

# e-newsletter

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014



Group photo of the participants of the House Design Workshop in Manicani Island with the organizers. (Photo by Verna Saraga)



## Shelter assistance for Manicani Island underway

*TAO implements TDH Germany-funded Sustainable Shelter Assistance for 40 households in Manicani Island.*

THE TAO-PILIPINAS TEAM OF ARCHITECTS WENT BACK TO MANICANI IN GUIUAN, Eastern Samar to start the shelter project implementation benefitting Yolanda-affected residents of the island. With funding support from TDH (terre des homes) Germany, the shelter assistance project aims to provide disaster-resilient permanent houses to 40 households in the four barangays of Manicani Island. From the 6th of October until the 24th, the TAO team worked along with TDH Germany's community organizer in Manicani, Arturo Tahup, in conducting the beneficiary selection process and capability-building and design workshops for the shelter beneficiaries.

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## House design by TAO-Pilipinas for Fondation de France's Post Haiyan Reconstruction

THIS YEAR, TAO-PILIPINAS HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A FEW POST-HAIYAN REHABILITATION projects and one of them is under Fondation de France's Solidarite Philippines 2013: Haiyan – Post Reconstruction Project. The project aims to support shelter construction and economic projects in the provinces of Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan and Eastern Samar. In this project, TAO-Pilipinas has been contracted to undertake periodic monitoring of construction and provide technical advice to partners. Aside from project monitoring, TAO-Pilipinas was also engaged to design a typical unit for Enfants du Mekong shelter project in Altavas, Aklan.

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“Growth is inevitable and desirable, but destruction of community character is not. The question is not whether your part of the world is going to change. The question is how.”

- Edward T. McMahon,  
author and speaker on sustainable development and historic conservation and Senior Fellow for Sustainable Development, Urban Land Institute

# Shelter assistance... (From page 1)

## *Beneficiary selection process*

The initial project beneficiary shortlist was discussed and processed with the TDH community organizer in Manicani. A total of 82 households, comprising mainly of families who have not yet benefitted from shelter programs by other organizations, was included in the shortlist. Applying a participatory approach, the TAO team mobilized a beneficiary selection and validation committee composed of local representatives from the four barangays (Barangays Buenavista, Hamorawon, Banaag, and San Jose) to choose the final 40 household-beneficiaries. The committee set the criteria for selection which included level of need for permanent shelter, risks within existing house location, family situation (number of children and vulnerable family members), and family income. A cumulative points system was agreed on and applied to determine the ranking of the shortlisted households.

## *Ground-truthing by geologist*

Risk assessment and ground-truthing of the location of existing houses of the 82 shortlisted households were also conducted with the help of geologist Raymond Rodolfo. Each location was assessed based on susceptibility to earthquake, liquefaction, flooding, storm surge and tsunami risks. Proposed relocation sites within the island were also evaluated by the geologist. The result of this assessment served as inputs to the beneficiary selection process.

## *Workshop on sustainable and disaster-resilient settlements*

The architectural design process for the shelter project also took on a participatory approach. As a capability-building activity for 82 shortlisted households, a workshop on sustainable and disaster-resilient settlements planning was conducted on October 17 and 18, 2014 at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Church in Barangay Buenavista. The two-day workshop was intended to build their knowledge and for them to more ably integrate sustainable and disaster-resilient features into the proposed shelter design.

The first day of the workshop consisted of a short group exercise and lecture presentations by the TAO team. In the group exercise, the participants discussed their notions of sustainability by classifying various photographs (depicting individual and community practices) into sustainable or unsustainable actions. It was then followed by the lectures. Architect Arlene Lusterio gave inputs on sustainable design concepts for small islands and coastal settlements; Architect Verna Sarraga presented the disaster-resilient housing design and construction principles; Architect Angelus Sales lectured on alternative building materials and technologies; and Architect Geraldine Matabang explained retrofitting techniques for disaster resilience.

Several tarpaulins featuring alternative building materials and technologies were posted at the workshop venue to familiarize participants with potential materials that can be used for the shelter project. Information kits and handouts were likewise distributed to the participants to supplement the lectures presented.

The second day of the workshop sought to identify local disaster risk reduction (DRR) and house construction practices in Manicani. Another round of focus group discussions detailed the DRR measures in the barangay, categorized into structural and non-structural



*TDH-Germany community organizer, Mr. Arturo Tahup, shows the 3d scale model of a disaster-resilient house that TAO-Pilipinas made.*



*The group of Brgy. San Jose figures out which photographs are showcasing sustainable or unsustainable practices.*

measures. The participants also identified local building materials currently used and construction practices employed in the island. They drew the typical house design that can be seen in each barangay as well as what they envisioned to be a disaster-resilient house design appropriate for Manicani Island.

## *House design and model-making workshop*

After the beneficiary selection committee determined the project's 40 household-beneficiaries, a house design workshop was scheduled to be attended by the selected beneficiaries. The workshop aimed to generate housing design options that consider their needs and preferences by having them directly suggest design schemes. On October 22 to 23, the workshop was held at the Barangay Hamorawon Elementary School.

The first day of the house design workshop consisted of lecture inputs about BP 220 and examples of disaster-resilient houses given by Architect Sarraga and Architect Lusterio respectively. The beneficiary selection process was also discussed to the participants for transparency by Architect Lusterio. In the afternoon, the 3d model-making began with

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**Participants of the  
House Design Workshop  
October 22-23, 2014  
Manicani Island, Guiuan,  
Eastern Samar**



*Group 3*



*Group 4*



*Group 1*



*Group 2*



*Group 5*



*The finish 3d scale model of each five groups*

## Shelter assistance...

(From page 2)

The groups were each given model-making kits with guide questions and instructions on how to go about the design exercise. The toolkit consisted of scaled models of fixtures and furniture, boards for walls and flooring, corrugated and special paper for roofing materials, bamboo sticks, cutting tools, and adhesives. The five groups were not able to finish their 3d models on the first day so the first hour of the second day of the workshop was allotted to finishing up their 3d models.

On the second day, the five groups presented their house designs. Among the five groups, only one used the 64sqm. lot while the rest made use of 80sqm. lots. Most of the groups wanted

a house made of concrete with corrugated galvanized iron sheets for roofing. One group wanted a different roofing material because they opted to use micro-concrete roof tiles. Most of the groups also decided to do two-bedroom houses with at least one toilet and bathroom.

### *Selecting the preferred design*

After each group presented their house design, the features of each house design were summarized and discussed by Architect Lusterio to help the participants in choosing which house design layout to be used as basis for the technical drawings. The house design made by Group 2 garnered the most number of votes among the participants. Group 2's house design featured a two-bedroom layout with one toilet and bathroom, a shared dining and kitchen space, and a living room. It also featured a hip roof with a steep roof pitch.

After choosing which house design to use for the housing project, the participants then finalized different housing options such as the construction materials to be used and the floor area of the house. Finally, group photos were taken of each group with the 3d house model that they made.

### *Recent updates*

The technical team of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. has been working on the ground together with Mr. Tahup on ironing out some of the issues encountered after the two workshops that were held in the island. Based on their recent visits this November, there will be some beneficiaries who will be de-listed because they refuse to move out from their present location and dismantle their house. A written agreement between TAO-Pilipinas and the beneficiaries will be made. Counterparts will also be provided by beneficiaries who are able to do so. An addition of at least four houses will also be made possible given the budget realignment. The agreed floor area was also changed from 32.5 sqm. to 25 sqm. for those who can provide counterparts while those who are unable to give counterparts will be provided with a 20 sqm. permanent shelter. (GRM, AMPS)

## House design... (From page 1)

The house design for Altavas is for a typical transitional shelter unit with a floor area of 21.69 square meters including a toilet. The transitional shelter is a house-on-stilts or concrete pedestals supporting woven bamboo mats as walls. The posts are made of 4"x 4" good lumber connected to the concrete pedestals by a pair of 12mm metal straps. The walls for the toilet is made of bamboo slats on a layer of concrete hollow blocks on a 4" concrete slab. The roof design of the transitional shelter unit is a hip roof with corrugated galvanized iron sheet as roofing material. The total cost of each house is Php93,000.

Construction guidelines with illustrations were drafted by Architect Verna Sarraga and given to the local engineer and construction team of Enfants du Mekong to serve as reference during construction. Based on TAO-Pilipinas site reports, the actual houses that were built followed the design with a few revisions such as adding of fascia board where the gutter was attached, using of nipa as roofing material for the toilet facility, and thicker concrete slab for the toilet. Revisions to the foundation design were also made from 3-16mm diameter rebars for the footing to 4-12mm diameter rebars.

The house construction is scheduled to be 10 to 12 days per unit with seven workers involved in the construction work. The first batch of workers will finish 50 houses in 50 days at 10 houses per 10 days. A total of 150 houses is expected to be completed by May 2015. (AMPS)



*A typical transitional shelter unit designed by TAO-Pilipinas for Enfants du Mekong.*



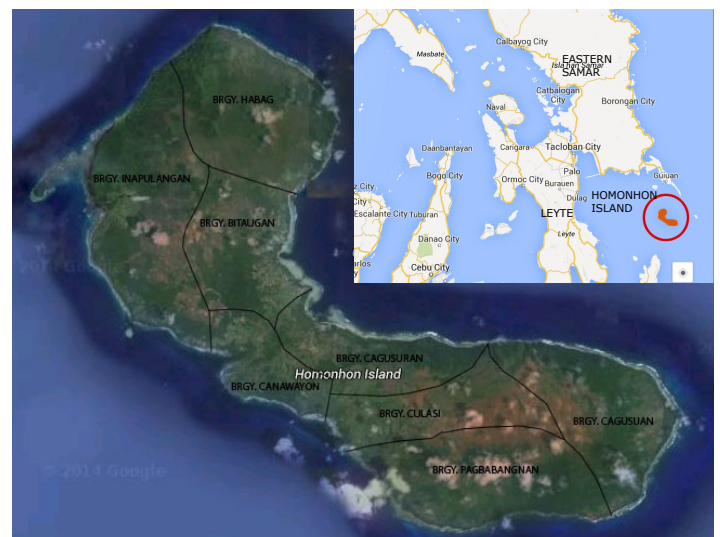
*The protruding portion of the house is the toilet area which made use of bamboo slats for walls.*

## TAO Partners with PMPI for #ProjectPagbangon

TAO-PILIPINAS JOINED AS IMPLEMENTING PARTNER FOR THE #ProjectPagbangon of Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI) in the island communities of Homonhon and Manicani in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The project intends to contribute to the post-Yolanda rehabilitation of the islands and on the longer term, develop a sustainable island ecosystem with disaster-resilient communities. As implementing partner for #ProjectPagbangon, TAO-Pilipinas is tasked with the shelter and evacuation center component of the project.

In the Manicani island project area, TAO has been engaged by terre des hommes (TDH) Germany to design and build a total of 40 permanent shelter units in four barangays. ([See related article on page 1.](#)) PMPI's #ProjectPagbangon, on the other hand, will provide Manicani Island with one evacuation center per barangay.

In the Homonhon island project area, TAO will design and build 80 permanent shelter units and 8 evacuation centers under the PMPI #ProjectPagbangon. Homonhon Island is composed of 8 barangays, each barangay will therefore be provided with 10 shelter units and one evacuation center. TAO is set to employ a similar process in Homonhon as in the Manicani shelter assistance with TDH, where beneficiary selection, capability-building and participatory planning activities were facilitated prior to construction of houses.



*Map of Homonhon showing the boundaries of the eight barangays.*

### Project briefing in Homonhon

TAO-Pilipinas recently joined PMPI's #ProjectPagbangon Team in Homonhon Island for coordination and project briefing activities with stakeholders. Out of the 8 barangays in Homonhon, TAO-Pilipinas was able to attend project briefing activities for 4 barangays. Barangay orientation activities were conducted to formally introduce #ProjectPagbangon to the residents of Homonhon Island. The residents were briefed on the objectives

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## TAO partners with PMPI... (From page 4)

and goals of #ProjectPagbangon and the various components under the project. After the orientation, the residents were asked to volunteer on different committees that will help in the implementation of the various components of the project.

TAO-Pilipinas was represented by Architect Angelus Sales who gave a brief orientation on the shelter and evacuation center component of #ProjectPagbangon. As expected, several questions mostly about beneficiary selection were raised with regards to the shelter project. A shelter committee was formed in each barangay. The 4 barangays that TAO-Pilipinas was able to orient about the shelter project was Culasi, Pagbabangnan, Cagusuan, and Canawayon. The shelter committees of these barangays were also given detailed information concerning the beneficiary selection process such as the responsibilities of the shelter committee and what they should expect during the beneficiary selection process.



*Melody Asia of PMPI explains the objectives of #ProjectPagbangon to the residents of Brgy. Canawayon in Homonhon Island.*

Before leaving the island, a brief meeting with the community organizers of PMPI for Homonhon was held. The COs were also oriented and briefed on their roles and tasks with regards to the social preparation for the shelter project. The shelter project in Homonhon is expected to start next year. (GRM, AMPS)

## Network Activities

### TAO Supports Buklod Tao Community Kitchen



*Representatives from Buklod ng Kabataan and Buklod Tao distributing hot soup during their 1st community kitchen in South and North Libis, Brgy. Banaba. Photo source: [Buklod Tao](#)*



*Representative from Buklod Tao distributing champorado to the residents of Armpac, Brgy. Banaba. Photo source: [Buklod Tao](#)*

THE BUKLOD TAO COMMUNITY KITCHEN RECENTLY SERVED 277 INDIVIDUALS affected by TYPHOON Mario. Buklod Tao, Inc. and Buklod ng Kabataan worked together to perform a community service named Buklod Tao Community Kitchen. The activity aimed to distribute cooked food to flood-affected areas after Typhoon Mario. With some financial support (PhP 8,000.00) from TAO-Pilipinas, food ingredients were bought. On October 14, TAO-Pilipinas' Verna Sarraaga and Marivic Padilla accompanied Francia and Tess of Buklod Tao to buy the necessary items for the community kitchen. Cooking and food distribution were held on the 15th, 16th, 18th and 23rd of October at South Libis, North Libis, Balante, Banaba Extension, Laylayan, Baybay Sapa, Belong Compound and Armpac.

According to Ka Noli Abinales of Buklod Tao, there was a feeling of cheerfulness among the people served during the community kitchen activities. They were grateful, organized and patient in waiting for their turn with their food bowls. The activity had already served two hundred and seventy-seven (277) individuals in different streets and more are expected to be served. So far, the community kitchen has served the following areas:

- 1st salvo 15 October: cooked and served hot sopas to 80 individuals in South Libis and then in North Libis, Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal;
- 2nd salvo 16 October: cooked and served rice and sotanghon to 60 individuals in Belong Compound, Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal;
- 3rd salvo 18 October: cooked and served champorado to 58 individuals in Laylayan, Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal; and
- 4th salvo 23 October: cooked and served champorado to 79 individuals in Armpac, Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal.

With the help of organizations donating cash or food items, Buklod Tao plans to continue with their community kitchen initiatives on a continuing basis, even during non-disaster events. (MPP)

## Network Activities

### TDH Germany Partners' Meeting in Cebu

TERRE DES HOMMES (TDH) GERMANY HELD A MEETING WITH ITS Humanitarian Assistance Partners from November 10-13, 2014 at BalayKo-op Pensionne House, Capitol Site, Cebu City. It was participated by TdH partners, including TAO-Pilipinas, working in different humanitarian assistance initiatives in Visayas and Mindanao such as the Zamboanga Siege, Typhoon Pablo and Super Typhoon Yolanda.

The meeting aimed to provide a venue for (1) the sharing of experiences and lessons from the implementation of humanitarian assistance work; (2) leveling-off of the partners' understanding about TdH Germany's framework and approaches; (3) mainstreaming child protection and child-centered DRR (disaster risk reduction) in the initiatives; and (4) discussion of the future of humanitarian assistance during extreme weather events in the Philippines.

Brief presentations about TdH Germany's program work in Southeast Asia (SEA) and policy on child protection in emergencies were made by Mr. Bert Cacayan (SEA Regional Coordinator) and Gertraud Matthias (Humanitarian Assistance Desk Project Officer for SEA). Mr. Arturo Tahup presented the impact of major disasters on children and youth. On the other hand, project partners were



*The different partners of TdH Germany involved in various forms of humanitarian assistance pose for a group photo during the partners' meeting in Cebu.*

given an opportunity to share their good practices and lessons learned in humanitarian assistance involving various fields such as armed conflict, relief distribution, medical mission, mangrove rehabilitation, shelter, waste management, etc. Workshops highlighting child protection were also included in the program.

The meeting ended with the participants mapping their partnership linkages and setting links with organizations they were interested to work with. Moreover, the partners did not only get to learn from other organizations but have found common ground for future cooperation among the group. (VLPS)

### Launching of the Missed Again Report

THE CONSORTIUM OF UK-BASED INTERNATIONAL NON-government organizations (iNGOs) that includes Christian Aid, CAFOD, Oxfam, Tearfund, and Action Aid, launched a report on partnership-based humanitarian response to Typhoon Yolanda. The report commissioned by the consortium is called "Missed Again: Making Space for Partnership in the Typhoon Haiyan Response" as it is a companion study to a similar report published in 2013 and entitled Missed Opportunities. The launch event was held at the SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center in Makati City on November 11, 2014 and was participated by representatives of government agencies and partner organizations of the five iNGOs.

Action Aid Country Programme Manager Joyce Laker gave the welcome remarks. Afterwards, representatives of the five iNGOs each presented the programs and partnerships established for their humanitarian response to Typhoon Yolanda. They also gave an update on the progress of projects being undertaken. EcoWEB Executive Director Regina Antequisa presented some of the lessons learned from the typhoon response. After the presentations, community partners of the iNGOs were gathered in a sit-down interview session to give testimonies on humanitarian response given and the challenges they encountered.

The main talk in the program was the presentation of key findings of the Missed Again Report by Carino Antequisa who contributed to writing the report. His presentation highlighted both the good practices and the continued challenges in achieving

effective partnership in large-scale humanitarian response such as in Typhoon Yolanda. The findings of the study included whether partnerships (between iNGOs and local/national NGOs) enhanced the relevance, appropriateness and effectiveness of aid given and the role and engagement of national actors in the international humanitarian system.

The last part of the program was the response from the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery (OPARR) represented by Director for Communications Atty. Karen Jimeno. She spoke of the importance of partnerships to provide effective assistance in disaster-affected areas. Copies of the Missed Again Report were given to participants at the end of the program. (GRM)



*The launching of Missed Again: Making Space for Partnership in the Typhoon Haiyan Response was held at AIM Conference Center, Makati City.*

## YP Reflections by Junly Lucero



*Junly Lucero is a 22-year old Office Administration graduate of Eastern Visayas State University. When TAO-Pilipinas worked on the CRS Community Action Planning project in Tacloban City this year, Junly led the group of local volunteers that assisted in the conduct of the community workshops. He shares with us his personal reflection on working to help rebuild communities devastated by Yolanda.*

LIFE IS FULL OF ENDEAVOURS AND CHALLENGES BUT STILL WE keep striving harder to stand with the help of our Almighty Father. In my life, I acknowledge HIM as the only Supreme Being and this has led me to where I am now. I strongly believe in the biblical verse, "God has a perfect plan for us." In our every step, He teaches to walk by faith and not by sight. This helps me understand the world, guides my life decisions, and strengthens my desire to do what is best for me and for people around me.

Before I became a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) volunteer, I've been working as an ESL (English as Second Language) Instructor at Cebu International Academy in Cebu City for almost a year. While in Cebu City, I experienced a 7.6 magnitude earthquake followed by continuous aftershocks for almost a month. My parents became worried about my situation so I decided to resign from my job. What happened in Cebu paved the way for me to go back to my family in Leyte and find work there. Ironically, a disastrous event happened and that was when typhoon Yolanda struck Tacloban City. At that point I came to realize that the world was so unfair.

Life after a huge devastation seems hopeless. I lost the chance to look for a new job but despite being desperate and confused, God's plan intervened and I was "lifted up" by it. I was lifted up by reaching out to people who really need help the most during that time. The bad experiences gave me a better understanding of the world. It was then that a friend contacted me to ask if I was willing to volunteer

for Catholic Relief Services, one of the international NGOs that helped Yolanda-affected communities recover. I saw it as an opportunity to help others and gave purpose to my existence. I also saw it as part of God's plan for me so I expressed my interest for the volunteer slot, attended a brief orientation and signed up as a CRS volunteer.

Immediately, I began working in the field together with a team, conducting surveys and household registrations in 17 barangays covered by CRS Transitional Shelter Program. Our team assisted in shelter assessment which included evaluating households in every barangay, monitoring the database, and registering GPS (Global Position System), etc. To complete the project under CRS Philippines in Tacloban City, a group of architect-planners from TAO-Pilipinas was engaged by CRS. They were asked to develop, initiate and facilitate the Community Action Planning process within the 17 barangays in a span of two months. The purpose was to generate community profiles and action plans to address the priority settlements needs for each barangay. And for TAO-Pilipinas to be familiarized with and assess each barangay, they needed to be assisted by local volunteers from CRS to help them organize the community workshops. And that was also the time I believed that big things or opportunities happen in unexpected times because all of a sudden, I was the one chosen to lead the group of local volunteers in assisting TAO-Pilipinas.

I wondered why I was the one chosen but considered myself lucky for the opportunity to be part of the technical

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*Junly Lucero (right) convening with his team of CRS volunteers for their synthesis presentation during the first batch of CRS community workshop.*



*Junly Lucero (right) also assisted in facilitating focus group discussions during the community validation.*

## YP reflection... (From page 7)

group. And of course, it was a challenge on my part to do this new task. Yes, there was an orientation conducted before doing the workshops but it's really different when you are in the actual process. In fact, I found it difficult at first to adjust because it's quite different from what I expected to do and it was really different from my past experiences. Another thing that made me worry before the workshops started was if the participants from the 17 barangays would be interested, eager and willing to cooperate with us, since they are the primary individuals who could help us in realizing this project.

As part of the local volunteers group, we were in charge of setting up the venues, preparing and procuring the snacks, coordinating the logistics in transporting participants to and from the venue, and assisting in the facilitation of the workshops and community validations. Generally the whole thing was really a big challenge in my part as the volunteer group leader because everything needs proper coordination from different parties involved, relaying good instructions, and proper communication and dissemination of schedules. But despite of the challenging circumstances, at the end we did it through the cooperation, hard work, dedication and perseverance of the whole team. With that I was very much thankful to everybody who in one way or another made those things possible, most especially to all the participants for their tireless effort and their huge contribution for the successful conduct the workshops. They really did their best in doing all the workshop activities despite of their busy and hectic schedules.

There were many lessons learned from working on the CRS and TAO-Pilipinas Community Action Planning project. One is that having a lot of patience is really a virtue. I also learned the value of commitment, love of work, confidence, openness to new knowledge and possibilities, and attention to detail. Working on the project also taught me to facilitate team spirit, respect everyone in the team, work efficiently, and be flexible to changes.

It was a joy working with a highly committed team. I consider the CRS and TAO-Pilipinas project a great and wonderful experience in my career. It was really a good opportunity to see that the project facilitators were very supportive and pro-active in sharing their ideas, knowledge and expertise. I can appreciate the impact that the project made on my work now as a field assistant and as a presenter in the community because it motivates me to possess more confidence especially in dealing or communicating with people, and in providing service to them.

Being a field worker is not an easy task, it needs lots of effort and time to attain our desired goal. I am open to challenges like this, such as working in the communities and serving people. Working for public or community service is something I can be proud of and I see myself doing community development fieldwork in the future. At present, I am glad to be part of the CRS family as we continuously render social services for the 17 barangays we assist. The goal is still to rebuild the lives of communities through building back better shelters in safer areas, giving them protection, and promoting good hygiene for each and every individual.

## Announcements

### Call for Internship

AS PART OF ITS THRUST TO DEVELOP SOCIALLY AWARE TECHNICAL professionals, TAO-Pilipinas' Young Professionals Program is once again opening its internship program for architecture, environmental planning, and civil engineering students. We are looking for 4th to 5th year students who are willing to do development work and engage with the country's urban poor communities. The interns are expected to do technical work including, but not limited to, drafting, model making and cost estimates. They are also expected to conduct research and do site visits to our partner communities. For those who are interested, you may send your curriculum vitae (CV) together with your preferred working schedule at [yp@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:yp@tao-pilipinas.org). To learn more about the organization, you may visit our website [www.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.tao-pilipinas.org).

### Christmas Gift-giving

TAO-PILIPINAS IS STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS gift-giving activity. You can bring your pre-loved toys to our office at 27-A Matiyaga St. Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City. You can also give cash donations which we will use to buy new shoes and toys. For those who are interested to give cash donations, you can deposit your donations at any BPI branch using the following bank details:

Account Name: **TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.**

Account No.: **4431-0074-31**

Account Type: **Peso Current Account**

We will be distributing the gifts to the children of Masagana community in Angat, Bulacan a week before Christmas so you still have time to donate and make the children of our community happy this Christmas. For more details, you can visit our [YP FB Page](#).