



NAMRIA in consultation meeting on UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Ifugao Rice Terraces



Ifugao Gov. Balitang gives his welcome remarks



Message from MGD ADir. Belen



A consultation meeting with stakeholders to prepare the cartographic information for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage (WH) cluster sites of the Ifugao Rice Terraces was held on 08 September 2011 at the Banaue Hotel and Youth Hostel, Banaue, Ifugao. The meeting was about the project overview and accomplishments to date, data preparation, and the reconnaissance survey of the sites.

Mapping and Geodesy Department (MGD) Assistant Director Ruel DM. Belen talked about the scope of work for the delineation of boundaries of core and buffer zones of the five WH cluster sites and the preparation and production of the heritage location maps based on UNESCO WH requirements.

During the meeting, Ifugao Gov. Eugene M. Balitang cited in his welcome remarks the five WH cluster sites, namely, Batad and Bangaan in Ifugao, Mayoyao Central, Nagacadan in Kiangsan, and Hungduan which is in the UNESCO **In Danger** list of 2001. He mentioned that one of the recommendations of the UNESCO Joint Reactive Monitoring Team was the production of the cartographic information or a map of the core zone and buffer zone of the sites, which is why they requested NAMRIA to undertake the mapping work. The maps to be produced shall be used for the preparation of Land Use Plan (LUP) of the Cordillera Rice Terraces which should be completed until 2012, otherwise the famous rice terraces will be delisted as one of UNESCO's WH sites.

Congressman Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr. whose opening message was read by his staff Mr. Pablo M. Cuyahon said that he is very much committed to pursue the GIS mapping of the five sites. He also pledged his support whether financial, moral, and technical to the project. He said that the stakeholders' challenge is for "everyone of us whether we are farmers, or academe, or in

whatever sector we are to continue the heritage of their forefathers. He thanked UNESCO for giving support to all the farmers who are in the frontline of conservation.

Finally, UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (NATCOM) Secretary-General Dr. Virginia A. Miralao said that the stakeholders' meeting is a reminder for everyone to protect the environment and that they need the full cooperation and support of the private sector, farmers, the DENR, NAMRIA, municipal and *barangay* officials and the rice terraces owners association.

The consultation meeting was spearheaded by the UNESCO NATCOM and the Province of Ifugao. Among the 100 participants were representatives from UNESCO NATCOM, the Department of Tourism, the Office of the Provincial Governor, the Office of the Lone District of Ifugao, the Provincial Planning Development Office, the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office, local government units, the National Commission on Indigenous People, the rice terraces owners association, the farmers, and NAMRIA.

The NAMRIA participants paid a courtesy visit to Kiangsan Municipal Mayor Joselito G. Guyguyan on 09 September 2011. One of the topics discussed was the delineation of boundaries for the municipality. In behalf of his constituents, Mayor Guyguyan pledged his full support to the undertaking.

The NAMRIA contingent to the Ifugao Province was led by MGD ADir. Belen. Joining him were key officials from MGD, namely: Chief, Photogrammetry Division Ofelia T. Castro; Officer In Charge (OIC), Cartography Division Joaquin B. Borja Jr.; OIC, Geodesy and Geophysics Division Cdr. Ronaldo C. Gatchalian; and OIC, Aerial and Spatial Surveys Division Nicandro P. Parayno.

Monica M. Ocfemia and Erlito P. Saberola

Courtesy call on Kiangsan Mayor Guyguyan

Reconnaissance survey

