

NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION



MAGAT DAM



currents

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ON THE CENTER COVER:

Magat Dam, Ramon, Isabela - The Magat Dam operates under the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS). It is one of the largest dams in the Philippines standing 374 ft with a crest length of 13,650 ft. Its spillway measures 1,600 ft long and 538 ft wide. Its reservoir can store up to 1.08 B cubic meters. As Southeast Asia's first large multi-purpose dam, it serves as a source of irrigation water and hydroelectric power for a large chunk of Luzon's agricultural land. The hydroelectric plant is owned and operated by SN Aboitiz Power-Magat, Inc.

Designed to Perfection:

The National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

By: Rocielle Harlette E. Navarro, PAIS-CO

Rehabilitation and development of 11 National Irrigation Systems (NIS) is underway through the JICA-funded National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NIS RIP), a five-year project that is undertaken by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice). This project became possible through the 6.187 Billion Yen loan provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency under PH-254 dated March 2012.

"NIS RIP is a project with a perfect plan," says acting Project Manager Engineer John N. Celeste. It will serve a total of 35,670 hectares, reaching out to 22,563 farmer-beneficiaries who belong to 154 Irrigators Associations in the following provinces: Ilocos Norte (in Madongan and Solsona), Pangasinan (San Fabian RIS), Pampanga (Porac-Guamin RIS), Quezon (Dumacaa RIS), Palawan (Malatgao RIS), Iloilo (Sta. Barbara RIS), Bukidnon (Muleta RIS), Davao del Sur (Mal RIS), Sultan Kudarat (Lambayong RIS) and Agusan del Sur (Simulao RIS). This project is composed of several components, which when tied together, leave no stone unturned. Consulting services are composed of detailed survey, design and preparation of tender documents. Civil works include the repair and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities, road system, drainage systems, construction of IA office buildings and construction of warehouses and concrete drying pavements. The project envisions to generate about 15,000 jobs.

Their holistic approach to institutional development includes strengthening the relationship between NIA, IAs and LGUs. The Philippine Rice Research Institute will give the agricultural support including technical support trainings. As for Operation and Maintenance of these systems, NIS RIP will provide heavy and light equipment and measuring instruments.

With its comprehensive approach on its projects — the rehabilitation and restoration of irrigation facilities, strengthened relationship between the parties concerned, valuable irrigation management information, and additional farm equipment — there is no doubt that NIS RIP will become a vital instrument in sustaining rice self-sufficiency and increase the income of farm households.

NIS RIP, in its six months of operation, is the youngest in the list of projects of the agency. At present, Engineer Celeste informs us that the evaluation is already done, the preparation of contracts is on its way, and the consultant is expected to be "on-board" this September 2013 as per schedule.

STATUS OF JALAU RIVER MULTI-PURPOSE PROJECT STAGE 2 CY 2013 PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

Implementation		Accomplishment as of June 2013					
Start	End	Program	Allocation (P/M)	Physical		Financial	
				Target %	Actual %	Target %	Actual %
2012	2016	as of CY 2010	-	-	-	0.00	0.00
		CY 2011	-	-	-	0.00	0.00
		CY 2012	423.890	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
		CY 2013	1,300.000	1,300.000	23.12	23.12	0.31
		As of CY 2013	1,723.890	42.02	24.82	42.02	24.82
		Later Years	9,488.250	-	-	0.00	0.00
		Overall	11,212.140	6.46	3.82	6.46	3.82

Status of Area Generation (hectares)												
Program	Target (ha.)				Actual (ha.)				Remaining (ha.)			
	New	Rehab	Restored	Total	New	Rehab	Restored	Total	New	Rehab	Restored	Total
As of CY 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CY 2011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CY 2012	-	700	-	700	-	4,142.58	120	4,262.58	-	-3,442.58	-120	-3,562.58
CY 2013	1,500	-	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
as of CY 2013	1,500	700	-	2,200	-	4,142.58	120	4,262.58	1,500	-3,442.58	-120	-2,062.58
Later Years	8,000	21,640	-	29,640	-	-	-	-	8,000	18,197.42	-	29,640
Overall	9,500	22,340	-	31,840	-	4,142.58	120	4,262.58	9,500	18,197.42	-120	27,577.4

Remarks:
On-going financial negotiation for procurement of consultancy.

Robertino O. Lapeña
Project Coordinator - JRMP II

Institutional Capacity Building on Environmental and Social Safeguards of Irrigation Development

By: The Environmental and Watershed Management Section (EWMS) PPD-Engineering Department

For the first time in the history of National Irrigation Administration (NIA), a nationwide capacity building on Environmental and Social Safeguards of Irrigation Development was initiated and conducted in two batches. The first batch was held in Tuguegarao City, Region 2 and Tabuk, Kalinga in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) where the focal persons from NIA-Central Office, CAR, Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS), Magat River Integrated Irrigation Systems (MARIIS), and Regions 1, 2, 3, 4A and 4B were in attendance on February 24-March 9, 2013; the second batch was in Davao City and Compostela Valley, Region 11 where focal persons came from Central Office and participants from Region 5 to Caraga on April 7-20, 2013.

In line with the objectives of the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) system (PD 1586), development of irrigation projects should be implemented on the basis of environmental protection, natural resources conservation as well as health and safety of the affected communities including Indigenous Peoples (IPs). It is imperative to recognize the need to consider these components throughout the project cycle from pre-feasibility, feasibility, detailed design, implementation and operation. In order to strengthen the IES system, Executive Order 291 of 1996 also known as "Improving the Environmental Impact Statement System" was issued. Under Section 3 of said Executive Order, all National Government Agencies, Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC), government financial institutions (whose mandate involves in the introduction of infrastructure development) are required to create an Environment Unit (EU).

As part of the commitment of NIA to the World Bank under the Rationalization Plan, creation of the Environmental and Watershed Section (EWMS) of the Project Planning Division (PPD), Engineering Department was undertaken. No unit of positions, however, were created at the field offices where monitoring environmental management and compliance is undertaken.

In the absence of the EU or pertinent position at the Regional Irrigation Offices and Irrigation Management Offices (RIOs & IMOs), focal persons were designated to cater to the environmental and social safeguards of all projects in their respective area. In addition, majority of these focal persons have only limited experience on environmental and social safeguards work. In order to strengthen and capacitate the EWMS staff, including designated focal persons at the field offices, the need to undergo a formal training on environmental and social safeguards was recognized. The training was supported under the World Bank-assisted Participatory Irrigation Development Project (PIDP).

The training aims to provide deeper understanding on the processes and significance of environmental and social safeguards to irrigation development. It covers the very broad spectrum of environmental and social safeguards relative to irrigation development and encompasses major concerns such as environmental and social safeguards laws, policies, rules and regulations; Environmental Management Planning (EMP) and Land Acquisition and Resettlement Planning (LARP); Gender and Indigenous Peoples' Consideration in Irrigation Development; Watershed Assessment and Management Planning for Irrigation Projects; Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) and LARP Monitoring; and crafting of NIA's corporate environmental policy.

The said activity has a total of 80 participants (38 from Batch 1 and 42 from Batch 2). The training is divided into two parts, lecture and field practicum. For the 1st batch, lecture part was conducted at the Hotel Ivory, Buntun Highway, Tuguegarao, and UCRIS, Tabuk,

Participants in Davao City with Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and Region XI RIM Modesto Membreve during the graduation day



Kalinga for the field practicum. While for the 2nd batch, the lecture was held at the Waterfront Hotel in Davao City and Batutu RIS in Compostela Valley for the field practicum.

The Center for Environmental Studies and Management (CESM) was tapped to conduct the capacity building, facilitated by: Engr. Reynaldo Baloloy, Head, Environmental and Watershed Management Section (EWMS) and Engr. Juanito T. Gumpal, Jr., Environmental Specialist A, both from PPD- Engineering Department; Ms. Eden Victoria C. Selva, Manager, Institutional Development Division, PIDP-PMO; and selected facilitators from Regions 2 and 11.

During the training, exemplary performance from the participants was recognized. Veronica V. Aron and Febe R. Manzano both from MARIIS, and Marilyn T. Salvador of Region 2 were the topnotchers on the post-test for Batch 1.

NIA Officials during the training in Region 2



Participants & Farmer-Beneficiaries during the Socio Economic Survey (SES) in Compostela Valley



Water discharge measurement and sampling during the field practicum (from one of the tributaries of the Upper Chico River)



Actual watershed assessment at Batutu Watershed during the field practicum



Cont.. Institutional Capacity Building on Environmental and Social Safeguards of Irrigation Development

The "NIA Super Group" composed of participants from CO, CAR and Region 4B was chosen as the best group for their presentation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports in the 1st batch. In the 2nd batch, Maribeth A. Malinao of Region 11 and Silvestre C. Albores of Caraga Region were awarded as topnotchers on the post-test, while Faustino P. Fugasa from Region 12 was acknowledged as the most improved participant based on the results of the pre and post-exams. Participants acclaimed that the training was very relevant and timely. They truly appreciated the information and the learning imparted to them.

On the other hand, NIA Management showed their support to the said program. In batch 1, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Robert C. Suguitan (RCS) together with other NIA Officials: Manager Antonio Lara (Cagayan-Batanes IMO), Mgr. Gene P. Ragodon, Jr. (PIDP), Mgr. Erdolfo B. Domingo (CO Engineering Department), Mgr. Raymundo Apil (Tabuk-IMO), and Mgr. Gualfredo Martinez, Administrative and Finance, Region 2 joined the opening

and closing programs. In the message of Deputy Administrator RCS, he praised the participants for being patient and responsible. He emphasized that the participants are accountable to impart and practice all the lessons learned during the training in their respective areas of concern.

NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel graced the graduation rites of the second batch where he gave an inspirational message. He stressed the importance of considering environmental aspect which includes the watershed management in irrigation development.

Also present with the Administrator were Regional Irrigation Managers Modesto G. Membreve of Region 11, Alejandro L. Alberca of Region 9 and Mario H. Sande of Region 12. Managers from Central Office present were Milo Landicho, Erdolfo Domingo and Gene Ragodon.

FOOD STAPLES SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM (FSSP) Updates...

BY: POPS MARIE S. DADEA, PAIS-CO

FSSP 2011-2016:

Anchored on a vision of a food-secure society where farmers enjoy decent and rising standards of living, the goal of the FSSP 2011-2016 is to achieve self-sufficiency in food staples.

Self sufficiency in food staples means that the country must produce the national food requirement while maintaining a buffer stock to be used in times of need. ¹

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), being the Department of Agriculture's main agency for irrigation, was tasked to increase production and harvested area by constructing and rehabilitating irrigation systems and improving the functionality and performance of the facilities. As of 31 May 2013, NIA already achieved 93 percent of its three-year (2011-2013) quota under the Food Staples Sufficiency Program of 100,840-ha generated and 90,035-ha restored irrigation area (Table 1). NIA targets to complete the remaining FSSP workload quota of 6,700-ha in generated area and 6,000-ha in restored area by end of July this year, so any additional irrigation area that NIA would generate and restore thereafter would be a bonus accomplishment for the FSSP.

Irrigation is the centerpiece intervention of the FSSP considering that it gets 65 percent of the total rice program budget and earns a share to contribute 35 percent of the target incremental palay production within the critical three-year period 2011-2013.

Table 1- NIA's Remaining Workload in FSSP ²

Particulars	FSSP Quota, ha (2011-2013)	Accomplishment (2011-31 May 2013)	Remaining Area, ha (for 2013)
Generated Area, ha	100,840	94,190 ha 93%	6,650
Restored Area, ha	90,035	84,103 ha 93%	5,932
Rehabilitated Area, ha	143,716	390,062 ha 271%	0

¹ Department of Agriculture. June 2012. Food Staples Sufficiency Program 2011-2016. Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Global Competitiveness.

² Irrigation Engineering Center (IEC), Operations Department, National Irrigation Administration

BIG EVENTS

GREEN IS THE NEW GOLD: NIA TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY 2013

BY: LIONEIL G. DELA CRUZ, PAIS-CO

In compliance with the global call to re-green the Earth, the National Irrigation Administration launched in 2012 the Nationwide Simultaneous Tree Planting Activity. This year, on June 7, NIA personnel and management together with farmers and other sectors marched towards different watershed and protected areas in the country to plant trees.

This year, a total of 122,957 hardwood and fruit bearing trees have been planted in 200.35 ha of watershed and protected areas, plus 33 km of service roads.

REGION	NO. OF TREES PLANTED	NO. OF HECTARES
CAR	37,579	65.65
REGION I	2,900	14.15
REGION II	6,060	1.8
REGION III	4,220	4.15
REGION IV-A	4,015	4
REGION IV-B	5,700	27
REGION V	1,350	5

**CONT.. GREEN IS THE NEW GOLD: NIA TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY 2013**

REGION	NO. OF TREES PLANTED	NO. OF HECTARES
REGION VI	100,000	1.6
REGION VII	5,398	16
REGION VIII	500	31.5 km service road
REGION IX	1,725	3.31
REGION X	1,750	4.5
REGION XI	13,200	7
REGION XII	4,225	5
CARAGA	6,270	17
MARIIS	8,215	9.84
UPRIIS	5,000	2
BBMP	2,000	1.5
CMIPP	1,300	3
ARIIP	250	1.5 km service road
MMIP	400	3
SJIP/URIP	600	4
HCAAP	300	0.85
TOTAL	122,957	200.352 has & 33 km service road

**Instead of trees, Region 8 planted 'mani-mani' (Arachis pinto) along selected service roads.*

The agency believes that aside from being beneficial in the improvement of irrigation service delivery, re-greening the nation is every Filipino's obligation to give back to our primary provider – Mother Earth. NIA is committed to protect all the watersheds that prevent siltation in reservoirs thus better irrigation and also to ensure that future generations experience a cleaner and greener planet. NIA holds on to its belief that a greener Earth is as precious as gold. A NIA Digest Special Edition featuring the conducted tree planting activities in all field offices will be circulated.

NIA CELEBRATES NIA-IA-DAY NATIONWIDE

The National Irrigation Administration, in celebration of its 50th Anniversary, conducted the first-ever NIA-IA Day on separate occasions all throughout the nation. This is to recognize the very important partnership between the agency and the Irrigators Associations in improving agricultural production in the Philippines through irrigation. All the regional offices and some project offices organized their own celebrations since March 2013. Stories of each NIA-IA Day celebration will be featured in a NIA Digest Special Edition.

REGION/OFFICE	DATE	VENUE	NO. OF ATTENDING IAs	TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES (P/RIA)
CAR	06/11/13	La Trinidad, Benguet	53	163
Region I	05/22/13	Candon, Ilocos Sur	599	624
Region II	05/17/13	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	567	1200
MARIIS	03/21/13	MARIIS Grounds	357	800
Region III	05/16/13	NIA Region 3 Head Office	7	300
UPRIIS	05/29/13	UPRIIS Gymnasium	397	621
Region IV-A	04/25/13	Calauan, Laguna	81	231
Region IV-B	04/15/13	NIA Compound, Oriental Mindoro	123	161
Region V	05/24/13	Naga City	400	400
Region VI	05/31/13	NIA Region 6 Compound	140	413
Region VII	04/30/13	Pilar, Bohol	84	200
Region VIII	05/28/13	Tacloban City	266	266
Region IX	06/14/13	Pagadian City	71	208
Region X	07/11/13	Cagayan de Oro City	17	37
Region XI	6/4/2013 - 6/5/2013	NIA XI Compound, Bolton Street, Davao City	256	400
Region XII	06/05/13	Koronadal City	480	657
Caraga	04/18/13	NIA Caraga Motor Pool	250	750
CMIPP	06/04/13	Talugtug, Nueva Ecija	2	238
TOTAL			3894	7269

ADOPT-A-COMMUNITY PROJECT

In line with NIA's commitment in uplifting the lives of farmers and the community in general, it launched the Adopt-a-Community Project during the Soft-Launching of anniversary Logo and Theme on February 11, 2013 in the occasion of its 50th Founding Anniversary. Each region constructed and displayed a donation box in which all the contributions would be used in an outreach activity for a selected community within their respective service areas.

**As of August 28, 2013. On-going collection.*

REGION/OFFICE	DATE	COMMUNITY-BENEFICIARY	FORM OF OUTREACH	TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES
CAR	December 2013	Brgy. Tuel, Tublay, Benguet	Repair/Rehabilitation of day Care Center; Donation of Learning Toys and Materials	P 19,300.00*	N/a
Region I	05/21/13	Brgy. Nagpanuan, Burgos, Ilocos Sur	Supplementary Feeding Program; Distribution of Clothes and Grocery Items	P 25,000.00	21 families (4Ps)
Region II	No data	Research, Minante 1, Cauayan City (beside the Day Care Center)	Construction of Deep Well	P 14,550.00	150 (individuals)
MARIIS	December 2013	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region III	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
UPRIIS	06/07/13	Brgy. Fatima, Pantabangan, N.E.	Renovation of Chapel (through Diocese of San Jose City)	P 104,874.00	N/a
Region IV-A	No data	Don Manuel Rivera Memorial National HS / Pila, Laguna	Construction of 4-Seater CR and Drainage Canal	P 143,000.00	1700 (students and residents)
Region IV-B	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region V	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region VI	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region VII	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region VIII	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region IX	December 2013	Yet to be identified by IDD	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region X	December 2013	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Region XI	No data	Squatters area	Giving of Groceries & used clothing	P 1,000 & used clothings	30 families
Region XII	December 2013	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Caraga	09/21/13 09/21/13 (RO)	1. Dalingdingan Elem. School	1. Giving of school supplies and cash	P 101,344.75	No data
		2. Por Cristo- Home for the Aged	2. 5 sacks of rice and food		No data
	06/13/13 (ADN-SDN-DI IMO)	Eliseo G. Alpao Elem. School	Distribution of school supplies and rubber boots for teachers and students		No data
	On-going SDS IMO	Dayoan Elem. School	Construction of Faculty Building		No data
	Not yet conducted	Bayugan 3 CIS	Distribution of Organic Fertilizer		No data
ARIIP	05/20/13	Indigent Children with Disabilities (Rosales, Pangasinan)	Feeding Program, Flying of Wish Balloons	P 21,407.00 (+10 Health Kits)	15
BBMP	No data	San Isidro Molave IA	Grass Cutter	P1,700.00	No data
CMIPP	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
MMIP	September 2013			P 7,000.00 + in-kind	
URIP/SJIP	December 2013	Yet to be identified	N/a	On-going collection	N/a
Central Office	Not yet conducted	Yet to be identified	N/a	P 18,873.15	N/a

50 DAYS to 50 years : A Prelude

BY: LIONEIL G. DELA CRUZ, PAIS-CO

May 6, 2013/ NIA Quezon City – To give the NIA Community a taste of what's to come in the agency's 50th Anniversary Week on June 17-25, 2013 a one-night-only event was held in celebration of the 50th day in the countdown to NIA's anniversary. Employees from different CO-departments and some field offices gathered for a night of music, dance, and fun. It was also graced by all the Regional Managers, Project Managers, Operations Managers, Department Managers, and the agency's Top Management – Administrator Antonio Nangel, OIC Senior Deputy Administrator Claro Maranan, DA for Engineering and Operations Robert Suguitan, and DA for Administrative and Finance Lorna Grace Rosario.

Participating employees from the CO, project and regional offices prepared an array of musical and dance performances to entertain NIA officials and co-workers. Laughter dominated the air as performers came out in colorful costumes to showcase iconic dance moves inspired by the five decades NIA has encompassed.

No one was more delighted than the Mastermind of the event, Administrator Antonio Nangel. In his speech, he expressed how happy he is that everybody dedicated time and effort in preparing and participating in the celebration. He also said that he was truly inspired by efforts everybody is doing for the agency and for the farmers. He thanked everybody for their enthusiasm in the 50 to 50 Celebration but expects more from them in the Irrigation Week.



“Gintong Palay” Wins NIA Jingle Making Contest

May 6, 2013 – Out of fifteen catchy entries to the NIA Jingle Making Contest, Mr. Gregorio S. Dumandan (IAS Manager from the Central Office) wrote the song that emerged as the winner. “Gintong Palay” bested fourteen others from different regions: “Gintong NIA” by John Geronimo (Region 2); “Tagumpay ng NIA at Magsasaka” (Region 4A); “Kampay Keronimo (Region 4B); “Gintong Buhay ng NIA” by Patricia Agutaya (Region 4B); “NIA Jingle” (Region 8); “Samahang NIA at Magsasaka” by Misty Karen

Antatico (Region 10); “50 Years na Sama-Sama” by Belen Encarnacion (Region 12); “NIA at Magsasaka 50 Years Na” by Edilberto Quinto (Region 12); “Ser-bisyong Masagana” by Jamer Lumondao (Region 12); “NIA Jingle” by Rodelor Avance-Valsote (Region 12); “Pagbubunyi't Panawagan” (HCAAP/PIP); “NIA @ 50” by Albert Corpuz (MARIIS); “Patubig ng NIA” by Marie Vi Manuel (MARIIS); and, “Ang NIA at ang Magsasaka” by Ruby Pastrana (UPRIIS). The entries were judged by three experts: Mr. Lester Delgado, Mr. Alvin Esperancilla, and Mr. Emerson Hernandez. This was announced during the 50 Days to 50 Years Countdown Celebration held at the Central Office. Mr. Dumandan took home P25,000.

GINTONG PALAY

BY: GREGORIO S. DUMANDAN, IAS MANAGER, NIA C.O

At sa pagdating ng NIA, ang isang ani ay naging dalawa dahil sa maayos na sistema ng patubig sa buong bansa.

Para sa patuloy na pag-unlad ng pagkain at kabuhayan bayad sa serbisyo ng patubig ay kailangan ngayon at kailanman.

Gintong palay, bawat buhay alay ng 50 taong pagsisikhay ng mga bayani ng bayan mula sa ating kabukiran.



NIA's 50th Year

Week-Long Shindig Sparkled like Gold



BIG EVENTS

Colorful banners, drumbeats, cheers, a melting pot of languages and dialects, and the intoxicating aroma of celebration dominated the NIA-Central Office as personnel from all the field offices gathered for the agency's 50th Anniversary Celebration on June 17-25. Administrator Antonio S. Nangel jubilantly led the nine-day festivities encouraging everybody to participate in all the prepared events. Sports, cultural presentations, chorale singing, a pageant, fun games, a place for shopping, and other activities were organized to give the delegates the best time during their stay. Nightly socials gave the participants time to catch-up and make new acquaintances. It was like a reunion of a very large family, and true enough, NIA is indeed one big happy family.

Still, amidst the party, one thing was clear to all the participants. The week-long affair was not just a mere shindig but also a celebration of the agency's legacy in providing quality irrigation for the Filipino farmers. This year's anniversary theme, "NIA at 50: Serving the farmers with commitment and excellence to continue its legacy in the years to come," was obviously etched in everybody's hearts as they participated in various events. This made the celebration sparkle all the more like 24-karat gold.

A Colorful Opening

Administrator Antonio S. Nangel led the festivities for the official opening of the NIA 50th Anniversary Week on June 18 at the NIA Central Office. Delegates from all the regional and project offices flocked the Central Office clad in their assigned team colors to participate in various events such as in sports, cultural dance, and chorale singing. The day started with the 50th Anniversary Run wherein the symbolic torch of unity and sportsmanship was passed along by representatives and managers of various field offices. Ultimately, Engr. Nangel lighted the cauldron that signalled the start of the nine-day celebration.

The NIA-CO Grounds immediately transformed into a festive sea of color as the delegates paraded in. To make their entry more special, cultural and marching band performances were infused in their lines. The parade of colors was followed by a brief program.

NIA employees, though wearing different colors, demonstrated a certain sense of oneness in the commitment to continue the agency's legacy in providing the best irrigation services for the Filipino farmers.



NIA Employees Battled for Gold

Every year, NIA employees from all over the country flock at the Central Office to battle for gold and glory at the annual NIA Anniversary Sportsfest — one of the highlights of the agency's anniversary celebration. This year, as NIA celebrated its 50th Anniversary on June 17-25, personnel from different regions met and competed in different sporting events such as volleyball, badminton, table tennis, dart, chess, cheerleading, and other fun games to promote a sense of sportsmanship and camaraderie within the NIA family.

The events encouraged friendly competition among NIA personnel. Still, games ultimately require one victor. Region 6 delegates bagged the most wins thus naming them Overall Champion followed by Region 11, MARIIS, and Region 3 in runner-up positions respectively.



50th NIA ANNIVERSARY SPORTSFEST Official List of Winners				
EVENT	Champion	1st Runner-up	2nd Runner-up	3rd Runner-up
MAJOR EVENTS				
Men's Volleyball	Region 6	Region 11	Region 8	MARIIS
Women's Volleyball	Region 6	Region 11	Region 3	Central Office
Badminton	Region 3	MMIP	Region 5	Central Office
Table Tennis	Region 11	UPRIIS	Region 12	Region 8
Dart	Region 3	Region 6/ Region 10/ Region 8*		
Chess	Region 8	Region 11	UPRIIS	Region 3
Women's 3-on-3 Basketball	Region 6	Region 13	MMIP	Region 12
Golden Pep Squad Cheering Competition	Region 12	MARIIS	Region 2	Region 8
FUN RUN				
Open Male	Melvin Aquino - MARIIS	Ronnel Fajardo - Region 2	Cristoto Nazarita - Central Office	Verdin Paul de Ocampo - Region 6
Open Female	Jackielyn Estoquia - Region 6	Angel Antipuesto - Region 13	Marissa Castillo - ARIIP	May Shiel Agton - Region 11
Golden Male	Nestor Limpangog - Region 9	Jose Velencia - MARIIS	Pedro Tanaleon - Region 6	Ramir Batomalaki - Region 7
Golden Female	Jacinta Gimentiza - Region 7	Mely Sespeñe - Central Office	Lucy Malificiar - Region 12	Josielyn Garcia - Region 3
FUN GAMES				
Obstacle Race	Region 4A	Region 6	Region 13	MARIIS
Family APIR	Region 10	Region 9	Region 6	Region 13
Buzzer Beater Relay	MARIIS	Region 6	Region 3	Region 11
Four-Legged Race	Region 11	MARIIS	Region 4A	Region 2
Golden Basketball Exhibition	Team Luzon	Team NCR	Team Mindanao	Team Visayas

* Regions 6, 8, and 10 shared the 1st runner-up position for the Dart Tournament.



NIA can Dance

Creative choreography, awe-inspiring costumes, and ethnic rhythms delighted the NIA audience during the annual Cultural Dance Competition on June 21 in celebration of NIA's 50th Anniversary. For a night, the NIA Covered Court turned into an exhibition of Filipino culture as NIA employees from eleven field offices brought into the table their own take on Filipino folk dances. This year, the competing groups were asked to interpret the country's national dance, the Cariñosa, and a folk dance of their choice. Their heart-stopping and spectacular showcase was deliberated by three household names in the Philippines' dance and theatre arena – Genevieve Agtay-Caja, Angela Lawenko-Baguilat, and Juan Mark Cabrera – based on choreography, synchronization, costume, and audience impact.

This year, the field offices who took home the glory were:



Let the Choirs Sing

It was during the fourth night of the irrigation week when the NIA Central Office was filled with angelic voices and relaxing harmonies as eight choral groups from different regions took the spotlight to compete in the NIA Annual Chorale Competition. Chorale groups from MMIP, Region 2, Region 3, Central Office, Region 13, Region 7, Region 1, and Region 8 belted two songs each: the contest piece, 'Handog' by Florante, and a song of their own choosing.

After delighting the audience and impressing the distinguished panel of experts which includes Prof. Angelito Aryan, Jr., Emerson M. Hernandez, and Lester Delgado with their heart-warming and entertaining renditions, victors emerged. Region 2 took the 3rd spot, Region 8 won the 2nd place, and Region 3 took home again the Champion's trophy.

This yearly activity had been undertaken to rekindle interest in Filipino music and to encourage friendly competition and sportsmanship among NIA personnel.



Beauty and Brains Reigned Supreme

June 24, 2013 – Day 8 of the NIA Anniversary Week proved to be the most dazzling as the most beautiful, talented, and wittiest women of NIA took the limelight for the Miss NIA 2013 Coronation Night. A total of 17 carefully selected ladies from different regional and project offices flew in to represent their respective units and vied for the coveted Miss NIA title. Previously on June 19, the candidates were judged for their talent, sportswear, casual wear, and a bit of their wit during the Pre-pageant night held at the IEC Convention Hall.

At the end of the day, five ladies proved to be the crème de la crème. They were:

MISS NIA	Maryl Angeline King, (REGION 5)
1ST RUNNER UP	Dindi Athena Maguikay, (REGION 8)
2ND RUNNER UP	Maria B. Reynoso, (REGION 4B)
3RD RUNNER UP	Sheena Y. Ortillo, (REGION 10)
4TH RUNNER UP	Grethen B. Galiza, (MARIIS)

Special Awards were also given to candidates that excelled in specific areas. They were:

Best in Talent	Dindi Athena Maguikay, (REGION 8)
Best in Sportswear	Princess Antonette Dador, (REGION 4A)
Best in Casual Wear	Dindi Athena Maguikay, (REGION 8)
Miss Photogenic	April Camille S. Rosales, (REGION 11)
Miss Congeniality	Jan Pamela A. Unico, (REGION 6)
Best in Long Gown	Maria B. Reynoso, (Region 4B)

This glamorous event would not be possible without the able leadership of the Overall Chairman of the Pageant Committee, the original Miss NIA herself and the only lady in the Top Management, Madam Lorna Grace B. Rosario.



NIA 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ENDED WITH SUCCESS

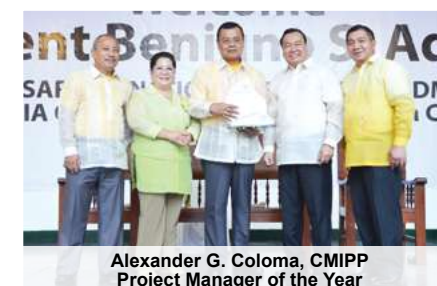
What better way to cap the nine-day anniversary celebration of the National Irrigation Administration than to recognize personalities that are instrumental in the country's irrigation development? June 25, 2013 was not just a mere day to close the Anniversary celebration of NIA but also a day to give credit to the accomplished men and women of the agency in recognition of their efforts in improving irrigation in the country.

The day started with a Thanksgiving Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Jerry M. Orbos. The occasion was also graced by none other than His Excellency Benigno Simeon Aquino III, President of the Philippines who gave the keynote speech. After which, awards were handed to the NIA top officials, regional/project/operations managers, department managers, employees, irrigators associations, and other personalities from the central and field offices. Special recognition were also given to the former NIA Administrators in grateful appreciation of their services and contribution to the agency.

Through the PRAISE Committee, plaques and monetary incentives were also given to the Regional Offices, Managers, and Irrigation Management Offices that performed well in 2012.



PRAISE AWARDEES CY 2012



Alexander G. Coloma, CMIPP
Project Manager of the Year



Felix M. Razo, Department Manager Region 10
Most Improved Region of the Year



Manuel L. Collado, Department Manager Region 1
Improved Region of the Year



Jimmy L. Apostol, Region 10 - Bukidnon IMO
Outstanding IMO of the Year



Joselito A. Manguay, UPRIS Division 2
Irrigation Management Office Manager of the Year



Jose B. Soliven, MARIIS Division 4
Outstanding IMO of the Year

A Picture Paints a Thousand Words

On April 15, separate On-the-Spot Painting Contests were simultaneously held in eleven NIA offices nationwide. College students were invited to artistically portray the anniversary theme "NIA at 50: Serving the farmers with excellence and commitment to continue its legacy in the years to come." The paintings that won in each office were flown in at the Central Office to be judged for the National Category on June 18, Day 2 of the week-long anniversary celebration of the agency.

The entries were judged fair and square by three experts – Mr. Mike Manuzon, Mr. Joey Cobcobo, and Mr. Pandi Aviado – based on visual impact, relevance to the theme, and medium used. After careful deliberation, William I. Concepcion's (UPRIIS) painting took home the Grand Prize of P30,000.00. Following suit was Mark Kim Arcenal (NCR/CO) who placed 2nd and took home P25,000.00. The third spot with a P20,000.00 prize went to Jeff de Luna (MARIIS). A consolation prize of P2,000.00 was given to the non-winning entries from CAR, Regions 1, 2, 3, 4B, 9, 12, and BBMP.



CONT.. Praise Awardees



Carlito M. Gapasin, UPRIS Division 4
Outstanding IMO of the Year



Eugenio O. Conde, Jr., UPRIS Division 5
Outstanding IMO of the Year



Carlito A. Carrasco, Region 11 - Compostela Valley IMO
Outstanding IMO of the Year



C'zar M. Sulaik Region 12 - North Cotabato IMO
Outstanding IMO of the Year



Diosdado A. Rosales, Region 7, Cebu - Bohol
Outstanding IMO of the Year



Eduardo P. Ramos, MARIIS Division 1
Outstanding IMO of the Year

IA SUCCESS STORIES

Calamundingan IA: Geared Up towards A Brighter Future

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

Despite the tremendous heat that day, the members of the Calamundingan IA happily greeted us as we arrived at their office in Gloria, Oriental Mindoro. It was headed by IA President Fernando Salazar.

Calamundingan IA is one of the oldest Irrigators Association in Oriental Mindoro; registered with SEC on December 19, 1967 and system was turned-over on 1983.

Irrigating about 200 hectares, the IA was blessed with huge amount of water for their farmlands.

Way back without the existence of the irrigation system, farmers of Calamundingan only depended on "sahod-ulan" as their water source for farming. "Ang mga kabataan, hindi tumitigil dito. Lumuluwas sila ng Maynila para doon maghanap ng trabaho," Said Mr. Salazar. "Pero nang nagkaroon kami ng patubig, nag-iba na. May mga magbubukid na gumanda ang pamumuhay."

The IA is known to be one of the good payors in Oriental Mindoro. With its very active farmer members of about 150, Calamundingan IA proved that dedication and hard work are the keys to success. During the recently held NIA IV-B Regional O & M Summit, Calamundingan IA received an award as the Second Top Performer in the Communal Irrigation System Category.



Calamundingan IA Board of Directors
headed by their IA President Mr.
Fernando Salazar (Sitting 1st from
left)

"Ang aming mga member ay masisipag talaga, sumusunod sa mga alituntunin. Ang aming patubig rin ay maganda. Bale dalawa na ang aming binabayaran ngayon. Yung nauna at yung nahuli sa halip na yarin (bayaran) namin sa loob ng tatlong taon ay binayaran na agad namin dahil gumanda ang koleskyon," added Mr. Salazar.

The IA Secretary, Mr. Henry L. Abayon Sr., also shared that the building (IA Office) and lot was an investment of the IA. Being able to buy those meant that the IA had been earning. There is a high standard of collection. The needs of the IA are being supported and they were able to pay NIA in advance. They even provided shirts for the members.

Calamundingan IA holds BOD meetings and general assembly regularly in order to discuss and provide solutions to problems. As to collection strategy, they go house-to-house every harvesting season. They also invite the IDO assigned in their area, Ms. Aurora Tongco, during their collection.

With good performance, Calamundingan IA is one of the three (3) chosen and invited Irrigators Associations from Mindoro to the recently held DA Sikat-Saka Program which aims to provide credit assistance to small palay farmers for their palay production.

With the hope and compassion of providing better services to co-farmers, Calamundingan IA is geared towards continuous sustainability.



On-going construction of
Calamundingan IA Office

To Capture a Dream

BY: MARIETTA M. DELA CRUZ, PRO A -REGION 4A



BRISIA Board of Trustees signing the Model 3 IMT
Contract witnessed by NIA Laguna-Rizal IMO Institutional
personnel.

With the breeze coming through the window, one can feel the clean and fresh air from the rice fields surrounding the office—a venue of countless meetings, a "Bayad Center" for walk-in clients opting to pay personally for their ISF obligations, a haven for problem laden members who are experiencing water scarcity, a tribune for conflicts between its members, a reception area for numerous foreign & local visitors and myriads of research students in and outside the country — this is the office of Balanac River Irrigation System Irrigators Association, Inc. or more popularly called BRISIA. Strategically located along the National Highway right across the GSIS Building at Brgy. Biñan, Pagsanjan, Laguna.

BRISIA's story began in 1990 when it was organized under the Irrigation Community Organization Program (ICOP) wherein selected farmer-members were trained and employed to coordinate and systematize statistics on identified farmer-beneficiaries under the supervision of the IDO and Watermaster assigned in the area.

It was formally registered with the SEC on the same year with the IA signing into (then) Type I & Type II contract for a partial operation and management of the system.

The IA's entire service area is served by Balanac River Irrigation System (BRIS).

CONT.. To Capture a Dream



Model 3 IMT contract signing between the BRISIA Board of Trustees and NIA-Laguna-Rizal IMO headed by Engr. Emmanuel S. Sunga (ret.), Sr. IDO Lutgarda C. Caniamo and IDO Froilana S. Pobre.

It is a gravity type system that draws water from Balanac River.

The system officially opened in 1967 Dry Season and had undergone major rehabilitation in 1984-1987 under the Second Laguna Bay Irrigation Project (SLBIP) financed by Asian Development Bank. The system likewise undergone rehabilitation under the Irrigation Operation Support Project (IOSP 2) and World Bank financed Water Resource Development Project (WRDP). Balanac RIS has a designed service area of 1,200 hectares and firm-up service area of 1,056 hectares. It serves four municipalities namely Magdalena, Lumban, Pagsanjan and part of

Paselomak IA:
altering the fate of
downstream irrigation
water users

BY: FLORENTINA L. MAGBANUA &
DANIELLE P. PIJUAN, REGION 6

The scorching heat of the sun in the mid-day of April 16, 2013 almost made the members and officers of Paselomak IA give up. It was their first day of water delivery for wet crop and almost all of them were out on the field to welcome the precious irrigation water, which they had missed for 45 days. The headgate of their Lateral Canal along with all other headgates in the north district of Bago River Irrigation System in Negros Occidental were closed on March 1 to concentrate water delivery to the south district for its 3rd cropping season. Their headgate was reopened at 6:00 am on that day and they knew by experience that before noon time, irrigation water should have started filling the tail-most farms covered by their IA in TSAG 9. This time, it's a little late and farmers were starting to get restless, looking questioningly at their President and Service Committee chairman, Zaldy Javier. But as soon as President Rose dialed her phone to contact NIA, the sound of flowing water caught their attention. Shouts of triumph and synchronized clapping filled the air. Then with big smiles, farmers went home for their lunch and told their spouses and children that their busy days had begun.

Paselomak IA is one of the 44 organized IAs within the service area of Bago River Irrigation System in Negros Occidental. It is the downstream-most area of Lateral E Canal or the 7th and last IA along Lateral E.

Like other downstream IAs, Paselomak once used to experience enormous problems associated with poor operation and maintenance performance due to lack of water during dry seasons and oversupply of water during wet seasons. With that dilemma, IA members were frustrated and inactive until the IA initiated a crusade to alter that predicament.

The crusade began with a resolve to unify all members. The Officers, through the example of its lady President Rosemary R. Caunca,

Sta. Cruz, all in Laguna. The main canal is 13.3 km long with 4 lateral and sub-lateral totalling 28.2 km. with Laguna de Bay as its drainage area.

There are 32 organized Turn-out Service Area Group (TSAG) within the system and each of them are continuously replacing and filling-up their set of officers once vacated to have a strong leadership down to the lowest TSAG level.

The Association increased their fund savings out of the IA share they received from NIA and from the income they get in contracting minor repair works from the system.

The cooperation of the 32 TSAG Presidents comprising the Board of Trustees (BOTs) provided the much needed initiative in embracing the challenges of the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) program. After continuing institutional development enhancement provided by NIA, the goal of having IMT was finally realized on March 4, 2002. Its official signing of contract signify their acceptance of managing the whole system effective 2002 Dry Season Cropping.

BRISIA, at present, has one clerical personnel and one ISF collector (being assisted by TSAG Presidents in ISF campaign and distribution of ISF bill) in addition to the existing two laborers/ditch



Paselomak IA during the Awarding Ceremony of 2012 Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Awards. (L-R) IA Treasurer Adelfa Juarez, IA Secretary Edma Montano, Usec. Joel S. Rudinas, Administrator ASN, IA President Rosemary R. Caunca, Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcalá, Division Manager A. Basiao, IA Vice President Rizaldy Javier, National Rice Coordinator Asoc Dante S. Delima

went house-to-house and field-to-field visits educating and consulting their farmers. These visits gradually won full support and complete trust of members to the IA paving way for organizational growth and power. With that power, the IA was able to initiate and influence change among other downstream IAs.

With strong IA organizations, it was easier for NIA and downstream IAs to negotiate with upstream IAs to implement a downstream start water delivery. Based on that principle of water delivery, the NIA and IA set service standards through a defined Cropping Calendar, Water Delivery & Distribution Schedule, and maintenance policy starting Crop Year 2010. With a downstream start water delivery, the farmers are assured of sufficient water supply until harvest time during dry seasons and minimal flooding damage during wet seasons.

With the assurance of timely irrigation services, the Paselomak IA initiated service standard like "NO RECEIPT, NO WATER" and "NO CLEARING, NO WATER". These simple policies enabled the IA to generate funds through ISF incentives for 100 percent collection efficiency. Having internally generated fund, it was able to finance livelihood projects like swine chain and *alalay sa panimalay* (Help for family). The IA had eventually acquired several units of farm and office equipment, furniture and fixtures, flatbed dryer and other post harvest facilities and tripled the size of its Office. The IA also accumulated cash deposits in two bank accounts. This IA became number 1 in the province and region, and in 2012 it became an Agri-Pinoy Rice Achiever awardee.

The IA is now the center for linkages to various services which is paving way to socio-economic improvement for its members.

tenders assisting them in the day-to-day management and operation of the system. The hired personnel had undergone intensive on-the-job-training alternately at NIA and BRISIA office to familiarize them with the Irrigation Service Fee Register (IFR), how to prepare bills, and compute penalties.

The association's generated income is also being used to finance their continuing system improvement of physical facilities. They are bent in improving their managerial skills that the request for continuing technical and institutional seminars and workshops are being given in synchronization with their farming activity.

More than two decades after its conception, BRISIA managed to stand firm in spite of the many trials that came their way. They had been named Outstanding IA of the region (NIS Level) in 2004 and currently considered at the top notch again because of their consistent exemplary performance. The leaders of BRISIA believe that they still have a lot to learn, still so much more to do to achieve their dream of being an instrument and a recognized institution that would pave the way for the upliftment and betterment of the lives of each of their farmer-members. For now, they trust that BRISIA, with the continued support of NIA and other organizations coupled with the unwavering commitment and hard work of their leaders, in time will achieve that dream.

Likewise, local and foreign delegations often come and visit the IA to observe the efficient operation of its organization and the cooperation of its members, feel the warm hospitality of the officers, meet the energetic, charming and engaging President, and view the beautiful arrangement & excellent filling system of the IA office. "This status was achieved by the IA through a dynamic partnership with NIA here in Negros Occidental led by Division Manager Joel A. Basiao" says the President.

Now, who would say that downstream IAs are least privileged compared to upstream or midstream IAs?

Hi-Farm IA:
From Nothing to Outstanding

BY: ED G. YU, PRO - REGION 5

Who could have thought that a group of farmers who used to steal water from an irrigation canal more than 20 years ago would end up being awarded as an outstanding irrigators association?

Originally not included as beneficiaries of Tigman-Hinagyanan-Inarihan River Irrigation System (THIRIS), then a newly completed national irrigation system (NIS) under the Bicol River Basin Irrigation Development Project (BRBIDP), the Hinagyanan Farmers (Hi-Farm) whose farms were then devoted to coconut, banana, corn, and root crops started converting them to ricelands, seeing the abundance of water as their farms are near the Hinagyanan Dam.

Initially, farmers in the area irrigated some 37 hectares of converted rice fields through illegal turnouts. When personnel of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) discovered the unauthorized turnouts, the same were closed down and they were not allowed to draw water.

On January 18, 1990, the first president of Hinagyanan Integrated Farmers Irrigators Association (Hi-Farm IA), Marcelo de los Reyes together with four of his officers met with NIA officials. Their request to reopen the turnouts was granted on the condition that they pay irrigation service fee (ISF) to NIA. On March 11, 1990, another meeting was held between Hi-Farm and NIA that led to the inclusion of 124 hectares in the service area of THIRIS covered by 11 turnouts in seven barangays of Manguring, Bonot, Sta. Rosa, Talacop, Belen, Paolbo and Manguring, all in Calabanga, Camarines Sur.

CONT.. Hi-Farm IA: from Nothing to Outstanding



Hi-Farm president Ernesto delos Reyes smiles for the cameras as his IA receives the Most Outstanding IA Award during NIA's Golden Anniversary Celebration.

Hi-Farm's journey to success was not an easy one. Its officers and members, led by the incumbent president, Ernesto de los Reyes, From 2010 to 2012 period, Hi-Farm posted a high CE of 94 percent to a low of 73 percent. Irrigated area for the same period was as high as 121.5 hectares to a low of 111.5 hectares toiled hard to reach their status as one of the models of a successful IA.

Active participation of members, good leadership, prudent spending and proper management of their meager resources coupled with good

More than a year after, Hi-Farm entered into a Type 1 Contract with NIA for the maintenance of main canal and the removal of debris at the siphon.

relations with other government agencies have given Hi-Farm a big advantage over other IAs in the region.

Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on June 25, 1991, Hi-Farm has a total beneficiaries of 220 farmers. Out of this, 132 are registered IA members.

It has purchased its own lot for an IA office using the savings from the operations of its solar dryers, which was later on donated by the IA to the barangay council of Sta. Rosa for use as a day care center.

The IA now owns a six-wheeler truck, a fruit of the Cooperative Development Incentive Fee (CDIF), which it earned by selling the palay harvest of members directly to the National Food Authority (NFA). It also bought farm tools from the proceeds of its Type I contract with NIA.

Other assets of the IA include: water pumps and tools, three flatbed dryers, three recirculating dryers with furnace, a warehouse, palay thresher, an electric transformer, hand tractor with trailer, a collapsible tent, a combined harvester and rail, and other farming equipment.

For its achievement, the IA had received 15 local and national awards, the latest being the Most Outstanding IA of the Year (Regional Level, NIS Category) during the 50th NIA Anniversary celebration on June 25, 2013. In 2012, it was bestowed the Outstanding IA for 2012 (Agri-Pinoy) award by the Department of Agriculture.

"Sa pagtutulungan at pagkakaisa at sa awa ng mahal na Diyos, aming napaunlad ang aming buhay bilang mga magsasaka. Ito ay dahil sa malaking tulong ng NIA at ng ating pamahalaan," Ka Erning de los Reyes said.

PROUD TO BE NIAan

THE PORTRAIT OF A FORMER NIAan AS A MEMBER OF THE NIA BOARD

His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III, on the endorsement of DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, has recently appointed a former NIAan in the person of Hon. Ismael D. Tabije to the NIA Board of Directors, the governing and policy-making body of the agency, effective September 15, 2011. He took his oath before Sec. Alcala on September 28, 2011.

PD 552, issued in 1974, has specified the NIA Board to be composed of the following: DA Secretary (as Chairman), DPWH Secretary, NEDA Director General, NIA Administrator, NAPOCOR President; and a private sector representative. Since then, this is the first time that a former NIAan is appointed to the Board representing the private sector.

Hon. Tabije joined the NIA- Davao del Norte Provincial Irrigation Office (PIO) in 1975 as Engineer-Trainee. Over the ensuing years, he steadily rose in rank. In 1979, in recognition of his outstanding performance and potential, NIA sent him to the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) as a government scholar where he earned a degree in Masters in Business Management (MBM) in 1981.

NIA also sent him to Germany in 1985, on a scholarship grant by the German government, where he undertook 13 months of studies and training in the fields of Hydrology and Irrigation Engineering in different German universities and consulting firms.

Upon his return from his AIM masteral studies in 1981, he was designated as OIC-Provincial Irrigation Engineer for Davao del Norte. He was appointed full-fledge to the said position in 1984. From that time until he left the NIA in 2000, he actively pursued the irrigation development of the province and was awarded by NIA as "Outstanding Provincial Irrigation Officer" nine times in the process.

In 2000, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) hired him full-time as International Consultant for irrigation. East Timor is the former name of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. In such capacity, he was largely responsible for organizing the new country's irrigation agency and conceptualizing its irrigation development program.

After East Timor's independence and the turn-over of governance from the UNTAET to the new government in 2002, the newly formed Ministry of Agriculture of Timor-Leste hired him as Project Management Advisor of the WB-funded Agricultural Rehabilitation Project (ARP). Leading a team of international consultants coming from different countries, he coordinated and oversaw the development of the country's agricultural policy directions and the major rehabilitation efforts in the fields of fisheries, forestry, irrigation, crop production, agricultural cooperatives, and animal and livestock production.

During the time that Engr. Tabije was still part of the senior consulting team of the ARP, the project was the recipient of an outstanding award by the World Bank President-one of only 3 WB-funded projects worldwide that received such award in 2002.

Hon. Tabije's stint with the UN and WB in East Timor ended in 2004. Since then, he has been doing freelance consulting works with the WB, EC, JICA, and ADB in such areas as irrigation, education-related civil works, and rural and agricultural infrastructures in the Philippines, Pakistan and Vietnam. He has also done reviews and assessments of foreign-funded projects of the DPWH, DAR, DA, DepEd, MMDA, LGUs, and NIA.



On the extra-curricular front, Engr. Tabije was the President of the National Association of Provincial Irrigation Engineers, Inc. (NASPIE) from 1997-2000. He was also the President of the Kiwanis Club of Tagum City, Davao del Norte in 1992 during which term he was awarded "Outstanding Club President" by the Kiwanis International District Governor. In 2007, he became the President of the Rotary Club of South Davao during which term he was also awarded as "Outstanding Club President" by the Rotary International District Governor. While working in East Timor, Engr. Tabije founded and became the first president of the Association of Filipinos in East Timor.

Hon. Tabije is a member of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the International Water Resources Association, and the German Association for Water Resources and Land Development.

In recognition of his contributions to global development efforts, Hon. Tabije was listed in the "Marquis Who's Who in the World for 2003," an international publication based in the USA.

When he accepted his appointment to the NIA board, Hon. Tabije committed to his use his wealth of global irrigation experiences and his best efforts towards helping improve NIA's irrigation development program and the government's drive towards food self-sufficiency and uplifting the farmer's economic condition.#

UPDATES:

NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (NIAEASP)

A new set of officers was elected during NIAEASP's 1st Quarter National Council Meeting held on February 7 & 8 2013 at the NIA Central Office. The 2nd Quarter NIAEASP National Council Meeting was held on May 20 and 22, 2013. NIAEASP NCR Chapter hosted the event. Among the agenda taken up during the meeting were: additional CNA Incentive for CY 2012, the 50th Anniversary Sports Fest, Health Care Program, and Damayan Program.

During NIA's 50th Anniversary, NIAEASP facilitated the sports event during the nine-day celebration. Declared winners were: Overall champion - Region 6, 1st Runner Up - MRIIS, 2nd Runner Up - Region 3.

The new set of NIAEASP National Council Officers who will serve for three years are:

National President:	Mr. Victorino Aron (MRIIS)	Asst. Business Manager (NCR):	Ms. Lourdes F. Amurao (NCR)
National Vice President:	Ms. Louella R. Mercado (NCR)	Asst. Business Manager (Luzon):	Mr. Leonel Cordero (Region 3)
National Secretary:	Mr. Antonio E. Esquivel Jr. (NCR)	Asst. Business Manager (Visayas):	Mr. Arthur C. Sanico (Region 6)
Asst. National Secretary:	Mr. Eliseo V. Bitangcol (Region 3)	Asst. Business Manager (Mindanao):	Mr. Albine Dave V. Jubilado (Region 9)
National Treasurer:	Ms. Cecilia P. Layug (NCR)	National Sgt-at-Arms:	Mr. Editor L. Amurao (BBMP)
National P.R.O.:	Mr. Eduardo G. Yu (Region 5)	National Accountant:	Ms. Milca Cayanga (NCR)
National Business Manager:	Mr. Carlos M. Dela Cruz (Region 4A)	National Auditor :	Ms. Camela R. Ubaldo (NCR)

NIA Employees Welfare Program, Inc.

EWPI held its general assembly and election of officers for CY 2013-2014 on April 23, 2013. Their new officers took their oaths under Inducting Officer Claro V. Maranan, the OIC of the Office of the Senior Deputy Administrator on May 30, 2013.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2013-2014	
Chairman	Gene P. Ragodon, Jr.
Vice Chairman	Atty. Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda
Members	Eden M. Kabigting
	Conchita G. Calsina
	Casiana C. Saludaga
	Virginia R. Atienza
Executive Officers	Julieta I. Esporlas
	Gene P. Ragodon, Jr.
	Atty. Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda
	Eden M. Kabigting

STANDING COMMITTEES		STAFF	
Plans and Programs	Atty. Ailyne C. Agtuca-Selda	Accountant	Virgilia M. Diesta
Membership	Conchita G. Calsina	Auditor	Joseph Rebadulla
Credit	Casiana C. Saludaga	Bookkeeper	Marilou S. Regondola
Finance & Investment	Eden M. Kabigting	Payslip Verifier	Marybeth G. Publico
Benefits	Julieta I. Esporlas	Cashier	Leteria R. Calpito
Public Information	Virginia R. Atienza	Leave Verifier	Maria Antonette Dela Cruz
		Secretary	Miya Luanne D. Basunillo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Chair	Bayani P. Ofrecio
Vice Chair	Gene P. Ragodon, Jr
Directors	Eden Victoria C. Selva
	Louella R. Mercado
	Eden P. Bulatao
	Theresita S. Macogue
	Conchita G. Calsina
	Lourdes F. Amurao
	Cecilia P. Layug
AUDIT AND INVENTORY COMMITTEE	
Chair	Corazon A. Ramos
Vice Chair	Casiana C. Saludaga
Members	Ma. Teodora S. Pagalilauan
	Elizabeth A. Benzon
	Elvira S. Calanday

ELECTION COMMITTEE	
Chair	Ramon P. Gatpandan
Vice Chair	Ernesto C. Ramos
Secretary	Aristotle Juan C. Salas
CREDIT COMMITTEE	
Chair	Leteria R. Calpito
Vice Chair	Cecilia E. Galanido
Secretary	Julieta I. Esporlas
CONCILIATION COMMITTEE	
Chair	Gilberto V. Payumo
Vice Chair	Concepcion C. Cablayan
Secretary	Tito A. Cuerdo
ETHICS COMMITTEE	
Chair	Pedro F. De Guzman
Vice Chair	Josephine E. Abejon
Secretary	Isidora M. Camaya

NIA – COOP

Ninety days after the fiscal year ends, an election must be held to select a new set of officers. This year, COOP still hailed IDD Chief Bayani Ofrecio as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The set of officers for the year 2013 to 2014 are as follows:

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE	
Chair	Gene P. Ragodon, Jr
Vice Chair	Conchita G. Calsina
Secretary	Heartie E. Navarro
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	
Secretary	Leonor P. Fernandez
Accountant	Joseph A. Rebadulla



NIA – GAD (GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT)

The NIA Gender and Development System headed by its focal person Ms. Violeta C. Esguerra, Manager of the Administrative Department, is mandated to promote gender mainstreaming in all areas of operations of the agency as a collective responsibility and accountability of all concerned officials and offices NIAwide.

The major activity of the NIA-GAD is contained in its annual GAD Plans and Budget (GPB). The preparation of GPB is done every September of the current year to be submitted to the Department of Agriculture-GAD (DA-GAD) Focal System for review every January of the following year and finally forwarded to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) for approval on or before March. After approval by the PCW, the GPB will be endorsed to the NIA for inclusion in the overall proposed NIA budget to DBM. The implementation of the GPB starts on the 3rd year from its preparation.

1st Quarter Accomplishments

In compliance with the Joint Circular No. 2012-01 of the Philippine Commission on Women, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and pursuant to the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), and the General Appropriations Act (GAA), the NIA-GAD submitted its Plans and Budget for CY 2014 at Php 45, 4446, 464. The said amount is the sum total of the consolidated CY 2014 NIA Regional GAD Plans and Budget and the Central Office. Such plans and budget are included in the NIA CY 2014 overall proposed budget to the Department of Budget and Management in May 2013.

In March 2013, the NIA-GAD conducted its 1st general meeting. During the meeting, the body decided to implement immediately an intensive campaign for new membership promoting gender equality and opportunity in the NIA workplace and in support to gender mainstreaming. The campaign showed a positive result adding 30 new members. As of press time, there are about 70 active members.

2nd Quarter Accomplishments

The NIA-GAD in collaboration with the Institutional Development Division (IDD) conducted the Gender Based Effectiveness Skills Training (G-BEST) in the Central Office in April 2013 attended by 50 members and implementers of the Institutional Development Program (IDP) from the different NIA Regional Operations Division nationwide. The G-BEST is all about gender sensitivity promoting that gender or sexual preference should not be a factor or a hindrance in one's pursuit of goals or dreams.

The NIA-GAD demonstrated support to the 50th Anniversary Celebration by participating in events such as Golden Pep Squad and a special dance performance during the Chorale competition. Some members served as usherettes during the culmination day of the anniversary celebration when His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III was guest of honor.

Final preparation for the 3rd quarter scheduled seminar on Magna Carta of Women is in progress as of this writing. VCE/mffnv #



NIA Public Relations Officers Head for the Best!

BY: MARIA LUISA A. FRIAS, PAIS, C.O.

“Learn to dissect, validate the past, what we are doing today and where we wanted to go”

- Administrator Antonio S. Nangel

NIA Public Relations Officers nationwide trooped to Region 7 as they convened for the Assessment & Planning Workshop on May 1-4, 2013. The workshop aimed to review and assess the PR performance of regional and project offices for the first quarter, review materials for NIA's 50th Founding Anniversary celebration, and set direction for the rest of the year.

RM Diosdado A. Rosales warmly welcomed the PROs and stressed their importance to the Agency. PROs lead and link NIA to its farmers-clientele, to politicians and even to environmental institutions. “PROs should be flexible”, he added. He even stated an instance where the Manager was impressed by how their agency's PRO answered his question. PROs should not be tired on how to provide his/her agency/project a pleasant image. “*Kung madumi, linisin*”. How can you promote NIA to the public especially to the farmers when you don't have good and active PRO? “Public Relations Officers should always be PRO-agency,” he concluded.

On the other hand, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel commended RM Rosales for being a brilliant, dynamic, and vigorous Manager. Thankful to all the PROs, he acknowledged everyone's part in their respective office. PROs participation to do NIA's commitment is very important. “Learn to dissect, validate the past, what we are doing today and where we wanted to go. Never stop learning on how to make our agency different from others, for our PROs can give inspiration and motivation to our agency. Strengthen our organization through public relations. By doing good things, we can deliver the best to our beneficiaries and contribute in the development and progress of our country,” Administrator Nangel ended.

Public Relations Officers in return committed themselves to do their best not only for their respective region, but to NIA as a whole.