

Sandiwa

ONE HEART, ONE SPIRIT, ONE FAMILY

published by the International Rice Research Institute • Dec 1998

Sandiwa@irri.cgiar.org

<http://www.cgiar.org/sandiwa.htm>

Contents

MEW MEMORIAL FOUNDATION	▶ 2
PADOLINA JOINS IRRI	▶ 3
GOOD DAY, DR. BERNARDO	▶ 4
LITERARY CORNER	▶ 5
30 MINUTES WITH SANTA	▶ 6
IKAW AT ANG SSS	▶ 7
PAGMUMUNI-MUNI	▶ 8

Christmas at IRRI



What is it about Christmas that erases all the bitterness, the anger, the frustrations, and the hopelessness? How does this Christian holiday transcend religion, ethnic background, political belief, and cultural boundary? These questions are difficult to answer, but IRRI Director General Ron Cantrell gives IRRI constituents an idea. In a Christmas message delivered during the Institute's Christmas party last 18 December, he gave two good reasons for enjoying Christmas — the fellowship between families and friends and the sense of joy and peace that one feels on the day itself.

In a multicultural environment such as IRRI, Christmas is being remembered as a celebration of relationships forged, of friendships nurtured, and of camaraderie fostered through the years, despite the varied background and culture of the members that compose the IRRI family. Christmas day is a day like no other. When else can we feel complete happiness amidst our loved ones and cherished friends? When else can we be more forgiving, more tolerant, and filled with more hope?

Individuals need celebrations to renew themselves — and so does IRRI. In this age of electronic mail and voice mail, face-to-face communication is relegated to the background. You know somebody else's e-mail address, but you

don't know his or her face. Social gatherings like this one enable people to meet and get to know each other. After all, people remain to be the Institute's most valuable resource, stressed Dr. Cantrell.

This year's Christmas celebration was highlighted by a show of singing and dancing talents and exciting production numbers presented by the nationally and internationally recruited staff. Susan Telosa (alias Shirley Bassey) won the top prize in the sing-alike contest; Gilbert Rondilla and Arnel Malabanan were runners-up. Gilbert sang a beautiful ditty by artist Steven Curtis Chapman, while Arnel rendered a Tagalog song by artist Bing Rodrigo. Partners Fanny Garcia and Timmy Aranzaso were the champion ballroom dancers, with the pair of Chelo and Anton in second place. The prize for the best production number went to the group from N. C. Brady Laboratory. Their presentation, billed "*Doon po sa Amin*," essayed Filipino Christmas traditions. Second and third placers were the groups from Umali Hall and AED/ES, respectively. The grand raffle prize was won by Lolit Adriano of SWSD.

As IRRI faces a new year of challenges, the staff members of the Institute — reinvigorated, renewed, and refreshed — begin to prepare themselves for the great task ahead. ■

The Annabelle I-Pin Mew Memorial Foundation

The Annabelle I-Pin Mew Memorial Foundation honors the memory of Annabelle Mew by assisting local, academically gifted students to continue their education through four years of high school. Since its establishment in 1987, the Foundation has helped 45 young people complete their secondary education. Without the Foundation's help, these young people would likely be unable to afford education beyond grade school. Most of these students have continued on to university, many of them on scholarships.

Joana Remetio, one of those the Foundation has helped, is now a third year agriculture student at UPLB. She wrote to us recently, saying, 'I feel very

lucky, since studying here at UP is such an honor...and...a big step for a better future...I cannot forget that I'm here because of you and the support given to me by your foundation. I'm really thankful...I hope and I pray that you can help more students and may God bless all of you...'

The foundation originally set out to select six new scholars each year as they enter high school and to support them through all four years of their secondary education. Increasing school expenses and the devaluation of the peso however, have made it impossible to support 24 scholars in each financial year. The Foundation was unable to take any new scholars in 1992, 1994, and 1996, greatly reducing the total num-

ber of scholars. Thanks to the generosity of donors in 1997, three new students were added this school year.

To support 24 scholars annually, the Foundation must double its capital base to assure an annual interest income of 60,000 pesos. This will cover the yearly stipend of 2,000 pesos per child, as well as withholding and community taxes.

Your generosity can make this possible. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile and rewarding cause, forward your donation to any of the Foundation's members: Pia S. Bennett, Marieju Dawe, Teresita V. Mew, Marie-Hélène Pham, Rosa Maria Roetter, or Patricia Young — all at IRRI Staff Housing. ■

The Philippines featured in ISLB celebration

The International School at Los Baños (ISLB) featured the Philippines in a 3-day affair on 25-27 Nov. The children — and teachers — were treated to talks, dances, and a 'barrio fiesta.' Bookmark sold books by Filipino authors at the school, and the children studied different parts of the Philippines.

Events started Wednesday with a visit by the UPLB Dance Troupe. After the group had presented six dances — two each from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao — the children had a chance to try the dances. Dr. Rubio, an environmental scientist from the UP College of Forestry, gave a talk on indigenous plant and animal species and stressed the importance of caring for the environment. Eves Loresto from GRC talked to the



children about the Visayas. The 3-day celebration ended with a 'barrio fiesta', with entertainment from the Philab Band and the AISAS theatrical group, which performed 'Why Women Wash Dishes' and 'The Story of Juan Tamad'. The children played indigenous games such as 'Maria Goes to Market' and 'Egg Bumping.' After the games, everyone was treated to lechon and other delicacies by Riceland Cuisine.

The children of ISLB spend one day each month learning about the Philippines. Their study includes a field trip around the Los Baños area. ■



ISLB kids seek to learn more about IRRI

The students of ISLB are interested in learning more about what goes on at IRRI. They would like to visit different areas within the Institute to understand how scientific disciplines interact to fulfill IRRI's mission. If you have an idea for a field trip for the students (ages 6-12) that could broaden their understanding of basic and applied science, please contact Debbie Cook at 6813/4. Next semester starts 11 January. ■



Padolina joins IRRI as external relations director

Dr. William G. Padolina will be the new director for external relations of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) starting 4 January 1999, IRRI Director General Ronald P. Cantrell announced recently.

As director for external relations, Dr. Padolina will lead a number of different units, all of them involved, in one way or another, with IRRI's research partners. These units are responsible for resource mobilization, relations with the host country, IRRI's research activities in other countries, as well as matters pertaining to intellectual property rights.

In addition, Dr. Padolina will oversee the training of rice scientists from

the Philippines and other countries, a large publishing program, the world's most important rice library, and a museum devoted to rice, the "Riceworld."

In announcing this appointment, Dr. Cantrell said, "Dr. Padolina is a world-class scientist whose good background in science, especially in biotechnology and intellectual property rights, is important to IRRI. We are looking to him for leadership in these areas as we get ready for the next century."

Dr. Padolina is a distinguished government leader, scientist, and academician. He was a former cabinet member in the Philippine Government as secretary of the Department of Sci-



ence and Technology (DOST) from 1995 to 1998.

He also served as assistant to the president of the University of the Philippines (UP)

System, vice-chancellor for academic affairs at UP Los Baños (UPLB), and director of the National Institutes of Biotechnology and Applied Microbiology at UPLB.

His appointment as IRRI director for external relations came at the end of an intensive selection process led by Dr. Cantrell. ■

How "Merry Christmas" is said around the world

Arabic: Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

Argentine: Feliz Navidad

Bahasa Malaysia: Selamat Hari Natal

Bengali: Shuvo Naba Barsha

Brazilian: Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo

Chilean: Feliz Navidad

Chinese: (Cantonese) Gun Tso Sun Tan'Gung Haw Sun

Chinese: (Mandarin) Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan

Choctaw: Yukpa, Nitak Hollo Chito

Columbia: Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo

Czech: Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok

Danish: Glædelig Jul

Dutch: Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! or Zalig Kerstfeest

English: Merry Christmas

Finnish: Hyvaa joulua

Flemish: Zalig Kerstfeest en Gelukkignieuw jaar

French: Joyeux Noel

German: Froehliche Weihnachten

Greek: Kala Christouyenna!

Hindi: Shub Naya Baras

Hawaiian: Mele Kalikimaka ame Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Indonesian: Selamat Hari Natal

Iraqi: Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

Irish: Nollaig Shona Dhuit, or Nodlaig mhaith chugnat

Italian: Buone Feste Natalizie

Japanese: Shinnen omedeto.

Kurisumasu Omedeto

Korean: Sung Tan Chuk Ha

Latin: Natale hilare et Annum Faustum!

Norwegian: God Jul, or Gledelig Jul

Peruvian: Feliz Navidad y un Venturoso Año Nuevo

Polish: Wesolych Swiat Bozego

Narodzenia or Boze Narodzenie

Portuguese: Feliz Natal

Russian: Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom

Rozhdestva is Novim Godom

Spanish: Feliz Navidad

Swedish: God Jul and (Och) Ett

Gott Nytt Ar

Tagalog: Maligayang Pasko at

Masaganang Bagong Taon

Tami: Nathar Puthu Varuda Valthukkal

Thai: Sawadee Pee Mai

Turkish: Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu

Olsun

Urdu: Naya Saal Mubarak Ho

Vietnamese: Chung Mung Giang Sinh

Welsh: Nadolig Llawen

Yugoslavian: Cestitamo Bozic ■

Christmas customs around the world

Contributed by Grace Lasat-Reyes

Latin America: Pot breaking is a Christmas game.

Sweden: Elves play Santa Claus.

Norway: Christmas bells are rung.

Denmark: Yule log is burned.

China: Dragon dancers mark Christmas by creating noises.

Japan: Three-eyed Santa Claus is expected.

Thailand: New Year is celebrated twice.

Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg: St. Nick's legend lives on.

Spain: Wise men bring gifts.

Switzerland: Christ Child on a sleigh is revered.

France: Le reveillon marks Christmas and they welcome Knecht Rupert.

Germany: People put up Christmas tree.

Australia: Plums are eaten.

England: Gifts are stacked under the trees.

Canada: People enjoy the winterlude.

Italy: Everyone waits for the good witch.

Russia: People expect apostles. ■

Good day, Dr. Bernardo!

After almost a dozen years of service in IRRI, Dr. Fernando Bernardo, former deputy director general for international services, leaves the institute with fond memories of working under five DGs (Drs. Swaminathan, Lampe, Rothschild, Havener, and Cantrell) and with the world's best scientists. IRRI staff members who attended the merienda cena in his honor were all in stitches as he humorously narrated his experiences with the five IRRI bosses. On a serious note, he thanked the IRRI administration, the research group, the outreach staff, and the NARS partners for their full support and cooperation, which made his job less difficult.

Dr. Bernardo has had a distinguished career. Before coming to IRRI, he was a faculty member of UPLB,

teaching Plant Breeding and Industrial Crops (1955-72), Professor of Horticulture (1972-74), acting Director of Business Affairs (1971), Director of Graduate Studies (1969-73), and Dean of the College of Agriculture (1973-74). He was Deputy Director General, Philippine Council of Agricultural Research (1972-73); President of the Visayas State College of Agriculture (1974-84), President, Asian Association of Agricultural Colleges; and Universities (1982-86); President, Philippine State Colleges and Universities (1981-82); Director, SEARCA (1984-87); and Deputy Minister of Education (1984-86). He was one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in Genetics (1966); Rizal Pro Patria Awardee for Educational Administration (1980); Most Outstanding Agricultural Educator of the Year



(1978); PANTAS Awardee for Research Administration (1982); and Most Distinguished UPLB Alumnus (1986).

In parting, Dr. Bernardo refused to say good-bye, farewell, so long, or adieu. He bade his colleagues 'Good day,' saying he would still be very much around. ■

Zeigler leaving IRRI after seven years

Dr. Bob Zeigler, Irrigated Rice Program Leader, is leaving IRRI at the end of December to become head of the Department of Plant Pathology and administrator for the Plant Biotechnology Center at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA.

Bob joined IRRI in January 1991 as Rainfed Lowland Program Leader. He moved to the Irrigated Program in 1996, after Dr. Prabhu Pingali left IRRI for CIMMYT. Bob worked at CIAT before coming to IRRI, and has spent 14 years in the CGIAR system.

Asked about his time at IRRI, Bob cites extending the concept of

multidisciplinary research across the region in the consortia, working closely with NARS in many countries, and improving the understanding of the blast fungus as his most significant achievements. He is looking forward to taking his international perspective and lessons learned in international agriculture and applying them to research in the United States, making the links between U.S. research and international research community more effective.

Those with theatrical inclinations in the IRRI community will miss both Bob and Crissa, his wife. They played major roles both onstage and off in *Aladdin and the Singing Thieves* and

Robin Hood. No doubt they will find many outlets for their talents in Kansas. ■



Trivia

(This is a quiz on IRRI history. Old timer, how good is your memory?)

1. Who was the institute's first driver?
2. When was the first meeting of the IRRI Board of Trustees?
3. How much did IRRI pay the University of the Philippines for its use of the land for building sites and experimental farm?
4. On which hill were the original main buildings constructed?
5. How is IR8 called in Indonesia?

Answers on page 5

EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE (Joke only)

On 15 Dec 1998, many IRRI employees stormed our office, complaining about their recent appeals that have been turned down despite the 100% support they got from their bosses. As a CIE representative, I tried to investigate the situation, coordinating with Diwa, a program leader. I asked her if she could give me a letter describing her employee who made the appeal. She sent me a letter written in EXCEL format, stating the following:

- 1 Brod Pete, my assistant programmer, can always be found
- 2 hard at work in his cubicle. Brod Pete works independently, without
- 3 wasting company time talking to colleagues. Brod Pete never
- 4 thinks twice about assisting fellow employees, and he always
- 5 finishes given assignments on time. Often Brod Pete takes extended
- 6 measures to complete his work, sometimes skipping coffee
- 7 breaks. Brod Pete is a dedicated individual who absolutely has no
- 8 vanity in spite of his high accomplishments and profound
- 9 knowledge in his field. I firmly believe that Brod Pete can be
- 10 classed as a high-caliber employee, the type which cannot be
- 11 dispensed with. Consequently, I duly recommend that Brod Pete be
- 12 promoted to executive management, and a proposal will be
- 13 executed as soon as possible.

*San Diwa
Program Leader*

Shortly afterward, I received a follow-up note from Diwa, stating the following:

"Brod Pete was reading over my shoulder while I was writing the report I sent you earlier today. Kindly read only the odd-numbered line (1, 3, 5, etc.) for my true assessment.

*Regards,
San Diwa*

Contributed by *Jojo Abengania*

You guessed right

Here are the correct answers to our Guess Who? contest:

1. Carme Austria
2. Eves Loresto
3. Lou Paunlagui
4. Bernie Mandac
5. Romy Visperas
6. Joe de Jesus
7. Abe Mandac
8. Apolinario Resurreccion

Of the 28 entries, 17 had all the answers correct. Joy Guevara of SHU emerged the winner after the drawing of lots. She won a food basket. Congratulations to the winner and to all those who participated in the game. Expect more of these in future issues. ■

*"Never admit failure until you've
made your last attempt.
Never make your last attempt until
you've succeeded."*

Literary corner

Pollution

by *Fernando A. Bernardo*

*Smoke ... smoke ... smoke ...,
Choking our lungs, cutting our breath;
Spray ... spray ... spray ...,
Till the flora and fauna's death;
Dump; ... dump ... dump ...,
Wastes that spoil rivers and lakes;
Noise ... noise ... noise ...,
Deafening till the eardrum breaks.*

*Porn ... porn ... porn ...
Bad pollution of the young mind;
Greed ... hate ... greed ... hate ...,
Sneaking and stabbing from behind;
Black heart and sick mind ...,
It's pollution of the worst kind!
Unless we change, many opine:
This could be the end of mankind.*

Answers to TRIVIA questions

1. Teofilo Alorro
2. April 14, 1960
3. One peso per year
4. Higamot Hill
5. Peta Baru 8

OOPS!

We are reprinting the first 2 lines of Dr. Bernardo's poem "Success and Happiness". It should have read:

*" Success is having the best of
everything,
Happiness is making the best of
anything."*

Our apologies. Eds.

WELFARE WOES (taken from actual letters received by the Wisconsin Welfare Department in application for support.)

I am forwarding my marriage certificate and six children. I had seven, but one died which was baptized on a half sheet of paper.

Mrs. Jones has not had any clothes for 4 years and has been visited regularly by the clergy.

I am writing to the welfare department to say that my baby was born two years old. When do I get my money?

I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell me why?

I am glad to report that my husband who is missing is dead.

This is my eighth child. What are you going to do about it?

Please find for certain if my husband is dead. The man I am now living with can't eat or do anything till he knows.

I am very much annoyed to find you have branded my son as illiterate. This is a dirty lie as I was married a week before he was born.

I am forwarding my marriage certificate and my three children, one of which is a mistake as you can see.

I have no children as yet as my husband is a truck driver and works day and night.

In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing ten pounds. I hope this is satisfactory.

My husband got his project cut off two weeks ago and I haven't had any relief since.

Unless I get my husband's money pretty soon, I will be forced to live an immortal life.

In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

You have changed my little boy to a girl. Will this make any difference?

I want my money as quick as I can get it. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn't do me any good. If things don't improve, I will have to send for another doctor. ■

Contributed by a former CPS editor

Sandiwa caught up with Santa just as he was getting ready for his world tour on 24 December. He very kindly agreed to answer a few questions for us.

Sure is cold here at North Pole, Santa. How do you like the climate in the Philippines?

It is a lot hotter than it used to, but I have a special, lightweight suit for my tropical deliveries.

What about the reindeer, how do they take the heat?

I use carabao in the Philippines, much better and they know their way around.

The houses in the Philippines don't have chimneys - how do you get inside?

That's a secret - can't have everyone doing it. Let's just say that wherever a cockroach can go, I can go!

At this time of year, Santa, we see you all over the place - at supermarkets, de-

30 Minutes with



Santa Claus

partment stores, children's parties, hospitals - how do you manage to be in so many places at once?

I have deputies, specially trained acting Santa Clauses who are on duty non-stop 1-25 December.

How many letters from children do you get each year?

Millions. Billions. I've lost count. But I read every one.

What's the biggest gift you've ever been asked for?

World peace. Very difficult, but I'm still trying.

What's the most difficult aspect of making your deliveries?

Drinking all the milk and eating all the cookies. I have to go on a diet right after Christmas, otherwise my suit won't fit next year.

Have you a Christmas message for the readers of Sandiwa?

Ho, ho, ho! ■

Ikaw at ang SSS

BENEFISYO SA PANGANGANAK

Kailangan bang ipagbigay-alam sa SSS ang pagdadalantao ng isang miyembro?

Oo. Sa sandaling malaman ng miyembro ang kanyang pagdadalantao, kailangang ipaalam niya agad ito sa kanyang *employer* sa pamamagitan ng *SSS Form B-300A (Maternity Notification Form)*.

Samantala, kailangan namang isumite ito ng kanyang *employer* sa SSS sa loob ng 60 araw mula sa araw ng pagbubuntis.

Kapag hindi naipagbigay-alam ng miyembro ang kanyang pagdadalantao, ito ay maaaring maging dahilan upang ang kanyang benepisyo ay di maibigay.

Ang mga miyembrong self-employed o voluntary ba ay kuwalipikado sa benepisyong ito?

Hindi. Ang mga *self-employed* o *voluntary member* ng SSS ay hindi kuwalipikado sa benepisyo sa panganganak sapagka't wala silang *employer* na siyang nagbabayad ng kontribusyon para sa benepisyong ito.

Paano tinutuos ang benepisyong panganganak?

1. Alamin ang semestre ng panganganak o pagkalaglag ng bata. Ang isang semestre ay ang

dalawang magkasunod na *quarters* na nagtatapos sa *quarter* ng panganganak o pagkalaglag ng bata. Ang isang *quarter* ay tatlong magkakasunod na buwan na nagtatapos sa huling araw ng Marso, Hunyo, Setyembre, o Disyembre.

2. Alamin ang huling 12 buwan bago ang semestre ng panganganak o pagkalaglag ng bata.

3. Alamin ang anim na pinakamataas na *monthly salary credit* sa loob ng nasabing 12 buwan.

Ang *monthly salary credit* ay ang *compensation base* ng kontribusyon at mga benepisyo na kaugnay sa kabuuang kita ng isang miyembro sa isang buwan.

4. Sumahin ang anim na pinakamataas na *monthly salary credit* upang makuha ang *total monthly salary credit*.

5. I-divide ang *total monthly salary credit* sa 180 araw upang makuha ang *average daily salary credit*. Ito rin ang *daily maternity allowance*.

6. I-multiply ang *daily maternity allowance* sa 60 (kung *normal delivery*) o 78 araw (kung *caesarean delivery*) upang makuha ang *total maternity allowance*.

Halimbawa, kung ang babaeng miyembro ay nanganak sa buwan ng Nobyembre 1997:

1. Ang semestre ng panganganak ay

mula Hulyo 1997 hanggang Disyembre 1997.

2. Ang huling 12 buwan bago ang semestre ng panganganak ay mula Hulyo 1996 hanggang Hunyo 1997.

3. Ipagpalagay natin na ang anim na pinakamataas na *salary credit* ay P10,000 lahat. Samakatuwid ang suma ng mga ito ay P60,000 ($P10,000 \times 6$).

4. Ang *daily maternity allowance* ay P333.33 ($P60,000/180$).

5. Ang benepisyo sa panganganak ay P19,999.99 ($P333.33 \times 60$) kung *normal delivery* o P25,999.99 ($P333.33 \times 78$) kung *caesarean delivery*.

Paano mababayaran ang miyembro ng benepisyong panganganak?

Ang benepisyo ay ipinapauna ng kanyang *employer*. Maari itong ibigay nang buo o dalawang magkatumbas na halaga. Ang unang halaga ay ibinibigay kapag natanggap ng *employer* ang *maternity leave application*, at ang ikalawa ay ibinibigay sa loob ng 30 araw mula nang maibigay ang unang halaga.

Binabayaran ng SSS sa *employer* ang halagang ipinauna nito sa kanyang empleyado sa oras na matanggap ng SSS ang patunay na naibigay ang kabayaran ng benepisyong ito sa empleyado. ■

Welcome ...

Dr. S. Robin, *project scientist*, PBGB, 30 Nov

Dr. Lumin Liu, *project scientist*, APPA, 30 Nov

Mr. Sang-bok Lee, *collaborative research fellow*, APPA, 1 Dec

Dr. Ram C. Sharma, *visiting scientist*, EPPD, 12 Dec

Welcome and goodbye ...

Dr. C. Ramasamy, *visiting scientist*, SSD, 1-31 Dec

Goodbye ...

Dr. Robert S. Zeigler, EPPD, 29 Dec

Dr. Tim Chancellor, EPPD, 16 Dec

Dr. Fernando Bernardo, consultant, 31 Dec

Dr. Kwanchai Gomez, consultant, 31 Dec

Mr. Ramon R. Guevara, Materials Management, 31 Dec.

MILESTONES

We are going to add a new section to Sandiwà called "MILESTONES." Here, we want to share the good news about you and your family. Has anyone graduated cum laude? had a holiday in Europe? had a successful piano recital? won a medal in a competition? dived into Lake Taal? become president of an association? celebrated an anniversary? got promoted?

These are just some of the many shining moments that you may want to share with your IRRI family. Send them in, along with the photos. ■

Pagmumuni-muni

Polly Roxas

Marami sa mga binata't dalaga ngayon, maging sa mga tinedyer pa lamang, ang sabik na sabik na magkaroon ng boyfriend o girlfriend. Kay dali nilang bumuo ng "commitment" lalo na ng 'MU' (mutual understanding). Sila ay mapusok at hindi iniisip ang malaking responsibilidad na kanilang susuungin kung sila'y makalimot at mapilitang sumuong sa isang relasyon, kasunduan, o kasal. Ang mga relasyong kagaya nito na may mahinang pundasyon ang madaling mabuwal sa kaunti lamang problema.

Ang kasal ay tinawag kong kasunduan sapagka't kapwa nangkong mag-iisang dibdib. Take note... mag-iisang dibdib. Ibig sabihin, kayo ay pinag-isa na. Ang iyong kabiyak at ikaw ay iisa. Pag sinaktan mo ang iyong kabiyak ay parang sinaktan mo na rin ang iyong sarili.

Ang pangunahing sangkap sa pagsasama ay pag-ibig, paggalang, at responsibilidad sa isa't-isa. Kailangan rin ang lubusang pagkakilala at pagtanggap sa katauhan ng taong iyong pinakasalan na sa kabila ng anumang pagkukulang niya, ikaw ay handang tumanggap, magpatawad, at umunawa. At ang pinakamahalaga sa lahat ay ang paghingi ng patnubay ng nasa itaas na bawa't gagawin ninyo ay sang-ayon sa Kanyang kalooban.

"It takes two to tango" 'ika nga. Ang pinakamatinding kaaway sa pagsasama ay ang "pride" o "ego." Para sa iba, isang malaking kabawasan sa katauhan nila ang lumapit na una at makipagbati o makipag-usap. Kung sana ay matuto ang lahat na lunukin ang kanilang "pride" at ibaba ang kanilang "ego" ay walang relasyong mapariwara.

Komunikasyon ang isa pang sangkap na kalimitang nalilimutan ng mag-asawa kaya't mga maling hinala ang naipupunla at namumuo sa magkabilang panig. Busy... ang kalimitang alibi. Pagod... sabi naman ng iba. Hanggang kailan ka busy? Hanggang kailan ka pagod? Baka bago mo matanto ang lahat ay wasak na pala ang iyong tahanan; lahat ng pagsisikap mo ay huli na at wala nang saysay. Baka sobra na ang gap na nalikha ng pagiging busy at pagod mo araw-araw.

Kay daling pumasok ng grasya sa tahanan punung-puno ng unawaan. Mag-ukol ka ng panahon na pag-usapan ang inyong sariling buhay, ano ba ang mga balak mo sa hinaharap, ano ba ang kuru-kuro mo sa pang-araw-araw na mga pangyayari, ibahagi mo ito sa iyong pamilya. Matuto ka ring makinig sa kabilang panig upang sila naman ay makapagsalita ng gusto nilang sabihin.

Hindi mahalaga ang salapi sa bawa't sandali... maaaring marami ka nito pero hindi ka maligaya. Mag-ukol ka ng panahon para makapiling sila. Tandaan mo, hindi nabibili ang katiwasayan ng tao. Alin ba ang nanaisin mo – ang salapi o ang iyong pamilya?

Kay lamig ng hanging Disyembre na nagbabadya ng kapaskuhan. Panahon upang tayo'y lumingon at magnilaynilay ng ating nakaraang buhay. Panahon upang makipagkasundo at buuing muli ang wasak na relasyon. Sana'y maging inspirasyon sa inyo ang kaunting pagbabahagi ko ngayon at tumimo sa puso ninyo ang kahalagahan ng aking mensahe.

Hanggang sa muli! ■

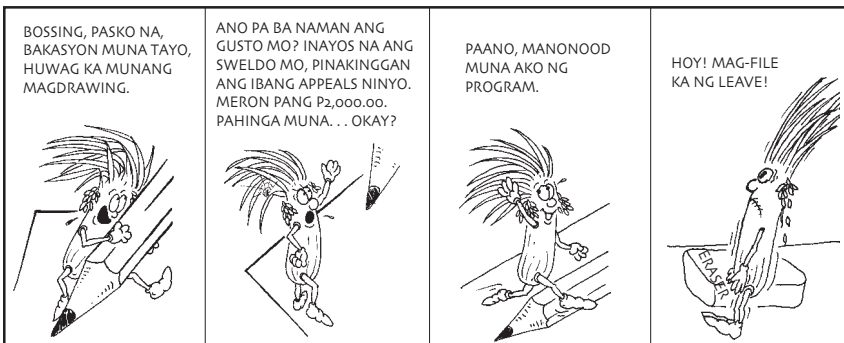
(Polly defines what marriage is and gives advice on how to make it work.)

IRRI's new address

Starting 1999, IRRI's postal address is
**MCPO Box 3127,
Makati City 1271, Philippines.** ■

Diwa's Nook

Jojo Abenganian/Juan Lazaro IV



Sandiwa

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Illustrations: Juan Lazaro IV, CPS Creative Design Team

Contributors: Polly Roxas, Susan Telosa

Sandiwa@irri.cgiar.org
<http://www.cgiar.org/irri/sandiwa.htm>