



NEA Cited for Public Governance



The PGS-Initiated Award of NEA from the Institute of Solidarity in Asia. (Inset) Administrator Edita Bueno (4th from left) and members of the NEA Assembly and Council of Leaders receive the award at the Sofitel Hotel in Manila, 30 August 2007.

The Institute for Solidarity in Asia [ISA], in coordination with the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) cited NEA as “PGS-Initiated” based on its program designed to gauge the quality of its governance. The PGS-Initiated Award was received by Administrator Edita S. Bueno during the ISA Forum at the Sofitel Hotel in Manila last August 30, 2007.

The ISA was established to improve public governance through citizen participation. The institute promotes sharing of positive experiences among communities in East Asia. A balanced scorecard that lists key result areas for good governance is issued to check the performance of local governments including public institutions.

The Philippine Governance System [PGS]-Initiated means that an organization has responded to the parameters in the institute’s program. At this stage, it is working with the institute to begin executing its development plans. There are four levels or grades under the system, the “PGS-Initiated” being the 1st level. The 2nd level is the “PGS-Compliant”, which means that the

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Secretary Reyes Takes Over the Energy Reins

Visits NEA on 1st Day of Office

Newly appointed Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes took over the Department of Energy from outgoing Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla in a simple ceremony held at the DOE-Audio Visual Room in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City last July 31, 2007. With the turn over of the Energy post, Secretary Reyes also assumes the Chairmanship of the NEA.

In his acceptance speech, Secretary Reyes vowed to continue the government’s energy program, with rural electrification under NEA and its partner 119 Electric Cooperatives, and supported the move to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 with the aim of reducing the electric power

rate. He also vowed to fast-track the implementation of the country’s biofuels program and develop alternative energy sources like natural gas, solar and wind power.

“We can expect a surge of investments in the country’s biofuels sector, with the recent passage of the Biofuels Act of 2006.



Changing of Guards: Outgoing Secretary Lotilla turns over the Chief Energy post to Incoming Secretary Reyes at the Energy Center in Taguig City, 31 July 2007.

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Rural Electrification Shines in PGMA's Pulong Bayan

Rural electrification was the highlight of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Brgy. Tawala, Panglao in Bohol last August 23, 2007 for the conduct of the President's "Pulong Bayan". Electricity for all is one of the President's top priority programs, which she vowed to bestow, among others, as a legacy to the Filipino people. President Arroyo led a ceremonial switch-on in the household of a Boholano farmer, Emeriano Loretero, witnessed by both national and local officials.

"What we did was just a ceremonial switch-on because the BOHECOs have already attained 100% barangay energization since 2004. But this is what we commit to do, that by 2009 government will finally conquer darkness with the attainment of a 100% barangay electrification rate, just like what the BOHECOs did for Bohol," said President Arroyo to the eager crowd of Boholanos.

She congratulated BOHECO General Manager Carlos B. Itable for the consistent and most outstanding performance of the two power coops under his watch. She also stressed NEA's indispensable role in the implementation of the electrification program. For her part, NEA Administrator Edita Bueno reported to the President BOHECO's single digit systems loss and its 100% status for sitio energization. She also mentioned to the people of Panglao, Bohol and to everyone hooked up in the broadcast media about the nation's 95% status of barangay electrification, emphasizing that much has been done for energizing the countryside since President Arroyo assumed office in 2001, when the status was 81% then.

The President commended NEA and the 119 ECs, for an effective impact of the Rural Electrification (RE) Program in the countryside. The economic uplift, industrial dispersal, increased employment and livelihood opportunities, better education and health services, improved peace and order condition, upgraded communication facilities, technology innovation, and enhanced tourism industry are but a few benefits of electrification in the rural areas.

The President also talked about the 2007 budget allocation of P1.452 billion to fund the fast tracking of barangay energization around the country. For 2008, the DOE has an allotment of P200 million while NEA will get some additional P300 million budget for the ECs.

"Thanks to the tax reforms that we've implemented - we have money to complete our Rural Electrification Program", the President said.

Likewise, President Arroyo also informed the public officials and everyone present that she was to issue an Administrative Order declaring 13 areas where geothermal power is sourced as special economic zones. She said that this move would entice more power producers to invest in the country, which will eventually lead to lower power rates for the consumers. The



President Arroyo switching on the lights of the house of farmer-beneficiary Emeriano Loretero in Panglao, Bohol while Administrator Bueno and Congressman Chatto look on - August 23, 2007.

President stressed that economic development is the government's weapon not only to eradicate poverty but also to counter terrorism, in reference to the Local Peace and Security Assembly being held also there during the Bohol visit.

"We will continue to fight terrorism while working for peace and progress in the country," President Arroyo said.

A resident took the opportunity to thank the President for the electrification program saying that in the 36 years of her life she only witnessed having electricity in their barangay five years ago. The Brgy. Tawala Chairman also spoke of gratefulness for the President's efforts in rural electrification and at the same time made an appeal that they may have light in their homes but their streets are still covered in darkness due to the absence of streetlights. In reply, President Arroyo tasked Tourism Secretary Ace Durano to sponsor the street lighting for the barangay on the ground that the province's tourism program is booming, which received a warm applause from the crowd.

With the President were some of her Cabinet Secretaries like Cerge Remonde of PMS, Ace Durano of Tourism, Norberto Gonzales of the National Security Council and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. AFP Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon and PNP Chief Oscar Calderon were also present as they were attending the peace assembly with other LGU officials from around the country led by Bohol Governor and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) national president Erico Aumentado. The three congressional representatives of Bohol were also with the President in the said activity.



PGMA Names NEA as Member of Bicol CARE Commission

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo named the NEA member of the Bicol Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Effort (CARE) Commission through Executive Order No. 634 issued last July 3, 2007.

In a meeting with her Cabinet Officials in Legazpi, Albay, which coincided with the oath-taking of newly-elected Albay Governor (erstwhile Presidential Chief of Staff and Albay III District Congressman) Joey Salceda, President Arroyo announced the creation of the Bicol CARE Commission with the mandate to "integrate relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, recovery, livelihood and development efforts in the different areas of the Bicol Region particularly affected by typhoons Caloy, Milenyo, and Reming. It shall likewise ensure that public funds allocated for victims of said disasters shall be spent judiciously and effectively through efficient prioritization of programs and consistent monitoring of projects. It shall replace the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) as the clearing house for all claims/requests. Upon consolidation/evaluation, it shall approve the appropriate requests. It shall notify the DBM of its approval as a basis for the release of the fund."

The Commission is composed of the Chairman of the NDCC, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Agrarian Reform, the Secretary of Budget and Management,

the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, the General Manager of NHA, the Chairman of the Region V Development Council and the Administrator of NEA.

A holistic approach is needed in the implementation of government rehabilitation, repair and construction works and activities in order to immediately mitigate the devastation caused by typhoons that hit the country, that is why the Bicol CARE Commission is created to fast-track the on-going rehabilitation in the Region, after the onslaught of super typhoons in the last quarter of 2006. NEA received the sum of P250 out of P500 Million from the DOE for the ECs affected by the aforementioned super typhoons.

Administrator Bueno also met with Board Presidents and General Managers of Region V ECs after the meeting with President Arroyo at the Albay Capitol. She discussed with them the creation of the Bicol CARE Commission and its purpose as well. □

You Can Make It! AESB tells NEECO II-Area 1

"NEECO has NEA's full support in its endeavor to improve its operations and hope that you'll make it so as to be a model for other ECs to follow", Administrator Edita Bueno told the NEECO II Area I member-consumers, Board of Directors, officials and employees during the EC's 31st Foundation Anniversary and 28th Annual Membership Meeting at the Venus Resort in Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija last September 22, 2007.

NEECO II-Area 1 is presently a Category B extra large electric cooperative under the leadership of Ms. Eulalia Castro with Mr. Rey Villanueva as Board President.

In her speech, the Administrator recommended several strategies in order for NEECO to perk up its operational performance. One is the importance of massive information campaign in order for the EC to communicate better to its member-consumers especially on critical issues such as rates. Another is focusing on the reduction of system loss thru cluster metering, installation of substation to improve the flow of electricity and setting-up the right voltage. She also urged them to be current with their accounts with the National Power Corporation.



Administrator Bueno speaks before the attendees of the NEECO II-Area 1 31st Foundation Anniversary and 28th Annual Membership Meeting, September 22, 2007.

As a passionate appeal for reform, she said, "we have only one nation and nobody will love it except ourselves. We help decide the fate of our nation," the Administrator concluded.

The Administrator was joined by Deputy Administrator for Corporate Resources and Financial Services Mariano Cuenco, Public Affairs Office Director Judith Alvarez, Engineering Director Jose Seguban, Jr., Treasury Manager Benita Cuenco, Strategic Planning Manager Francisco Caymo and other NEA employees. □



38th NEA ANNIVERSARY

“SERBISYONG MAY PUSO: ALAY NG NEA SA KOOPERATIBA”



NEA's 38th Foundation Anniversary kicked-off with the holding of the Family Day on July 29, 2007 with this year's theme, "Isang Pamilya sa NEA". Aside from the usual funfare of games, raffles, program and messages from Secretary Francisco Silva and Administrator Edita Bueno, a family picture taking session was held for each attending family and a video presentation of the previous year's family day was shown.

July 30 witnessed the launching of the Frontline Service Operation Handbook, the Green Building Program and the 'Visitors' Lounge, with Administrator Bueno cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Also, a Cinemawatch was held to raise

funds for the benefit of NEA's outreach program. For this activity, NEA employees donated a minimal amount to purchase tickets to sponsor urban poor children in their neighborhood to watch a movie and partake of light snacks.

On July 31st, Secretary Silva conducted a consultative meeting with General Managers and Officers-In-Charge of electric cooperatives to discuss pressing issues and concerns.

The NEA-EC Consultative Conference was held the following day, August 1, where overall performance of NEA and the ECs, EPIRA Compliance and Categorization update were discussed by Administrator Bueno and NEA Directors.



A welcome surprise was the visit of new Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes who addressed the EC participants and gamely sang with them.

The soft opening and groundbreaking ceremony of NEA-EMPC Botika ng Bayan was held on August 2. Secretary Silva and Administrator Bueno cut the ceremonial ribbon and gave inspirational messages. Likewise, a group singing contest was undertaken with contestants coming from the NEA, EMPC, Canteen and Janitorial Services. The foursome, "Cuatro Quintos", composed of Eren Marcelino, Rodolfo Cruz, Archie Enciso and Armando Quintos won first price.

The week was highlighted by the NEA Day Program on August 3 which started with a mass followed by the program proper and ended with a fellowship. The program showcased musical presentations of NEA's sectors, messages from Secretary Silva, Administrator Bueno and Board Member Jose Victor Lobrigo, awarding of contest winners, turn-over of raised funds to the NEA Outreach Program Committee, raffles and serenade of the Lights and Sounds Chorale.

The event culminated with the conduct of a Wellness Program that included a wellness forum, health product presentation and physical check-up/bone scanning. Souvenir items were also distributed that day. □



1st Legal Congress Held to Boost ECs' Competitiveness and Viability

NEA hosted its first ever Legal Congress in Pililia, Rizal on July 23-24, 2007 in order to make the ECs more competitive and financially viable. Secretary Francisco G. Silva, Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification and Judge Bel D. Derayunan, Assistant Government Corporate Counsel, were Guests of Honor and speakers during the occasion.

Administrator Edita S. Bueno, Deputy Administrator John Joseph M. Magtuloy of Legal Services, and Deputy Administrator Pablo M. Pan III of Electric Distribution Utilities Services led the NEA delegation.

Seventy three [73] ECs participated in the congress with 36 general managers, 43 legal counsels, 13 Board of Directors and a host of other EC officers in attendance.

Nine lectures on topics directly affecting the rural electric cooperatives sector were presented and discussed by NEA lawyers. These include Investment Management Contracts, by Atty. Robert John P. Juco; Selected Doctrines regarding the Enforcement Powers of NEA by Atty. Joel B. Arellano; Contracts/Lawyer Agreements/Subtransmission by Atty. Rophel Buenaventura-Juco; Magna Carta/Anti-Pilferage Act by Atty. Ricardo C. Orias, Jr.; Conversion Issues/Aggregator/Retail Electricity Supplier by Atty. May B. Marcos, Tax Remedies by Atty. Edgardo O. Era, Administrative Committee Rules and Election Cases by Atty. Xerxes D. Adzuara; ECs Today: the EC Lawyer's Role and Rates and other ERC Cases/Concerns by Deputy Magtuloy.

Likewise, the forum participants were required to play an active role in the discussion of issues. During the workshops, they were divided into several groups and each group was assigned a particular topic for discussion as Legal Strategies to Reduce Systems Loss due to Pilferage (Group I); Legal



Deputy Administrator for Legal Services, Atty. John Joseph Magtuloy discusses with legal consultants of the electric cooperatives during the Legal Congress.

Approaches to Tax and Conversion Problems (Group II); EC Contracts - Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), Transition Supply Contract (TSC), Lawyer Agreements (Group III); Legal Issues legally tenable in various ERC Cases (Group IV); Labor and Administrative Problems (Group V); Investment Management Contract (IMC) and other private sector participation in RE (Group VI); and Other Legal Strategies/Solutions to enhance competitiveness and viability of ECs (Group VII). Each group was required to translate their proposals into the following categories: (a) issues/concerns; (b) resolutions; and (c) legislative policy/agenda, if necessary. Thereafter, each group's chairperson was required to present their respective output using a powerpoint presentation. □

Secretary Reyes from p. 1

"The DOE is my fourth stop and fourth start in six years But like a good soldier, I'll go wherever the President thinks I can best serve the nation," Secretary Reyes said.

He served as head of the Departments of National Defense, Interior and Local Government, and Environment and Natural Resources, prior to heading

the Energy post. He has spent 45 of his 62 years in government - 39 in the military and 6 in the Cabinet.

Secretary Reyes visited NEA on his first day of assumption of office, where he interacted with NEA and EC officials and employees gathered for the NEA-EC Consultative Conference at HESA. Surprised by the warm welcome, the Secretary sang some of his favorite songs and said: "I feel at home here." □



RE Milestones: Showcase in Power Trends Exhibition

In its thrust to enhance its corporate communication and networking, NEA participated in the 6th International Exhibition and Conference on Trends in Energy, Power and Electrical Technology last 19-21 September 2007 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. NEA is a supporting organization of the Power Trends which was organized by Leverage International, Philippines and Interfarma International, Singapore and hosted by the DOE and the National Power Corporation [NPC].

The biennial event gathered together officials and leaders of the energy agencies and leading international and national companies involved in power, energy and electrical products and services. These included NPC, National Transmission Corporation [TransCo], Philippine Electricity Market Corporation [PEMC], Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], Dept. of Science and Technology [DOST], KEPCO Phils., Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines [REAP], Semirara Mining Corporation, Preferred Energy, Inc. PLDT – DSL biz, Business World, among others.

NEA's exhibit showcased the agency's accomplishments through the years as the prime mover of the Rural Electrification Program, in partnership with the electric cooperatives and its contribution to nation building. A documentation of the Task Force Kapatid Program's service to the Filipino people especially in times of calamities and disasters was also displayed.

DOE Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, who is also the current Chairman of the NEA Board of Administrators, was Guest of Honor and Speaker during



DOE Secretary Angelo Reyes visits the NEA booth at the World Trade Center in Pasay City last September 19, 2007.

the opening ceremonies while DOE Assistant Secretary Matanog Mapandi cut the ceremonial ribbon.

NEA's participation to the Power Trends was facilitated by the Public Affairs Office in cooperation with the Data Center. □

Public Governance from p. 1

concerned agency is implementing its program in earnest. The 3rd level, the "PGS-Proficient", means that the agency is on target for meeting its stated objectives. The highest level is the "PGS-Institutionalized" whereby the entity is successful in meeting the objectives for development. Aside from NEA, only two other public institutions were proclaimed to various pathways such as the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA).

ISA and ICD President, Former Finance Secretary Estanislao, said in his congratulatory

speech to the awardees, the program "is more than just a pat on the back of those who did well. It seeks to drive more citizens, communities and institutions towards the governance pathway, where there are no shortcuts, no detours and no defined finish line. Building the nation is a shared journey."

Previously, Administrator Bueno, together with NEA Board Members Wilfred Billena and Jose Victor Lobrigo, had attended the Professional Directors Program and had passed the examination for the Education and Examination requirements of the ICD Certification Program. □



NEA's Identity Strengthened in the Civil Service Commission's Celebration of its 107th Anniversary

NEA joined the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in celebrating its 107th Anniversary. One of the highlights of the occasion is the Public Service Delivery Audit/Assistance (PASADA) Awards Ceremony wherein CSC honored and gave due recognition to the various government agencies and local government units (LGUs) that provided commendable frontline services. It was held at the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Commissioned Officers Country (AFPCOC), Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City last September 18, 2007.

Some twenty (20) NEA officials and employees including the Lights and Sounds Chorale members attended and participated in the said affair.

CSC Chair Karina Constantino-David served as Keynote Speaker and discussed the importance of the bureaucracy and the people who composed it in nation building. She said, "I believe that when we stop treating the bureaucracy as though it was marked of kingdoms and domains, when we start respecting the bureaucracy, because it's the bureaucracy that is a continuing threat in any kind of governance, only then will this country develop". She ended her speech with the challenge, saying that "if only those 1.4 million people/public servants can get their acts together, this country will not only survive, it will put this country, with the brilliance of our people, in the place it deserves in the world". Other CSC activities where NEA participated include the Cultural Program/Awarding Ceremony for Outstanding Government Officials and Employees at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Convention of Career Executive Officers (CEOs) and Conferment of CEO Rank at the Philippine International Convention Center on September 17 and 22, 2007, respectively.



The Lights and Sounds Chorale renders entertainment number during the CSC Anniversary Celebration at the AFPCOC in Camp Aguinaldo last September 18, 2007. CSC Chairperson Karina David (inset) served as keynote speaker during the event.

Meanwhile, the L & S Chorale, the agency's ambassadors of goodwill, rendered songs that add color and meaning to the said event. Its participation is part of NEA's mission to reach out to the greater public and establish strong network linkages with other organizations such as the CSC.

Getting the P.U.L.S.E.

One of the many practices that the NEA management has advocated is the promotion of an **Out of the Box/Lateral Thinking**. Thus in July 2007, NEA's **Council of Leaders (Association Presidents)**, in cooperation with the **Human Resources and Administration Department (HRAD)**, has launched the **People's United Leadership for Service Excellence or P.U.L.S.E.**

This mechanism serves as the venue for encouraging active participation of employees to generate creative/innovative, out of the box ideas for continuous improvement in the workplace. It is also aimed at effecting organizational effectiveness, job enrichment, as well as sustainability of positive corporate culture and managing relationship. Various activities will be included/facilitated in getting the employees' "pulse beat" such as the (1) Regular association meetings, (2) Agenda for HESA through a NEA PULSE HOUR" and (3) NEA Organization-Wide Monthly Calendar.

To take off, initial recommendations to the P.U.L.S.E. were discussed and processed, focusing on certain issues such as the status on ECs' conversion, responsibility center on pressing matters, and suggestions for Lights and Sounds Chorale as well as Employees' Lounge. Comments and suggestions could be sent by email, text or letter.

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