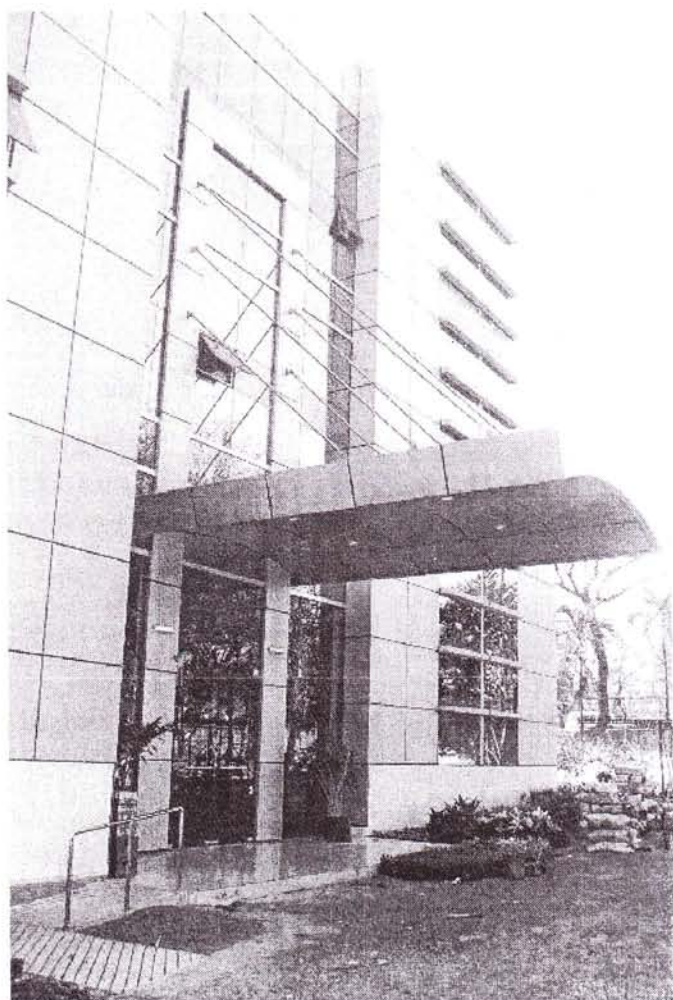




Agri R&D finds a new home at RDMIC



The RDMIC building houses the BAR offices and the R&D knowledge center. With the help of engineers and contractors from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), the three-storey building is now 90% complete. It is currently undergoing grounds development and site beautification.

This new building has the facilities to fully operate agricultural information exchange among R&D end-users. This includes audio-visual facilities and seminar rooms, research and training center, scientific library, knowledge products and services office and an

administrators and funding agencies and to help ensure that technologies and research results are well planned, executed and shared. The research and training center is a venue for conducting research trainings and seminars for the R & D institutions under the National Agricultural Research and Development Systems for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF).

The scientific library serves as the central repository of agricultural and fishery R & D information, books, brochures etc. wherein researchers, students, farmers, industry sector and other stakeholders can avail information. Inside the scientific library, computers with access to the Internet will be installed and opened for public use.

The knowledge products and services office offers services that include dissemination of information using different multi-media approaches to different BAR clientele. It maintains regular upgrading of

see RDMICbuilding ...page 3

Key officials and staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) gathered to celebrate the blessing of the new Research and Development Management Information Center (RDMIC) building. Coinciding with this activity was BAR Dir. William C. Medrano's 47th birthday. A whole day Executive Committee Meeting held after the blessing was the first official business in the new building.

exhibition hall. The RDMIC provides BAR a facility for increased efficiency and effectiveness in managing the agriculture and fisheries R&D system.

The audio visual and seminar rooms provide venue for periodic and annual research reviews, dialogues, and national research symposia as well as conventions, seminars, trainings and meetings for exchanging information/ ideas among researchers, research

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Dr. William D. Dar

Under Director General Dar's leadership, ICRISAT has refocused its research agenda on a need-driven and participatory basis and has exploited the most modern tools of biotechnology, marker-assisted breeding, integrated pest and disease management, natural resource management, and information and communication technology. Staff morale is greatly boosted by the "Team ICRISAT"

parties involved and to the community. The Institute went through rigorous External Program and Management Reviews in 2003 and has passed successfully.

After the financial crunch ICRISAT experienced in the past, the Institute came through the last financial year with half a million dollar surplus budget. Donors again put their trust in ICRISAT and recognize that ICRISAT is putting

into action the mantra "Science with a Human Face," which was started by DG Dar in 2000. This was developed to infuse a sense of purpose, mission, and responsibility towards the poor of the semi-arid tropics whom

ICRISAT serves.

Complacency is not Dar's book. "When you have reached the goal, he says, "it is time to move on, lead more effectively, innovate more and create more impacts." (ICRISAT Press Release)

ICRISAT Director General gets second term

Dr. William D. Dar, director general of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), former Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) director and DA Secretary, was given a new five-year term of office starting 1 January 2005. The decision was made at the 50th ICRISAT Governing Board meeting held at the ICRISAT headquarters in Patancheru (near Hyderabad), India on 29 April 2004.

ICRISAT, the prestigious international institute of the 1970s and 80s, was in a financial slump, staff morale was at its lowest, and research objectives was unfocused and weak by the time Dr. Dar took office in January 2000. Four years later, ICRISAT turned around and is once more the leading center for scientific excellence for agricultural research in the dry tropics of the world. The growing success of ICRISAT is hinged on relevant research programs and decisive measures initiated by Dar.

movement launched by DG Dar in early 2002. Since 2000, ICRISAT received 46 awards, which reflects the excellence and relevance of research executed by its internationally recognized scientists. Nine were personal awards for Dr. Dar by renowned institutions and universities during his term.

Under DG Dar's tutelage, representatives of the Institute and individual staff members were asked to serve on several advisory boards and expert panels at national and international levels. ICRISAT established an excellent relationship with India, its host country. Partnerships with the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and regional/sub-regional organizations were strengthened and are now making impacts in the farming communities of the SAT.

ICRISAT is now also attracting more and more partners from the private sector, partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the

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New rice on the block

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR)'s partner in the rice network, released three new rice varieties for distribution to farmers in specific parts of the country.

According to Dr. John de Leon, chair of the Rice Varietal Improvement Group (RVIG), the three varieties are named *Matatag 3*, *Matatag 6*, and *Angelica*. *Matatag 3* and *6* are recommended for commercial planting in *tungro*-infested areas in Visayas and Mindanao. These areas include Regions 6,10,11,12,13, and ARMM. *Angelica* is specifically recommended for irrigated lowlands in Agusan del Norte, where it performs well in nutrient-deficient soil and low solar radiation.

Matatag 3 is a semi-dwarf

variety that matures early. It takes 107 days for it to mature if transplanted, and 101 days if grown under direct seeding culture. *Matatag 6* is also semi-dwarf and matures early, but it adapts better under transplanted culture. It matures after 109 days if transplanted, and 104 days if grown in direct seeding culture.

Matatag, meaning "resistant", was developed following persistent insect pests problems, especially in Mindanao. Both PhilRice and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) developed their respective *Matatag* lines, which are resistant to *tungro*. The *Matatag*

varieties were put to test during one of *tungro* infestations in Mindanao—all varieties were destroyed by the pest, except *Matatag*.

Angelica, on the other hand, is high yielding, resistant to pests and has an acceptable grain quality. It can be harvested 121 days after sowing. *Angelica* was at first discarded in other regions because it yielded poorly. But it was found to perform well in Agusan. The problem of farmers in Agusan is more environmental, such as low light intensity, and high zinc deficiency. It later became a regional recommendation. *Angelica* was named after governor of Agusan. (Ma. Lizbeth J. Baroña)



RDMIC building...

BAR web page to ensure information exchange and on-line R & D information and communication management; facilitates the flow of technology and related information to users and acts as the reservoir of NaRDSAF research reports, technology updates and scientific literature. The office coordinates and orchestrates the development of regional KPS capability and conducts and facilitates the conduct of research seminars and workshops of BAR and

NaRDSAF.

The exhibition hall where the latest technological breakthroughs generated by the DA R&D system are presented. It exhibits information on the status/preliminary results of on-going R & D programs and stimulate public awareness on generated technologies and priority programs conducted by the various R & D agencies. The exhibits will be in the form of posters, storyboards and actual specimen of crops/poultry/fish.

Following the blessing ceremony

officiated by Fr. Bernie Abrasamo was the celebration of Dir. Medrano's birthday. He was joined by his family and friends from other R&D institutions. One of his special guests was Dr. Patricio Faylon, executive director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD). Also included in the day's activity was the first Executive Committee Meeting held at the new building. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

Food safety highlighted in a PQSN seminar

“Food is not only an agricultural and trade commodity but also an essential public health issue.”

This was the point of Dr. Ma. Concepcion C. Lizada's lecture on, “**Food Safety Program.**” This seminar by the Product Quality Systems RDE Network (PQSN) and co-sponsored by the Bureau of Agricultural Research

The speaker also cited the increased travel and trade (including ethnic and non-traditional food exports). People must also be aware of the emerging pathogens (increased virulence, antibiotic resistance), immune-compromised population, new technologies, departure from non-traditional processes, and novel foods and technologies (functional

on trade and tourism, and big economic loss.

Lizada also cited the reasons why Philippine food exports have been detained: a) *filth*, which consists of insect, rodent, bird or other animal parts; putrid or decomposed substance; or food unfit for human consumption; b) *process*, due to inadequate processing; processing by a non-registered manufacturer; or non-filing of required documents; c) *labeling*, due to non-compliance with US requirements (e.g. non-English language); d) *additives* which are not allowed (unsafe food color or preservative) or are in excess (sulfite); e) *microbiological hazards* which consist of microorganisms or their toxins which render the food unfit for consumption; f) *chemical hazards* which might be heavy metals or tin from containers; and e) foods that are not allowed.

Food safety issues, regulatory framework, and Philippine laws governing it were discussed. Philippine agencies concerned with or involved in food safety and monitoring were also identified.

The steps in a proposed food safety program (as defined by the World Health Organization in 1996) and its details were discussed. These are: 1) assessment of food safety infrastructure and problems at national level; 2) preparation of a National Food Safety Program; 3) implementation; and 4) evaluation of food safety activities.

It is Dr. Lizada's hope that this program will be immediately established and food safety needs of Filipinos be addressed. (Likha C. Cuevas)



(BAR) was held on April 13, 2003, at the Agricultural Training Institute, Diliman, Quezon City.

Dr. Lizada stressed the importance of food safety and food safety awareness. First, there is rapid urbanization (longer distribution channels without provisions for safety like in transporting goods) and increase in urban population, as observed in the ballooning population in Metro Manila. There is also the need for convenience food since more and more people now are getting busier everyday.

foods, foods at FDI, nutraceuticals).

“If we don't pay attention to this important matter, the agriculture sector (the dominant sector in terms of food security), including employment (and the informal sector) and export, would be hit the hardest. Appropriate measures are needed to assure food safety in products coming from the informal sector,” she said.

The PQSN leader cited the consequences of food-borne diseases like human suffering, negative effect

Major islands convergence consultation ends



The major island consultations of the National RDE Convergence culminated at Leyte State University (LSU) in Baybay, Leyte, April 5-6, 2004.

The brainchild of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the convergence initiative in improving research, development, and extension (RDE) services to farmers and fisherfolk, has reached new heights as the three major island consultations concluded in Visayas.

The RDE convergence national organizers have been going across the regions to present the six working committees' output to the regional partners. The working committees on six convergence areas, namely: RDE agenda, RDE network, technology delivery services, program planning and monitoring, information and communication technology, and institutional development, spent almost a year fine-tuning their proposals before presenting them to the regions. The Luzon and Mindanao RDE arms have earlier pledged to support the convergence efforts.

After the working committees

presented their respective outputs to Regions 6, 7 and 8, the regional partners in the consortia, regional RDE networks, and ATI regional units gave their feedback and suggestions in the ultimate implementation of the convergence areas.

With regard to the RDE agenda, Region 6 suggested putting animal health research in the priority list and the inclusion of the regional RDE priority commodities in the national RDE agenda. Region 7 suggested the inclusion of water and water resources management in the priority areas while Region 8 presented an alternative structure for convergence, and recommended that ATI spearheads the integration of the RDE agenda.

As to the RDE network, the regions recommended empowering and

putting emphasis on the role of the local government units in the implementation of programs. They also asked for guidelines in implementing the converged networks programs, joining fisheries and agriculture in the provincial level, inclusion of soil and water in the commodity network.

Region 6 asked for the program planning, monitoring and evaluation output to be implemented at once, while Region 7 suggested a separate but parallel process for non-agriculture, forestry and natural resources (AFNR) researches. Region 8 recommended that research proposals from the private sector to pass through the regional network, and seek clarification whether it is DA or DOST to endorse the proposals.

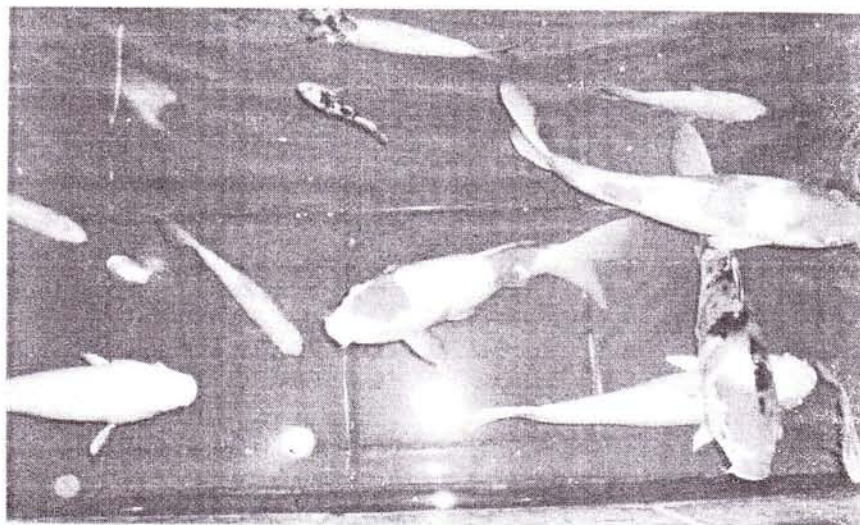
All regions recommended capability-building measures, both in human resources and infrastructure, and putting emphasis in the role of the LGU in extension. They also suggested strengthening the regional interconnectivity through the proposed knowledge bank, and suggested a bottom-up approach in uploading information to the databank.

The event was attended by the directors of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), as well as key officials in the regional centers. (*Ma. Lizbeth J. Baroña*)

ERRATUM:

In the article, "Convergence initiative moves southward," in the March issue of the BAR Chronicle, Dr. Eufemio Rasco was inadvertently referred to as President of USM. Dr. Rasco is Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, University of the Philippines, Mindanao. Our apologies. (*Ed.*)

Fishing industry worries about *koi* from Japan



Bird flu is currently out of the limelight as researchers in the fisheries sector search for means to control the spread of a viral disease called, *koi herpes virus* or KHV that is reportedly wiping out the population of carp.

Experts in fish disease informed the public that KHV has become an alarming case in the fishing population because it has the capability to kill four out of five fishes that it infects. The virus is endangering the population of two important carps: the ornamental *koi* and the common carp. The ornamental *koi* is a carp native to Japan and the temperate regions of Eastern Asia. It is a popular aquarium or ornamental pond fish due to its colorful scales while the common carp is considered as the world's fourth most-farmed fish.

According to *Nature Science Update*, a journal published in the US, KHV was first isolated in Israel

six years ago and has been detected in ornamental *koi* in Europe, Asia, and US. Last year, it affected a great number of common carps in Japan and an alert was issued when the virus killed half of Japan's farmed carp. In 2003 the virus spread even to the ornamental *koi*.

With this scenario at hand, the fisheries sector feared that KHV might cause more damage if it spreads to other countries like China where three-quarters of world's farmed carp is being produced.

Here in the Philippines, KHV is a cause for worry in the fishery sector due to the possible entry of smuggled *koi* (*Cyprinus carpio*) from Japan. Thus, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. recently issued an order to ban *koi* coming from Japan. Meanwhile, according to Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Director Malcolm Sarmiento, Jr. the public should be

informed that although KHV is not harmful to humans, it is a very virulent fish disease that could result up to 90 percent death among *koi* and carp in just seven days. Its entry to the Philippines is of big concern since no effective drug has yet been developed to control the virus.

Fisheries quarantine officers were directed to keep a tight watch on *koi* shipments from Japan after reports had reached the Department that these banned fishes had illegally entered the country. Moreover, imports of *koi* and common carps from Japan have also been suspended due to the KHV outbreak. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

PHILARM holds...

distinguished research manager(s). The Center Director is charged with the responsibility of administering the day-to-day activities for the smooth operation of the Center while the Secretariat will be organized to provide the necessary backstaffing and administrative support.

Also on the same day, the Board presented the election result wherein all the members of PHILARM elected eight new members of the Board along with the incoming president, immediate past president, and ex-officio member. Director Medrano was elected president wherein he will serve for two years (2004-2006). Other newly-elected officials were: Dr. Heraldo L. Layaoen of MMSU (vice president), Dr. Rustico G. David of DA-BAR (secretary), Mr. Richard M. Juanillo of PCARRD (treasurer), Mr. Rolando V. Labios of DA-BAR (business manager), Mr. Rufino B. Ayaso III of DA-RFU VIII (auditor), Dr. Erlinda B. Aromin of UPLB (public information officer), and Engr. Dellena G. Alagcan of PCARRD (ex-officio member).

Concluding the three-day convention was a visit to the Seed Center in Santiago City, CVIARC in Tuguegarao and the famous Banaue Rice Terraces. (Rita T. dela Cruz)

GIS: The future of sustainable fishing

Knowing where to fish is every fisherman's dream. In fact, these days with overfishing, dynamite fishing, and the rampant use of illegal fishing methods, knowing where to fish has become as elusive as a fisherman's tale.

But, not anymore. Scientists from the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines at Diliman (UP-MSI) have developed a technology that can identify areas of high planktonic production. Plankton is a mass of tiny animals and plants floating in the sea or in lakes usually near the surface and eaten by fish and other aquatic animals. Thus, areas of high planktonic production are potential fishing zones.

The technology uses satellite images to identify areas of high planktonic production and combine them with other techniques such as oceanography, bathymetry, ocean color, and the presence of large amounts of chlorophyll in the water as indicators of areas of fish stock congregations and fish stocks migration to identify what types of fishes can be found and could thrive well in certain areas.

Sea surface temperature and salinity and other oceanographic conditions can further assist to develop these areas known as potential fishing zones for forecasting of natural fluctuations of stocks, and the movements (congregations and migrations) of fishes.

With the use satellite technology, these oceanographic features such as ocean color, sea surface temperature, chlorophyll-a-concentrations can be successfully mapped in near real time basis. This capability coupled with the

knowledge of oceanographic conditions affecting fishery population and historical catch data can lead towards forecasting of fish populations and their movements.

The technology is part of the three-year project entitled, *Ocean Color for Sustainable Fisheries (OCSF)* funded by the Bureau of Agricultural Research of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BAR). The project took its name from 'ocean color data' which refers to accurate measurements of light intensity at visible wavelengths. Ocean color data is related to the presence of substances or particulates in the surface of the water especially the presence of the photosynthetic phytoplankton that contains chlorophyll. Ocean color observations are made through the use of satellite technology.

The study also identified the most productive fishing grounds that have an average of annual fisheries production of 50,000 metric tons and above. These are the: Moro Gulf, East Sulu Sea, Visayan Sea, South Sulu Sea, Visayan Sea, Bohol Sea, and Guimaras Strait. These areas contribute to one-half of the total annual fish production in the country.

Leyte Gulf, Lamon Bay, Samar Sea, West Palawan Waters, and Cuyo Pass have a moderate fisheries production at 25,000 to 50,000 metric tons per year while the lowest average fish catch data of less than 25,000 metric tons a year were recorded in Palanan Bay, Southern Mindanao Water, Casiguran Sound, Babuyan Channel, Camotes Sea, Batangas Coast, Lingayen Gulf, Lagonoy Gulf, Ragay Gulf, West Sulu Sea, Northeast Mindanao Water, Davao Gulf, Tayabas Bay, Sibuyan Sea

and, Manila Bay.

The scientists are optimistic that this technology can be used as an effective tool for sustainable fisheries management in the near future. Scientists are hopeful that through the use of this technology, our coastal and offshore resources can be managed and protected well for the future generations. More importantly, with this technology our fishermen will know where to fish and can catch more fish. (Junelyn S de la Rosa) ■

Sources: "Ocean color for sustainable fisheries" by Dr. Laura David et. al. of the Marine Science Institute at the University of the Philippines at Diliman (UP-MSI), A project funded by the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR).



PHILARM holds 14th nat'l confab; PhilCERTERM discussed



Outgoing PHILARM President Teotimo Aganon shakes hand with new President William Medrano during the turn-over ceremony at the 14th National Convention.

The Philippine Association of Research Managers (PHILARM) held its 14th National Convention on 13-16 April 2004, Carig Plaza Hotel, Santiago City, Isabela. Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director William C. Medrano assumed the presidency after his election by the board members during its meeting last year.

One hundred five research managers participated in the national convention with Dr. William D. Dar, director general of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) as the keynote speaker. Also attending and giving his message was Dr. Patricio S. Faylon, executive director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD). Meanwhile, Dr. Teotimo M. Aganon and Dr. William C. Medrano were presented the Research Leadership Excellence Award.

Highlighting the event was the presentation of one invited paper, "Management and Impacts of Cereals and Legumes Asia Network (CLAN),

presented by Dr. Laxmipathi Gowda, CLAN coordinator and global theme leader for crop improvement of ICRISAT. Five competing R&D management papers were also presented. These papers were on: 1) building functional analysis to sustain continuum of RDE; 2) strengthening the effective implementation of R&D; 3) strengthening the regional RDE network for agriculture and fisheries; 4) organizational reform, transformation and development; and 5) collaborative pilot project on postharvest database and masterplanning. Winners were announced during the awards and closing ceremonies wherein Engr.

Genaro M. Tolentino was awarded the William D. Dar Best R&D Management Paper Award for his study on "Collaborative pilot project on postharvest database and masterplanning." The award carried a P5000 cash prize and a plaque. Culminating the second day was the workshop on the operationalization of the Philippine Center for Research and Technology Management (PhilCERTERM) as an RDE convergence initiative. Dr. Medrano, together with Dr. Faylon and Dr. Aganon, prepared a proposal to revive the former Research Management Center (RMC) and renamed it to PhilCERTERM. This Center hopes to strengthen the performance of Philippine NARS by building capacity in research and technology management and

**Web
news**



International forestry center and Indonesia cooperate against illegal logging
(<http://www.futureharvest.org>)

International year of rice: Rice research helps feed almost half the world and boosts farmer incomes
(<http://www.futureharvest.org>)

Pod borer plague stopped short
(<http://www.futureharvest.org>)

Biodiversity treaty soon becomes a law
(<http://www.fao.org>)

Russia and Belgium adopt stricter GM rules (<http://www.mosnews.com/news/2004/04/08/gmfoods.shtml>)

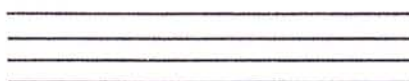
policy advocacy and foster a scientific culture and develop a center of excellence that can make the R&D system highly productive and globally competitive. Its programs and activities include training, research, consultancy, policy support, and knowledge management.

The Center will be operated as a non-stock, non-profit private organization and will be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) once the required membership and other requirements are secured and made available. The proposed membership of the interim Governing Board (GB) will include: PCARRD director, BAR director, ATI director, PCAMRD director, PHILARM president, and

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