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## IRRI Filipino Scientist Wins CGIAR Award

**D**r. Alberto Barrion, senior associate scientist of the Entomology and Plant Pathology Division (EPPD) was named Outstanding Local Scientist for 2000 by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in Washington, D.C., U.S.

Dr. Barrion received a plaque and a cash prize at the CGIAR Centers' Meeting in Washington, D.C. late last October.

The Outstanding Local Scientist Award is given to a locally recruited professional of any nationality, who has made an outstanding scientific contribution in any research field.

Dr. Barrion is recognized as one of the top entomologists in Asia. He is also an acclaimed araneologist, taxonomist, research scientist, and teacher/

trainer. He heads the Taxonomy Laboratory at the same time serves as the curator of the Anthropod Reference Collection at IRRI. He is also an adjunct curator for the Museum of Natural History at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB).

Dr. Barrion's impressive contributions have benefited both national and international programs in the areas of IPM, biodiversity, and pest modeling, which has provided crucial and accessible information to small and resource-poor farmers. The insect identification kit that he

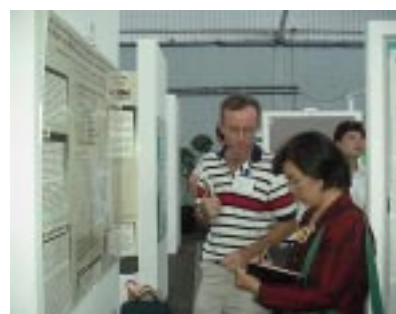


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## 500 delegates at IRGS



There were at least 500 delegates from 28 different countries who participated in the Fourth International Rice Genetics Symposium (IRGS) held



from October 22 to 27. The program was opened by Dr. William Padolina, Deputy Director General for Partnerships (DDGP) at the D.L. Umali Building.

Plenary lectures and session topics were 'Rice Genetics- past and future' (T. Sasaki); 'Biosystematics and Evolution' (M.T. Jackson); 'Molecular markers and QTL mapping' (L. Sebastian); 'Comparative and structural genomics' (A. Hirai); 'Genetic resources for functional genomics' (M. Gale); 'Gene isolation and function' (A. Kilian); and 'Transformation' (S.K. Datta). Poster presentations were also held at the service building. The delegates were treated with a welcome dinner and a cultural show at the Institute. ■

# A day off for friends of IRRI



**I**t was an ideal day for outdoor fun and frolic for friends of IRRI who took the day off on Friday last September 29. The Public Awareness Unit invited representatives of different embassies and non-government organizations for a day of recreation in Los Banos. Forty-two guests from 23 different embassies, an international organization, and three representatives from local organizations heeded to the invitation.

Every year, IRRI holds different activities for NGOs, ambassadors, and farmers on separate occasions usually in a more formal set up. This year, guests were invited and gathered for one event that was surely different from the previous activities. Guests were allowed to bring family members, keep the usual coat and tie in the closet and come in their most comfortable weekend attire, and choose

from the different outdoor activities that were lined up for the day. The activities in the farm were the real attractions and most daring for the guests who, like many others, were first timers to actually come close to a real carabao and have a hand at plowing the muddy rice fields. Transplanting with feet soaked to the mud was just as exciting but back breaking.

Guests were also given an orientation of the farm and some machinery. This gave them a closer look of IRRI and its role in food production.

Contests were also held for fishing where the participants competed for “the first fish hooker”, “the most number of catch” and “the biggest catch.” Other contests were “the paddy weight guessing game,” guess

the number of rice grains,” and the field problems identification contest.”

After the fun-filled activities everyone gathered at the IRRI Guesthouse for a buffet of sumptuous lunch, and for the awarding ceremonies of the winners of the different contests. Trophies and IRRI souvenir shirts were given as prizes.

In the afternoon, the guests were invited to a tour of the National Arts Center and the Rice Paper Factory. Others were challenged to a game of tennis by IRRI staff.

The guests who went on the tour had a glimpse of Los Banos from the Executive House (former rest house of Ms. Imelda Marcos) in Mt. Makiling. It was a perfect break from the city life for many of the guests. It was surely a real treat for the friends of IRRI. ■

developed for rice pests and natural enemies has been very useful to rice scientists and other experts in the field of pest management, as well as to biology and zoology students. He is also highly recognized for his outstanding scientific and technical contributions to the fields of systematics and biology of rice and rice based anthropods, and to the scientific framework for eco-rational pest management. This has paved the way for the use of naturally occurring and diverse communities of biocontrol agents for the maintenance and regulation of insect pests that has led to increased farm profits with out the use of ecologically disruptive insecticide. It is through his efforts that the benefits of friendly insects in rice fields are now given importance by both farmers and scientists.

This multi awarded entomologist has been especially active in

sharing information and skills with young scientists both in his home country, the Philippines, and around Asia, Africa, and South America.

His work is well documented in more than 150 publications (including 31 in refereed journals and 6 books, booklets, or book chapters, and 3 manuals).

“Dr. Barrion’s work at IRRI has clearly had a significant impact on the CGIAR’s goals in terms of rice research as he has not only achieved important break throughs in protecting the environment but also in improving the livelihoods of poor farmers and improving the capacity of the national agricultural research and extension systems,” Dr. Ronald Cantrell, IRRI director general said.

Dr. Barrion holds a B.S. in agriculture (entomology), M.S. in systematic entomology, and Ph.D. in entomology from UPLB. The

Outstanding Local Scientist Award is just one of the several awards that he has received for his contributions to the field of science.

The CGIAR Chairman’s Science Awards were established in 1996 to honor scientific excellence and achievements in several categories. Other awards given by the CGIAR are in the following categories: Outstanding Local Scientific Support Staff, Promising Young Scientist, Outstanding Scientific Partnership, and Outstanding Scientific Article.

In 1996, two IRRI staff received the CGIAR Science Awards: Dr. Shaobing Peng, crop physiologist for the Promising Young Scientist Award, and Dr. Thelma Paris, affiliate scientists/gender specialist, for the Outstanding Local Professional Award. ■

## **TAE BO: Total Awareness Excellent Body Obedience**

**T**ae bo is a form of high impact aerobics that combines the moves of Tae Kwon Do, karate, boxing, ballet and hip-hop dancing.

According to some fitness experts, Tae Bo is an excellent cardiovascular workout. Tae Bo has more movement variations that provides minimal distractions as compared to other fitness routines. It helps improve balance, coordination,

flexibility, will tone, and define muscle. An hour long of Tae Bo workout will burn as much as 500 to 800 calories.

As in other high impact exercises, beginners of Tae Bo should practice caution when starting the routine. Beginners have the tendency to over do the exercise, which may cause some muscle damage or injury. When starting Tae Bo, beginners should start slowly for at least eight weeks until they have mastered the basic moves and conditioned their muscles for more strenuous Tae Bo workouts. Also some have the misconception that



Tae bo, having similar moves to martial arts, is also a self defense routine. IT IS NOT! Tae Bo is just a fun and effective exercise for those who want to lose weight or to simply be (more) fit. For it to be effective, one must practice it correctly.

The trend has spread around IRRI with its own Tae Bo sessions at the IRRI Club every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5:15 in the afternoon. ■



# New faces

IRRI welcomes the arrival of **Dr. Seiji Yanagihara** and his family. The newest family at IRRI arrived from Japan on October 4, 2000. Seiji is the new Rice Breeder at the Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry (PBGB) Division under the supervision of Dr. Gurdev Khush. His work will be on the development of improved germplasm that are tolerant to difficult environments, and coordination with IRRI's multidisciplinary research activities for germplasm improvement for flood prone ecosystems. Seiji was a senior researcher at the International Collaboration Research Section (ICRS) at the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). He was also a shuttle student to IRRI in 1991.



**Dr. Fu Binying** is a new Project Scientist at the Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry Division (PBGB). Fu arrived from China on October 22 to work with Dr. Zhikang Li on the project "Mapping of agriculturally important genes". He was an IRRI thesis research scholar in 1998. He earned his PhD degree from Wuhan University, College of Life Sciences last June. He was a teacher and researcher on rice breeding at the same University before he became Project Scientist at IRRI. Some of his research works include molecular cloning of blast resistance gene in rice, hybrid rice breeding by Two-line method, breeding of high-produce in rice, and molecular cloning of blast resistance gene in rice.



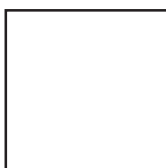
**Ms. Ailene Garcia** is new at the Office of Finance. She started her work at IRRI on October 23 as Accountant II. Ailene is a graduate of Holy Angel University in Angeles City, her home province. She was an accountant at ACL in Quexon City before she was hired by IRRI.



**Ms. Maria Angeli Maghuyop** is now the Program Coordinator at International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP), which also recently moved to IRRI's Collaborator's Center. Angeli is a Plant Pathologist. She earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the UPLB where she served as Research Associate. She was also a Research associate at the the Entomology and Plant Pathology Division (EPPD) from 1993 to 1996.



**Mr. Rene Manlangit** joined IRRI on October 10 as Assistant Librarian-Reference at the Library and Documentation Services (LDS). Rene is from Malate, Manila and is a graduate of the Institute of Library Science at the University of the Philippines, Diliman where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Library Science and Information Science. Rene has earned several experience in Library work while working at different libraries of private and international organizations.



**Ms. Jindra Nuella Samson** is new at the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT). Jindra joined CIAT on October 2 as Assistant Scientist I. She holds a degree in Masters in Environmental Science from the UPLB and Bachelor's degree in Economics from the same university. Jindra was a Socio-economics Specialist at the Center for Environmental Studies and Management (CESM) before prior to her job at CIAT.



**Mr. Frederick Abrenica** is the new Instrument Specialist Crop Science and Water Sciences (CSWS). He joined IRRI on October 19. He is graduate of the Technical Institute of the Philippines where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Before being hired by IRRI, Frederick was working at the Asia Pacific Insulation Corp.



**Ms. Grace Lee Serioso** joined the Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry (PBGB) as Database Administrator II on August 8. Grace is from Sta. Cruz, Laguna. She is a graduate of the Univeristy of the Philippines at Los Banos, MS is Statistics, Minor in Economics. She was Teaching Associate at UPLB and Statician at Itabashi Seiki Philippines in Cavite before she joined IRRI.■



# Recognition to service awardees

**E**very year IRRI pays tribute to its employees who have served the Institute with years of dedication. This year, there will be 153 service awardees who will be recognized during the Annual Recognition Rites in December. Staff with 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service as of December 31, 2000 will each receive cash award and a plaque as token of appreciation from the institute. Four employees will be recognized for their 35 years of service and they are Ms. Carmelita Austria (Library); Mr. Jose de Jesus, Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biochemistry (PBGB); Ms. Normita dela Cruz (PBGB); and Ms. Mila Ramos (Library). All service awardees will be honored during the Recognition Day on December 15. ■



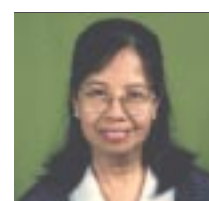
**Carmelita Austria**



**Jose de Jesus**



**Normita dela Cruz**



**Mila Ramos**

## My 35 years at IRRI

As a member of the IRRI family for 35 years, I could say that I have seen the best and fruitful days of this organization. I have been with IRRI since its early development and release of the very popular IR8 and fifty-three other irrigated, hybrid, upland and drought tolerant varieties.

I was a third year student in UPLB when Rizal Herrera, a Research Assistant of the Varietal Improvement Department (now PBGB), offered me a job as a student assistant for a chemist (Lucila Parial). Since chemistry was my major subject, I accepted the offer and went to Ms. Parial, for an interview. I was hired immediately after a series of questions related to some chemistry applications and chemical reactions. I was then introduced to Mr. Henry Beachell, the Plant Breeder responsible for the unit of Rice Quality Laboratory.

My appointment started on September 1, 1964. I consider myself lucky after being chosen among a half dozen applicants for the simple reason

that I consider it a privilege to be working in this prestigious institution. Little did I know that I would be staying longer than I had projected and there is no single moment in my life that I regretted this decision.

After earning my degree in 1966, Mr. Beachell offered me a more permanent position as Research Aide. I had second thoughts in accepting the job because I had two other job offers; one from DTRI, and another from the Chemistry Dept at UPLB. But then, I was also getting tired of the same environment all throughout my college life. I wanted to go to Metro Manila where I could get a higher paying job. After several nights of thinking and weighing the advantages and disadvantages, I finally accepted the job. I was hired as a Research Aide working on the analysis of the different characteristics of the rice grain. After four years, I was promoted to Research Assistant. In 1985, I was blessed with another promotion as Sr. Research Assistant, a position I held until 1991. In August of that year, I was again promoted to Assistant Scientist and finally in

January 1999, became a Sr. Associate Scientist, the pinnacle of my dreams, which boosted my morale after serving IRRI for more than 30 years.

One of the most challenging times of my career was when I was left alone to manage the laboratory after two other colleagues left to seek greener pastures and to pursue further studies abroad. I had to prove to my superior, Dr. G. S. Khush, that I was capable of handling the responsibilities left behind by my former colleagues and that I am able to supervise my assistants.

I am grateful that I had stayed and I am proud to say that I religiously and faithfully carried my task to the best of my ability. There are memorable moments and blessings in my 35 years at IRRI. Accepting an Outstanding Year Round Performance award is one. I would not have the chance to visit several countries like China, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam if I were not in IRRI. I went to these countries upon request from NARS to impart knowledge and train NARS and collaborators on the

*Continued in page 7*

# List of Service Awardees, 2000

## 30 years

### Entomology, Plant Pathology Division

Calica, Modesto A.  
Domingo, Isaias T.

## 25 years

### Agricultural Engineering

Sunaz, Elenita C.

### Communications & Publications Services

Magsino, Melita Q.  
Vibal, Bartolome B.

### Computer Services Division

Cosico, Ildefonso B.

### Crop Science and Water Science Division

Amarante, Serafin T.  
Del Valle, Macario W.  
Guerta, Corinta Q.  
Magbanua, Rogelio D.  
Malabuyoc, Pedro, D.  
Pascual, Zenaida P.  
Victoria, Manolito M.

### Director General's Office

Arellano, Sylvia R.

### Entomology, Plant Pathology Division

Balenson, Florencio R.  
Cabauatan, Pepito Q.  
Reyes, Venancio M.

### Experimental Station

Amolozza, Danilo O.  
Burgos, Valentin C.  
Carandang, Lino M.  
Dalid, Abraham G.  
De Chavez, Bonifacio B.  
Lajarca, Eduardo A.  
Lalap, Virgilio T.  
Malabanan, Nicasio V.  
Malabanan, Sulpicio J.  
Malbataan, Lucas M.  
Malbataan, Mario M.  
Manito, Leopoldo P.  
Marciano, Vivencio P.  
Mercado, Andres M.  
Mercado, Leoppoldo J.  
Morales, Gelardo R.  
Revilleza, Roberto B.

### Food and Housing Services

Cuyno, Melinda M.  
De Ocampo, Fe C.

### Genetic Resource Center

Almazan, Bernardino T.  
Mercado, Gregorio M.

### Library

Jaraplasan, Francisco A.

### Materials Management

Belarmino, Zenaida M.

### Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry

Oboza, Joselito M. Sr.  
Romana, Benito U.  
Tandingan, Alfredo L.

### Social Sciences Division

Marciano, Esther, B.  
Moya, Piedad, F.

### Transport Office

Malabayas, Perlita E.

## 20 years

### Biometrics

Bartolome, Violeta I.

### Communications

Paz, Roberto T.

### Crop Science and Water Science Division

Laureles, Eufrocino V.  
Micoso, Victor R.  
Masajo, Ramon B.  
Namuco, Ofelia S.

### Entomology, Plant Pathology Division (EPPD)

Aranzaso, Timoteo D. Jr.  
Baguioso, Esquirion A.

### Experimental Station

Aclan, Loreto B.  
Banasihan, Jesse C.  
Blanco, Efren L.  
Viquiera, Efren E.

### Food and Housing Services

Garcia, Aurelio C.

### Genetic Resource Center

Almazan, Ma. Socorro R.  
Federico, Zenaida M.  
Lalap, Melencio R.  
Leron, Nestor P.  
Mercado, Bernardo P.

### Communications & Publications Services

Lazaro, Juan V. IV

### Visitors, Exhibits & Conference Services

Menguito, Zorayda T.

### Materials Management

Belison, Lourdes A.

### Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry

Abrigo, Editha M.  
Virmani, Sant Singh  
Torriso, Lina B.

### Physical Plant Services

Escasura, Domingo L.  
Leon, Percival P.  
Tabilangon, Ricardo C.

### Seed Health Unit

Aquino, Pedro E.

### Safety & Security Office

Empalmado, Rodelo M.  
Malacad, Bionico R.  
Zaragosa, Salvador T. Jr.

### Transport Office

Jarmin, Romeo L.  
Malveda, Armando E.  
Tagle, Nelson C.

## 15 years

### Agricultural Engineering

Hernandez, Ricardo M.

### Crop Science and Water Science Division

Comia, Melchor R.  
Abiog, Nelson L.  
Abrenilla, Rachel V.  
Aragones, Darryl V.  
Corcuera, Ferdinand G.  
Egdane, James A.  
Fabian, Emma A.  
Holongbayan, Leonardo R.  
Ladha, Jagdish K.  
Lapastora, Rogelio T. Jr.  
Larazo, Wenceslao M.  
Laza, Ma. Rebecca C.  
Lubigan, Victor H.

### Entomology, Plant Pathology Division

Almazan, Ma. Liberty P.  
Jordan, Hernando A.  
Mew, Twng Wah  
Naredo, Alberto I.  
Velasco, Sergio G.

**Experimental Station**

Fortuna, William C.  
Gonzaga, Danilo O.  
Pamulaklak, Rogelio R.  
Rivera, Antonio B.

**Food and Housing Services**

Bejosano, Ricardo L. Jr.  
Escuadra, Laureano M.  
Reyes, Anslemo R.

**Finance**

Marcelo, Nestor D. Jr.

**Genetic Resource Center**

Aguilar, Remegio L.  
Marasigan, Jose M.  
Villegas, Florencio F.

**Human Resources Development**

Yecyec, Evangeline A.

**Communications & Publications Services**

Panisales, Emmanuel A.  
Rola, Teresita V.

**Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry**

Angeles, Virgilio M.  
Bandian, Minerva B.  
Constantino, Susan V.  
Garcia, Mario A.  
Lanao, Cenon L.  
Lucero, Orlando T.

Managat, Eduardo T.  
Roxas, Jose P.  
Toledo, Rodolfo S.

**Physical Plant Services**

Alumaga, Alex N.  
Banasihan, Danilo F.  
Custodio, Crisencio K.  
Malabuyoc, Nestor A.  
Tamio, Roberto N.

**Seed Health Unit**

Orence, Atanacio B.

**Social Sciences Division**

Raymundo, Shirley A.

**Safety & Security Office**

Espinosa, Roberto M. Jr.  
Regulacion, Ernesto S.

**Training Center**

Comia, Priscilla P.

**Transport Office**

Sanchez, Danilo C.

**10 years****Crop Science and Water Science Division**

Belarmino, Gemma Mercedes O.  
Junsay, Florencia G.  
Salisi, Fernando C.

**Entomology, Plant Pathology Division**

Fernandez, Luzviminda C.  
Lantican, Celso L.

**Experimental Station**

Mendoza, Pedro C.

**Genetic Resource Center**

Angeles, Lydia G.  
Salisi, Digna I.  
Toledo, Ma. Concepcion U.

**Library**

Ramos, Charlene R.

**Lao-IRRI Project**

Schiller, John M.

**Materials Management**

Alimario, Conception Elybeth G.  
Esguerra, Irineo B.

**Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry**

Albano, Besilda G.  
Corral, Marifa L.  
Ona, Robert C.  
Yanoria, Mary Jeanie T.

**Physical Plant Services**

Avila, Douglas D.  
Mabalhin, Anito Q.

**35 years** *continued from page 5*

aspects of rice grain quality. Even if travelling meant working harder to transmit and relate information, especially where language is a barrier, it is an achievement in itself and a rewarding experience. To be a speaker in a seminar abroad and training in countries like Singapore and Thailand

I also consider a perk. The varieties released from IR5 to the latest PSBRcs had passed our careful analysis and I would like to add that we were involved in making these into new varieties. I will never forget my involvement in these undertakings. I must admit that there are moments of frustrations and I had my ups and downs too, but the best ones

have outweighed the bad. If not, do you think I would have endured 35 long years at IRRI? I feel very fulfilled!

By: *Normita M. dela Cruz*  
**Senior Associate  
Scientist, PBGB**

**Intensive English Course**

**T**he value of effective communication has always been highlighted in the workplace and in the domains of science and research. At IRRI, where the acquisition, development and dissemination of scientific information are considered vital to the realization of its mission and vision, effective communication becomes an essential component. Furthermore,

the advancements in technology and the “shrinking of the globe” have made English the common language of business, research, travel, diplomacy, the internet, training and many other areas.

Based on these rational, the Training Center offered an Intensive English Course last August 12 to October 30, 2000. The course was designed to meet the needs of IRRI constituents who are challenged to improve or enhance their English

proficiency levels in the oral and written modes because of any of the following reasons: graduate school academic requirements, professional or personal growth, and research and work-related demands.

This three-month course was intended to develop or enhance the participants’ communicative competencies. Given their academic background and experience, curriculum and instruction design were placed within the intermediate

## What are your plans for the Christmas break?



**Lito Cabral**  
Filipino/Transport Office

*Spend time with the family and attend to some household chores.*



**Joyce Gorsach**  
American/IRRI Spouse

*My husband and I will be visiting Thailand.*



**Orlando Santos**  
Filipino/Consultant

*Like the usual, spend Christmas in Los Baños.*

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### Intensive...

*continued from page 7*

and advanced level. Teaching and learning strategies involved participants in a wide range of interactive language learning and practice activities. These activities were rooted in meaningful contexts and included listening, speaking, reading and writing. The daily lessons had four components: grammar, vocabulary, conversations and written exercises. Models for pronunciation and oral communication included invited native speakers of English (first language), audio-tapes and interactive computer software on English language.

This is one of the courses which will be offered regularly next year by the Learning Resources Unit at the Training Center as part of the program for scholars and other IRRI constituents. This November 15-29, the Scientific Writing will be conducted for IRRI scientists and scholars. Those who are interested to attend should contact Sylvia P. Avance at local 591 or send an e-mail to [s.avance@cgiar.org](mailto:s.avance@cgiar.org). ■



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## Additional 13th Month Pay for NRS

Director General Ronald Cantrell announced through a memorandum dated October 9 that all Nationally Recruited Staff (NRS) will receive an additional half month pay to their 13th month bonus. "Due to favorable and special circumstances for IRRI in 2000" the total value of the 13th month bonus will actually be 1.5 month's pay for this year. Since the half month salary was already provided in May, another full month salary has yet to be received in mid November.

However, it was emphasized by the DG that this special bonus will only be for year 2000 and it will not be treated as a permanent entitlement. Also, the additional payment is "completely independent" of the salary adjustments in 2001. ■