

8 May 2015

**Ms. Vicky Garcia**

Director

Revitalized Indigenous Cordilleran Enterprises, Inc. (RICE, Inc.)

E-mail: [Garcia\\_mv@hotmail.com](mailto:Garcia_mv@hotmail.com)

Dear Ms. Garcia,

We have the honor to invite you to participate in a very special event at 6:30 PM, Thursday, 14 May 2015, at the National Museum of the Philippines. The event is co-organized with the Department of Agriculture as well as the National Museum.

At the event, two of the largest and most important works of National Artist Vicente Manansala will be formally declared by the National Museum as "National Cultural Treasures":



International Rice Research Institute

**Mailing address** DAPO Box 7777, 1301 Metro Manila, Philippines **City and courier address** Suite 1009, Security Bank Center, 6776 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City, Philippines; Tel. +63 (2) 856-6133, 856-6129; Fax. +63 (2) 891-1236 **Headquarters at Los Baños** Tel. +63 (2) 580-5600, 845-0563; Fax. +63 (2) 580-5699, 845-0606 **Email:** [info@irri.org](mailto:info@irri.org) **Website:** [www.irri.org](http://www.irri.org)



Such high recognition by the Philippine government has been facilitated by an agreement executed between the National Museum and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the owner of the landmark works of art. The National Museum and IRRI have agreed that the originals of the Manansala murals will be installed in a special "IRRI Hall" at the National Museum. The Gallery will also display some other works of the famed artist.

The event will also feature an overview of the scientific research program of IRRI, with a focus on the Heirloom Rice Project being implemented in close collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippines Rice Research Institute (PhilRice). The Heirloom Rice Project is an innovative program that improves the livelihoods of the upland farmers of the Cordilleras, particularly of the Banaue Rice Terraces. The improved incomes from heirloom rice for the farmers of the terraces enables them to continue active cultivation of the terraces, and thereby preserves this the "8th wonder of the world" for posterity.

As part of the event, several of Metro Manila's leading chefs will prepare heirloom rice dishes for the enjoyment of the guests. The guests will also include some of the farmers of the heirloom rices of the Banaue rice terraces, since an important feature of the heirloom rice project is to link the farmers to chefs.

Also invited to the event are selected members of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, the Friends of Manansala as well as other partners and patrons of the arts. Several key scientists of IRRI, members of the IRRI board, and officers and trustees of the National Museum, will also be in attendance.

Guests are welcome to arrive early on May 14, 2015, to enable convenient viewing of the extensive collections of the National Museum, prior to the event at 6:30 PM.

Please confirm your participation to Ms. Sylvia Arellano at email: [s.arellano@irri.org](mailto:s.arellano@irri.org), or telephone: (02) 580-5616 or 810-5337.

Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. Zeigler".

**Robert S. Zeigler**  
Director General

#### International Rice Research Institute

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