



First batch of houses to be blessed at Barangay Buenavista. This is part of the Manicani Sustainable Shelter Project funded by TdH Germany and Christian Aid.
Photo by: Faith Varona

Feature Articles:

TAO @14: Lessons from Yolanda shelter projects tackled in 2015 TAO Forum

YP Lecture Series goes to TIP QC

Notes from the field: TAO Admin and HSE staff in Manicani and Homonhon

Project Pagbangon turns over 40 permanent shelters in Manicani

Network Activities:

MASAGANA LTS with FDUP

Christian Aid Partners' Meeting

Halina't Maglikha 3.0

Misereor visits Guiuan, Eastern Samar

YP Reflections by Enika Hernando

YP Reading List:

Green Cities by Asian Development Bank

How to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint by Joanna Yarrow

Announcements:

Call for donations:
Annual Christmas gift giving

TAO @14: Lessons from Yolanda shelter projects tackled in 2015 TAO Forum

TAO-PILIPINAS MARKED ITS 14TH YEAR BY HOLDING THE 2015 TAO Forum on Sustainable Communities last August 26. The theme for this year's forum was "Learning from post-Yolanda shelter projects: Lessons in shaping resilient shelter solutions for island and coastal communities". It continues the conversation on post-disaster rehabilitation that was started during the maiden launch of TAO Forum in 2014. Much of TAO-Pilipinas's projects the past year (and still on-going) have been focused on shelter assistance in Yolanda-affected areas in Eastern Visayas.

The annual forum gathered many of TAO-Pilipinas' project and network partners at the AVR of Marine Science Institute in UP-Diliman Campus. They were also joined by some students from the UP

Pls. turn to page 2.

YP Lecture Series goes to TIP QC

TAO-PILIPINAS BROUGHT ITS YOUNG Professionals University Lecture Series to the College of Engineering and Architecture of the Technological Institute of the Philippines in Quezon City on July 31, 2015. 336 architecture students and two faculty members filled the auditorium of TIP-QC where two resource persons were slated to give lectures focusing on the theme, "Technical Professionals in Community Development Work". United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary (UAPSA) -TIP QC Chapter organized the event for the TIP students.

Pls. turn to page 5.

“Whatever you do needs to be sustainable. You don't want it to be too much that it can't be sustained by the community; you don't want it to be too little to make the community feel they are safe but in reality they are not.”

- Laura David, Oceanographer from UP Marine Science Institute and President of the Board of Directors of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

TAO @14... (From page 1)



Top left: Angelus Sales of TAO's Young Professional Program welcomed guests and gave a tour of the exhibit mounted.

College of Architecture as well as visiting international students of architecture and interior design from the University of Cincinnati led by their professor and UP alumnus Edson Cabalfin. Close to 80 guests attended the event.

Exhibit

In line with the forum's theme, TAO mounted an exhibit of its recent projects. Angelus Sales of TAO's Young Professionals Program guided the guests through posters that showcased the different shelter projects undertaken by TAO-Pilipinas for post-Yolanda rehabilitation. These included Emergency Shelter Assistance in Northern Samar, Sustainable Shelter Assistance in Manicani Island, Project Pagbangon in Guiuan, and Monitoring of Haiyan Shelter Projects in Panay. Scaled models of the typical permanent shelter unit built in Manicani Island and the typical transitional shelter built in Altavas were also displayed.

Morning Presentations

Geologist Raymund Rodolfo, TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio, and TAO President Laura David were the featured speakers in the morning session of the forum. Mr. Rodolfo highlighted geohazards assessment as a minor but essential part of shelter solutions and shared the process of determining safer locations to rebuild houses in Manicani Island. From this experience he

identified some of the gaps that need to be bridged to effectively communicate technical information to stakeholders. He also underscored the vital role of community organizers and the importance of community workshops and field validation in the process.

Architect Lusterio put forward "building back better" as the framework for TAO's post-Yolanda response in Panay Island and Eastern Samar. She also emphasized cost-efficiency and sustainability as major considerations in coming up with appropriate shelter solutions. She talked about two TAO projects that represented different responses to post-disaster shelter needs, those of transitional shelters in Passi, Altavas and Roxas; and permanent shelters in Manicani, Guiuan. Ms. Lusterio presented the many challenges that TAO encountered in implementing the shelter projects, including the lack of local technical capacity, subcultural and political factors, land ownership, and difficulties in building in island locations.

Dr. David's presentation focused on the subject of "eco-engineering". She stressed that thicker bands of mangroves, when planted at the right locations and with the right species, are more effective in protecting the coasts than constructing sea walls. She also played a computer animation

that UP MSI developed to communicate the function of mangroves to the general public. It showed the natural distribution and tolerance to saltwater of different mangrove species and the implication of building structures along mangrove areas.

An open discussion followed the speakers' lectures with forum emcee Audrey Esteban moderating the exchange. Many of the audience questions and comments centered on applying the "building back better" principle in Yolanda-affected areas.

Afternoon presentations

Independent filmmaker Maria Victoria Ilagan opened the afternoon session of the forum. She talked about how theater is utilized as a post-Yolanda response in a UNICEF-sponsored project. Ms. Ilagan served as a documenter in the project that trained a number of youths to act in plays that tackled post-Yolanda recovery problems and solutions, including child protection and teenage sexuality issues. The ensemble toured and performed throughout several schools and public places in Samar and Leyte. Ms. Ilagan presented two short video-documentaries about the "theater for development" project.



Students check the interior of the 3d scaled model of the Manicani Sustainable Shelter Project.

The last agenda in the forum was the launch a new project of TAO-Pilipinas that extends technical assistance to urban poor communities in the Greater Metro Manila areas. Architect Verna Sarraga, Deputy HSE Program Director of TAO, presented Project BAHAI (or Bridging Access to Affordable Housing Assistance and Innovations) which encourages informal but organized communities to access technical assistance from TAO-Pilipinas in pursuing land tenure and shelter security. More information about Project BALAI can be viewed on-line (<http://hse.tao-pilipinas.org/?p=805>).

A second open discussion was likewise conducted after the afternoon presentations. Feedback and comments were encouraged and many in the audience contributed to the discussion. Architect Faith Varona, a member of TAO's Board of Trustees, closed the program by summarizing the important points made from the speakers' presentations and reactions from the forum audience.

The 2015 TAO Forum set off a rich discussion of the lessons learned so far in implementing humanitarian interventions and shelter solutions in a post-disaster context. Front and center of the conversation are the learnings from the processes undertaken towards disaster resiliency and sustainable development. Several cross-cutting issues were also opened up such as community participation, cultural sensitivity, communication and the role of the theater arts and social media. The insights offered by the forum participants urge us to further reexamine how we define resiliency and to take on a more multidisciplinary approach to our post-disaster responses. (GRM)

From Raymond Rodolfo:

1. "The most important thing I think is that geo-hazard maps are subjected to community validation during workshops. We showed them to the people and asked the mothers if they understood the maps we made and normally the answer is no. Even if we explained the definitions and made it into Tagalog thinking it would be easier to understand, they said it was better to have them translated into Waray, their local dialect."

2. "Geo-hazard maps are very important in the relocation of community facilities. Most of the chapels and health centers were destroyed and we saw they were building them again at the same spot. It would have been wise to build them in safer areas because if you build these structures that are essential for the residents, then the community will have no other choice but to live near those structures."



3. "As geologists we can only see a small part of the entire picture. There's a need for partnership and collaboration. Sometimes our perspective is biased already when we are in our offices and prepare these maps. But when we go out in the field, we get the feel of the people and how they look at the problems. You learn to be open to new things and to always adjust and adapt. This whole endeavor helped us grow in humility and gratitude."

From Arlene Lusterio:

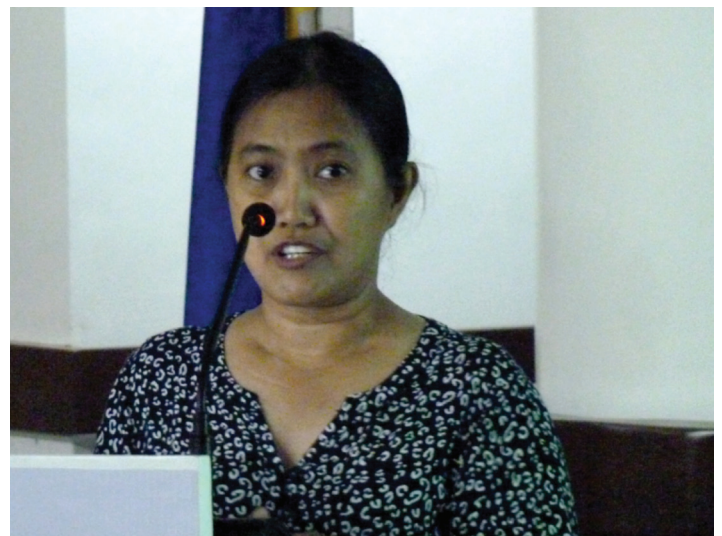
4. "The term 'better' in building back better has so many interpretations or translations. Actually if you look at all the responses of different INGOs and local organizations you could say 'better' when you compare it to the original structure that the people had. But what really is 'better'? For TAO, it must provide reliable protection against multiple hazards and it must be disaster-resilient. It's important that we not just have something better than what we had before but it also has to withstand the next hazards that we definitely expect will hit the same areas again. It must be cost-efficient because we need to consider the budget and it should be sustainable which means that if something damages it, it can be repaired and the repair should be possible because you will have resources available and the skills to do it."

TAO @ 14:

Fourteen Insights from the 2015 TAO Forum on Sustainable Communities

5. "Informed participation of the community is a powerful tool for development; it is a seed for empowerment. Even our partners realized that they didn't know people were capable of designing a house and make those models. But with the proper tools and proper input, it is possible for them to participate and share ideas of what they want for themselves."

6. "Building back better is a challenge even for the beneficiaries. For a while they were convinced they really need to move out. We said they should only have one house at the end of the project, so all the old houses that they have near the water should be demolished, but they can keep the materials to use for extending their houses. It's an agreement that they signed with us. But now they are saying that they cannot demolish their house because a daughter will live there or a daughter-in-law is coming and needs a place to live in. These are the things we had to deal with. We had to say to no and enforce the agreement."



Pls. turn to page 4.

From Laura David:

7. "What will help in attenuating storm waves is the intertidal area, your mangrove areas... In the simulation we ran, the scenario with the thicker band of mangroves was the most effective. The scenario with the seawall was the worse option because it only protected the ones right behind the seawall, it did not protect the ones next to it nor upriver and ended up making things worse. The worst impact (damage to structures) is still along the rivers no matter the amount protection you put, whether its mangroves or seawalls. So build away from rivers."



8. "Mangroves do not actually need saltwater, they only tolerate saltwater. You should actually plant them farther away from the shore or ocean... Consider also that there is a natural zonation of mangroves. As builders you have to take this into consideration, the mangroves also need your help. If you build structures in mangrove plantations, that will prevent mangroves from further growing inland."

From Avic Ilagan:

9. "The project wanted to communicate their message through theater. The process is to train the youth as actors, go to the communities and perform a play that tackles issues such as child protection in evacuation centers and teenage pregnancies. After the performance, they conduct a theater forum where the audience participates not only in discussing the issues but also in solving the problems."



10. "The students involved in the play were also victims of Yolanda. In a way, in their experience of mounting the play, they were also processing themselves... the kids were reacting to the developments that were coming into Tacloban."

From Edson Cabalfin:

11. "What I noticed about all three presentations is that one big issue seems to be communication. What do we need to do to be able to convince the local community to either follow or be convinced to move to higher ground... how do you help the community to understand and be aware?"



TAO @14: 14 Insights... (From page 3)

From Nazmeen Khodadad:

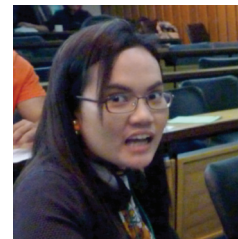


12. "I would say what I walk away with this is how incredibly holistic this process is in particular when someone shared about the need for addressing women's reproductive issues and

addressing issues like vegetation and how vegetation can protect and address the safety component. So already it is such an overwhelmingly daunting task and when I think of the lens of the designer-architect-interiors and we're often taught to look at it from that perspective, there's so many other issues that are happening simultaneously and that if we don't communicate with each other and the other disciplines and most especially from the community, then we would really keep fighting ourselves. You know we put out what we think is important and only look at it from that one perspective. So many things hit me. We may think we are coming in and fixing a problem, housing, and the reality is someone else is addressing issues of reproduction and health. So that was pretty important to hear."

From Edraline Belga-Casono:

13. "In response to the question of what architects can do... and in fairness to the government, they are actually funding research projects... We are doing that right now, with the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning, College of Architecture, and the College of Engineering, we're trying to set up the (design) guidelines... for typhoon, earthquake, storm surge resilient houses, depending on the vulnerability of the area."



From Luz Malibiran:



14. "As community organizers and advocates of shelter here in Metro Manila... we are pushing government to look at disaster impacts in relation to land and housing rights and at present we are engaging Congress... My insight for the whole day is that all these are governance issues, structural issues that need a strong advocacy and strong organizing on the ground... So I think the disaster awakened also our government, together with the people's organizations, to really work hand in hand to advocate for shelter, whether or not the homelessness was brought about by natural calamities or man-made calamities like demolitions."

YP Lecture Series... (From page 1)

Architect Amillah Rodil, Project Manager of the Urban Resilience Program of Cordaid (Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid) Philippines and Architect Angelus Sales of TAO-Pilipinas were the featured speakers. The officers of UAPSA-TIP QC welcomed the guests and students present and served as emcee-moderators of the lecture.

After the introductory remarks, Architect Rodil spoke about "Technical professionals in community development work in a post-disaster context". She started her lecture by imparting her experiences in bringing shelter assistance to families devastated by Super Typhoon Haiyan in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. She discussed the massive destruction that took place and the post-disaster project initiated by Cordaid in the area.

Architect Rodil outlined the role of a technical professional in the various aspects of the shelter project that she helped carry out in Samar. She also shared the challenges of her work as an architect in dealing with the affected communities and beneficiaries of shelter assistance. She highlighted the work that has been done to implement the "owner-driven housing" of Cordaid, from house assessment, house design, builders' training, to construction monitoring.

At the end of her presentation, Architect Rodil summarized the learning she gained from doing community development work. She encouraged the architecture students to pursue it as a career path to become a multi-dimensional professional and at the same time to make a difference in people's lives.

The second speaker was Architect Sales who discussed "Alternative building materials and technologies for small community infrastructures". She introduced micro-concrete tiles as a roofing material and wood wool cement board as an alternative to plywood. She explained the process for producing the materials and the methods of installing the materials.

Architect Sales showed how the micro concrete roof tiles and wood wool cement boards were utilized for a community project of TAO-Pilipinas in Navotas City. They were incorporated into the design and construction of the community's livelihood center and multi-purpose hall.

An open forum followed each of the presentations. The TIP students were very active in posing questions for the



Speakers for the YP Lecture Series in TIP QC. **Top:** Arch. Amillah Rodil of Cordaid **Bottom:** Arch. Angelus Sales of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

guest speakers. The students' queries were mostly about the design and construction of post-disaster shelters and the durability of the alternative materials presented. At the end of the program, TIP faculty members and student officers of (UAPSA-TIP QC) awarded certificates of appreciation to TAO-Pilipinas and its two guest lecturers. (GRM)

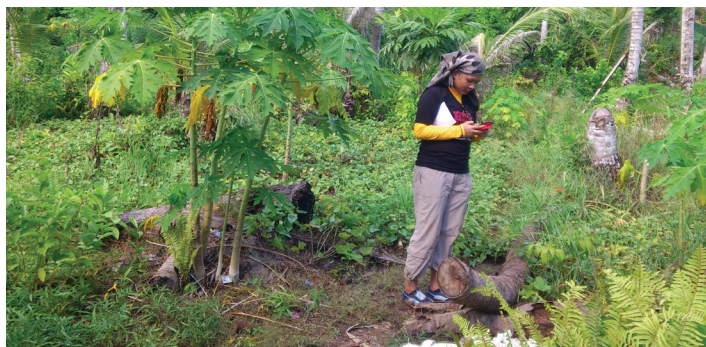
Notes from the field: TAO Admin and HSE staff in Manicani and Homonhon

AS THE SHELTER ASSISTANCE project in Manicani Island nears completion and while that in Homonhon Island still has to fully commence, the Administration and HSE program staff of TAO-Pilipinas headed out to the islands to settle accounts and to lay out the preparations for more construction work ahead. They travelled about a thousand kilometers from Manila for fieldwork in the islands off Guiuan, Eastern Samar from August 17th until the 20th. The seven-person staff split into teams to simultaneously carry out fieldwork in Manicani and Homonhon Islands.

In Manicani, the team was composed of Arch. Arlene

Lusterio, Joannie Tongol and Cecilia Del Rosario. They conducted a general assembly attended by the shelter beneficiaries and some of the contractors. During the meeting, policies regarding reimbursements for materials purchased and release of payments were clarified. The team also inspected on-going house construction and were able to reconcile and balance accounts with suppliers in Guiuan.

In Homonhon, the team was composed Michelle Gopez, Marivic Padilla, Arch. Verna Sarraga and Engr. Lorena Hernandez. They studied the logistics for the supply, transport and storage



Engr. Lorena Hernandez getting the GPS points of a possible shelter site for one of the shelter beneficiaries in Homonhon.

of construction materials, particularly its shipping and haulage from the mainland to Homonhon Island. They also located the existing and the proposed sites for shelter and evacuation centers in the 8 barangays by identifying the GPS points of each site. Like its neighboring island, Manicani, the shelter assistance in Homonhon Island is going to be implemented under the "build

back better" principle which, in effect, constitutes that the 80 beneficiaries' proposed house sites should only be in either low-risk or medium-risk areas and after the construction, they shall voluntarily demolish their previous houses in the high-risk areas.

Homonhon has a bigger land area at 105 sq.km., compared to Manicani which only has 11.66 sq.km. The team

Pls. turn to page 6.

Project Pagbangon turns over 40 permanent shelters in Manicani

FORTY BENEFICIARIES OF Project Pagbangon's shelter assistance in the island of Manicani funded by Terre de Hommes (TdH) and Christian Aid formally received their permanent disaster-resilient houses last September 13. The beneficiaries themselves decided on the house design through participatory workshops conducted by TAO-Pilipinas late 2014. The construction of permanent shelters itself was also handled by the beneficiaries themselves through their chosen contractors. TAO-Pilipinas provided a foreman and construction supervisor to guide and monitor the construction work. As of the turnover, 39 of the houses were already in various states of completion and occupancy. One house in Barangay Buenavista remained incomplete, waiting for the site to be fully vacated by a fellow beneficiary whose new house is already almost complete.

Fr. Ceasar Lenenio Garcia or Fr. Lennox is the parish priest of Manicani who started the turnover day with a six o'clock in the morning mass service at the Buenavista Parish Church. It was attended by the beneficiaries and their families and the Project Pagbangon partners lead by TdH and Christian Aid, Philippine Misereor Partners Inc. (PMPI) and Medical Action Group (MAG) that is also part of Project Pagbangon giving health assistance.

Architect Arlene Lusterio, Executive Director of TAO-Pilipinas, the shelter project implementor was asked by Fr. Lennox to give a short talk after the mass in celebration of the Project Pagbangon shelter turnover.

Right after the mass, the group started out on motorcycles to cover the four barangays scheduled for the turnover: 13 beneficiaries in Barangay Buenavista, 9



Top: Blessing of the houses one at a time with the beneficiaries and project partners **Left:** Plaque in the local dialect (Waray) attached in every beneficiary's permanent shelter

snacks for the visitors. A few beneficiaries that belonged to other religions did not have their houses blessed but opened their houses to the visitors instead.

Rain started to pour in the afternoon making the motorbike trip to the barangays more challenging but overall the group achieved its objective to participate in the turnover ceremony and celebrate in the blessing of each of the houses. The activity ended late afternoon with early dinner prepared and served by the families of the beneficiaries in Barangay Banaag. (MFYV)

in Barangay Banaag, 11 in Barangay Hamorawon, and 7 in Barangay San Jose.

For the Catholic households, Fr. Lennox blessed the house and the altar with rice and salt. Some had coins and candies thrown for good luck. This added to the fun and celebratory air of the house blessing. Food was also prepared collectively by the beneficiaries in each barangay although each house was also ready with drinks and

Notes from the field... (From page 5)

in Homonhon split further into two groups in order to save time and be able to finish their tasks in a day and a half. The first group, Michelle and Lorena, accompanied by Abigail Abueme, rode motorcycles to reach barangays Cagusuan, Pagbabangnan, Culasi, and Canawayon. Despite the dusty road and steeply sloping roads, the ride was manageable. The second group, Marivic and Verna, who were with Joy Falconite and Jesil Hombria of PMPI, visited barangays Habag and Inapulangan by riding a small boat. The waves and the current in both those

barangays were quite harsh; the boatman was also careful not to be drawn in by sea beds. The day after, the two groups finished the tasks in the two remaining barangays, Casuguran and Bitaugan. With that, the collection of the GPS points of all the proposed sites for shelter and barangay evacuation centers was completed successfully. At the same time, they were able to find out that CHB, sand, and in some barangays, good lumber, can be produced within the island. Maintaining a warehouse within the island is also being considered.

The GPS points of the sites were then plotted onto the hazards maps of Homonhon Island. The sites were evaluated based on its location and corresponding susceptibility to multiple hazards, including storm surge, flooding, landslide, tsunami, liquefaction, ground shaking, ground rupture, and typhoon. By assigning points in areas that are high-risk, medium-risk, low-risk and zero points for areas without any risk, they were able to identify which proposed sites were hazardous. In 6 out of the 8 barangays, several of the proposed sites turned out to be in high-risk areas; safer locations to build

structures on still needed to be sought out. The barangays and the affected beneficiaries were duly informed of the results of the evaluation and persuaded to look for other lots.

TAO-Pilipinas plans to first jumpstart shelter construction in four barangays in Homonhon (Canawayon, Bitaugan, Pagbabangnan and Habag). The production of micro concrete tiles to be used for roofing has already started last September 1 while completion of documentary requirements for local municipal permits is also currently being done. (MLPH)

MASAGANA leaders undergo leadership training with FDUP

LAST AUGUST 29 AND 30, the newly elected officers of Masagana of Angat Neighborhood Association had a leadership training seminar (LTS) with the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP). The need to have an LTS was articulated during a strategic planning session conducted by the community last July. TAO-Pilipinas tapped FDUP to facilitate the seminar for 14 Masagana officers.

Ana Teresa Prondosa and Oscarito Pasahol of FDUP facilitated the two-day seminar that took place at the FDUP office in Quezon City. The objectives of the seminar were to review the organizational structure of MASAGANA HOA, to know the duties and responsibilities of each officers and members based on HLURB documents, and to identify the best strategy to improve the team work and communication

process between the leaders and its members.

The first day of the seminar dealt with introductions, expectation settings, learning activities and lectures. In the introductions, the participants briefly shared their province of origin and family history. They were also asked to describe their positive and negative traits through object association. Based on the introductions, most of the leaders came from the Visayas region whose family just migrated to Metro Manila to seek a better life.

The first learning exercise of the LTS was to draw your own emblem which showcased the answers to the following questions: 1) What is your dream? 2) Where do you see yourself in five years? 3) What do you want to change in yourself? 4) How do you

want your family to remember you when you are gone? 5) If you only have 24 hours to live, what will you do? 6) If you are going to die, what will you put in your tombstone? Most of the participants had difficulty answering the last two questions since they rarely confront the subject of death and their mortality. The participants also shared a common dream of having their own house and lot. The aim of the exercise was to learn more about oneself.

A second learning exercise conducted was a puzzle-making activity. The participants were grouped into three and each group was assigned to complete six square puzzles without talking. The groups were able to complete the puzzles but most of them broke the rule of silence. The aim of the exercise was to draw out leadership abilities among the participants and see if they follow rules and policies made.

Lectures followed each learning exercise. Ms. Prondosa gave a lecture about servant leadership while Mr. Pasahol discussed the duties and responsibilities of officers as per HLURB documents.

The second day of the seminar comprised mostly of lectures and another learning activity. Topics tackled included the HLURB guidelines on homeowners' associations, types of leaders and effective communications skills,

7S of an organization (shared vision/values/virtues, structure, skills, strategy, staff, systems, and style), and identifying organization principles.

The learning exercise on the second day was a "pass-the-message" kind of activity wherein the participants were grouped into two and one key person from each group had to memorize a short message and pass this on to another member until it reaches the last member of the group. The last member of each group had to recite what the message was. Unfortunately, both groups only got the first line of the message and not the entire message. The activity pointed out how vital it is to give correct information among members and how rumour and gossip can spread easily.

Overall, the participants learned a lot about their roles and responsibilities as leaders. They were also able to air their grievances amongst each other. In the end, the officers planned to hold a general assembly with other members so they can discuss and take a look of what has been done by the organization. They also agreed to review the strategic plans that they came up with before the LTS. (AMPS)



Left: The new set of officers of MASAGANA at the FDUP Office for their leadership training **Right:** One group of MASAGANA officers doing the puzzle exercise as part of their leadership training

Christian Aid Partners Meeting

CHRISTIAN AID (CA) recently gathered its local partner organizations at the Brentwood Suites in Quezon City for a three-day Partners'

Meeting. The meeting aimed to share updates and experiences, gather feedback, and identify ways forward on the current work of CA and its partners. Twenty-four CA partner organizations from across the country, including TAO-Pilipinas, were represented in the meeting held from September 1 to 3, 2015.

The initial session of the meeting were spent on expectations checking and laying down the objectives

of meeting. After these introductory activities, the partner organizations were given the opportunity to talk about their work through a "gallery walk". Each organization prepared tarpaulin posters that highlighted their current projects and these were exhibited in the gallery. Some also displayed diorama presentations and product samples.

TAO-Pilipinas showed the scaled models of the permanent shelter unit built in Guiuan as well as that of a proposed barangay evacuation center. As the

partners learned about each others' work, networking and collaboration were opened up especially among those with similar advocacies and projects. Most of the CA partners' works are converging in the Eastern Visayas areas due to post-Yolanda rehabilitation programs.

In the next sessions, CA Country Manager Lot Felizco updated the partners on CA's Philippine Program for 2013-2016. She talked about CA's plans and priorities, partnership and staffing assignment, and



The exhibit that TAO set up for the Christian Aid Partners meeting

Christian Aid... (From page 7)

funding resources. CA Program Manager Allan Vera also gave a presentation that tackled the evolving definition of resilience and the CA framework on resilient livelihoods, gender and power, and justice. Challenges in project engagement with CA partners were likewise discussed, such the requirement for evidence of change and contribution during project evaluation and the integration of gender and power-sensitive programming.

An "open space" workshop was held among all the partners which gave them the chance to draw out the issues and concerns that they would want to feed back to CA. These concerns were to be presented on the last day of the Partners' Meeting. A side meeting was also conducted among partners with WASH and Shelter components in their projects. In this session, CA presented the findings of the WASH and Shelter Mission conducted in Palawan, Iloilo, Leyte and

Eastern Samar from June to July 2015.

On the second day of the Partners' Meeting, Denis Murphy of Urban Poor Associates (UPA), Emmanuel Arenos of Iloilo CODE, and Joy Chavez of Action for Economic Reform (AER) shared the experiences and lessons from their work on Resilient Livelihoods. In the afternoon session, CA further explained the directions being taken towards enhancing programs on advocacy and gender-sensitive programming. After presentations by Verse Logarta on gender-sensitive programming and by Alvic Padilla on advocacy, break-out groups were formed for focus group discussions on gender and advocacy. A solidarity night of fun and camaraderie among the partners and CA staff capped the second day of the Partners' Meeting.

On the third day, the partners presented to CA the results of the "open workshop"

conducted during the first day of the meeting. Among the concerns conveyed were requests for more exchanges and platforms for learning and coordination within and across regions (especially among those involved in post-Yolanda projects), the need for research on renewable energy, coaching on evidence-based monitoring and evaluation, and directions on how to communicate the impact of advocacy work. Issues raised include the need to improve documentation and communication tools (with regards to multi-donor financial reporting and project beneficiary tracking), as well as clarifications on protocols for project transition from rehabilitation to development.

A business meeting on CA's surge capacity called CARRAT (Christian Aid Rapid Respond and Assessment Teams) was the last agenda of the Partners' Meeting. A backgrounder and some updates on CARRAT were first presented by Cyra Bullecer, CA Program Office for Resilience, before break-out groups were formed. The

groups reviewed the current terms of reference for CARRAT members and proposed a change in name for the CA surge capacity, clarifications on protocols for deployment, and some additions to the coverage of assistance given to CARRAT members.

Aside from TAO-Pilipinas, AER, UPA, and ICODE, organizations that joined the Partners Meeting included Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, Alyansa Tigil Mina, Bantay Kita, CODE NGO, DRR Net-Center for Disaster Preparedness, Fellowship for Organizing Endeavors, Inc., Mindanao Land Foundation, NGOs for Fisheries Reform, Panay Rural Development Center, Inc., PHILSSA, Philippine Network of Rural Development Institutes, Rice Watch and Action Network, The Samdhana Institute, Social Watch Philippines, and UP Visayas. (GRM)

Misereor visits Guiuan, Eastern Samar

THE PHILIPPINE DESK Officer of Misereor, Mr. Elmar Noe, recently visited Guiuan, Eastern Samar. His visit included meetings with Project Pagbangon partners on August 29, a visit to Homonhon Island on August 30 to 31, and attendance to the National Coordinating Council (NCC) Meeting held in Marabut, Eastern Samar on September 2 to 5.

He visited the offices of project partners in Guiuan and met with the project staff based in Guiuan of Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI), Medical Action Group (MAG), Integrative Medicine for Alternative Healthcare Systems, (INAM) Philippines Inc., Sentro para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong

Agham and Teknolohiya (SIKAT), and TAO-Pilipinas (Technical Assistance Organization), Inc.

His Homonhon trip was joined by partners, among them were Most Rev. Bishop Crispin B. Varquez, DD of the Diocese of Borongan; Yolanda Esquerra, coordinator of PMPI; Francisco Paciencia, Coordinator of Project Pagbangon; Edeliza Hernandez, executive director of MAG; Arlene Christy Lusterio, executive director of TAO-Pilipinas; Lotlot Ventic and Maricar Abueme of INAM Philippines; June Paulette Eclipse and Joy Quito of Philippine Conflict Journalism (Pecojo); and other project staff of partners. He made a courtesy call with the newly assigned



From left to right: Elmar Noe of Misereor; Arlene Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.; Melody Asia and Francisco Paciencia of PMPI.

parish priest in Homonhon, Rev. Fr. Giovanni Bando, and met with shelter beneficiaries supported by TAO-Pilipinas, vulnerable groups supported by MAG, community health workers organized by INAM, and fisherfolks organized by SIKAT. He visited barangays Casuguran where he stayed, Cagusan, Bitagan, Inapulangan, Habag and Canawayon, all of which are implementing projects under the Project Pagbangon.

The NCC meeting is a bi-annual activity participated by the 15 regional clusters of PMPI represented by its Cluster Point Person, the Co-convenors representing the three island groups, Misereor and the PMPI Secretariat. Members of special task forces also seat in the meeting to report on updates on the task forces. This year's NCC meeting was hosted by the Eastern Visayas Cluster. (ACDL)



Maria Veronica A. Hernando graduated cum laude in 2002 at the Assumption College, Makati where she finished her B.S. Interior Design. In 2005, she was one of the participants of the first YP Workshop organized by TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. Known by family and friends as Enika, she completed her Master of Community Development from the University of the Philippines Diliman, College of Social Work and Community Development (UP-CSWCD) in April 2008. In the same year, she received the best thesis award and was accepted as PI GAMMA MU member, UP chapter. She has worked since then with community-based, church-based, non-government and government organizations. She joined the Department of Education-Indigenous Peoples Education Office from 2012-2014 and is now a Social Safeguards Specialist for the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

TAKING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

AS YP CELEBRATES ITS 10th year, it significantly coincides with the year (2005) I decided to take "the road less travelled". So I guess it was destiny to have seen that poster about the Young Professionals Orientation and Training Program on Social Housing (YP Workshop August 2005) at the University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP SURP) one afternoon as I took the detour connecting SURP to the CSWCD building where I was taking up my Masters in Community Development. It was my first semester at the College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD) as I said to myself I needed the theories and academic background on development if I am to pursue it as a life work. The poster said that the YP Workshop was organized by an NGO that was TAO-Pilipinas Inc. (Technical Assistance Organization). It surely caught my attention to know there are other technical professionals (architects, engineers) out there who are in development work – and it was an all-women organization.

My first close encounter with Manila's urban poor was actually through the YP Workshop. I was assigned in Parola Compound, Tondo. I have never been to Tondo, much less stay for two nights with a family in Tondo (along with my groupmates in the workshop). A memorable anecdote I would always share whenever I recall this experience is that the CR was directly above the river – no need for a septic tank – and we had no clean running

water. Such a basic necessity yet thousands of Filipino families live without it. What I would also always remember is that the families living in these harsh conditions should not be feared nor be blamed for their situation nor be accused of being lazy as the reason for their situation... just like you and me, they have dreams and they work hard but our society sadly can be ruthless and unjust. There I realized that the call for change is imperative. We need to create an enabling environment that offer equal opportunities, one where we are able to access our rights and fully develop our potential as a nation's people are its best assets toward a (as best expressed in our own language) - "mapagpalaya at mapagkalingang kaunlaran".

After the YP workshop, I continued my involvement with TAO Pilipinas as a volunteer for six (6) months working for its various projects. Among the most memorable were: the drawing workshops for the children of members of the People's Organization Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Maralita ng Navotas (SANAGMANA); talking with families in Navotas' houses on stilts with up to 3 floors!; sleeping by the river (since houses were built beside the river); shocked at the reality of the community having to alternately guard their houses as it might be set on fire in the middle of the night – which later on I have come to know was a common "strategy" to drive away the informal settlers. I also got to participate in the 1st Young Professionals National



Enika in Parola, Tondo during the community immersion for the first YP Workshop organized by TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. in 2005.

Camp 2005 organized by the JF Ledesma Foundation, Inc. held at San Carlos City, Negros Occidental in December 2005.

I am forever grateful for the experiences I had with TAO Pilipinas and I kept my ties with TAO even years after – there are not many technical women professionals truly dedicating themselves to development work such as the amazing ladies of TAO. I was fortunate to participate in its 2009 YP Workshop on WATSAN in Social Housing now as a facilitator. It was an exhilarating experience to have a direct hand in providing the young participants who were brimming with ideas and full of energy with new options to live a meaningful life.

I always carried with me those learnings and experiences and it has contributed into shaping me into the Development Practitioner that I am now – one who values people's meaningful participation, trusts in people's capacities, perseveres no matter how hopeless things may seem

knowing/believing that we are able to do great things not alone but by working together. As the famous old African Proverb goes "if you want to go fast, go alone but if you want to go far, go together".

In the past 10 years I was blessed to have opportunities to work directly with communities and as well as with national organizations both government and non-government. I was given the chance to be part of the faculty of the Arts Department of the Ateneo de Manila High School – though only for a school year, it was fun and enriching to teach the naughty but nice high school boys about the elements of art, principles of design and even perspective drawing. A big chunk of my ten years, a total of six (6) years, which I spent with the Aeta Mag-antsi communities of Capas, Tarlac (thru the Aeta Mission of the Holy Spirit Sisters) are the closest to my heart – fighting side by side with them for their rights to their ancestral domain, education and self-determination. My involvement

Pls. turn to page 10.

Taking the road... (From page 9)

with the Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (ECIP) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) gave me the church's perspective as I went around

visiting program sites in various parts of the Philippines. My stint with the government in 2012-2014 where I did pioneering work with the Department of Education-Indigenous Peoples



Enika with the Aeta women and children in one of her first climb with Aeta Mission in 2005. (Photo source: Maria Veronica Hernando)



This photo was taken in 2008 at Sitio Kawayan, Capas, Tarlac showing the vast ancestral domain which Enika has traversed in her years of working with the Aeta community. (Photo source: Maria Veronica Hernando)



Enika in 2013 attending an opening ceremony for a learning center for kindergarten and grade 1 in Sitio Mangkay, Davao del Norte during her stint with Dep-Ed (Photo source: Maria Veronica Hernando)

Education Office (DepEd-IPsEO) was an eye opener for me on the in's and out's of government operations and how good governance can really bring about long-lasting changes in people's lives and that of the country and the world.

My technical background always came as an advantage – being able to do lay outs of site plans/floor plans for indigenous groups and urban poor communities as advocacy to the local government, my eye for art enabled me to design advocacy materials that were technically sound. Most recently, I assisted an Indigenous Peoples (IP) Organization develop their logo through a participatory workshop – they were happy to be part of the logo conceptualization process – from choosing the message and then the symbols to use, even the colors. At first they thought that because they did not know how to draw it was not possible for them to take part in the logo design workshop. They were delightfully surprised when they saw the final output and found it reflective of their aspirations as a community.

For about a year now, I have been doing consultancy work that has allowed me to work with various organizations and be tapped as a trainer on development modules. I conducted a training on Community Organizing and IP Sensitivity for the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Pantawid Program - in particular for its MCCT (Modified Conditional Cash Transfer) Field Implementers. Earlier this year, I conducted a training on Participatory Action Research (PAR) and on Development Planning.

My background in Art and Design has become my edge/ niche in development work though I still get remarks such

as "What's an Interior Designer doing in development work?!" but the people who know me, people who have come to know me and the people and communities who I have worked with never questioned my decision rather they have been inspired by my choice. To quote two high school friends – "I only dream of doing this, Enika! You have the courage." "I am proud of you and much prouder that you are my friend...thanks for being an inspiration." A friend I met when I was working for an architecture firm exclaimed upon seeing a picture of me in some faraway place, "Gaano man kalayo ang nilakbay I can see so much happiness in your face...!" And my interior designer friends would always say "Idol!" whenever I would share stories of my "adventures" such as a 4-hour bamboo raft ride downstream, a ride on a habal-habal (motorcycle) with wings traversing a uphill-downhill rugged terrain, a bangka ride across the sea, trekking for hours, crossing rivers, riding a horse and carabao sled...just to get to the hard-to-reach indigenous communities. My brother would sometimes even say that he hopes someday, together with his eldest son, we would climb mountains where we are as high as the clouds. I am thankful that my family has been supportive of my decision especially my parents.

Looking back at the 10 years that have been...I was fearless, I was ready for anything, I was idealistic...and I would like to believe I still am. Despite my last year to be in the "youth" category as I turn 35 this coming October I am grateful that the fire in me has kept burning.

To all the Young Professionals out there....Make that choice – to be significant, not for self-interest nor for success – but for the service of others.

Halina't Maglikha 3.0

by Faith Gloria (UP-TFA)



The children of MASAGANA showing the results of the art workshop with volunteers from UP-TFA and MEPO

ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2015 UP Task Force Arki (UP-TFA) members and applicants, along with volunteers from Miriam Environmental Planning Organization (MEPO), headed to the Masagana Community in Angat, Bulacan to conduct the Halina't Maglikha Art Workshop. This was the third time that UP TFA held the art workshop for children in Masagana, guided by Arch. Angelus Sales, Young Professional Program Deputy Director of TAO-Pilipinas.

Before the art workshop was started, a game (as a monitoring activity) was first

conducted to get feedback regarding previous workshops. Last year's workshop featured creating origami art and recycling old notebooks to create new ones. The children were divided into two groups; the first group was the kids who attended last year's workshop while the second group was the first-time attendees. The first group was asked what they remembered from the previous art workshops and how it influenced them in their school and family life. The second group was asked what their expectations were from the art workshop.

After a simple meal, the children's first art activity, called Design-your-Drawstring, was carried out. The kids were asked to draw their dream house, learning with the help of the volunteers what makes up a home. From there, the drawings served as a basis for painting the same image on drawstrings bags. They were given textile paints of primary colors and white, and learned from their Ates and Kuyas which colors could be mixed to create a certain hue. In the group sharing activity that followed, the kids talked about their dream houses where their families could live together in. The activity aimed to help in developing the children's communication skills.

After the painting activity, a game dubbed "I-arte mo!" was played. One volunteer narrated a story from a Filipino story book while the kids acted out the scenes. Their understanding, acting skills and camaraderie with other children were enhanced through the game. The program was

closed with photo-sessions and distribution of loot bags.

At the end of the day, goodbyes had to be said. Friendships were made and laughter was heard all throughout the day.

For the volunteers, what they appreciated about the workshop was not only about the sharing of knowledge about mixing colors or drawing pretty houses on paper. Their eyes were opened to the realities of schools located mountains away from where the children reside, of kids going to art workshops hungry, and of children who can't go to school for various reasons. What struck the volunteers the most was seeing that despite the hardships in their very young lives, these children still look forward to the future; their hopes and dreams reflected in the houses they painted with their tiny, calloused hands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for donations: annual Christmas gift giving

THE BER MONTHS ARE here and TAO-Pilipinas is once again reaching out to everyone for donations for our annual Christmas gift giving. You may donate in-kind or in-cash. Cash donations will be used to buy new toys and other supplies needed by the children in our partner communities.

We will be accepting new toys, slightly used toys that are still in good working condition, children's clothes, children's books, and new school supplies until the first week of December. You may

drop them in our office at **27A Matiyaga Street, Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City** or you may call **441-0998** to arrange possible pick-up points.

Cash donations can be deposited at our BPI account with the following details:

Account Name:
TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.
Account No.:
4431-0074-31

Please scan deposit slip with your name written on it and email it to

info@tao-pilipinas.org with subject heading FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING. All cash donors will be issued an official receipt.

We are also calling for volunteers who will be willing to provide free transportation and help us give out the gifts to our partner communities. For anyone interested, please get in touch with us thru the given contact details. The annual Christmas gift giving is scheduled on the 3rd week of December.

Groups who are interested to organize their own Christmas gift giving

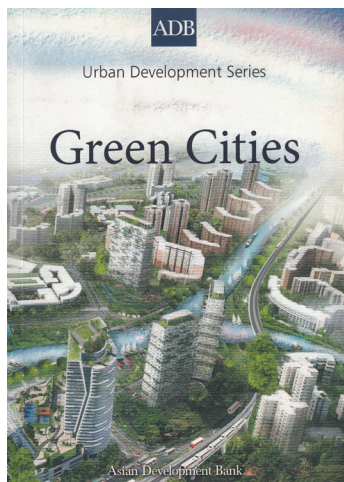
but have no community may also get in touch with us so we can link your group to our partner communities.

Let us all work together in bringing joy to children's hearts this Christmas. Help us make this year's Christmas gift giving a success.



Just a few of the gift packs given away in last year's gift giving event which was made possible by our generous donors

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.



ADB's Green Cities starts off by blatantly stating how much rapid urbanization could affect quality of life while adding immense pressure on the local and global environment, aggravating environmental problems. The book mainly focuses on three things: first, the environmental problems the Asian region is likely to face as rapid urbanization

Title: Green Cities

Editors: Michael Lindfield and Florian Steinberg

Publisher: ADB (2012)

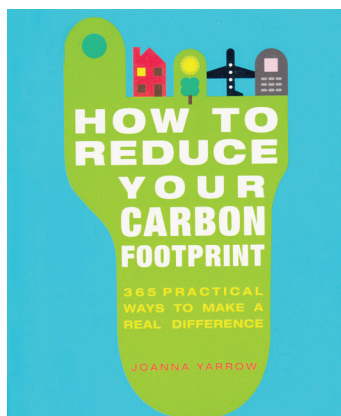
proceeds; next, implications of the latter for the global environment; and lastly, measures for addressing both. In this book, the concept of green cities is defined in a specific and systematic way.

Another thing notable in this book is the structure or the flow of discussion. Before intensively tackling about a specific topic, an overview or outline will be presented first. Right after the main topic are either related concepts or subtopics that give more details to it. The photos and the charts presented also help in understanding and visualizing concepts. Aside from the spot on discussion of concepts, also notable is the inclusion of current situations that these concepts apply to. For example,

about intelligent systems, in India, the government has a program to track the conditions of public areas. These cases assure the readers that concepts are put into practice and are not just mere theories. The book also does not stick to only one perspective. It shows both the positive and negative outlooks and offers different examples and solutions in different Asian countries.

The book emphasizes that the success of cities does not only belong to the hands of the planners, that it is a collective effort. It also reminds readers that though there's still a long way ahead towards greening cities, nothing about the measures that are promoted is impossible.

The admirable thing about the book is that it is empowering in the sense that it implants responsibility for cities to transform themselves for a greener future by consuming less carbon and reducing their ecological footprints. It also promotes ways to be eco-friendly not just in the macro-scale but even in the individual level by planning appropriately and using efficient technologies. Practical examples include the use of solar panels, addition of trees and bodies of water in the design of parks and plazas, and the promotion of green roofs. The change may not occur overnight, but the possibilities and strategies for achieving green cities are steadily sprouting due to concern about the worsening situation of our environment. (Mark Joshua Monterubio)



As put forward in its title, the book gives advice on how one can reduce their carbon footprint. It provides a more visual approach through the use of modern colorful illustrations and short accompanying texts. It also gives a brief introduction on the problem of climate change and definition of carbon footprint and carbon offsetting. The book is small and handy which can easily

Title: How To Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

Author: Joanna Yarrow

Publisher: Duncan Baird Publishers (2008)

fit in a handbag for easy reading while commuting or waiting in line. It is also made of recycled paper and printed using vegetable-based inks.

The book though is obviously targeting readers from developed countries as most of the tips given are applicable to lifestyles in developed countries. The best thing about the book is its layout which makes it easy to read and more understandable. Symbols are used all throughout the book to differentiate if the tips are DIYs (do-it-yourself) guides, require a behavior change or purchasing decisions, or will have short or long-term paybacks. The advices given are also grouped into ten

categories, namely: 1) heating and cooling; 2) electricity and electronics; 3) cooking; 4) washing and cleaning; 5) gardening and DIY; 6) shopping; 7) children; 8) work; 9) leisure; and 10) transport. Another good thing about the book is the statistical trivia which give the readers a good idea of the impact our daily lives have on the environment and the world as a whole.

The book gives an insight on how people from developed countries consume food, use electricity and fuel, and go about their daily lives through statistics. Some of the tips given are sometimes a bit drastic and may not be applicable for

everyone, like not eating meat, fish or dairy products or not using cement as a building material. Other advices seem to take on a tone of being out-of-the-box ideas or life-altering behaviors but in truth, they are a way of life for other people in developing countries and may seem laughable to readers from developing countries (like manually washing the dishes).

Overall, the book is a good read and can make you re-think how you go about your daily life and the impact you make on the environment. But some advice should be carefully thought out first as it requires drastic change in behavior and may significantly reduce how you enjoy your life. (AMPS)