

TAO-Pilipinas **young professionals program** e-newsletter

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2013

This is the road right-of-way (RROW) for the Masagana Angat Resettlement Site. The slope surrounding the RROW is prone to erosion and needs stabilizing.



www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org

TAO-Pilipinas Celebrates 12th Year with Dinner-Fundraiser

LAST AUGUST 30, TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. HELD A DINNER-FUNDRAISER FOR THE BENEFIT of the Masagana Neighborhood Association. The event also doubled as a celebration of the 12th anniversary of TAO-Pilipinas. Proceeds from the fundraising will be used for building 300 gabions at the Masagana resettlement site in Angat, Bulacan. The installation of gabions at the site is intended to stabilize slopes that are currently prone to erosion.

Pls. turn to page 2.

CBSWM Project Targets More Community Youth

Re-echo workshop conducted for Masagana youth; Damayan youth to set-up community garden.

TAO-PILIPINAS IS CONCLUDING ITS COMMUNITY-BASED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (CBSWM) project by involving more youths in waste recycling and community gardening. The CBSWM project, started in 2011 and extended through 2013, is supported by Give2Asia Foundation and Starbucks Philippines. The project involves training youth groups in solid waste management and setting-up community composting centers and container gardens. Two community gardens have been successfully set-up and maintained by youth groups in R. Domingo, Tangos, Navotas City and in Masagana community, Angat, Bulacan.

Pls. turn to page 3.

In this issue:

TAO-Pilipinas 12th Anniversary
dinner-fundraiser * CBSWM –
Youth Urban Gardens project

Network Activities:

PMPI National Conference on CC-
DRR * PHILSSA and DRR Net
Philippines Complementation
Meeting-Workshop

YP Reading List:

*Quezon City: The Rise of Asia's City of
the Future* by Alcazaren et.al.
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by
Kamkwamba and Mealer

Announcements:

New Publication: *Gabay sa Paggawa
ng Bahay na Yari sa Alternatibong
Materyales*

“Design is the ultimate
renewable resource. Together, we can
continue to build a better future.”

- Cameron Sinclair,
architect and co-founder of
Architecture for Humanity

TAO-Pilipinas... (From page 1)

The anniversary celebration was a 4-course dinner at Blacksoup Artspace Café with friends, supporters and partner networks. A brief message was given by the President of TAO's Board of Directors, Laura David, and a short video used for the fundraising campaign was shown to the guests. Live acoustic performance of Kaleidoscope Eyes followed the short program and entertained guests.

The event, dubbed as 1 Plate = 1 Gabion of Masagana Neighborhood Association, kick started the fundraising campaign for site development in Masagana. Nine hundred thousand pesos (PhP900,000) is targeted to complete the gabion installation in critical areas. The August 30 dinner raised PhP99,537 in funds. Masagana community leaders were on hand to ceremoniously receive the amount raised during the dinner.

Donors who supported the dinner-fundraiser included Alberto Matabang; AMH Philippines, Inc.; Amillah Rodil; Ana Dizon; Beryl Baybay; Bodjie Pascua; Holcim Philippines; Joey Mendoza; John Mark Cajuat; Laura David; Louise Alba; Manuel Avanceña; Lydia Victoria A. De Villa; Maria Antonia Tanchuling; Marie Enriquez; Ma. Theresa Pilapil; MGS Scaffolding and Formworks; Monette Peraz-Goco; PHILSSA (Philippine Partnership for Support Service Agencies); PMPI (Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc.); Redemptorist Fathers; Redor Emerson & Co.; Risa Jopson; Rosalyn Marcelo-Veneracion; Rosanna Santa Ana; Rosario Encarnacion-Tan; St. Clement's Formation Center; Voltaire Tila; and Zenaida Manalo.

TAO-Pilipinas continues to solicit support for the site and housing development of Masagana Neighborhood Association. Monetary and in-kind donations are welcome, as well as volunteer participation in gabion-building activities on site. (See sidebar for information about the project and how to donate.) (Angel Sales)



From left to right: TAO Board of Directors President, Laura David giving her welcome remarks; TAO-Pilipinas staff and supporters at Blacksoup Artspace Cafe; Masagana community representatives receive check representing amount raised during the dinner-fundraiser.

Masagana Resettlement Project

Barangay Pulong Yantok, Angat, Bulacan

Building Safer Homes from the Fishponds of Navotas to the Farm in Angat

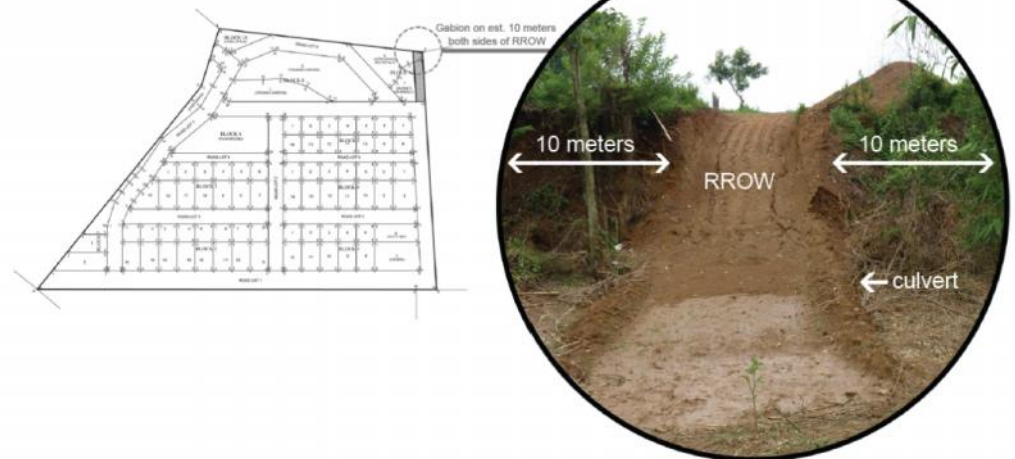
The project targets to resettle a total of 69 families from the middle of a fishpond in Tanza, Navotas to an agro-industrial site in Angat, Bulacan. The site was selected by the community after searching from among 4 options. To date, 20 families live in the site in temporary houses.

Site development costs for the project is partially supported by a small grant from NGO SSS Japan covering the construction of deep well, grading of the site and fencing of the property. Rolling portions of the site need a retaining wall to prevent erosion. The plan is to enclose erosion prone portions with gabions to provide a strong base and to plant in portions where the slope is not too steep. Gabion walls are planned to cover a length of 10 meters with a height of about 3 meters.

Housing Options and Construction

One-storey duplex houses will be built in phases through community contracting. Funds will come from community savings and a small loan from Asian Coalition for Community Action. Foundations for houses will be designed to support a two-storey structure. Incremental development upwards is possible when individual households have saved enough to build another floor.

GABION



To Donate

Donations for the project may be made by depositing to TAO-Pilipinas' BPI account. [Account Name: TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. Account No. 4431-0074-31] To validate, fax deposit slip to (632) 4410998 or email to info@tao-pilipinas.org. Donations may also be sent thru Paypal at payment@tao-pilipinas.org.

CBSWM Project... (From page 1)

More CBSWM training activities were recently conducted as the project comes to a close. A re-echo workshop on composting was conducted with Masagana youth members who were not able to participate in previous CBSWM seminars. Another community youth group, this time from Sitio Lumang Ilog, Taytay, Rizal, has been mobilized and given CBSWM training to be able to set-up their own community container garden.

Workshop on Composting for Masagana Youth

Thirty-five (35) youth members of Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association participated in the Composting Echo-Seminar on August 8, 2013 at their resettlement site in Angat, Bulacan. The young community members were given an orientation on CBSWM and composting. A kitchen waste bio-digester drum was also installed to serve as the community composting center.

The program was facilitated mainly by Geraldine Matabang who led a group activity about proper household waste segregation. She also shared a short lecture about Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) and 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). Marginela Brucelo, an officer from Masagana and a CBSWM trainer, earnestly taught the youth on the methods of composting while Verna Sarraga gave them pointers on how to use the kitchen waste biodigester properly. After the lectures and demonstration, the participants reflected on how they will be able to apply their new knowledge in CBSWM.

The day ended with a visit to the Masagana Youth Garden to see their newly constructed hut and sprouts from the latest batch of seeds planted. The young people were able to harvest some okra and sold it to the community. (Verna Sarraga)



Left to right: Group activity to show how their household wastes are segregated; Verna Sarraga demonstrates the proper installation of the kitchen waste bio-digester;



Masagana youth pose beside their community garden hut



CBSWM Orientation and Container Gardening Workshop for Damayan Youth

Last September 21, thirteen (13) youths along with three community leaders from Damayan sa Floodway Neighborhood Association attended a workshop on CBSWM and container gardening. The youths were mobilized to lead a community initiative to establish a community garden that will benefit the entire community of Sitio Lumang Ilog in Bgy. San Juan, Taytay, Rizal. A small open plot in Block 37 has been identified as the site for the community garden.

The workshop was held at the TAO office and started with laying down of objectives and expectations from the participants. An introduction about CBSWM followed and a short group activity about segregation of waste was facilitated. Lectures about RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act), 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) and Composting were given by Geraldine Matabang. It was then followed by a brief introduction and a hands-on demonstration of container gardening facilitated by Angelus Sales. The hands-on workshop involved transplanting of seedlings to recycled container pots. The participants learned how to properly plant seeds and what soil mixture to use.

In the afternoon, a workshop was held to design the community garden. The participants were grouped into three and were asked to draw the layout of the garden. Location of the plant nursery, composting area, and fence design were all incorporated in the layout. All the groups agreed to allot a 100 square meter area for their community garden. The design schemes were then critiqued by other groups as well as the facilitators of the workshop. In the end, the participants integrated the best features of each design scheme and agreed on a final design.

After the design workshop, an action planning activity followed. The participants discussed among themselves the next steps to be taken before the actual garden set-up scheduled on September 28. Key persons were assigned to take the lead in preparatory works such as informing the barangay leaders about the youth project, clearing of the garden site, collection of recyclable containers, and purchase of second-hand construction materials in junkshops. (Angel Sales)



Left to right: Participants mixing soil during the hands-on workshop on container gardening; Youth participants doing the design layout of their community garden

PMPI National Conference on CC-DRR

THE PHILIPPINE-MISEREOR PARTNERSHIP INC. (PMPI) HELD A National Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR) on July 24-26, 2013 at the NORFIL Center in Quezon City. Organized by the PMPI Task Force on CC-DRR, the conference focused on the theme “Bracing the Challenges of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines”.

The conference program started with presentations on Understanding Hazards and Disasters, and Understanding the Laws on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (RA 9729 and RA 10121). This was followed by sharing of good practices on community-based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM) and lectures on the use of participatory tools for risk assessment. These presentations and the forum discussions that followed were facilitated by Ms. Malu Cagay of Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP). Architect Ge Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas also gave a presenta-

tion on disaster-resilient planning and design, with particular focus on disaster risk management for sites and buildings. Mr. Dennis Dela Torre, Division Chief for Research and Policy Development of the Climate Change Commission presented the fundamentals of climate change science and the National Climate Change Action Plan as the roadmap for integrating climate change adaptation in affected sectors. His presentation also enlightened the participants on the basic difference between mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The conference served as an information dissemination campaign on CC-DRR which ultimately aimed to increase CC-DRR experts in the network and help empower more communities to become disaster-resilient. The three-day activity was attended by representatives of the various PMPI member-organizations nationwide. (GRM)

Complementation Meeting-Workshop of PHILSSA and DRRNet Philippines

ON AUGUST 7, 2013, PHILSSA (PHILIPPINE PARTNERSHIP FOR SUPPORT SERVICE Agencies) together with DRRNet Philippines organized a Complementation Meeting-Workshop. PHILSSA network members, including TAO-Pilipinas, attended the meeting to give DRRNet Philippines an overview of the different areas where the network has partner communities. The meeting also provided DRRNet Philippines information on the various activities PHILSSA members have done to promote community-based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM) in their respective areas. PHILSSA members present were COM (Community Organizers Multiversity), UPA (Urban Poor Associates), FDUP (Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor), and INSA (Institutional Network for Social Action) among others.

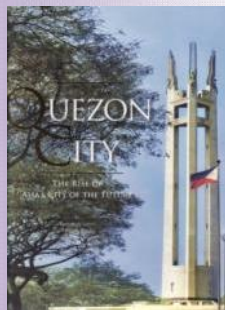
Representing DRRNet Philippines is the Center for Disaster Preparedness led by their Executive Director, Loreine dela Cruz. The meeting started with Mr. Dick Balderama, National Coordinator for PHILSSA, laying down the objectives of the workshop and then followed by presentations about the current situation of informal settler families (ISFs) in Metro Manila. The national situationers were presented by Jose Morales, President of Urban Poor Alliance (UP-All) and Mr. Dick Balderama.

In the afternoon, a presentation about the AusAid-funded project on CBDRRM capacity building for ISFs was given by Mr. Ninoy Balgos, AusAid project manager. A brief workshop followed, wherein participating PHILSSA members were grouped into clusters and listed down their project areas and partner communities along with information on the current CBDRRM capacity of the communities. (Cluster 1 is composed of Quezon City, Pasig, Mandaluyong, and San Juan; Cluster 2 is Manila, Makati, and Pasay; and Cluster 3 is Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela.) Workshop outputs were then presented by each of the groups. The meeting ended with Ms. Loreine dela Cruz answering questions from PHILSSA members and thanking all the participants. (Angel Sales)



YP Reading List

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library>. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



Title: Quezon City: The Rise of Asia's City of the Future
Author: Alcazaren, Paulo G., et.al.
Publisher: Studio 5 Designs (2010)

The book is essentially divided into two parts. The first is an urban biography of the city and chronicles 70 years of the city's evolution and growth under nine mayors. It tells the story of how Quezon City was planned as the new capital site in the 1940s guided by the vision of President Manuel Quezon. This first part of the book is very well written and the reader is treated to an

engaging discovery of the history of the various districts and thoroughfares within the city. Archival photos and illustrations show the grand vision and plans of both internationally renowned and local urban planners for the development of the city. Sadly, these well-laid plans (especially the spacious civic centers and parkways system) were not implemented as we now see in this very dense former capital city.

The second part of the book focuses on Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and his management of the city that transformed it into the highest income-earning local government in the country. It virtually reads like an accomplishment report of Belmonte's administration from 2001 to 2010 and extols the virtues and legacy of the multi-awarded mayor. (This is not surprising since the book was commissioned towards the end of Belmonte's term.) The last chapter in the book focuses on the Urban Triangle Development, a new commercial and business district that is being developed in the north and east triangles of the city. Belmonte leaves the mayoralty post with this new landmark as his legacy, leading Quezon City to its stature as a top Asian city of the future.

This book appeals to urban history enthusiasts and students of urban planning. It is very well presented and should interest every Quezon City resident to trace their city's history and direction of future growth. (GRM)



Title: The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope
Authors: William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
Publisher: HarperCollins E-books (Kindle Edition 2009)

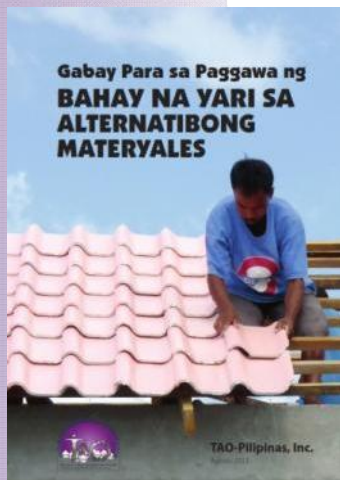
This book is about the real life story of William Kamkwamba, a poor boy from Malawi who at 14 years old and a school dropout, was able to supply his family compound with their own electricity by building a windmill using only scrap materials, borrowed library

textbooks, and his own ingenuity and determination. William grows up in a rural farming town in the African country where life is hard and poverty prevents him from entering secondary school. But with his creativity, passion for learning and desire to provide his family with power supply to ease up their hard life, William sets out to create "electric wind" on his own amidst almost zero resources, derision from townsfolk, and a famine that devastates the country. He eventually succeeds and after gaining recognition from the TED community for his inspiring work, is now able to continue his studies and teaches other young people about the technology. He has built a second windmill that powers a water pump from a deepwell and used by the village women.

Although harnessing wind power is not new technology, what is remarkable about William's story is how he was able to build the working windmill with very little help and by self-learning from diagrams in science books all while he was forced out of school. The book also gives us a glimpse of Malawi village life that depends on subsistence farming and is imbued with superstition (witchcraft and magic). William gives a moving account of how his family barely survived the famine in 2002 and realizes even in his young mind, that government corruption further aggravates the suffering of the people.

How this boy triumphs over adversities (unimaginable to many in developed countries) and gives hope to his village through innovation and perseverance is a heart-warming read. (GRM)

Announcements



New Publication: *Gabay Para sa Paggawa ng Bahay na Yari sa Alternatibong Materyales*

TAO-Pilipinas came up with a new publication on self-help construction entitled *Gabay Para sa Paggawa ng Bahay na Yari sa Alternatibong Materyales* (Guide to Building a House Made of Alternative Materials). The new book is a follow-up to an earlier publication on self-help construction (Guide to Building a House made of Concrete) that was released in April 2012. With text by Angelus Sales and illustrations by Verna Sarraga, the book is written in Filipino and published in color for better comprehension by community-based organizations.

The book provides a guide to construction using four alternative materials namely, interlocking compressed earth blocks; concrete interlocking blocks; wood wool cement-bonded boards; and micro-concrete roof tiles. It is available for sale at Php210.00 each copy.