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### NEA celebrates 45th anniversary

## Petilla cites “Yolanda” as one of NEA’s finest hours



Energy Secretary Carlos Jericho Petilla (inset) speaks before a gathering of EC delegates and stakeholders to honor the efforts of NEA-initiated Task Force Kapatid in rebuilding calamity-hit communities.

In a celebration marking the 45th founding anniversary of the National Electrification Administration (NEA), Energy Secretary Carlos Jericho L. Petilla said “Yolanda” was one of NEA’s finest hours, after seeing the Agency’s display of boldness and competence during the onslaught of the super typhoon.

In the event, Secretary Petilla also underscored the crucial role played by the Agency-initiated Task Force Kapatid (TFK) in rebuilding calamity-hit communities.

“Every time there are disasters, we count on Task Force Kapatid in reaching out to devastated areas. With the help of different electric coops, it was not their instruments that restored power in these areas. It was their dedication and heroism,” he said.

Secretary Petilla was guest of honor and keynote speaker at the anniversary celebration held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on August 6. The gathering coincided with the 21st NEA-Electric Cooperatives (NEA-ECs) Consultative Conference.

Secretary Petilla also said that the Agency was instrumental not only in facilitating the rehabilitation of damaged electric

distribution systems, but also in bringing back hope to those who were affected by typhoons and other natural calamities.

“You bring back electricity, you bring back hope. And it is only with hope that you can have real rehab,” he emphasized.

The founding anniversary celebration, which gathered over 1,300 EC participants and other invited stakeholders, was described by Secretary Petilla as an “assembly reserved for those who remain steadfast and firm on the united ideals of electrification and service to the people.”

He added that without the “selfless efforts” of the TFK crew, “the reason for celebration would not be as great.”

Meanwhile, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno, who gave a report on the Agency’s accomplishments, said NEA has already served 10.4 million connections, energized a total of 87,515 sitios, and benefitted 51



## NEA, PNOC RC ink MOU on development of renewable energy projects

To explore cooperative ways in which NEA may extend technical and professional assistance to its prospective partners, the Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Philippine National Oil Company Renewables Corporation (PNOC RC) on August 14 at the NEA Building.

The MOU specifically covers agreements on the immediate implementation of PNOC RC's renewable projects where electricity to be generated may be exported to the distribution system of the electric cooperatives (ECs).

ECs, which undertake power distribution on an area coverage basis, fall under the regulatory and supervisory authority of NEA.

Under the MOU, each Party shall remain the sole owner of all industrial property rights, technical data, know-how, designs, specifications, and the like generated or acquired before the



Administrator Edita Bueno (4th from L), together with PNOC RC President and CEO Carlos Jose Gatmaitan (5th from L) and DA Edgardo Piamonte (3rd from L), holds up signed MOU aimed at facilitating the development of renewable energy projects in the country. With her are (from left) ORED Engr. Jayson Corpuz and ORED OIC Engr. Ernesto Silvano, Jr., PNOC RC Legal Chief Legal Officer Atty. Josephine Cui, Legal Officers Atty. Alvin Balagbag and Atty. Arolf Empino-Suyom, and PNOC RC Business Development Manager Pamela Cea-Borlaza.

signature or beyond the scope of the MOU.

The MOU signing was led by NEA Administrator Edita Bueno and PNOC RC President and CEO Carlos Jose Gatmaitan.

Also present in the signing were NEA Deputy Administrator for Electric Distribution Utilities Services Edgardo Piamonte and staff of the Agency's Office of Renewable

Energy Development (ORED).

ORED facilitates the development of renewable energy-based power generation with the ECs by extending assistance on Technical Engineering and Environmental and Social Project Development.

Created in November 2013, the Office is also mandated to provide commercial advice for the entire process of project development.

## Program scholars convene for Energy Efficient Buildings Workshop



countries to participate in the Energy Efficient Buildings Workshop held on September 2-4 in Singapore.

The workshop, organized under the US-Asia Pacific Comprehensive Energy Partnership (USACEP) and the US-Singapore Third Country Training Programme (TCTP), sought to broaden understanding of the framework for energy efficient buildings by bringing in officials from the sectors of policy development, finance, and research and technology to discuss pro-active approaches in saving energy.

Best practices from the sectors were shared during the workshop to identify common programs and solutions that could be developed to

enhance Public-Private Partnership in Green Building Movement in the ASEAN region.

Participating countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Director Rivera recommended incorporating the same program in the 2015 NEA Training Calendar.

She said the program will not only help promote energy management awareness among NEA employees and electric cooperatives (EC) personnel, but also put in place a system that is both sensitive to the needs of men and the environment.

To identify policy gaps and conduct policy mapping for the enhancement of existing framework on energy efficiency for the building sector, Office for Corporate and Electric Cooperatives Training (OCET) Director Nora Rivera joined 33 other program scholars from eight ASEAN

## Reportorial Requirements briefings for ECs conducted



ITCSD Director Ana Rosa Papa (inset) discusses with EC participants the guidelines on the submission of Reportorial Requirements for the Integrated Assessment Report.

As basis for the monitoring and assessment of the operational efficiency and service reliability of electric cooperatives (ECs) nationwide, NEA has continued to facilitate a series of briefings and consultations with the ECs on the policies, rules, and guidelines pertinent to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10531, otherwise known as the National Electrification Reform Act of 2013.

The consultation sessions are part of the measures enforced by the Agency to familiarize the ECs on the specific guidelines governing Reportorial Requirements for the Integrated Assessment Report.

The provision on reportorial requirements is set forth in Chapter III, Section 12 of RA 10531 in relation to Rule II, Section 5 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), which

provides that NEA shall ensure that all ECs comply with the timely submission of these reportorial requirements.

Regional consultation sessions for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao ECs were held last March to June this year, while ECs registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) were given a briefing on July 14. In the External Auditors Forum held on July 23, these prescribed requirements were also discussed.

Senior staff from different monitoring offices of NEA served as resource speakers during the consultation sessions.

Among the requirements for submission include Status of Energization, Monthly Institutional Report, Performance Standard Monitoring Report, Monthly Engineering Report, and Monthly Financial and Statistical Reports.

Incorporated as attachments to these monthly requirements include Monthly Summary of Complaints, Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) and

► REPORTORIAL/8

## Gensets loan facility for Mindanao ECs established

Consistent with the objective of the Modular Generator Sets (Gensets) Program to provide relief to franchise areas of Mindanao electric cooperatives (ECs) with power deficit, a loan facility was established by NEA for Mindanao ECs participating in the program.

The establishment of loan facility is among the mitigating measures instituted by the Department of Energy, while it awaits the power situation in the region to stabilize.

In the memorandum released by NEA, the loan policy states that the amount of loan to be granted to

participating ECs shall be equivalent to the cost of gensets to be acquired.

Terms and conditions of the loan policy include interest rate of six percent or less per annum, 10% default charge per annum, maximum of 15 years repayment period, and two years grace period.

Additionally, the guidelines state that the EC has the option to return the gensets once power generation projects come online by 2015.

In case of rescission of the contract of loans due to pretermination, the guidelines state that any difference

between the appraised value and the outstanding loan of the EC shall be for the account of the EC.

A total amount of P4.5 billion shall be sourced from the DOE-Special Account in the General Fund, specifically from Gas-Malampaya Revenue, as funding for the program.

Meanwhile, the operation and maintenance of the gensets shall be the responsibility of the EC or a third party.

The Agency shall likewise assist the ECs in the preparation and filing of petition before the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for cost recovery.

# NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION

## NEA opens doors to its kapitbahay



Outreach Program Committee Co-Chair Nelia Cecilio, together with other committee members, hands bags of grocery items to beneficiaries. A total of 150 families were identified program beneficiaries.

Guided by the spirit of generosity, NEA marked its month-long 45th Foundation Anniversary celebration by opening its doors to its kapitbahay on August 8 for the holding of the Agency's Outreach Program.

NEA's kapitbahay refers to the community located across NEA building.

This year, a total of 150 families were identified beneficiaries of the Outreach Program.

## New NEA 'Idol' named

NEA has a new Singing Idol in Mark Exequiel Ablen of the Engineering Department.



Mark Exequiel Ablen delivers his winning performance during the NEA Idol: The Voice Contest.

Distribution of grocery items to beneficiaries was led by Outreach Program Committee Chair Diana San Luis and Co-Chairs Nelia Cecilio and Mercedita Carandang.

Meanwhile, Barangay Captain Jun Lipnico of Barangay Pinyahan assisted the committee in identifying families of highest priority.

The NEA's Outreach Program has been running for 13 years now, and is part of the Agency's commitment to

Turning the HES Auditorium into a real concert stage, Ablen bested other seven hopefuls after delivering a powerful yet poignant performance of "Isang Pangarap," originally sung by Martin Nievera.

Clinching the 1st runner-up distinction was "Pakbet ni Ate," a musical group composed of Speed Reyes, Fatima Calata, Monique Gutierrez, and James Buenafe of the Accelerated Total Electrification Office (ATEO), while Rafael Barrientos of the Public Affairs Office was named 2nd runner-up.

Meanwhile, consolation prizes went to Rennel L. Jalimbawa of ATEO, Eric

Corporate Social Responsibility.

Meanwhile, Oscar-nominated *Frozen* was chosen as this year's movie feature for the annual Cinema Watch.

Cinema Watch is an activity organized for the benefit of NEA kapitbahay kids.

During the film viewing, the HES Auditorium packed a total of 276 kids aged six to 13 years old, who were likewise given snacks and tokens.

► KAPITBAHAY/8



Kapitbahay kids flash their smiles after watching *Frozen* during the 2014 Cinema Watch.

## NEA joins RE exhibit

To intensify awareness on the Rural Electrification Program (REP), NEA participated in the 2014 Exhibition on Rural Electrification held on August 7 and 8 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City.

The information booth of the Agency stood as a testament to its 45 years of electrifying the archipelago, with trivia spanning from the status and milestones of REP to NEA's notable achievements.

The exhibit was sponsored by the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc. (PHILRECA).

► IDOL/8

# AWARENESS MONTH

## NEA campaigns for health and wellness

To promote an active lifestyle and raise health consciousness among individuals, NEA employees were treated to a series of wellness activities as part of the Agency's 45th Foundation Anniversary celebration.

### Food Bazaar

One of the initial activities conducted in celebration of the anniversary was the food bazaar held on August 4-5 at the Visitor's Lounge, NEA Building.



Administrator Bueno, together with NEA officials, visits stalls at the NEA 2014 Food Bazaar.

A joint project with 21 electric cooperatives (ECs) from Luzon and Mindanao, the bazaar boasted a wide range of delicacies, food products, and handicrafts specific to the provinces of ECs.

The ECs that participated in the bazaar included Inec, Iseco, Iselco I, Cagelco I, Beneco, Kaelco, Tarelco II, Batelec I and II, Zameco II, Socoteco I and II, Sukelco, Cotelco, Dasureco, Doreco, Laneco, Buseco, Fibeco, and Moresco I and II.

The food bazaar was organized by the Institutional Development Department (IDD).

### Wellness Fair and Forum

A Wellness Fair and Forum was likewise held on August 28 at the HES Auditorium.

▶ HEALTH/7

## Young Gen NEAns bag dance tilt championship



Members of the winning dance group, W.A.F. (We Are Famous)

A new crop of NEAns is threatening to shake the old ramparts, at least in the entertainment scene, after the group W.A.F. (We Are Famous), composed of young generation NEAns - Raffy Barrientos, Quiel Ablen, Jayson Corpuz, Rexon Argana, Juan Carlos Santos, Dominique Tamayo, Ethel Cenal, and Rina Tayco, bagged the championship title in the "So, You Think You Can Dance?" Contest.

Held on August 27, the dance contest saw a jampacked HES Auditorium, and was considered one of the well-attended events for the month.

Meanwhile, "Hot Mommas' Boys" was named 1st runner-up, while "Power Movers Reloaded" and "AMGD's Treasures" bagged 2nd runner-up and 3rd runner-up distinctions, respectively.

The board of judges was composed of celebrity dancers and stage performers Maria Lucille Castañas, Lucy Cardiente, and Betty La Fea.

The United NEA Employees Association organized "So, You Think You Can Dance?" with Thess Martinez as Chair and Jovani Lagon as Co-Chair.

▶ PLANTING/7

## Planting the Future by Irene C. Martin

As part of the government's National Greening Program, NEA, spearheaded by its Section Chiefs Association (SCAN) and in cooperation with the ECs, has been conducting a tree planting activity since 2011. This year, it was conducted on August 29 at Barangay Nauzon in Laur, Nueva Ecija with the assistance of the Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. - Area 2 (Neeeco II - Area 2).

On our way to the planting site, we were told that not even bad weather could stop the activity from proceeding as planned.

Upon reaching Barangay Nauzon, Neeeco II - Area 2 prepared a small program to jumpstart the activity. With us were representatives from

the DENR, AFP, and members of the Board of Directors, officers and employees of the cooperative.

A ceremonial tree planting soon followed before the six-kilometer trek began. But the 45-minute walk, which, we had been told the entire trek would take, turned out to be a two-hour negotiation through a mud-splattered trail which would occasionally rise to a 45-degree



## NEA sends delegates to internat'l electric fair, signs MOU with Korea-based systems integrator

In a move to expand NEA's sphere of network with international electric distribution industry players, NEA Acting Deputy Administrator for Corporate Resources and Financial Services Sonia San Diego and Engr. Federico Villar, Jr. participated in the 2014 Seoul International Electric Fair (SIEF 2014) held last September 23-26 in Goyang, Korea.

SIEF is an international trade event which gathers various companies around the world and showcases a wide range of electrical products and equipment such as transformers, generators, motors, conductors, wires, and cables for electrical use.

While in Korea, the NEA delegates also took the opportunity to visit transformer and conductor manufacturing plants outside Seoul.

According to Acting Deputy Administrator San Diego, "attendance in the exhibit was a learning process for me. Indeed, there is a wide choice of electrical supplies and equipment



Acting Deputy Administrator for Corporate Resources and Financial Services Sonia San Diego (second from L) and Engr. Federico Villar, Jr. (leftmost), together with Topinfrasolar's Dr. Young Mook Lim (second from R) and Managing Director Kyoung-Min No (rightmost), present the signed MOU for the donation of a five-kW photovoltaic system to NEA.

the electric cooperatives may avail of and use to improve their operational efficiency."

"Exhibitions like this give the coops an opportunity to choose the best quality products at the least cost possible," she added.

She, likewise, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Korea-based Topinfrasolar Co., Ltd. for the installation of a five-kW photovoltaic

system at the rooftop of the NEA building.

The donation is expected to increase the level of familiarity of NEA engineers in the installation, operation, and maintenance of the equipment.

NEA's participation in the event was made possible through the Korean Electrical Manufacturers Association (KOEMA).

## NEA clinches Outstanding Accounting Office award

NEA has been recognized by the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines (AGAP), Inc. as one of this year's Outstanding Accounting Offices.

The Agency is one of the two government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) which received the distinction this year.

According to AGAP, the recognition is given to the Agency's accounting office for the quality, timeliness, and accuracy of its financial reports for Fiscal Year 2013.

NEA Administrator Edita Bueno said for her part that the award is an acknowledgment of the Agency's efforts to observe efficiency and transparency in accounting processes to continue Pres. Benigno Aquino III's measures on fiscal reform.

"As an Agency committed to the ideals of public service and good governance, we need to ensure that every peso that went into the rural electrification program was well-spent," she said.

She added that "all government

programs, if they are to succeed and in the long run be effective and sustainable, are ultimately supported by wise spending and accounting of money."

The awarding rites will be held during the opening day ceremonies of the AGAP convention-seminar at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, Baguio City, on October 21.

The award was made through the recommendation of the Commission on Audit (COA).

**Health... from 5**



*A NEA employee gets his blood pressure monitored during the Wellness Fair.*

The fair included a laughter yoga led by Mr. Paulo Trinidad and a discussion on “Wellness and Gender Sexuality” by Dr. Ma. Lourdes Marquez. It culminated with a Zumba workout led by Mr. Erick Matias.

As in previous years, Visually Impaired Society provided therapeutic massage to interested employees.

Also available during the whole-day affair were various booths catering to free eye check-up, blood pressure monitoring, and beauty, health, and therapy products.

The services were provided by nine exhibitors including Bioessence, Isles Optical, Glaxo Smith Kline, Living Power International Corporation, Health and Life Marketing, Westmont Pharmaceuticals, Barbra Pearls, Mary Kay, Noah Pure, and Del Monte.

The Wellness Fair and Forum saw a total of 201 attendees. It was organized by the Human Resources and Management Division (HRMD).

**Sportsfest**

August also saw a rush of adrenalin



*Blue Team upsets Yellow Team in a basketball match held at the NEA Basketball Court.*



*Chess players outwit each other in a series of matches held at the PGD Library, NEA Building.*

in the Agency, as several NEA employees and manpower from the Development Bank of the Philippines Service Corporation (DBPSC); Employees’ Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EMPC), and Lifeguard Security Agency (LSA) went neck and neck to clinch championship titles in the game divisions of basketball, volleyball, table tennis, darts, and chess.

Champions for the game divisions include Blue Team (basketball), EDUS (volleyball, men), HAFI

▶ HEALTH/8

**Planting... from 5**

angle. Several times I had to keep a steady stance to avoid slipping completely. We even had to cross two streams to reach the top.

Halfway through the trek, I felt like giving up because I was really exhausted. I was thinking of resting for a while, but I could not find a place to sit in since every area was either wet or covered with mud. So I walked faster instead to get to the top and rest.

When I finally made it, I was surprised to know that I was the fifth to arrive among all those who hiked and the first among the women. As I was planting my sapling, I could not help whispering to it, “Please stay alive because I went to great lengths just to plant you.”

As we were waiting for the others to arrive, the rain poured heavier and the wind blew stronger. Neeco II – Area 2 General Manager Ramon De Vera and SCAN Chairman Eric Villar then decided not to wait for the others and instructed us to head back to the coop headquarters. On our way back, we met the others who were still trying their best to get to the top, but were otherwise instructed to turn around because it was already dangerous.

Out of the 130 NEA employees who participated in the activity, only around 50 of us were able to plant the saplings.

This year may have been the hardest of all the tree planting activities, but this was definitely the most fulfilling.





**Yolanda . . .** from 1

million Filipinos since it was established.

Administrator Bueno also reported that for the Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) under President Benigno Aquino III's term, NEA already completed 16,467 sitios or 50.7% of the 32,441 target.

For the project, the Aquino Administration has so far released a total of P22.5 billion to energize sitios as a means to accelerate infrastructure development and jumpstart rural enterprises.

Administrator Bueno said total funds released to the agency is unprecedented because "in no history of NEA has there been so much subsidy funds entrusted to NEA by a single president."

The founding anniversary celebration also saw the switch-on ceremony for the 10-millionth consumer connection.

Taking part in the ceremony was the family of Elena Lagumbay of Brgy. Dumagocdoc, Bato, Leyte, identified as recipient of the 10 millionth consumer connection.

**Kapitbahay. . .** from 4

The activity was made possible through the generosity of NEA employees who sponsored the kids by providing P50 per child.

The 2014 Cinema Watch was spearheaded by Information Technology and Communications Services Department (ITCSD) Director Ana Rosa Papa, with Lovejoy Donato Fernandez as Committee Chair.

**Idol . . .** from 5

Caimor and Manuel DC. Ulayan, Jr. of Lifeguard Security Agency (LSA), and Russel Delos Santos of the Office for Renewable Energy Development (ORED).

This year's judges included Information Technology and System Development Division (ITSD) Manager and Lights and Sounds (L & S) Member Shirley Salvador, actor and celebrity Cecilio Aldaba, and musician Orencio Venida.

"NEA Idol: The Voice Contest" was organized and facilitated by the NEA L & S Chorale with Rosarita Salvador as Chair and Margie Calma as Co-Chair.

According to Ms. Salvador, the contest is an exciting venue for NEA staff and personnel to come together and immerse in the universal language that is music.

**Reportorial . . .** from 3

Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), Monthly Report on Compliance with the Philippine Grid and Distribution Codes, and Quarterly Report on New Power Supply Contract.

Meanwhile, different strategies were identified during the sessions to enforce compliance of ECs with the policy.

Some of these include: 1. formulation of a process flow, 2. identification of deadlines, 3. assignment of an electronic mail address for online submission of reports, 4. designation of an RA 10531 compliance officer, 5. development of uniform format and filename, and 6. development of a portal on the Agency's website for issuances related to reportorial requirements.

Furthermore, it was recommended to develop an online unified reporting system for requirement submission.

**Health . . .** from 7

(volleyball, women), Ryan Mirasol (darts, singles), Efren Marcelino and Leo Paglinawan (darts, doubles), and Al Bernard Bautista (chess).

The sportsfest was spearheaded by the Employee Union, SAMA-KAREN, with Cesar Faeldon as Chair and Jun Laxa as Overall Coordinator.

According to Administrator Bueno, the wellness activities form part of NEA's initiatives to promote an agency that puts premium on the health of its members.



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