



## TCP2 Newsletter

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

# TCP2 conducts Technology Enhancement Program in Reg 6

By Bayani P. Ofrecio, IDD, Operations Department

A composite group of fifteen (15) people from IDD Central Office, TCP2 PMO and JICA Philippine Office embarked on a Technology Enhancement Program (TEP) tour of two (2) locations in Region 6 on October 20 to 22, 2009.

Main places visited by the group were the on-going Bago River Irrigation System Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (BRIS RIP) in Bago City, Negros Occidental and Aganan River Federation of Irrigators Associations (ARFIA) of Aganan-Santa Barbara River Irrigation System (ASBRIS) in the province of Iloilo.

Joining the TEP from IDD Central Office were: Regional Monitors Sonia Villarico, Heartie Navarro, Elisa Jeciel, Rosalina de la Cruz, and Marivic Baligod, Community Development Officer IV Leo Gallego and this writer. From the TCP2 PMO, the group was led by Chief Advisor Nariaki Tamura, JICA Experts Hiromasa Suzuki and Takamitsu Matsuo and Research Assistants Nenita Ramon and Geralyn Rigor. JICA Philippine Office was represented by Assistant Representative Ryutaro Kobayashi and Program Officers Pablo Lucero and Joy de los Reyes.

Organized by the TCP2 PMO, the 3-day trip's general purpose was to give opportunity to the participants to observe on-going activities and developments in NIA Region 6 and hopefully learn from the methodologies and experiences in that part of the country.

The TEP had three (3) specific objectives: (1) to study the methodologies of BRIS RIP and ARFIA in the implementation of their respective projects/programs; (2) to analyze the strategies being employed by both organizations for ensuring sustainability of IAs in their operation and maintenance (O & M) activities; and (3) to observe the relationship as well as the synergy effects between physical inputs and IA institutional strengthening including motivation factors for the farmer-beneficiaries in these organizations.

Bago River Irrigation System was a former site of a similar NIA-JICA technical cooperation intervention on IA strengthening under TCP1 in 2005. The system's lateral E was the pilot site of TCP1 with splitting of "big IAs" into "more manageable" sizes as the focus of the strengthening program. Since then, the whole system was a recipient of a major rehabilitation and improvement activities through BRIS RIP funded by the Government of Japan (GoJ).

ARFIA, on the other hand, received a grant assistance in early 2000's, also from GoJ, for the provision of a modern post-harvest facilities and structures. The Federation has since been engaged in profitable agri-business ventures and was reported to be doing well in its operations, thus, benefiting its members and even the communities around it.

For the BRIS RIP part of the trip, three (3) IAs, namely: Paselomak, MC Hamungaya and Tabunan Small Farmers were included in the tour's itinerary. In ARFIA, the site of their post-harvest facilities was visited by the group. In all areas toured, interactive discussions and sharing of experiences among the participants and the organizations ensued. Both organizations were gracious hosts and provided all relevant information that made the participants enjoyed their brief sojourn.

Capping the TEP event was the sharing session conducted among the participants after completing the field tour. Held at the conference room of NIA Region 6 in Tacas, Jaro, Iloilo City, the meeting dwelt on identifying each participant's observations which included analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the places/organizations visited and lessons learned.

Among the observations and lessons learned and confirmed by the participants from this TEP are the following: (1) strong leadership and strict implementation of policies lead to good IA performance; (2) compliance by NIA of its obligations to the IAs is important to activate the latter; (3) provision of IA office and good facilities not only boost the morale but also contribute to the upliftment of the economic situation of members; (4) strong linkage with LGUs promote good implementation of O & M activities; and (5) physical and institutional components should be provided hand in hand to ensure the functionality of the system and the beneficiaries.



**a.** Briefing and exchange of information between TCP2 and BRIS RIP project components and activities at Bago RIS. **b.** Orientation and sharing of experiences by PASELOMAK IA, a TCP1 site and outstanding IA under Bago RIS. **c.** Courtesy call with RIM Edilberto Lomigo and discussion on current TCP2 situation and future directions. **d.** Tour of Aganan-Santa Barbara Federation of IAs' post-harvest facilities after the orientation on programs and projects. **e.** Sharing session on observations and discussion of strengths and weaknesses of all RISs and IAs visited at RIO in Iloilo City

# 3 sites formally establish SMCs, hold pre- and in-season meetings

By GERALYN A. RIGOR, PMO

With the approval of added activities in the revised Project Design Matrix (PDM) during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Coordinating Committee meeting on July 9, 2009, the Project is now moving forward in its efforts to capacitate NIA staff and IAs and in strengthening institutional development settings in all the TCP2 sites.

One of the new activities, "Establishing system level organizational settings for efficient resources management and for better coordination between NIA, IAs and other stakeholders", is directed towards the successful revival or establishment of functional Federations and System Management Committees (SMCs) in the target NISs.

Based on a NIA policy (MC 36 S. 97), which directs all NISs to establish federation- and system-level institutional settings for better partnership between NIA, IA and other stakeholders, the Project Management Office (PMO) formulated more specific and detailed implementing guidelines to be used by target NISOs in conducting their SMCs.

As of December 18, 2009, three project sites—namely Saug-Libuganon Left, Padada and Nayom-Bayto, RISs—have successfully installed their SMC officers and have formally conducted interactive and well-participated pre- and in-season SMC meetings.

Saug-Libuganon Left (SALLE) NIS of Davao del Norte in Region XI is the first TCP2 site which conducted the SMC meeting in accordance with the PMO-drafted guidelines. The SALLE pre-season SMC meeting, held on October 27, 2009 at Tagum City, was participated by more than 70 representatives from NIA, IAs, LGUs and other line agencies. Two weeks prior to SMC, an SMC Secretariat meeting was held at SALLE NISO. The Secretariat meeting was included in the guidelines for better coordination and preparation of necessary documents and reports, and discussion of plans to be finalized in the SMC meeting.

Since all issues and proposed actions were already discussed beforehand, the actual SMC meeting focused on approving the plans or modifying countermeasures for problems being addressed. Representatives from line agencies like NFA, PCIC, BPRE, Land Bank, PAO and MAO of the municipalities covered by SALLE were given a chance to present their programs and plans concerning the coming dry season.

Next to conduct the pre-season SMC meeting is Padada RIS on October 28, 2009 at Padada NISO. There were more than 30 participants coming from NIA, IAs, and MAO. Issues and concerns on the agenda were tackled one by one. Discussions were longer and more extensive especially for the issues on CC/PP and WDD plans since these were brought up for the first time. Padada was not able to hold their SMCs coordination and preparation meeting beforehand. There were also announcements and discussions on the programmed rehab and restoration of the system under the Sector Loan Rehabilitation and Improvement Project.

The third site to formalize their SMC and hold the first in-season meeting is Nayom-Bayto RIS. A total of 49 participants coming from the NISO, IAs, LGU (MAO, SB Committee on Agriculture Chair) and barangay captains/officials attended the meeting. NBRIS' in-season SMC meeting focused on monitoring the compliance to the CC/PP and WDD currently being implemented. Reasons for non-compliance (illegal turn-outs, overlapping of cropping activities, late distribution and lack of short-term variety seeds, etc.) were discussed and proposed countermeasures were agreed between concerned parties. The season's List of Irrigated and Planted Areas (LIPA) was also reported. LIPA is one of the main agenda for the in-season meeting.

Other TCP2 sites are expected to establish and formalize their SMCs on January and February. SALLE and Padada RISs are likewise planning to conduct their in-season SMCs during these months.



Mr. Nariaki Tamura, in his inspirational message during the pre-season SMC meeting of SALLE RIS, emphasizes the importance of cooperative mechanisms like SMC meetings for better management of the irrigation system.



SMC Officers of Padada RIS take the Oath of Office led by Hagonoy Mayor Franco Magno Calida.



Nayom-Bayto RIS Federation President Mario Montalla gives the report on the status of IAs and their common issues and concerns on irrigation and municipal agricultural programs.

## 2009 ROUND-UP

As the year comes to a close, let's revisit past events—from minor rehab to IA capacity building, demo farms to farmers' field schools, and NIA staff trainings to technology enhancement tours. Go down memory lane and reminisce the shining and trying moments that made for a great, responsive and successful year for TCP2!



January



February



March



July



August



September

# NIA Field O&M, IMO, RIO staff undergo Water Flow Monitoring Orientation

By Takamitsu Matsuo, JICA Expert

In this dry season 2010, the Technical Support for NIA staff on Water Flow Monitoring Activity was launched. This activity was added to TCP2 as a result of the Mid-Term Review.

Four (4) out of eight (8) project sites, namely Amburayan RIS in Region I, Nayom-Bayto RIS in Region III, Barotac Viejo in Region VI and Padada RIS in Region XI, were the selected target sites for the activity in this dry season.

This activity aims at capacitating NIA staff in the computation of actual water quantity in the irrigation canals toward better water management.

A series of field inspections and orientations on the activity to make the H-Q curve (relationship between Height of water and Quantity of water) was conducted in the said respective sites.

In preparation, water flow observation points were first identified through field inspection. Mr. Matsuo and NIA field staff visited proposed observation points and specified which cross-sections in the canal will be observed. The points were set just after the head gates of main canal and lateral canals and some points of the main canal.

The classroom-type orientation was conducted at respective system offices the next day after the field inspection. Mr. Matsuo explained what kinds of data should be collected to compute the quantity of water flow and how to use the flow meter through a power point presentation. Then, all participants went to several selected observation points for field practice.

During the field practice, Mr. Matsuo demonstrated how to measure the width and height of water flow using the portable staff gauge and how to use the current meter. Then, some participants followed.



Inspection, measurement and selection of tentative observation points for the orientation and creation of H-Q curve at Nayom-Bayto RIS.



The second part of the WFM activity involves data collection of canal and water surface and depth measurements. Shown here are participants from SALLE and Padada RISs measuring the water height.



The first part of the orientation is film viewing of an educational video on flow rate measurement. After which, a classroom-style lecture on the objectives and methodologies for data collection and interpretation was conducted. Shown here are Amburayan and Masalip NISO staff and farmer-representatives.



Also included in the second part of the activity is the use of flow meter to measure water velocity. Shown here are participants from Mambusao, Barotac Viejo, Jalaur-Suage, Aganan-Sta. Barbara and Sibalom RISs.

After the field practice, the participants came back to the venue and Mr. Matsuo computed the quantity of water flow based on the data collected and explained the process of the computation to the participants.

For Region 6, NISO staff from non-TCP2 NISs, like Jalaur-Suage, Aganan-Sta. Barbara, and Sibalom RISs, also joined the activity. In Amburayan RIS, some farmer representatives joined the orientation. Although

the target participants for this activity were NIA staff, letting the farmers join the orientation seemed to be a good idea.

Under the rationalization plan and with the reduced number of NIA staff, the farmers will be able to contribute in the collection of data and monitoring of water flow in their areas. It's a good practice for farmers to monitor water flow by themselves in preparation for their responsibilities under IMT.

**JANUARY:** Mid-season Demo Farm FFS of Masalip RIS and Minor Rehab of Nayom-Bayto RIS; **FEBRUARY:** 2nd JCC Meeting and Skills Development Training for NIA Staff; **MARCH:** Review and Planning Workshop and Harvest FFS of Saug-Libuganon Left RIS; **APRIL:** Start of Japanese Fiscal Year 2009; **MAY:** Perception Survey (all sites) at Masalip and Padada RISs; **JUNE:** Organizational Setting Study (all sites) at Mambusao and Nayom-Bayto RISs; **JULY:** Mid-term Review and 3rd JCC Meeting; **AUGUST:** Capacity Development Contract Signing; **SEPTEMBER:** Typhoon destruction of main canal at Bucao RIS; **OCTOBER:** Oath-taking of officers during the pre-season SMC Meeting at Saug-Libuganon Left RIS; **NOVEMBER:** Reg 6 farmers' TEP to Luzon and interaction with Masalip RIS staff and farmers and WFM Orientation at Nayom-Bayto RIS; **DECEMBER:** WFM Orientation of Amburayan RIS and Signing of SMC Resolution during mid-season meeting at Nayom-Bayto RIS.



# Reg 6 IA leaders go on Luzon study tour

By Mildred Villa, Regional IDO, Region VI



**LEFT:** Farmer-leaders, NIA staff and Mr. Tamura pose for a memorabilia shot at UPRIIS Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija. **RIGHT:** An IA president from UPRIIS District V provides the visiting farmers with basic IA information during their interaction.

Twelve farmer-leaders from Mambusao and Barotac Viejo RISSs, two (2) TCP2-covered areas in Region 6, had the chance to actually observe and gain insights from the systems, schemes and procedures practiced by IAs in Regions 1 and 3. This was through the Technology Exchange Program (TEP) under the Year 2 Capacity Development Contract between NIA and JICA for strengthening IAs. The TEP from November 16-20, 2009 brought farmer leaders and NIA .

In Region 1, where the project was implemented in Masalip and Amburayan RISSs, the group learned that rehabilitation works, such as desilting and installation of steel gates, participated by farmers resulted to additional irrigated areas downstream. Likewise, Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), a water-saving technique introduced through Demo Farms, promoted unity among farmers in water delivery and system maintenance. Additionally, these positive results are now being radiated to other IAs.

Furthermore, the organization and

installation of a System Management Committee (SMC) composed of NIA, IA Federation, LGUs and NGOs now served as a venue for the resolution of system-wide operation, maintenance and rehabilitation issues and for accessing agri-support services.

In addition, IAs in Region 3 under the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems exhibited strong agri-support linkages and adaptation of modern farming methods. With the use of hybrid seeds and organic farming, they were able to increase the productivity and paying capacity of farmers.

Financially, IAs in the area also benefited largely from incentives derived from NIA O&M contracts regarding their ISF collection. This allowed IAs to provide more services for their members.

Moreover, the visiting farmer leaders expressed their desire to implement some adaptable learnings gained from this study tour for the development of their IAs and their systems.

## Points of View

# Cooperative mechanism between NIA and IAs

By Nariaki Tamura, Chief Advisor

The government is allocating a part of the national budget to be used for irrigation projects to ensure farmers get higher productivity at lesser input costs. This goal, however, will only be realized if there will be equal water allocation among all the irrigation beneficiaries.

Stable and impartial rather than plentiful water allocation is important for farmers. To that end, it is necessary to develop both physical and institutional systems. Herein, I will discuss options in providing opportunities for regulating water distribution and allocation.

Upon completion of irrigation facilities and structures, if water is still not delivered to the respective intakes of the canal, it can mean that there is an existing "software" problem in water allocation. Thus, the absence of reliable water availability remains a main concern for farmers.

This is even worsened by the perception of downstream farmers that the upper area is prioritized to receive water. Moreover, as water becomes scarce in the dry season, even if NIA is implementing rotational irrigation, farmers still worry whether water could be really supplied to their canal or not.

To solve this problem, it is necessary to provide opportunities for adjusting water allocation and blanket of security over the farmers' apprehensions. One way of doing so is development of cooperative mechanisms between NIA and IAs such as establishment of system level organizational settings.

Consisting of representatives from NIA and IAs, with the participation of the irrigation community's stakeholders, these organizational

settings should serve as platform for presenting plans of action, conducting open discussions and making system-wide decisions.

By virtue of MC 36 S 97, the System Management Committee (SMC) was institutionalized to perform these functions. SMC is set up to reflect NIA, farmers, and stakeholders' views and experiences in order to achieve consensus among all participants in the management of the irrigation systems. Things to be finalized, among others, are the season's CC/PP, WDD plan and maintenance plan of canals and structures.

NIA O&M staff, especially the engineers, will provide guidance and advice in developing the Water Delivery and Distribution plan by content of all the persons concerned and operate and monitor it.

Farmers can only realize their common benefits by forming their own IA to claim their rights with other groups. Therefore it is important to provide a means to assert and discuss about mutual benefit. By attending system level meetings, the representatives of IAs can exchange information with other IAs and NIA engineers. This will pave the way for them to have a mutual understanding on issues and concerns affecting them. And through discussion, they can solve their problems.

Consequently, the representatives can exercise the leadership in each area. Through these concepts, the farmers could have a real sense of ownership in their facilities and water will be supplied reliably as well. When such circumstances are realized, then good relationship between NIA and farmers could be attained.

# NIACO celebrates Christmas, OD bags prizes

By Nenita H. Ramon, PMO



IDD Staff pose for a prosperity shot moments before the judges for the Room Decoration category arrive. The decors had a red, green and gold theme.



The OD Lantern Making team presents the final output to judges and onlookers. The lantern was consistent with the room décor's theme.



An all-star cast of OD staff including TCP2's Mr. Suzuki showcases their singing, dancing and acting prowess.

December 16, 2009 marked NIA Central Office's Christmas celebration with the theme "Sa kabiling pagsubok, sa pananalig may Pasko." The all-day celebration started with a mass attended by NIA employees.

The program proceeded with presentations from every department circled on this year's theme. As it is a competition, every department showcased the best of their employees' singing, dancing and acting skills. In the end, the Administrator's Office, last year's winner, emerged victorious once more.

Though the Operations Department (OD), with its presentation focused on the IMT policy, weren't lucky in the said competition, OD successfully bagged the first place in the Lantern Making competition through the creative leadership of Ms. Jeanette Ingaran and support of team members Leo Gallego, Marivic Baligod, Rosalina dela Cruz and Henry Tan. The Institutional Development Division also won 2nd Place in the Room Decoration category through Ms. Ingaran's initiative and the division's team effort.

Two days after the CO celebration, a bigger OD with its three divisions—EMD, SMD and IDD—had it's fun-filled Christmas party. Packed with parlor games and exciting prizes and gifts, this marks the beginning of a great comradeship between the three divisions and a great department working relationship.

## EDITORIAL BOARD:

Renato S. Gamboa • Bayani P. Ofrecio • Hiromasa Suzuki • Nenita H. Ramon • GERALYN A. RIGOR

## CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE:

Nariaki Tamura, TCP2 Chief Advisor • Takamitsu Matsuo, JICA Expert • Mildred Villa, Regional IDO, Reg. VI

## JICA-NIA IA STRENGTHENING SUPPORT PROJECT (TCP2)

Project Management Office, 3rd Floor, IDD, National Irrigation Administration Diliman, EDSA, Quezon City, Metro Manila  
Telefax: (02) 925-32-06  
E-mail: jicaniatcp2@gmail.com

