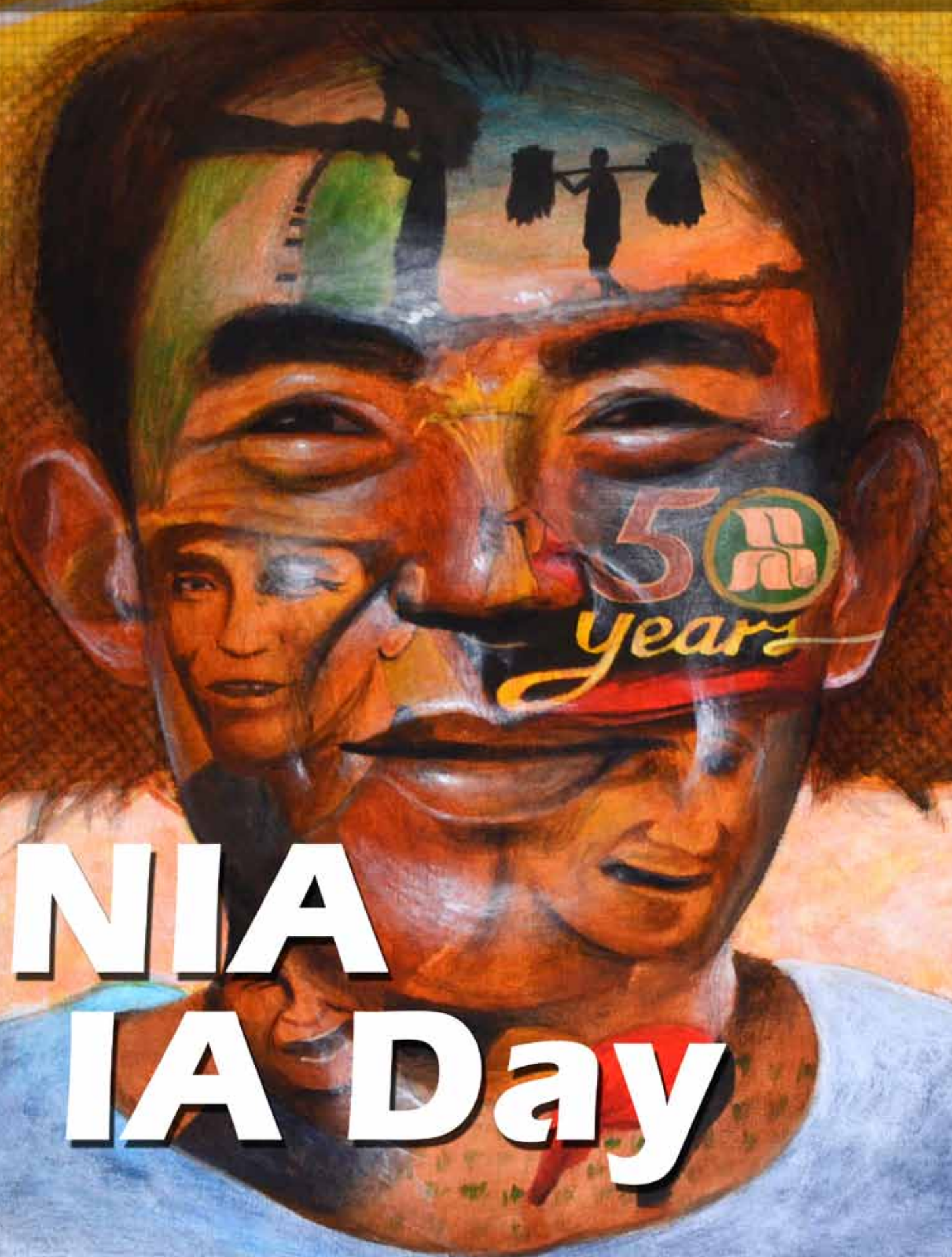


# NIA Digest Special Edition

The Official News Magazine of the NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION Vol. XXXV 2013



**NIA**  
**IA Day**



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**CMIPP** NIA-IA Day



Untitled work of Mr. Mark Kim Arcenal of Technological University of the Philippines (TUP), Manila that made him a Grand Prize Winner during NIA Central Office On-the-spot painting Contest on April 15, 2013 in celebration of NIA' 50th Anniversary.

His interpretation: *"The National Irrigation Administration made the face of Filipino farmers joyous through its 50 years of fruitful service, continuing its loyalty to future generation of farmers,"*

# NIA-IA DAY 2013:



*A Recognition of the Glorious Partnership between NIA and the Irrigators Associations*

The fifty-year existence of the National Irrigation Administration has been deeply anchored on its aim to provide quality irrigation services to the farmers in the country. One of its strategies to make this aim possible is to develop and strengthen its partnership with the primary stakeholder of irrigation development, the farmers, by organizing Irrigators Associations (IAs). As of June 2013, NIA through its Institutional Development Program (IDP) has been able to organize and train 7,500 IAs with 902,898 farmer-beneficiaries, covering a total area of 1,111,697 hectares. These IAs have become the agency's partner in irrigation development and management. With the help of these IAs, the agency has been able to improve the state of irrigation in the country hence improving agriculture and ultimately the lives of many farmers and the country in general.

In recognition of the 50 glorious years of such partnership and in occasion of the agency's 50th Founding Anniversary, NIA offices nationwide conducted the first-ever NIA-IA Day. It has been the first time that an event where the management and employees of NIA mingled with the IA leaders and members to celebrate their noteworthy collaboration that largely contributes to the betterment of agriculture in the country. From March to July, regional offices conducted separate celebrations for the IAs within their respective service areas. Stories of how NIA offices conducted the NIA-IA Day are presented in this Special Edition of the NIA Digest.

Aside from having a day off from farm and office work, the NIA-IA Day celebrations nationwide have provided a venue for farmers and employees to raise and clarify issues regarding irrigation. Also, NIA has been able to give recognition to outstanding and top performing IAs in the regions. In most celebrations, partner agencies have been also invited for them to present programs that can further benefit the IAs and farmers in general.

The NIA-IA Day is just a simple way to thank the lifelong partners of NIA. The agency vows to continue uplifting the lives of farmers through the strengthening of Irrigators Associations. The agency believes that its existence would be impossible without the farmers. The National Irrigation Administration will persist in creating strategies to improve the delivery of irrigation and to provide better lives for its partners, the Filipino farmers.



## NIA-IA Day:

### A Celebration and Renewal of a Successful Partnership

Mylene I. Malecda/ PRO, NIA-CAR

It was a red-letter day for all NIAs and Irrigators Associations (IAs) of NIA-CAR. NIAs in their bright yellow anniversary uniform mingled with the green-clad IA members and leaders. Cheerful greetings were exchanged, laughter was bubbling, and excitement was building up. Everybody danced, sang, and celebrated. The cheers and laughter intensified when NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel arrived with PAIS Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez. It was truly a special event. It was the first ever NIA-IA Day in the Cordilleras.

Storytelling and testimonies, singing and dancing, raffle draws and gift-giving dominated the activity which is part of the NIA 50th Anniversary celebrations. NIA staff and irrigators were just so happy to relate how NIA changed and made impact to their lives and their community. At the end of the activity, participants got out with the widest smiles they ever had and are looking forward to another NIA-IA Day.

In his opening speech, NIA-CAR Manager John Socalo quoted Henry Ford who said “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”



### Excerpts from speeches, messages and testimonies



*“...Because of irrigation, production of rice has improved in many areas. People have been given the privilege not to be hungry anymore. I salute this program of the government and thank God for blessing agriculture...” - Fr. Fernando Buyagan, an IA leader of Abra*

Abra IAs believe that an Administrator needs maximum strength and good health. They gave the administrator bottles of honey – a product of unity and a natural medicine according to Fr. Buyagan – and a bamboo sunhat for protection.

Through role playing, Apayao irrigators presented the positive impact of irrigation in their lives since they experienced irrigation.

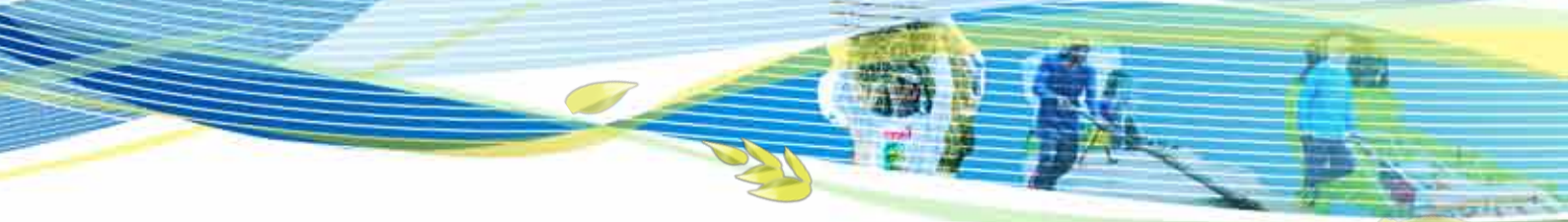
Apayao IAs gave the Administrator a basket of Apayao products and a framed “aliwa” and “aken”. The “aliwa” or the Isnag Bolo is a symbol of life as it is an indigenous tool traditionally used by the farmers to till their farms since time immemorial, while the “aken” is a pair or Isnag women’s attire usually worn during special occasions.



*“Lahat kami sa Ifugao, saludo kami sa NIA, sa lahat ng kanyang ginawa para sa aming mga magsasaka. Talagang ginampanan nito ang kanyang mandato na mag-construct, mag-restore at mag-rehabilitate upang mapaganda ang serbisyo ng patubig...” - Darlito Morales, Ifugao IA leader*

Ifugao IAs presented the Administrator with a wood-carved eagle and native hunter. According to Engr. Jone Dulnuan, the hunter symbolizes livelihood of Ifugao folks long before irrigation was introduced while the eagle stands for strength.





*"Maraming salamat po at nakasali kami sa selebrasyon ng 50th anniversary ng NIA. Salamat po sa mga pondo ng irigasyon na napunta sa Benguet, kami po ay nabigyan lahat..." - Domingo Awaw, Benguet Federation of IAS*

Benguet IAs handed the Administrator portions of their produce which are high value crops such as vegetables, root crops, Benguet coffee, and a bonnet.



*"Ang second plateau ng Tabuk, Kalinga ay lupang tigang noon na nakatulong lamang o pastulan. Ang mga magsasaka ay palaging nakatingala sa itaas. Kung meron mang magsasaka, ang ani ay 35 cavans/hectare lamang. Pero nang dumating ang patubig ng NIA sa lugar na iyon, ang ani ay umabot na sa 90-100 cavans/ha. Marami ang pagbabago... Kung tuluy-tuloy ang patubig, tuluy-tuloy ang pagsasaka. Kung tuluy-tuloy ang pagsasaka, tuluy-tuloy ang pag-unlad. Kung tuluy-tuluy ang pag-unlad, tuluy-tuloy ang ligaya." - Stewart Sangao, Kalinga IA leader*



*"Kinakailangan po natin sa NIA at sa inyong magsasaka ang patuloy na magandang samahan upang matamo natin ang target na maging rice self-sufficient... At kailangan din po nating palaging isaisip ang ICIPP – maging innovative, creative, intelligent, productive, at proactive..." - Engr. Antonio S. Nangel, NIA Administrator (September 2010-June 2013)*

*"Dabil sa tulong ng NIA sa pag-iimprove ng mga irigasyon, na-iimprove din po ang mga sakaban namin sa Tabuk. Kami po mismo sa aming pamilya, inaabot po namin ang 255 cav/ha dahil nagkaroon ng tubig ang aming sakaban. Hanggang ngayon po, sa tulong ng NIA hindi po napapabayaang ang mga pasilidad, andiyan po ang pondo para ma-rehab ang mga nasisira ng bagyo." - Michael Lumas-i, Gawad Saka Awardee 2010 for Hybrid Rice Category*

Kalinga IAs gifted the Administrator with Spear and Shield which symbolize strength and protection in any crisis encountered through life's journey.

*"Nang magkaroon kami ng irigasyon doon sa Quezon (Isabela) noong 1980s, marami ang nagbago. Ang mga bahay naging sementado at marami ang nakatuntong sa kolehiyo." - Francisco Andumang, Quezon, Isabela*



*"Before NIA, ang ginagamit ng mga magsasaka ay indigenous irrigation katulad ng mga kawayan. Ngayon sementado na ang mga kanal, hindi na madaling ma-wash out, matibay na." - Daniel Sabling, Mt. Province IA Federation President*

MP IAs gave a bottle of wine in exquisite packaging which according to IA leader Rogelio Banggot is made by the skillful hands of the IAs to quench their thirst after a day's labor under the scorching heat of the sun, sharing the fruit of their labor with each other.



In the Cordilleras, celebration entails dancing. NIAs, guests and irrigators happily dance together to the beat of the gongs.

# REGION 1

# NIA-IA DAY

By Dolores A. Vera Cruz, Pangasinan IMO and Mc Kevin L. Francisco, RIO

*In green shirt are the 624 farmers with 599 IAs who joined the NIA-IA Day celebration of Region I and ARIIP held last May 22, 2013 at Candon City Civic Center, Candon City, Ilocos Sur.*



*Regional Irrigation Manager Manuel L. Collado, CESO V during the delivery of his NIA-IA Day speech at Candon City, Ilocos Sur.*

CANDON CITY, ILOCOS SUR— As a part of the celebration of the National Irrigation Administration's 50th anniversary, Ilocos Sur hosted a pre-anniversary program entitled NIA-IA Day held at Candon City Civic Center, Ilocos Sur on May 22, 2013

Six hundred and twenty four farmers with 599 Irrigators Association (IAs), 185 NIA staff from the four provinces of the region, including the Agno River Integrated Irrigation Project (ARIIP) with guests from the Local Government Units of Candon City attended the said program.

Regional Irrigation Manager Manuel L. Collado emphasized the importance of irrigation service to farmers in his opening

remarks. "If before, farmers can harvest 40 cavans per hectare, now, the average is 100 cavans per hectare—the difference made thru irrigation services of NIA.," said Collado.

Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Robert C. Suguitan, also gave his message in the absence of the guest speaker Administrator Antonio S. Nangel. He reported the proposed budget allocation for NIA and wishes that this will not be changed. He also shared a story about the happiness, fulfillment, and satisfaction felt by Nueva Ecijano farmers after finishing the irrigation structure in their place. Part of the programme were audio-video presentations entitled, "Through the Years" presenting NIA staffs whose half of

their lives were inspired and spent in NIA, "Thanks to You-NIA", which is about IA farmer-members giving inspiration on how NIA change their lives and "The Journey" which is a tribute to the Big three, Administrator Nangel, RIM Manuel L. Collado and ARII-Project Manager Reynaldo P. Mencias. Another Audio-Video Presentation about the Outreach Program conducted a day before the NIA-IA day was also shown. The Outreach Program helped 21 recipients who are members of 4Ps under DSWD Burgos, Ilocos Sur and gave a supplementary feeding program to children of Barangay Nagpanaoan. The program was an effort of the NIA staff as a form of thanksgiving for its 50th year anniversary. Other donors came from the IA officers who gave 11 sacks of rice with cash, and other NIA clients who shared blessings in cash and in kind. Denmark dela Cruz, PSU-Lingayen Education student, winner of the on-the-spot painting contest held last May 7, 2013 at NIA Region I regional office, was awarded cash prize of Php. 20, 000. 00. Special production numbers were also presented from each Irrigation Management Offices including ARIIP which showcased the talents of both NIA staffs and IA members, and the raffle draw conducted exclusively for farmers.



*The officials and guests during the regional celebration of NIA-IA Day at Ilocos Sur.*



The event also served as a thanksgiving activity for most of the participants who benefitted from NIA, from the staff in giving irrigation service, to the farmers receiving the benefits of irrigation.

“I am only a high school graduate but because of NIA I was able to enhance the knowledge that I have with the activities, trainings and seminars NIA conducts,” Virginia Viray, Riverside IA Secretary said in an interview. “I was able to send my children to school and now, two of them graduated from college, and that’s because of NIA,” Viray added.

Moreover, Efren Basallo, Farmers and Irrigators Association of Rosario, La Union (FIARLU) Board of Director, said that because of the help of the government and of NIA they can now harvest thrice, and some four times a year. In another interview, Western IA BOD, Rogelio Duldulao said, “Before, we go to Cagayan to help others harvest, but now that we have irrigation services from NIA, we are the one harvesting not for others but for ourselves.”



One of the 21 beneficiaries of the Outreach Program conducted by NIA Region I at Brgy. Nagpanaoan, Burgos, Ilocos Sur a day before the NIA-IA Day Celebration--May 21, 2013.



(L-R): ARIIP IDD Mgr. Ceferino C. Sta. Ana, PAIS DM Pilipina P. Bermudez, and RIM Manuel L. Collado received signature frames during the NIA-IA Day after the showing of the AVP prepared/dedicated for the Big Three (NIA Administrator Nangel, RIM Collado, and PM Mencias). Sta. Ana and Bermudez represented their bosses who were not able to grace the event due to conflict of schedule.

In addition, Rosana IA President Emilio Acosta expressed his gratitude for the canal improvements and the facilities they’ve got which helped them to have better farming and harvest.

With all the testimonies, NIA, all through the years, helps farmers improve their lives, inspires other people and contributes to the country’s economy. From its mission, “developing water resources for irrigation...” Water gives life... and NIA gives life to agriculture.



The product of irrigation services by NIA brought bountiful crops/harvest to Ilocos Region farmers. Agbiag NIA! Agbiag NIA Region I!



A farmer from Manaoag, Pangasinan won the grand prize, a 23-inch led television, during the NIA-IA Day raffle draw exclusively conducted for farmers.

# REGION 2

## IAs: A Testament of NIA's Hard Work and Sacrifice

Dorothy Belle C. De Leon/ PRO-NIA Region 2

More than 1,200 Irrigators Association (IA) leaders and members from Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya attended the Region 2 NIA-IA Day on May 17, 2013 at the Nueva Vizcaya State University Gym, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. The event was one of the pre-anniversary activities calendared by the National Irrigation Administration in the celebration of its 50th Anniversary come June 22, 2013 with the theme “NIA@50: Serv-



The Region 2 NIA-IA Day is a crowd drawer. It united more than a thousand IA members from 5 provinces.

ing the Farmers with Excellence and Commitment to Continue Its Legacy in the Years to Come...”

The well-attended NIA-IA Day addressed the farmers' concerns: irrigation development, agricultural development, financial assistance and programs of LBP to IAs and farmers, farm mechanization program, crop insurance, post harvest facilities and mechanization program, water permit and water charges, and environmental concerns. Different heads of the concerned agencies like Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Center for Post-harvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), Land Bank of the Philippines, National Food Authority (NFA), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) respectively addressed the above-mentioned concerns.

“Through the strong partnership of NIA and the IAs, the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino



Regional Irrigation Manager Vicente E. Galvez updates attendees on the Irrigation Development Profile of the region.

contributed 1.99 million metric tons of produce. In short, we achieved 260% of Rice Self-Sufficiency Level,” stressed RIM Vic E. Galvez in his message.

He also gave due recognition to the farmers, “Kung wala kayo (magsasaka), walang kakainin ang ating mga kapwa Pilipino kaya maraming, maraming salamat sa inyo!”

Samuel M. Lugo, President of the Samahan ng mga Magpapatubig sa Lambak ng Cagayan (SMLCI), the Regional Confederation of IAs, laid out the Confederation is visions and plans.

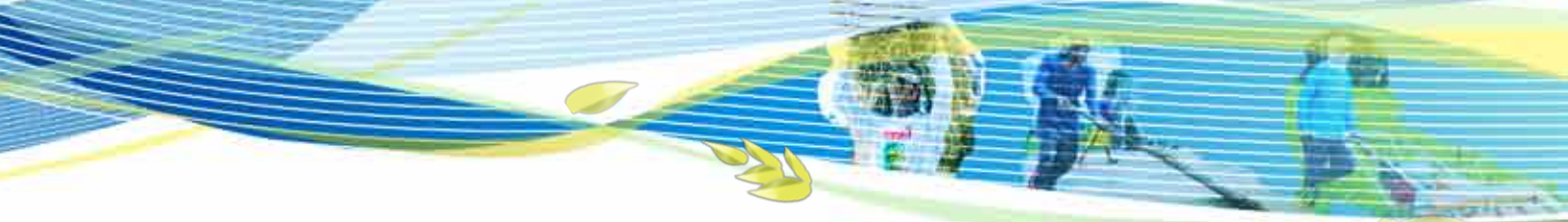
“Noon, kung wala nang sabod-ulan, hindi na tayo makakapagtanim. Ngayon, sagana na ang tubig na dumadaloy sa mga kanal ng NIA, dalawang beses na tayong makaka-ani, lalo na ngayon at may 5-in-2 pa. Salamat sa suporta!” the young farmer-leader said.

Seizing the opportune time and the presence of the representatives of concerned agencies, he pleaded for LBP to ease up on the requirements in their credit program, pleaded NFA to buy their typhoon damaged-harvests, and to increase palay price.

As an answer, Mr. Victor A. Agorto, head of Southern Cagayan Valley Lending Center of LBP informed the farmers of the DA SikatSaka program, a P400-M loan program to benefit rice farmers, particularly members of IAs. With this loan window, a farmer could borrow up to P42,000 per hectare if they plant hybrid rice, or P37,000 per hectare if they produce inbred rice.

In the same way, Mr. Mario Gonzales, Assistant Regional Director of NFA, explained that the government support price of 17-peso per kilogram comes with incentives: 0.30/kilo for Cooperative Development Incentive Fee (CDIF), 0.20/kilo delivery incentive, and 0.20/kilo drying incentive.

As each province's farmer-representative shared how irrigation had affected his life, family, and community, the audience hushed down and are all ears as Rogelio C. Layno showed an audio-visual presentation with John Denver's “Today” as its musical score. RIM Galvez and Administrator Antonio S. Nangel came down the stage to be able to watch.



mirrored that most of them can already provide their children with proper education because of efficient irrigation facilities. Hence, NIA Region 2 recognized their efforts through praise awards.

The IAs who topped the Functionality Survey for 2012 were also given recognition. Rapido IA of Lower Chico River Irrigation System (LCRIS), with Engr. Francis Yu as Principal Engineer, was the runaway winner for the National Irrigation System (NIS) Category and MICAVICE IA of Sta. Teresita, Cagayan, under the stewardship of Engr. Ernesto Collado, for the Communal Irrigation System (CIS).

*In his message, Administrator Nangel commended the strong relationship of the farmers, NIA, and partner agencies. "Hindi na mawawala sa isip at puso ko na ipagmalaki ang Region 2 sapagkat kitang-kita ko dito yung napakagandang samahan ng mga magsasaka, kami sa NIA, at sa mga ibat-ibang abensiya ng gobyerno," the NIA Chief spoke. He also urged everyone to follow the example led by Mr. Layno.*

*"Isang magandang halimbawa ang ipinakita ng napakagaling na si Mr. Layno, makabagbag damdamin ito. Nakita ko kung gaano pala tayo kaproductive, na ubra pala tayong maging katulad niya. Bakit hindi natin siya pamarisan?" Admin Nangel challenged.*

Meanwhile, Felix Pascual of Baybayog IA from Iguig-Amulung-Alcala Pump Irrigation System (IAAPIS) is the lucky winner of the raffle draw. He took home a brand new hand tractor. Each provincial federation of IA was also given a brand new motorcycle.

Finally, both farmers and employees happily brought home with them commemorative mugs, shirts and pictures taken at the red carpet photo booth. And more importantly, with the concluded activity, the IA and NIA's relationship is stronger than ever.

The AVP flashed Layno's properties he had accumulated through the years of cultivating his land: hand tractors, forward trucks, combine harvester, lots and houses, and a sports utility vehicle to the thunderous claps of the attendees. As his presentation came to a close, there was a handful of people who were teary-eyed, not because of sadness but because of unbridled joy for what Layno has achieved. And the Administrator was one of them.

*"Mula sa isang sinilong hanggang sa naging 22 hektarya ng palayan, maliban pa sa 23 hektarya ng maisan, napalago namin ito gamit ang irigasyon. Hangga't nandyan ang NIA na kaagapay ng magsasaka, hindi kami mawawalan ng pag-asa. Ang dugong nanalaytay sa aming katawan ay dahil sa NIA," Layno, the Treasurer of Bantug Bayabo Irrigators Association, under the Tumanini Irrigation System in Isabela, articulated.*

From the testimonials of Gilbert Alejandro (Cagayan), Bruno Gamponia (Nueva Vizcaya), and Roland Ducos (Quirino), it can be

*Through the initiative of RIM Galvez, ten children of Region 2 IAs who graduated from college with honors this year were given certificates of recognition and a cash grant. They were:*

Name	Academic Award	Course	School
Elgin Paul B. Quebral	Magna Cum Laude	BS Biology	UPLB
Divina A. Agcaoili	Cum Laude	BS Criminology	CSU
Windell B. Bautista	Cum Laude	BS IT	CSU
Charlie T. Bartolome	Cum Laude	BSE, Maj. In SocSci	CSU
Princess H. Baysa	Cum Laude	BS in Elem. Educ.	CSU
Lorie Cris C. Cabasag	Cum Laude	BS Criminology	Lyceum of Aparri
Joy M. Maglelong	Cum Laude	BS Public Adm.	ISU Echague
Harold Jhon A. Materum	Cum Laude	BS IT	CSU
Arnie Rey B. Perez	Cum Laude	BSE Maj. in English	CSU
Venice C. Velasco	Cum Laude	BSE	ISU Echague



*RIM Galvez, together with DA Director Lucrecio Alviar and Administrator Antonio Nangel, awards Plaques of Recognition to the children of IA members who earned degrees with honors.*



## IA Day: Administrator Nangel Expressed Gratitude to Farmers

Melissa C. Agbisit/ PRO, NIA-MARIIS

Echoing the statement of President Benigno S. Aquino III, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel told hundreds of farmer-members of Irrigators Associations in the Magat River Irrigation System, that the NIA is their follower. *“Kayo ang boss namin,”* Administrator Nangel told the farmers gathered at the MARIIS grounds for the MARIIS NIA-IA Day celebration on March 21, 2013.

The activity was part of the series of events leading to the National Irrigation Administration’s Golden Anniversary Celebration on June 22, 2013.

Administrator Nangel expressed gratitude to the farmers as for the first time in the history of the agency, in 2012, the agency attained viability. *“Ipinagmamalaki ko po kayo. Kung hindi dahil sa inyo, wala po ang NIA sa ganitong kalagayan,”* he said.

He shared that for 2012, the agency had a surplus of P1.3 billion. *“Tbinalik po ninyo sa amin nang napakaganda ang tamang serbisyong binigay namin sa inyo,”* he added.

He assured the farmers present that the agency would always try its best to meet their needs. He shared his experiences growing up as a farmer’s son and how his father sent him to school through farming as the only source of livelihood. *“Talagang malapit ang puso ko sa mga magsasaka,”* he added, assuring the farmers that the agency would always be there to help the farmers’ live better lives.



Hon. Ana Cristina Go, Representative of the 2nd District of Isabela and Isabela Governor Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy attended the occasion to assure the farmers of their support to agricultural development.



MARIIS Operations Manager is proud of how NIA, through MARIIS, has changed the lives of farmers in the System.



Bojie Dy

Officials from the line agencies of the Department of Agriculture attended the occasion to present their respective programs for the Irrigators Associations.



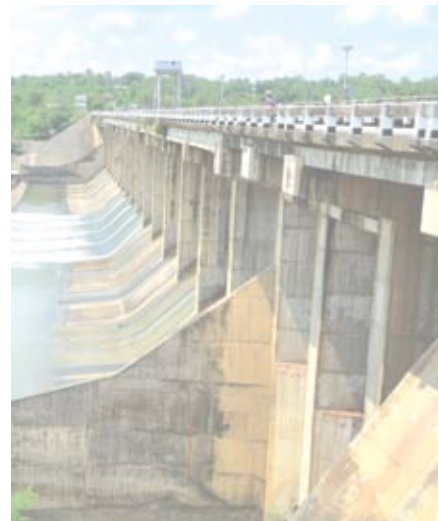
Victor Agorto



Lucrecio Ahjiar



Mr. Tumamao





## Concreting canal service roads

Administrator Nangel also visited the different divisions in MARIIS during his stay. After the IA Day Celebration, the Administrator together with Manager Dancel inspected the newly constructed multipurpose drying pavements in San Manuel and Luna, Isabela.

MARIIS OM Dancel explained that these pavements are canal service roads which farmers may use to dry their harvested palay. *“Pagka-thresher ng palay diretso bilad na. Hindi na sila mabibigatan sa paglabas (ng na-thresher na palay),”* he said.

For CY 2013, MARIIS allocated P120 million for the concreting of canal service roads for solar drying and multipurpose use within the service area.

## Patanad Diversion Dam

On his second day in MARIIS, the Administrator visited the construction of the Patanad Diversion Dam in San Isidro, Isabela under MARIIS Division II.

Administrator Nangel assured the farmers that the agency will always be serving the farmers the best way it can. *“Hindi natin pababayaan ang mga magsasaka, kung merong pagkakataon na mabigyan natin sila ng patubig,”* he said.

He shared that the agency is mandated to maximize available water to provide irrigation to every rice land so farmers do not have to rely on rain alone (sahod-ulan).

## The Farmers' Success is NIA's Success

The Administrator also visited the office of RamCor CIA in Ramon, Isabela, one of the most successful Council of Irrigators Associations in MARIIS.

He was impressed with the operations and organizational set-up of the RamCor CIA and hoped that all IAs would eventually be as successful as RamCor.

MARIIS OM Dancel downplayed RamCor's success but praised the CIA officers and members for all their efforts at becoming the strong organization it is now. He shared that the success of RamCor is an example of how NIA continues not just at providing irrigation but also in strengthening the farmer-organizations into becoming successful entrepreneurs. He further reiterated the agency's dedication to serve the farmers with excellence and commitment to its legacy in the years to come.



*Farmer-members of the different Irrigators Associations in MARIIS gamely dance their hearts out during the opening of the system's IA Day Celebration.*



*(from left to right) Members of the different Irrigators Associations vying for Mr. MARIIS IA 2013 strut their stuff on stage.*



# REGION 3

## PISTA NG NIA AT MAGSASAKA: NIA-IA Day at Region 3

Eliseo V. Bitangcol/ PRO, NIA Region 3

Early morning of May 16, 2013, the NIA Region 3 employees and members/officers of Irrigators Association region-wide gathered for a very memorable event as part of the NIA 50th Anniversary Celebration. The event was named “Pista ng NIA at Magsasaka,” a NIA and IA joint celebration commemorating the 50th Founding Anniversary of the National Irrigation Administration to celebrate the partnership of the agency and the farmers.

The whole NIA compound was dressed-up to fit the mood of the activity. Entering the head office, a giant festive bamboo signage was built at the perimeter’s main gate. Colorful banderitas were hung everywhere. Several booths made out of wood and bamboo were constructed for the IMOs to display and sell their native products.

The day started with a Santacruzán-inspired parade where cute little girls (daughters and granddaughters of NIA employees) and beautiful NIA ladies from different offices/provinces marched with their IA escorts from the Regional Motorpool to the NIA Region 3 Head Office. The parade was led by a brass band followed by NIA Army Reservists wearing snappy battle uniforms. NIA employees and IAs from different IMOs also joined the parade.

As the delegates entered the covered court, the program formally started by introducing the sagalas and their escorts as they marched at the red carpet in the aisle all the way to the well-adorned stage.

The celebration became more special when the Special Guest was introduced. It was no other than the Big Boss of NIA, the most



hands-on administrator of the National Irrigation Administration, Honorable Antonio S. Nangel escorted by the fairy Godmother of all the activities of NIA conducted nationwide, the Madam President of the Republic of Public Affairs and Information Staff of NIA Mrs. Pilipina Bermudez.

As the program went on, several IA and NIA employees shared their success stories – dramatic, romantic, and humorous – which led them to the pedestal of success, overcoming all the sacrifices, humility, and hardships from farming and working with the NIA.

Once in a while, intermission numbers broke the seriousness of the occasion. There were dancers who displayed tremendous dancing abilities and there was also a live band that sang every after speaker.



The most outstanding NIA personnel and the best IAs were also recognized as part of the momentous gathering. The awardees were the following:

#### **BEST EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

- REGIONAL OFFICE
- PAMBAT
- TARZAM
- BANE

#### **BEST COLLECTOR/S**

- PAMBAT
- TARZAM

#### **BEST IMO MANAGER**

#### **PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION**

#### **BEST IA OF THE YEAR**

- National Irrigation System
- Communal Irrigation System

KHRISTALYN E. MARASIGAN  
MELJIN S. GAMBOA  
TERESITA C. TANGLAO  
ROBERTO S. RAMOS

LORNA Y. CAYANAN  
MARIFINA MONTEHERMSO  
ROBERTO S. PASCUAL (BANE IMO)  
EMMA S. CRUZ

BOTZIA IA (Nayum Bayto RIS)  
Gulap Paralay ISA Inc. (Pampanga)

To add more life and fun to the occasion, a game was conducted to practically show how NIA and IA work hand-in-hand to achieve a certain goal. A cash prize was given to each winner.

In totality, the occasion was a success. A very memorable event ever conducted in NIA with the IA as partners and clientele. A once in a lifetime experience of celebration commemorating NIA's 50 milestone years of serving the farmers with excellence and commitment to continue its legacy in the years to come.

## ANG TAGUMPAY NI G. RODINIO SOTERO



**G. Rodinio Sotero**  
Pangulo MACASANTA Federation  
of Irrigation Administration

Jang simpleng magsasaka ngunit punong puno ng inspirasyon si G. Rodinio T. Sotero mula sa bayan ng Mayantoc, Tarlac ang nagbahagi sa amin ng kanyang karanasan at tagumpay sa tulong ng kanyang pagsusumikap at ng NIA.

Si G. Sotero ay ang kasalukuyang pangulo ng MACASANTA Federation of Irrigators Association na sakop ng Camiling River Irrigation System o tinatawag ding Magsaysay Dam sa pamamahala ng NIA Region 3 Tarlac-Zambales Irrigation Management Office na may service area na 8,223 hectares. Binubuo ito ng apat na bayan; ang Mayantoc, Camiling, Santa Ignacia at San Clemente.

Naging bahagi ng programa si G. Sotero sa ginanap na IA Day sa NIA Region 3 Covered Court na kung saan ay naging konsorte siya sa sagala at napiling magpahayag ng kanyang "Success Story" bilang isang magsasaka.

Aniya, "Noong araw ang aming pagsasaka ay lubhang napakahirap, sabi nga ng aming mga ninuno ay sahod ulan, isang beses lang po kami nagtatanim dahil umaasa lang kami sa patak ng ulan."

Ikinuwento niya na nagtatanim sila ng mga gabi sa mababang lupa at ito na rin ang nagsisilbing meryenda nila dahil sa mahirap at mabagal ang pag-asenso sa kanilang lugar noon.

Ayon kay G. Sotero, "Mula nung naitatag ang NIA at nagbigay ng patubigan, unti unting gumaganda ang kabuhayan naming magsasaka dahil sa nakakadalawang cropping na kami. Yung dating isang cropping, ngayon ay dalawa na at nagiging tatlo pa."

"Bilang isang ordinaryong magsasaka, sa aking kabuhayan, di ko naman po masasabi na ako'y nasa tugatog na o nasa taas na, pero nasa kalagitnaan na rin po ako."

Si G. Sotero at kanyang maybahay ay pinagkalooban ng dalawang supling. Ang kanilang panganay na anak ay nasa kolehiyo at kumukuha ng kursong Commerce Major in Accounting sa isang state university at ang bunso nilang anak ay Grade 7 sa isang pribadong eskwelahan.

"Siguro po masasabi ko gawa ng NIA at sakripisyo naming mag-asawa, nakapundar po kami ng tindahan ng Farm Supply at dinagdagan ng Poultry Supply, may mga pataba, pesticides at mga kailangan sa pag-aalaga ng hayop. Gawa rin po ng sipag at tyaga, tuloy tuloy na pagsasaka, may irigasyon, may mga nabili na rin po akong mga lupa." Pinakita rin nya ang lawak ng kanyang bukirin at ilan sa kanyang mga makina na ginagamit sa pagsasaka at negosyo.

"Naging seed grower na rin ako mula nung 2010. Isa na rin po ako sa nagpropoduce ng mga certified seeds o binhi na denidilever po namin tuwing may seed requirement po ang ating Department of Agriculture."

Naniniwala si G. Sotero na malayo pa ang tatahakin nilang landas kumpara sa mga ibang Irrigators Association na marami nang achievements ngunit sa pakikipagtulungan ng NIA at mga magsasaka sa kanilang Federation ay alam niya na patuloy nilang maaabot ang kanilang mga minimithi. Nagpasalamat din siya sa pamunuan ng NIA at mga kawani nito.

## FUN DAY FOR ALL AT UPRIIS

Maria Isobel Fermin Padolina/ P.R.O.-UPRIIS

Food. Fun. Entertainment. Colorful shirts. Those were just part of the festivities that took place during the first NIA-IA day hosted by UPRIIS on May 29, 2013 as tribute to their most staunch partners, the Irrigators Association (IAs), in celebration of NIA's 50th Anniversary.

More than 1,500 farmers, NIA employees, and other public and private partners enjoyed a day filled with surprises at the UPRIIS grounds.

One of the main features of the event was the Agri-Trade Fair led by NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and UPRIIS Operations Manager Josephine B. Salazar. Decorated booths with vibrant displays surrounded the venue which brought a more festive mood to the occasion.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the fair spearheaded by DA Undersecretary for Administrative and Finance Antonio A. Fleta and Cabanatuan City Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara. The fair showcased the achievements of the Irrigation Management Offices of UPRIIS and also participated by DA partner agencies and some private sectors.

Another highlight was the recognition of IAs with exceptional performances. UPRIIS acknowledged the significant efforts of their Most Outstanding IAs- the *Ubbog Ti Biag IA* and *Glorya sa Bagong Mile-*

*The festive design of UPRIIS 'stage is all set for the first ever NIA-IA Day of UPRIIS.*



*nyo IA* for being national recipients of the 2012 Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers Award. During the occasion, the accompanying P1,000,000.00 award from DA was granted by Undersecretary Fleta with DA-RFU 3 Regional Director Andrew Villacorta, Administrator Nangel and OM Salazar. They are both supported by the Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Program of NIA and managed by UPRIIS Division V under the supervision of Engr. Eugenio O. Conde, Jr.

In return, UPRIIS' United Confederation of Farmer Irrigators' Association (UCFIA) recognized the support of DA and NIA by giving plaques of recognition to Usec. Fleta and Administrator Nangel. The federation's President, Marcelo M. De Vera said, "Ang DA sa pamumuno ni Sec. Alcala (DA Secretary) at ang NIA

*sa tulong ni Administrator Nangel ang tamang tandem sa implementation ng agricultural programs lalo na ang Rice Self-Sufficiency Program ni PNOY. Kaya sana bilang partners, dapat walang iwanan."*

Meanwhile, in his inspirational message, Usec. Fleta expressed gratitude to all the farmers for their huge contribution to agricultural development. He emphasized that DA will focus on Agri-Pinoy programs related to irrigation and food staple sufficiency through application of various technologies that will sustain and increase food production in the country.

Nangel on the other hand, stressed "Kung wala ang magsasaka, wala ang NIA. Kayo ang dabilan ng aming tagumpay. Dapat ay maging pro-active tayo para mas maibigay natin ang mga pangangailangan ng mga magsasaka."



*The then OIC Senior Deputy Administrator Claro V. Maranan with Deputy Administrator for Engineering & Operations Robert C. Suñitan assisted Engr. Salazar in awarding water pumps to lucky farmers.*

*Over 1,500 IA members and employees gathered to celebrate the NIA-IA Day*

Besides the awarding of farmers, more than forty (40) newly appointed employees of UPRIIS were honored through a mass oath-taking ceremony led by OM Salazar and Administrator Nangel. In addition, eighty (80) motorcycles were awarded to UPRIIS' outstanding Irrigation Service Fee Collectors as incentive for a job well done. The said incentive will assist them in performing their duties more efficiently.

An added part of the affair was the special song number by all UPRIIS top officials headed by Salazar with Engineering and Operations Division Manager Rosalinda B. Bote, Administrative and Finance Division Manager Jasmin D. Villanueva, Dam & Reservoir Division Manager Freddie M. Toquero, Division I Manager Santos B. Viernes, Division II Manager Joselito A. Mangunay, Division III Manager Cristino C. Castillo, Division IV Manager Carlito M. Gapasin and Division V Manager. Eugenio O. Conde Jr. Salazar invited all the farmers and employees to join hands as they sang "If We Hold on Together" which symbolized their teamwork and dedication to service for the betterment of the lives of the farmers



*Loads of raffle prizes are up for grabs during the momentous occasion.*

“Wala po kaming trabaho ngayon at walang pagseserbisyo ang NIA kung hindi dahil sa inyong mga magsasaka. Hindi matatawaran ang inyong pagod at sakripisyo. Kabalikat namin kayo sa pag-unlad ng NIA”,

-Salazar affirmed to the farmers.

In the afternoon, the event became more meaningful by presenting the success testimonies by selected farmers and employees who demonstrated their love and appreciation to NIA for their improved livelihood. Several fun games were done involving all participants who had the opportunity to receive exciting prizes. Water pumps, boots, raincoats and bolos were given away to lucky farmers.

Visiting UPRIIS the first time and gracing the event was the OIC Senior Deputy Administrator Claro V. Maranan. In his speech, he encouraged the farmers to always be proud of what they do by stating “Magsasaka Ako!” with head-up high and full of dignity.

Also present were Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations Robert C. Suguitan, FirstGen Hydropower Plant Vice President Dennis Gonzales, Nueva Ecija Provincial Agriculturist Serafin Santos and State Auditor Virginia Yacat.

Indeed, the first UPRIIS NIA-IA Day was a success and an event to look forward to in the years to come.



*The UPRIIS' United Confederation of Farmers' Irrigators' Association (UCFLA) headed by President Marcelo M. De Vera (fifth from left) took a photo opportunity with Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, Usec. Antonio A. Fleta and Senior Deputy Administrator Claro V. Maranan*



*NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel happily waves his hands as the employees welcome him at the event.*



*The farmers became kids again as they play the traditional "Pabitin"*



*The Managers of UPRIIS (from left to right) Engr. Carlito M. Gapasin, Engr. Joselito A. Mangunay, Engr. Santos B. Viernes, Engr. Cristino C. Castillo, Engr. Eugenio O. Conde Jr., Engr. Freddie M. Toquero, Engr. Rosalinda B. Bote, Ms. Jasmine D. Villanueva and Department Manager Josephine B. Salazar*

# REGION 4A

## NIA-IA DAY Sa Region 4A

Marietta M. Dela Cruz/ PRO A, NIA Region 4A



NIA's top notch official joining the bonding of NIA 4A employees and IAs headed by Adm. Antonio S. Nangel, Sr. Deputy Adm. Claro V. Maranan, PAIS Manager Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez, and Reg. 4As top management headed by Acting Regional Manager Romeo R. Anonuevo, IMO Manager Romeo M. Lopez, Acting EOD Manager Gloriosa L. Hernandez, Admin & Finance Division Manager Yolanda L. Reyes and NIA 4A personnel with IA representatives.

April 25, 2013 – It was a very warm and sunny day. The sky was clear above the SamLand Villa Resort in Calauan, Laguna where 228 NIA 4A employees and 232 IA leaders representing 81 Irrigators Associations from various municipalities within the region gathered to celebrate the first-ever NIA-IA Day. This event was a way to celebrate NIA's gratitude and appreciation to its partners.

NIA's dynamic partnership with the IAs had become the hallmark of the agency's success in the implementation of its irrigation development programs. Hence, in line with the national celebration of NIA's 50th anniversary, an exclusive NIA-IA Day per region was conceived to give emphasis on the milestone partnership of this agency with Irrigators Associations.

With the attendance of NIA's top-notch officials – the Administrator himself, Engr.

Antonio S. Nangel together with Senior Deputy Administrator Engr. Claro V. Maranan and PAIS Department Head, Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez, the affair had been very special indeed.

Following the theme *"Aapaw sa Galak at Kasiyahan, Pinagbigkis na NIA at Magsasaka, Kapit-Kamay sa Kaunlaran"* and motif of *"Piyesta ng Bayan"*, this region's NIA-IA Day had been a whole day full of fun, excitement, and meaningful fellowship between NIA personnel and IAs.

The region's head, Engr. Romeo R. Añonuevo, spearheaded the preparation and made sure that the IAs will truly enjoy the gathering. It was a concerted effort by Regional and IMO personnel who enthusiastically did their assignments according to the committee assigned to them.

Fun games were played which include

4-legged sack race relay, hitting the pot, and water bucket relay. Raffle draw for cash prizes were called in between games sponsored by IMO Managers Engr. Hilarion C. Cedeño of Laguna-Rizal IMO, Engr. Romeo M. Lopez of Quezon IMO, and Engr. Nicasio C. Pagdanganan of Cavite-Batangas IMO. Electric appliances were also given away as the day progressed. In keeping-up with the fiesta motif, a sumptuous lunch complete with lechon and other traditional fiesta dishes were shared by everybody.

Recognition and awarding of Outstanding CIS and NIS IAs were conferred to Jaybanga IA and Calacap MPC as the CY 2012 Regional Outstanding IAs in CIS and NIS categories, respectively. The Tumbaga I Bucal IA of Quezon was conferred with the Hall of Fame Award having continuously secured top awards not only in this region but also nationwide.



Testimonies coming from Mr. Mario Norcio, Sr. IDO of Cavite-Batangas IMO and IA representative Ms. Margarita A. Sarmiento of Tumbaga I Bucal IA were one in saying how NIA have helped developed IAs that rebound to the development and betterment of lives of its farmer-members.

Guest of Honor Administrator Nangel in his message honored the farmers when he said “...kayo ang haligi, ang pag-asa ng bayan, ng buong bansa.” Administrator Nangel emphasized the importance and value of the partnership between NIA and IA in irrigation development which should be sustained and given due recognition.

Truly, the affair was a success as everyone went home with a smile on their lips and pleasant memories to cherish.



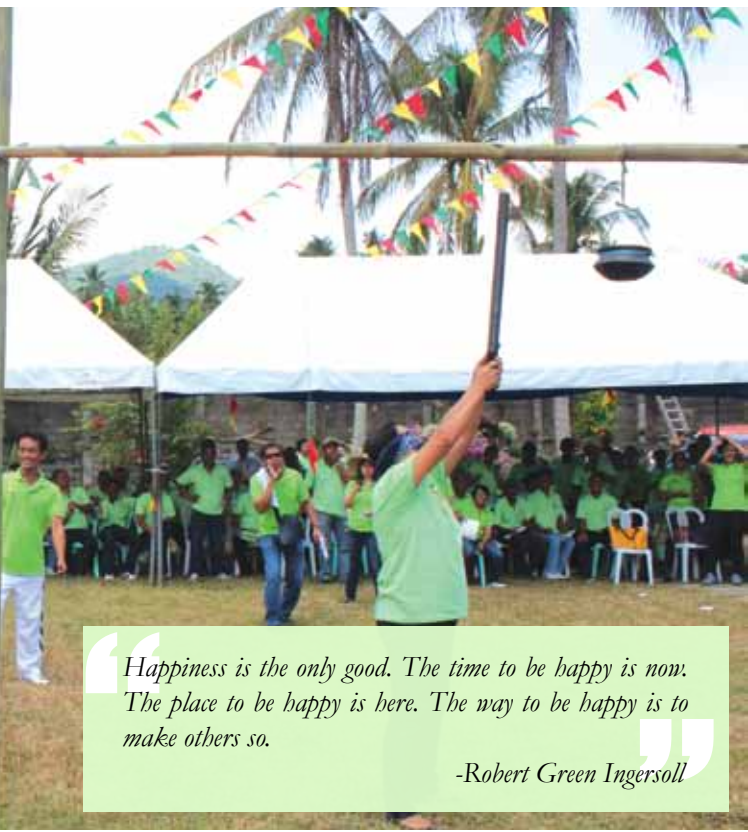
IA President Supremo A. Abdon and company proudly showing their Plaque of Recognition as The Regional Most Outstanding IA (CIS Category) awarded by Adm. Antonio S. Nangel, Sr. Deputy Adm. Claro V. Maranan, Acting Regional Manager Romeo R. Anonuevo, Engr. Efren S. Roqueza - Operations Dept. Manager and Cavite-Batangas IMO Manager Nicasio Pagdanganan.



IA President Andres Batitis of Sto. Domingo-Maitim IA, Bay, Laguna accepting from Adm. Nangel one of the major prizes (washing machine), with Sr. Deputy Maranan.



Jumping for joy IA President Nemesio Ragudo of Quezon Province awinner of LED TV congratulated by Adm. Nangel and Sr. Deputy Maranan.



“Happiness is the only good. The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make others so.”  
-Robert Green Ingersoll

## Administrator Nangel, Dumalo sa NIA MIMAROPA IA Day cum Office Inauguration

Aileen Vernice G. Bahia/ PRO, NIA Region 4B

*“CVC, Creative, Vigilant, Courageous.”*

Ilan lamang iyan sa mga salitang ginamit ni Administrator Antonio S. Nangel sa paglalarawan niya sa Acting Regional Director ng NIA MIMAROPA na si Engr. Conrado V. Cardenas Jr. sa ginanap na kauna-unahang NIA-IA Day cum Office Inauguration noong nakaraang Abril 16, 2013 sa NIA Compound, Bayanan II, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. Kasama rin niyang dumalo sa nasabing pagdiriwang ang OIC Sr. Deputy Administrator na si Claro V. Maranan at PAIS Chief na si Ms. Pilipina P. Bermudez.

Sinimulan ang aktibidad sa pamamagitan ng pagbabasbas mula kay Fr. Cris M. Raymundo na sinundan ng ribbon cutting. Binasbasan ang lahat ng kwarto sa buong gusali pati na rin ang IA training center. Sunod na isinagawa ang unveiling ng NIA MIMAROPA marker at tree planting.



Pormal naman na sinimulan ang programa sa pamamagitan ng pagpapakilala sa mga panauhin maging sa mga tauhan ng NIA MIMAROPA at mga Irrigators Association (IA) ng rehiyon.

*“Kami po for the past two years ay viable kaya ito po ay patuloy naming minimintina.” Pabayag ni Acting Regional Director Conrado V. Cardenas Jr. sa kanyang pananalita. Masaya rin niyang binati ang mga panauhing-pandangal na sina CVM (Congratulations! Viable MIMAROPA) at ASN (Ang Saya Natin).*

*Matapos ang blessing ng regional office, sunod naman na pinuntaban nina Administrator Antonio S. Nangel at Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas Jr. kasama si Fr. Cris M. Raymundo ang NIA-IA Training Center.*



*Malugod na sinalubong ng SABAPU IA President na si Pangulong Florante Hatulan si Administrator Antonio S. Nangel kasama si Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas Jr.*



Sa pagpapatuloy ng pagdiriwang, ginawaran ng parangal ang mga samahan ng magpapatubig na nagpamalas ng mahusay na pamamahala sa kani-kanilang mga miyembro. Isa rin sa mga naging highlight ay ang pagpirma ng mga Pangulo sa kanilang Token of Allegiance. Ito ang nagsilbing counterpart ng mga Irrigators Association sa Food Staple Sufficiency Program. Nagkaroon din ng iba't-ibang pagtatanghal mula sa mga mag-aaral ng Jose J. Leido Jr. Memorial National High School maging sa mga kawani ng NIA MIMAROPA. Nagkaroon din ng raffle para sa mga samahan ng magpapatubig.

Bilang pagtatapos, nagkaroon ng kasayahan para sa mga IAs kung saan hinandugan sila ng mga awitin mula sa isang banda.



*Nagbigay naman ng kanyang papuri at makabulubang mensabe si OIC Sr. Deputy Administrator Claro V. Maranan*



*Bago kumain ng tanghalian, binigkas muna ng mga IA at panaubin ang Panatang Makapalay.*



*Isa sa mga tampok na aktibidad ng NIA LA Day ay ang ribbon cutting at blessing ng Regional Office na pinangunahan ni NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel kasama si OIC Sr. Deputy Administrator Claro V. Maranan at NIA IV-B Acting Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas Jr.*



*Isang napakahalagang kaganapan sa NIA LA Day ay ang pagpirma ng mga Pangulo ng bawat LA Federations sa kanilang Token of Allegiance sa NIA IV-B.*



*Isa sa mga aktibidad ng NIA-LA Day ay ang Tree Planting na ginanap sa harap ng NIA Region IV-B Office Building.*



**Binigyang-parangal ang mga IA Federations na nagpamalas ng katangi-tanging pagganap sa taong 2012.**

*(L-R) NIA IV-B Acting Regional Manager Conrado V. Cardenas Jr., Provincial Agriculturist Petronilo Dimailig, NEA Representative, BBRIS Federation President Florante A. Hatulan, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, OIC Sr. Deputy Administrator Claro V. Maranan, PAIS Chief Pilipina P. Bermudez and EOD Acting Division Manager Cesar M. Pobre*

## NIA-IA Bicol Congress:

### *Breaking New Grounds for the Bicolano Farmers*

Ed G. Yu/ PRO, NIA Region 5

The sky slowly turned dark as rain clouds crept high above Naga City after lunch that Friday, May 24, 2013. On the ground, some 400 leaders of various irrigators associations (IAs) in the six provinces of Bicol patiently waited for the arrival of the NIA administrator, who together with four of his staff at that time was aboard a Cebu Pacific Airlines flight on the way to attend the groundbreaking ceremonies of two new NIA buildings and the IA congress in the city.

As the plane's arrival neared, it started raining hard, water pouring like an endless deluge that flooded some parts of the city. High above at 16,000 feet, the plane was preparing to land when the heavy downpour happened.

With zero visibility, the pilot as a standard procedure, had the plane circled above waiting for the rain to stop and an opening to see the runway. As the plane made its third and final round above Naga City before aborting landing and going back to Manila, the rain stopped, the sky cleared, and the plane finally landed more than an hour late.

Shortly after the arrival of NIA Administrator Antonio Nangel in the Agency's regional office, the groundbreaking ceremonies for the NIA Farmers Training Center and Regional Office Building began.

Together with Director William Ragodon, Naga City Mayor John Bongat, NIA President Silvestre Bonto and key officials of NIA Bicol, Administrator Nangel led the groundbreaking activity for the new P40-million NIA Regional Office Building and the P30-million Farmers Training Center, both pet projects of the administrator.



*NEW NIA OFFICE BUILDINGS NIA Bicol Regional Director William P. Ragodon (foreground) shovels cement on the hole containing the time capsule of the new 2-storey NIA Regional Office Building that will replace the old building inside the agency's compound along Panganiban Drive, Naga City. Looking on are: (from right) Naga City Mayor John Bongat, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, and Silvestre Bonto, president of the Bicol Region Confederation of Irrigators Association. Others in photo are (from left): NIA PAIS Manager Pilipina Bermudez, Mrs. Arlene Ragodon, Ms. Merle Bongon, and NIA Albay-Catanduanes chief, Engr. Cristeta Mesias. Ragodon, Nangel, and Bongat likewise broke the grounds for the NIA Bicol Farmers Training Center within the NIA compound.*



*Computerized image of the new NIA Regional Office Building*

The new two-storey building will replace on the same location the old one-storey 30-year old regional office building along Panganiban Drive in Naga City. With a total floor area of 3,242 square meters, the edifice when completed will house on the ground floor the Office of the Regional Manager and Staff, Commission on Audit, Office of the Administrative and Finance Division, and a conference room.

The building's second floor, on the other hand, will contain the Office of the Engineering and Operations Division, Camarines Sur Irrigation Management Office, a conference room, and a multipurpose hall.



*Computerized image of the new NIA Bicol Farmers Training Center*



*Organizers await top finishers of the 5K NIA-IA Fun Run that ushers the day-long farmers congress*

Adjacent this building is the modern two-storey Farmers Training Center with a roof deck. With a total floor area of 1,140 square meters, it will house spaces for workshop rooms, office, canteen, reception lobby and storage on the ground floor, and 11 bedrooms, three suites with toilet and bath (T & B), common T & B for male and another for female. This center will accommodate NIA in-house and farmers trainings and conferences.

In his speech during the short program, Administrator Nangel informed NIA personnel and IA leaders present that NIA Bicol was luckier than other regions, because it got two new buildings while others got one each only. He credited this to the initiative of his friend, Director Ragodon, who Nangel said exerted extra efforts to get the funds for the construction of the two buildings.

Under Nangel's leadership, NIA regional offices around the country got only one building each, either a new training center or a new regional office building.

Later, in the evening, the administrator attended the IA Congress at the convention hall of the Villa Caceres Hotel where he thanked Bicolano IA leaders for their support and active participation in the country's irrigation development program.

In expressing gratitude to the IA's support, the NIA chief underscored the IA's important role in the attainment of the Rice Self-Sufficiency Program. He urged IA leaders to continue supporting NIA's program.

During the event, Administrator Nangel personally handed over outstanding awards to three top IAs in the region. He also gamely posed for photos with IA delegations from the six Bicol provinces.

By the time the congress ended at almost midnight, the night sky was already filled and dotted with countless twinkling stars, a prelude to the coming beautiful day.



*NIA and IA officials in the Bicol region lower the time capsule of the farmers training center during the groundbreaking activity of the edifice.*



*IA leaders gamely join the parlor games during the congress*



*NIA officials pose with the presidents of the top 3 IAs in Bicol region*

## NIA REGION VI CELEBRATES NIA-FARMER PARTNERSHIP

Danielle Parian-Pijuan / PRO, NIA Region 6



Administrator Antonio S. Nangel poses with an LA member



Aklan-Capiz IMO in their choral presentation

If there is one thing that keeps NIA going, it is its clientele. Our farmers, whom we serve, are the reason why this agency exists in the first place. Incidentally, it is important to maintain a good relationship with our farmers because it can go a long way, not to mention their prompt payment of ISF.

We value our farmers because they are the lifeblood of NIA. On the other hand, building irrigation facilities, restoring and rehabilitating the structures, or providing information on effective farming practices are not enough to show them that we care about them. We need to take a different step towards creating a good rapport with them. Thus, on the occasion of NIA's 50th Anniversary, a grand celebration of NIA and Irrigators Associations was held.

The NIA-IA Day with the theme "NIA kag LA: Magkatimbang subong kag sa palaabuton" held on May 31, 2013 became an excellent venue to gather all the Irrigators Associations from Iloilo-Guimaras IMO, Aklan-Capiz IMO, Antique IMO, and Negros Occidental IMO and to commemorate the partnership that had been going on for years in the hope of strengthening what had already been established. The fiesta theme made the atmosphere warm, comfortable, and colourful. Tents were set up within the venue and kiosks were built to display the local products of the Provinces

of Iloilo, Guimaras, Antique, Capiz, Aklan, and Negros Occidental.

Despite the impending dire weather that day, everyone was excited to gather within the NIA Regional Office VI Compound to celebrate this festive event for the first time. The days of preparation was spearheaded by Regional Irrigation Manager Engr. Gerardo P. Corsiga. The employees supplemented creative ideas and provided assistance in order to make the celebration memorable.

The whole day event started off with a parade of Irrigation Management Offices including the Regional Office and Jalaur River Multipurpose Project II, within the office compound. IMOs, headed by their Division Managers, made the parade more colourful by wearing costumes their provinces are known for, such as Maskara for Negros Occidental and Dinagyang costume for Iloilo. Everyone was giddy to meet the much-loved Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, who always had a ready smile for every greeting and snapshot. It has never been this pleasant for farmers and employees alike to join a parade with the Administrator.

To show the farmers that NIA is not the only agency concerned about their livelihood, representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Landbank of the

Philippines, National Food Authority, and Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation graced our invitation to present their programs and opportunities that will benefit our farmers.

Administrator Nangel's speech was one of the most awaited part of the program. And once he occupied the podium, all ears and eyes were directed towards him. He congratulated the employees and farmers alike for their joint effort, which made it possible for the Region to achieve its targets. His inspiring and encouraging words fuelled tired bodies and made the heat of the morning bearable.

Retired Engineer Jose Oredina made an inspiring testimonial about how his life was changed since the day he was employed by NIA. It was moving for the employees and farmers alike who learned that love of work is the way to success. He emphasized the importance of being a good farmer that in order to grow good crops, we need to share good seeds with our neighbours. Metaphorically, we all need to do this in order that no inferior genes from bad crops can get pollinated into ours. As employees, sharing good seeds could mean sharing good deeds and becoming an inspiration to others in order for them to become inspirations to other as well; like spreading goodness, honesty, dedication, and hard work.



In behalf of the Irrigators Associations, the ever lively and gregarious Ma'am Rose Caunca, the IA President of PASELO-MAK IA of Negros Occidental Irrigation Management Office, shared their success story. Her protracted speech was made lengthier by all the interesting stories she feels she needed to share with her fellow farmers in order for them to achieve what her IA has achieved after being awarded the Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers' Award in 2012, bringing home 1 million pesos worth of projects. She brought a lot of inspiration and laughter to everybody that only fired-up her enthusiasm to speak more. Just like SALBAR IA, which won the same award in 2011, PASELOMAK IA is an example of excellent IA management and a picture of good leadership and hard work of our farmers.

Outstanding IAs of NIS and CIS were given certificates and citations as rewards for their excellent performance.



*Regional Office and Iloilo-Guimaras IMO Personnel*



*IA winners of handtractors from Iloilo-Guimaras IMO and Aklan-Capiz IMO pose with Engr. Ricardo P. Penaso and Engr. Manolo R. Ramirez*

Their respective IDOs and SWRFTs were also given recognition for providing guidance and knowledge in helping them become viable.

Even with the downpour in the afternoon, the fun pushed through. Under the sprinkles of rain, each IMO, together with their IAs showcased their talents through a variety contest. Farmers, employees, and bosses alike danced to the beats of Gentleman and Girl on Fire. Some showed their moves like Jagger, joined the wackiness of the popular action song Gwiyomi and didn't even bother to get wet. Composo contest was also held and it felt as if we were time-warped while listening to native tunes and seeing farmers dance to the rhythm of the good old days of Visayan rural life.

As perks, gift packs from private sponsors were given out through a raffle draw. Lucky farmers received backpack sprayers and two even luckier IAs received hand tractors. Although some were sodden with rain, they were also drenched with glee.

Cliché as it may seem, it really takes two to tango. NIA and the farmers cannot successfully implement their plans without the cooperation from each. Although lapses are sometimes unavoidable from both sides, as partners, we have to work together towards one goal. The strong partnership between this agency and its clients remains sturdy while working towards a rice self-sufficient nation.

# REGION 7

## NIA Region 7 IA Day

Anthony O. Alonzo

Administrator Antonio S. Nangel and Acting Regional Manager (ARM) Diosdado A. Rosales enjoyed singing with the rondalla band.



**T**he farmers through the Irrigators Associations has always been the essence and purpose of the existence of National Irrigation Administration; an IA, on the other hand, relies on the constant and on-time services of NIA to attain an efficient and good production . Hence, there is a mutual bond between NIA and the farmers. Between these two lies an extensive partnership and a common goal. The link between these two institutions is one of the most crucial and significant in terms of agricultural productivity and stability of our country. IA development and progress have been one of the main components on the nation's battle against food shortage and insufficiency.



Members of San D Mil IA Malinao IS with a graceful dance number.

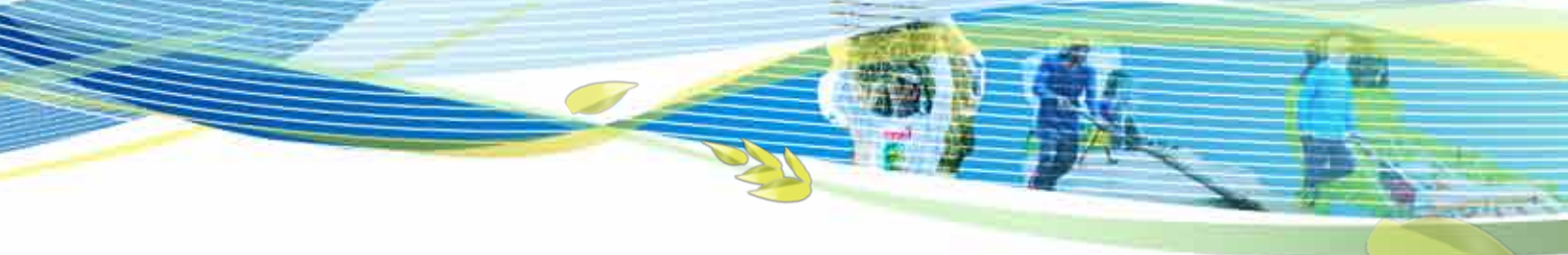
Over the years, IAs have been able to create an identity for themselves – an identity carrying the institution of the farmer and an identity which reflects the commitment of NIA to serve the farmers and the community. With every excellent performance of the IAs, NIA has its way of complimenting it. Annually, NIA's management evaluates and determines the IAs with an outstanding performance on both CIS and NIS category. The awards are given every NIA anniversary celebration.

This year, in celebration of NIA's 50th Golden Anniversary, the NIA management took another innovative way to give recognition to its partner - the farmers. As early as January this year, a series of activities had been completed that highlighted NIA's celebration of its 50th Golden Anniversary. Included in those events was the celebration of the NIA IA Day.



“When it is understood that one loses joy and happiness in the attempt to possess them, the essence of natural farming will be realized. The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.”

— Masanobu Fukuoka



NIA Region 7 celebrated its IA Day on April 30, 2013 simultaneous with its 4th Anniversary at The New Farmers' Hall, Malinao IS, Pilar, Bohol. The event was attended by around 300 individuals from NIA Region 7 and Irrigators Associations officers all over Central Visayas. The occasion was simple but meaningful. An affair that was well planned and organized right from the start up to the closing part. The attendance and active participation of NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel added a great deal and significance to the event.

The program was highlighted by numerous fun games and performances. Even Administrator Nangel and RM Rosales joined in the fun, from the fun games up to the different presentations and numbers. The management also gave out awards and recognitions to employees. The Confederation of IAs in Region 7, in return, gave a plaque of appreciation to both Administrator Nangel and RM Rosales. Celebration was closed out by a raffle draw for all those who have attended. It was an overwhelming experience and an exceptional gathering for NIA's long time partner.



(from left-right) AFD Acting Manager Rocelle B. Tapales  
EOD Manager Olimpo J. Galagala, Jr., ARM Diosdado A. Rosales Malinao IS OIC William B. Butron



Talking from experience: ASN shared an inspiring message on his journey with NIA.



ARM Diosdado A. Rosales demonstrating a game everybody enjoyed.



IAs from all over the region.



the HNU Cborale led the invocation and opening of the program.



Lively and entertaining as always. Sir Dado Rosales on his speech that simply brought laughter and amusement to everyone.



EOD Manager Olimpo J. Galagala, VISCLA Pres. Ireneo Lenterio and NIA Admin Antonio S. Nangel.



Maam Higie Castillon leading the dance and parlor games.

# REGION 8

## NIA Region 8 Celebrates NIA-IA Day

Edita V. Enderrez / Supervising IDO, NIA, Region 8



**N**IA Region 8 celebrated NIA-IA Day on May 28, 2013 at Patio Victoria, Baluarte, San Jose, Tacloban City. It was a momentous gathering of 266 IA Presidents, 168 NIA management and staff, and 89 guests, visitors, and representatives from government agencies and agrochemical dealers. The event was organized to recognize farmers as partners in irrigation development.

Regional Manager Romeo G. Quiza started the event by warmly welcoming the guests and participants. He rallied the farmer-leaders to support the Rice Self-Sufficiency Program of the Government. He asked the farmer-leaders to have a unified production for Region 8, considering that Samar lags behind in production and irrigation development compared with Leyte, Biliran and S. Leyte. He renewed his commitment to support NIA's partnership with Irrigators Associations through the timely and suf-

ficient delivery of irrigation. He reiterated that there is no NIA without the IAs. He asked RCIA President Engr. Romeo Horca to conduct monthly meetings regularly as well as implement its programs and projects as programmed. He ended his remarks by introducing the gathering's guest of honor, NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel.

Administrator Nangel shared his fervent desire to improve the life of the farmers, for he himself is a farmer's son. He rallied the farmers to be productive so they could improve their lives. He enumerated his time-tested strategies on how he transformed the Upper Pampanga River Irrigation System (UPRIIS), covering 112,000 hectares, from a perennially deficit to a financially viable system enabling him to rise from the ranks and receive awards.

According to Administrator Nangel, he improved the average production of UPRIIS to 100 cav/ha by tapping the assistance

and collaborating with Phil-Rice, Central Luzon State University, LGUs, NFA, PCIC, BPI, and the IAs. Second, he encouraged farmers to avail support programs of DA, LGUs, and other agencies involved in agriculture development such as distribution of free certified seeds, fertilizers and subsidized farm machineries, and post-harvest facilities so as to minimize expense and increase farm income. Farmers should copy good practices/technologies in order to succeed, just like what he does when he goes to his foreign trips. A case in point is the mini-hydro power projects he has implemented in NIA which he saw in Japan. Third, he made sure that irrigation infrastructure projects implemented are based on plans and completed on or before the target date. He also mentioned that Ratooning, Quick Turn Around (QTA), and Water Savings Technology are all programs geared to increase cropping intensity. He ended his message by encouraging farmers to practice "ICIP" – Innovation; Creativity; Intelligence, and Productivity.

Another highlight of the activity was the presentation of success stories by Engr. Raul Salipuran representing the Basey Irrigation Project; Ditas de la Peña, an outstanding farmer and Ugmad Award-ee; Ryan dela Cruz, Vice President of Macagtas SWIS; Engr. Santos D. Meracap; HCAAP; and Felix T. Novales, President of 2012 Most Outstanding FISCO, Bino-ligay FISCO.

Fifty Outstanding IAs and FISCOs were recognized for their outstanding perfor-



The Members of the Irrigators Associations from the NIS and CIS as they listen attentively to the speakers.



mance in 2012. They were given certificates and cash incentives. After which, RCIA-8 President Engr. Romeo Horca read the RCIA's "PLEDGE OF SUPPORT to Administrator Antonio S. Nangel " in recognition of his extraordinary concern for rice farmers in Region 8.

Dr. Santiago R. Obien, Sr. Technical Adviser of the National Rice Program and an expert on Institutional Development, represented Asec Dante S. Delima in the event. He shared good news of the plan to establish a Philrice Satellite Office in Catubig Valley, Catarman, N. Samar in addition to two more offices in Mindoro Oriental and Zamboanga. He announced that the gains of the Rice Self-Sufficiency Program of the government is already making a dent with the sharp decline of rice importation for CY 2013. Likewise, Rufino B. Ayaso III, Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension, gave the updates on the Regional Rice Self-Sufficiency Program.

Intermission numbers were amply provided throughout the day by the National Champion and Hall of Famer NIA Region 8 Chorale and special presentations from the provincial offices. Indeed, the strong partnership of the National Irrigation Administration and the Irrigators Association was evident in that successful and momentous event.



Administrator Antonio Nangel, PAIS Manager Pilipina Bermudez, Regional Manager Romeo G. Quiza, BLNLS IMO, Manager Pedro C. Rubio gather at the entrance of Patio Victoria for the ribbon cutting ceremony and opening of booths.

*I'm glad I dont have to make a living farming. Too much hard work . Too many variable you don't have control over, like is it going to rain? All I can say is, God bless the real farmers out there*

-Fuzzy Zoeller



One more time with feeling, the Region 8 Chorale with their intermission number.



Regional Manager Romeo G. Quiza at the rostrum as he introduced the keynote speaker, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel.



The Top LAs/FISCOs showing their Certificate of Appreciation as they pose together with Administrator Nangel, Regional Manager Quiza and Regional Executive Director Antonio Gerundio of DA, R8.

# REGION 9

## NIA Region 9 conducts NIA-IA Day

Maria Teresa Amaya Empleo, PRO NIA Region 9



Mardale Hotel, Pagadian City – IAs and NIANs offering their stormy applause and a standing ovation to Administrator Antonio S. Nangel to acknowledge his dynamic and strong management of the NIA.

Pagadian City – In celebration of the five long decades of successful partnership between NIA and IAs, NIA Region IX conducted its first-ever regional NIA-IA Day on June 14, 2013 at Mardale Hotel & Convention Center, Pagadian City, bearing the theme: “Nagkabiusang NIA ug mag-uuma, kalamboan sa tibuok Zamboanga Peninsula.” (Unified NIA and farmers, progress to the entire Zamboanga Peninsula.)

The said activity was attended by 71 IAs composed of 208 IA member-attendees from all over the region wearing their uniform polo shirts representing the color of the IMO they belong to. NIANs who were all in green also filled the hall reaching a total number of 98 attendees representing all offices of Region 9. Administrator Antonio S. Nangel (ASN) who was not able to attend the event due to an im-



Mardale Hotel, Pagadian City – Engr. Julius S. Maquiling, Asst. Administrator for PIAG- Mindanao delivering his message as a keynote speaker during the event.

portant meeting with DA Secretary Alcala sent Engr. Julius Maquiling, the Assistant Administrator for Project Inspectorate and Audit Group (PIAG) – Mindanao to speak on his behalf. Although the Administrator was not around, he was introduced by PAIS representative Ms. Rocielle Harlette Navarro who described him as a visionary, “someone who uses his expertise to take all strategies to a higher level for the greater good.” Acting Regional Manager Alejandro L. Alberca and the IMO Managers of the region – Engr. Salvio B. Retes of Zamboanga del Sur, Engr. Carlos A. Sabado of

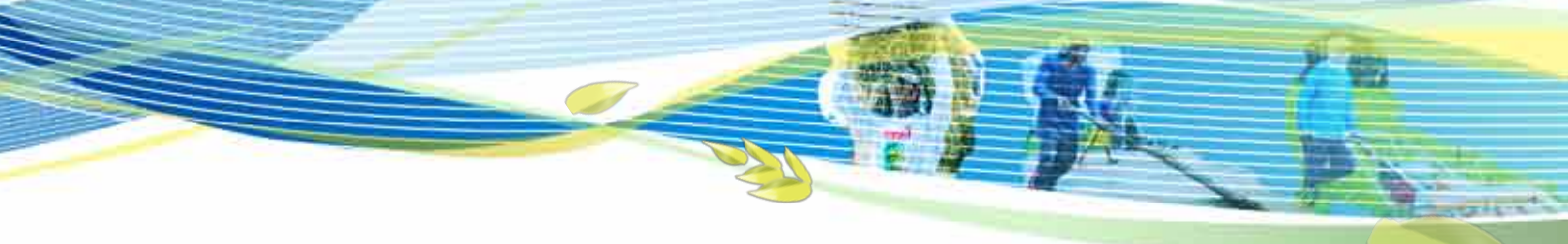


Mardale Hotel, Pagadian City – Acting RIM Alejandro L. Alberca presenting the NIA Regional Accomplishments to 400 IA-and-NIAN audience during the NIA-IA Day.



“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.”

-Paul J. Meyer



Mardale Hotel, Pagadian City – Department of Agriculture (DA) representative Engr. Luicita Abella discussing to the group the major programs and projects of DA.

Zamboanga del Norte-Sibugay, and Engr. Benedicto Pulis, Jr. of ZAMBASULTA - were also present in the activity along with Regional Federation IA President, Alonto L. Marcaban. The event was also graced by Department of Agriculture representative Engr. Luicita Abella.

In his opening message, Engr. Alejandro L. Alberca narrated the beginnings of NIA as once a division in the Bureau of Public Works and how the need to become a separate agency came to be. He stressed the importance of the collaboration of NIA and IA from project proposal to system construction to ISF/amortization collection and how the agency's programs evolve to become what it is now. He emphasized the symbiotic relationship of NIA and IA through an anecdote of a man taking refuge in the shade of a fruitless mango tree. *"Like the mango tree, NIA will bear no fruit or will even cease to exist if no amount of contribution from the farmers is received; in the same way farmers' production is impeded if NIA programs fail to respond to farmers' irrigation needs,"* he said.

Keynote address speaker Engr. Julius Maquiling extended the heartfelt gratitude of the Administrator to all farmers and NIAs in their laudable contribution to the performance of the agency from its creation in 1963 until its 50th anniversary and beyond. He recounted the improvements made by the agency and how far it is now to where it used to be.

Sixteen (16) Outstanding IAs were also awarded during the event. On the top three were: TIMPOBIA, Inc. with Pres. Jose S. Momongan received the 2012 Rice Achievers Award in CIS Category; Pres. Fernando P. Lindo of LOWTIPTAM IA bagged the 2012 Regional Outstanding IA under the NIS Category; and the KASAVIFIA headed by Pres. Baudelio D. Perez got the 2012 Regional Outstanding IA under CARP-IC.



Mardale, Pagadian City – Among the Top 16 Outstanding IAs, IA President of KASAVIFIA Baudelio D. Perez receiving his award as one of the Regional Outstanding IA under CARP-IC.



Mardale Hotel, Pagadian City – One of the happy takers of the sprayer sponsored by the Zamboanga del Norte-Sibugay IMO Head Engr. Carlos A. Sabado.

*"Kami sa akong mga kaubanan sa TIMPOBIA, Inc. dako kayo ang pasalamat sa NIA ug sa Department of Agriculture sa ilang pagtabang kanamo na mulambo ang among pagpanguma, salamat labina sa NIA sa pagtabang kanamo na mu-taas amu abot tungod sa mga irigasyon mga gnutukod (We, in TIMPOBIA Inc., are very thankful to NIA and DA for all their help in improving our farming capacity, special thanks to NIA for assisting us in augmenting our harvest through the construction of irrigation facilities.)"* said TIMPOBIA, Inc. Pres. Jose S. Momongan in his response.

Drawing of raffle prizes also highlighted the event, giving away bags of rice, appliances and farming tools.



Mardale Hotel, Pagadian City – Breaking the ice by a dance number presented by the regional office ladies.

## NIA-10 HOLDS “3-IN-1 AFFAIR”

By: Mamerto S. Apañada, Sr. IRMO

Adjudged and awarded as the “*Most Improved Regional Office for CY 2012*” during NIA’s 50th Anniversary celebration at the NIA-Central Office last June 17-25, 2013, NIA-Region 10 immediately conducted the so-called “3-in-1 Affair” to sustain its momentum on July 10-11, 2013 at Pryce Plaza Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City. The three (3) activities conducted were:

1. Regional Review and Planning Workshop (RPW) – Review of Accomplishments for January-June 2013 and Planning/Target Setting for July-December 2013;
2. Awarding of CY 2012 Outstanding Irrigators’ Associations and NIA Employees which also served as the NIA-IA Day Celebration; and,
3. Commitment signing of July-December 2013 plans/programs and targets as outputs of RPW.

The activities were attended by no less than the newly installed NIA Administrator Claro V. Maranan, PAIS Manager Pilipina P. Bermudez, Regional IA Federation Officers, IA awardees and their Board of Directors, and NIA-10 staff and employees headed by RIM Felix M. Razo.

Taking his Oath of Office as NIA Administrator just last July 9, 2013, or only two days before this affair, the energetic 54-year



old Administrator Maranan did not have any second thought in attending and supporting the important events of Region 10. In his speech during the Closing Program on July 11, the Administrator expressed his congratulations for the job well done by NIA-Region 10. He lauded all NIA-Region 10 employees headed by RIM Razo for the tireless efforts in making Region 10 Number One. He also extended his warm congratulations to the different Irrigators Associations who received awards both in national and regional levels and the employees/awardees for the top performance in CY 2012.

It can be said that NIA-10 is very fortunate in having the newly installed Administrator during the “3-1-in 1 Affair”, his very first field visit right after his installation, which inspired both NIA employees and IA leaders present to work harder to attain the Vision and Mission of both parties. This would also serve as the springboard for more vigorous efforts in sustaining what have already been achieved.

*We do not celebrate people who have made success out of serious hard work.*

— Iain Duncan Smith





Regional LA Awardees CY 2012- LA President of Magsaysay CIS-LINUGOS FLA Napoleon Nisperos receive the plaque and cash awards during the 3 n 1 Affair at Pryce Plaza Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City on July 11, 2013 given by the Administrator Claro V. Maranan with the Regional Manager Felix M. Razo. Accompanied by LAMISCA IMO Manager Joecarnine L. Gubat



Administrator Claro V. Maranan together with Regional Manager Felix M. Razo handed the plaque and cash award in the amount of Php 5,000.00 to LA President of LIBA-DATAMA LA Gualberto Lamparas of Oroquieta CIS being one of the Outstanding LA-LAMISCA IMO CIS category- Regional Level escorted by LAMISCA IMO Manager Joecarnine L. Gubat and staff and EOD Manager Avelino T. Andilab



One of the Most Outstanding LA (CIS Category) Regional/National Level Alubijid CIS-ALISA, Mr. Wilfred A. Adviento and BOD receive the plaque and cash award escorted by LAMISCA IMO Manager and staff. One of the Most Outstanding LA (CIS Category) Regional/National Level Alubijid CIS-ALISA, Mr. Wilfred A. Adviento and BOD receive the plaque and cash award escorted by LAMISCA IMO Manager and staff



One of the highest Collection Efficiency for 2 Consecutive Cropping 2012 under Model 2- Veterans LA President Mr. Judy C. Aruta receives the cash award of 5K and plaque escorted by WRFT, Mr. Gil Tutas



New Ilocos LA of New Ilocos CIS, Bukidnon IMO LA President Greg Tatoy receives the plaque and Php 5,000.00 Cash award being one of the Outstanding LA-CIS category – Regional Level escorted by the IDO assigned, Mrs. Lovelyn Empos



One of the Outstanding LA-LAMISCA IMO (CIS Category) Regional Level - LIM-UAG CIS-LOMACASIDMA LA Mr. Wenefredo Jayme receives the cash award and plaque escorted by LAMISCA IMO Manager & staff.

“What I learned growing up on the farm was a way of life that was centered on hard work, and on faith and on thrift. Those values have stuck with me my whole life.”

— Rick Perry



Most Outstanding IA (CIS Category) – Regional/National Level La Fortuna CIS-SIL-FIA, Hon. Eriberto D. Bangis together with the BOD receive the cash award and plaque.

## NIA XI & IA DAY, Keeping the Partnership Alive

By: Lina M. Montilde / PRO, NIA Region 11



Fun Game during the NIA XI – IA DAY held on June 4-5, 2013 at NIA Regional Office XI, Bolton St., Davao City.

Irrigators Associations from all over Region XI led by their respective provincial federation officers and members, convened at NIA-XI Regional Office in Davao City on June 4-5, 2013 to celebrate the partnership of NIA-XI and the Irrigators Associations in its 50th year of service to the farmer-irrigators. The festive bantings hanging all-around matched with the bright colored tops of the 300 participants composed of farmers, NIA-XI staff, and guests representing the IMOs of Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and the regional office. Led by RIM Modesto G. Membreve, Division Managers Encarnacion S. Soriano and Caridad K. Sison, and IMO Managers, they all joined in the Parade after the thanksgiving mass in the morning of June 4. The managers were also in the lead of the Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting at the entrance arch which opened the activities slated for the day.

**Programs, Opening & Closing.** In the opening program, Regional Executive Director Remelyn R. Recoter of the Department of Agriculture, RFU XI, updated on the releases for Typhoon Pablo projects and the DA's programs for IAs like the Agri-Pinoy program and status of Rice Industry correlating in the increase of rice productivity. She said that there will be lots of work for NIA and assured of DA's support. Regional Irrigation Manager Modesto G. Membreve of NIA-XI recognized DA's assistance to outstanding IAs and noted that NIA's anniversary is more of a gesture of thanksgiving for reaching the 50th year of providing irrigation services, for having the best IAs and DA being the best supporter. "For this is such a successful event", he said, "let us carry on and continue this celebration of partnership and camaraderie". On the other hand, Engr. Cesar E. Gonzales, former NIA Administrator remarked that in all his life, it is here in this region that he finds the best relationships between the NIA and the farmers. Mr. Saturnino Simbajon, Regional Confederation of IAs XI President, responded that they are thankful for NIA-XI's assistance in the aspect of irrigation.



Mutya ng NIA XI IA Ms. Elyn Pedrosa of Davao Oriental IMO during the NIA XI – IA DAY held on June 4-5, 2013 at NIA Regional Office XI, Bolton St., Davao City.



Parade during the NIA XI – IA DAY held on June 4-5, 2013 at NIA Regional Office XI, Bolton St., Davao City.



Parade, Compostela Valley delegation led by IMO Manager Carlito A. Carrasco (wearing printed polo with red native hat) during the NIA XI – IA DAY held on June 4-5, 2013 at NIA Regional Office XI, Bolton St., Davao City.



**Best Booth.** The array of booths put up by the IMOs and IA Federations along the NIA-XI road were competing cubicles showcasing farmers' produce for sale ranging from rice of different varieties, corn, bananas, coconuts, fruits, vegetables, farm eggs, vinegar, native delicacies as "suman ibus", "malagkit", and "balanghoy". Regional office neighborhood at Bolton Extension Road flocked at the booths for their choice of fresh farm products. Criteria for the best booth are highest sales, stall arrangement, and presentation. Compostela Valley IMO took home a cash incentive of P15,000.00 for winning the Best Booth contest.

**Fun Games** followed at the covered court where participants from the regional office, IMOs, and farmers competed in the parlor games such as Egg Relay, Marble Tea, and Sack Race. Davao Oriental IMO was proclaimed the over-all champion for the fun games.

**Mutya ng NIA-XI Irrigators Associations Pageant.** Four (4) IA female candidates vied for the crown during the Miss IA Muse night on June 4, 2013 at the Regional Office Covered court hosted by the stand-up comedians. The Board of Judges were EOD Div. Mgr. Encarnacion S. Soriano, FAD Div. Mgr. Caridad K. Sison, and PRO Lina M. Montilde. Ms. ELYN LAGROSA of Davao Oriental IMO was proclaimed Mutya ng NIA-XI Irrigators Associations; followed by 1st Runner Up Princess, LARISSA ESCALONA of Davao del Sur IMO; 2nd Runner UP Princess TRINITA CAÑETE of Compostela Valley and 3rd Runner Up Princess, EVA BERNADAS of Davao del Norte IMO. Coronation and awarding of cash prizes ensued immediately after which, fellowship followed.

Concluding the first regional NIA XI – IA day was a closing program and awarding of prizes to winning groups.



*Opening Program. RIM Modesto G. Membreve rendering inspirational speech during the NIA XI – LA DAY held on June 4-5, 2013 at NIA Regional Office XI, Bolton St., Davao City.*



*Booth of Compostela Valley IMO, Fruits and "ibus/suman" for sale during the NIA XI – LA DAY held on June 4-5, 2013 at NIA Regional Office XI, Bolton St., Davao City.*

# REGION 12

## Region 12 NIA-IA Day

By: Evelyn A. Bragasin / PRO, NIA Region 12



South Cotabato IMO delegation composed of personnel and IA officers and members (CIS, Allab RIS and Marbel-Banga RIS –in blue shirt). Maguindanao IMO personnel and IA officers and members (CIS, Alip RIS, Kabulan RIS and Talayan RIS – in green shirts)



Sultan Kudarat IMO personnel and IA officers and members (CIS and Lambayong/Tacurong RIS)



Acting Regional Manager Mario H. Sande in his inspirational message congratulated the Ulingang Farmer-Irrigator awardees and exhorted the IA officers and members present to do their best and emulate the accomplishments of the awardees for them to be recognized in succeeding NIA-IA celebrations.



Sarangani PIO/Silway-Buayan RIS personnel do their rendition of another local composition of a NIA Jingle.



Maguindanao IMO personnel doing an interpretative dance of planting and harvesting rice



IA members and Cotabato IMO employees led by Manager Czar M. Sulaik (in front wearing white sweatshirt) entertain the crowd with the dance.



South Cotabato IMO personnel in their folk dance presentation



Our bosses doing the NIA-12 version of "Moves Like Jagger" during the community dancing portion of the celebration. (L-R: Administrative and Finance division Manager Tirso M. Sales, Jr., Acting Regional Manager Mario H. Sande and MIP II Project Manager Noldin S. Oyod.



MMIP II personnel sing their own composition of a NIA Jingle accompanied by the Cotabato IMO band.



Sultan Kudarat IMO employees in their dance number.

*"I inherited that calm from my father, who was a farmer. You sow, you wait for good or bad weather, you harvest, but working is something you always need to do."*

— Miguel Indurain





*Cotabato IMO delegation composed of personnel and LA officers and members (CIS, Libungan RIS, Mlang/Malasila RIS, Maridagao RIS and Kabacan RIS)*



*Sarangani PIO/Siluy-Buayan RIS personnel and LA officers and members (CIS and Siluy-Buayan RIS)*



*Ulirang Magsasaka Hilda Larida of Mlaris Division B (LIDANAMA) LA, Inc., Mlang RIS receives her Plaque of Recognition and cash award from ARM M. H. Sande. Looking on (L-R) are Engr. F. May D. Respicio, AFD Manager T. M. Sales, Jr., Cotabato IMO Manager C. M. Sulatik, MIP II Project Manager N. S. Oyod and EOD OIC Engr. W. L. Ablan.*



*Ulirang Magsasaka Juanito Guira of BUCATILL LA, Inc., Lambayong RIS receives his Plaque of Recognition and cash award from RM Mario H. Sande. Looking on (L-R) are AFD Manager Tirso M. Sales, Jr., Sultan Kudarat IMO Manager Ali S. Satol, MIP II Project Manager Noldin S. Oyod and EOD OIC Engr. W. L. Ablan.*



*Ulirang Magsasaka Hilda Larida of Mlaris Division B (LIDANAMA) LA, Inc., Mlang RIS receives her Plaque of Recognition and cash award from ARM M. H. Sande. Looking on (L-R) are Engr. F. May D. Respicio, AFD Manager T. M. Sales, Jr., Cotabato IMO Manager C. M. Sulatik, MIP II Project Manager N. S. Oyod and EOD OIC Engr. W. L. Ablan.*



*Ulirang Magsasaka Corazon Genovatin of San Felipe LA, Inc. receives her Plaque of Recognition and cash award from RM M. H. Sande. Looking on (L-R) are AFD Manager T. M. Sales, Jr., South Cotabato IMO Manager Ramon A. Bugacia, MIP II Project Manager N. S. Oyod and EOD OIC Engr. W. L. Ablan.*



*Ulirang Magsasaka Danilo Ea of Napal-Conel Road (NACORLA) LA, Inc., SILUAY-Buayan RIS receives his Plaque of Recognition and cash award from RM M. H. Sande. Looking on (L-R) are AFD Manager T. M. Sales, Jr., Sarangani PIO/Siluy-Buayan RIS Acting Chief of Office Engr. Gina L. Lozano, MIP II Project Manager N. S. Oyod and EOD OIC Engr. W. L. Ablan.*



*Officers of 6 Irrigators Associations of Lambayong/Tacurong RIS pose with ARM Mario H. Sande, EOD OIC Willie L. Ablan, AFD Manager Tirso M. Sales, Jr. and Sultan Kudarat IMO Manager Ali S. Satol after the IMT Model II Contract Signing.*



*Contract Signing of IMT Model II Contracts of Allab RIS Dam 1 and 2 (1 LA, 1 Federation composed of 8 LAs and 1 Federation composed of 10 LAs)*



*Contract Signing of IMT Model II Contracts of Marbel RIS Dam 2 (1 Federation composed of 13 primary LAs) and Banga RIS (1 Federation composed of 23 primary LAs)*

## Administrator meets Caraga farmers during NIA IA Day

Silvestre C. Albores / PRO, NIA-Caraga

NIA & IA officials on motorcade passing thru Butuan City's main thoroughfare



# H

on. Antonio S. Nangel, NIA Administrator, arrived at Caraga Region and attended the NIA-IA day celebration on April 18, 2013. The occasion started with a parade passing by the main thoroughfare of this historic city of Butuan and followed by the celebration of the Holy Mass at the motor pool stage of the NIA Caraga compound.

The highlights of the celebration is the morning program where farmers and NIA employees are given time to make testimonies on the effect of NIA in their lives and both of them told relatively the same response attesting to the welfare brought about by this Agency.

Some line agencies (NFA, DA, PhilRice and DENR) were also invited purposely to present their plans and programs for this year for the information of the farmers in the region.

The Administrator in his very inspiring message urged everybody to perform their tasks effectively; the IA and NIA people, in order to attain the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) of this administration. He clarified that by giving sufficient irrigation water to the rice fields alone is not enough to increase productivity. Every line agency must converge, together with the farmer-beneficiaries, to come up with a holistic approach together in improving the economic standard of the Filipino people. He is also pleased with the big number of farmers who attended the occasion.



NIA Administrator Antonio S. Nangel delivering his inspirational message to NIA employees & Farmers as PM GYP and other NIA officials listened attentively



NIA Officials during NIA-IA day Celebration April 18, 2013 from (L-R) PM G.Y. Pang, RM Julius S. Maquiling, Confiac Pres. S. Carampatana, Administrator Antonio S. Nangel, R.M. Patrocino & Mr. A. Montecalbo of Philrice

# CASECNAN CMIPP- NIA IA Day

by: Mildred G. Cruz / Livelihood Officer/ Designated PRO



*Project Manager Alexander G. Coloma during his inspirational message*

The CMIPP-NIA IA Day was successfully held at NIA-IA Quarter, Culiat, Talugtog, Nueva Ecija on June 4, 2013. This relevant event was participated by the two (2) organized IAs under CMIPP - Phase II, the CASACCAFFT FIA, Inc. and the CASSAMMFVRROST FIA, Inc. with 1,118 and 1,238 farmer-members respectively.

A simple, yet momentous program was started with a prayer and followed by inspirational messages from the Engineering and Construction Manager Francisco L. Mananghaya, the CASACCAFFT FIA, Inc. President Bonifacio V. Fronda and the CASSAMMFVRROST FIA, Inc. President Rudy J. Macaraeg. The IA presidents expressed their gratitude to the NIA through the Casecnan Project for the realization of the farmers' 50-year dream for irrigation water and the Casecnan Project Management ceaseless support to the associations. Furthermore, they relayed their eagerness to cooperate and unite with the Management on every program of the Project that will benefit the farmers. Lastly, Project Manager Alexander G. Coloma inspired everybody with his message which



*A message from Engineering & Construction Manager Francisco L. Mananghaya*



*A simple message from CASACCAFFT FIA President Bonifacio Y. Fronda*

dealt on the significant irrigation benefits to the farmers and the Project's commitment to the IAs programs and activities. He encouraged everyone to continue exerting more efforts to help in maintaining and developing the newly constructed irrigation system.

Consequent to the Project Manager's message was a video presentation prepared exclusive for the IAs which featured the IAs themselves. Afterwards, song numbers and fun games jointly played by the CMIPP Staff and farmer-members.

All farmers who attended the event expressed their heartfelt appreciation of the program wherein they felt their importance and significance to the Agency. They play a vital role in NIA's success and accomplish-



*A message from CASSAMMFVRROST FIA President Rudy J. Macaraeg*



*An IA member awarded as Videoke King*

ments thus they deserve an IA Day for recognition. Likewise, camaraderie and oneness were observed throughout the event especially on fun games played by every team from the different IAs. Childhood memories were once again refreshed and experienced by everybody wherein laughter filled the place.

The ceremony ended at about 12 PM with simple lunch which the NIA staff and management and the IA members and officers enjoy and appreciated.



*IA Members were having fun during the parlor games*

## Winners of the Painting Contest (National Category) during NIA Golden Anniversary

**Theme: NIA at 50:**

*Serving the farmers with excellence and commitment  
To continue its legacy in the years to come.*



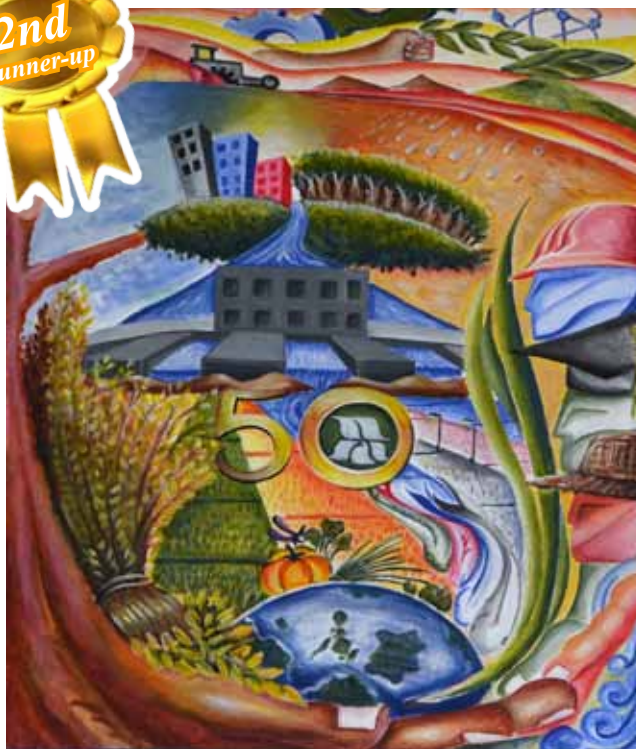
Board of Judges, (L-R) Mike Manuzon,  
Virgilio "Pandy" Aviado, and Joey Cobcobo.



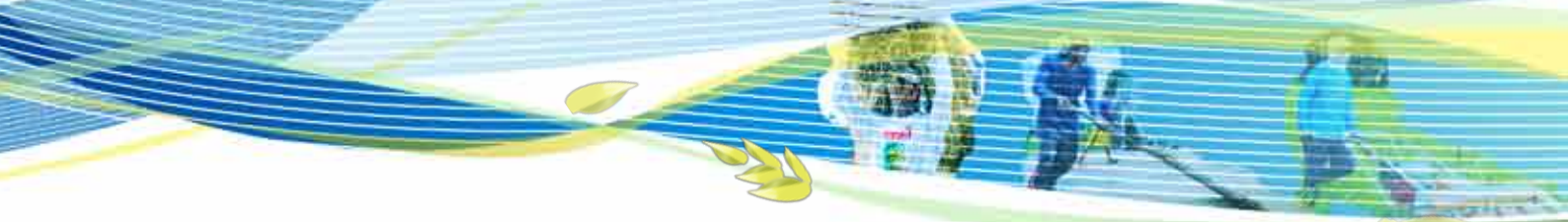
UPRIIS



NIA Central Office



MARIIS



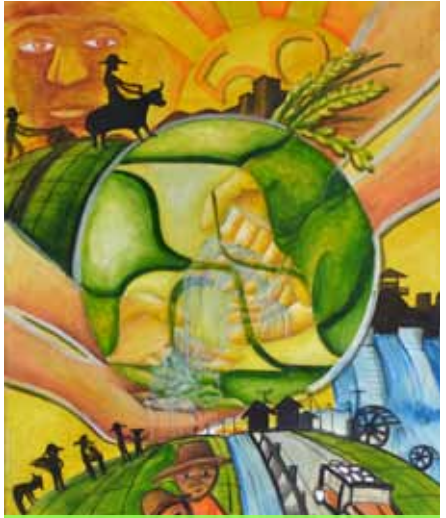
*Consolation Prizes*



CAR



Region 1



Region 3



BBMP



Region 4-B



Region 9



Region 12



Region 2

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