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The Official Newsletter of the National Electrification Administration
Volume IV No. 4 Quezon City October - December 2007

Secretary Reyes Taps Malampaya Fund to Accelerate Barangay Energization

Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has approved the release of P180 million, part of the Malampaya Fund, for the energization of barangays specifically those situated in the 11 poorest provinces * in the country. This is the first time that utilization of the fund was channeled to NEA for the Rural Electrification Program (REP). The Energy Chief handed-over the check to Administrator Edita S. Bueno during the opening ceremonies of the National Energy Week (NEW) at the Department of Energy in Fort Bonifacio last December 17, 2007.

"NEA, as the prime mover of the country's REP, welcomes the move since total barangay energization has been committed by the Arroyo Administration by 2009. It is imperative to electrify all these barangays, no matter how critically situated they are, to spread the benefits that electrification brings to more Filipinos", Administrator Bueno said. As of December 31, 2007, there are 1,348 unenergized barangays within the electric cooperatives' franchise areas.

Alongside the awarding of checks, the Energy Chief led in the conduct of the Feasibility Turn-Over and Ceremonial MOU Signing among Department of Energy (DOE)-Local Government Unit Guarantee Corporation (LGUGC) and ECs on the Electric Cooperatives System Loss Reduction Program Partial Credit Guarantee Program (with BATELEC I



(Top photo) DOE Secretary Angelo Reyes awards the check amounting to P180 million from the proceeds of the Malampaya Fund to NEA Administrator Edita Bueno during the opening ceremonies of the National Energy Week at the DOE Compound in Taguig City last December 17, 2007. Also present during the occasion are PNOC-EDC President Paul Aquino (leftmost) and NPC President Cyril Del Callar (extreme right). (Below right) Secretary Reyes hands-over compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) to NEA through GSD Manager Valeriano Infante during the ceremonial exchange of incandescent bulbs into CFLs by government agencies and corporations. (Below left) The Heads of the Energy Family agencies during the press conference.

* 11 Poorest Provinces

1. Masbate
2. Zamboanga del Norte
3. Lanao del Norte
4. Maguindanao
5. Shariff Kabunsuan
6. Agusan del Sur
7. Misamis Occidental
8. Surigao del Sur
9. Dinagat
10. Mt. Province
11. Biliran

Source: Presidential Management Staff (PMS)

and ISECO among the parties); Ceremonial Exchange of Incandescent Bulbs into Compact Fluorescent Lamps by Government Agencies and Corporations; Presentation and Symbolic Turn-over Ceremonies of "Word on RE"; and Press Conference where the members of the print and broadcast media interviewed Secretary Reyes, Administrator Bueno, NPC President Cyril Del Callar, PNOC-EDC

President Paul Aquino; TransCo President Arthur Aguilar and PNOC President Antonio Cailao on energy related issues most especially on new and renewable energy. The theme for the NEW 2007 was "Fuelling Philippine Development through Greater Access to Clean Energy".

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NEA's Best Practices Open Pathways to Pursue Public Governance System

NEA will pursue the Public Governance System (PGS) to strengthen its infrastructure and culture of good governance for responsible citizenship. The NEA Board of Administrators approved this move during the Board Meeting last October 30, 2007. Secretary Angelo Reyes, NEA's Board Chair said "it is in line with the thrust to enhance competitiveness within the Energy Sector". This followed after NEA was cited for quality public governance by the Institute of Solidarity in Asia (ISA) and the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) last August.

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.

NEA has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the ISA to undertake the PGS process. This program will give NEA pathways for long and short term roadmaps; optimize risk management capabilities; validate adherence to policies and procedures; enhance performance and competency level; reinforce corporate image and organization credibility; nurture stakeholders' program ownership and contribution; and strengthen advocacy to fairness, transparency and accountability.

Previously, a multi-disciplinary Technical Working Group on Corporate Governance was formed by Administrator Edita S. Bueno to facilitate among others, the SWOT analysis and review of NEA's charter statement (values, mission and vision) following guidelines provided by ISA, draft the Charter Statement, Roadmap and Scorecard adopting the PGS as the institutionalized governance framework and set targets for all scorecards for the first year of implementation of PGS.

A working session with the ISA, the Public Governance Seminar, was undertaken on November 20-21, 2007 at the H.E.S. Auditorium to prepare NEA's PGS roadmap and scorecard; draw sectoral commitments to support the roadmap and draft subsidiary roadmaps. It was participated in by NEA's PGS Technical Working Group, Assembly of Leaders, Council of Leaders, SAMA-KAREN Officers, Representatives from the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (PHILRECA), National Association of EC General Managers (NAGMEC), EC's Multi-Sectoral Advisory Council (MSEAC), Officers of the National Solidarity of Associations (NSA) and National Solidarity of Unions (NSU). Speakers and facilitators from ISA include Dr. Paul Dumol, Dr. Nick Fontanilla and Mr. Christian Saenz.

The TWG is chaired by Director Diana San Luis of Human Resources and Administration (HRAD) as focal person and co-chaired by Director Adolben Flores of Management Assistance Group-Supervisory and Assessment Office (MAG-SAO). Other members of the TWG include Directors Judith Alferez (Media Liaison Officer); Leila Bonifacio; Sonia San Diego; Roderick Padua; Milagros Quinajon; Consolacion Balderas; Corporate Secretary Nollie Allamillo; Mngr. Francisco Caymo and Jona Andai with Nelia Cecilio and Lino Vermudo as Secretariat. Deputy Administrator Mariano T. Cuenco serves as the oversight of the PGS. □



The Technical Working Group for the Public Governance System pose for the traditional photo ops after the working session with the Institute of Solidarity in Asia. Seating L-R: Dr. Judith Alferez, Dr. Diana San Luis, DA Mariano Cuenco, Mr. Chris Saenz and Dr. Nick Fontanilla of ISA, DA Bert Barrig and Dr. Ben Flores (backrow); Ms. Nelia Cecilio, Mngr. Francisco Caymo, Dr. Leila Bonifacio, Dr. Consolacion Balderas, Mr. Lino Vermudo, Ms. Jona Andai & CorSec, Nollie Allamillo.

Goodwill Visits Enhance NEA and ECs Partnership

Eight electric cooperatives (ECs) welcomed Presidential Adviser on Rural Electrification (PARE) Secretary Francisco G. Silva, National Electrification Administration (NEA) Administrator Edita S. Bueno, and their entourage during the goodwill visits held last December 13, 14, 19 and 28, 2007 to different EC headquarters.

The Tarlac I and II Electric Cooperatives (TARELCO I and TARELCO II), and the La Union Electric Cooperative (LUELCO) had a taste of NEA's supervisory functions on the lighter side through the goodwill visit on the 13th, the Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) and the Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative (CENPELCO) on the 14th, the First Laguna Electric Cooperative (FLECO) on the 19th, and the Pampanga I and II Electric Cooperatives (PELCO I and PELCO II) on the 28th.

EC employees had a dialogue with the Secretary and the Administrator along with their respective Board Officers and NEA officials, to report on the performance status of their operation.



PARE Sec. Silva, Board Member Khinghuan and Administrator Bueno together with other NEA officials during the supervisory visits to (clockwise) FLECO, TARELCO II, PELCO II and LUELCO in December 2007.



Strategic Realignment Highlights Planning Sessions for 2008

In consonance with its practice of collective leadership, the NEA has redefined its pathway for good corporate governance for 2008 and beyond, through the conduct of a series of strategic planning sessions with the agency's Assembly of Leaders, Council of Leaders and section heads.

The strategic planning sessions kicked-off with the conduct of the Section Chiefs Strategic/Association Leaders Exercise (SCALE) on November 9, 2007. This activity generated the section heads' perceived issues that need to be tackled and their respective recommendations in addressing these issues.

The SCALE output was taken into consideration when the Assembly of Leaders (composed of the Administrator, the Deputies, the directors and the managers and heads of office) and the Council of Leaders (composed of presidents of the NEA union and associations) undertook a Strategic Thinking/Planning Conference-Workshop last December 6-8 and 18-19 in Tagaytay City.

For the 2nd consecutive year, Secretary Francisco G. Silva, graced the activity to lend his expertise and insights, and made suggestions on the issues raised for discussion and those which needed resolutions. Administrator Edita S. Bueno delivered the "State of NEA" report and provided management direction while the Deputy Administrators discussed their sector's accomplishments for 2007 and outlook for 2008.

The specific issues/concerns during the conference-workshop focused on 10 areas: (1) Networking; (2) Electrification; (3) Legal Concerns; (4) System Loss; (5) Retail Competition and Open Access/Distribution and Grid Codes; (6) Options for Bicol & ARMM ECs; (7) NEA Restructuring, Employees' Salaries and Benefits/Infrastructure Upgrading; (8) NPC SPUG Concerns; (9) NEA Loan Facilities; and (10) NEA/



(L-R) The NEA Assembly of Leaders and Council of Leaders, together with Corplan and Training staff pose upon culmination of the 2008 Strategic Planning Conference Workshop in Tagaytay City on December 6-8, 2007. The breakaway groups while brainstorming and discussing specific issues during the workshop prior to presentation.

EC Capacitating. In line with Public Governance System (PGS), the Scorecards for analysis, evaluation and report formulation by the groups reemphasized the measures and initiatives to be taken, and the harmonization of timelines to be followed.

Detailed action plans on these issues will be drawn which will include banner programs for each department/office, together with their regular activities. Guided with its core values of absolute honesty, maximum efficiency and total solidarity, NEA endeavors to trek the pathway to good corporate governance by positively addressing the aforesaid concerns for the benefit of its partner-electric cooperatives, in particular and the Filipino people, in general. □

Synchronized PR Activities Sought, Energy PR Council Created

DOE Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has directed the synchronization of all public relations activities of the DOE and its attached agencies, including NEA, through the creation of a Public Relations (PR) Council.

The Council was initially convened by Patricia Daza Planas, DOE's Public Affairs Director and Prime Berunio, Secretary Reyes' Technical Assistant at the PNOC Executive Lounge last November 13, 2007. Members include attached agencies' corporate communication/public affairs heads namely Judith Alferoz of NEA, Dennis Gana of NPC, Rufino Villafuerte of TransCo, Conrad Tolentino of PSALM, Robert Villa of PNOC and Abby Remo of PEMC.

The move aims to foster closer ties between and among DOE and its attached agencies specifically in sustaining strong relations with the members of the media, enhancing corporate image thru participation in social events and attendance to energy-related activities like milestones and loan/MOA signing.

The Council targets to conduct a PR Council Planning Workshop in January 2008 to lay the ground works and strategic activities for year 2008 including the proposed conduct of an Energy Summit, regional visits, advertising plans and formation of a PR crisis management committee. □



PELCO I : An Electric Dream

Turning around an electric cooperative's operation that has long wallowed in Category D and E for so many years seemed an unattainable task to achieve. But Pampanga I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PELCO I) has proven skeptics wrong. With the leadership of its General Manager, Engr. Loliano E. Allas, PELCO I attained what was believed to be an impossible dream.



Board Member Joseph D. Khonghun awards the Plaque of Recognition as a Turn-Around EC to PELCO I Board President Carlos D. De Jesus (3rd from left) during the goodwill visit last December 28, 2007

True enough, knowing only two categories for more than 20 years, categorized as D electric cooperative from 1982 to 1993, and, worse, as category E from 1994 to 2003, one can simply imagine that there seems to be no better category PELCO I can earn. Ridden with huge debt arrearages, very low collection efficiency, disunited board of directors, and non-committal employees, the member-consumers were left to bear the impact of such a dismal operation reflected in their electric bills as their EC incurred whopping losses.

But, with system loss as high as 40% many years back flagging down to 29.78% in 2000, to 25.29% in 2003, and 15.44% in 2006, hope flickered for the beleaguered coop employees and respite for its member-consumership. Its category improved from E in 2003 to B in 2004-2005, and to A in 2006. Now PELCO I awaits to be included among the ranks of the top performing ECs with category A+ for the year 2007. It has reason to believe that such feat is attainable as it still lowered its system loss down to only 13.47% for the year 2007. Coupled with exemplary performance such as increased collection efficiency from 83% in 2000 to 91% in 2007, current in its power accounts and loan amortizations, with positive net margin, and united EC employees, management and board of directors, PELCO I practically has attained its impossible dream of turning around its operations.

NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno awarded a certificate of recognition to PELCO I during her goodwill visit last December 28, 2007, citing its remarkable performance in achieving a turn around, specifically in system loss reduction and improving on its financial status from a debt-ridden EC to an earning and viable one. With the Administrator in giving the award were NEA Board Member Joseph D. Khonghun, Deputy Administrators Mariano T. Cuenco, Pablo M. Pan III and Edilberto I. Bassig. NEA Directors Judith T. Alferez, Leila B. Bonifacio, Sonia B. San Diego, Jose H. Seguban Jr., and Rogelio B. Bernal. Managers Francisco A. Caymo, Benita T. Cuenco, Lida E. De la Merced, Nora I. Rivera and other NEA employees were also present to witness the said event.

PELCO I, on the other hand, gave a plaque of appreciation to Administrator Bueno for her relentless support in all of the EC's programs. The PELCO I family also made December 28 of every year as NEA Administrator's Day, coinciding with what has become Administrator Bueno's customary yearly visit to the cooperative since 2005. □

CAGELCO I Receives Highest Single Release of Loan Granted by NEA

The Cagayan I Electric Cooperative Inc. (CAGELCO I) has availed of P50 million loan as a working capital for its power accounts, the highest single release of loan granted by NEA to any electric cooperative. The loan was signed by Administrator Edita S. Bueno, CAGELCO I General Manager Tito R. Lingan and CAGELCO I Board President Lorenzo L. Trinidad, Jr. during a simple ceremony at the NEA Office on November 13, 2007.

Terms of the loan stipulate that CAGELCO I will pay a 10% interest per annum, three-year repayment period, two months grace period, issuance of post-dated checks and subject to accelerated repayment scheme.

"This is in consonance with NEA's mandate to assist the ECs financially in order to attain financial viability and operational efficiency", Administrator Bueno said.

Also present during the loan signing ceremony were Deputy Administrator Mariano Cuenco of Corporate Resources and Financial Services and other NEA officials. □



Administrator Bueno gives the check to CAGELCO I Board President Trinidad.

BENECO Fast-tracks Sitio Energization



BENECO General Manager Gerardo Verzosa speaks before the coop employees while Administrator Bueno and Secretary Silva along with other NEA officials and BENECO Board of Directors prepare themselves for the dialogue last December 14, 2007 in Baguio City.

The Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) now holds the distinction of being the 1st electric cooperative to initiate and fund sitio energization as a manifestation of its commitment to the noble goals of the Rural Electrification (RE) Program.

The NEA Board of Administrators, chaired by Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, granted a P100 million loan to BENECO for the energization of 134 sitios within its coverage area with a concessional interest rate of 8% per annum. This was approved during the NEA Board Meeting No. 5 last October 18, 2007.

In providing the loan, the 5-member NEA Board considered that the BENECO project reflects the direction of government's policy of total electrification of the countryside. The project is expected to bring in additional 3,048 connections located outside of Baguio City, with 23 average potential consumers per sitio, and increase BENECO's kilowatt hour sales, estimated at 731,520 or P6.215 million revenue sales per annum.

The first loan release in the amount of P21.7 M was handed over to BENECO during the goodwill visit of Secretary Francisco G. Silva and Administrator Edita S. Bueno last December 14, 2007 in Baguio City. □

TARELCO I, First Single Digit Systems Loss EC in Mainland Luzon

The single digit systems loss of Electric Cooperatives (ECs) is a major target of the national government by 2010. To this end, NEA came up with a system loss reduction program for its partners, the 119 ECs, in order to lower the national cap of 14%. The target is 13% for 2008, 11% for 2009, and 9% by 2010. A savings of about P670 million a year is gained for every 1% reduction in systems losses.

The Tarlac I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO I) is the first EC in mainland Luzon to have lowered its systems loss to single digit in 2006. And the cooperative has maintained the single digit for 2007 at 9.25%. From as high as 17.68% systems loss in 2000, TARELCO I has lowered its systems loss dramatically in a span of seven years, demonstrating its strong commitment in responding to the call of government to attain the single digit target by 2010.

The bulk of the systems losses of ECs comes from technical losses which are inherent in their operation as electric utilities. The ECs' transformers and distribution lines contribute to the losses. The non-technical losses, caused mainly by electricity pilferages, is another burden which electricity consumers have to bear as pass-on charges.

NEA Administrator Edita S. Bueno spearheaded the awarding of a certificate of recognition to TARELCO I last December 13, 2007, thus contributing to better electric service delivery and sustained financial viability. TARELCO I General Manager Engr. Resurreccion R. Coronel has been invited by other ECs countrywide to talk about how his cooperative managed to undertake its successful systems loss reduction program. The recent one of system loss reduction seminar-workshop was conducted at the Veniz Hotel in Baguio, and participated in by the ECs of Northern Luzon, Regions II and III last December 14, 2007. □



The certificate of recognition for system loss reduction awarded to TARELCO I. (Inset) Administrator Edita S. Bueno hands over the certificate to General Manager Resurreccion R. Coronel and Board President Jose I. Hidalgo Sr. as witnessed by the TARELCO employees at the coop headquarters in Gerona, Tarlac last December 13, 2007.



NEA: At Pace with CSC Programs

Punctuality and Civility

In line with Proclamation No. 141 which declares the month of November as National Consciousness Month for Punctuality and Civility, NEA held a Program on "Buwan ng Pagpapahalaga sa Oras at sa Karapatan ng Kapwa" last November 5, 2007 during the regular Monday HESA Assembly. Mr. Rey B. Cadena, Director of the CSC-SSS Field Office, was invited to witness the said activity and to swear in the members of the newly-constituted Career Systems and Standards (CSS) Committees which include the Personnel Selection Board (PSB), Programs, Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Committee, Performance Evaluation Review Committee (PERC), Sub-PERC, Personnel Development Committee (PDC) and Human Arm for Organizational Unity (HARMONY). An exhibit featuring NEA's best practices, policies and programs documented in handbooks, pamphlets, journals and magazines was held.

4th CSC Cluster Agency Meeting

NEA hosted the 4th CSC Cluster Agency Meeting of 35 agency members of the CSC-SSS/DENR Field Office last December 7, 2007 at the HES Auditorium. Some 70 human resource management officers/ personnel officers attended the affair. This activity was held to update the participants on the latest civil service issuances, rules, regulations, policies and programs of the Commission such as MC No. 20: Implementing Guidelines on the Career Executive Officer (CEO) Rank System, MC No. 21: Clarificatory Policies on



(Left photo) Some of the members of the cluster from the different agencies who attended the 4th CSC Cluster Agency Meeting on December 7, 2007. (Right photo) Dir. Rey B. Cadena, Director for CSC-SSS Field Office attentively looks on.

Appointments to Reclassified/Upgraded Positions and related issues and concerns, as well as clarification on the role of the Personnel Selection Board (PSB).

In the afternoon, the members of the cluster enjoyed the sumptuous food that each brought during their "merienda cena" or fellowship.

Orientation Seminar on CSC Personnel Mechanism

On December 11, 2007, Dir. Cadena conducted an Orientation Seminar on CSC's Personnel Mechanisms for the members of the newly-constituted CSS committees at the HES Auditorium. This activity was aimed at keeping the participants updated on the different personnel mechanisms being implemented by CSC. □

Keeping Up with the Environment : More Skills Upgrading for NEA & ECs

For 4th quarter 2007, NEA facilitated the conduct of 23 trainings and seminars benefitting 2,352 officials and employees. These programs, activities and other interventions focused on the following areas:

- * Sustainability Improvement of Renewable Energy Development in Village Electrification in the Phils.
- * e-Gov Enterprise Architecture Framework - Integrated Planning Fundamentals
- * Power System Modelling and Analysis
- * Electric Power Industry Structure, Market and Regulation
- * Electric Cooperatives' (ECs) Reorganization and Restructuring for NEA & ECs
- * Cooperative Management Course (CMC) II
- * Values Enhancement and Performance Evaluation System
- * Basic Linemen
- * Linemen Upgrading
- * Strategic Planning
- * 2008 Integrated Computerized Planning Model (ICPM)
- * Orientation Seminar for Multi-Sectoral Electrification Advisory Council (MSEAC)

MAG-SAO's partnership program with the University of the Philippines is an on-going program which trained 333 personnel from NEA and the ECs for calendar year 2007. □

Goodwill Visits ... from page 2

Among those discussed were salient points in the cooperatives' operation in 2007. Secretary Silva inspired the EC Board, management and employees to think out of the box in resolving EC issues. Administrator Bueno assured the ECs of NEA's all out support in their noble endeavors.

The goodwill visit is an affirmation of the ECs' good performance, and serves as motivation for them to devise ways and means to be able to compete under the new environment. An intensive reporting on financial, institutional and technical (FIT) aspects of the ECs' operation was presented. Some of the issues raised were on EPIRA and Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA) registration which the Administrator emphasized as a challenge and not as a hindrance to EC performance and service delivery. Aside from being a venue for fostering partnership by and between NEA and ECs, the goodwill visit also is a venue for following up issues with NEA, which the Administrator can outrightly resolve while consulting with NEA officials who are part of the entourage, and those who are involved at the NEA office. Thus, the goodwill visits helped effect the fast-tracking of solutions in addressing ECs' concerns. □



Religiosity in the Workplace

Miraculous Sacred Icon of the Holy Family Visits NEA

"Prayer and work go hand in hand". This has been the message of the CBCP Pastoral Letter with the theme, *"Karangalan ng Bayan, Pamilya ang Pinagmumulan"* on September 25, 2005. Filipinos, being religious in nature, have always sought spiritual guidance from the Almighty in every endeavor they undertake. This is true with NEA employees who have developed this virtue and have used the power of prayers as a guiding force in attaining its mission of total rural electrification.

On October 3, 2007, the World's Most Unique Icon, the original Byzantine "Sacred Icon of the Holy Family", has made a pilgrim visitation at NEA. It was made possible with the cooperation of the Regina Pacis Mundi Catholic Renewal Ministry headed by Bro. Ed Karganilla.

The Sacred Icon was exposed at the historic occasion of the 4th World Meeting of Families, the largest family reunion in the world. It was considered as a priceless treasure because of its unique features of the renowned Miraculous Icon of the Russian Orthodox Church, our Lady of Kazan and the priceless treasure of the Roman Catholic Church, Michaelangelo's masterpiece, the *Pieta*. Furthermore, it is endowed with a powerful blessing for healing and dispelling all forms of evil from the Byzantine Church.

It was paraded at the NEA offices from Ground Floor to the 7th Floor followed by holy mass, prayer vigil by the different departments and offices and a healing session. NEA employees' participation in this kind of activity has made them become more closely knit as a family and stronger to confront the odds that come their way in achieving one common goal hence, benefitting the nation as a whole. □



NEA employees attentively listen to Bro. Ed Karganilla as he narrates how the Sacred Icon of the Holy Family do wonders in every devotee's life.

D.A. Pan Honored in CESB Anniversary while NEA's Singing Ambassadors Continue to Make Waves

On November 16, 2007, the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) held the Testimonial for 2007 Outstanding CEOs, New Eligibles and Executive Leadership Program (ELP) Graduates at the Gazebo Royale, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. This culminating activity highlighted the celebration of the 34th CESB Anniversary.



CESB Chair Karina Constantino-David (6th from left) gamely poses with Dir. Diana M. San Luis, Ms. Angelina M. Ramos (partly hidden) and the members of the NEA Lights and Sounds who performed during the affair. (Inset) DA Pablo M. Pan, the honoree.

Some one thousand (1,000) winners, honorees, newly-conferred eligibles and ELP graduates and their respective families attended the event. NEA was one of the privileged agencies to be invited to attend such momentous occasion, not only to celebrate with them but also to witness the honor

bestowed upon Deputy Administrator Pablo M. Pan III for having selflessly served the government until his retirement. He was among the 115 retirees who received the award.

Meanwhile, CSC Chairman Karina Constantino-David, who will end her term as CESB Chair in February 2008, was given an impromptu tribute by her CESB family after her keynote address that was supposed to culminate the reunion dinner cum awards show. A visibly moved David declared: *I will always be with you in spirit even after I retire*, in a speech that was met with a standing ovation by an appreciative crowd of CESOs, eligibles, past and present members of the CES Board, heads of agencies, institutional partners and friends of the CESB.

To lighten the mood, the world-renowned UP Concert Chorus rendered a medley of songs during dinner time. Meanwhile, the NEA Lights and Sounds likewise did its part with the rendition of special intermission numbers as well as the Doxology and the National Anthem. NEA has always been positively responding to this kind of invitation to strengthen its program implementation via network linkages with other government agencies. □

NEA Celebrates P.A.S.K.O.

Year after year, NEA has its unique way of observing Christmas not only for its employees but also for its partners. For 2007, NEA commemorated the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with the theme *PASKO: Pagbibigay ng Aking Sarili sa Kapwa ko*. Various activities were lined-up to give meaning to the observance of this season. These were the Advent Wreath Candle Lighting, Light-A-Tree Project (an Outreach Project), and the NEA Christmas Program.



The series of activities such as the Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Rites, Outreach Project and the Christmas Program where NEA officials and employees actively participated in to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Rites commenced on December 3, 2007 during the regular Monday HESA Assembly with Deputy Mariano T. Cuenco as the first official to lit the first candle. The other three (3) deputies as well as the Administrator did their turns in the succeeding weeks.

On the other hand, the Women in Rural Electrification (W.I.R.E.) as represented by Ms. Angelina M. Ramos and J.O.Y.S. or Junior Officers at Your Service led by Mr. Zoilo Soteraña joined forces to implement the Light-a-Tree Project. The Project which gathered the amount of P 77,000.00 from the donations and contributions of NEA employees benefited some three hundred (300) marginal urban settlers, and fifty (50) kids were given toys.

Meanwhile, NEA held its annual Christmas Program on December 20, 2007. It started with a Holy Eucharist that was officiated by Rev. Frs. Ramoncito Rebutias and Ben Claveria. During the mass, Ms. Fatima Soriano, the 13-year old renowned good news messenger of God, inspired the attendees with her testimonies accompanied by her good rendition of songs.

In the afternoon, the Program was given a different touch by the committee by combining it with the Fellowship. PENELCO band provided the sound system earlier in the

mass as well as the music during the program cum fellowship. Each sector excitedly performed its respective presentation.

During the raffle, PARE Secretary donated three (3) P10,000.00 cash prizes which were won by Enrique Morales, Lino Vermudo, Jr. and Efren Marcelino.

In the late afternoon, DOE Secretary Angelo T. Reyes joined the whole NEA populace in enjoyment as he sang his favorite song, "What a Wonderful World".

The OA sector, in collaboration with the Council of Leaders, SAMA-KAREN and the different NEA associations organized the successful holding of this occasion. ☐

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