

TAO-Pilipinas young professionals program e-newsletter

JUNE - JULY 2013

A team of skilled community builders constructs the Banaba Livelihood-Evacuation Center in Barangay Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal.



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DILG and TAO organize roundtable discussion on Medium-Rise Buildings for ISF Housing

YP intern's research findings kick start discussion

THE CURRENT FOCUS ON RELOCATING INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES (ISFs) occupying danger areas along waterways has prompted the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Central Office and TAO-Pilipinas to jointly organize a roundtable discussion about medium-rise building developments for housing ISFs. The forum was held on June 25 at the office of DILG Undersecretary Francisco Fernandez and was attended by representatives of National Housing Authority (NHA), various NGO groups involved in the resettlement of ISFs, the academe, and the DILG-ISF staff. With the construction of medium rise buildings (MRB) seen as the appropriate strategy to support in-city relocation of ISFs, the discussion was aimed at exploring effective housing solutions.

Setting off the discussion was a presentation of a study on existing MRB developments in Metro Manila. Shareen Elnaschie, a British architect interning at TAO-Pilipinas under its Young Professionals' summer internship program, shared the results of her research on three MRB housing developments: Katuparan Housing (built in 1990) and Smokey Mountain Development (built in 2004) by NHA in Tondo, and the FTI Townhomes (built in 2009) by Habitat for Humanity in Taguig.

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Network Activities:

PHILSSA Gen. Assembly * DSWD Consultation with CSOs * CARRAT Training

YP Reading List:

Hunnarshala Foundation's *Bamboo Construction Source Book*

“We are all the Ninja Turtles of mapping! Maps are to our work what x-rays are to a doctor's. They tell us where the problem is and how to resolve it.”

- *Perween Rahman* (1957-2013), Pakistani architect, development worker, and director of Orangi Pilot Project Research and Training Institute

DILG and TAO... (From page 1)

She assessed each of the aforementioned projects in terms of site planning, building design, and the actual and adaptive use of spaces. Her analysis brought to light both the positive and negative aspects of the housing projects. Considering the outcomes of her study, Ms. Elnaschie then suggested a number of MRB design innovations and approaches that could be adapted by DILG. These included incremental development, cluster design and management and adaptive reuse of existing building stock to accommodate housing units.

Following the presentation, issues were raised by the forum attendees that gave focus on factors that have made MRB housing developments constructed in Metro Manila problematic and objectionable to some sectors. The cost of constructing MRBs vis-a-vis affordability levels of ISFs was acknowledged as a primary area of concern. The construction cost of MRBs entails high subsidization while low repayment rates continue to afflict social housing projects. Estate management (along with post-occupancy building maintenance) was also identified as an improvement need in MRB housing developments, highlighting the importance of social preparation for intended beneficiaries to live harmoniously in multi-family dwellings. MRB design issues were also discussed, particularly the mismatch between the minimum space requirements and the typical size of ISF families, and how to address the eventual growth of families.

As more questions were provoked by the discussion, finding good models of MRBs as a social housing typology became more apparent. The urgency of relocating ISFs to safer settlements notwithstanding, the forum underscored the need for research and experimentation to ensure that we learn from past mistakes and avoid the pitfalls of poorly-designed and implemented social housing projects. *(Ge Matabang)*



From top: Shareen Elnaschie presents the results of her study at DILG; Usec. Fernandez addresses issues about MRB housing; with Ning Caringal of the Senate Economic Planning Office, TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio

2nd CAN Regional Meeting-Workshop held in Manila

9-day program highlights community workshops and ends with the Multi-stakeholders Forum on Citywide Upgrading jointly organized by CAN, SHFC, and WB

THE COMMUNITY ARCHITECTS NETWORK (CAN) SUCCESSFULLY HELD ITS Second Regional Meeting-Workshop on May 20-28, 2013 in Metro Manila. CAN is a program under the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) that links architects, engineers, planners, academic institutes, and community artisans/builders in Asia who work with the poor in the planning and management of their communities. The network advocates that the poor should play a central role in community planning and in finding solutions to build better settlements. CAN was established in 2010 with the first meeting-workshop held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Organized with the theme "People can make change", the 2nd CAN Meeting brought together about 100 participants coming

from 18 countries in Asia to learn from each other's work and support the upgrading initiatives of poor communities. The CAN participants represented East Asia (Korea, Japan, Mongolia); Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines); South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh) and Tibet; and the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Australia). Non-Asians from Italy, Belgium, UK, and Kenya also joined the 9-day event.

Program highlights

Several local groups (TAMPEI, TAO-Pilipinas, FDUP, PACSII, HPFPI, UP-TFA) worked together to organize the various program activities from May 20-28. On the first day, participants attended lectures about

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2nd CAN... (From page 1)

the Philippine urban poor situation; field visits to urban poor communities and housing projects in Manila, Navotas, Quezon City, and Valenzuela; and a welcome dinner hosted by the Valenzuela People's Organization Network. The second and third days' program activities were devoted to country experiences sharing and panel discussions that tackled the young professionals (YP) spirit and sustaining work as a community architect; new education towards designing and planning with communities; and the role of community artisans and builders in community upgrading. These initial activities were held in Balay Kalinaw at UP Diliman campus and participants were billeted at the University Hotel. The international participants also went on a tour around historical Old Manila on May 23.

Community workshops

The main feature of the program was the conduct of simultaneous workshops in nine communities in Caloocan City, Valenzuela City, and Bocaue, Bulacan. The CAN participants were grouped into teams to facilitate participatory planning in these communities and apply their technical skills to local upgrading initiatives and community efforts towards security of tenure. The CAN teams stayed in the communities for three days (May 24-26) to consult the people and work with them on addressing the area-specific issues and challenges to upgrading.

The level of technical intervention provided by the CAN teams depended on the readiness of the community organizations to address the legal, social and economic issues related to community upgrading. Several conducted community mapping exercises as a way to start community dialogue, understand the local situation and explore possibilities for community improvement. In Donnaville in Barangay 177, Caloocan City, the team was able to work with the community to come up with an alternative site plan and architectural design for a 12-unit housing project.

The CAN teams presented the results of the community workshops by setting up exhibits during the Multi-stakeholders Forum on Citywide Upgrading on May 28 at the BSWM Convention Hall in Quezon City. Community representatives from Barangay 177-Calooocan City, Valenzuela City, and Bocaue also presented the CAN community workshop process they have undergone and the resulting proposals during the forum.

Forum on citywide upgrading

The forum, jointly organized by CAN, Social Housing and Finance Corporation (SHFC)

and the World Bank, was widely attended by he CAN participants, PO partners, LGU and national shelter agencies representatives. The keynote address was given by DILG Undersecretary Francisco "Bimbo" Fernandez who underscored the government's PHP50B fund for housing informal settler-families in danger areas as an innovative and community-driven housing program. He acknowledged that planning with people is a slow process and challenged community architects to facilitate the hastening of the people's planning process for the program to work. The World Bank's Sector Manager, Mr. Ousmaine Dione, likewise stressed enabling policies and environment for people to be the main drivers of change and better professional support through participatory planning. Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha, Secretary General of ACHR, also considered the Philippines' ISF housing program as a potential model for other Asian communities if the country implements it the right way.

Ms. Boonyabancha gave a presentation that explained the key features of people-driven citywide upgrading strategy. She highlighted citywide upgrading as an integrated approach in lieu of the "projects approach" to community and housing development. Ms. Boonyabancha discussed some of the needs and challenges to such a strategy: determining land supply information at the city level, building an active

community finance system, and establishing networks and alliances. She also showed how ACHR's Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA) program has created legitimate space for the poor to be actively involved as development actors.

The forum concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a plan towards a citywide approach to slum upgrading in Valenzuela City and Caloocan City. The signatories to the MOU included DILG, SHFC, LGU of Valenzuela City and Barangay 177-Calooocan City, CAN (TAMPEI and TAO-Pilipinas), VALPONET, HPFPI, and NASAMA Barangay 177. After the MOU signing, Valenzuela Mayor-elect Sherwin Gatchalian and Barangay 177 Chairperson Donata De Gana Jarito gave their brief statement of support to the CAN workshop process initiated in the communities.

Reflection session and mini-concert

The CAN meeting-workshop was wrapped up with a reflection session led by CAN coordinators May Domingo-Price and Nad Luansang. The participants shared their impressions and the lessons gained from the workshop activities. After the workshop was officially closed, they then proceeded to a mini-concert especially organized for the CAN participants at the St. Vincent's Seminary grounds. (*Ge Matabang*)



The CAN teams assigned to four communities in Barangay 177 in Caloocan City



Community mapping in Sto. Niño West, Barangay 177, Caloocan City



MOU signing during the Multi-stakeholders Forum on People-driven Citywide Upgrading on May 28, 2013. From left: FDUP Executive Director Maricel Genzola, Jayson Miranda of DILG, SHFC President Ana Oliveros, Bgy.177 Chairperson Donata Jarito, Roselia Tormiento of Bgy 177 Land and Housing Office, and TAO-Pilipinas Executive Director Arlene Lusterio.

Rugmaking training for ACCA youth

IN LINE WITH TAO-PILIPINAS' CBSWM (COMMUNITY-BASED SOLID waste management) project, 24 youth members of ACCA Navotas Network were given the opportunity to learn rugmaking as an income-generating solid waste management activity. The first batch of trainees, ACCA youth members from Tangos and Tanza, Navotas City, joined the hands-on training held at the PHALTRA Center in Quezon City on June 15, 2013. Another hands-on training session was conducted at the TAO office on July 6, 2013 for the second batch of ACCA youth members from Angat, Bulacan. The rugmaking method they were taught does not employ mechanized equipment (such as a sewing machine) but uses only a small portable weaving loom. The weaving looms, made of wood and nails, are easily replicable units.

Skilled mothers from the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI) from Bocaue, Bulacan were tapped as resource persons for the training. They coached the youth on the proper procedure and techniques to create rugs and potholders using excess and discarded cloth (*retaso*) as raw material. They also gave pointers on sourcing retaso materials, maximizing the retaso to avoid wastage, and market selling prices of the finished products. At the end of the day-long training, all the participants were able to make their own rugs; they were given the weaving looms as starter kits to possibly start a home-based livelihood. (Ge Matabang)



From top: mothers from HPFPI-Bocaue teach kids the cutting and weaving techniques for rugmaking; middle: the first batch of ACCA youth trainees; bottom: youth trainees from the second batch create their own hand-woven rugs

Small infrastructure projects underway in San Mateo and Taytay communities

THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN RIZAL province is in progress with TAO-Pilipinas' supervision. The Banaba Livelihood-Evacuation Center in San Mateo and the Damayan Multi-purpose Center in Taytay are among the small infrastructure facilities being built under the Christian Aid Ketsana Rehabilitation Program. The facilities aim to contribute to the disaster resilience of communities and ensure safe settlements in communities supported by the program. TAO-Pilipinas assisted the Banaba and Damayan sa Floodway communities in planning and developing the disaster-resilient design of the buildings.

The Banaba Livelihood-Evacuation Center is a proposed three-storey structure in a 827 square meter property in Barangay Banaba. Construction work is now in the second and third floors of the building. The main structure is intended to house livelihood-related activities of the community such as the production of tetrapots, offices for different community organizations, a visitor information center, and audio-visual room. The multi-purpose halls on each floor can be converted into evacuation areas for a total of 89 families during emergency. The site also accommodates a compost stockpile and MRF storage, an urban garden, and an area for fibreglass rescue boat-building.



The Damayan Multi-purpose Center, on the other hand, is a proposed two-storey structure in a 55 square meter lot in the floodway area in Sitio Lumang Ilog, Barangay San Juan in Taytay. The building will be used for community meetings, DRR (rescue) equipment storage, and livelihood-related activities. The structure serves as a prototype design of a house-on-stilts and is designed with floating (mat) foundation suited to the site conditions in the floodway area. Ground filling and compaction have been done and the construction team is currently fabricating the steel reinforcements needed for the substructure (foundation).



Both the facilities in San Mateo and Taytay are being built through self-help, with the construction teams composed of community members with construction skills. Construction is targeted to be substantially completed by mid-August 2013. (Ge Matabang)

DSWD consultation with CSOs

IN PREPARATION FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN Development Program (NCDDP), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) organized a consultation workshop on May 26, 2013 with civil society organizations (CSOs) in Luzon. The NCDDP is a scaled up program of DSWD's Kalahi-CIDDS (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services) project and aims to cover 900 municipalities nationwide within a 5-year time frame. The objective of the consultation workshop is to get suggestions and recommendations from CSOs on how to improve CSO-Government partnership which will be critical in the implementation of NCDDP.



DSWD Assistant Secretary Camilo Gudmalin gave the opening remarks which essentially stressed the contributions CSOs have made in boosting the KALAH-CIDDS program. National Project Manager of the Kalahi-CIDDS, Dir. Edgar Pato, presented a backgrounder on the NCDDP and the purpose of the CSO consultation workshop. NCDDP is an ambitious poverty alleviation program that expands the current coverage of Kalahi-CIDDS program and involves several partnerships with multi-stakeholders. The NCDDP aims to empower barangays/communities of targeted municipalities so they can have improved access to services and be able to participate in more inclusive local planning, budgeting, and implementation.

After the presentations, focus group discussions were held to tackle three topics --- the roles and functions of CSOs in CSO-Government partnership; gaps, constraints and challenges being experienced in this kind of partnership; and recommendations on how government should engage with CSOs. Each of the five FDG groups presented the results of their discussions. Most of the CSOs represented acknowledged that capacity building, knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and technical assistance are among the roles and functions that CSOs can take on in partnership with national and local government. They also agreed that financial constraints, inefficient information dissemination, cultural differences, and unclear parameters of engagements are among the challenges and gaps that must be addressed to improve the partnership between CSOs and government. Lastly, the recommendations that CSOs suggested to address the abovementioned gaps and challenges were the following: defined partnership protocols between CSOs and government, culture sensitivity, simplified and "CSO-friendly" financial processes, and better information dissemination about best practices, funding opportunities, and government programs. (Angel Sales)



PHILSSA 23rd General Assembly

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. ATTENDED THE 23RD PHILSSA (PARTNERSHIP OF Philippine Support Service Agencies) General Assembly Meeting which was held on the 29th and 30th of May. Three topics were presented during the assembly: risk-sensitive shelter planning, good NGO governance, and social enterprise. The panel presentations were followed by the business meeting which comprised of reports from the chairperson and the treasurer, resolutions from the different regional clusters, and election of new board members.

The first panel presentation was about Disaster Risk-Sensitive Shelter Planning in Legazpi City, Albay. The panel composed of Che Prudente of ALTERPLAN, Myrna Llanes of COPE (Community Organizers Philippine Enterprise)-Bicol, Julieta Ortal and Rosana Ballarbare of LCSFI (Legazpi City Slumdwellers Federation, Inc.) presented their project entitled: "Enabling CSO Participation in Shelter Program Formulation to Address Flooding-Risk in the City of Legazpi." The project promoted DRR-responsive safe settlements for the urban poor after the destruction on Albay province caused by typhoon *Reming* in 2009. Nine pilot barangays underwent capacity-building trainings, did a socio-economic survey, gathered physical data through GPS survey, and conducted hazard mapping. The output of these exercises, a disaster risk-sensitive local shelter plan, was presented to their respective barangay councils. They also came up with com-

munity project proposals for DRR such as the rehabilitation of lined canals and drainage system and construction of barangay multi-purpose hall/evacuation center based on the data gathered and surveys conducted.

The second panel focused on good NGO governance and was composed of Josephine Matriano of Christian Aid, Sixto Donato Macasaet and Roselle Rasay of CODE-NGO (Caucus of Development NGO Networks), and Luis Morales of PCNC (Philippine Council for NGO Certification). Ms. Matriano introduced the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) benchmarks which have been adopted by NGOs working in the development and advocacy sector. These included establishing and delivering commitments; sharing information; handling complaints; staff competency; participation; and continual learning environ-

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CARRAT Training

CHRISTIAN AID REPLICATED ITS TRAINING PROGRAM ON EMERGENCY RAPID response and assessment for its network partners from different regions nationwide. The Christian Aid Rapid Response and Assessment Team (CARRAT) Training was held on July 1-5, 2013 at the DAP Center in Tagaytay City. Expanding the composition of CARRAT to include new partner organizations like TAO-Pilipinas, Christian Aid oriented the training participants on current humanitarian standards that guide emergency response work. The trainees were also introduced to assessment tools and emergency response procedures developed by Christian Aid.

Christian Aid staff and previously trained CARRAT participants served as trainers during the 5-day workshop. The program tackled the various intervention options and modalities for emergency response and included simulation exercises on emergency assessment and proposal writing to access humanitarian funding. Case studies on emergency response and coordination were presented to highlight lessons and good practices, including the humanitarian assistance made after tropical storms Ketsana (Ondoy in 2009), Washi (Sendong in 2011) and typhoon Bopha (Pablo in 2012). Humanitarian accountability principles and standard requirements were also discussed. The CARRAT workshop was capped by sessions on reflection of institutional capacities, re-entry planning, and evaluation of the training. *(Ge Matabang)*



Participants of Christian Aid's CARRAT Training

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ment. CODE-NGO representatives meanwhile talked about the Code of Conduct for NGOs and Good Governance Checklist that NGOs should adhere to. Mr. Morales discussed the PCNC process for granting donee institution status certification to NGOs.

The first day of the general assembly was capped by welcoming five new members into the PHILSSA network and awarding of certificates for members who are in good standing. The second day of the assembly commenced with the third panel presentations by Roberto Calingo of PEF (Peace and Equity Foundation), Cristita Racosalem-Epal of BABA's Foundation, and Demetrio Dawa of SALORSEDFI (San Lorenzo Ruiz Socio-Economic Development Foundation, Inc.). Mr. Calingo introduced PEF's work and its recent undertaking of social enterprise projects. He also shared pointers and factors to consider for NGOs that plan to go into social enterprise, including capacity to support target beneficiaries regardless of fund source, market competition, and skills to operate in the market. Ms. Racosalem-Epal and Mr. Dawa, both representing Mindanao-based organizations, shared experiences in running their respective social enterprise programs. BABA's Foundation projects include internet cafes, transport for hire, and microfinancing. SALORSEDFI, on the other hand, is a social arm of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish in Davao City and is involved in direct financing for social housing projects.

The PHILSSA business meeting followed the panel presentations. PCA (Partnership for Clean Air), BALAYAN (Community Development and Volunteer Formation Office), and GROUP (A Foundation for Growth, Organizational Upliftment of People, Inc.) were elected as new board members replacing three outgoing board members. The new PHILSSA Logo and website was also presented and commented upon by the group. *(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: **Bamboo Construction Source Book**
Author: **Hunnarshala Foundation**
Publisher: **ACHR (2013)**

This book is a manual on bamboo construction and at the same time acts as a sourcebook of additional references for bamboo. It gives the basic information to build with bamboo and the accompanying illustrations are very helpful to understand the construction details. The book is written very systematically from an introduction to

bamboo as a plant to constructing the various structural parts of a house such as foundation, columns, walls, and roof with bamboo. The construction of a bamboo house is written in a step-by-step process with photos of actual bamboo structures being constructed.

When reading the book though, one has to remember that it was written for readers in India so some methods may only apply locally. But nevertheless, the book is a very good reference for those who want to get into bamboo construction or do research about bamboo. Floor plans and other technical drawings provided in the book are useful for do-it-yourself projects. There are also drawings on how to do the various bamboo joints and lashings as well as the different tools needed for bamboo construction.

Over-all, the book is very easy to understand even for non-technical professionals. The layout is simple and clean and contributes to the readability of the book for both the print and digital version. It is a must-have book especially for those who are only beginning to explore the use of bamboo for house construction. *(Angel Sales)*