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# Kabesilyas join opposition to HB 5095

**K**abesilya workers have expressed strong opposition to the proposed House Bill 5095 and Senate Bill 2396.

*Mahigpit po naming tinututulan ang pag-aalis ng imunidad ng IRRI sa pamamagitan ng pag-aamyenda ng Presidential Decree 1620. Dabil po dito ay nanganganib din na maalis dito sa Los Baños ang IRRI at malipat sa ibang bansa. Kung ito po ay mangyayari, mawawalan kami ng aming ikinabubuhay at marami sa amin ang magugutom at mabibinto sa pag-aaral ang aming mga anak. Kami pong labat ay bumihiling sa mga kinauukulan na ibasura ang House Bill 5095 at durugin ang Senate Bill 2396. Maawa po kayo sa aming mga nanganganib na magutom.*

(We strongly oppose the removal of IRRI's immunity by amending Presidential Decree 1620. Because of this, there is a possibility that IRRI may be transferred to another country. If this happens, we will lose our source of livelihood, many of us will go hungry, and our children will stop schooling. All of us are appealing to all concerned to junk House Bill 5095 and crush Senate Bill 2396. Pity us who are in danger of going hungry),” the kabesilya workers said.

The proposed bills seek to amend Article 3 of Presidential Decree 1620 stripping IRRI of its immunity privileges



**Cong. Rodolfo San Luis (4<sup>th</sup> District, Laguna) listens to CIE Chair Tom Clemeno (second from right) as the latter explains the implications of HB 5095 on the future of IRRI and its employees. From left are Judith Dionisio of Accounting, Johnny Goloyugo of VIS, and CIE Secretary Ramon Oliveros.**

with regard to labor rights. Cong. Satur Ocampo of Party List-Bayan Muna sponsored HB 5095, while Sen. Francis Pangilinan authored SB 2396.

Meanwhile, the Council of IRRI Employees (CIE) continued its efforts to

block the passage of the proposed bills in both the Upper and Lower Houses.

CIE passed Resolution No. 2003-003 on March 18 supporting the IRRI management on its position on House

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## PhilRice, NAST, NEDA, and legislators air views on HB 5095

**T**he Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) strongly supports the continuing status, prerogatives, privileges, and immunities of IRRI as an international organization.

In a resolution signed by Department of Agriculture (DA) and BOT Chair Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo, PhilRice said that the continuity of IRRI's immunity privileges would help Philippine

agriculture become more competitive globally and responsive to local requirements.

PhilRice passed BOT Resolution No.

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Council of IRRI Employees  
International Rice Research Institute  
Los Baños, Laguna

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND LAWMAKERS

25 April 2003

We, the legitimate employees of IRRI, are asking you to help stop HB 5095, the so-called "IRRI Workers' Rights Act". We reject HB 5095!

HB 5095 seeks to amend Article 3 of PDI 620 by removing IRRI's diplomatic immunity on labor. The Bill was initiated by outside groups who want IRRI out of the Philippines. We employees were not consulted in preparing the proposed bill.

As IRRI employees, we contest the false premises on which HB 5095 is based. There are no violations of workers' rights and the right to self-organization at IRRI. In fact, an internal labor mechanism recognized by the Supreme Court and DOLE exists through the Council of IRRI Employees (CIE).

CIE is an umbrella organization composed of the:

- Association of IRRI Research Support Staff (AIRESS)
- Association of IRRI Secretaries and Administrative Staff (AISAS)
- IRRI Filipino Scientists Association (IFSA)
- Society of IRRI NonResearch Professionals (SINoP)

CIE negotiates with IRRI Management for our benefits and the improvement of our welfare and participates in the grievance and appeals mechanisms in IRRI.

IRRI is an international organization established in 1960 to promote global food security and improve the well-being of poor farmers and consumers. In its 43 years in the Philippines, IRRI has helped double rice yields; has contributed to capacity building in the developing world; and has provided knowledge, technologies, training, rice varieties, and genetic resources that have contributed to sustainable agriculture worldwide.

If HB 5095 is passed, IRRI may move out of the Philippines, resulting in the loss of employment for over 700 regular employees, and about 1000 seasonal workers while weakening the local economy where IRRI spends about P1.5 million everyday. Furthermore, an IRRI pull-out will cause international embarrassment for the host government, and will dampen potential foreign investments.

We would like to invite you to visit IRRI in Los Baños, and dialogue with us employees. We would highly appreciate discussing the bill with you.

Sincerely,

The Council of IRRI Employees (CIE)

## **BOT salutes local staff on stand vs. HB 5095 and SB 2396**

The Board of Trustees (BOT) salutes the efforts of local staff in standing up and publicly defending IRRI in the face of the challenges posed by the proposed HB 5095 and SB 2396.

BOT Chair Angeline Kamba, in her message to IRRI staff on April 4, said, "I thank everyone for assisting in this difficult and challenging process, but it is now time to focus on the future. As we have found out only in the past few months, IRRI continues to face other challenges including efforts to alter its international status in the Philippines and remove its diplomatic immunity on labor cases. The Board agrees that any such move could seriously impact the Institute and its ability to operate."

Mrs. Kamba said, "We again thank staff for all their efforts to explain IRRI's position with regard to House Bill 5095 and Senate Bill 2396, and the very positive impact the Institute has had in the Philippines over many years."

"Such commitment, initiative, and honesty showed once again why IRRI is such a great institute. I am also very pleased that prior to the BOT meetings, I had the opportunity to meet several representatives from the Council of IRRI Employees who briefed me on their activities. The Board proudly commends them for their efforts," she said.

"On behalf of the Board, let me also state for the record – once again – that IRRI's home is here in the Philippines. Despite these recent troubles, we are fully committed to staying here in Los Baños and supporting your efforts to tell the true story of IRRI's impact and activities in the Philippines," Mrs. Kamba said.

## ● PhilRice . . . from page 1

151, Series of 2003, on 2003 May 7 during its 41<sup>st</sup> meeting at its Central Experiment Station in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Secretary Lorenzo said in a letter to IRRI dated April 25 that the DA is carefully studying the implications of House Bill 5095, and its counterpart Senate Bill 2396, because of its implications to Philippine rice industry development and other diplomatic repercussions.

“We foresee that should the bill prosper, it may result in IRRI folding up and transferring to a more hospitable country and thus, may disadvantage our current thrusts for a vigorous rice industry,” Secretary Lorenzo said. Meanwhile, the Assistant Majority Leader, Cong. Danton Q. Bueser (3<sup>rd</sup> District, Laguna), withdrew his co-authorship of the proposed HB 5095 because the measure “will not serve the best interests of the IRRI employees.” In informing Cong. Neptali M. Gonzales II, Chair of the House Committee on Rules, of his decision, Cong. Bueser said:

“While the thrust of the bill may be well-meaning, it is the reasonable anticipation of the employees affected that the passage of the bill invites the possibility of IRRI’s withdrawal from the Philippines which would mean the loss of jobs for IRRI’s 700 regular workers and 1,000 plus contractual laborers and farm personnel, and the consequent loss of economic opportunities for the local community estimated at ₱700 million to ₱1 billion each year.”

Cong. Bueser, together with Congresswoman Uliran T. Joaquin (1<sup>st</sup> District, Laguna), Cong. Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr. (2<sup>nd</sup> District, Laguna), and Cong. Rodolfo S. San Luis (4<sup>th</sup> District, Laguna) also moved for the recommitment of HB 5095 to the Committee on Labor and Employment and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Fisheries for further review and public hearings.

The *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* (Provincial Board) of Laguna likewise passed Resolution No. 192, Series of 2003, on May 5 supporting IRRI employees’ position paper on HB 5095 and Senate Bill 2396. The resolution also requested the House of Representatives and the Senate to disapprove the two bills.

Meanwhile, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and members of the Philippine science community have issued an appeal to the House of Representatives and the Senate to carefully consider the negative consequences of House Bill No. 5095 and Senate Bill No. 2396 because of their “severe negative consequences.”

NAST said in a resolution dated 2003 April 21 that “the passage of these bills will greatly prejudice the science community in the Philippines, the right to food of the world’s poor people who depend on rice for daily nourishment, and the employment of the IRRI employees whom they purport to champion.”

NAST also expressed its solidarity with IRRI employees in their opposition to HB 5095 and SB 2396.

The NAST resolution contends that “the extension of diplomatic immunity and privileges including those covering labor rights to international organizations, of which the Philippines is itself a member, is not a violation of the Philippine constitution.”

The academy also noted, “the urgency and global importance of IRRI’s research and training mission require unhampered operations accorded international organizations under customary law and practice.”

“Indeed, the impressive scientific advances that IRRI has achieved would not have been so if IRRI was burdened with labor disputes and had to face litigation under the jurisdiction of local courts. It might be reasonable to assume that donors would not have supported IRRI had it not been for the

diplomatic immunity accorded by the Philippines under PD 1620.”

The NAST also branded as unfair singling out IRRI for removing its diplomatic immunity with respect to labor rights notwithstanding the presence of other international organizations in the Philippines like the ADB, UNDP, WHO, FAO, and the International Catholic Migration Commission.

In a letter to House of Representatives Speaker Jose de Venecia, NAST Vice President Emil Q. Javier said, “It is in our national interest to retain the international status of IRRI and thereby enhance its attractiveness for international support.”

Withdrawing the immunities and privileges from the Institute would have profound negative consequences as “this will imply that IRRI no longer enjoys the confidence and trust of the host government and this cannot but adversely influence the attitude of international donors and stakeholders,” Dr. Javier said.

Dr. Javier, chair of the interim Science Council of the CGIAR, also lamented that the proposed bills singled out IRRI for alleged labor discrimination. “Let’s listen to the IRRI employees themselves! I have personal knowledge about IRRI, its scientific and manpower development, and economic contributions to our country. I have personal knowledge as well with the fact that IRRI observes and exceeds Philippine labor requirements. In fact, IRRI is the most preferred employer in the Los Baños area,” Dr. Javier said.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) also rendered its opinion on HB 5095. In a letter dated April 21 addressed to Hon. Gabriel S. Claudio, secretary of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO), Assistant Director General Margarita R. Songco said that while the purpose of the proposed bill is noble and laudable, “We deem that the existing mechanism set up by IRRI for

resolving labor complaints are already adequate and affords due process to its employees. Moreover, the benefit packages IRRI provides its employees

are deemed better than most in the local labor market. In addition, removing IRRI's immunity may set up a precedent against other international organizations

in the country and may discourage the inflow of related investments and international activities beneficial to us."

● **Kabesilyas . . . from page 1**

Bill 5095 and made its own position paper on the bills.

CIE also issued a position paper on March 28 signed by 607 employees opposing both bills, also known as the "IRRI Workers' Rights Act." It also issued an open letter to public officials and lawmakers on April 25 rejecting HB 5095.

The Council also tapped both print and broadcast media in expressing its opposition to the two proposed bills.

Mr. Clemeno explained CIE's position during live interviews conducted by Angelo Palmones of DZMM, correspondent Levi Tatad of DZRH/DZLB, and the Rotary Club at Your Service program of DZLB.

He also appeared in Crossroads on May 1, a public affairs television program (Channel 11, Zoe) hosted by Cong. Carlos M. Padilla (Lone District, Nueva Vizcaya) and Cong. Didagen P. Dilangalen (1<sup>st</sup> District, Maguindanao). Deputy Director General for Partnerships, William G. Padolina, was also interviewed by reporter Alvin Elchico on ABS-CBN News Channel's (ANC) Business Nightly



together with Mr. Clemeno.

IRRI also received positive publicity from several major dailies, namely, BusinessWorld, Manila Bulletin, Today, The Manila Times, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and from The Laguna Score, a provincial weekly tabloid.

**Former CIEM Chair Domingo Tabbal (above) states his position on HB 5095. CIE Secretary Ramon Oliveros (below) reads the council's Pakiusap: Pigilan ang House Bill 5095 (Appeal: Stop House Bill 5095) in the program Rotary at Your Service over Radyo DZLB hosted by the Rotary Club of West Bay. Their T-shirts say it all to Cong. Carlos M. Padilla (left photo, middle, in barong) of the Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya during a lobby in Congress. From left are Atty. Phil Palma, Tom Clemeno, Jun Madrid, Nonie Bunyi, Virgilio Ancheta, Jr., Lino Tatad, Eves Reyes, Caloy Huelma, Lou Herrero, and Judith Dionisio. Inset: Caloy Huelma asks Laguna Provincial Board members a question.**



## IRRI to survive “challenging storm”

**I**RRI is well on its way to “successfully surviving a very difficult and challenging storm”, but management must continue to closely monitor its spending and budgets. A balanced budget is the management’s number one priority not only to ensure IRRI’s future but also to guarantee stability for the institute and its staff.

In her 2003 staff address, BOT Chair Angeline Kamba explained that while IRRI’s position within the CGIAR was relatively strong, it was necessary to take precautionary measures to avoid sliding into a worse position as is being experienced by other centers.

Mrs. Kamba also announced that further staff retrenchments were no

longer necessary because IRRI’s deficit for 2002 was “not nearly as bad as initially predicted” as a result of the strong performance of the new Euro currency against the US dollar.

The BOT also noted management’s success in providing the full \$1.5 million for last year’s retrenchment process “despite pressures to go over

budget at a time when no additional money was available.

“The Board closely followed the retrenchment process and deeply regretted the pain and difficulty it caused to numerous staff. However, I believe that the process was handled with as much care and sensitivity as was possible under such difficult circumstances. The Institute had no choice but to make these changes if IRRI, and hundreds of its remaining staff, were going to have any sort of secure, long-term future,” Mrs. Kamba said.

## 26 in STEP with changing personal and professional environment

**T**wenty-six secretaries and administrative coordinators took the STEP—Secretaries’ Total Enhancement Program (STEP)—to enhance their skills and competencies, to become more flexible, and to develop a winning attitude toward changes in their personal and professional environment.

The HRS-NS sponsored the three-module STEP in April. Module 1 dealt with the secretary as a total person; it included discussions on personal SWOT analysis, setting SMART goals, harnessing Filipino values, and developing the habits of a successful person.

Module 2 focused on the secretary as an office manager, with emphasis on responsibilities and expectations, ethics and etiquettes, the secretary-boss relationship, problem solving and decision-making, time and resources management, and records management.

Module 3 looked at the secretary as a communication specialist. The module highlighted the principles of verbal and nonverbal communication, business writing, effective telephone use, and personality enhancement.

The following were awarded training certificates: Lolita Adriano (CSWS), Emily Alcantara (PBGB), Virginia Aranda (ES), Yolie Aranguren (PBGB), Lauro Atienza (TC), Minerva Bandian (PBGB), Cherry Brevia (LS), Malaya Capiña (ISLB), Priscilla Comia (TC), Felicidad Danglay (PBGB), Jacinta Evangelista (CSWS), Zenaida Federico (DPPC), Ana Lyn Genil (DDGR),



**The HRS-NS continues to provide training for NRS in skills development such as the STEP—Secretaries’ Total Enhancement Program. More training programs are in store for local staff this year.**



Evangeline Gonzales (SHU), Rosendo Gutierrez (CSWS), Jennifer Hernandez (TC), Perlita Malabayabas (TS), Ma. Liza Milante (DAHR), Ellen Oracion (TS), Lourdes Paunlagui (BBU), Melanie

Quinto (TC), Rogelio Quintos (CPS), Marlyn Rala (ISNAR), Cristina San Jose (ILRI), Ely Tabaquero (CSWS), Teresita Victoria (ISAAA), and Carol Wangdi (DDGP).

## No SARS at IRRI and Los Baños

There are no SARS cases at the Institute, according to Administration and Human Resources Director Ian Wallace.

"We are also unaware of any (SARS case) in the Los Baños area. In addition, we do not have anyone at IRRI under preventive isolation," Mr. Wallace said.

IRRI is represented in the weekly meeting of the Los Baños municipal government on SARS. "There is a good spirit of cooperation and IRRI's efforts to combat the possible spread of SARS are appreciated," Mr. Wallace said.

The Institute, through the IRRI Safety Clinic, is closely monitoring the developments on SARS and constantly communicates with the Research

Institute for Tropical Medicine and the Department of Health

At the same time, IRRI is maintaining its ban on travel to/from China (4,698 cases), Hong Kong (1,661), Taiwan (131), and Singapore (204). The Philippines is listed in the WHO website, *Areas with recent local transmission of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)*, with a total number of 10 cases. Recently, however, it was taken off the WHO list of SARS-affected countries.

IRRI staff are now free to travel to

Vietnam and Toronto, Canada, although the latter remains on the WHO list of SARS-affected countries. The WHO specifically lifted its ban on travel to Toronto last April 29. There are a total of 146 cases in Canada, mostly in Toronto.

The Institute maintains an intranet portal and encourages its employees to visit the WHO and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) websites for the latest updates on SARS and the affected regions. The Office of the Director of Administration and Human Resources periodically issues updates on SARS.

Meanwhile, to help control SARS infection, the IRRI Clinic has issued

### Community projects

#### IRRI takes part in Earth Day 2003

IRRI donated 10 sets of used computers, printers, and used car batteries as part of its participation to the recyclable collection event of the Los Baños Science Community Foundation, Inc. (LBSCFI) in observing International Earth Day on 2003 March 21. The LBSCFI will sell the donated items to raise funds for its environmental projects. The donations form part of the environmental activities under the IRRI Community Projects (ICP) being implemented by the Visitors and Information Services (VIS). Photo shows Jocelyn Hernandez of the Los Baños-based Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Research and Development receiving the computers from VIS community projects assistant Lito Platon.



#### Medical missions

The ICP also sponsored medical missions during the last two months that benefited 329 patients from barangays Paciano Rizal, Masaya, and Puypuy in Bay, Laguna. Medical services made available included electrocardiogram test, blood sugar and cholesterol deter-



infection control quarantine guidelines as recommended by the CDC as follows:

1. Probable SARS patients should be quarantined in their homes for 10 days. They should limit interactions outside the home and they should not go to work, school, or other public areas during this 10-day period.
2. All members of a household with a probable SARS patient should carefully follow recommendations for hand hygiene such as frequent hand washing or the use of alcohol-based hand rubs.
3. Quarantined individuals should cover their mouths and noses with a tissue before sneezing or coughing. They should wear masks during close contact with uninfected persons. Other people in the home should also wear masks when in close contact with the patients.
4. Anyone in contact with probable SARS patients should wear disposable gloves to prevent contact with body fluids from the patients. Gloves should be disposed off in a sealed container after use and should not be washed or reused. Hands should be washed. Masks, tissues, and other infected materials should be disposed of similarly.
5. Probable SARS patients should avoid sharing eating utensils, towels, and beddings with other members of the household, although others can use these items after routine cleaning, such as washing or laundering with soap and hot water.
6. Common household disinfectants should be frequently used for toilets, sinks, and other surfaces touched by patients.
7. Other members of the household need not restrict their outside activities unless they develop symptoms of SARS (such as fever or respiratory illness).
8. Should signs and symptoms of SARS (fever at 38.0 °C, headache, body pains, cough, and difficulty of breathing) appear within the 10-day quarantine period, call DOH hotlines at 741-7048 or 743-1937 or call the IRRI Clinic at 536-2701 loc 297/638 or the Safety Office at 536-2701 loc 2340.

## Community projects



minations, and blood typing. Barangay health workers from Masaya, Paciano Rizal, and Sta. Cruz, the Laguna chapters of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) and Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), Pfizer Philippines, and Merck Sharp & Dhome (MSD) are regular cooperators of the ICP in these medical missions. Cesar Brumel Q. Reyes III of MSD (left) is shown blood typing a student assisted by PICPA members and IRRI staff Ime Silang, Leny Medenilla, and Charlene Dalmacio.

### Livelihood program

Fifty women and leaders from Barangay Bayog in Los Baños participated in a hands-on candle making training last March 28 under the ICP livelihood program. Wency Buenaseda (right) of the Department of Science and Technology supervised the training. The other livelihood programs initiated by ICP earlier this year in other barangays were candy, vinegar, and soap making.

### Water system

Life is made easier these days for residents of Barangay Sta. Cruz in Bay following the installation of a water system sometime ago by IRRI with funding support from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Residents Joelito Malagno, Crispin de Mesa, and Ray Punzalan told VIS on-the-job trainees Aina Potenciano and R'Love Rojas of Xavier University: "The system made water accessible to all of us and made our livelihoods more productive. Our children could do more worthwhile things rather than falling in line to fetch water."

## A scholar away from home



Proud parents Eves and Fred Reyes pose with their son Jericho. (Photo courtesy of Mandy Navasero, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.)

**A** good son, a responsible leader, and a committed scholar—that is Engr. Jericho Leo Pagcaliwagan-Reyes.

The young Jericho practically grew up at IRRI where his parents, Alfredo Reyes of HRS and Eva Corazon Reyes of CSWS, work. His childhood in IRRI was spent feeding fishes in ponds or reading books and magazines.

Jericho came from a very loving family. Being the only child, he was raised in an extended family where he learned the importance of cooperation and respect. He learned to value the individuality of every person he interacted with and was able to facilitate his self-development at the same time.

At the age of eight, his entry in the Rice and Life Painting Contest for Children and Youth won during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IRRI in 1985. His painting made its way among 300 participants from 23 countries. He was exposed early to an international setting—the library, laboratories, and rice fields. The IRRI staff work ethics also became part of his growing up years. For him, good values learned from early influences make a great difference in shaping a person's character. IRRI did not only mold Jericho's personality but also inspired him in his choice of profession.

During his third year at the Philippine Science High School (PSHS), his

group studied the possibility of growing rice on Mt. Pinatubo's ashes and interviewed researchers and scientists from IRRI.

He has also spent summer as an on-the-job trainee at IRRI under the supervision of Dr. John Bennett and Dr. Shaobing Peng who influenced him to change his plans of pursuing law and go into research instead.

Jericho was an undergraduate scholar of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) from 1994 to 1999. He took BS Chemical Engineering at UPLB. In his first year, he passed 18 units of courses when he took the advanced placement exam. In 1994, he became the National Champion of the Philippine Statistics Quiz Contest. He also became the president of the DOST Scholar Society and was presented a Leadership Award at the College of Engineering, UPLB in 1999.

Last year, Jericho won the Best Session Paper about *Applied Reservoir Technologies I* during the Annual Geothermal Resources Council Conference in Reno, Nevada.

Engr. Reyes is finishing his master's degree in petroleum engineering at Stanford University in California where

he also serves as a graduate student mentor in Freshman Advising, Resources, and Mentoring (FARM). He is also the treasurer of the Stanford SPE Student Club.

He also earned nine MS units in Chemical Engineering at UPLB, with minor in environmental science, and gained working experiences in the United Kingdom, Nevada, Stanford, and in the Philippines. He expects to graduate in June this year.

When asked about Jericho's accomplishments and the enormous opportunities that lay before him, Eves said, "Of course, we're very proud of him. Jericho is a born leader and a good follower. He walks in a wide path without hindrances. He is very humble and he taught us how to be one," Eves added.

Fred and Eves are grateful that Jericho has a good understanding of people and the value of work. Eves recalls, when her son won the best paper in Nevada, Jericho called up immediately and told them, 'Mom, Dad, congratulations! You did a good job!' Jericho attributes most of his accomplishments to the Philippine Government's support from his high school and college education. He sees how the Philippine educational system values students with potential for academic achievements.

Through scholarship grants, he was encouraged to pursue quality education that gave him the impetus to reach greater heights. He hopes that the Philippines will continue this kind of system and extend it to low-income children as well. Education, the young Jericho says, is the only way out from poverty and chaos.

Jericho calls on Filipinos like him who has reaped great benefits from free education to contribute to the future of the Philippines. That's why he consciously pursues an alternative path in his studies—petroleum engineering—in hopes of strengthening the Philippines' knowledge base. —Aprillie Gay B. Aquino, OJT

## Feedback

Dear Sandiwa,

The Center for Alternative Development Initiatives (CADI), a Philippine-based civil society organization dedicated to advancing comprehensive sustainable development and social threefolding, regularly hosts a group of foreign college students from the International Honors Program during their visits to the Philippines. You included a report on this visit in the January 2003 (#34) issue of your newsletter 'Sandiwa' which may have given the impression that CADI is looking to IRRI for progressive perspectives on addressing urgent global issues. We would just like to contribute the following in an attempt to properly situate both our organization and the IRRI visit we scheduled for the students.

As many of your readers may know, CADI has long been active in promoting sustainable agriculture as an alternative to the Green Revolution package of chemical-based technologies originally espoused by IRRI. In fact, Mr. Perlas, CADI Executive Director, was co-author of *Oryza Nirvana: An NGO Review of the International Rice Research Institute in Southeast Asia* published in 1997. That research study concluded:

(1) IRRI is a waste of money; (2) IRRI's sacred cow of science is flawed; (3) IRRI is the pawn of a 1950s socio-political agenda called

'development'; (4) IRRI undermines communities and stifles human resources; (5) IRRI's approach is environmentally unsustainable and finally—the more it changes, the more IRRI remains the same—the same ideology, research emphasis, way of doing science, and the power structure behind and reinforced by IRRI.

So, why does CADI continue to include a visit to IRRI as part of the itinerary of the Philippine portion of the International Honors Program? The IRRI visit is included primarily because of the tremendous influence IRRI continues to project over the rice landscapes of the world. It is also our attempt to be true to the spirit of scientific inquiry where both sides of an issue are presented so that, in this case, the students can form their own opinion as to whether institutions like IRRI are relevant to the world food situation in the context of sustainable development and sustainable agriculture.

In the future, we hope to continue bringing IHP students to IRRI as part of a larger inquiry into the issues connected with globalization, ecology, sustainable agriculture, and area-based sustainable development, among others. At the same time, CADI continues to promote sustainable solutions to the varied, complex, and interrelated problems facing countries today—problems which we feel require a comprehensive framework of sustainable development and social threefolding approaches.

Threefolding recognizes the functional differentiation (not division) of modern society into three realms, interacting with but independent from each other—culture, polity, and economy. The key actors in these three realms are civil society, government, and business, respectively. Social threefolding refers to the process of bringing these three key institutions of society together to address how they can collectively bring about comprehensive sustainable development. In the social threefolding process, there is the possibility that each of the three can raise their differing perspectives, strengths, and resources to a higher level to advance comprehensive sustainable development.

James Sharman  
Senior Associate  
Center for Alternative Development  
Initiatives  
Manila

(A reply to this letter for publication in *Sandiwa* is welcome. The International Honors Program is based at the University of Boston, USA and is independent from the Center for Alternative Development Initiatives or CADI as reported in the January issue of *Sandiwa*.—Editor)

## Becks Laza earns her PhD

Assistant scientist II Ma. Rebecca C. Laza of CSWS recently obtained her PhD in agricultural and environmental biology from the University of Tokyo, Japan under the Ronpaku program of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science-Department of Science and Technology Joint Scientific Cooperation Program.



M. Laza

Dr. Laza's thesis was entitled *Morpho-physiological traits for high-yielding wet season rice in the tropics*. Her advisors included IRRI Board of Trustees member Prof. Shigemi Akita; Prof. Hitoshi Saka, director of the Field Production Science Center, University of Tokyo; and IRRI crop physiologist Dr. Shaobing Peng.

Dr. Laza obtained her MS in Agronomy (weed science) and BS in Agriculture (weed science) from UPLB. Her MS thesis was entitled *Improving selectivity in rice (Oryza sativa L.) of pretilachlor using protectants*. She joined IRRI in 1985 as a research assistant.

## PSAE honors IRRI scientists

Senior associate scientist Domingo Tabbal of CSWS was voted as a fellow of the Philippine Society of Agricultural Engineers (PSAE) for his outstanding contributions in the field of agricultural engineering.

The PSAE is a society of professionals in the field of agricultural engineering with



D. Tabbal

5,000 active members throughout the country.

Engr. Tabbal is currently a member of the Philippine Board of Examiners for Agricultural Engineers. He was presented the award during the 53<sup>rd</sup> PSAE Annual National Convention in Davao City on April 21-25.

Water scientist Bas Bouman was also elected as honorary member of the PSAE for his research and extension work on water-saving irrigation technologies.

During the convention, IRRI's paper on *Technology transfer for water savings in Central Luzon, Philippines: Prelimi-*

*nary results and implications*, won the best technical paper in the category Energy Systems, Water Management and Environmental Management.



**B. Bouman**

Philippine Rice Research Institute, the paper discusses the results of the on-farm development and testing of controlled

Coauthored by Ruben Lampayan, Bas Bouman, Doming Tabbal, Lizzel Llorca, and collaborating partners from the National Irrigation Administration and

irrigation and aerobic rice in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

Meanwhile, the PSAE Region IV chapter received the Outstanding Regional Chapter award from PSAE for its meritorious and exemplary performance in pursuit of the organization's objectives and programs in the country.



**E. Castro**

Assistant Scientist II Eugenio C. Castro, Jr. of the Training Center is the president of PSAE Region IV.

## SSD researcher in Japan-ASEAN youth friendship program

**R**esearcher Ma. Shiela D. Valencia of SSD is traveling to Japan from May 14 to June 5 as a participant in the Japan-ASEAN Youth Friendship Program (agriculture category).

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) sponsors the program. The program provides participants with opportunities to experience and to observe Japan through exchanges and

deepen understanding and knowledge about a particular field.

"As a participant, I am expected to attend lectures and observation tours relevant to agriculture. As a researcher, I am expected to share with fellow Filipino participants and Japanese

youth counterparts the various research activities of IRRI," Ms. Valencia said.

There were 23 youths from various countries chosen to participate in the Japanese program this year. In 1999, five IRRI staff participated in the program. They were Crisel Ramos (BBU), Ana Eusebio-Cope (CSWS), Julio Chavez (PBGB), former researcher Doris Mercado (PBGB), and former assistant scientist Arnel Sanico (CSWS).

## New BOT Chair



**K. Otsuka**

**K**eihiro Otsuka, Deputy Director of the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development and a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Japan, is the new chair of the IRRI Board of Trustees.

Dr. Otsuka is an agricultural economics expert and a former visiting scientist at IRRI from 1986 to 1989. He earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences at the Hokkaido University in 1971, his masters in economics from the Tokyo Metropolitan University in 1974, and his PhD in economics from the University of Chicago in 1979.

BOT Chair Angeline Kamba also announced the replacement of Dr. Song Jian as BOT member by Baowen Zhang, deputy minister of agriculture in Beijing.

Mr. Zhang, an expert in agricultural education and management, was a professor and president of China's Northwest Agricultural University in Xian. He is a strong advocate of practices such as conservation tillage and national biosafety regulations.

Mrs. Kamba also confirmed that Mike Gale and Fazle Abed have agreed to stay on for their second terms in the BOT.

Dr. Gale is one of the world's leading international cereal geneticists and is an associate research director of the John Innes Centre in Norwich, United Kingdom, while Mr. Abed is the founder-executive director of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, the world's largest nongovernment organization.

## 40-year service awardee

**O**rlando G. Santos, a consultant in the Office of the Deputy Director General for Partnerships, was recently presented a plaque of appreciation for his 40 years of continuous and loyal service to IRRI.



**O. Santos**

Mr. Santos previously served IRRI in various capacities, starting as an associate farm superintendent in 1962, then as farm and grounds superintendent in 1985, and finally as senior farm and grounds superintendent from 1988 to 1994.

From 1994 up to the present, Mr. Santos is a consultant on kabesilya matters for IRRI's Experiment Station.

## Young achievers

**S**andiwa congratulates the following young achievers during academic year 2002-2003.

Gerjane Joy Cabunagan, daughter



**G. Cabunagan**

of EPPD assistant scientist II Rogelio Cabunagan and Jane Mary Fernandez-Cabunagan of Calauan, Laguna, graduated as valedictorian at the UP Rural High School (UPRHS) last April 25.

She received the Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Academic Excellence Award, the *Panday Dunong* Award, and Service Award. She was also honored as Best in Mathematics and Science.



**P. Almazan**

Joy is an Oblation Scholarship Awardee and is an incoming freshman in business administration and accountancy at UP Diliman.

Patricia Lei P. Almazan, daughter of Ma. Liberty Almazan (EPPD), also graduated with honors from UPRHS on April 25. She ranked 10th among 122 graduating students. She was also given a *Gawad Lingkod* Award for her performances and dedication as a member of the Filipiniana dance troupe for 4 years. She will pursue a BS degree in economics at UPLB.



**F. Genil**

Frances Gerard Genil, son of Nolasco Genil and Leody Genil (FHS), was awarded the *Gawad Parangal* Award by UPRHS. He will take up BS biology at UPLB.

Anna Mariel U. Toledo, daughter of Rody (PBGB) and Connie Toledo (GRC), also graduated with honors at UPRHS.

The other UPRHS graduates are Nicolas Gabriel V. Abrenilla, son of



**N. Abrenilla**

Chelo Abrenilla (CSWS) and an incoming development communication student in UPLB; Joyceann April B. Damian, son of Lydia

Damian (SSD); Paul Rainier P. Ibabao, son of Jose Ibabao (CPS); Kathrina Paula N. Nicolas, daughter of Elma Nicolas (PBGB); Ria Camille R. Oliveros, daughter of Ramon A. Oliveros (DDGP); and Eunice Anne G. Palis, daughter of Florencia Palis (SSD).



**R. Oliveros**

Meanwhile, Angeline Abigail G. Huelma, daughter of assistant scientist I Carlos Huelma of the Seed Health Unit and Lita Huelma, graduated first honorable mention from the Grace Christian Community School.



**A. Huelma**

## IRRI wins softball championship in LB Olympics

**I**RRI relived its softball greatness by winning the championship of the slo-pitch softball tournament during the recently concluded Los Baños Olympics. The semi-final and final games were played on 2003 May 31 in the UPLB athletic field.

IRRI gained a slot in the crossover semifinals when it emerged unbeaten in the elimination round, beating the teams from Barangays Malinta and San Antonio and the Office of the Mayor.

In the semifinals, IRRI came from behind and beat Barangay Putho-Tuntungin in an extra inning, 14-10. It won over Makiling Tennis Club (MAKTEC), 12-6, to capture the championship.

Mayor Caesar Perez awarded the championship trophy during the awarding ceremonies held on June 1 at the Barangay Batong Malake covered court.

Beto Revilleza, Toto Guevarra, Ramir

Panting, Jessie Banasihan, Boy Abuayo, Vic Carandang, Lino Carandang (ES), Andy Mendoza, Elmer Garcia (Security), Nestor Ramos, Noel Llanza (PBGB),

Greg Mercado (GRC), Noel Lantican (Finance), Roger Cuevas (Transport), Wayne Hamaguchi (ISLB), and Gene Hettel (CPS) composed the softball team.

Mon Oliveros (DDGP) was the playing coach-coordinator of the team. Lilian Mendoza and Fred Reyes were the manager and assistant managers of the team, respectively.

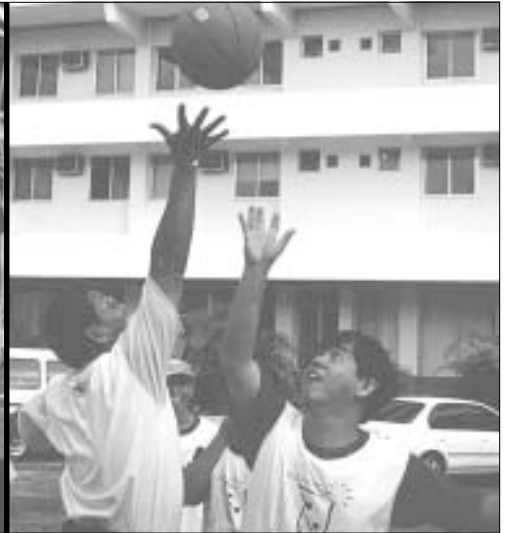
## Red team, love birds, and magic pajama in 2003 IFSA sports fest

**T**he recent IFSA sports fest was undoubtedly one of the most colorful and action-packed sporting events at IRRI in 2003.

The 35-member Red Team led by Renato Reaño (GRC) and Marichu Bernardo (PBGB) trounced three other teams to emerge the 2003 IFSA sports fest overall champion.

The Red Team won in the men's basketball, mixed volleyball, pickup pushing, longest line, and fun run (40 years old and below category).

Adonna Robles (Admin), Bitá Avendaño (VIS), Wenceslao Lazaro (Admin),



Arnold Manza (ES), May Ann Sallan and Violeta Bartolome (BBU), Abigail Elmido, Estela Pasuquin, Teodoro Migo, Ruth Agbisit, Crisanta Bueno, Rosario Jimenez, Ma. Carmela Ong, Ernesto Castillo, Ruben Lampayan, and Romeo Visperas (CSWS), Liberty Almazan, Luzviminda Fernandez, and Ma. Ymber Reveche (EPPD), Adelaida Alcantara (GRC), Angeles Quillooy (IPMO), Ildefonso Cosico (ITS), Rhulyx Mendoza, Edith Abrigo, Josefina Mendoza, Grace Serioso, Maria Jeanie Yanoria, Benito Romena, and Glenn Gregorio (PBGB), and Alice Laborte, Josephine Narciso, Shiela Valencia, and Pio Cenas (SSD) powered the Red Team.

The fun run winners were Rhulyx Mendoza (40 years old and below), Carlos Casal, Jr. (men, 41 and above), Sheila Mae Quillooy (women, 30 and below), and Rebecca Laza (women 31 and above).

The other team winners were: Cheering - Green team, Basketball (W) - Yellow Team, Bike Relay - Green team, treasure Hunt - Green Team, Eating Contest - Blue Team, Kite Flying Contest - Green Team (Best in Design) and - Blue team (Highest Flight).

Special awards included Wonder Twins - Tom Clemeno and Mon Oliveros; Vintage Shorts - Carlos Casal, Jr., Rookie of the Year - Benny Romena;

Magic Pajama Award - Caloy Huelma and Mayee Villamayor; Mr. Basketball (MVP) - Rhulyx Mendoza; Ms. Basketball (MVP) - Fanny Garcia; Mr. Biceps & Triceps - Arnold Manza; MTV VJ Wannabe - the "late" Joe Roxas; Pinya and Pakwan award - Bong Villareal; Pants Down Award - Dennis Gavino; and Lovebirds of the Year - Benny and Lita Romena.

