

Sandiwa

One heart, one spirit, one family

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Snake, rattle 'n' roll

by Isabel Sheehy

Snakes have been slyly making themselves at home in IRRI staff housing. No longer content to lurk in the garden, they have awarded themselves IRS housing status. One group has taken up residence in the ceiling of No. 38. This is where Wolfgang Reichardt, a microbiologist in Crop, Soil, and Water Sciences (CSWS), lives with his wife, Sabine. A strong smell led the Reichardts to suspect that some of the intruders were passing into the afterlife within their premises. Their complaints launched a snake hunt within the compound.

Glenn Enriquez, head of security at IRRI, was researching snake repellants, but now he needed a snake catcher. He didn't want a snake killer, but an individual with a passion for snakes, someone who wouldn't harm them. Glenn came to hear of the extraordinary talents of Dominador Montes, who makes a living catching snakes and selling them as pets. He says he has been bitten several times but has never come to any harm.

In the next few weeks, Dominador will be performing his snake tricks at staff housing. He won't allow his fellow workers to barbecue the captured snakes for supper. Instead, he will keep them as pets for a while, before releasing them into the wild.

Owing to Dominador's humane methods, there shouldn't be a reoccurrence of a hair-raising episode that occurred in staff housing over 10 years ago. A resident, shocked to discover a snake in the sink area outside her house, rushed to get help from security, who hacked the snake to death. Still in shock, the woman went to a neighbor's house to calm down. Her husband



Dominador does his thing.

returned from work an hour later and was aghast to find blood all over the floor but no sign of his wife.

Three years ago, Mar Movillon, senior manager of Riceworld, had his own close encounter with a snake. Mar was going at some bushes in his backyard with a sickle when he felt something pinch his hand. He saw a snake drop to the ground and knew he had been bitten. At first he was too stunned to move, but then he washed the affected area with soap and water and bled the bite.

Chris Dawinan, IRRI's occupational health and safety nurse, gave Mar an antivenin ampoule and sent him to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang. The doctors there told him that he wasn't suffering symptoms usually associated with a venomous snakebite, such as numbness or irritation around the bite. They nevertheless decided to hold him for observation until 20 hours after the bite, which is the normal procedure. They told him to rest but not to sleep, so he had to sit upright to stay awake, as by this time it was very late at night.

Seven hours later, assuring Mar that the bite wasn't venomous, the doctors asked him to give his antivenin to another snake-bite victim who needed it. Mar hesitated. He had heard about cases in which symptoms were slow to develop, and he still hadn't crossed the 20-hour finish line that would put him 100% in the clear. Finally, his conscience got the better of him.

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Snake . . . from page 1

When he had first entered the hospital there were two snake bite victims in the queue ahead of him. One was dying, and the other one was in serious condition. Learning that the dying man was now dead, Mar made his decision. He handed over the antivenin from IRRI to save the other victim.

Thomas George, an agronomist in CSWS, once found a python snoozing in his backyard chicken coop in staff housing. Three distinct lumps along its length explained the absence of three adolescent chicks the George boys, Michael and Patrick, had kept as pets. Unable to slink out of the coop, the gorged python had apparently decided to sleep the meal off. Thomas alerted IRRI security, who removed the trespasser.

The story piqued the interest of Thomas' boss, Jim Hill, who asked that he be called the next time a python

appeared. Late one night, Jim got the call, whipped on some clothes, and arrived to find the snake making a quick exit. He grabbed it by the tail, but the snake proved to be too strong and managed to slither most of the way through a fence.

Suddenly, something struck Jim on the back of his hand. The snake had cunningly curled back over the fence and bitten him. Luckily, the bite wasn't venomous, but Jim still has scars to remind him of his scaly encounter. ■



Cobras, vipers, and antivenin

How do you tell a venomous snake from a non-venomous one? How should you react if you spot a snake? How can you help a snakebite victim?

Cobras, the best known venomous snakes in the Philippines, are light brown to black in color and, when provoked, rear up and expand their hoods. The king cobra, one of the world's largest venomous snakes, can be as long as three meters. This species is yellow to black in color, often with narrow, white chevrons across the back. Their heads are slightly distinct from their necks.



The barred coral snake is a small, front-fanged snake with a roundish body and a head that is creamy yellow to reddish yellow. Narrow, broken white rings appear at intervals on its black body, which runs to the head without a discernable neck. Wagler's pit viper is a short but robust snake with a triangular-shaped head. Its color is green to blue-green, with highly variable markings ranging from white to yellow and brown. The Philippine pit viper is similar but with a range of colorings, running from yellowish green to bluish green, with a series of dark blotches or crossbars on the back.

In general, poisonous snakes are more angular than non-poisonous varieties, with semi-triangular heads (non-poisonous snakes have oblongated heads), rectangular bodies (non-poisonous, circular), vertical pupils (round), and rough skin (smooth). Poisonous snakes travel by sidewinding or cortina movements, non-poisonous by curvature locomotion. Poisonous bites leave fang holes, non-poisonous ones a horseshoe-shaped mark. Snakes that constrict their prey are not poisonous.

The best way to avoid snakebite is to steer clear of snakes. When out walking, stay on paths as much as possible. Don't venture into tall grass without protective boots. Be cautious and alert when climbing rocks. Keep your hands and feet out of areas you can't see. If you encounter a snake, leave it alone. Most snakes attack humans only when provoked (a snake's striking range is half its length).

Dr Beatriz Quiambao, of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang, reports that RITM sees an average of 33 snakebite victims per month. Of these, about three are serious enough to warrant admission, usually because they show signs of venom poisoning. The fatality rate is less than 1%. There were two deaths last year.

RITM has been known to run out of antivenin, but IRRI's Safety and Security Services maintain a small stock for use in treating staff members and the residents of surrounding communities. Antivenin is a serum made from the blood of horses that have been inoculated with snake venom. When injected into the veins or muscles of snakebite victims, it neutralizes the venom. The treatment is hardly free of risk, though, as some people are allergic to horse products.

Snakebite victims should stay calm, as agitation boosts blood circulation and spreads the venom. Wash the bite with soap and water. Immobilize the bitten area, keeping it lower than the heart. Seek medical help immediately. If you can't get medical help within 30 minutes, a bandage wrapped 5-10 cm above the bite may help slow the spread of the venom. This should not be a tourniquet, tight enough to restrict blood flow. Keep the band loose enough for a finger to slip under it. A suction device may be placed over the bite to draw the venom out of the wound, but do this without making cuts to the wound. Don't apply ice to the bite. — I.S. ■

Professional Associations

IFSA holds sportsfest

It was a day of fun, fellowship, and good food for 83 members of the IRRI Filipino Scientists Association (IFSA) and their families at a sportsfest held on 16 June. Four color-coded teams participated in the competition. Events included cycling, walkathon, cheering, mixed basket-ball, mixed volleyball, obstacle relay, and tug-of-war.

The activity aimed to foster camaraderie and promote unity among IFSA members. After the event, IFSA President Ato Reaño said that all IFSA members emerged as winners in unity and camaraderie. The competition not only brought out the best in the members, but it also brought them closer to one another. Credit for organizing the successful activity goes to Mark Nas (chair), Vivay Salazar, Neil Monroy, Rhulyx Mendoza, Aileen Alvaran, Darlene Sanchez, Crisel Ramos, Tin-tin Visperas, Ato Reaño, and the rest of the organizing committee. ■



At the IFSA sportsfest, cheering was a competitive sport.



Lucky Friday with AFSTRI

On Friday, 13 July, the Association of Fellows, Scholars, and Trainees of IRRI (AFSTRI) is hosting a social event at the IRRI Club, M.S. Swaminathan Hall. The event includes an international food festival, a stamp, coin, and paper-currency exhibition-cum-exchange, and the screening of a recent hit movie.

Registration for the competitions has already passed, but all are invited to attend the event. The stamp and currency collections will be on display from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. From 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., judges will taste and rank the items prepared for the international food festival. Winners will be announced at 6:30 p.m., at which time all in attendance will be invited to dig in. From 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., there will be a special screening of the Academy Award-winning movie “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” in the Chandler Hall Auditorium.

For further information, please contact A. Jauhar Ali, AFSTRI general secretary, at ext. 512. ■

SINoP seminar series

The Society of IRRI Nonresearch Professionals launched a professional seminar series on 30 May with a talk by Sylvia Inciong entitled “How to get rid of stage fright when speaking in public.” The following talk, on 22 June, was by Mon Oliveros on “Intellectual property rights—some basic concepts.”

On 25 July, Marga Escaler will speak on “Public perception of GMOs.” On 31 August, Tess Rola will talk about “Effective writing: letters and memoranda.” Albert Borrero will discuss “Managing technology in organizations” on 28 September. All seminars are held in the Harrar Hall Seminar Room.

All NRS, specially members of the various sectoral organizations, are encouraged to attend the seminars, which are held at 3:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Sylvia Arellano, chair of the SINoP Professional Growth Committee, the organizer of the seminar series, at ext. 211. ■

Digital publishing workshop

by Isabel Sheehy



Participants in the inter-institutional communications workshop.

IRRI's Communication and Publications Services and Visitors and Information Services co-hosted on 5 June an inter-institutional communications workshop entitled "Science publishing using digital tools and solutions." The event drew more than 90 participants from organizations such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, the Asian Development Bank, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), the IRRI Collaborators' Center, and the Los Baños Science Community.

With the click of a mouse, the Internet presents to us a world of knowledge—but what is it worth? In his opening remarks, William Padolina, IRRI deputy director general—partnerships, pointed out that knowledge is useful only if it is communicated in a clear and precise way. It is the role of the communications industry to adopt the latest digital tools and to use them to benefit society as a whole.

Most speakers were positive about the opportunities electronic publishing presents. Jose Guerrero, director of the Science and Technology Information Institute of the Philippine government's Department of Science and Technology, stated that digital technology can be used in all stages of the publishing process, speeding up delivery time. As soon as information is set down, it can be sent instantly to a worldwide audience.

For scientists, there is the exciting possibility of instant exchange of ideas with fellow scientists around the globe. Dr. Guerrero called this "fostering a science community without borders." Paul Marcotte, head of the IRRI Training Center, noted that research and training are greatly facilitated, bringing the Training Center, for example, to farmers in remote parts of the world, provided only that they have electricity and Internet connections.

At the same time, e-publishing poses inequities. The gap between the information-rich and information-poor is a growing problem, said the PCARRD's Tricia Javier, as the free information on the Net benefits only those rich enough to access it. Printed documents are still needed for less-developed countries.

Choice is paramount in the digital revolution. What and how we read is no longer dictated to us. Madeline Suva, director at the Office of Public and Alumni Affairs, UPLB, observed that we no longer have to read in a linear fashion, but can select passages that interest us and instantly connect to other related topics. When doing courses on-line or using digital packages, we can select those areas that we need to improve on. ■

Outstanding

Mary Grace A. Rayco, of Finance, poses with prominent lawyer and television personality Katrina Legarda after receiving her award as Outstanding Girl Scout of the Philippines National Youth Achiever, from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in May.



Field trip

Children at the International School of Los Baños recently completed a series of weekly visits to places of interest around IRRI. The young people, aged between seven and twelve years, toured the warehouses, Motor Vehicle Repair Service, and print shop, as well as the Riceworld Museum and Learning Center. At the Experiment Station, students had a hands-on experience that included working with a carabao. Perhaps most unforgettable of all was a ride on an IRRI fire truck, with its siren wailing.

This behind-the-scenes-at-IRRI program was organized by Pat Young, an IRRI spouse and part-time employee of ISLB.

“There are many people who helped make this successful, so I’m a little cautious about mentioning their names for fear of missing some out,” says Ms. Young. “I was truly impressed with everyone we met. They were all welcoming, helpful, and great with the children, making each activity both very informative and lots of fun for everyone.”

So, guys (we know at least some of you), take a bow!■



How are you ever going to keep ISLB students in the classroom after they've been down on the farm?

Fire brigade learns new skills

Fire fighting inside buildings or confined spaces presents a challenge to firemen. To control fire effectively, firefighters must overcome difficulties such as working in toxic fumes, extreme heat, and low or zero visibility because of intense smoke.

On 8 and 14 June, 18 fire brigade members attended the Breathing Apparatus Wearers Training Course, an annual special training on the use of the modern Mine Safety Appliance self-contained breathing apparatus, organized by the Security and Safety Services (SSS).

“Since the training involves a lot of physical exertion under extreme conditions, participants have to be physically fit in order to qualify for the training,” said SSS head Glenn Enriquez.

The participants were asked to breathe, walk, and crawl wearing the MSA apparatus during the first 30 minutes of the training. The fire fighters also worked on a

hose line inside a sealed container van under very low to almost-zero lighting conditions. “They were monitored by an infrared camera, which allowed the instructors to videotape each participant’s performance,” Mr. Enriquez said.

Those who qualified and trained included Fred

Angeles, Materials Management; Edwin Cobarrubias, Roger Cuevas, and Romeo Jarmin, Motor Vehicle Repair Shop; Pablo Erasga, Roberto Espinosa, and Rodelo Empalmado, SSS; Roger Pamulaklakin, Marcelo Torres, Francisco Calibo, and Ricardo Sioson,

Experiment Station; Luisito Vitan and Domingo Ortiz, Physical Plant Services; Melencio Lalap, Ernesto Sumague and Romulo Quilantang, Genetic Resources Center; Edwin Dizon, Crop, Soil and Water Sciences; and Eduardo Pua, Transport Services. ■



Fire fighters are put through their paces while wearing breathing gear.

Keeping Up

IRRI welcomes M.M. Rahman

The International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) regional representative in Asia and the Pacific, M. Motlubor Rahman, recently arrived at IRRI as a guest scientist. A national of Bangladesh, Dr. Rahman joined ISNAR in 1990 and worked as agricultural research advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture in Uganda for five years, then served as director of ISNAR's Institutional Development and Governance Program.



Before joining ISNAR, he was the executive chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. Prior to that, he was director general of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and founder director of the Bangladesh Sugarcane Research and Training Institute.

A Los Baños graduate, Dr. Rahman obtained his PhD in genetics and plant breeding (rice) from UPLB in 1969. A supporter of IRRI-BRRI, BARI-CIMMYT and BARI-CIP collaboration, he initiated and coordinated the first National Coordinated Farming Systems Program in Bangladesh. He also served as a resource person in IRRI's Rice-based Cropping Systems Program in Asia.

Dr. Rahman's office is in the Collaborators' Center. His extension number is 6895. ■

New faces at IRRI

The last two months saw the arrival of eight new NRS employees at IRRI. Last month, **Marilyn A. Rala** joined the IRRI office of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) as secretary I. The other new arrivals were **Allan Crispulo R. Vallarta** as catalog librarian, **Catherine V. Buena** as accountant II and **Michelle C. Coligado** as secretary I under Finance, and **Emma I. Diangkinay** as researcher in the IRRI office of the International Center for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat (CIMMYT).

May also saw the arrival of four new staff members. **Eric John F. Azucena** joined the Training Center as a training assistant, **Ernesto L. Mejia** as an assistant in the IRRI office of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), **Myra L. Collado** as a programmer for the Experiment Station, and **Rommel V. Javier** as research technician II for the Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry Division. ■

Graeme Quick recuperating

Graeme Quick, who was head of agricultural engineering at IRRI from 1988 to 1995 and is now on the faculty of the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department at Iowa State University, suffered a heart attack during the first week of June and subsequently had quadruple bypass surgery. He is getting along fine and is expected to be back at full throttle by August. Former colleagues at IRRI can reach him via e-mail at gquick@iastate.edu. ■

IRRI honors departing staff

At a dinner at the guesthouse on 1 June, the IRRI community officially said goodbye to five departing IRS. **Guy Kirk**, soil chemist and deputy head of Crop, Soil, and Water Sciences Division (CSWS), has spent 13 successful years at IRRI. **Bart Cottyn** has been an affiliate scientist with the Entomology and Plant Pathology Division since 1994. **Pierre L. Siband**, an agronomist/crop physiologist at IRRI since 1999, is returning to the Centre international de recherche agronomique pour le developpement. **Moon-Hee Lee**, an agronomist seconded from the Rural Development Administration, Korea, has worked in Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biochemistry Division since 1999. **Zhao Ming**, a plant physiologist in CSWS since last year, is returning to China Agricultural University.

June also saw the departure of two outposted staff members, both with records of long service to IRRI. **Sadiqul I. Bhuiyan** joined IRRI in 1977 as water resource specialist. In 1998, he assumed leadership of the IRRI-Bangladesh Office. **John M. Schiller** has been team leader of the Lao-IRRI Research and Training Project



The "after" picture: Guy Kirk says his farewell as wife Kate and Susan Pheng Kam look on.

since that effort's inception in 1990.

Six NRS staff resigned during the last two months, **Shirley Raymundo** and **Nizza Landicho** of the Social Sciences Division and **Arsenio Valerio** of Finance in May, and **Rolando Casumpang** of Biometrics and **Frederick Abrenica** and **Fernando Salisi** of CSWS last month.

All the best for their future endeavors. ■

Typhoon Bebeng recalled

Eighteen years ago on 14 July, Typhoon Bebeng (international name Vera) hit the Philippines with such ferocity that it claimed 115 lives, injured 145 and left 27 missing. Packing maximum winds of 165 kph, as observed at the then Manila International Airport observatory, 185 kph in Baguio, and 154 kph in Legazpi, Bebeng crossed the country via Legazpi City, creating havoc as she pummeled Albay, southern Quezon, Laguna, Manila, and Bataan. Damage to property was estimated at P466.7 million.

Assistant scientist Ofie Namuco, of the Crop, Soil, and Water Sciences Division, then working as research assistant with IRRI's Department of Agronomy, vividly remembers the day.

"Bebeng barged a bit early and hit southern Luzon," she recalls. "*Malakas talaga*. So when I went out of the house to check and secure some stuff, *para akong nadala ng hangin. Mabuti at nakakapit ako—pero sa* barbed wire. My husband was out of the country, so I had to initially rake and, later, supervise the cleaning and disposal of all the branches, twigs, and leaves in our surroundings. It took several days of cleaning because *maraming puno sa tabing bahay namin*. Luckily, I was working on drought then. It was the wet season and there were no field experiments. Drought experiments during the wet season were done in the greenhouse or phytotron, so they were safe."

Visitors and Information Services assistant Zoraida Menguito was working then as clerk-typist in the IRRI library.

"An hour before the eye of Typhoon Bebeng hit our place in Umali subdivision in Los Baños, we were battered by heavy rains and howling winds," she says. "There was no electricity. Our candles had difficulty staying lighted. When my friend Nora and I were about to sleep in our bedroom, I went out to check the door locks. To my surprise, I noticed that the floor was already flooded, and the water appeared to be getting higher.

"We couldn't sleep the whole night as Typhoon Bebeng unleashed its fury," she continues. "We felt so helpless. We could not even go out to buy some food. We were caught flat-footed. We were so hungry and helpless inside the house, when suddenly we saw our friend coming with a tray of food. We felt so relieved that a friend went out of his way to see if we were okay." ■



Typhoon Bebeng blowing in 1983 (above). Battered trees in staff housing (below). Damage caused by Typhoon Rosing in 1995 (bottom).



Advisories

Railway crossing

At the railway tracks that pass immediately in front of the main IRRR gate, an out-going vehicle recently had a near miss with an on-coming train, in spite of warning lights, bells, and a guard with a stop sign. It is very fortunate that the train did not collide with the vehicle.

PPS is now working on several designs for a barrier that will physically prevent vehicles from crossing the tracks when a train is passing. In the meantime, IRRR Security advises all staff to always stop, look, and listen before crossing railway tracks. Security also notes that because trains are very large, it is quite easy to under-estimate their speed. The safest course is to always proceed with extreme caution and never attempt to beat a train across a level crossing.

Mt. Makiling

IRRR security reminds all staff that they should avoid traveling over Mt. Makiling during hours of darkness. On the other hand, the Calamba short-cut is now considered by IRRR Security to be reasonably safe at all hours. Lastly, IRRR Security notes that travel at night is generally less safe than during daylight hours.

C5 Road

The Asian Development Bank warns users of the C5 Road to be wary while passing through dimly lit portions, particularly in the Taguig area, where a number of vulcanizing shops are located. It has been reported that these vulcanizing shops are in league with miscreants who throw long pieces of wire fashioned into hooks onto the road. This device is designed to either cause flat tires or scrape against the fender or underchassis of vehicles. Once you stop to inspect your vehicle, the miscreants will approach you and offer help. At best you will be greatly overcharged for their assistance, or you may be robbed, and possibly violence may be used.

If you must use C-5 at night, drive in the middle lane, where it is more difficult to throw the wire hooks. Should you nevertheless get stuck with one of these hooks, do not stop until you have reached a safe location, even if it means driving on a flat tire. ■

Pagtawid sa riles ng tren

Isang papalabas na sasakyan ang muntik ng mahagip ng dumaraang tren sa harapan mismo ng IRRR Gate sa kabila ng mga babalang ilaw, kampana, at guwardiya na may hawak na tigil-senyal. Sa kabutihang palad, hindi nabangga ng tren ang sasakyan.

Ang Physical Plant Services (PPS) ay gumagawa na ng mga disenyong pang-harang upang pisikal na mapigil ang mga sasakyang nagnanais na tumawid sa riles kapag may dumaraang tren. Samantala, ang lahat ng kawani ay pinagpapayuhan ng IRRR Security na tumigil, tumingin, at makinig bago tumawid ng riles. Sapagka't ang tren ay sadyang napakalaki, napakadaling isawalang-bahala ang tulin nito, puna ng Security. Ang pinakaligtas na paraan ay ang pagtawid nang maingat at huwag tatangkaing unahan ang tren sa pagtawid sa krosing ng riles.

Mt. Makiling

Ang lahat ng kawani ay pinaaalalahanan ng IRRR Security na umiwas sa pagdaan sa bundok Makiling kapag laganap na ang dilim. Sa kabilang dako, ang malapit na daan sa Calamba ay itinuturing ng IRRR Security na kainamang walang panganib sa lahat ng oras. Napuna rin ng IRRR Security na ang pagbibiyaha sa gabi ay karaniwang hindi ligtas kung ihahambing sa pagbibiyaha sa araw.

C5 Road

Nagbabala ang Asian Development Bank sa mga gumagamit ng C5 Road na mag-ingat sa pagdaan sa mga madilim na bahagi ng naturang daan, partikular na sa pook ng Taguig, na kung saan matatagpuan ang mga vulcanizing shops. Napag-alamang ang mga vulcanizing shops na ito ay kasabwat ng mga masasamang elemento na naglalagay ng alambreng pangkawit sa daan upang butasin ang gulong ng mga nagdaraang sasakyan, o kaya'y guhitan ang depensa o *fender* at ang tsasis ng mga sasakyan. Kapag itinigil mo ang iyong sasakyan, ang mga masasamang tao ay lalapit sa iyo at mag-aalok ng tulong. Kadalasan ay ikaw ay pagbabayaran ng labis, maaaring nakawan, o kaya'y posibleng may mangyaring karahasan.

Kung ikaw ay gagamit ng C5 sa gabi, magmaneho sa gitnang daan o *middle lane* na kung saan mahirap ibato ang mga alambreng pang-kawit. Kung sakaling ikaw ay nahagip ng isa sa mga kawit, huwag titigil hanggang hindi nakakarating sa isang ligtas na lugar, kahit na ito ay nangangahulugang nagmamaneho ka ng putok ang gulong. ■



First annual NRS survey

Polls and surveys are a fact of modern life, and now IRRI is getting in on the action.

“We want to know more about our staff, so that we can design programs to fit their needs,” says Employee Relations Manager Manny Zaragoza. “We need to start off with basics. In the first annual survey—which is being launched as an insert in this issue of *Sandiwa*—staff are being asked 22 questions, including questions on where they live, their finances, their benefits, and their health.”

Asked if such questions might be construed as intrusions into employees’ private lives, Mr. Zaragoza replied, “No, it shouldn’t be regarded that way. This survey is for their own good. Besides, the form doesn’t require respondents to identify themselves. We maintain not one, but two, medical clinics at IRRI. We want to know more about the health of our staff. Also, we are occasionally asked by our NRS to set up additional loan facilities. These may be indications that there could be areas of concern we should attend to.”

Will international staff also take part in this survey? “Not this year, and probably not next year either,” replies Director for Administration and Human Resources Ian Wallace. “Our plan is to focus on NRS.”

To guarantee a professional approach, the Biometrics and Bioinformatics Unit will analyze the survey results. The process is expected to be completed by September.

“We’re hoping for a big response from NRS,” says Mr. Zaragoza. “The more people reply, the more accurate the results will be.” ■

Unang pantaunang NRS survey

Ang botohan at survey ay mga katotohanang bahagi ng makabagong pamumuhay, at ang IRRI ay nagsasagawa ngayon ng aksiyon.

“Nais naming lubos na makilala ang ating mga kawani upang makapagsagawa kami ng mga programa na angkop sa kanilang pangangailangan,” ayon kay Employee Relations Manager Manny Zaragoza. “Kailangan nating magsimula sa mga pangunahing bagay. Sa unang pantaunang survey—na inilunsad bilang kalakip sa sipping ito ng *Sandiwa*—ang mga kawani ay binigyan ng 22 katanungan, kasama na ang mga tanong na kung saan sila nakatira, pondong salapi, mga benepisyo, at ang kanilang kalusugan.”

“Natanong kami kung ang mga katanungang ito ay maaaring masabing isang pakikialam sa pribadong buhay ng mga empleyado,” wika ni Ginoong Zaragoza. “Hindi hindi dapat maging ganyan ang maging pananaw. Ang survey na ito ay para sa kanilang ikabubuti. Bukod dito, hindi hinihingi ng pormularyo na ilahad ang kanilang

katauhan. Nagmamantine kami ng di isa, kundi dalawang klinika sa IRRI. Nais naming lubhang mabatid ang kalusugan ng ating mga kawani. Isa pa, kadalasang nagtatanong ang mga NRS na maglagay ng karagdagang pasilidad para sa pautang. Ang mga ito ay maaaring palatandaan na sila’y may mga bagay na ikinababahala na dapat bigyan ng pansin.”

Ang mga internasyunal na kawani ay kabahagi ba ng survey na ito? “Hindi sa taong ito, at maaaring hindi rin sa susunod na taon,” sagot ni Director for Administration and Human Resources Ian Wallace. “Ang aming plano ay pagtuunan ang NRS.”

Upang masiguro ang propesyunal na pagsasagawa nito, ang resulta ng survey ay susuriin ng Biometrics at Bioinformatics Unit. Ang prosesong ito ay inaasahang matatapos sa Setyembre.

“Umaasa kami sa isang malaking pakikibahagi ng NRS,” sabi ni Ginoong Zaragoza. “Kung maraming sasagot, lalong magiging wastong-wasto ang resulta.” ■

Parking improvements

During the past few years, IRRI has become a major tourist attraction in Laguna Province, thanks largely to the popular Riceworld Museum and Learning Center. More than 100,000 people visit Riceworld each year, most of them school children who come from near and far to learn more about IRRI and rice.

“Of course, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to get our message across to a large audience,” says Director General Ron Cantrell. “There is a price to pay for this success, however, and that is the very large number of buses that come to IRRI.”

Tour buses often clog IRRI roads and spew noxious fumes onto experimental plots. In addition, when 10 or 20 buses are lined up along IRRI’s principal thoroughfare, it gives the impression that IRRI’s roads are open to the general public. “We want to avoid giving this impression,” says Dr. Cantrell.

A large, new parking facility for buses was recently opened near the main IRRI gate. From now on, buses will generally not be permitted to proceed further into the main research campus. Visitors will alight in the new parking area, cross Pili Drive, and proceed along the covered walkway to the front of Chandler Hall. A new staircase has been built at the rear of Chandler Hall to provide pedestrian traffic with access to the walkway.

“I am very pleased with this change,” says Dr. Cantrell. “It’s good for IRRI and for the visitors.”

Parallel to this development is a new parking policy. Henceforth, priority will be given to official vehicles. In addition, staff will be requested to park only in designated areas. It is expected that this will improve efficiency and security. ■

Pagpapabuti ng paradahan

Sa mga nakalipas na taon, ang IRRI ay naging isang pangunahing atraksiyong pangturista sa lalawigan ng Laguna, salamat sa popular na Riceworld Museum and Learning Center. Higit sa 100,000 katao ang bumibisita sa Riceworld bawat taon na ang karamihan ay mga batang mag-aaral na nanggagaling pa sa mga malalapit at malalayong lugar upang mapalawak ang kanilang kaalaman tungkol sa IRRI at palay.

“Talagang napakagandang pagkakataon ito para sa atin upang maipaabot ang ating mensahe sa pangkalahatang publiko” ayon kay Direktor Heneral Ron Cantrell. “Subali’t may kabayaran sa tagumpay na ito, at iyan ay ang napakaraming bilang ng mga bus na nagtutungo sa IRRI.”

Ang mga pamasyal na bus ay kadalasang nagiging sagabal sa mga lansangan ng IRRI at nagbubuga ng nakapipinsalang usok sa mga pang-eksperimentong kama ng lupa. Dagdag dito, kapag 10 o 20 bus ang nakalinya sa pangunahing daan ng IRRI, nagbibigay ito ng impresyon na ang mga kalsada ng IRRI ay bukas sa publiko. “Ibig nating iwasan ang ganitong impresyon,” sabi ni Dr. Cantrell.

Isang malawak at bagong paradahan ang kamakaila’y binuksan malapit sa pangunahing IRRI Gate. Simula ngayon, ang mga bus ay di na pahihintulutang tumuloy hanggang sa kaloob-loban ng pangunahing kampus sa pananaliksik. Ang mga panauhin ay bababa sa bagong paradahan, tatawid sa Pili Drive, at tutuloy sa daanang may atip hanggang sa harap ng Chandler Hall. Isang bagong hagdanang ang ginawa sa likuran ng Chandler Hall upang gamitin ng mga taong magsisipaglakad sa daanang may atip.

“Ako ay labis na nagagalak sa pagbabagong ito,” sabi ni Dr. Cantrell. “Ito ay mabuti para sa IRRI at sa mga panauhin.”

Kaalinsabay sa kaganapang ito ay ang bagong patakaran sa paradahan. Mula ngayon, bibigyan ng prayoridad ang mga opisyal na sasakyan. Dagdag dito, ang mga kawani ay hihilinging pumarada sa mga takdang lugar. Ito ay inaasahang magpapabuti sa kasanayan at seguridad. ■

Corrections

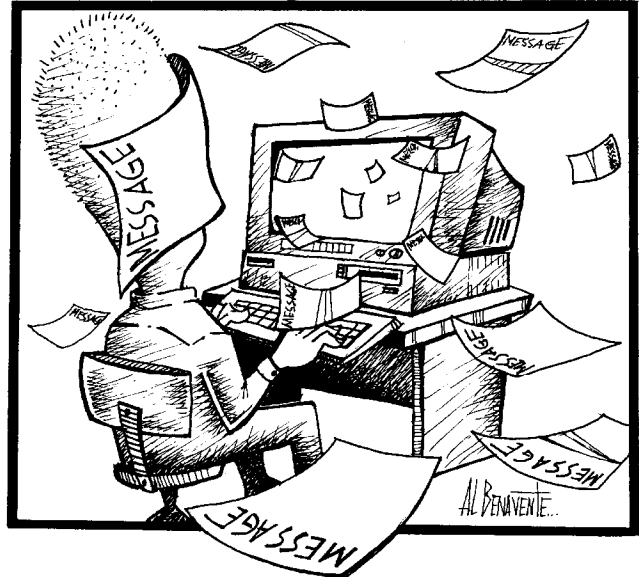
In the June issue of *Sandiwa*, we gave an incorrect telephone extension for Nida Reyes in Human Resources Services. The correct number is ext. 215.

We also erred in naming one of our award winners, Warlito “Warly” C. Mendoza (not Walfrido), for which we apologize. ■

Computer Corner

Public Enemy No. 1

(From Computer Weekly magazine) Email usage is creating an archiving nightmare for the IT department. The “reply to all” button is becoming IT’s Public Enemy No. 1.



Increasingly, workers are using their email systems as personal archives, leading to huge duplication of storage—and therefore backup and disaster recovery—of electronic documents. What is the answer to this problem? Is a change of culture needed? And if so, how can we alter the culture of document distribution that currently exists in the workplace? Should we make more imaginative use of Intranets? Or is it more a question of taking advantage of recent developments in storage technologies?

Do we need to change our working practices (delete more, store less) or should we spend more on storage technology?

Paul O’Nolan, IT manager, advises:

The answer for IRRI is both changed working practices and better storage (with faster backup and restore). I forward this comment so you’ll realize that we’re not alone in facing this problem. By the way, we’ve recently reduced the maximum mailbox size from 100 Mb to 90 Mb.

Please delete or refile your old email, and keep Public Enemy No. 1 in mind when answering email. If possible:

- Don’t send an email. Pay a visit. If it’s too far to go, pick up the phone.
- Don’t hit “reply all.”
- Don’t send an instant message. Put it in the *IRRI Bulletin* or *Sandiwa*.
- Do read the *IRRI Bulletin* and *Sandiwa*.
- Do “shift+delete” messages after reading.
- Do use the T: drive, not email, to share large files.

Thanks for your cooperation. ■

Community Bulletin Board

Use the Community Bulletin Board to publicize an event, make an announcement, send personal greetings, buy and sell. Please submit your notice by no later than a week before the end of the month, to appear in the following month's *Sandiwa*. Email Sandiwa@irri.cgiar.org or call Johnny Goloyugo (x6824) or Peter Fredenburg (x401).

Defensive Driving Workshop

Transport Services, in coordination with Safety and Security Services, is accepting registration for the one-day Defensive Driving Workshop for all IRRI authorized drivers. To register, contact Transport Services c/o Perlie E. Malabayabas at ext. 579 or email pmalabayabas@cgiar.org.

The following were registered as of 23 June to participate this month.

5 July: Isaias Abuyo/ES, Fely H. Almasan/ISAAA, Modesto Amante/PBGB, Virgilio Ancheta/GRC, Rogelio Bargola/ES, Paterno Borlagdan/AEU, Ernesto Camangon/EPPD, Lino Carandang/ES, Von Mark Cruz/ISAAA, Ponciano Edeza/EPPD, Antonio Evangelista/PBGB, Fermin Junsay/PPS, Rolando Llorico/ES, Jonathan Lucido (c/o Dr. Mercy Sombilla/SSD), Gelardo Morales/ES, Ramon Oliveros/DDG-P, Rolando Pacion/ES, Eufrocino Pizarra/EPPD, Alfredo Reyes/HR-ER, Dr. Elsa R. Sanchez/EPPD.

10 July: Pio Adan Cenas/SSD, Roberto Escueta/PPS, William Fortuna/ES, Ramil Gutierrez/SSD, Wilmer Jacob/CRS, Ernesto L. Nimedez, Jr./MMS, Norman Oliva/PBGB, Sabino Parducho/ES, Joel Reaño/SSD, Apolinario Resurreccion/ES, Efen Viguiera/ES, Cecilio Villamayor/ES (eight slots available).

12 July: Limberto Aldipollo/FHS, Bobby Paz/CRS, Fred Angeles/MMS (17 slots available).

17 July: Macario Beato/MMS, Albert Borrero/CPS, Felee Kalaw/MMS, Anatolio Magampon/MMS (16 slots available).

19 July: Gener Esguerra/MMS (19 slots available)

24 July: (20 slots available)

26 July: (20 slots available)

Workshop dates in August are 2, 7, 9, and 14. ■

BBU training courses

The Biometrics and Bioinformatics Unit (BBU) is now accepting applications for the following training courses: G×E Analysis and Interpretation of Results on 6-17 August (application deadline is on 13 July), Unbalanced Data Analysis on 10-14 September (application deadline is on 17 August). Please fill out the information sheet available on the *IRRI Bulletin* and submit to Grace Reyes or Lou Paulnagui (ext. 238) at the BBU.

Now showing: "Filling the World's Rice Bowl"

How well do you know IRRI ... what it does ... how it has become one of the most prestigious agricultural research institutes in the world? Understand IRRI in 12 minutes! Take pride in our successes! All are invited to watch the video "Filling the World's Rice Bowl" on 6 July, 20 July, 3 August, and 17 August. Showings will start at 4:15 p.m. at the Chandler Hall Auditorium.

Driver's license renewal

Driver's license renewal this month is on Friday, 20 July, for drivers with licenses that expire between 20 July and 24 August 2001: Efen Blanco, Parmentier Stella Bouman, Bart Jef Geert Cottyn, Deomedes Dizon, Annabel Douglas-Hill, Roberto Escueta, Mario Lapiz, Benjamin Libutan, Apollo Neil Monroy, Danilo de Ocampo, Robert Ona, Roduardo Quintos, Angelica Valintos, and Celso Varon. Renewal forms are available in the IRRI Forms folder in Microsoft Outlook or from your coordinator. Please submit completed forms to the Motor Pool at least a few days before 20 July and leave driver's licenses at the Motor Pool before 9 a.m. on that day. Departure from the Motor Pool is at 3 p.m. on 20 July. Please direct any questions to Lito Cabral, ext. 230. ■

HR Services (National Staff) training plan

Date	Objectives	Training Workshop Title	Target Participants
16-17, 19-20, 24-25 Jul	Service excellence	Customer Relations Effectiveness Workshop	75 NRS in job levels 1, 2, and 3
22-24 Aug	People management	Supervisory Effectiveness Program	25 NRS in job levels 4 and 5
27-30 Aug	Planning	Training Needs Analysis for 2002	All NRS
19-21 Sep	Communications	Effective Presentation Workshop	25 NRS in job levels 4, 5, 6, and 7
27 Sep	Service excellence	Orientation Program	New hires
17-18 Oct (tentative)	People management	Leadership Enhancement and Development Workshop	25 NRS in job level 7
13-14, 15-16, 20-21 Nov (tentative)	Communications	Effective Business Writing	75 NRS