

LARC *Stream*

A quarterly Newsletter providing the latest news, updates, and information in and around LARC

Volume 4 | Issue No. 04 | December 2019

LARC's 2019 concludes with water improvement projects

LARC ended the year with a bang through a variety of completed construction projects. All these projects focused on improvements in the water supply, distribution and system operation.

Water supply

Enhancement and construction of pump stations, reservoirs and other water facilities were completed to ensure improvement in the water supply such as a.) construction of one million-liter reservoir at Puypuy, Bay, b.) operation of 500,000-liter Maahas reservoir, c.) installation of booster pumps at Maahas, Puypuy, and Bitin pump stations, d.) upgrade of submersible pump and motor and other electro-mechanical improvements at Bitin Pump Station, e.) replacement of submersible pumps at Lopez Heights Pump Station, f.) installation of Katalox filtration system at Lopez Heights, Villegas, and Umali Pump Stations, g.) rehabilitation of Navarez Tank, h.) upgrade of Chlorine Injection System, and i.) civil work upgrades and electro-mechanical rehabilitation of other pump stations. (See LARC's... on page 2)



The recently completed Puypuy reservoir stands tall with a water capacity of more than one million liters

New LARC reservoir brings better water pressure and supply



LARC personnel attend the blessing of Puypuy reservoir on November 14, 2019 headed by LARC Pres. Mat Ramos

On November 2019, LARC's new Puypuy reservoir, has recently been completed and became operational. It has a storage capacity of more than one million liters of water and will enhance water reliability by increasing pressure in Bay and some areas in Los Baños and Calauan. The blessing of the Puypuy reservoir was held on November 14, 2019, officiated by Rev. Msgr. Licerio S. Taguilaso of San Agustin Parish Church in Bay. (See New...on page 2)

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Straight from GM



A Brief Look at 2019

Time flies so fast! It has been another year that we have shared together! The projects and services that Laguna Water District Aquatech Resources Corporation (LARC) has done and dealt with this year have been very challenging yet fulfilling.

We will continue to improve our service as we set another milestone in terms of reliable, accessible, and quality water for all. Expect more construction projects next year as we replace ageing water lines and old meters, and layout pipelines for unserved areas. Our long-term goal is 24-hour access to clean water access for all and we are already at 99%.

For LARC updates, concessionaires may receive messages from LARC via text blast if they wish to or visit LARC's social media pages like Facebook, Twitter and LARC website. Also, more payment centers are now available for concessionaires' convenience.

This year, more than 3,000 residents from the different barangays within our service area benefitted from our CSR projects composed of Alalay sa Barangay, Dalayday, Brigada Eskwela and Pamaskong Handog. For next year, we dare to take a lead in promoting sustainable corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives through partnering with and/or adopting local communities.

I believe that the foundations are now in place for more exciting times, not only in 2020, but over the next years to come.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank the management team and our employees for the hard work. All our achievements and all that we have set to do would not be possible without the concerted efforts of everyone. Let me also express my gratitude to our concessionaires, partners, and stakeholders for the continued trust and support.

Happy holidays to all!

LARC's 2019 concludes with water improvement projects ... from page 1

Water distribution

Improvements in the water distribution system were made through asset renewal and management plan through a.) the installation and replacement of transmission and distribution lines at various areas of Bay and Calauan, b.) replacement of pipelines along Maitim Bridge, Bay, c.) extension of distribution lines in Tuntungin-Putho, Los Banos, d.) interconnection of pipelines at various areas in Calauan, e.) extension of transmission line in Lalakay, Los Banos, and f.) replacement of old water meters in Bitin, Bay.



Water operation

Upgrades in the overall water operation were done through the acquisition and implementation of state-of-the-art technologies including a.) Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) rehabilitation to remotely monitor and control pump stations, b.) water system design and calibration using modern hydraulic modelling software, c.) pilot run of district metering area (DMA) program at Bay Garden Homes and Calauan, d.) optimization of pump operations and GIS database of network and customer meters (with coordinates).

From January to December 2019, LARC was busy addressing a wide range of meaningful and impactful projects and programs. In total, the project cost around Php 77 million. LARC took bold steps in terms of operational projects and this will continue for the following years to be able to fulfill its duty in providing accessible and clean water to all concessionaires within the service area.

New LARC reservoir brings better water pressure and supply from page 1

The new reservoir aims to improve water reliability and enhance distribution efficiency in Bay and some parts in Los Baños and Calauan areas. Households in the aforementioned areas encountering water interruption and low water pressure are expected to experience better water supply in the following months. In addition, it will enable LARC to increase water availability during peak demand since it is designed to increase water pressure to augment the increasing demand for additional supply and further boost water supply availability and reliability throughout the day. The strong water pressure consequently will allow LARC to bring potable water to areas, especially elevated portions, which previously had limited supply availability.

Social media use lecture hopes to educate LB & Bay youth

A lecture on "Responsible use of social media" was conducted on November 9 and 17, 2019 respectively where 400 youths from Los Baños and Bay attended the lecture. The lecture was hosted by Laguna Water District Aquatech Resources Corporation (LARC) and Laguna Water District (LWD) in cooperation with the Los Baños and Bay Municipal Offices.



Several youth in Los Baños represent their respective barangays as they participate in the lecture on "Responsible Use of Social Media"

The goal of the lecture is to help the youth become more responsible online users as they navigate through the various social media platforms of the world wide web. Being a responsible 'netizen' is an important habit that the young generation must possess. As a typical part of most youth's lives, educating them about social media and letting them share their online experiences can help in their overall development and well-being.

The lecture emphasized the benefits of social media and warned the participants of its negative effects and consequences when used irresponsibly. Guest speakers at Los Baños on November 9, 2019 included PSSg Hilarion Villamayor who talked about Cyber Crime Law and Dr. Joan Serrano who gave a lecture on responsible use of social media. Dr. Serrano, the Information Office Director of UP Open University, was also the lecturer to Bay's youth on November 17, 2019.

Before ending each session, participants wrote their pledges on how they can use the social media responsibly. Overall, the response to the seminar was positive, with the number of participants close to 100 from each municipality.

LARC spruces up Mt. Makiling



LARC volunteers help remove dirt and debris at the Mt. Makiling Trail as part of MCME's anniversary celebration.

Laguna Water District Aquatech Resources Corporation (LARC) joined the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (MCME)'s MakiLinis, a clean-up of the Mount Makiling Forest Reserve (MMFR) on November 28, 2019.

MakiLinis is part of MCME's 109th anniversary celebration which aims to maintain the beauty of the MMFR - hailed as the 33rd ASEAN Heritage Park in 2013. The activity is also aligned with LARC's Dalayday Program, which promotes environmental protection and responsible management of water resources.

Solidarity walk for women supported by LARC

Laguna Water District Aquatech Resources Corporation (LARC) joined the Walk to End VAW spearheaded by the Municipal Government of Los Baños on November 25, 2019. The event is part of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) with the theme "VAW-free community starts with Me" led by the Philippine Commission on Women. The parade was aimed at reminding the public that VAWC is a criminal offense under Republic Act 9262, otherwise known as the "Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004."



LARC Employees signify their support in the campaign to End VAW by joining the civic walk headed by the Los Baños Municipal Government

From the President's Desk



Investing in the Future, Today.

As this year will soon come to pass and we start our fifth year of operation, it is appropriate for me to take this opportunity to highlight our accomplishments and on-going projects and services that reflect upon our success and growth. We continue to envision the fulfillment of our duty in providing accessible and clean water throughout our service areas. Hence, we continue to improve the efficiency and reliability of our water system through various projects.

LARC invested heavily in enhancement and construction of pump stations, reservoirs and other water facilities to ensure improvement in the water supply. We also dwelt in improvements in the water distribution system through asset renewal and management plan such as installation, replacement, and extension of transmission and distribution lines. Also, overall water distribution system was upgraded through the acquisition and implementation of state-of-the-art technologies.

As part of our corporate social responsibility (CSR) commitment, LARC implemented and improved its CSR initiatives through Alalay sa Barangay, a multi-sectoral community outreach program, and Dalayday, which campaigns to put forward responsible water resource management for water security.

While the improvements in service and access to water involved high financial cost, all of these were completed this year to be able to provide water supply service to the community without affecting the price of our service. These projects were accomplished through efficient and cost-effective operational methods, maintaining a lean labor force, and reducing non-revenue water.

However, in reality there are still numerous challenges that need urgent attention. Due to LARC's expanding service coverage there are still ageing equipment, facilities and water lines that need to be built, rehabilitated or replaced. Add to this the constant inflation of supplies needed to complete the projects and overall operations of a water utility service.

As much as we would like to meet the demand of our concessionaires for high-quality water service, we will also be needing the support of the community including you, our concessionaires, to achieve this. Hence, I will leave you with this, are you willing to pay for the true cost of high-quality water service?

We, at **LARC Stream** appreciate your comments and feedbacks.

Please let us know what you think about this issue, e-mail us at larc.crea@larc.com.ph.



Patimpalak sa climate change isinagawa para sa ika-apat na anibersaryo ng LARC

Upang maitaas ang antas ng kamalayan tungkol sa mga epekto ng "Climate Change" sa yamang tubig, isinagawa ng LARC ang ika-4 na paligsahan sa paggawa ng poster bilang bahagi ng kanilang ika-apat na anibersaryo nitong Disyembre 10, 2019. Ang patimpalak ay aktibong nilahukan ng mga estudyante mula sa iba't-ibang mababang paaralan ng Los Banos, Bay, Calauan, Victoria at Nagcarlan, Laguna. Ang tema na patimpalak ay "Pagsugpo sa Negatibong Epekto ng "Climate Change" sa Ating Yamang Tubig."



Isinagawa ang ribbon-cutting para sa opisyal na pagbubukas ng exhibit sa pangunguna nila (mula sa kaliwa) LARC General Mgr. Emil Puerto, LARC Pres. Mat Wilson Ramos, LWD Director Elenita Ramos at LWD Director Cecilio Magsino



Itinayo ang LARC booth (kaliwa) kung saan maaaring makakuha ang mga konsesyunaryo ng LARC ng iba't ibang souvenir items at ang centerpiece (kanan) kung saan makikita ang Top 12 posters



Masayang binati nila LARC Pres. Mat Wilson Ramos (kaliwa) at LARC General Mgr. Emil Puerto ang mga batang nanalo sa paligsahan.

Ang mga nagwagi ay masusing sinala ng mga hurado na binubuo nila Ms. Althea Roa ng UP Painters Club, Leo Gerardo C. Leonardo mula sa Philippine High School for the Arts, at Bb. Janel Cabrera. Ang mga hinirang ay sina: 1st place: Miel John E. Montana ng Sto. Tomas Elementary School-Main (Entry #8), 2nd place: Lezly Ann R. Gerundio ng San Benito Elementary School (Entry #12), 3rd place: Gian Kristoff L. Putungan ng Perez Elementary School (Entry #3). Isang exhibit din ang inilunsad sa parehong araw. Ito ay ginanap sa lobby ng LARC Main Office kung saan ipinakita ng LARC ang kanilang mga nakamit sa nagdaang taon. Kasama sa mga ito ang mga programa sa corporate social responsibility, pagpapabuti sa mga serbisyo para sa mga customer, at iba pang mga proyekto upang mapabuti ang sistema ng suplay ng tubig.



Ipinarangal kay Miel John E. Montana mula sa Santo Tomas Elementary School ang unang pwesto para sa isinagawang 2019 poster making contest ng LARC.



Isinama sa exhibit ang maikling ulat ng mga natapos na mga gawain at proyekto ng LARC para sa taong 2019.

Ang isa sa mga highlight ng nasabing exhibit ay ang pagtatayo ng bagong reservoir sa Puypuy, Bay na may kapasidad na isang milyong-litro ng tubig. Inaasahang mas mapapabuti ang distribusyon ng tubig sa pamamagitan ng pagtaas ng pressure sa Bay at ilang mga lugar sa Los Banos at Calauan dahil sa Puypuy reservoir.