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6th Mindanao-wide PAFC Summit Spells Success

The 6th Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) Summit in Mindanao was held on October 7-9, 2008 at Almont Hotel's Inland Resort and Convention Center in Butuan City. It was hosted by PAFC Agusan del Sur headed by its Chairman Pete Lim, who was likewise designated summit chairperson.

Participants in the summit were Provincial/Highly Urbanized City/ Independent Component City AFC chairpersons and coordinators coming from Regions IX, X, XI, XII, Caraga and ARMM. Regional Executive Director (RED) Ricardo C. Regis of DA Caraga opened the program by welcoming guests and participants. Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz Enriquez, in her keynote speech, lauded the officers of PAFCs in Mindanao for voluntarily rendering their services and time for their



SUMMIT'S SUCCESS CATALYSTS. Participants all over Mindanao gather for a group shot during the 6th PAFC Summit.

respective PAFCs' undertakings without expecting anything in return.

This year's Mindanao-wide PAFC Summit had the theme "*Mindanao AFCs: Meeting the Challenges through FIELDS*". FIELDS is a banner program of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and stands for six areas of support, namely F-fertilizer, I-irrigation and other infrastructures, E-extension, education and research &

development, L-loans and insurance, D-dryers and other postharvest facilities, and S-seeds and other genetic materials. The summit focused and discussed interventions and implementation of the FIELDS program. Various concerns in the agriculture sector and feasible solutions were likewise presented and discussed.

The speakers in the summit included GMA Rice Program Coordinator for Mindanao Abner Montecalvo, National

Irrigation Administration (NIA) Caraga Engineering Division Chief Engr. Serafin Gallero, Jr., Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Director Asterio Saliot, Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE) Project Team Leader for Mindanao Edgardo Testa, Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) Project Development Officer IV Rudy Ungson, Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) Butuan Lending Center Head Jose Benedicto Faune, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Caraga Asst. Regional Director Nerio Casil, Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Coordinator for Caraga Sunny de Guzman and Caraga Banana Industry Cluster President Romeo Sacro.

An AFC Chairs' business meeting was held where the critical issues/concerns raised were focused on the six (6) areas of support for FIELDS.

The summit generated 16 resolutions, as follows:

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Last Leg of AFC Strategic Planning Held

NAFC finally arrived at the last leg of the strategic planning workshop series after the conduct of 5-day workshops for Luzon A, Luzon B, Visayas and Mindanao A. The Mindanao B Agriculture and Fishery Councils (AFCs) held their workshop on October 20-24 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City where AFC Chairs and Coordinators from Regions XI, XII and ARMM participated.



A DIALOGUE WITH NAFC. Executive Director Bernie G. Fondevilla and Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz A. Enriquez listen to an AFC member explaining his region's strategic thrusts and objectives.



Additional Projects Approved by Japanese and U.S. Governments

Additional projects were recently approved by the Governments of Japan and the United States of America, which through their respective embassies, informed the Department of Agriculture (DA) that the projects *Relief and Livelihood Assistance for Romblon Fisherfolk*, *Technology Management for Competitive Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors* and *Goat Development for the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program (AHMP)* will be provided funds.

Relief and Livelihood Assistance for Romblon Fisherfolk

The Government of Japan approved the project *Relief and Livelihood Assistance for Romblon Fisherfolk*, under the Grant Assistance for 6th Mindanao-wide PAFC...from page 1

1. Extend the deadline of NFA's P1,800.00 Fertilizer Incentive Program under the Institutionalized Procurement Program (IPP), from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2009.
2. All financial institutions extending agricultural loans to small farmers should prescribe minimal documents and requirements for the availment of such loans and at an effective interest rate of not more than 6%.
3. Strengthen the research and extension services in agriculture.
4. LGUs should upgrade the capacity of agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and should provide additional funds for hiring new techni-

Underprivileged Farmers, otherwise known as the 2KR Program. Mr. Makoto Katsura, Ambassador of Japan, said that the project would "provide the vital leverage to rehabilitate the fishing sector in this province (Romblon) and ultimately provide economic gains not only to the target communities but in the entire province as well".

The project intends to implement an assistance and livelihood program for Romblon fisherfolk affected by Typhoon Frank. Damages brought by the typhoon affected crops and livestock. The biggest losers, however, were small fisherfolk whose boats and houses were heavily devastated. About 25,609 fisherfolk and their families were displaced and need immediate relief and aid.

Fishing paraphernalia such as marine engines, submersible and petromax lamps, and

5. The Civil Service Commission should ensure that the hiring of agricultural extension workers by the LGUs is based on technical ability.
6. Strictly regulate/monitor delineated, proclaimed and protected watershed areas.
7. Increase the budget of NIA-Caraga for the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation systems in Caraga Region, from P350 million to P500 million for the period 2009-2010.
8. Mindanao DA-RFUs should prioritize the construction and rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads.
9. Increase the fertilizer subsidy under the FIELDS intervention to 50% of the cost

polyester bancas are to be provided to the affected fishermen of Romblon.

The one-year project with a cost of P 20 million pesos was proposed by the DA-Regional Field Unit IV-B.

Technology Management for Competitive Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors

The Japanese Government also approved the *Technology Management for Competitive Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors*. The project intends to speed up the transfer of mature technologies through commercialization, thus increasing farmers' and fishers' productivity and income. This will in turn transform the agriculture and fisheries into market-driven sectors.

Research and Development (R&D) institutions have been

- of fertilizers.
10. Immediately complete the Gibong Irrigation System in Agusan del Sur and Tago Irrigation Project in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.
11. Increase the NFA selling price of 2 varieties of Vietnam rice from P 18.25 to P 27.00 and from P 25.00 to P 34.00.
12. NFA should set the buying price for palay with moisture content above 14% to at least P 15.00 per kilo.
13. Prioritize the immediate release of funds to NFA-Agusan del Norte for the construction of 3 warehouses in palay production areas in the said province.
14. DA, NFA and PhilRice

generating breakthroughs and mature technologies to address the needs of farmers and fisherfolk but these have not undergone economic evaluations to determine the real costs and benefits of adopting these. Because of this issue, the project will tap experts from various state universities and colleges as external evaluators to review the costs and benefits of mature technologies.

The two-year project costs P 55 million pesos and was proposed by the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Goat Production Project for the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program

Ms. Emiko Purdy, Agricultural Counselor of the Embassy of the United States of America, sent a letter (turn to page 5)

- should collaborate in facilitating the supply of certified hybrid and inbred seeds and their immediate and timely distribution to farmers.
15. Provide additional dryers, warehouses and village processing centers, with corresponding revolving capital, for the Irrigators Associations in the Mindanao regions.
16. Immediate delivery of dryers with complete accessories to farmer-beneficiaries under the DA FIELDS program in the Mindanao regions.

The PAFC Summit is an annual event and is slated to be held in ARMM in 2009.



Gawad Saka 2008

Outstanding Achievers



PRESIDENTIAL HONOR. PGMA is assisted by Sec. Arthur Yap in handing the awards to CAFC Chair Melanio Aquino (left) and PAFC Chair Benjamin Dimaano (right) who represented their respective AFCs.

Last November 19, 2008 seventeen (17) Gawad Saka 2008 achievers were awarded cash prizes, project grants, presidential trophies and citations at the Tent City, Manila Hotel for their outstanding contributions in agriculture and fisheries. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo congratulated the winners and assisted by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, handed the awards and trophies.

The awards were for the following categories: Rice, Corn, Sugarcane, Coconut, High Value Commercial Crop (HVCC), Agri-Entrepreneur, Fisherfolk (Fish Culture and Fish Capture), Small Animal Raiser, Young Farmer, Agricultural Scientist, Farm Family, City Agricultural and Fishery Council (CAFC), Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC), Young Farmers' Organization, Rural Improvement Club (RIC), and Small Farmers' Organization.

The outstanding organizations will each receive a P150,000 project grant from NAFC while the outstanding PAFC will receive a P250,000-project grant, also from NAFC.

For the PAFC category, the **Camarines Norte PAFC**

emerged victorious as *"it remained a steady and strong partner of the Provincial Government in the field of agriculture and fishery development and modernization."*

The **Vigan CAFC** won in the Outstanding CAFC category for its vigorous collaboration with the City Government.

For the Small Farmers' Organization category, the **Tupi Integrated Agricultural Cooperative** in South Cotabato was selected for its successful long-term contract-growing agreements with Dole for pineapple and papaya. The cooperative started 19 years ago with a P30,000 start-up capital with 15 farmer-incorporators. Today, it has total assets of P133 million.

The **Mandaya Tribal Youth Organization** of Brgy. Upper Ulip, Monkayo, Compostela Valley proved to be commendable as Outstanding Young Farmers' Organization. The organization undertakes various agricultural and livelihood enterprises such as poultry and goat raising, fishpond culture, and banana production. Its membership has grown from nine members

since it was organized in June 2005 up to the current 70 members.

The **Barucoc RIC** in Quezon, Isabela has been around since 1970 but was not successful. In 2005, it was revived and adopted a new slogan: *'Go Forward Barucoc RIC'*. At present, its membership has quadrupled to 319. The organization undertakes integrated food production projects while promoting a green and friendly environment. The group also maintains a show window in Barucoc, which displays productive communal vegetable garden, fruit orchard, and fishpond. From its initial capital of P10,000 in 2005, the group now has more than P300,000 worth of assets as of December 2007.

The eleven individual awardees will each receive a P120,000 cash prize from the DA and they are as follows:

- Rice—**Claudio Agcaoili** of Vintar, Ilocos Norte;
- Corn—**Edilberto Bitacura** of Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur;
- Sugarcane—**Preciosa Maturan** of Malbugas,

Bayawan City, Negros Oriental;

- Coconut—**Benjamin Lao** of Bansalan, Davao del Norte;
- HVCC (Mango)—**Ricardo Tolentino** of Gayamat, Piddig, Ilocos Norte;
- Agri-Entrepreneur—**JUBOKEN Enterprises** (Represented by Engr. Justino Arboleda), Gapo, Camalig, Albay;
- Fisherfolk (Fish Culture)—**Renato Alfaro** of Nungnungan I, Cauayan City, Isabela;
- Fisherfolk (Fish Capture)—**Restituto del Rosario** of Sabang, Morong, Bataan;
- Small Animal Raiser—**Annie Sitjar** of Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur;
- Young Farmer—**Rosita Naje** of Brgy. Burabod, Castilla, Sorsogon;
- Agricultural Scientist—**Louella Rowena de Jesus** of DA, RFU-IV-B; and
- Farm Family—**Ireneo Espartero and Family** of Purok 2, Dujali, Davao del Norte.

The Gawad Saka Search, an annual activity of the DA since 1970, gives due recognition to farmers, fisherfolk and organizations for their outstanding contribution to the development of the agriculture and fishery sectors. This contest is a way of inspiring others to tread the path that the achievers have passed through.



Women Members of AFCs Recognized as Outstanding Rural Women Achievers

EMPOWERED WOMEN. Outstanding Rural Women Achievers receive their awards from Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat (2nd from left in the first picture, 3rd from left in the 2nd picture) and Secretary Arthur C. Yap (5th from left in the pictures).

As part of the World Food Day celebration, a ceremony was held on October 20, 2008 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Convention Hall to recognize Outstanding Rural Women Achievers of 2008.

Joining the circle of winners were two (2) active members of the Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs), Ms. Victoria Motril who won first place and Ms. Bernadette delos Santos who won second place.

Ms. Victoria Motril is the Chair of the Municipal AFC of Tupi in South Cotabato. Ms. Motril transformed her 5-hectare land into an integrated farm, producing high value agricultural products such as bananas, asparagus and sweet violet camote. She has also encouraged women in her municipality to venture into fruit processing, sewing of ready to wear clothes and handicraft making. Aside from her accomplishments as a farmer-entrepreneur, she also has actively sought assistance to fund several development projects of the barangays and some rural based organizations. These projects are aimed at enhancing agricultural development in the area. Ms. Motril was instrumental in the establishment of the Rural

Improvement Club (RIC) Food and Laboratory Training Center in South Cotabato that serves as a venue for the conduct of various training-seminars such as fruit dehydration, fish drying, virgin coconut oil processing and cornhusk handicraft making, among others.

Ms. Bernadette delos Santos is a member of the Regional AFC of the Bicol Region. She owns the La Huerta Farm, a choice agro-tourism destination in Bicol, where products such as high-quality vegetables and ornamental

plants and crafts are showcased. Ms. delos Santos uses her farm as a learning venue for the people in the community and for other agro-enthusiasts. 'BidiBidi', as she is called, is a farmer-scientist and a leader who works in partnership with local government units to carry out activities for the people in the community, especially for the development of agriculture in the area. She is a credible resource person for various topics such as farming, environment conservation and entrepreneurial skills.

Both Mesdames Motril and de los Santos started from humble beginnings before becoming achievers. Through their perseverance, their farm products are continually gaining recognition not only in the domestic market but likewise in the international market.

However, their accomplishments are not only for themselves. They serve as role models for people in their respective areas, especially those who continue to endeavor for the development of the agricultural sector.

2KR-Funded FLGC...from page 5



COOP IN THE KNOW. The Handum Cooperative in Isabela, Negros Occidental will now be responsible for the FLGC.

fertilizers. Proceeds from selling these commodities are used to support various agricultural and fishery projects.

Mr. Uyama, in his message, noted that the FLGC project demonstrates Japan's unwavering commitment to support the agrarian reform program in the country given

that the recipients of the project are cooperative members who are also beneficiaries of the Philippines' agrarian reform program. He added that the FLGC would provide various opportunities for farmers to augment their income by improving product quality as well as increase the value of

trade in the municipality. Lastly, Mr. Uyama emphasized the need for continued sustainability of the project but likewise stressed that 'financing alone cannot sustain the objectives of the program'.

Other guests in attendance in the turnover ceremony were Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz Enriquez and Negros Occidental officials, Governor Isidro Zayco, 5th District Representative Ignacio Arroyo, and Board Member Melvin Ibañez.



2KR-FUNDED FLGC PROJECT TURNED OVER TO COOPERATIVE

Japanese Embassy Minister for Economic Affairs, Tomochika Uyama led the turnover of the Farm Level Grains Center (FLGC) Project to the Handum Multi-Purpose Cooperative last November 21, 2008 at Brgy. Rumirang, Isabela, Negros Occidental. The project, a collaborative effort between the DA-NAFC and the cooperative, has the following components: 5000-bag capacity warehouse, solar dryers, multi-pass rice mill, 3-phase transmission power lines and hauling truck. It aims to provide



A RIBBON'S SYMBOL. Japanese Embassy Minister for Economic Affairs Tomochika Uyama cuts the ribbon as FLGC Project is turned over to Handum Coop.

farmer-cooperative members in the municipality of Isabela as well as the adjoining municipalities, the necessary postharvest facilities that would reduce losses and more

importantly, add value to their products.

The FLGC project was funded by the Japanese Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers (GAUF), otherwise known as the 2KR Program. GAUF was initiated by the Government of Japan in 1977. It has contributed to food self-sufficiency and agricultural productivity in the Philippines and in assisting marginalized farmers. The grant gives commodity assistance in the form of farm inputs such as

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Additional Projects...

from page 2

dated November 18, 2008 expressing support for the improvement of the local goat industry through the importation of breeding goats from the US. Goat production has been identified as a means to decrease the country's hunger incidence, which registered 16.2 percent in 2007.

The project, worth P475 million pesos, was proposed by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) with the Livestock Development Council (LDC), DA-Ginintuang Masaganang Ani for Livestock and Regional Field Units (RFUs), the National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) and its Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) as collaborating agencies. It endeavors to support the farmers in the AHMP areas through the provision of genetically improved goats.

The project's long-term objectives are to alleviate poverty, promote good nutrition, capture the global market through goat product exports, and contribute in achieving food security in the Philippines.

2KR Liaison Meeting Held at NEDA



COMMITTEE ON THE MOVE. Collaborating agencies of NEDA, JICA, NIA, NAFC and the Embassy of Japan meet to discuss concerns and relevant issues in implementing the 2KR Program.

The Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers Liaison Committee Meeting was held on November 20, 2008 at NEDA, Pasig. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mitsuhiro Ito, First Secretary of Agriculture, Embassy of Japan; Mr. Kiyofumi Takashima, JICA Philippines; Mr. Yasunori Araki, JICA Expert (DA); Mr. Teruhisa Tajiri, JICA Expert (NIA); Mr. Florante G. Igtiben, OIC-Director, Public Investment Staff, NEDA and Dr. Maria Luz A. Enriquez, NAFC Deputy Executive Director and staff of NAFC, NEDA, JICA, NIA and Embassy of Japan. The meeting discussed matters related to the implementation of the 2KR Program.



National Codex Committee (NCC) Renamed National Codex Organization (NCO)

A joint Department of Agriculture (DA) – Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order (DA AO No. 01 S2008/DOHAO No. 2008-0030) was issued on October 22, 2008 renaming the National Codex Committee (NCC) as the National Codex Organization (NCO). The change in name was necessary to reflect the structure of committees within an organization, rather than that of committees within a committee as well as to address operational difficulties. The Secretaries of DA and DOH likewise approved amended Terms of Reference (TOR).

The important changes in the TOR are the following:

- Creation of a section on rules and procedures to improve operational efficiency and to avoid actions that are not consistent with the TOR. It especially includes measures for the transparent and professional selection of country delegates to Codex meetings.
- Creation of a Management Support Office (MSO) at the Food Development Center-National Food Authority (FDC-NFA), which would permanently house the NCO. The MSO will provide administrative and technical support to the NCO.

The NCO was created in view of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and technical barriers to trade

that formally recognize international food standards and guidelines, including Codex standards, as reference points for facilitating international food trade. The NCO is tasked to institutionalize a mechanism for coordinating relevant Codex decisions and for the formulation of national positions on Codex proposals or policies.

In its almost three (3) years of existence, the NCO has organized 20 sub-committees (SCs) and task forces (TFs), which generated country positions on Codex proposals/policies. Currently, there are 15 SCs and TFs. The Philippines also sent delegates to attend Codex meetings to articulate country positions, where the delegates' participation was funded by various sources, including the Codex Trust Fund (CTF). The increasing number of CTF awards could be a

measure of the Fund's satisfaction over the performance of the delegates.

Many of the Philippines' recommendations focused on ensuring that issues in the current Codex agenda are relevant to national policies, protective of consumer health and would not be disruptive to trade. In the future, the NCO, as it gains more experience, should be able to go beyond reacting to the Codex agenda, but rather to influencing it.

In 2008, there were 29 agenda items forwarded by the various Codex Committees to the Commission, out of the 51 country positions developed by the NCC.

To cite an example, the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) tackled the toxicological consideration in the manufacture of hydrolyzed vegetable proteins (HVPs) or

soy sauce, through the use of acid. The CCCF recommended a maximum level of 0.4 ppm for 3-Monochloropropanol or 3-MCPD acid present in soy sauce, which the Philippines supported. The Codex Commission agreed with the CCCF recommendation and adopted 0.4 ppm 3-MCPD level.

Philippine participation, aside from that in the Codex Commission, was also present in the various Codex Committees: Food Additives, Food Labeling, Food Hygiene, Milk and Milk Products, Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses, Foods Derived from Biotechnology, Quick Frozen Foods, among others.

To learn more about Codex forthcoming meetings, reports, standards and other updates, one may visit the website www.codexalimentarius.net.

NAFC Employees Attend GAD Seminar

As part of NAFC's Gender and Development (GAD) plan, employees and officers of NAFC were mandated to attend the Gender Sensitivity Seminar conducted last November 26-28, 2008 at the NAFC Conference Room. The seminar served as a venue to discuss topics and courses about gender and its impact, mandates, key concepts, and societal perceptions.

Ms. Conchita Sarmiento-Del Rosario, Chairperson of the NAFC-GAD Focal Point, opened the program by giving the rationale and overview of the training program.

The GAD Focal Point aims to catalyze, provide direction and coordinate programs and projects related to women and GAD concerns. It is also tasked to oversee the implementation of the GAD policy in every agency.

The resource speakers in the seminar were from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) GAD Focal System, namely Ms. Rosarie Gonzales-Arreza, Ms. Wilhelmina Pearl Casem-Guliman, and Ms. Mildred Mercene-Buazon.

The speakers discussed key topics such as the history of GAD, rationale, legal mandates,

and other concepts such as women, culture, gender and biases. The training also related gender issues to familiar situations such as family, workplaces and society roles. The resource speakers also prepared activities to enable participants to broaden their understanding of the topic at hand.

Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz A. Enriquez delivered the closing remarks and gave certificates of appreciation and attendance to the speakers and the participants, respectively.

(Photos on the GAD Seminar on p.8)



NAFC Set for Organizational Renewal

As an adjunct to the agricultural and fishery council (AFC) strategic planning activities, the National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) embarked on a series of activities to prepare itself to respond effectively to the challenges of the times and ensure that the agency is aligned as well as capable to support whatever strategies the AFCs and other stakeholders will be implementing in the very near future. Under the guidance of Ms. Carmen Auste, International Consultant, NAFC will institute changes that call for an organizational renewal and strengthening.

The general objective of these undertakings is to improve NAFC's capacity to carry out its internal operations and handle external demands and relationships with stakeholders. These include improved interpersonal and group processes, more effective communication, enhanced ability to cope with organizational problems, more effective decision-making processes, more appropriate leadership style especially among middle managers or heads of divisions/units, improved skills in dealing with conflict, and higher levels of trust and cooperation among NAFC officials and employees.

Among the activities that NAFC underwent and are currently undertaking are:

1. **Organizational Priming and Benchmarking.** This consisted

of perspective setting with NAFC top management, workshops with members of the Core Management Committee (CMC), meeting with the expanded CMC, and a general assembly meeting. The objective of the activity was to validate the case for organizational change for NAFC and determine what changes are needed, the issues and concerns that need to be resolved, factors that defer or impinge on the change needed as well as the overall or complete picture of the organization.

2. **Organizational Re-alignment.** This will entail a series of workshops with a mixed group of NAFC officials and employees, which will come up with a shared framework and principles for organizational renewal (mission statement and organizational credo), formalization of organizational restructuring and recalibration, and mechanisms and processes for effective transition from old to new organization. It also includes on-site review of processes by division/units and team development activities for a new management team and for each operating unit/team.

3. **Way Forward Activities.** In addition to organizational renewal, NAFC has also set up plans for strengthening its operations and relationships with stakeholders. Amidst the hustle and bustle of

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JAPANESE OFFICIALS VISIT BENEFICIARIES OF THE "TIPID ABONO" PROGRAM

Last November 20, 2008, Japanese Embassy officials, Mr. Tomochika Uyama, Minister for Economic Affairs and Mr. Mitsuhiro Ito, First Secretary of Agriculture, visited the ERH Village in Sum-Ag, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental wherein 120 families of the Gawad Kalinga reside. These families are recipients of the project entitled "Support System for the Tipid Abono Fertilization Program 'Agri-Kalikasan'".

The project funded under 2KR Program, has the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) as proponent. The 3-year project endeavors to be a start-up activity under the Department of Agriculture's (DA's) 'Agri-Kalikasan' Program, the country's banner program on sustainable agriculture, where the strategic thrust is to adopt organic farming to reduce cost and

promote environment-friendly food production programs.

The Tipid Abono Program aims to: 1) demonstrate the correct quality and quantity of organic and inorganic fertilizer usage in rice production; 2) accelerate the adoption of balanced fertilization strategy; and 3) strengthen the national government and local government unit collaboration in expanding the gains for the rice program and in managing the country's soil and water resources.

Each project package worth about P750,000 includes the components of a small scale composting facility and community-based organic fertilizer plant such as a shredder with an 8 horsepower (HP) gasoline engine, two (2) units compost tea brewers, 20 kilos of compost worms and five (5) units of Vermi-Beds.



A HELPING HAND. Deputy Executive Director Enriquez hands out vegetable seedlings to a Gawad Kalinga (GK) beneficiary (top); Project delegates (L-R) Special Projects Division (SPD) Asst. Division Chief Cecille Lupisan, Deputy Executive Director Enriquez, Japanese Embassy Minister for Economic Affairs Tomochika Uyama, and First Secretary of Agriculture, Mitsuhiro Ito listen to Mr. Ramon Uy discussing the equipment used in the program (bottom).



Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz Enriquez and Special Projects Division Asst. Division Chief Cecille Lupisan represented NAFC during the

visit. Mr. Ramon Uy, Manager, Agribusiness Division, RU Foundry and Machine, Corp., discussed the equipment used

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Secretary Arthur C. Yap's Christmas Message

As we share love and enjoy the traditions of this Holy Season, I enjoin you to pause for some moments to reflect on the contents of the Christmas card sent to me by Mr. Washington Z. Sycip, the illustrious founder of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and the force behind leading accountancy firm SyCip, Gorres & Velayo (SGV). And it reads:

"All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even to them. (Christianity) · Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. (Confucianism) · Hurt not other in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. (Buddhism) · This is the sum of duty; do naught unto others what you would not have them do unto you. (Hinduism) · No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. (Islam) · What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. (Judaism) · Regard your neighbor's gain as your gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss. (Taoism)

In our world that has become borderless, people of diverse cultures and beliefs can all live by one universal rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." *The rule remains golden and timeless."*

With the fervent hope and prayer for the spirit of the Holiday cheers to touch our lives, I wish you and your family good health, happiness and prosperity.

NAFC Employees...from page 6



NAFC PARTAKES IN GENDER SENSITIVITY TRAINING. Activities during the Gender Sensitivity Seminar for NAFC employees entailed active participation and creativity. Deputy Executive Director Enriquez said that GAD seminars are essential to a development-oriented organization like NAFC (bottom right).

NAFC Set for...from page 7



BREAKING THE ICE. Consultant Carmen Auste gathers the participants for a more relaxed and creative activity.

overlapping and mounting tasks, the agency has lined up activities such as development of a volunteer management program, drawing up of a communication and information plan, development of an integrated monitoring and evaluation system, designing a sustainable capacity development plan for AFCs, and the crafting of an AFC handbook.

In the workshop held in Tagaytay City on November 12-15, 2008, Ms. Auste discussed the need to confront key challenges and further improve the delivery of services to stakeholders. The present agency mission has to be adjusted to realign NAFC's roles and functions and enable it to come up with "answers for tomorrow's questions". She also stressed that "change is not about surviving but it is about thriving and growing. It is not about fixing yesterday's mistakes, nor is it about assigning blame. It is preparing the agency for a new beginning. It is creating our shared future together."

Japanese Officials Visit...from page 7

in the program and guided the Japanese officials and NAFC staff in meeting the Gawad Kalinga beneficiaries.

Aside from organic fertilizer production, other projects implemented in the village are swine fattening, native chicken production, organic vegetable production, propagation of seedlings,

water system for water supply, hollow blocks making, beads making, buy back of excess organic fertilizer and vegetable products and technology transfer in nearby villages/communities.

These projects opened up employment opportunities and generated additional income for the households.

