TAO-Pilipinas young professionals program

e-newsletter

APRIL - MAY 2015

During the TAO workshop for Project Pagbangon, geologist Raymond Rodolfo discusses the barangay hazard maps to a group of shelter beneficiaries from Barangay Habag composed mostly of elderly women. (Photo by Ge Matabang)

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UE Caloocan hosts first YP Lecture Series of 2015

The College of Engineering of the University of the East – Caloocan played host to the first YP University Lecture Series for 2015. The lecture was held on March 6, 2015 at the College of Engineering Building of University of the East - Caloocan. Guest speakers at the lecture were Fr. Jorge Anzorena, architect and 1994 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for International Understanding, and Arch. Angelus Sales, Deputy Program Director of the Young Professionals Program of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

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Participatory design workshop for Barangay Evacuation Center Prototype in Manicani

Community members generate design schemes for an evacuation center to be built in each barangay in Manicani.

A capability-building and participatory design workshop was facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas to come up with an appropriate evacuation center design for Manicani Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. From April 9 to 11, 2015, thirty-five (35) community representatives from the four barangays of Manicani Island (Buenavista, Banaag, Hamorawon and San Jose) underwent training activities that enhanced their knowledge on sustainable and disaster-resilient settlements planning and design. Six to ten representatives from each barangay took part in the workshop activities held at the Hamorawon Elementary School.

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In this issue:

"It's time for us to go the people rather than ask the people, especially the poor, to come to us."

> *"Buildings will not crumble/ and people inside will not stumble/ in the very near future all the communities are resilient/ and they will say that they are ready to rumble with the tremblors/ but we're ready to deal with Metro Manila's concrete jungle."*
>
> ***- Dr. Renato Solidum, Jr.,*** *director of the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS)*

UE Caloocan... (From page 1)

The objective of the lecture was to raise awareness among engineering, architecture and planning students about community development work involving technical professionals. It also aimed to introduce to students alternative building materials as used in recent projects of TAO-Pilipinas. The university lecture series was made possible through the support of Dean Victor Macam and coordination with Prof. Mannielynn Demdam of the College of Engineering.

The lecture started with Fr. Anzorena presenting the work being done by young technical professionals in Cambodia. He discussed the different ways on how young Cambodian architects and engineers provide technical support to the urban poor communities of Cambodia. After his lecture, an open forum followed wherein the students voiced out their comments. Students' reaction to Fr. Jorge's lecture revealed that most of the engineering students were not aware technical professionals can do community development work and that their technical skills were needed in the field of community development.

The next lecture presented by Arch. Sales was about alternative building materials used as construction materials for small community infrastructures. The lecture focused on two alternative building materials, namely micro concrete roof tiles and wood wool cement-bonded board, which

Left photo: *Fr. Jorge Anzorena talking about young technical professionals in Cambodia.* ***Right photo:*** *Arch. Angelus Sales during her presentation about alternative building materials for small community infrastructures.*

were both used in two small community infrastructures in Sitio Pulo, Tanza, Navotas City. Many of the engineering students were unfamiliar with the alternative construction materials presented and a few asked questions regarding the material properties of micro concrete roof tiles and wood wool cement-bonded board.

After the lectures, the students also expressed their appreciation for technical professionals delving into community development work. A few more questions were posed about how engineers and architects should relate with urban poor communities. At the end of the program, a brief announcement was given by Arch. Geraldine Matabang about the YP Internship program, an opportunity to learn from and work with the urban poor. The students were encouraged to apply for the internship slots and be part of the projects of TAO-Pilipinas. *(AMPS)*

Participatory design... (From page 1)

The workshop was conducted as part of TAO-Pilipinas' implementation of the Shelter and Evacuation Component of PMPI (Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc.)'s Project Pagbangon. The project supports the construction of four evacuation centers in Manicani, one in each barangay. In line with the project's guiding principles of community participation and collective decision-making, TAO-Pilipinas has adopted a participatory approach for the evacuation centers' planning and design process. The workshop thus aimed to facilitate the creation of a community-designed evacuation center prototype and likewise served as a venue for awareness-building and informed decision-making among community members.

In the first two days of the workshop, the participants attended a series of lecture sessions. Equipped with technical knowledge gained from these inputs, the participants themselves were able to generate design schemes for a prototype evacuation center on the third day of the workshop. After translating the results of the design workshop into schematic architectural plans, TAO-Pilipinas returned to Manicani on May 4, 2015 to conduct a validation workshop with the same participants and came up with the finalized design for the evacuation center.

Knowledge-building sessions

During the 3-day workshop, TAO-Pilipinas architects gave lectures and inputs on various topics that aimed to heighten the awareness of participants on sustainability, sustainable building practices and design concepts for disaster-resilient settlements. These sessions replicated the training module that TAO-Pilipinas designed for the TdH (terre des hommes) Germany shelter project in Manicani and carried out in October 2014 *(see E-newsletter issue October-December 2014)*. The themes that were discussed included sustainable design for small islands and coastal settlements, disaster-resilient house design and construction principles, alternative building materials and technologies, and house retrofitting for disaster risk reduction. In addition to these topics, the participants were also oriented on barangay development planning. Representatives from each barangay reported on current projects included in their barangay development plans.

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Workshop attendees listen to lectures given by TAO architects

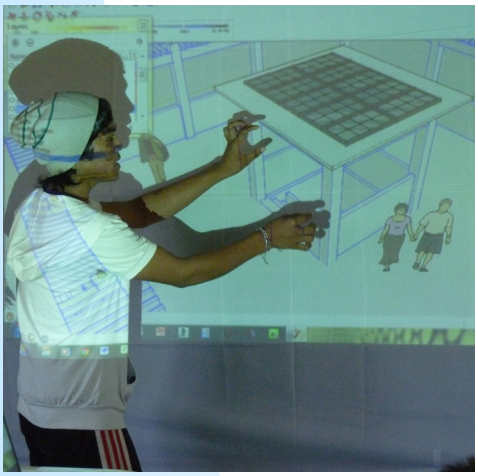
TAO project team in Manicani (from left, YP intern Andy Sztark, Arch. Claudio Rillera, Jr., Arch. Angelus Maria Sales, Arch. Verna Lucia Sarraga, Arch. Geraldine Matabang, and Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio.)

Participatory design... (From page 2)

One of the four groups working on the 3d model of their barangay evacuation center.

Group photo of the participants

Exterior perspective of the barangay evacuation center.



Noel Mar Obello of Brgy. Hamorawon giving his input during the community validation of the design for the barangay evacuation center.

At the end of the lecture sessions, focus group discussions were conducted to gauge the participants' receptiveness and understanding of the concepts and ideas presented to them in the lectures. Many mentioned realizations about sustainable practices and new-found knowledge about alternative materials and disaster-resilient construction.

Evacuation center design workshop

Following the participants' recap and evaluation of the lecture sessions, the facilitators conducted further build-up of technical knowledge on planning and design of an evacuation center. Planning standards and guidelines for evacuation center design were presented to the participants. They were shown examples of evacuation centers built in Metro Manila as well as evacuation structures built in various Asian countries also exposed to flooding and storm surge or tsunami hazards.

To facilitate the creation of design schemes by the participants themselves, they were divided into groups and given materials and tools to build three-dimensional scaled models of the evacuation center. Each group had to come up with a proposed design based on a set of guide questions that were to be answered through group discussion and consensus.

The design brief given to the participants was to develop a scheme for a disaster-resilient evacuation center, and due to project budget limitations, with only a maximum floor area of 100 square meters. Four groups were formed and were given half of the day to work on the scaled models. By the third day of the workshop, each of the four groups presented their design scheme and the scaled models they created.

Group design features; selecting the best design

The four scaled models generated had diverse design features. One opted for a two-storey structure; two had single-storey structures with raised flooring; while another designed a one-storey structure with a roof deck. The roof shapes they designed were either hip or gable except for the structure with a concrete slab as roofing.

The groups were not able to immediately choose a single design scheme they preferred among the four models. TAO architects pointed out some of the common features that appeared in most of the design schemes. Each group was then asked to re-evaluate the design schemes and they unanimously decided to have a roof deck as a main feature of the evacuation center. The roof deck provides additional refuge space for evacuees and can serve as assembly space for community activities during non-emergency situations.

Since not one design scheme represented their collective preference, the groups agreed to include the best features from the four design schemes in the final design of the evacuation center: reinforced concrete structural components, including a roof deck; raised flooring on fill; separate sleeping accommodations and toilet and baths for males, females, and senior citizens; provision of a first aid station; kitchen and dining areas (that may be situated in the building exteriors); and use of solar energy.

TAO-Pilipinas architects committed to develop at least two schematic designs that incorporate these features and present them in a separate validation workshop. An evaluation activity was conducted at the conclusion of the three-day workshop.

Validation workshop

TAO-Pilipinas reconvened the workshop participants three weeks later to finalize the evacuation center design. On May 4, architects Arlene Lusterio and Verna Sarraga presented the two schematic designs developed based on the results of the participatory design workshop. Computer-drawn architectural plans and Sketch-up perspective drawings were projected as the design features were explained. These allowed the participants to have a three-dimensional view of the exterior and interior spaces of the building, alter some details, and look at the results immediately.

After an open discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of both schematic designs, the participants chose which design they preferred by voting.

The final schematic design that the participants came up with is a 100 square meter reinforced concrete structure with a trellised roof deck that is accessible from inside and outside the building. The structure shall be raised about half a meter from the ground and will rely on solar energy harnessed from photovoltaic cells. Much of the interior space is allocated to separate sleeping quarters for men and women. Other spaces provided include an enclosed stairwell, toilet facilities, clinic, and administration office. Outside the building are provisions for cooking and laundry facilities, as well as a space for the temporary refuge of pets and farm animals. Amenities for rainwater harvesting shall also be incorporated into the structure.

After finalizing the design of the evacuation center, the barangay groups also chose the exterior paint colors of the building. Each barangay opted to use a distinct paint color for their evacuation center. *(GRM)*

TAO implements shelter component of Project Pagbangon in Homonhon Island

TAO-Pilipinas has started to implement the shelter component of PMPI's Project Pagbangon in Homonhon Island. As a preparatory design activity for the construction of permanent shelters for a total of eighty (80) beneficiaries in eight barangays in Homonhon Island, TAO-Pilipinas conducted a participatory house design workshop for the selected shelter beneficiaries from April 26th until the 29th. The four-day workshop was held at the St. John the Baptist Parish Church in Barangay Casuguran, Homonhon Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The participants of the workshop came from Habag, Inapulangan, Bitaugan, Casuguran, Cagusuan, Canawayon, Pagbabangnan, and Culasi. Each barangay had 10 shelter beneficiaries but only 75 beneficiaries were able to attend or were represented in the workshop.

Lectures and focus group discussions

The first two days of the workshop were allocated for lecture inputs from the TAO technical staff. Topics such as sustainable development concepts, disaster-resilient design and construction, disaster risk reduction (DRR) concepts, house retrofitting, alternative building materials, and bamboo construction were discussed.

Geologists Raymond Rodolfo and Hillel Cabria of Reef to Ridges Solutions were also present in the second day of the workshop to explain the different hazards found in Homonhon Island. They presented barangay maps that showed areas susceptible to various hazards such as liquefaction, storm surge, tsunami, and landslide.

Aside from the aforementioned topics, an introduction to barangay development planning was also discussed by Arch. Geraldine Matabang on the second day. Afterwards, barangay officials from Habag, Inapulangan, Pagbabangnan, and Bitaugan presented their barangay development plan. The four other barangays were not represented by their barangay officials.

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were also held during the first two days of the workshop. These FGDs were conducted as a means to assess the knowledge of the participants regarding the various topics that were presented. In one FGD, the participants who were grouped by barangay, were asked to classify photos whether they depicted sustainable or unsustainable practices. Most of the barangays were able to correctly classify the photos given to them. Another FGD had the barangays list down DRR measures being done in their barangay. They were also asked to identify DRR measures that have not yet been done but are needed in their barangay. Most of the groups expressed the need to have evacuation centers for their barangay. The FGDs were not only limited to narrative answers but they were also asked to illustrate with drawings. One FGD had the barangays drawing their idea of a disaster resilient house while another had them sketching a typical house found in Homonhon Island before typhoon Haiyan happened.

Beneficiary selection process

On the third day of the workshop, the beneficiary selection process was discussed by PMPI Project Pagbangon Coordinator,

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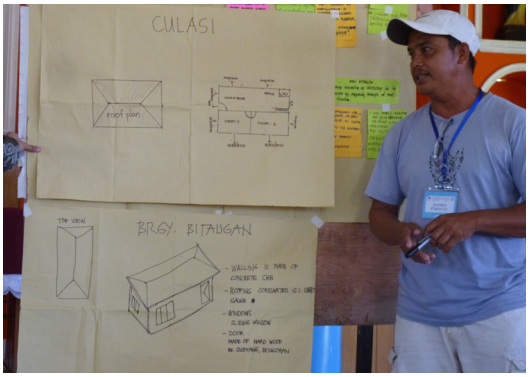
Participants classify whether the photos depict sustainable or unsustainable practices.



Andres Parocco of Brgy. Bitaugan presenting their barangay's idea of a disaster resilient house.

Geologist Raymond Rodolfo of Reefs to Ridges Solution explaining the hazards found in Homonhon.

Melody Asia, PMPI Project Pagbangon Coordinator discusses the beneficiary selection process.

Workshop on Sustainable and Disaster-Resilient Settlements Planning and Design & Consultation Workshop for Shelter Design
Homonhon Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar
April 26-29, 2015

Participants read the construction manual included in the workshop kits

Participants study the hazard maps given by the geologists

A group representative presenting the result of their focus group discussion

Group 1 working on their house design model

Group 1 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

Group 2 working on their house design model

Group 2 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

Group 3 working on their house design model

Group 3 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

Group 4 working on their house design model

Group 4 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

Group 5 working on their house design model

Group 5 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

Group 6 working on their house design model

Group 6 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

Group 7 working on their house design model

Group 7 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

Group 8 working on their house design model

Group 8 posing for their group photo with their finished 3d model of their house design

TAO implements... (From page 4)

Melody Asia. She described how local coordinators of PMPI went to every barangay from January to February 2015 to do a survey of potential shelter beneficiaries. They used the survey form that TAO-Pilipinas developed for the TdH (terre des hommes) shelter project in Manicani Island. After completing the survey, PMPI likewise used the beneficiary selection criteria developed in Manicani. They presented the criteria to the residents of Homonhon who determined the weight (in percentage) that should be given to each criterion. The criteria included economic status, shelter status, shelter location, and family situation.

According to Ms. Asia, the percentage given for each criterion varied from one barangay to another. From the survey results, potential beneficiaries were ranked according to the criteria set by each barangay. PMPI went through a validation process for the top twenty potential beneficiaries that were shortlisted in each barangay. Based on the validation conducted, PMPI was able to finalize each barangay's list of ten shelter beneficiaries. The final list was presented to the residents through an assembly and most of them agreed that the names included were deserving beneficiaries.

Hazards assessment of shelter sites

After the beneficiary selection process discussion, Arch. Arlene Lusterio presented the hazard assessment conducted by the geologists. The geologists' assessment was determined by assigning scores to these sites, based on its susceptibility to each of the different hazards found in Homonhon Island. The results showed that most of the beneficiaries' proposed shelter sites are still at high risk to storm surges or tsunami. A few have new/transfer sites that can be considered relatively safe. Beneficiaries from the more isolated barangays Habag and Inapulangan were not yet included in the geologists' hazards assessment.

House design workshop

The participants were by then oriented on the various factors and concerns that should be considered in designing a disaster-resilient shelter. Planning standards and housing design guidelines based on Batas Pambansa 220 were also presented to them. Furthermore, they were shown examples of sustainable house designs to serve as design inspiration for them. Afterwards, the participants were formed into groups to be able to create their own house design scheme through a model-making activity. Each group have members representing all of the eight barangays of Homonhon to avoid a divisive competition among barangays.

The facilitators then oriented the participants on the proper application of scaled measurements and gave some instructions for the model-making activity. Each group was given a set of tools and materials to create the three-dimensional model of their house design scheme at the scale of 1:30 meters. A set of questions were also given to them to answer as a group and to guide them in coming up with design features for the house.

The groups worked fast and by the end of workshop's third day, the eight groups were able to present a variety of designs. Half of the groups wanted their houses to be raised from the ground either by stilts or by fill. Almost all of the groups used hip roofs (*kwatro aguas*) made of corrugated galvanized iron sheets. Only one group wanted to use micro concrete roof tiles for their roofing material and only two groups used gable roofs (*dos aguas*).

Selecting the best design scheme

In the last day of the workshop, the facilitators summarized the design features that appeared in the groups' design schemes. They also drew out the house features that they preferred for the project. Through consensus, the groups then agreed upon a set of criteria for selecting the best house design among the eight presented. Four design criterion were considered: 1) hip roof made of corrugated galvanized iron sheet; 2) with columns and beams as shown in the scaled model; 3) has the following interior spaces: a living room, dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a toilet and bathroom; and 4) considered flooding, storm surge, and tsunami hazards. A uniform weight of 25% was given for each design criterion for a total score of 100%.

Once the criteria were determined, each house design model was laid out so that all the groups were able to examine each design. They graded each of the models except their own design based on the set criteria. The model with the highest score was the chosen design scheme which will be the basis for the beneficiaries' shelter design for Project Pagbangon in Homonhon Island. Group 1 received the highest score with Groups 3 anWd 5 tying for the second spot. Group 1 had a clear space layout that provided two bedrooms and one sufficiently-sized toilet and bathroom. The only adjustment that the groups agreed on was to improve the roof pitch and raise the flooring.

After the scheme was chosen, the TAO technical staff discussed the next steps to be taken in implementing the shelter project. An evaluation of the four-day workshop followed next and lastly, the workshop ended with group photos of everyone who participated in the workshop. *(AMPS)*

The three models in front were the top two picks selected by the beneficiaries. Group 1 (left) got the highest score while Groups 5 (middle) and 3 (right) tied for second place

Updates on TdH Germany shelter project in Manicani

Last October 2014, a participatory design workshop was held with the 40 selected beneficiaries of TdH's (terre des hommes) shelter assistance in Manicani Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The workshop, facilitated by the TAO-Pilipinas team of architects, resulted in the generation 5 design schemes by the participants themselves. The preferred scheme they selected was a 32.5 sqm. house which featured a living room, a shared dining and kitchen area, a toilet and bath, and partitions to enclose the sleeping area. The beneficiaries opted for a steep hip roof and glass jalousie with storm shutters for windows.

The final design followed the features agreed from the workshop. However, the floor area was cut from 32.5 sqm. to 25 sqm. because of budget constraints. The house was also elevated from the natural ground line by a minimum of 1.00 meter in relocation sites within medium hazard risks.

One of the initial challenges in implementing the project was securing legal documents and proof of land ownership. Land titles have not been issued and only cadastral maps and tax declarations are the means of verifying land ownership of relocation sites. Furthermore, some of the beneficiaries needed to ask permission to construct on land owned by another person. IDEALS Inc. (Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment), another NGO partner of PMPI in Project Pagbangon, assisted in completing the beneficiaries' legal requirements such as affidavits and notary services. The IDEALS team conducted a legal mission in Manicani Island to verify and complete the required documents on March 7, 2015. The mission was led by Atty. Gilbert Valderama and was coordinated by Billy Abueme.

The shelter project aims to provide 40 disaster-resilient permanent houses spread in four barangays of Manicani Island. An addition of four houses was made possible due to budget realignment. However, the final count for shelter beneficiaries went down from 44 to 41 households because the families were required to relocate to safer areas and demolish their current houses located in high risk sites. Some chose to back out of the project because they were unwilling to relocate. There are now 12 beneficiaries in Barangay Hamorawon; 13 in Buenavista; 9 in Banaag; and 7 in San Jose. Beneficiaries are also required to put in counterpart for sand and gravel provision as well as to shoulder the materials handling and shipping from the Guiuan mainland to Manicani Island.

To date, 34 houses have commenced building and are at different stages of construction, ranging from excavation to formworks and laying of CHB. Architect Claudio Rillera Jr. is supervising the construction work for the shelter project in Manicani.

There is also an on-going proposal with CA (Christian Aid) to co-fund the shelter assistance project in Manicani. With further budget realignments, every housing unit now has PhP 170,000.00 allocation from TdH Germany. Additional funding per housing unit along with subsidies for the beneficiaries' sand-gravel counterpart will be made possible with the approval of co-funding by CA. *(VLPS)*

The exterior perspective of the house that is now being constructed for 41 beneficiaries in Manicani.

Left photo: *Leonaldo Atregenio, a beneficiary from Brgy. Buenavista, already laid out the concrete hollow blocks for walls.*
Right photo: *Florentina Abude of Brgy. San Jose started to lay concrete hollow blocks after column formworks have been removed.*

Network Activities

Save the Children Learning Session

TAO-Pilipinas joined a roundtable discussion on Child-Responsive Urban Housing and Relocation convened by Save the Children on March 11, 2015 at the Save the Children Luzon Office in Quezon City. TAO-Pilipinas, together with guests from UP College of Social Work and Community Development, served as resource persons in the second of a series of learning sessions intended to develop a child right-based framework for urban programming in relocation areas.

Minerva Cabiles, Child's Rights Governance Director of Save the Children, opened the session with an overview of their research project that looked into the impact of relocation on children. The results of the research provided the initial conceptualization for developing a child's rights-based framework.

Matt Wamil facilitated the roundtable discussion organized around four themes: urban development, paradigms on housing and relocation, urban governance, and safe and protective environment. TAO-Pilipinas, represented by architects Verna Sarraga and Geraldine Matabang, shared some of their organization's experiences and lessons in providing technical assistance to communities for shelter-related projects. Integrating a participatory approach in social housing design processes and the need for strong community organizing were emphasized.

Save the Children plans to synthesize the outputs of the learning sessions into a concept paper for a "child-sensitive urban relocation programming" model. *(GRM)*

Misereor Consultation on Climate Change

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE change, energy resources and justice was conducted last March 11 at the Jesse Robredo Hall of the DILG-Napolcom Building in Quezon City. Former DILG Undersecretary Francisco Fernandez hosted the activity which was attended by representatives from DILG, SHFC, CODE-NGO, and TAO-Pilipinas, among others.

The discussion was led by Dr. Almuth Schauber of MISEREOR (German Catholic Bishops' Organization for Development Cooperation). She gave a brief presentation on the climate change agenda of the Department of Policy and Global Challenges of MISEREOR. In her presentation, Dr. Schauber underscored transport and mobility as decisive factors in limiting future emissions, better technologies for decarbonisation, and that the key to climate change mitigation will be the layout of Asian cities.

Feedback and comments from the attendees followed Dr. Schauber's talk. The conversation focused on the public's understanding and perception of climate change and how climate change is linked to advocacy and development work. The attendees pointed out that disaster risk reduction has become the focus of many organizations' development work while some have introduced alternative materials and technologies as a climate change mitigation measure.

In closing the discussion, follow-up activities were planned to continue the dialogue on climate change issues with other stakeholders. *(GRM)*

PMPI Project Pagbangon Coordination Meeting

THE PMPI PROJECT PAGBANGON PARTNERS' Meeting was once again held on April 23-24, in Norfil Foundation Inc. located at Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City. The event was participated by partner NGOs - Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya (SIKAT), Technical Assistance Organization (TAO-Pilipinas), Integrative Medicine for Alternative Healthcare Services (INAM), Medical Action Group (MAG), Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT) and Peace and Conflict Journalism Network Philippines, Inc. (PECOJON), consultants for Land Management and Sustainable Agriculture (Cabiokid), Renewable Energy, Outcome Impact Orientation (Consulting Team Inc.), and the PMPI staff, community facilitators and project officers.

The meeting started with knowledge-sharing, a study session on Coastal Resource Management facilitated by Edgar Orencio of SIKAT on April 23. The following day started with a brief session with CTI on project monitoring and use of key monitoring questions in the reporting template. The rest of the day was spent on reports by Project Pagbangon partners and PMPI facilitated by Francisco Paciencia, PMPI Coordinator for Project Pagbangon. Financial matters and financial reporting requirements were also discussed with finance officers of partner organizations on the last day of the meeting.

The meeting provided a venue for partners to share, learn and keep abreast of the progress of each partner's work on the ground as well as come up with recommendations and group agreements to support and better improve the project implementation. It is also an opportunity to ventilate and clarify issues on the ground with fellow partners or the local government and address gaps.

A common agreement during the meeting was to work on advocacy issues on each area of concern (such as health, shelter, communications, water, sustainable agriculture, DRR, etc.) of partners to be negotiated for support with the Barangay.

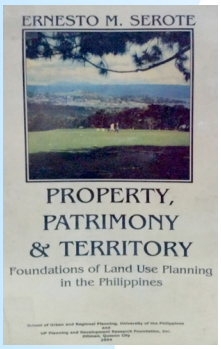
A newsletter published by PECOJON on local issues in Homonhon and Manicani will be circulated to partners for comments and contribution before publication. It was seen as a vehicle to raise awareness of fishermen/farmers in the island on local issues and share relevant positive experiences.

The meeting ended with agreements on schedules, submission of monthly reports and application of OIO (outcome-impact orientation) monitoring tool. *(ACDL)*

Left photo: *Edgar Orencio of SIKAT facilitated the knowledge sharing session about coastal resource management.*
Right photo: *Francisco Pacencia, PMPI Coordinator for Project Pagbangon, facilitated the rest of the coordination meeting attended by various partners working for Project Pagbangon. Photo by: PMPI*

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 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.



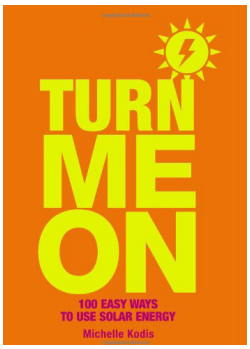
Title: **Property, Patrimony & Territory: Foundations of Land Use Planning in the Philippines**
Author: **Ernesto Serote**
Publisher: **University of the Philippines, PLANADES (2004)**

As mentioned in the foreword, "this is probably the first book ever written on land use planning in the Philippines" which is in addition and above all written by a Filipino. "Property, Patrimony & Territory" adopts a 10 chapters' framework made in an educational way. Each chapter tackles a part of what is land use planning in today's Philippines by describing point-by-point the land use legislation and its issues in the Philippines.

The nature of this book is quite disconcerting at first as its literary genre does not appear clearly: is it an educational book, the report of an urban planner, a political or ideological paper? The tone and expression used by E. Serote is mostly didactic, descriptive and analytic. This doesn't mean the book is empty of any personal judgement or ideological rationales. Ernesto Serote expresses clear criticism of the present and past government politics thru his own opinion.

As an answer to homelessness, the Author writes: "The more effective solution… is for government to build four- to five-storey walk-up multi-family dwellings units… constructed by local government engineering offices and operated by the local government as enterprises." E. Serote implies doubts regarding the private property system and to the private sector. According to him the state intervention has to be strengthened. Though, this opinion is disproved by two other renowned Filipino researchers Gilberto Llanto and Marife Ballesteros who both agree that the government action in the housing market has already been strong and that despite the billions of pesos spent it has barely made a difference.

Ernesto Serote provides in his book efficient and accurate strategies to plan cities, towns and rural areas. The book perfectly and entirely treats the urban and land planner's professions but readers have to discern when Serote is talking to them or when he's addressing his own opinion to the government. *(Andy Sztark)*



Title: **Turn Me On: 100 Easy Ways to Use Solar Energy**
Author: **Michelle Kodis**
Publisher: **Gibbs Smith (2009)**

Turn Me On is a list of 100 ideas, anecdotes and trivia related to solar energy. It is a very light read and is targeted to those who may wish to dip their toes into the more sustainable practice of harnessing solar energy for their homes. While the author does not come across as an expert on the subject, her compilation of information references the work of industry experts such as solar pioneer Steven Strong of Solar Design Associates.

The book tries to balance fundamental and more updated information about solar energy in a clever and fresh way. Its nice graphic design helps the reader to effortlessly navigate the book, although it would have been more helpful if illustrations were incorporated to the text. The author could have gotten her readers more excited about solar energy with powerful images.

While not the ultimate resource on using solar energy, this book offers a good introductory material to inspire beginners to the practice. *(GRM)*

Announcements

Community Architects Network set to hold 3rd Regional Workshop

The Community Architects Network (CAN) will be holding its Third Regional Meeting and Workshop on June 16 to June 23, 2015 with venues at Intramuros, Manila and Muntinlupa City. This year's theme is *"Together we CAN! People planning for inclusive future cities"*. The 8-day event is hosted by the Philippine Alliance, TAMPEI and PACSII.

In this workshop, CAN intends to: (a) bring together around 100 local and international participants working in different countries in Asia to exchange and share experiences, through community workshops; (b) provide concrete technical support to actual community initiatives in around nine (9) barangays through fieldwork in people-centered heritage planning in Intramuros, Manila; and city-wide development in Muntinlupa City; (c) to link with local universities; and (d) to plan for new collaboration for future activities with multiple stakeholders to ensure long term change.

For more information about the 3rd CAN Regional Workshop, email Emz Bermundo at arkhiemelyn@gmail.com.

Job Opening: Program Staff for HSE

These photos show our HSE staff, Arch. Verna Sarraga, doing construction supervision for different kinds of community infrastructures.
Top photo: *Laying of micro-concrete roof tiles for a livelihood center. Photo by: Cesar Aris*
Left photo: *Retrofitting of existing wooden bridge.*

The Human Settlements and Environment Program of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. is looking for architecture or civil engineering graduates to fill its program staff position. Applicants should have the following qualifications:

- Preferably a graduate of architecture or civil engineering with knowledge in design, cost estimates, and construction of socialized housing projects.
- At least 2 years experience in drafting and design of socialize housing or similar projects. Experience in technical report writing and documentation work is required.
- Fluency in English and Tagalog with excellent writing ability is essential.

Interested applicants should email tao_phil@yahoo.com or info@tao-pilipinas.org the following requirements:

- Application letter
- Resume
- Two recommendation letters from previous employers or professors
- Preferred salary

For more information about this job vacancy, please visit www.tao-pilipinas.org or call 441-0998 and look for Arch. Verna Sarraga.

PMPI launches Power of Purple (POP) campaign

The Philippine Misereor Partnership Incorporated (PMPI) has launched an advocacy campaign for the upcoming national election in 2016. Dubbed as POP or Power of Purple, the campaign aims to share with the public the policy agenda of our country's leaders.

The campaign's main objective is to make POP an information hub of possible candidates for the coming election showing the stand of our future leaders on issues that are close to PMPI's advocacies namely: peace, sustainable development, DRRM-CA, and anti-mining.

Possible election candidates running for national seats will be invited to answer the POP survey form which will be the source of data that will be presented. POP is part of PMPI's initiative to make the voting public more well informed.

For further information about the campaign or if you want to include other issues or concerns not mentioned in the survey form, please email pmpsecretariat@yahoo.com or visit their website at www.pmpi.org.ph