



Linkage

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December 2015

A DROP of water



**Region 2
prepares for
EL NIÑO**

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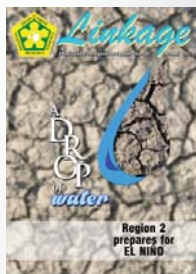
News and feature articles are welcome and may be submitted to the RDC2 Secretariat c/o NEDA RO2. However, the RDC2 reserves the right to choose and edit articles for publication. Comments and suggestions are also accepted.

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ABOUT THE COVER

In light of the perceived threats of the El Niño phenomenon particularly in Region 2 which boasts of an excellent standing as the nation's top producer of rice and corn, this issue of the RDC Linkage highlights the activities and courses of action that the RDC2 and its partners have started or are planning to accomplish to cushion the blow of this natural phenomenon.



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RLUC, RCSD set strengthening of zoning and climate change adaptation as priority concerns

During their joint meeting on December 9, 2015, the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC) and the Regional Committee on Sustainable Development (RCSD) identified the strengthening of zoning in LGUs and the implementation of climate change measures as their priority initiatives for 2016.



RDC2 Interim Secretary and NEDA OIC-ARD Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan presided over the joint meeting and said that the RLUC, through the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), will be pursuing an assessment study on the weak implementation of the zoning ordinance by the LGUs. The study will serve as basis in identifying policies that would improve zoning activities at the local level.

The RCSD, meanwhile, shall continue to support and monitor the development of various initiatives related to climate change such as the Project ReBUILD and the Biodiversity Partnership Project, the formulation of the Local Climate Change Action Plan of LGUs, and the formulation of the National Spatial Strategy.

Also discussed was the vulnerability of Tuguegarao City to natural hazards.

Given the set of activities lined up for CY 2016, Engr. Tumaliuan called for the continuous participation and cooperation of all members for a more productive year. |

RIZZA T. ANDRES, NEDA PFPD

EDC endorses DRR-CCA Project Evaluation Checklist

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 recently endorsed the integration of the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) in project evaluation through the adoption of an enhanced Project Evaluation Checklist for proposed development projects.

Developed by Mr. Gresal M. Tapulao of NEDA Region 2, the enhanced evaluation checklist would ensure better project design and would guarantee the reduced vulnerability of programs and projects to risks of potential hazards and climate change effects.

At its level, the EDC recognized the relevance of this checklist to project evaluation and, thus, forwarded the same to the RDC2 for the Council's approval and endorsement.

In his presentation during the joint meeting of the RDC2 and the RPOC2, RDC2 Interim Secretary Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan said that at present, the Project Evaluation Guidelines and Procedures implemented by the Investment Coordination Committee focus mainly on the technical, financial, economic, social, institutional, and environmental aspects of proposed projects.

He then pointed out that the guidelines need to be updated

to enable the RDC Secretariat to perform its mandate more effectively in the context of new policies/developments, and changes in the institutional structures and mandates among agencies and the government.

As such, the integration of DRR-CCA as one of the core components of the project evaluation process is indeed timely and necessary.

Doing so would result in an improved project evaluation process. The developed checklist is likewise consistent with the government's National Climate Change Agenda.

Recognizing the importance of mainstreaming DRR-CCA in the project evaluation process, the RDC2 approved and endorsed the enhanced project evaluation checklist. | JAMES B. RODRIGO, NEDA PDIPBD



RPOC2 Chair Gov. Junie E. Cua (4th from L) presided over the joint meeting of the RDC2 and the RPOC2 with RDC2 Acting Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay (5th from L) as co-presiding officer. Also present during the meeting were (from L-R) RPOC2 Head Secretariat RD Marlo L. Iringan, PNP RO2 Regional Director PCSupt. Ranier Q. Idio, AFP Commander MGen. Lysander A. Suerte, and RDC2 Interim Secretary Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan.

RDC2, RPOC2 hold 4th quarter joint meeting, celebrate **YULETIDE** fellowship



RPOC2 Chair Gov. Cua acknowledged the support and cooperation of all members of the RDC2 and the RPOC2 in crafting policies needed for the region's development.

The Regional Development Council (RDC) 2 and the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) 2 closed a very productive year with a season fellowship having the theme: “*Pangkalahatang Salusalo: Together Forever 2015*” on December 10, 2015.

Graciously hosted by the 5th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army led by Commander MGen. Lysander A. Suerte, the activity

was also an opportune time for the two Councils to further strengthen their partnership bond and camaraderie in fulfilling their role as orchestrators of regional development and lasting peace.

Both Councils look forward to the fruition of the 62 joint resolutions which they passed and approved during the year. The members are also hopeful that these initiatives will create a high positive impact on the region's populace and on the further development of the Cagayan Valley region.

During the meeting, the Councils deliberated on the request to amend RA 8291 and other related laws on the retirement packages offered by the Government Service Insurance System (*see full story on opposite page*).

They also discussed and eventually approved the proposed project evaluation checklist for components related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR-CCA) in proposed development projects. This checklist will guarantee the reduced vulnerability of programs

and projects from risks to potential hazards and climate change effects.

A status report on the ongoing construction of the Isabela Drug Rehabilitation Center, which is expected to fully operate in 2020, was also presented.

Year-ender fellowship

After deliberating on these concerns and resolutions, the RDC2 and the RPOC2 members



DILG Regional Director Engr. Marlo L. Iringan and NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay thanked the members of both the RPOC2 and the RDC2 for a fruitful collaboration for 2015.

then proceeded to celebrate their fruitful collaboration for the year through a year-end fellowship which also served as their joint Christmas celebration.

Members of the two Councils gamely participated in the raffle draws and other fun activities during their celebration as they were entertained by musical bands from the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police.

The celebration was further highlighted by the recognition of the dedicated work and commitment of Quirino Gov. Junie E. Cua as Chairperson of the RPOC2.

Likewise, the chairpersons of the four sectoral committees of the RDC2 were recognized for their invaluable support and leadership

in steering the activities of their respective committees during their entire 3-year term.

Given a plaque of recognition each were Isabela Governor Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III as Chair of the Infrastructure Development Committee, Nueva Vizcaya Governor Ruth R. Padilla as Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Cauayan City Mayor Bernard Faustino M. Dy as Chair of the Committee on Development Administration and Communication, and Department of Labor and Employment Regional Office 2 Assistant Regional Director Elpidio B. Atal as Co-Chair of the Social Development Committee. | **LILIAN D. MARASIGAN, NEDA DRD**



During the raffle draw, MGen. Lysander A. Suerte (2nd from L) was among the lucky ones who won one of the 10 sacks of rice which were given by the Department of Agriculture. (From L-R) RDC2 Acting Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay, RPOC2 Head Secretariat RD Marlo L. Iringan, and DA representative Ms. Kay S. Olivas. Other raffle draw prizes came from Gov. Cua, Gov. Dy, Gov. Padilla, other RDC2 and RPOC2 RLA members, and some PSRs.

The Regional Development Council (RDC) 2, during its joint meeting with the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) 2 in December, supported the proposal to review and amend Republic Act No. 8291, otherwise known as the “Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Act of 1997”, and other related laws concerning GSIS retirement packages.

Emanating from RDC XI in the Davao Region, the proposal stemmed from the results of a study conducted by Atty. Aileen Lizada which tackled relevant issues on the benefits that government employees receive when they retire from service.

During the joint meeting of the two Councils, Cauayan City Mayor Bernard Faustino M. Dy, the Chairperson of the

RDC2 backs amendment of law on retirement packages for gov’t personnel

RDC2 Committee on Development Administration and Communication (CODAC) which endorsed the proposal, said that there is a huge gap between the retirement benefits received by government employees and those received by private sector workers.

“In the computation of benefits of a retiring government employee, the GSIS makes use of the Average Monthly Compensation (AMC) for the last three years, while the private sector considers the latest monthly salary of the retiree,” Mayor Dy said.

Further, the Mayor said that the CODAC agreed to endorse

the proposal to the RDC2 with recommendations for the GSIS to (1) use the latest monthly salary of the retiring employee as basis for the computation of retirement benefits and not the AMC; (2) include the “take-all” option as a feature of retirement packages, especially for those who joined the government only after May 31, 1977; and (3) regularly increase the Basic Monthly Pension to enable retirees to cope with inflation. |

JOSHUA A. ACORDA, NEDA PDIPBD

PHOTO CREDIT: <http://www.forbes.com>



RDC PSRs take part in 6th NatCon in CDO

Committed to its mandate of integrating inclusive growth, the Regional Development Council (RDC) 2, together with its Private Sector Representatives (PSRs), attended the 6th RDC-PSRs National Convention held at Limketkai Luxe Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City on October 14-16, 2015 with the theme: *“Enhancing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the ASEAN Market”*.

The convention was geared towards supporting and enhancing the collaboration between the public and private sectors and fostering an environment which is conducive for private sector investments and entrepreneurial initiatives.

This is in support of the policy environment that the government has developed to promote private sector participation in the country's development activities.

The topics discussed in the plenary included “Promoting Public Private Partnership”, “Sharing Best Practices in PPP Collaboration”, and “ASEAN Integration and Its Impacts on the Role of the Private Sector, Labor Market and Tourism”.

Led by RDC2 Acting Chair and NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay, the RDC2 delegation was comprised of six of the 12 PSRs who joined

During the National Convention, RDC2 Acting Chair and NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay (2nd from L) led the RDC2 delegation of six PSRs comprised of (from L-R) Gilbert L. Cumila, Emelito C. Gonzales, Sandy B. Changiwan, Elpidio T. Tortoza, Protacio D. Laguinday, and Engr. Romeo R. Vasquez.

the 173 participants from the 15 regions nationwide.

They were Mr. Sandy B. Changiwan, BOD Chairman of the Nueva Vizcaya (NV) Indigenous People Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Mr. Gilbert L. Cumila, General Manager of the NV Agricultural Terminal, Inc.; Dr. Emelito C. Gonzales, President of the Philippine Nurses Association, Inc., NV Chapter; Mr. Protacio D. Laguinday, President of the Organic Fertilizer Producers' Association (OFERPA), Inc.; Mr. Elpidio T. Tortoza, Chairman of the NV Seed Growers Marketing Cooperative; and Mr. Romeo S. Vasquez, a member of the Isabela Seed Growers Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

As a result of the convention, sets of priority action agenda were identified which are proposed for adoption by the RDCs in their 2016 work programs. | JEZREEL M. PATTAGUAN, NEDA ORD



RRDC partners with DA for Stata training

In a bid to strengthen the skills of the region's development researchers on the use of statistical tools, the RDC2 Regional Research and Development Committee (RRDC) spearheaded the conduct of the training on Stata application in research, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 2.

Held on November 18-20, 2015 at the DA-RFO 2 in Tuguegarao City, the training aimed to enhance the capabilities of the researchers of the member-agencies of the RRDC

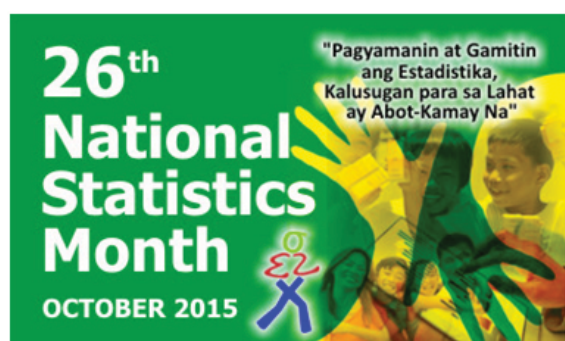
in using Stata and in preparing technical reports with accurate statistical analysis.

Stata is a statistical software package which is widely used for data analysis in research across various fields, including economics.

As partner-implementer for the training, DA Regional Executive Director Lucrecio R. Alviar, Jr. welcomed the 59 participants from different regional line agencies, provincial LGUs, and state universities and colleges to the three-day Stata training.

Among the resource speakers during the training were Dr. Jocelyn D. Tuscano of the Cagayan State University, Mr. Ernesto M. de Peralta, Jr. of the NEDA Regional Office 2, and Ms. Sheryll Elaine S. Rigua of the Philippine Statistics Authority Regional Office 2.

Dir. Sancho A. Mabborang, the Chairperson of the RRDC and the OIC-Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology, thanked the researchers for actively participating in the training and showing their desire to learn. He encouraged them to use properly the knowledge they gained from the training in writing reports for their respective agencies/institutions. | **MA. VICTORIA GAZMIN, DA-RFO 2 & AYLASAM, NEDA DRD**



Last October, the Regional Statistics Committee (RSC) 2 spearheaded the celebration of the 26th National Statistics Month (NSM) in the region, joining the entire Philippine Statistical System.

With the theme, *Pagyamanin at Gamitin ang Estadistika, Kalusugan para sa Lahat ay Abot-Kamay na*, this year's celebration focused on the government's thrusts along universal health care.

RSC Chairperson RD MaryAnne ER. Darauay, the Acting Chairperson of the RDC2, said that this theme also "recognizes

the various endeavors of official statisticians and technical personnel involved in the generation of health and nutrition statistics."

The celebration kicked-off with an opening ceremony on the first day of October which featured presentations of partner-agencies on their latest available socio-economic data in order to give participants a picture of the current scenario in the region.

Numerous activities were also conducted by different agencies during the month-long celebration. These include statistics quiz bees, poster and slogan-making contests, and various statistical seminars, conferences, fora, and symposia.

Region 2 observes National Statistics Month

the various endeavors of official statisticians and technical personnel involved in the

Information dissemination initiatives through radio and local TV guestings were also conducted.

Part of the regional observance of the NSM was the celebration of the 2nd World Statistics Day (WYD) which carried the theme, *Better Data, Better Lives*. This was celebrated on October 20, 2015 in response to the call of the United Nations to acknowledge and recognize the importance and the achievements of official statistics.

During the NSM closing ceremony, the RSC recognized its partner agencies and donors for their commitment and support in all the activities conducted during the celebration. | **SHERYLL ELAINE S. RIGUA, PSC RSSO 2**

Region 2 *prépare*s for EL NIÑO

To address the pressing concern of the ongoing strong El Niño affecting the region and the country as a whole, an inter-agency El Niño Task Force was created in the region to come up with a plan of action that would cushion the blow of the negative impacts of this weather phenomenon, particularly on people's lives and livelihood.

Region 2 is at a high risk to the occurrence of the El Niño given its agricultural primacy. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the region's four mainland provinces are likely to

experience drought by the end of April 2016.

In the series of meetings conducted starting in September 2015, the Task Force came up with interventions and strategies to mitigate the effects of the impending dry spell.

Members of the Task Force also crafted the Roadmap to Address the Impact of El Niño (RAIN) for each of the provinces in the Cagayan Valley Region.

RAIN outlines government-wide interventions to alleviate the adverse impacts of the El Niño phenomenon particularly along

food security, energy security, health, and safety.

For Region 2, strategies for water conservation were given importance and were lodged with conserving energy.

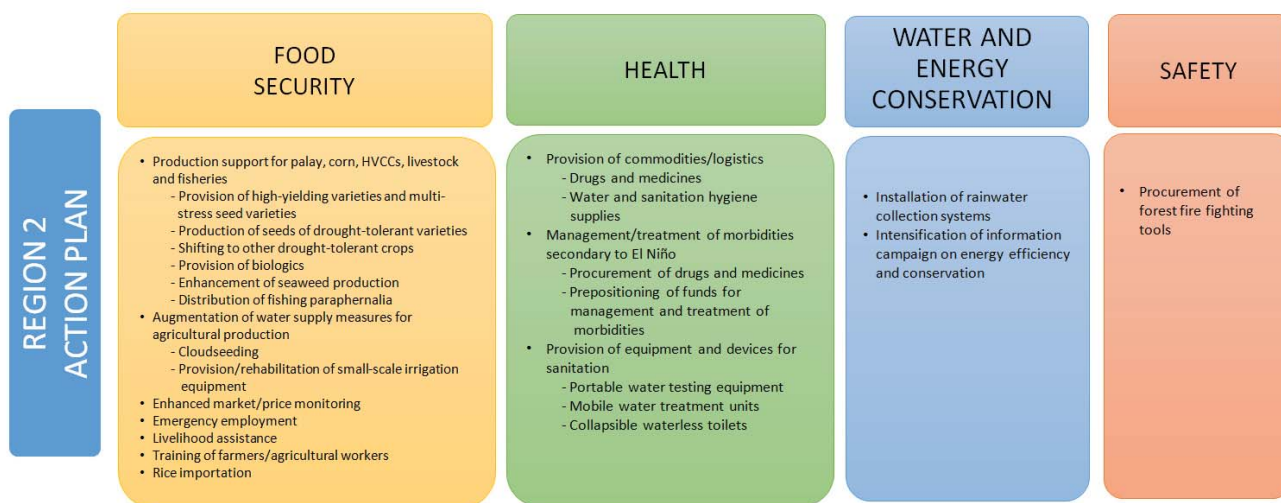
Region 2's RAIN

These interventions were further classified into three phases of implementation: Phase 1 for the actions during the pre-emptive and preparatory stage; Phase 2 for actions during the event; and Phase 3 for actions that could result in the aftermath of the phenomenon.

Engr. Ferdinand P. Tumaliuan (2nd from R, standing), Chief of the NEDA Policy Formulation and Planning Division, spearheaded the series of meetings of the El Niño Task Force of Region 2 which started in September. The Task Force was able to come up with a plan of action on how to combat the El Niño especially that the Region's agriculture sector is most vulnerable given its standing as top producer of rice and corn.



Roadmap to Address the Impact of El Nino (RAIN)



Based on the RAINs that were produced for each of the five provinces in Region 2, a Regional Roadmap to address the impact of El Niño was formulated which contains the strategies and interventions that can be implemented for each area of concern.

Along food security, the key interventions identified include providing production support for rice, corn, and high-value commercial crops, as well as for the livestock and fisheries sectors. Support may come in the form of seeds of high-yielding, drought-tolerant, and multi-stress varieties.

Other measures also include augmentation of water supply, livelihood and emergency employment assistance, market/price monitoring, and training opportunities for farmers or agricultural workers.

Meanwhile, interventions like the provision of commodities such as drugs and medicines are included to address various health concerns in the midst of the El Niño. Provision of devices for sanitation and the management or treatment of morbidities attributed

to changes in temperature and safeness of drinking water are other strategies.

The monitoring and evaluation of previously defined output and outcome indicators will be referred to the Regional Monitoring Committee for validation.

The regional El Niño Task Force is formed by an inter-agency group composed of the Department of Agriculture, the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, PAGASA, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), the NIA-Magat River Integrated Irrigation System, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Bureau of Fire Protection, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Department of Science and

Technology, the Department of Labor and Employment, NEDA, and the five provincial LGUs.

At the national front, critical interventions have been started towards the end of 2015 by several agencies and LGUs which drew funds from their 5% Disaster Risk Reduction budget or from their regular budgets.

However, it is worthy to note that the proposed Php19.2 Billion budget to implement the RAIN has been approved by President Benigno S. Aquino III in December for the implementation of special interventions and the whole national roadmap to address the impact of El Niño for CY 2016.

Of this indicative amount, about Php1.35 Billion is allocated to the region. | **KARYLL GEM L. BAYUBAY, NEDA PFPD**

The Project Monitoring Team of the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC-PMT) recently conducted a two-day Field Monitoring Visit (FMV) to five major infrastructure development projects under the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) CY 2015 Regular Infrastructure Program in Isabela Province.

In Mallig, the RPMC members were briefed on the ongoing construction of the Maligaya section of the Mallig River Flood Control Project where they assessed the masonry structure that was being installed. They were informed by the DPWH Isabela 2nd District Engineering Office (DEO) that the project was completed in July 25, 2015.

Delays in implementation

Meanwhile, the team found that the implementation of two ongoing road improvement and rehabilitation projects are experiencing delays.

They saw that a number of prime trees and private structures have encroached the shoulders of the junction along the Santiago–Tuguegarao road in Cabatuan.

The DPWH 3rd DEO said that they have already requested clearance from the Central Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as early as April to cut the trees but no permit has been issued to this day.

Thus, the DPWH has resorted to remedial measures such as diverting the construction of canals to avoid the trees. The contractors have also agreed to help demolish the private structures along this road. As of



RPMC visits 5 major infra projects in Isabela

the time of visit, the project was already 92% complete.

Likewise, the rehabilitation/upgrading project on the damaged paved roads in San Mateo and Ramon towns have also suffered delays due to inclement weather conditions and the lack of manpower especially during harvest season.

The RPMC team was able to interview several residents in the area to gather additional information about the effects of the project delays to them.

Two bridges visited

Part of the project monitoring activity was the visit to two major bridges along Daang Maharlika, a major thoroughfare in the region, in Santiago and Cordon.

With a cost of Php18 Million, the widening of the Magabito Bridge project involves the construction of 30 lineal meters PCCP and a 10.01 meter-long bridge in Mabini, Santiago City.

However, the project has been experiencing delays in implementation ever since the contractor found out that a major

water pipeline was embedded under the bridge.

The monitoring team then advised the DPWH to closely coordinate with the utility companies and follow-up their actions in relocating/transferring lines and other obstructions.

True to their task of checking on the status of development projects even under the glaring heat of the sun, the RPMC proceeded to visit the ongoing maintenance works at the San Luis Bridge in Cordon.

Engr. Alfonso Taccad, the RDC2 private sector representative of the RPMC-PMT, emphasized the importance of undertaking parcellary survey during the detailed engineering stage of the project. This is to avoid delays in project implementation due to factors like right of way acquisition.

The RPMC monitoring team is composed of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as Chair, the Philippine Information Agency, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Budget and Management, and two private sector representatives.

| JESSIELYN R. BALTAZAR / NEDA PMED



In keeping up with the changing times and changing needs, particularly in preparing the agricultural community for the anticipated El Niño phenomenon, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Regional Office 2 rolled out strategies that will help mitigate the effects of this natural occurrence.

Led by Regional Irrigation Manager Engr. Antonio C. Lara, the NIA has embarked on an information and dissemination drive by distributing flyers that contain useful information on what farmers can do to cope with El Niño and its effects.

Aside from adopting short-growing varieties, farmers can adjust their cropping calendar so that their planting season will not be affected by the El Niño which PAGASA predicted will be from December 2015 to May 2016.

NIA also recommends diversified cropping in suitable land classes, installation of water augmentation pumps, and cloud seeding.

Farmers are also advised to repair broken paddy dikes and to make these thicker and higher to reduce leakage.

Furthermore, the NIA RO2 identified long-term measures such as the re-use of structures to collect drainage discharge, regulation of water withdrawals, ascertain episode impact, and construction of concrete line irrigation canals.

Yearly, as part of its anniversary celebration, the agency conducts replanting of irrigation watersheds nationwide. In Region 2 alone, about 29,000 seedlings had been planted since 2012 in the different watershed areas in the region. This is another measure to combat the effects of El Niño.

Aside from this, NIA also came up with other strategies and procedural interventions which include (1) estimation of the water supply at the source, whether national or communal irrigation system, based on the forecast inflow; (2) use of drought-resistant rice varieties or early-maturing varieties such as JAPANIRI or NSIC RC150, NSIC RC154, NSIC RC220, and NSIC RC224; and (3) advance preparation of water delivery schedule or adjustment of the cropping calendar or pattern.

NIA's technical interventions also include the re-use of water through the construction of check structure within drainage canals, construction of open source pumping stations, desilting of canals, repair and maintenance of all control structures, construction of brush dam and gabion dam, canal lining, spur dike, and restoration of damaged canal embankment in the different systems, among others.

The total cost for all these interventions amounts to P1.388 Billion which has yet to be funded. Many lives are depending on farmers' produce; so, retro-fitting of irrigation-related structures in order to be climate change resilient is inevitable for self-sufficiency. |

DOROTHY BELLE CASTRO-DE LEON, NIA RO2



Isabela: A profile of preparedness

The province of Isabela has never worked as hard as it is working now to deserve, protect, and sustain its standing as the country's top corn producer and biggest rice supplier. Its brand of preparedness is certainly worthy of its Regional Hall of Fame GAWAD KALASAG (Seal of Disaster Preparedness) award, as well as its Top 3 finish in the National Finals of the same competition.

This remarkable profile inspires the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI) to craft sound and responsive policies, programs, and measures based on assessments at the barangay level.

Facing El Niño is not an exemption. The PGI has made it imperative to pioneer breakthrough initiatives that reduce the vulnerability of the province's farming, fishery, and dairy and livestock sectors as well as communities in the face of this phenomenon.

These include support programs for the estimated 185,000 corn and palay farmers, 8,220 tobacco farmers, and the thousands of Isabeleños engaged in food production, who all make up the backbone of the economy.

A win-win partnership

Through the passing of legislations in support to mitigating the effects of El Niño, the PGI showed that a strong partnership between its legislative and executive branches works best.

Among these was the legislation approving Supplementary Budget



No. 3 amounting to Php150 Million which made possible the granting of financial assistance to local farmers and seed money for livelihood or alternative income sources, including loans. Some 9,000 farmers, 3,000 farm workers, and 20 cooperatives benefitted from the appropriations.

Also, in 2012 through an executive order, Gov. Faustino "Bodjie" G. Dy III created the PGI's El Niño La Niña Farmer Assistance (ENLNFA) Unit to strengthen support programs for Isabeleños engaged in food production.

It is this unit that recommends to the Office of the Governor and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) policies and measures pertinent to the El Niño problem. These include requests to the Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM) for cloud seeding operations in farm areas to arrest the damage on moisture-deprived growing rice and corn plants.

It is also the ENLNFA which aids the SP in passing resolutions for declarations of State of Calamity during disasters or typhoons.

The tight executive-legislative partnership has resulted likewise in maximizing LGU assets and

fund sourcing for projects as well as authorizing the Governor to enter into agreements for infrastructure projects that mitigate, if not avert, the impacts of the El Niño.

These projects include small water-impounding systems or mini-irrigation dams under agreements with the Korean International Cooperation Agency, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the BSWM.

Moreover, the PGI's banner *BRO Small Farmer Assistance Program*, a 13-component benefits package, is the most comprehensive and the only one of its kind in LGU history in the country. It is a tool which brings the PLGU close to the farming sector, especially to the small farmers who are the most vulnerable to the impact of calamities. They number about 103,000 and work on an estimated 83,000 hectares of productive land.

The increased capacity and psychological empowerment of small farmers that the BRO Program brings push the local farming sector to sustained productivity levels, benefitting not only the farmers and their families but also the entire national economy.

| ISABELA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Building climate-resilient communities



In 2013, the *Resilience Capacity Building for Cities and Municipalities to Reduce Disaster Risks from Climate Change and Natural Hazards* project or simply called Project ReBUILD was launched in selected cities and municipalities surrounding two major river basins in the country – the Jalaur River Basin in Western Visayas and the Cagayan River Basin (CRB) in the region.

Project ReBUILD aims to increase the capacities of key local actors in these areas in managing disaster risks from and adapt to the overall impacts of climate change.

For the CRB, Tuguegarao City and the Municipality of Iguig were the two selected pilot LGUs.

“Project ReBUILD is very timely as it is congruent with the priorities of the region and the LGUs, particularly on the updating of their

Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs),” quips RDC2 Acting Chair MaryAnne ER. Darauay, the Regional Director of NEDA RO2, the project’s key regional line agency (RLA) partner in the region.

Ending in December 2015, the project was implemented by the Climate Change Commission in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UP Diliman, and with funding support from the New Zealand Aid Program. Selected RLAs and the LGUs of the pilot areas also played important roles in the project.

For the project, UP Diliman introduced the Climate Exposure Database (ClimEx.DB), an android-based application that helps planners and communities in their land use plans. It generates and collects household level exposure data sets which, when

analyzed with hazard maps, provide accurate climate and disaster risk assessments.

Mapshops and writeshops were also conducted as well as training on hands-on computer-based GIS mapping and assessment. This resulted in the completion of the Climate/Disaster Risk Assessment -Vulnerability Assessment Report which will serve as input and basis for the DRR-CCA-enhanced CLUPs of the pilot LGUs.



The project implementers expressed hopes that their work with partner agencies in building climate-resilient communities will continue beyond the project and will inspire expansions to other LGUs. | MILDRED B. MAGLAYA, NEDA PFPD

Underground transmission line project underway



The Province of Batanes may be the first in the region, or probably in the country, to have underground cables instead of the typical overhead power lines as the Batanes Electric Cooperative (Batanelco) is now implementing a 28-kilometer underground power cable project.

With a total amount of Php141.6 Million, the project is expected to improve electrification and minimize power interruption in the island province. It will also provide continuous power supply even during typhoons.

Batanelco Project Engineer Donald Poncio said that excavation works have already started last year. However, unpredictable weather conditions and the difficulty of transporting materials may delay the completion of the project.

“At present, three barangays in Uyugan town are now benefiting from the project,” Poncio said.

The project, he said, was based on a study that overhead power cables in the island only last for three years instead of

the supposedly 25-year span, as these are exposed to weather disturbances such as typhoons, strong winds, and other calamities.

The project is being undertaken through a partnership agreement between Batanelco and Power Dimension Incorporated (DMI).

At present, Batanelco’s power plant mainly depends on fuel to generate electricity but local officials are now studying the possible establishment of alternative sources of energy like solar and wind power systems to augment the province’s power supply and to lessen the environment hazards of a diesel-powered electric generating system. |

ALM / NGA / OTB, PIA R02

NV studes get oriented on climate change



In a bid to drum up youth awareness on the threats posed by climate change, the Provincial Government of Nueva Vizcaya through the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), gathered more than 1,000 secondary students for the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Campaign program.

PENRO Officer For. Tito Tanguilig said the students came from the national high schools of Kasibu, Dupax del Norte, and Bagabag.

"This is now our third year to conduct such symposia among various schools in our province to level up the awareness and consciousness of the youth on

environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation," he said.

T-shirts bearing messages and images about the climate change adaptation and mitigation campaign and other tokens were given to students who won during short question and answer contests.

The activity is part of the province's celebration of Environmental Awareness Month in November which was institutionalized through a provincial ordinance.



The celebration's theme, "Bubon ti Biag, Salakniban" (source of life, protect it) also features poster-making, jingle-making, and mural painting contests among elementary, secondary, and college students. The Search for Makakalikasang Barangay was also conducted among the 275 barangays of the province.

"This will ensure the sustainability of good practices of our barangays on solid waste management and other environment-friendly activities in their communities," Tanguilig said. | **ALM / BME, PIA R02**

Quirino PLGU forms IACPSP



Quirino Governor Junie E. Cua, the Chairperson of the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) 2, has recently spearheaded the formulation of the province's Integrated Area Community Public Safety Plan (IACPSP) through the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) which he also heads.

The IACPSP is aimed at institutionalizing a system of public safety plan to address threats that may arise in the community and strengthen the problem-solving capacity of the community in responding to local peace and order concerns.

The said plan, which was already passed to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for adoption, contains counter-insurgency and counter-

terrorism components to reduce insurgency to an insignificant level and stabilize security in order to attain a physically and psychologically secure environment conducive to regional development.

It also contains environmental protection and disaster risk reduction components to strengthen the enforcement of laws protecting the environment and natural resources and to minimize disaster effects and impact to life and property by providing a culture of preparedness and resiliency among the Quirinians.

In his presentation during the recent PPOC meeting, Police Supt. Rommel Rumbaoa, Quirino Police Provincial Office deputy director for operations, said that although Quirino is generally peaceful and orderly, it does not use its present state of serenity as an excuse not

to venture on programs on peace and order.

"The leadership of this province always adheres to the principle that prevention and control are always better than fighting crimes when they are already there," he said.

He added that the IACPSP is guided by the vision of a progressive province of God-loving and empowered citizens living peacefully in an economically stable ecology and sustainable and investment-friendly environment with an advance and adequate information and communications technology for its continuing development under good governance.

He added that in promoting public safety, the PPOC shall closely adhere to the values of QUIRINO or Quality life; Unity, Integrity, Responsiveness, Innovativeness, Nurturing, and Orderliness. | **ALM / TCB, PIA R02**

2 groups, 5 individuals named regional outstanding volunteers

As the Cagayan Valley Region joins the nationwide celebration of the National Volunteer Month in December, the Regional Search Committee (RSC) of the 2015 Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) named two volunteer groups and five individuals as the region's outstanding volunteers for 2015.

Led by SOV-RSC Chairperson and NEDA Regional Director MaryAnne ER. Darauay, the RSC expressed their optimism over the roster of this year's winners.

"Volunteerism is an exciting endeavor, especially that many of our volunteers in the region have gained national acclaim through the SOV. We hope that all our nominees will make it to the national finals," RD Darauay said.

Volunteering for disaster and emergency response

As a volunteer group that builds on service learning, the *College of Industrial Technology and Education (CITE) Youth Volunteer Group* came up with their project called the Disaster and Emergency Management Information or DEMI Caravan, which aims to provide information on disaster and emergency management and on environmental protection, conservation, and management.

Meanwhile, the *Kabalikat Civicom Freedom Base – 31st Chapter* continues to help and aid the people and communities of Santiago City and nearby municipalities especially in times of calamities. The organization is known for its

rescue activities and emergency response during disasters and calamities through the effective use of radio communication.

Outstanding volunteer individuals

Two female and three male volunteers have been chosen as regional winners for this year's Search.

Prescilla Marcos, 59, helps the less privileged, ill, and financially-challenged children and other members of her community in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. She advocates the Care for Children with Disabilities Project that provides medical and material needs to children with disabilities and those in severe health conditions. She also provides informal counseling to physically and sexually abused children.

Melvie Mabbonag, 37, pioneered backyard gardening for residents at the Cagayan Valley Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Enrile, Cagayan. She is also involved in livelihood programs such as silk screen printing and pastillas making in Sitio Cannagan, Divisoria, Enrile. She spearheads the conduct of Detainees Got Talent, Pinoy Henyo, Singing Bee, sports activities, and informal counseling for female detainees at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Tuguegarao City.

Victor Calingayan, 59, serves his beneficiaries in Nueva Vizcaya by establishing the self-help plant nursery in Commonal, Solano which has already produced around 5,000 seedlings. This undertaking has mobilized the indigenous peoples of the Ayangan group and has enriched the 6,000-hectare ancestral land where they live in.

Meanwhile, *Feliciano Gacho*, 50, serves the community through radio communication despite being paralyzed in the legs. Since joining the Kabalikát Civicom in 2000, he has dedicated his time with the organization. As air marshal, he has helped to significantly reduce the number of fatalities in road accidents and calamities due mainly to the proper coordination of volunteer resources and equipment.

The RSC also endorsed the re-nomination of 88 year-old *Domiciano Barias, Sr.* for the Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award of the SOV. Mr. Barias has sustained his passion to serve his constituents in Tuguegarao City and nearby towns in Cagayan. It was through him that the senior citizens drugstore was granted space at the People's Emergency Hospital in Tuguegarao City and that the Senior Citizens Center was created. Through his assertiveness and intervention, several infrastructure projects were put in place such as the Pinacanauan River Control Dike, Gateway to Horno (which now serves as a historical landmark), and the installation of street arcs and lights. | JOEL T. UNCIANO, NEDA PMED



Requesting the House of Representatives to Enact a Law Bringing Back Death Penalty for Drug-related Cases Committed by Government Officials

Requesting All LGUs to Allocate a Portion of their Funds for Forest Protection and Conservation

Requesting the Department of Education to Include Human Rights Education in the K to 12 Curricula

Encouraging the LGUs to Enact an Ordinance Supporting and Implementing the Interventions of the Philippine National Police

Requesting the Philippine Commission on Women to Include Illegal Drug Prevention Activities as Part of Gender and Development Programs, Projects, and Activities

Endorsing the Inclusive Partnerships for Agricultural Competitiveness (IPAC) Project

Enjoining all Provincial/City/Municipal Government Units to Mainstream Human Rights Activities under the Human Rights Action Center and Rule of Law (HRAC & ROL) Strategy Through the Establishment of Human Rights Action Centers and the Creation/Designation of Human Rights Action Teams (HRActs)

Approving and Adopting the Regional Research and Development Agenda 2016-2022

Requesting the DPWH to Prepare a Project Proposal for the Construction of a Coastal Road, Including Major Bridges that will Connect the Municipalities of Divilacan and Palanan in Isabela

Requesting the DPWH R02 to Organize and Ensure an Inter-Institutional Arrangement to Install a 24-Hour Standby Heavy Equipment or Wrecker in Strategically Located Road Sections Within Diadi and Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya

Requesting the Province of Nueva Vizcaya and the LGUs of Diadi and Sta. Fe to Install LGUs Signages of Alternate Routes in their Area and for the DPWH to Collaborate With Them for the Preparation of Said Road Signages

Requesting the DPWH R02 to Improve the Diadi-Tarctic-Ramon Road and Upgrade This to an All-Weather Alternate Road

Requesting the RDC 1 to Facilitate the Completion of the Region 1 Portion of the Sta. Fe-San Nicolas Road

Endorsing the Baggaol Level III Water Supply Project for Implementation Under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme

Supporting the RDC VI Resolution No. 44 Requesting the Department of Energy to Review and Amend Rule 29, Section 4.a.ii of EPIRA Law's (R.A. 9136) Implementing Rules and Regulations by Entitling Host Regions with Power Plants Located in Highly-Urbanized Cities to Have Their Own Share of the Development and Livelihood Fund and Reforestation, Watershed Management, Health and/or Environment Enhancement Fund

Approving the Proposed Design of Agency Locators' Signages at the Regional Government Center (RGC) With the Corresponding Costs for its Fabrication and Installation and Authorizing the DPWH R02 to Collect Contributions

Approving the Request of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples for a Two-year Extension of the MOA Prescribing Among Others the Period Within Which to Introduce Land Improvements and to Construct its Office Building in the Regional Government Center

Approving the Request of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board for a Two-year Extension of the MOA Prescribing Among Others the Period Within Which to Introduce Land Improvements and to Construct its Office Building in the Regional Government Center

APPROVED RDC2-RPOC2 RESOLUTIONS

Approving and Endorsing the Proposed Benchmarking on Carbon Footprints within the Regional Government Center

Enjoining all Local Chief Executives in Region 2 to Include a Youth Representative in the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council

Requesting the Inclusion of the Alternate Road Projects of Nueva Vizcaya Under the Feasibility Studies Fund of NEDA for CY 2015 or 2016 as well as Under the Feasibility Studies Fund of DPWH for CY 2015 or 2016

Requesting the Inclusion of the Alternate Road Projects of Nueva Vizcaya in the Public Investment Program (PIP) of the DPWH for CY 2016

Requesting the Inclusion of the Proposed Cagayan River Alternate Bridges Under the Feasibility Studies Fund of NEDA for CY 2015 or 2016 as well as Under the Feasibility Studies Fund of the DPWH for CY 2015 or 2016

Supporting the Initiatives of Congress in Amending Sec. 24 (A) (2) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997 Lowering the Level of Net Taxable Income and Tax Rates of Individual Income Tax

Supporting Senate Bill No. 2217, an Act Exempting Start-up Enterprises from Taxes Arising from the First Two Years of Operation

Enjoining all LGUs of Region 2 to Adopt a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code

Enjoining all LGUs of Region 2 to Establish and/or Join Inter-Local Health Zones in Support to the Various Programs of the Department of Health

Requesting the Integration of the Dinapigue, Isabela – Casiguran, Aurora Road to the Casiguran-Baler National Road

Requesting the DPWH R02 to Facilitate the Conversion of the Cagayan Portion of the Ayaga-Sta. Marcela-Flora-Lasam Road into a National Road

Endorsing the Reclassification of the Ilagan-Divilacan Road from Local to National Road and Inclusion to the Regional Priority Investment Program of the DPWH

Supporting and Endorsing the Proposed Nassiping Pump Irrigation Project

Supporting and Endorsing House Bill Number 5612, Otherwise Known as an Act Providing for the Construction of Concrete Barangay Roads/ Multi-purpose Pavements in all Barangays and for Other Purposes

Supporting the Implementation of the Gender Responsive Economic Action for the Transformation of Women Project 2 (GREAT WOMEN 2) with Recommendations for the Strengthening of the Regional Convergence Group (RCG) Membership and its Functions

Resolution Reconstituting the Merged Regional Research and Statistics Committee into the Regional Research and Development Committee of the Regional Development Council 2 Due to the Creation of the Regional Statistics Committee of the Philippine Statistics Authority

Resolution Favorably Endorsing the Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plan for Apayao-Abulug River Basin

A Resolution Requesting the Land Transportation Office Region 2 to Deputize Members of the Philippine National Police Regional Office No. 02 as to Enforce Republic Act 10586 Known as "Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2013"

Resolution Commending the Regional Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force Composed of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, and Armed Forces of the Philippines for their Efforts in Making Region 02 Zero Hotspot on Illegal Logging

Supporting the Proposal to Review and Amend RA 8291, Otherwise Known as "The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Act of 1997" and Related Laws on GSIS Retirement Packages

Endorsing the Adoption of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR/CCA)-Enhanced Project Evaluation Checklist for Proposed Development Projects

Commending the 5th Infantry Division of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Through the Leadership of Major General Lysander A. Suerte for the Successful Hosting of the Joint Meeting of the Regional Development Council and the Regional Peace and Order Council on December 10, 2015