

## **NAMRIA Administrator Peter N. Tiangco**

**Administrator Peter N. Tiangco** was born in Aparri, Cagayan. Owing to his father's work which entailed their moving to his different places of work assignment, Administrator Tiangco, however, grew up in Santiago City, Isabela where his family finally settled. He studied from kindergarten to elementary grade one at St. Paul School in Aparri; from elementary grade two to high school at University of La Salette in Santiago City, Isabela; and college at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB), Laguna. He graduated from UPLB with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and was a fifth-placer in the 1985 Forester Board Examination.



There were many private businesses dealing with forest products in their area so forestry was his practical choice as undergraduate course. The sight, however, of denuded mountains during his frequent road trips from Isabela to Manila likewise instilled in him the importance of natural resources development and management. His very fond memories of the farm with fruit trees and a creek of his mother's family in Nueva Vizcaya also spurred him on to want to make a difference so he decided to become part of government, specifically the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). He was first a casual forester in DENR Region II and this was followed by his taking part in the community development training for casual foresters all over the Philippines which he topped. He later worked at the DENR Parks and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) where he helped establish the Integrated Protected Areas System. At some point, he likewise served as the technical assistant of the PAWB Director.

Then he was accepted as a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) scholar for masteral studies under the Interdisciplinary Natural Resources Development and Management Program of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. He topped his class and had the good fortune of being chosen by the Mekong Secretariat to be the overall administrator for their land use mapping project for the whole of Cambodia. After working in Cambodia for more than a year, he returned to the AIT determined to pursue post-graduate studies. In between applying for scholarships, he worked on remote sensing projects at the AIT, some of which brought him to different places in Europe under the projects funded by the European Space Agency.

From 1995 to 1999, with a scholarship from the Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), he studied and finished his doctorate degree in geomatics at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia. By then he had married Cindy Cisneros, his batchmate in AIT who was with the School of Energy Technology and is currently working as a Senior Energy Specialist at the Central and West Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). While waiting for his wife to finish her doctorate degree also at the UNSW, he took on various technical jobs at the university. He went back to the Philippines in 2000 and served as a technical consultant and did research work for the DENR and

was in the pool of technical consultants at the Philippines-Australia Governance Facility from 2000 to 2001.

He first became part of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), under the DENR, as Deputy Administrator in 2001. He was appointed as NAMRIA Administrator with the rank of Undersecretary on 03 March 2010 and was reappointed on 21 July 2010. He is the first ever technocrat and civilian from the department to be appointed as full-fledged administrator to its attached agency.

He is the recipient of numerous awards such as the 2019 Most Outstanding Alumnus Award, otherwise known as the Mancono\* Award, from the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources Alumni Association (CFNRAA), together with the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award for Public Governance (Mancono Award) from the UPLB Alumni Association, Inc.; 2018 Distinguished Alumnus Award in Public Service and Good Governance from the UP Alumni Association (UPAA); 2015 Outstanding Alumnus Award for Good Governance from the UPLB CFNRAA; 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award in the Public Sector category from the AIT Alumni Association; 2011 Outstanding Professional Award in the field of Forestry from the Professional Regulation Commission; and the 2011 Outstanding Alumnus Award for Government Service from the UPLB CFNRAA. Among his notable accomplishments in NAMRIA was the successful defense before the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) of the country's claim for an Extended Continental Shelf in the Benham Rise, where he headed the Philippine Delegation. From being a Career Executive Service Eligible in 2010, he is now a Career Executive Service Officer Rank One. Undersecretary Tiangco is NAMRIA's fifth appointed administrator since the agency was created in 1987 by virtue of Executive Order number 192.

*\*Mancono is the common name for the Philippine ironwood (Xanthosternon Verdugoniames Vames), a tree species native to the Philippines that is known to yield the hardest timber.*