

Usec Paras opens DA's Cup Inter-agency Tournament

RITA DELA CRUZ



Participating agencies listen to Usec Paras as he delivers his message of teamwork and camaraderie to the whole DA family.

DA Usec Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras leads the official opening of the Da's Cup Inter-agency Tournament.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras led the official opening of the DA's Cup Inter-agency Tournament on 6 December 2007 at the DA-NAFC Gym, DA Compound, Diliman, Quezon City.

The annual sportsfest is conducted to promote the importance of physical fitness and to foster camaraderie among the DA's attached agencies and staff bureaus.

Participating agencies are: Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), DA-Office of the Secretary (OSEC), National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAFC), Livestock Development Council (LDC), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Regions 4A and 4B, National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), National Food Authority (NFA), and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

In his speech, Usec Paras stressed the importance of the activity not only in promoting physical fitness but also inculcating the culture of solidarity and sportsmanship among DA staff members.

The DA sportsfest runs until January 2008 featuring five major

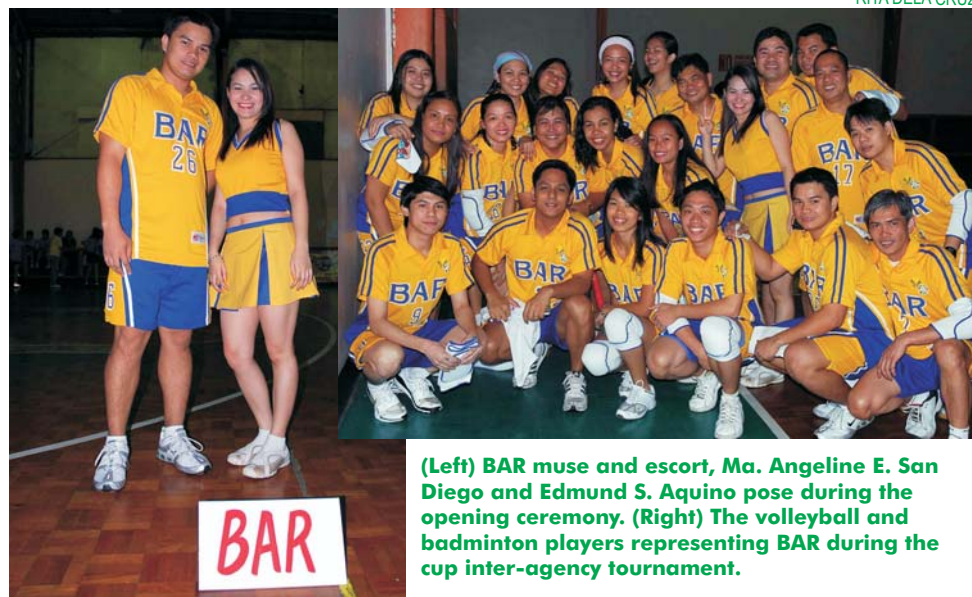
sport events: volleyball (men and women), badminton (men and women), basketball, chess, and dart. BAR joins two of these sport events namely: volleyball (men and women) and badminton (men and women).

BAR team is composed of 40 players, 30 of which are playing for the men's and women's volleyball team

while 10 for the badminton.

This year's muse is Ms. Ma. Angeline E. San Diego of the Administrative Unit and is escorted by Mr. Edmund S. Aquino of the Information and Communication Technology Section of the Management Information and System Division (ICTS-MISD). (Rita T. dela Cruz)

RITA DELA CRUZ



(Left) BAR muse and escort, Ma. Angeline E. San Diego and Edmund S. Aquino pose during the opening ceremony. (Right) The volleyball and badminton players representing BAR during the cup inter-agency tournament.



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Yap to invest in Pangasinan's mango production; mango drying facilities and EHWT project launched

NICANOR DEL ROSARIO III



Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap (fifth from right) officiates the launching of the BAR-assisted mango processing and packaging facilities of the Pangasinan Tropical Fruits Multi-purpose Cooperative (PTFMPC) in Manaoag, Pangasinan. Assisting him are BAR Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar (fourth from right) and local government officials from DA Region I.

DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap (3rd from left) tests the Extended Hot Water Treatment (EHWT) facility funded by the Department of Agriculture-Ginintuang Masaganang Ani under the High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC) program. With him are BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar (2nd from left), Dr. Rene Rafael Espino (fourth from right), and BPI Director Joel Rudinas (2nd from right).

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap pledged to invest in Pangasinan's agricultural crops particularly in the thriving production of mango, which is the country's third top fruit export.

This, he said during the official launching of the completed mango drying facilities and Extended Hot Water Treatment (EHWT) projects of the Pangasinan Tropical Fruits Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PTFMPC) held on 12 December 2007 in Brgy. Matulong, Manaoag, Pangasinan.

He encouraged all the local government officials of Region I who were present during the event to submit proposals that are aligned with the production of other important agri crops such as rice, corn, and vegetable which grow best in the region.

Mango growers and producers of Region I have received a grant from Secretary Yap in the forms of mango

sprayers and certified mango planting materials.

Pangasinan marks as the number one province in the Philippines producing mangoes. It contributes to about 41% of the total mango production of the country and supplies 46% of the region's national mango production.

Mr. Lito M. Arenas, owner of L.A. Trading and chairman of PTFMPC, was proud to present the two completed projects to the Secretary. The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) under the leadership of Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar funded the additional cabinet drying facilities for the improvement and enhancement of the country's fresh mango export to China and Europe.

This is under the project titled, "Enhancing Global Competitiveness of Agricultural

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Season's Greetings FROM BAR

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This publication provides regular updates on BAR's activities as the country's national coordinator for agriculture and fisheries R&D; and highlights features and news articles concerning NaRDSAF-member institutions.

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Yap to invest...from page 1

NICANOR DEL ROSARIO III



Mr. Lito M. Arenas (left), owner of L.A. Trading and chairman of PTFMPC, shows a box of pickled mango for export to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap. Mango products are now being exported in some parts of Europe (Italy, London), Guam, Dubai, and Singapore.

Products through Product Diversification: Commercial Production of Dried Fruits Using German-based Fabricated Drying System" implemented by the Postharvest Horticulture Training Research Center (PHTRC) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). The cabinet dryer can accommodate 100 metric tons of fresh mango fruits and can generate 150 jobs.

Meanwhile, the EHWT was funded by DA-High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC). This facility was set to comply with the phytosanitary

requirement imposed by the Chinese government for possible export of mangoes to Hongkong and mainland China. The facility can accommodate 250 kilos of mango per unit.

The projects initially benefitted about 100 mango growers of Region I generating a minimum of 25 jobs during the peak season.

PTFMC works on mango production, processing, and trading both here and abroad and exports mangoes to China, Hongkong, Korea, Singapore, and Brazil. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)

NICANOR DEL ROSARIO III



Sec. Yap weighs a pack of pickled mango produced by the Cooperative.

Field visits and cultural tours

Participants were brought to different historical regions of Israel to learn not only of its country and people but also its culture and traditions. The first stop was the arid region surrounding the Dead Sea wherein the participants were briefed on the *kibbutz* system prevailing in the area.

Kibbutz is a collective farm or settlement owned by its members wherein children are reared collectively. It is a unique rural community that is dedicated to mutual aid and social justice. It is a socioeconomic system that functions based on the principle of joint ownership of property, equality and cooperation of production, consumption and education. The system works on the fulfillment of the idea, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" wherein it also serves as a home for those who have chosen it.

As a well-organized *kibbutz*, the settlements have established a vast plantation of vegetables such as bell peppers, tomatoes, cucumber and spices like basil as well as watermelons.

These products are supplied in major urban areas like Tel Aviv and Jerusalem especially during winter months. These are also being locked-in major European cities as export markets.

The Israeli government through effective linkages with the regional

council provides for the necessary infrastructure such as green houses with controlled atmosphere, soil solarization materials, drip irrigation, and desalination facilities to improve and sustain production.

The participants were given a chance to visit the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth (420m below sea level) with a very high salinity (37% salt).

Due to the very saline sea water, people find it abnormally easy to float. The Dead Sea is a rich source of salts and minerals that are mined for the production of beauty and wellness products both locally and globally.

Participants of the conference visited the Regional Council of the Ramat Negev which covers several *kibbutzim*.

Ramat Negev covers 30% of Israel's Southern region. Eleven settlements contain approximately 3,700 residents.

The Council adopts an advanced approach to the art of local government which encourages and supports *kibbutzim* and private enterprise for tourism, agriculture and industry. The Ramat Negev *kibbutzim* have factories mainly for producing for the export market. The industrial park in the center of the region will increase the economic potential and level of services available for entrepreneurs of the region.

The Council has established excellent educational, cultural and

community services. The extensive and intensive agriculture was able to achieve significant results which provided an important role in Israel's regional economy. To create new enterprises, the Council puts significant emphasis on its R&D programs which provided the people means to further maximize the special conditions in the Negev Region.

Participants were brought to Jerusalem, capital of Israel and to Galilee Region for their cultural explorations.

Among the historical places that they've visited were: Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Olives, Path of the Palm Sunday Walk, The Old City, The Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa), Western Wall (The Wailing Wall), Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret), Church of Mt. Beatitudes, and Capharnaum. 🌿

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The Dead Sea...

or "Sea of Salt" is located between the West Bank and Israel to the west, and Jordan to the east. It is the deepest hypersaline lake in the world and also the world's second saltiest body of water, after Lake Asal in Djibouti.



Mr. Lales during their visit at the *kibbutz* in the Dead Sea Settlements. At the back are greenhouses for bell pepper and melon.



photos courtesy of JOELL LALES

Rejoining causes at Rehovot conference

The impact of globalization particularly among developing nations was the center of discussion during the recently concluded "Rehovot Conference for Regional Development 2007" on 25 November-2 December 2007 in Rehovot City, Israel.

The conference was attended by 88 participants from India, Israel, Costa Rica, Argentina, Nigeria, Peru, Benin, Mexico, Belgrade, Zambia, Tanzania, Somaliland, Palestinian Authority, Brazil, Senegal, Chile, United Kingdom, and the Philippines.

Representing the Philippines and taking part in the activity was Mr. Joell H. Lales, head of the Planning Unit of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

The participating delegates were met by Mr. Shuki Forer, city mayor of Rehovot during the welcome program.

The conference was organized by the Weitz Center for Development Studies in cooperation with MASHAV – the Center for International Cooperation of the Foreign Ministry of Israel, the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture, and the City of Rehovot.

Weitz Center for Development Studies is an independent, non-profit, public organization engaged in planning, training and research activities related to rural regional development in Israel and the developing countries.

The conference was designed to provide a comprehensive overview on the impact of globalization particularly on the growing regional disparities among the regions, and on how to go about the methods of improving both the regional and local competitiveness of participating countries.

It follows the framework MASHAV known as the "Rehovot Approach" which advocates the building of development programs through knowledge sharing in the spirit of cooperation between developed and developing countries in different regions of the world.

Highlights and issues discussed

Among the specific issues discussed during the conference were

globalization and its influence on developing nations, adaptation processes of different countries to globalization, regional development and poverty obliteration policies of various countries, Israeli experience in regional development, and the development projects from different places around the world.

Highlights of the conference were the conduct of plenary sessions that focused on the challenges and opportunity besetting globalization. Presentations provided an overview of the globalization process and the factors that have brought it about to the widening gap between the world's poor and the rich segments of the world's population in the developed countries and in the emerging economies who benefitted from globalization.

Meanwhile, parallel sessions dealt on various regional and local development experiences specifically on understanding strategic planning process as an essential tool in preparing for and in the effective implementation of the rural development plan. Strategic planning, as emphasized by Mr. Lales, should be a multi-staged, multi-disciplinary, with public participation, consensus building, and a transparent process.

Today, regional development is one of the central issues in international discussions particularly when it comes to solving issues of development and poverty.

In view of this, discussion was focused on regional policies in response to globalization. Papers presented by selected country representatives concentrated on how their respective countries' coped with the effects of globalization through well developed framework of regional policy instruments aimed at reducing the growing disparities between regions. The framework involves a well-established local support infrastructure as well as policy reforms and improved governance. Other topics were on various development planning approaches and methodologies.

photos courtesy of JOELL LALES



The Old City (Jerusalem), which is part of the cultural tour given to the participants.



Kibbutz greenhouse for green bell pepper with controlled atmosphere; at back are tanks for drip irrigation.



Solar panel water heaters in the Negev kibbutz cultural facilities.



Rural development housing projects in the Ramat Negev region.

Senator Angara graces 2007 Binhi Awards

BAR wins 3 major awards

EDMUND AQUINO



Senator Edgardo J. Angara (inset) keynotes the 2007 Binhi Award's night. BAR Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsol (right) and MISD Head Marlowe U. Aquino (2nd from right) receive the awards for the Bureau's major publications. With them are MISD Writers Rita T. dela Cruz (third from left), Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez (second from left), and Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala (left).

Agriculture is the foundation of modern economy." This was stressed by Senator Edgardo J. Angara when he keynoted the 2007 Binhi Awards night on Friday, 14 December 2007 at the Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City hosted by the Philippine Agricultural Journalists, Inc. (PAJ).

With the theme "Pushing agriculture journalism to higher levels," the senator emphasized the importance of agriculture as component of the country's economy as he cited the contribution of the agriculture sector to the growth of the gross domestic product at 6.6 percent. Sen. Angara, who also chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, stressed that agriculture must not be neglected as it will fuel more high-end industries towards the country's economic growth.

Moreover, he recognized the importance of media in information dissemination, and the crucial role that it plays in agriculture by keeping the farmers informed of the latest developments and advancements in agriculture, and to constantly develop new programs that will uplift the nation from poverty.

The Binhi Awards was established by PAJ to give due

recognition to journalists who have shown exemplary performance in promoting agricultural development through media advocacy and excellence in journalism.

Joining the search for the first time, the publications of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) received citations in the Binhi Awards night. *BAR Chronicle*, the official monthly publication of the bureau bagged the "Agricultural Newsletter of the Year" award, while the bureau's official quarterly publication, *BAR R&D Digest* (formerly BAR Today), received the "Agriculture Magazine of the Year" award.

BAR Chronicle was first published in 2000 as bi-monthly newsletter that contains important R&D activities and significant technologies. Also first published in 2000, the *BAR R&D Digest* is a magazine-type publication that features latest researches and technologies generated by National Research and Development System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NaRDSAF) member institutions. The bureau's Applied Communication Section-Management Information and Systems Division under the supervision of Ms. Julia Lapitan, Dr. Marlowe

Aquino, and Dr. Manuel Bonifacio produce the mentioned publications.

Miss Rita dela Cruz, head writer and managing editor of BAR's publications also received the "Agricultural Photojournalist of the Year" award as she bested the other contenders for the said category.

This year's contest features nine categories: agricultural journalist, agribeat reporter, environment journalist, environment story, photojournalist, magazine, newsletter, info/media campaign, and radio program.

Former Food Minister and National Food Authority Administrator Jesus Tanchanco and Henry Lim Bon Liong, chairman and chief executive officer of SL Agritech Corp. were also present in the event. Both are supporters of the different endeavors and projects of PAJ.

PAJ is an organization founded in 1976 whose goal is to unify agricultural writers and communicators to strengthen the journalism profession at the same time promote agriculture through the dissemination of vital, timely, and relevant information. It also aims to promote an atmosphere for better and effective understanding among stakeholders in the agriculture sector. (Ellaine Grace L. Nagpala)

ACIAR, BAR finalize impact assessment project



Dr. Jeff Davis (standing) of ACIAR discusses the importance of conducting impact assessment studies during the inception meeting held at BAR.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), in collaboration with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) and Agricultural Credit and Policy Council (ACPC), conducted an inception meeting for the project, "Impact Assessment of ACIAR's Grain Storage

Pest Control Research in the Philippines" on 7 December 2007, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The meeting aimed to clarify the role of each cooperator and to finalize the project's work program.

Drs. Jeff Davis and John Mullen of ACIAR and New South Wales Department of Primary Industries respectively, presented the importance of undertaking impact assessment studies. They explained that for ACIAR, impact assessments are undertaken primarily for

accountability to public funding.

Impact assessments are used to support priority setting and improve the program/project development process, making them more focused and impact-oriented.

The Philippine cooperators and ACIAR agreed to focus on four areas: 1) grain storage and pest management in the Philippines, 2) rate and extent of adoption of the pesticide admixture technology, 3) cost analysis for supply shift estimate, and 4) methodology final economic surplus estimation.

The contract between ACIAR and BAR is expected to be signed before the year ends. The project will be completed in May 2008.

The meeting was attended by ACIAR Country Manager Cecilia Honrado, BAS Crops Statistics Division Chief Minda Mangabat, BAS Technical Staff Harold Glenn Valera, PhilRice Senior Science Research Specialist Alice Mataia, ACPC Technical Staff Ferdinand Paguia, BAR Program Development Division Chief Carmencita Kagaoan, BAR Technical Staff Jude Ray Laguna and Mariko Ramos. (Mariko M. Ramos)

CVARDD turns 29; Eleazar highlights techno-business partnership

In celebration of the 29th year anniversary of the Cagayan Valley Agriculture and Resources Research and Development (CVARRD) Consortium, the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) headed by Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar was invited as the keynote speaker on 7 December 2007 at the Nueva Vizcaya State University Mini Library, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya with the theme "CVARDD at 29: Revitalizing Techno-Business Partnership."

The celebration was attended by scientists, researchers, academicians, policy makers, implementers, development practitioners, the business community, students, farmer-scientists, farmers and fisherfolk, entrepreneurs from the government and private sector.

It highlighted the awarding of winners during the 2007 CVARDD

Regional R&D Symposium for best poster, best R&D paper, best farmer-scientist and best techno-Pinoy center.

In the speech of Dir. Eleazar which was delivered by Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino, head of the Management Information Systems Division (MISD), he emphasized keywords related to the theme.

These are: REVITALIZATION – which include complementation, collaboration and coordination with the inclusion of new innovations for development; TECHNOLOGY – which are products, process and services derived and applied for agriculture and fisheries development; and BUSINESS – which support the idea of involving the active participation of farmers and fisherfolk including other keyplayers not as farmers alone but becoming businessmen also. The national and regional agencies must utilize

agricultural education to change the landscape of the agriculture setting by improving the curricular offering and capability building activities for students, farmers and key players.

He also emphasized PARTNERSHIP which encourages activities that strengthen national and regional linkage and the establishment of networks for more efficient and effective implementation of agriculture and fisheries programs and services for local clientele.

BAR encourages the regional research community to develop relevant and business-oriented technologies that would boost the regional commodities for more production and profit for all. It was concluded that CVARRD members must work closely together with farmers as entrepreneurs to make technologies work for regional agricultural development. (Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)

Impact of globalization in regional development takes center stage in 2007 Rehovot Conference

RITA T. DELA CRUZ



Humans' desire to improve ones' living conditions have resulted to new discoveries and hi-tech innovations making the world smaller and smaller to live in. Distance has been trounced over by technological advancement in transport, communication and information leading to the exponential growth in the exchange of goods and ideas.

Over the years, humans have continued to move and elevate for something better and greater resulting to a political, economic and cultural convergence among the members of the human community.

This is 'globalization' and this is not a new phenomenon. The term might have been just used recently but the process is already a leitmotif of human history.

Globalization in the local scene

Here in the Philippines, 'globalization' has gone from a

technical jargon to a cliché since the country entered the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995. This is amidst the hullabaloo on whether the country is rightfully prepared for global competition, or it is simply jumping into the bandwagon.

Will this 'G-word' enrich the lives of the poor Filipinos or will it only create chaos and new problems?

The fears and uncertainties being mulled over 12 years ago is haunting us back, reaping its fruits today.

The global integration of economies of nations, allows the unrestricted flow of goods, services, investments and currencies between countries. The Philippines, like any other country that entered WTO, is hoping that this would lead to prosperity and would eventually bring about agricultural modernization, industrialization, urbanization, and hyper-consumerism.

Sadly, this is hardly the case. Such developments brought about by globalization have been accompanied by increasing social and environmental damages throughout the world.

As CADI reported, the process of globalization is having unprecedented impacts, both positive and negative, on life at the individual, village, town, city and national levels. What to do about it has been every country's initial step to address this phenomenon.

Despite the promised of industrialization upon joining the WTO more than a decade ago, the Philippines is still lagging behind its Southeast Asian neighbors in terms of economic performance.

In fact, the polarization between rich and poor in the country was further intensified by globalization. A lot of the Filipinos are still poor and the numbers are growing.

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Planning Unit Head Joell H. Lales represents the Philippines during the Rehovot 2007 Conference held in Israel.



Kibbutz farmer briefs the participants on his landowning and business.

photos courtesy of JOELL LALES

Allocating more funds to aggie research

JOSEFINA M. LANTICAN

The channeling of more funds to agriculture and fisheries research from the budgetary allocation of the Department of Agriculture (DA), as stated by Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Finance (Manila Bulletin, 10 December 2007), is a welcome proposition.

It is in support of the current thrusts and priorities of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to strengthen research and extension, which is one of its "Five Pillars of Development in Agriculture and Fisheries" as referred to by Secretary Arthur C. Yap. The five pillars include irrigation, credit, post-harvest and storage, market access, and technology and extension.

Parallel to his recommendations, DA presently implements its biotechnology program for 2006-2010, along with its other development programs.

The biotechnology program focuses on integrated processing to increase the value and competitiveness of traditional crops intended for local and world markets. This includes the production of natural ingredients with the application of traditional and modern technology and the creation of clusters of natural ingredients industries.

With the Philippines being rich in biodiversity, it can exploit and create new products and medicine for the growing global market.



RITA DELA CRUZ

Looking at the same direction, the Department implements the organic-based agriculture development program, known as the "Organic-based Agriculture Development "Agri-Kalikasan" Program. It is a cost-reduction strategy aimed to reduce the dependence of vulnerable small farms on chemical-based fertilizers.

This program intends to intensify the gains of the GNA rice program in ensuring food security through the establishment of commercial production farms and to

promote a more practical and prudent use of chemical fertilizers through the utilization of microbial inoculants as bio-fertilizer, based on scientific principles.

The DA's research and development program is accompanied by capability building in terms of development and improvement of the existing research facilities of institutions in the national research system in agriculture and fisheries. The human resource development program is in place to promote and sustain excellence in the conduct of research.

For the medium term, DA is likewise into the establishment of strategically-located postproduction facilities at the farm level to minimize huge losses which reach to billions of pesos annually.

These are: 1) establishment of refrigeration storage in production areas and public markets, 2) establishment of drying centers and small storage warehouses for grains and fisheries products, and 3) distribution of moveable ice-making storage facilities for fishing communities.

Putting adequate public investments in agriculture and fisheries is the basic requirement in attaining the sector's robust economy.



RITA DELA CRUZ

DA leads tree planting activity for Green Philippines Program

Pursuant to a Presidential directive, all agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations were enjoined to actively participate in the Green Philippines Program (GPP). This was made official through a Special Order No. 576 issued by Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Arthur C. Yap to all attached agencies and staff bureaus.

Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Assistant Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy and GPP Focal Person Rolando V. Labios led the BAR's delegation during the event. The delegation, composing of 15 key officials and staff participated in the tree planting activity held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) National Soil and Water Resources

Research Station and Development Center, Brgy. Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal on 5 December 2007.

DA Undersecretary for Operations Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras officially opened the event, after which he led the pledge of active participation and support to the GPP tree planting activity. Joining him was Asec Clayton A. Olalia, Asec Eduardo C. Nolasco, and BSWM Asst Dir Wilfredo E. Cabezon.

Among the trees planted as intercrop were coffee, jackfruit, cashew, guayabano which were provided by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the Regional Field Unit IV-A.

The GPP directs all concerned to: 1) adopt a planting site for development, care, maintenance and



BAR's Asst. Director Teodoro S. Solsoloy (left) assisted by MISD Asst. Head Julia A. Lapitan plant their tree as contribution to the event.

protection; 2) assist in the advocacy campaign to ensure awareness, appreciation and participation by all sectors in the program; and 3) provide other supports that may be needed by the program.

Mr. Labios serves as chairperson for the GPP Technical Working Group (TWG). Member-agencies include the Office of the Secretary (OSec), BPI, and BSWM.

In one of the meetings, Labios suggested that each DA agency must form different committees to implement the GPP as their agency project. They can adopt a site for development, care, and protection.

Currently, the TWG is preparing for their next planting activities in different thematic areas such as protected areas/open lands, mangroves and coastal areas, agroforestry, and urban parks, campuses, and subdivisions. (Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez)



Rolando V. Labios (2nd from left), BAR's focal person for GPP, pose with BAR's key officials and staff after the tree planting activity.

CENVIARC joins bandwagon for KM and CD

The Central Visayas Integrated Agricultural Research Center (CENVIARC), in its desire to be more process-oriented and information-sensitive research center, responded to the new trend in research and development.

This is in preparation for the nationwide program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) on interactive community-based initiatives and knowledge management program for

agriculture and fisheries research and development.

The CENVIARC activity was sponsored by DA-Regional Field Unit VII and BAR. CENVIARC technical staff, satellite station managers, provincial and municipal agricultural officers and agricultural technicians involved in the implementation of the community-based participatory action research (CPAR) attended the activity.

It was held on 3-6 December 2007 at the Plaza Maria Luisa Suites Inn, Dumaguete City.

According to Dr. Eduardo Z. Alama, DA-RFU VII regional technical director for RDE, they were waiting for this activity for almost a year.

DA-RFU VII wanted to be the first to be attuned to the new directions and trends in agriculture and fisheries that are process-oriented and information-sensitive oriented programs. Furthermore, they would like to improve their implementation strategies for community-based activities with R&D as the driver of development. (Marlowe U. Aquino, PhD)



Message

The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.

~ Robert Flatt ~

As we approach the closing of another year, we look forward with enthusiasm to the coming celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the sole reason for this yearly festivity.

This is the appropriate time to reflect on the successes and struggles of the past, and to plan for the coming year to come. It is with great hope that we are able to overcome this new set of challenges and opportunities so that we could move on and be more successful.

Christmas is for the family, and so this is the time to focus on our loved ones by acknowledging with gratitude their presence in our lives and the whole-hearted support they gladly extend to us.

On behalf of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and the whole R&D community, I thank you all for your valuable contributions and support to the Bureau through the years.

My best wishes for—happiness, peace, and good health during this Holy Season, and throughout the coming year.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

NICOMEDES P. ELEAZAR, CESO IV
Director



Director Nicomedes P. Eleazar delivers his message during the Bureau's Christmas party.



Season's Greetings FROM BAR



BAR celebrates Christmas and welcomes 2008

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) celebrated the yuletide season through its annual Christmas party on 21 December 2007. This reflects the solidarity and unity of BAR's staff in the spirit of season, a time for reflection and fun.

2007 has been a good year for the Bureau. And even though

accomplishments did not come in a silver platter, challenges and undertakings were triumphantly surpassed.

Indeed, there is a reason to celebrate. A day full of fun and surprises were prepared not only for BAR staff but also for their family members.

Meanwhile, the afternoon session was dedicated for BAR staff wherein divisions and units were grouped for a song and dance presentations with a Christmas theme. This aims to further strengthen the camaraderie among the groups and the organization as a whole. (*Ma. Eloisa E. Hernandez*)



PDD



OD, PU, IRU



RCD



ADMIN



MISD



OAD, AFPRU, TCU

photos by: NICANOR DEL ROSARIO III, ALEXANDER ARIZABAL, and RITA DELA CRUZ