for all blessings we received. Our theme, Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, is the need of our time. Katakimikan, Kagandahang loob at Pagmamalasakit sa kapwa..." These are the words that Administrator Nangel imparted on his Christmas message during the NIA's Christmas Program on December 20, 2012.

"Let us move on with the Gift of Faith that makes all things possible; the Gift of Hope that makes all things work; and the Gift of Love that makes all things beautiful, gifts that will carry us through 2013 and the years ahead". Administrator ASN said.

In closing, he asked "join me in delivering the Gift of Life to our farmers, for the best gift that God gave us is the opportunity to serve our farmers. To improve their lives, by giving ourselves, our talents, our strength, be one and united and honestly involved in performing our mandate".





AN UPDATE ON...

The 1st IA of Region 1 under IMT

BY: DOLORES A. VERA CRUZ, REGION 1

The first Irrigators Association (IA) of Region 1 to have entered the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Contract is the AGA IA, Inc. under the Pangasinan Irrigation Management Office. It has an irrigation area of 124.73 ha benefitting 135 farmers. Its name is an acronym of the three barangays benefitted by the irrigation system namely, Alitaya, Gueguesangen and Amansabina.

AGA IA has been consistent in having a high Collection Efficiency (CE) with an average of 92-93 % since it entered the Combined Type 1, Type 2 Contract in 1997. When it passed the required qualifications, the IA willingly entered the Model 2-IMT program with NIA in 2010.

The IA is now in its fourth season of evaluation and its CE is 100%. It actually surpassed its collection target as it reached 102%. According to President Espanol, some members paid their ISF to the IA including those that are not covered by the system.

In the management of IA's operation activities, officers became aware of its areas, farmer-members and responsibilities in the system.

IA President Espanol says, "We give emphasis on the responsibility of each member. We tell them that if they don't pay their ISF we will not have second crop."

The President with his officers, together with IDO and Watermaster join the collection activity to disseminate information, negotiate with delinquent payers and collect ISF.

On back accounts collection, Mr. Espanol said that he prepares and issues demand letters to delinquent farmers. He negotiates and shares some insights to avoid litigations. With these strategies, farmers pay their back accounts.

The initial construction of an IA office came from the incentive they received. A former IA president donated the lot.

Commendable performance of IA caused the Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project and Pangasinan Irrigation Management Office to provide materials for construction and give other office equipment.

AGA IA Office
(Constructed thru IA Incentives and donations from other offices)

In the near future, the IA plans to put up a lending institution with low interest for their farmers who borrow money from loan sharks.

It envisions a functioning IA, producing good crops and helping farmers uplift their lives in the community.

AGA IA President Juanito Espanol is a Barangay Kagawad and Federation Secretary of Sinocalan Federation of Irrigators Association. The Association belongs to the Agno-Sinocalan River Irrigation System under the management of Engr. Frida L. Nido. #



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
First row L-R: Mr. Rogelio Cayanan, Mr. Manuel Mamawan, Atty. Jesus Gatus, Mr. Lorenzo Samson, Mr. Emilio Magpayo.
Second row L-R: Mr. Nicolas Lapuz, Mr. Alfonso Lopez Jr. Mr. Pedro Gatus, Mr. Enrique Liwag

PASIG MANDASIG IA'S SUCCESS STORY

BY: LUVISMINDA R. ZAMBRANO
IDO/PAM-BAT IMO REGION 3

There is nothing wrong in dreaming because dreams come true. This is what the Pasig Mandasig Irrigators Association, Inc. (PMIA) believed in. Their dream came true when the Pampanga Delta Development Project-Irrigation Component of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) constructed their irrigation system in 1991. From then on, there is no turning back for the farmers who belong to PMIA to hope for a better life thru the irrigation system.

Faced with problems on weather disturbances as the province is often visited by typhoons, floods and other force majeure, the members began to lose hope and became disunited. The IA slowly disintegrated and collection of irrigation fees became very difficult.

However, the leadership of the IA persisted, and eventually regained the trust and confidence of the members. Coupled with strong determination and patience, the IA officials gained the cooperation and support of all the members. The operations and maintenance of the systems and functional association were observed.

Patience paid off when Pasig- Mandasig entered the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) program of the NIA. They availed of IMT Model II where they get a share in the Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) collection.

Sand bagging activity of IA



The IA leaders and members continuously attended trainings conducted by NIA Staff such as records management, system and financial management, preparation of O&M plans and other trainings in crop production. These intervention helped the IA in its operations and management.

With the guidance of Pam-Bat Irrigation Management Office headed by Engr. Angelito S. Miguel, the PMIA continued to perform very successfully, thus in 2011, it was awarded the Most Outstanding IA in Region 3.

Through thick and thin, the Pasig-Mandasig Irrigators Association survived and is still soaring high like an eagle, full of hope that through their concerted effort of efficiently managing their irrigation system, their life would improve and more success will come their way. #



NIA AWARDS 1.4M CASH INCENTIVES TO IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATIONS

BY: JENNEFER R. AGRIPO, BUKIDNON IMO, REGION 10



Laligan IA Pres. Jose Babet Feranil receives the incentive award with the BODs



IMT Model II Contract Signing of MUSDOL IA represented by IA President Engr. Manuel P. Noval, Kahaponan IA with IA President Rebecca Caro and Sinayawan Lateral G9 represented by IA President Renato Dapacino with the presence of NIA Regional Manager Felix M. Razo and Bukidnon IMO Division Manager Jimmy L. Apostol

BUKIDNON, Valencia City--

The National Irrigation Administration, in its aim to deliver results in the flagship of Rice Self-Sufficiency Program, is on its pace in implementing the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Program in National Irrigation Systems.

The presence of Regional Manager Felix M. Razo highlighted the awarding of cash incentives to IAs. The seven (7) IAs under IMT Model II Contract under Pulangui River Irrigation System attained an average collection efficiency of 96% wherein Laligan IA received the highest incentive for dry season 2012 in the amount of Php 330,935.72, Paitain Communal IA as the second highest incentive recipient with an amount of Php 249,426.96, Tongan-Tongan IA as the third highest incentive recipient in the amount of Php 184,659.66 followed by Pulangui Riverside Farmers IA that received Php 112,873.88, Arri Araneta Logong IA with Php 110,533.07, Veterans Plain IA Php 92,891.17, Arri Lopez Farmers IA Php 74,552.86 followed by several IAs with corresponding incentives.

The IMT Program envisions to improve IA system performance, irrigation service and strengthening the Irrigators Associations in managing their operation & maintenance. Stakeholders are empowered to operate and maintain their irrigation system and improve financial viability. In IMT Model II Contract, NIA's responsibility is to manage the main system from the headworks to the head gates of lateral canals while IAs' responsibility includes management and/or operation and maintenance of the laterals, sub-laterals and terminal facilities, preparation and distribution of ISF bills and collection of ISF. The IAs are given wider opportunity to develop and improve their capacity in system management and attain increased farm yields. Cut-off target for the collection sharing is 72 - 28%.

Bukidnon Irrigation Management Office (BIMO) under the stewardship of Division Manager Engr. Jimmy L. Apostol is presently implementing the IMT Program with ten (10) IAs under Model II Contract and

Patag-Corofia IA under Roxas-Kuya RIS with Model IV Contract.

The three (3) additional qualified Irrigators Associations of NIS are the Kahaponan IA and Sinayawan Lateral G-9 IA of Pulangui River Irrigation System and Musuan-Dologon IA of Muleta River Irrigation System all under Model II Contract with their respective IA Presidents and Board of Directors signing the contracts on September 18, 2012 at Bukidnon Irrigation Management Office, Valencia City.

During the event, RM Razo stressed that "one of NIA's directions is the full implementation of the IMT Program and this can only be realized through the active participation and strengthened IAs." He further challenged the IAs to strive more for higher incentives that will be given to their associations.

NIA as IAs' partner, is committed to support the associations' endeavor towards improved system management and sustained viability status.



OASIS... A Farmer's Response Towards Food Security

Best Regional Feature Story- 6th Bright Leaf Agriculture Journalism Awards(2012)

BY: SUNSHINE B. JAMERO

Japok in his OASIS

For some reason, water comes to mind when I see or hear the word oasis. It connotes life; something that refreshes and keeps one active. In reality, oasis is actually a fertile or green area in a desert; a haven or sanctuary where one can take refuge or escape from something.

For Japok, it's where he gets his daily supply of food to survive.

Japok, whose real name is Franz Jason Baltazar, is a young farmer-entrepreneur in Brgy. Cabuluan, Oton, Iloilo and the incumbent president of MACABITU Irrigators' Association. He's a Mechanical Engineering graduate and has worked for a private mobile phone service contractor for a few years. When his contract ended, he decided to venture into agriculture because of one simple reason. "Nahadlok ko magutom, amo na nanguma ako (I was afraid to go hungry, so I decided to farm)", he said.

He named his two-hectare land OASIS, an acronym which stands for Organic and Sustainable Intercrop System. The OASIS grows about everything that you would need on top of your table: rice, fish, fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of meat.

There are pigs, at least 38 of them, a hundred chickens and 300 chicks, several ducks, four goats and a cow. As you roam around the area, you can hear a mix of squealing as the pigs demand for food, the quack-quacks of the ducks and the endless excited chuckles of the chickens. The goats say meh-meh once in a while, maybe just to let you know that they are somewhere there.

It was the music of life.

Japok started his farm empty-handed, equipped only with a will to survive. He did not know anything about agriculture so the farm became his own school. "Three years nga eskuela ko sa farming, sa tawo, te three years man nga pamirde ko eh, isipon mo na lang nga tuition (fee) (I studied farming for three years from other people, so I was not gaining profit for three years. Think of it as payment for tuition)", he said.

Japok had no money when he started, so he depended on his uncle for capital and guidance. Indi ka magsalig sa ginapamunitan ko (don't depend on what I have fished)", his uncle told him. Tuon ka man pamunit (learn to fish)", he added.

And so Japok learned. He learned not to make money but ideas. "'Ang kuarta madula, but ang idea indi (Money will disappear, but ideas won't)", he said.

His farm grew as his ideas expanded. His first project was the tropical koi fish.

Later, he ventured into tilapia breeding, mainly to keep the koi in good condition. The tilapia cleans the wounds of the koi, I learned. Later he grew pigs and expanded koi breeding utilizing the waste from the pig pens to the ponds.

It sounds toxic, but Japok explained that the kangkong and water lily in the ponds filter the toxins, so in the end, the residue can be eaten by the fishes.

I was learning bits of practical science as I talked to him.

It took a great amount of discipline to grow the OASIS. Japok recalls not eating chicken for three years until it grew into a large flock. He started from five hens and a rooster, which he bought from his neighbor to keep them from eating his rice plantation. Now, he supplies about 50-100 chickens each month for the Breakthrough Restaurant, a popular restaurant serving seafood and native dishes in Arevalo, Iloilo City.

Japok believes in "being productive without expenses", he said.

There are also vermi-composts everywhere: at the corners of the ponds, under the banana and papaya plants, inside the piggens and even beneath the ground of the goats' small house. Vermi-composts are excellent organic fertilizer and soil conditioner.

Japok started OASIS with the sole reason of protecting himself from hunger. But now, he has more than enough to keep his stomach full. He manages to pay his bills from the sale of his bananas, buy clothing and personal stuff from his hogs and poultry, and travel using the income from the fishes. He once used a bike to go in and out his farm, but now, he is a proud owner of several vehicles to help him become more efficient and productive.

Without any background in accounting, he innovated his own system, the "calendar method" where he records all transactions and income in a calendar. Later, the Department of Agriculture encouraged him to use proper bookkeeping. He earns more than enough from his poultry, hogs and fish production, yet, like a true and wise farmer, he will not give up on rice production. He needs it for consumption, he says.

As much as he has learned from other people, Japok is also willing to share his technology to others. Being the president of the MACABITU IA, he now encourages his members to go into integrated farming.

"Slice ka gamay nga portion para sa integrated (farming). Ngaa mahadlok ka bi mag slice sang isa ka portion sa uma mo nga butangan mo sang lalawahan mo, poultry mo? Ti subong ginahimo na nila (You slice a small portion from your land for integrated farming. Why would you be afraid to slice a portion of your land to dedicate it for your vegetables and poultry? So now they are doing it already)", he explains.

Ms. Xenia Socorro B. Jamero, Public Relations officer of NIA-Region VI, receives the Award for Best Agriculture Feature story of the Year-Regional Level during the 6th Bright Leaf Agricultural Journalism Awards night at the Hyatt Hotel Manila.

Japok and his members plan to build a "bagsakan area" where they can gather all their products from rice, poultry and vegetables. Japok had volunteered to help market their products to encourage them on the project. As of now, about four members have started to replicate what Japok had started.

The OASIS grew without any financial assistance from institutions or agencies. Its roots stemmed from a farmer's desire to avoid getting hungry; discipline and patience made it grow into a successful means to combat poverty and hunger not only for Japok, but slowly, for the community surrounding him. It is living proof that a cheap yet sustainable, organic solution can be made feasible, contrary to the general belief that it takes a huge amount of capital for one to get started and rise above poverty.

As it happened for Japok, may the OASIS expand to serve as a model sanctuary of food sufficiency to others.



Congratulations!

NIA Joins World Food Day

BY: MARIA LUISA FRIAS PAIS, C.O

Representatives from DA family once again gathered at Liwasang Aurora in Quezon Memorial Circle on October 18, 2012 for the annual celebration of World Food Day.

Food Agricultural Organization (FAO) representative to the Philippines Kazuyuki Tsurumi led the reading of the 2012 World Food Day Pledge, while KC Concepcion, Philippines' National Ambassador Against Hunger of the United Nation's World Food Programme gave the inspirational message.

Along with the WFD celebration, 2012 outstanding rural women spearheaded by DA U/Sec Bernadette Romulo-Puyat were recognized.

DA Secretary Alcala stressed out on this year's WFD theme "Agricultural Cooperatives: Key to Feeding the World" which highlights the role of cooperatives in improving food security and its contribution in ending hunger.

The winners of on-the-spot poster making contest which depicts this year's theme were awarded during the event.

Candlelighting and fireworks capped the celebration.



Selected NIA Central Office Employees who participated in the celebration of the 2012 World Food Day



Chickens feed mainly from the mini rice paddy especially made for them but they are occasionally given commercial feed supplements



Koi fish pond

The OASIS is an efficient system of integrated farming. The pigs are fed not only with grower feeds but with chicken meat from Japok's own flock. Same goes with the catfish, though they are fed with grower floaters a month before harvest. The chickens feed directly from the miniature rice paddy built straight out from the piggens. It is covered with protecting nets to secure the chickens inside. There are also pepper plants everywhere, for the chickens to peck on when they are sick. It takes very minimal cost growing everything in the OASIS.



BY: MARIA LUISA FRIAS
PAIS, C.O

NIA BAGS AWARDS IN DA SECRETARY'S CUP 2012



The NIA Women's Volleyball and Chess Teams bagged the Championship awards during Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Proceso J. Alcala Cup 2012.

The tournament started in August at DA Gym, Quezon City. It aimed to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of a healthy environment among DA family.

Likewise, NIA Basketball and Badminton Teams placed first and second runner-up, respectively. Team members reaped individual awards from different category.

Senior Deputy Administrator Antonio A. Galvez and Deputy Administrator Robert C. Suguitan awarded the winners during the flag raising ceremony.



NIA Volleyball Women's Team

Maricris Naz- Most Valuable Player

Elaine Jimenez- Best Spiker

Therese Margarette Camangon- Best Setter

Myra Delos Reyes- Best Blocker

Kristine Pablo- Best Digger

NIA Basketball Team

Frank-Martin Bonus- Member, Mythical Five

NIA Badminton Team

Robert Joseph Gabezon- Member, Mythical Team

Dr. Catherine Binag- Member, Mythical Team



NIA Chess Team

Hadji Dumaran- Best in Board Two

Dionito Taguinod- Best in Board Three

Aldrin Ottao- Best in Board Four

Gilberto Payumo- Best in Board Five



NIA Participates in JICA-sponsored Seminar

Japan for International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted the Seminar on "The Greatest Japan Earthquake Disaster Management of Damaged Irrigation and Water Management Facilities for Agriculture" at the Tsukuba International Center, Japan, from November 28 to December 8, 2012.

The seminar discussed topics such as Reconstruction Measures for Disaster Areas, Salt Removal Technology, Research on Mitigation of Damages on Agricultural Infrastructure by Earthquake and Tsunami, Review on Documentation Technology for Contaminated Agricultural Land with Radio-Active Substances Emitted from Damaged Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, and Damages to Farmland and Agricultural Facilities by Earthquake and Tsunami.

The lone Filipino participant to this seminar came from the National Irrigation Administration in the person of Engr. Ernesto L. Mapoy, Jr., Supervising Engineer A assigned at the Operations Department.

According to Engr. Mapoy, the seminar is very relevant to Philippine setting because our country experiences earthquake and strong typhoons that inflict great damages



Engr. Ernesto L. Mapoy, Jr., in light suit, joins the participants from other countries

to our irrigation facilities and crops. He said that he will apply his learnings from the seminar. Incidentally, Engr. Mapoy has been awarded as one of the Most Outstanding Employee at NIA Central Office. #



NIA EXECUTIVES AT THE 11th NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR CAREER EXECUTIVES

The Career Executive Service Board (CESB) held its 11th National Convention for Career Executives in Zamboanga City. It was attended by all Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs), Career Executive Service Eligibles (CESEs), and Career Service Executive Eligibles (CSEEs) from various government offices nationwide.

This year's conference theme is "Going 4G! Good to Great, Green Governance". It underscores public policy and program advocacy bias in support of promoting good governance in the context of sustainable development and puts emphasis on the preparations to launch the milestone activities for 2013.

The Career Executive Service is the 'third level' or the managerial class in the group of career positions in the Philippine civil service. The CES was created by Presidential Decree No. 1 to "form a continuing pool of well-selected and development-oriented career administrators who shall provide competent and faithful service."

The CES is also a public personnel system separate from that of the first two levels of positions in the Philippine civil service.

The CES eligibility shall be conferred to any person who is able to successfully complete the four-stage CES eligibility examination and meet such other requirements as may be prescribed by the Board.

It shall be conferred by the Board through a resolution approved by the majority of its members in a regular or special meeting.

Upon approval of the resolution, the applicant is considered a full-fledged CES eligible and his/her name shall be registered in the Board's Roster of CES eligibles and a corresponding certificate of CES eligibility shall be issued in testimony of his/her newly acquired qualification.

NIA Officials who attended the convention were, Engr. Erdolfo B. Domingo, Department Manager for Engineering, Violeta C. Esguerra, Department Manager for Administrative Services, Atty. Genever M. Dionio, Department Manager for Legal Services, Pilipina P. Bermudez, Department Manager for Public Affairs and Information Staff, Engr. Ramon Bugacia, Division Manager of South Cotabato Irrigation Management Office, Engr. Ramon Fabros, Division Manager of Isabela Irrigation Management Office, Cesar Ruizal, Division Manager for Finance and Administrative in Region 9, and Ms. Helen Laoayan, Chief Corporate Accountant in CAR.

There are other Career Officials of the agency but unable to attend the convention due to conflict in schedule. There are 12 CESE and 7 CSEE occupying various managerial positions in the NIA nationwide. #

39 years of service: *Salamat - Mabuhay, BCJ!*

BY: MARIA TERESA EMPLEO, PRO, REGION 9

At the age of 65 years old, Engr. Bonifacio C. Judilla officially vowed out of service last November 14, 2012. Attended by all NIA employees of the region, his family and a special participation of NIA PAIS Department Manager Pilipina Bermudez, a Salamat-Mabuhay tribute was given to him at Casa Maria, Molave, Zamboanga del Sur. Engr. Bonifacio C. Judilla, famously known to Region IX NIAs as 'BCJ' and 'Sir Boy', had served the agency for 39 remarkable years. He started as a Junior Civil Engineer on March 1, 1973, and rose among the ranks to what we know of him now, a competent Principal Engineer A designated as Acting Irrigation Management Office (IMO) Head of Zamboanga del Sur IMO, with the inclusion of Salug River Irrigation System (SARIS) office and later merged with Labangan River Irrigation System (LABRIS) office under the umbrella of his responsibility.

During the tribute, different IAs and NIA offices gave their token of appreciation to Engr. Bonifacio C. Judilla along with their heartfelt messages for all the hardwork and tireless dedication he had given to his work. One beautiful message from the NIA-9 regional office summed it up, "We give you this eight galloping horses as an emblem of your unrelenting vigor in carrying out the ideals - the mission and vision - of the National Irrigation Administration for the past 39 years in service. As in mobility, productivity, agriculture, development of all kinds, the horse is by far one of the largest contributors to the enhancement of civilization; in the same manner, we are where we are now as a region because of the enduring hard work and unfailing commitment you have generously given to the agency. And just like this splendid assemblage of galloping horses that seemed to ascend to the heavens, may this token remind you of how you were once part of a strong workforce that you yourself had bravely and successfully led into achieving greater heights. And for that we thank you!"

In response, Engr. Bonifacio Judilla shared his gratitude to his NIA colleagues, to the IAs, and to his family for the fruitful years they have journeyed together, "My service in NIA has ended, and I will face a very different life after this, but I will bring with me the lessons of hardwork, discipline, love, and friendship, you all have taught me for the past 39 years of service. Probably I will do farming, too, and pay my ISF promptly."

He is a man known for his generosity, evident on his last day of government service, the outpour of love and support from IAs and NIAs to the engineer who once graced the agency with so much zeal and dedication. Salamat kaayo, BCJ!



Acting Regional Manager Alberca gives the eight-galloping-horses token of the region to the now-retired IMO Head, Engr. Bonifacio C. Judilla.



A pose with Zamboanga del Norte-Sibugay NIAs along with long-time colleague in the service, Engr. Carlos A. Sabado, their Acting IMO Head and BCJ's family.



NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP)

BY: WILHELM S. TIANGCO - PRO

The NIAEASP marked again another milestone on November 7, 2012. The Renewal of the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) was signed by both the Management and Union panels represented by the NIA Administrator, Engr. Antonio S. Nangel and National President Victorino T. Aron, respectively. The signing was also witnessed by Sr. Deputy Administrator Antonio A. Galvez, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Robert C. Suguitan, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance Lorna Grace B. Rosario and other NIA top officials. The NIAEASP National Council District Presidents and officers from the NIAEASP-Central Office were also present during the signing ceremony.

On December 5, 2012, the NIA Board of Directors approved the Renewal of the CNA with New Additional Provisions to be implemented for three (3) years. Among the new additional provisions are the grant of Milestone Bonus, Rice Allowance and Health Care Benefit Program.

The signing of the new CNA signifies the good relationship between the NIA Management and NIAEASP and their intention to give NIA employees better working environment to promote harmonious relationship and to enhance the employees' welfare, productivity and contribution to the attainment of a genuine public service.

Nationwide Union Election was conducted in compliance with the By-Laws of the Union. The NIAEASP Central Office conducted its election on December 13, 2012. The new set of the NIAEASP Central Office Officers who will serve for three (3) years are:



President:

Vice President:

Secretary:

P.R.O.:

Treasurer:

Business Manager:

Ms. Louella R. Mercado

Mr. Juanito T. Gumpal, Jr.

Ms. Rosario C. Tolentino

Mr. Wilhelm S. Tiangco

Mr. Nixon M. Buñag

Ms. Cecilia P. Layug

Sectoral Representatives:

Mr. Moises Batocabe (Administrative & Finance)

Ms. Lourdes F. Amurao (Engineering & Operations)

Division /Department Representatives:

Ms. Portia S. Angulo (HRD)

Mr. Rolando S. Lucas (GSD)

Mr. Roberto D. Royeca (CSA)

Ms. Anna Liza O. Palomo (AD)

Ms. Donna V. Reyes (BCD)

Ms. Melinda Escudero (IAS)

Mr. Rafael F. Sahagun, Jr. (CORPLAN)

Mr. Albert D. Asturiano (EMD)

Mr. Eusebio S. Villamanto (IEC)

Mr. Giovanni D. Odio (SMD)

Ms. Marivic Baligod (IDD)

Ms. Cynthia C. Riñosa (CMD)

Ms. Elvira S. Calanday (DSD)

Mr. Eugene S. Alba, Jr. (PDD)

Mr. Tristan Villaflor (PIDP)

Mr. Antonio E. Esquivel, Jr. (SRIP)

Mr. Alfred Amoloria (CARP-IC)

FAREWELL, AMADEO R. MONTEJO

BY: LILIA V. DAPURAN
PRO, REGION 8



It was a grey November for Region 8 with the untimely demise on November 23, 2012 of Amadeo R. Montejo, Division Manager of Northern-Western Samar IMO and concurrent Officer in charge of Help for Catubig Agricultural Advancement Project (HCAAP). He was 62.

The Region was in total shock when the news from Cebu broke out as it was so sudden for someone perceived to be hale and hearty and full of life.

Madz, as he was fondly called, was in Cebu attending the 2-day Strategic Planning- Visayas Cluster when the inevitable happened. He said his goodbyes that fateful day in a manner that will always be remembered by his peers/ co-participants in the cluster meeting. A music lover, the late Madz mustered two songs of the CASCADES during the fellowship night namely, Shy Girl and the Last Leaf to the delight of the audience without an inkling that "LAST LEAF" would be his swan song. Hours later, he was gone forever.

Engr. Montejo was a good soldier. He chose to leave this world "in line of duty". Dedicated and hardworking, he embraced all his work assignments with passion and fervor. He made significant contribution in the accomplishment of Basey Irrigation Project as it is now, considered as one of the most difficult irrigation project of Region 8.

In line with the President's vision of Rice Self-Sufficiency Philippines 2014, Madz spearheaded to fast track the irrigation development of Samar Provinces thru the massive construction of medium to large irrigation projects such as Catarman-Bobon IP, Bugko IP, Bantayan IP and HCAAP of Northern Samar. He has also initiated the construction of Basey IP, Calbiga IP, Sta. Rita SRIP, and the Feasibility Study/ Detailed Engineering of the proposed multi-billion Gandara River Basin Irrigation Development Project (GRBIDP) of Western Samar.

Madz was a people-person, compassionate and kind to the point of being generous to a fault. It is said that character defines a man, such qualities will be forever etched in the hearts of the people whose lives be touched especially the needy and less privileged.

He will be sorely missed. But as an old cliché says, "Soldiers never die; they just fade away."

NIA C.O. CHORALE ENSEMBLE

BY: MELINDA ESCUDERO, IAS



Three months after the rebirth of NIA C.O. Chorale Group, their prowess was put to test through a performance during NIA Christmas program on December 20, 2012.

The 31-member ensemble rendered two pre-arranged Christmas songs of Ed Lojeski: a kundiman version of "Gising Na" and a rhythmic danceable "Jingle Bells". The third song is a medley of the most popular Christmas carols in Tagalog.

The Search is still on for more prospects with natural talent with or without experience. Feel free to approach any of the coordinators: Ms. Mel Escudero, Ms. Girlie Lizaso and Ms. Tere Mohammed.

