



TCP2 Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the NIA-JICA
IA Strengthening Support Project (TCP2)



NIA, JICA sign MoA on IA Capacity Development

By **Bayani P. Ofrecio, PMO**

To sustain the gains from the initial phase of project implementation, JICA and NIA executed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to continue the identified IA capacity development activities for Year 2 in all eight (8) NIS project sites in the four (4) regions covered by TCP2. The MOA was signed on August 28, 2009 by NIA Administrator Carlos S. Salazar and JICA Philippines Chief Representative, Mr. Norio Matsuda. Messrs. Renato S. Gamboa and Nariaki Tamura, TCP2 Project Manager and JICA Chief Advisor, respectively, served as witnesses to the signing of the accord.

With a total budget amounting to P2.73 Million, the types of activities to be funded by the project's capacity building component include trainings, workshops, conferences and other related programs—all leading to the expected project outputs of capacitating the IAs to undertake sustainable operation and maintenance (O&M) and the establishment of the cooperative mechanism between the IAs and NIA to carry-out efficient water management.

The allocation of the total budget for the eight NIS project sites is as follows: Amburayan-P511,100; Masalip-P326,825;

Bucao-P204,200; Nayom-Bayto-P419,000; Barotac Viejo-P235,100; Mambusao-P173,600; Padada-P204,325; and Saug-Libuganon Left-P656,000. The budget allocation was based on the number of IAs in each project site.

Consistent with the Japan Fiscal Year and JICA regulations, all activities should be completed by February 26, 2010 from the starting date of any activity to avoid any delay in the liquidation of expenses.

Meanwhile, capacity building for NIA staff, especially those for Institutional Development Officers (IDOs) and other O&M staff may be conducted as found necessary. The project sites, in consultation with the Regional Irrigation Office, can submit their proposals for any identified staff training need for evaluation by the Project Management Office. Funding for such capacity building activities will be mostly sourced from counterpart funds of NIA.



NIA Administrator Carlos S. Salazar signs the PHP 2.73M Memorandum of Agreement for the TCP2 Year 2 IA Capacity Development activities. Present during the signing are Messrs. Renato S. Gamboa and Bayani P. Ofrecio from NIA-IDD; Mr. Pablo Lucero Jr. from JICA Philippine Office; and Messrs. Nariaki Tamura and Takamitsu Matsuo from TCP2 JICA experts team.

PMO disseminates info on Year 2 C/D activities

By **Nenita H. Ramon, PMO**

Three weeks after the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for IA Capacity Development activities (C/D) and right after funds became available at PMO, NIACO and TCP2 team visited the project areas to discuss and confer with the concerned staff some important points stipulated in the MoA. This included IA training guidelines as well as implementation and liquidation procedures.

Main agenda were: a) slight changes in the preparation of liquidation report and its format; b) frequency of liquidation; c) addi-

tional liquidation guidelines; d) submission and deadlines of liquidation reports, and e) other relevant matters regarding IA trainings.

As these IA Capacity Development activities will again be conducted for this fiscal year, it is best that the concerned staff are to be properly informed for a more efficient implementation and liquidation system. PMO expects that all trainings will be conducted according to set guidelines and liquidation reports will be submitted on time.

TCP2 conducts new trainings, activities

By **Geralyn A. Rigor, PMO**

As the Project enters its final stages since inauguration, and upon receiving recommendations from the NIA-JICA Joint Mid-term Review, PMO is to conduct new activities and trainings to further achieve target objectives.

"Establishing system level organizational settings for efficient resources management and for better coordination between NIA, IAs and other stakeholders" was added as a major activity to TCP2's Plan of Operation. With this, the Project is supporting the establishment of IA federations and System Management Committee (SMC) meetings starting this Dry Season 2010.

"Training on water management for NIA staff" is another necessary activity that was added to the PO and is also set for launch this Dry Season 2010. The training, to be done at the system level, is expected to increase the technical knowledge and skills of NIA O&M field staff.

Typhoons devastate Bucao RIS

By Nariaki Tamura, TCP2 Chief Adviser

Through a site inspection done on September 23, 2009, JICA TCP2 experts witnessed the extent of damages at Bucao RIS in Botolan, Zambales caused by typhoons "Kiko" and "Labuyo" in August also this year. The overflow from the Bucao river inundated villages and farmlands, submerging paddy fields and washing away roads and houses. This was worsened by the amount of river-bed sediment from Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991.

Flood-stricken residents are forced to live in temporary shelters and depend on relief goods for subsistence. Elementary school pupils are studying in makeshift classrooms. Temporary roads and bridges were built to secure road traffic. However, as the dike has been washed out, river water continues to overflow in Botolan.

Engr. Jose Aguila, Senior Engineer of Bucao NISO, said that 180 hectares of paddy fields suffered damage. The main irrigation canal, approximately 900 meters, collapsed due to the continuous flooding. NIA is planning canal re-routing to connect to the in-take structure.

"The restoration cost has been estimated to be over 32 million pesos (PHP 32M) inclusive of temporary and dredging works. The restoration activities can be finished in three months. If the measures for recovery and reconstruction can start in October, irrigation water will be supplied for the coming dry season with rice planting possible in January," he explained.

However, the following super typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" aggravated the disaster and worsened the situation.



Approximately 900 meters of the main canal connected to the main intake was washed out as water overflowed from Bucao River. PHP 15 million is needed for its repair and restoration.

The extent of additional damages caused by these two typhoons has not yet been quantified. TCP2 implementation plan might be changed to adjust with the consequences of the disaster.

An OJT's tale

By Yuya Takagi, JICA Headquarters

I'd like to introduce myself first. I am Yuya Takagi, new staff of JICA HQ. Just after finishing my studies in Tokyo, Japan, I started my career with JICA on April 2009. After working for two months in Tokyo, I was sent to JICA Philippine Office as an OJT and was assigned to NIA-JICA TCP2. Even though it was only a short assignment to the Project (July and September 2009), I enjoyed working for TCP2. I learned a lot and it was a great experience for me to see what is really going on with the Project.

While with TCP2, I was involved in the project's activities such as collecting field data, preparing for the Mid-term review and 3rd JCC, organizing

training materials which were already used in the TCP2, and so on. It was also a fruitful opportunity to visit some project sites in regional areas.

When I was first assigned to the project, everything was new and difficult to understand. But gradually, I have gotten a big picture of the Project and the activities not just for physical development but more importantly to strengthen IA functionality.

As with the case of other projects, I also came to understand that TCP2 has struggled with some problems which made implementation not as smooth as we expected. But, the Project has overcome many difficulties with supportive and active NIA staff and farmers.

Even my short working experience taught me that "establishment of a sense of ownership" is one of the key factors to make the project successful. It means not only the JICA project team but also all those involved should work together positively and responsibly.

Unfortunately, I'm leaving the Philippines soon. But, I will surely remember that the project team is working hand in hand with NIA and all those involved sincerely and devotedly for the sake of the Philippine farmers.

Since agriculture is one of the most important industries and touches many people's lives and the poverty in the Philippines, not only physical development but also strengthening IA functionality, 'can' make a tremendous impact in the long run. In this sense, I believe it to be a historic attempt for Filipino agriculture.

I appreciate that the project members and NIA staff helped me a lot. It was here that I actually experienced Filipino "hospitality". I hope I will come back to the Philippines in a foreseeable future, and at the same time, I am always hoping that the project will be successfully continued. Maraming salamat po.

Nayom-Bayto RIS IA enters IMT

By Ner Virtus Medul, CRA, Nayom-Bayto RIS



Bitsandu IA signs IMT Model 2 Contract MoA at Nayom-Bayto NISO. Left to Right: Enrique Montejo, IA Vice-Chairman; Ernesto Bucat, IA Chairman; Bryan Vallejos, CRA; Mrs. Fe G. Clara, IDO; Engr. Rolando C. Espino, NBRIS OIC; and Engr. Francisco J. Clara, WRFT.

The first Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among TCP2 pilot NISs and IAs has been signed!

Nayom-Bayto RIS officials and Bitsandu IA officers entered into a Model 2 IMT contract on September 27, 2009. Bitsandu IA has a Firmed-Up Service Area of 166.02 hectares and 167 farmer-beneficiaries who are all IA members.

Through TCP2, Bitsandu IA (formerly Dusanbit IA) continuously improved on activeness, cooperation, and realization of their role as custodians of their area's irrigation system. These developments are essential in fulfilling the criteria in entering into IMT contracts. The IA is very hopeful that it can live up to the expectations as it jointly manages part of the irrigation system with NIA.

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A normal day at the TCP2 Office entails reading and research about the Project and its activities as Yuya is very eager to learn as much about the Project as possible. -Ed.



During the Joint NIA-JICA Midterm Review, Yuya along with JICA Philippine Office Representatives and Japanese Team members are shown some minor rehab sites in Padada RIS, Region XI. -Ed.