

e-newsletter

JANUARY - MARCH 2015

Local carpenters of Mapanas securing the tarpaulin as roofing for the prototype house during the demo construction. (Photo by Angel Sales)



www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org

TAO-Pilipinas provide technical support for Christian Aid's emergency response in Northern Samar

THE TAO-PILIPINAS TEAM OF ARCHITECTS WENT BACK TO EASTERN VISAYAS (REGION 8) at the start of the year to provide technical support for Christian Aid's emergency shelter assistance in Northern Samar Province. Christian Aid, an international humanitarian agency, and its local partners Coastal Core Inc. and Sentro ha Pagpauswag ha Panginabuhì, Inc. (CCI-SPPI) led the emergency response for Typhoon Ruby (Hagupit)-affected households in three municipalities of Northern Samar – Mapanas, Gamay, and Lapinig. Typhoon Ruby made landfall on December 6, 2014, affecting 102,155 families and damaging 63,367 houses in Northern Samar (according to NDRRMC as of 19 Dec 2014). CCI-SPPI distributed emergency shelter kits and cash transfers to 852 household-beneficiaries from Mapanas, Gamay and Lapinig.

Pls. turn to page 2.

Mayor of Guiuan sign MOU for Project Pagbangon

On February 1, 2015, TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. attended the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the mayor of Guiuan and proponents of Project Pagbangon. The MOU signing which was held in PMPI Guiuan office was initiated by PMPI National Coordinator, Yolanda Esguerra. The MOU signing was attended by Mayor Cristopher Sheen Gonzales and his wife. Representatives from different project partners like Sentro Para

Pls. turn to page 4.

In this issue:

Typhoon Ruby Emergency Shelter Assistance in Northern Samar * MOU Signing for Project Pagbangon * Post-Haiyan Shelter Projects in Iloilo and Samar * Annual Christmas Gift-giving * Masagana Community New Officers

Network Activities:
PMPI Partners' Coordination Meeting

YP Reading List:
Edson Cabalfin's *What Kids Should Know about Philippine Architecture*
Darrin Nordahl's *Making Transit Fun!: How to Entice Motorist from Their Cars*

YP Reflections by Janeen Cayetano

Announcements:
YP Summer Internship Program
Job Opening at TAO

“Function and cost alone are the two practical sides of a design. The third and equally important element is the aesthetics of the design itself – what it looks like... In the world of building, function and cost alone create shelter, but design creates architecture.”

- Marianne Cusato, in “The Value of Design.” (American urban designer and author known for her design of “Katrina Cottage”)

TAO-Pilipinas provide... (From page 1)

TAO-Pilipinas joined Christian Aid and CCI-SPPI in Northern Samar on January 22 to 24 to give technical advice in the delivery of emergency shelter assistance and to conduct ocular visits in Mapanas, Gamay and Lapinig. The team returned on January 29 until February 3 to carry out technical capability-building activities for local carpenters mobilized by CCI-SPPI to assist in emergency shelter construction. Prior to conducting the trainings, TAO developed modules for lecture sessions, an emergency shelter design workshop, and a hands-on demonstration of emergency shelter construction. The demo construction is intended to serve as a prototype or guide for beneficiaries in the use and application of the emergency shelter kits during reconstruction of their damaged houses.

Capability-building were carried out in the three municipalities within two days; the Gamay training on January 30 and the Mapanas and Lapinig trainings simultaneously conducted on January 31. A total of forty (40) carpenters participated in the training, along with 7 barangay captains. Hands-on demonstration of emergency shelter construction was done on February 1 in Mapanas and on February 2 in Gamay and in Lapinig.

Orientation sessions and design workshop with local carpenters

Training activities included orientation sessions with local carpenters on the principles of “building back better” and disaster-resilient house design, and technical inputs on the use of plastic sheeting (tarpaulin) for emergency shelter construction. The use of nipa thatch in house construction was also discussed in the sessions, with the carpenters explaining the nipa laying methods they practiced. The facilitators drew out distinctive practices and details of nipa roofing as applied by local builders of Northern Samar.

A design workshop followed these sessions and the carpenters were divided into groups to design a house for a selected beneficiary using the materials included in the emergency shelter kits that were distributed to beneficiaries. They were given tools to put together a 3D scaled model of their proposed design. The tools included simulated materials in the emergency shelter kits (plywood and tarpaulin) and salvaged materials such as corrugated iron sheets, nipa thatch and lumber. They were also tasked to prepare a bill of materials for their proposed house design. The outputs of the design workshops were to be the basis for the actual construction work that they will perform as part of the hands-on demonstration.

Hands-on demonstration of emergency shelter construction

Immediately following the orientation sessions and emergency shelter design workshops, three teams of local carpenters set out to build an emergency shelter for a selected household-beneficiary in each municipality covered by the project. One day was allotted for building and each team had at least 10 carpenters for its labor force. Salvageable materials (debris from the damaged house) were retrieved for reuse and some additional materials (amounting to not more than PhP5,000) such as coco-lumber and plywood were procured to supplement the materials in the emergency shelter kit.



Left photo: One of the carpenters in Gamay presenting their concept of a disaster resilient house. **Right photo:** One group of carpenters from Gamay making the 3d model of their prototype house.

The Mapanas team built a 9.25 sqm emergency shelter (new construction) for the family of Gracia Villezar in Barangay Manaybanay. Salvaged round timbers were used as posts and good lumber were used for the floor, wall and roof framing. The house had an elevated floor of wooden planks, tarpaulin-covered roof, and partly finished walls made of plywood sheets.

The Gamay team completed the construction repair works for the family of Alex Balugo in Barangay Baybay. The 9 sqm house was installed with LGU-supplied corrugated galvanized iron sheets as roofing and new plywood sheets and salvaged iron sheets were used for walls. The team was also able to help finish the emergency shelter of another beneficiary, Ronnie Pecson. In the second house, they installed additional wall studs, plywood sheets for its raisehvhd flooring, and the tarpaulin sheet for its walls.

The Lapinig team built a 5.76 sqm emergency shelter for Aurea Liadpicayo, an 80-year old living alone in Barangay Lapinig del Norte. Salvaged round timbers were reused as posts and felled coconut trees were cut into several sizes of coco-lumber for the floor, wall, and roof framing. The finished house had raised flooring made from salvaged wooden planks, walls made of new plywood sheets, and a corrugated iron sheet roof with tarpaulin undersheeting.

Project monitoring and learning documentation

Christian Aid and its local partners now focuses on post-distribution monitoring after completing the training component of its emergency shelter assistance in Mapanas, Gamay and Lapinig. TAO-Pilipinas will rejoin the project team to participate in learning and documentation activities. (GRM)



Left photo: Arch. Verna Sarraga giving a presentation about principles of disaster resilient design and construction. **Right photo:** One group of carpenters from Lapinig finishing the 3d model of their prototype house.

**Technical Capability Building
to Support Typhoon Hagupit
Emergency Shelter Assistance in
Mapanas, Gamay, and Lapinig
January 30-February 2, 2015**



Local carpenters of Mapanas during their house design workshop



Local carpenters of Mapanas with community facilitators from SPPI and CERD



Local carpenters of Gamay during their house design workshop



Local carpenters of Gamay with workshop organizers



Prototype house 1 built for demo construction in Brgy. Baybay, Gamay



Local carpenters of Gamay who built prototype house 1 together with the house owners



Prototype house 2 built for demo construction in Brgy. Baybay, Gamay



Local carpenters of Gamay who built prototype house 2 together with the house owners and TAO-Pilipinas technical staff



Prototype house built for demo construction in Brgy. Manaybanay, Mapanas



Local carpenters of Lapinig during their house design workshop



Local carpenters of Lapinig with some barangay representatives from different barangays in Lapinig



Local carpenters of Lapinig using the given tarpaulin as undersheathing for the prototype house



Corrugated galvanized iron sheets were still used as roofing material for this prototype house in Lapinig



The prototype house in Brgy. Lapinig del Sur built by local carpenters of Lapinig

Mayor of Guiuan... (From page 1)

sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya (SIKAT), Integrative Medicine for Alternative Health Care Systems Philippines, Inc (INAM), Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG), Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT), and Peace and Conflict Journalism Network Philippines Inc. (PECOJON) were also present. Cecilia del Rosario, procurement officer for Project Pagbangon, represented TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

Before the actual signing, a short video was presented. The video showed images of Guiuan before and after Typhoon Yolanda devastated the town. Also part of the video were interviews of some residents from Manicani and Homonhon describing the hardship they encountered after the typhoon and how different NGOs assisted them to get back on their feet.

The MOU ensures the support of the local government of Guiuan and its continued cooperation with the stakeholders of Project Pagbangon. With an MOU finally set in place, project proponents are hopeful that the local government will follow through with the



Mayor Sheen Gonzales of Guiuan and Yoly Esguerra of PMPI signing the memorandum of understanding for Project Pagbangon.

assistance that they promised to provide for the residents of Manicani and Homonhon.

The MOU signing was followed by the blessing of the new PMPI office in Conception St., Guiuan, Eastern Samar. (CDR)

Project Monitoring by TAO-Pilipinas for Fondation de France

TAO-PILIPINAS IS ENGAGED BY FONDATION DE FRANCE TO MONITOR its supported shelter and infrastructure projects in Northern Iloilo and Eastern Samar. A total of seven (7) local partners working in eleven (11) municipalities have been supported by FdF. Currently, two remaining projects nearing completion are being monitored: Lawaanville Shelter Project in Lawaan, Eastern Samar by Phildrra and Guiuan Development Foundation, Inc. (GDFI) and Transitional Housing Project in Altavas, Aklan by Enfants du Mekong.

The Enfants Du Mekong in collaboration with the Holy Child Parish in Altavas and local barangays, implements Transitional Housing in Altavas, Aklan with support from Fondation de France. A total of 150 units will be built in 6

Pls. turn to page 6.



Some of the transitional houses that have been constructed in Altavas, Aklan with the support of Fondation de France.



Masagana Community Elects New Set of Officers

MASAGANA OF ANGAT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION KICKED off the new year by holding an election of its officers and committee heads on January 25, 2015 in Angat, Bulacan. The community decided to call for an election before the 4-year term of incumbent community leaders comes to an end. The young members of the community facilitated the voting process that included the selection candidates, as well as securing the ballot boxes and tallying the votes.

The candidates must fulfill the following qualifications set by the organization: (1) must be an active member of the community; (2) must have leadership capabilities; and (3) must be nominated by a member. There were 25 candidates who qualified for the election. Among the roster of the possible community leaders, the 15 candidates who garnered the highest votes from Masagana members were selected. These top 15 made up the group that voted among themselves for the leadership and committee positions. The final results, as agreed upon by its 42 members who attended the election, were as follows:

President	Lopito Catarining
Vice President	Lolita Caparino

Secretary
Treasurer
Auditor
PRO

Erlinda Tolero
Diana Antipuesto
Elicer Sasabo
Juana Cavalida and
Maricel Alejandro

Committee Heads:

Livelihood
SWM
Health

Jocelyn Castro
Sarah David
Gloria Mustaciza and
Maricel Alejandro

Education
Peace and Order

Norbe Armeza
Beverly Sasabo and
Lydia Monte

Budget and Finance
DRR
Cultural and Sports

Dina Caingcoy
Jordan Nobleza
Erwin Manalisi and
Jimmy Hersano

Representatives from TAO-Pilipinas, Urban Poor Ministry of CaMaNaVa and LGU of Barangay Pulong Yantok were invited to witness the election.

To date, the new officers are applying for HLURB registration and accreditation of the homeowner's association in compliance to permit processes for the community's resettlement project. (VLPS)

TAO Friends Sponsor Annual Gift-giving for Children

LAST HOLIDAY SEASON, TAO-PILIPINAS HELD ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS gift-giving activity for the children of Masagana and Banaba communities in Angat, Bulacan and San Mateo, Rizal, respectively. Donations were solicited from families and friends, coming up with a total of 75 gift packs. Among the gift packs were 46 pairs of school shoes requested by many of the kids from Masagana community. The gifts were given on December 17 for Masagana and December 19 for Banaba.

During the gift distribution for Masagana, a Christmas party for kids was held with food and game prizes sponsored by Archtisan. Sixty (60) additional gift packs were given to the children. The kids, teens, and even the mothers sang Christmas carols. Parlor games were held for both the children and the mothers. In Banaba, 15 gift packs were given to Buklod Tao who then distributed the gifts to its members.

The donors for the 2014 Christmas gift-giving activity were Archtisan, German Avenzoza, Irene Ng Cha-Ching, Rhea Lyn Dealca, Cathania Edang, Audrey Esteban, Arlene Lusterio, Genevieve Matabang, Geraldine Matabang, Ruth Paule Morales, Angelie Recometa, Amillah Rodil, Rosario Sales, Angie Salunga, Verna Sarraga, Ibay Sicam, Voltaire Tila, Joannie Tongol, Karen Varona, Rosalyn Veneracion, Nap Vicmundo, and Anna Villanueva. (AMPS)



Top photo: Volunteers who helped during the gift distribution in Angat (from left, Voltaire Tila, Ricardo Esteban, and Audrey Esteban) with Masagana community leader Juana Cavalida.

Bottom photo: The children of Masagana community with their parents after the gift-giving activity.

Project monitoring... (From page 4)

barangays in Altavas. It is currently finishing its second phase. A total of 100 houses was finished in Barangay Cabangilla located in 6 sitios namely: Sitio Passi, Sitio Sappa, Sitio Proper 1, Sitio Proper 2, Sitio Insulong and Sitio Cabangahan. An additional 50 houses will be built in 5 barangays with 10 houses per barangay. The additional 5 barangays are still to be determined.

EDM targets households who did not receive any form of support and are not included in the beneficiary list of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for totally and partially damaged houses. Priority is given to those without a house or those living in other people's house.

The screening is done jointly by the barangay kagawads and chapel leaders with interviews from community residents. Enfants du Mekong conducts validation from a short list of potential beneficiaries submitted by the joint team of barangay and chapel leaders. Site and house visits are conducted to validate and finalize the list of beneficiaries.

The selected beneficiary provides a local counterpart in the form of sweat equity. At least one family member will have to work for 50 days and food for construction workers should also be provided for 10 days.

The model house was designed by TAO-Pilipinas based on a previous design of EDM that was submitted to FdF. The model house was designed giving priority to the soundness of structural frame of the house to withstand projected stresses in the region: a strong foundation, a strong post and column connection, a hip roof and cross-ventilation. Sanitation is provided by a simple toilet with septic tank and rainwater

harvesting. The wall to provide basic privacy is made of wood framing with diagonal bracings and bamboo mats (sawali).

Houses constructed adhered to the design with a few changes. The awning window was converted to casement for fear of causing some accident in case the stick that props the window accidentally falls when children play. Owners think it can cause cuts to fingers in case the sash suddenly falls and hits a hand by the window. Owners also personalized their houses by adding exterior painting and interior partitions. A few have started to make window extensions for kitchen counters (banggerahan) and a whole additional room for the kitchen. Some adjusted the connection of downspout to go to the toilet so rainwater harvested conveniently provide free water in the toilet.

When asked about ventilation and heat due to GI sheet roof without ceiling, owners did not experience extreme heat so far maybe due to the delayed summer and the extended cold weather due to northeast monsoon. The cross-ventilation provided by the bamboo mat walling and bamboo floors in addition to the windows make the house cold at night instead.

In general, beneficiaries are very happy with their house so that every time a house is finished they hold a big feast with roasted pig (lechon) and invite EDM. Another big feast is planned on Feb 27 for the completion of Batch 2.

The remaining 50 houses will be started in March and will be completed in 50 days which is around early May 2015. (ACL)

Network Activities

PMPI Project Pagbangon Coordination Meeting

The implementing partners of PMPI's (Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc.) Project Pagbangon attended a 2-day coordination meeting on February 10-11, 2015 at the Norfil Foundation in Quezon City. Project Pagbangon is an on-going post-Yolanda (Haiyan) rehabilitation project of PMPI with particular focus on the islands of Manicani and Homonhon in the municipality of Guiuan, Eastern Samar. TAO-Pilipinas is the implementing partner for the shelter and evacuation center component of the project.

The meeting was facilitated by Francisco Paciencia and Melody Asia of PMPI. Invocation and healing exercises were led by Anicia Sollestre of INAM. The program was divided in two segments. The first was a study session about permaculture principles and design process which was facilitated by Bert Peeters of Philippine Permaculture Association. The second part was the activity updates from each of the implementing partners which included TAO-Pilipinas, Peace and Conflict

Journalism Network Philippines Inc. (PECOJON), Sentro Para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya (SIKAT), Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT), Integrative Medicine for Alternative Health Care Systems Philippines, Inc (INAM), and Medical Action Group (MAG).

Each partner reported on the progress of the various components of Project Pagbangon. TAO-Pilipinas has started house construction in Manicani and is preparing for the house and evacuation center design workshop for Homonhon. PECOJON is preparing for radio set-up in the island for its broadcast. SIKAT reported on changes in the fish trade and market in Manicani and the relocation of illegal fishermen to avoid patrol detection. SIKAT is also preparing the fabrication of concrete modules and artificial reef for the barangays. SIBAT discussed issues on renewable energy and disposal of chemical batteries while INAM and MAG reported on health issues. (VLPS)

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: **What Kids Should Know About Philippine Architecture**
Author: **Edson Cabalfin**
Publisher: **Adarna House (2015)**

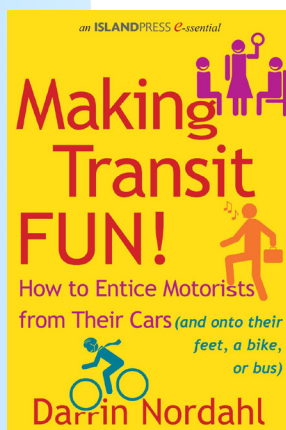
The book tackles basic concepts of architecture while also providing readers with information about Philippine architecture. It is a children's book for kids 10 years old and above. This book is also a good introduction to architecture especially for high school students who may be interested in taking up architecture as a college degree. The book is able to discuss general topics regarding architecture and at the same time relating those topics to Philippine architecture. It also gives a rundown of Philippine architectural history and provides snippets about Filipino architects who were declared as National Artist by the Philippine government.

Though the target readers are children, this book is also a good read for adults who may not be very knowledgeable about Philippine architecture. Its basic introduction to what Philippine architecture is all about is accompanied by colorful illustrations that further entice children to read the book. It also has activity sections where children

are encouraged to draw or make things related to architecture.

The book is written in English which has its advantage and disadvantages. For one, it already limits its readers to those with a good grasp of the English language. Laymen may find it difficult to understand some of the terms used. A Filipino translation of the book stands to gain wider readership among the Filipino masses. English-reading foreigners, on the other hand, may begin to appreciate Philippine architecture through this book.

Overall, the book makes an effort to make Philippine architecture understandable for young readers. It also helps instill awareness and appreciation towards Philippine architecture for both parents and kids. The book is reasonably priced at Php125. Trivia-hungry and knowledge-thirsty kids will surely enjoy reading it especially since it is filled with trivia about Philippine architecture and its history. (AMPS)



Title: **Making Transit Fun! How to Entice Motorists From Their Cars (And Onto Their Feet, a Bike, or Bus)**
Author: **Darrin Nordahl**
Publisher: **Island Press (Kindle Edition)(2012)**

In his book, *Making Transit Fun!* author Darrin Nordahl offers a unique perspective – through the lens of human emotion - to draw wider use of public transit. The book

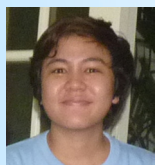
contains a rundown of strategies to reduce car trips and all these are anchored on the premise that making public transit a pleasurable and fun experience will make people leave their cars and walk, bike, or take a bus for transport. Nordahl also showcases several examples of successful public transit (mostly from European and American cities) that is not only convenient, reliable, safe, but more remarkably, enjoyable to use.

The book initially sets the 'fun' theory as what is missing in public transit. Its proposed strategies incorporate the expertise of various disciplines outside transport engineering, from

product marketing, graphic design, urban design, to fashion design (for that chic bike gear) in order to create public transit that is appealing as the automobile. The book is divided into sections on the three modes --- taking a bus, biking, and walking --- and explores the possibilities for making each a preferred means of mobility. Towards the concluding chapters of the book, the author emphasizes that what is essential for a truly enjoyable public transit experience is the provision of 'complete streets'. These are not just the physical infrastructure per se but creating a balanced environment that regards human experience above speed, cost and efficiency.

The book is a very interesting and enlightening read because of its out-of-the-box thinking when looking for solutions towards sustainable transportation. It stimulates a rethinking of what forms of public transit may take if designed with 'fun' in mind. For the design professional, it opens possibilities into the role that architecture and urban design may play in enticing people to resort to public transport as well as guides us into what should be prioritized when spending for public transport improvements. (GRM)

YP Reflections by Janeen Kim Cayetano



Janeen Kim Cayetano is a 24 year-old graduate of BS Geography in University of the Philippines, Diliman. She was part of the team of GIS specialists that assisted TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. in their Community Action Planning project with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for 17 barangays in Tacloban City, Leyte last year. She is now based in Tacloban City as a project staff of CRS working in Palo, Leyte.

I REMAIN AT LOSS FOR WORDS WHILE WATCHING news and reading article after article in social media of anything related to Yolanda. The typhoon brought destruction never before seen in our country. Almost entire towns and cities have been washed away. People became hopeless and desperate not knowing how they can ever rise again from this disaster. There are people who are hungry, lacking shelter or basic health care, and a lot who are mourning for their family members who died during the storm surge. My friends and I started volunteering in various relief operations and helping out in whatever way we can – repacking, buying relief goods and even by just writing simple uplifting messages in canned goods. The devastation is so vast, the task at hand is so big – where do we start? Where do they begin to rebuild their lives? What can I do more in order to help?

Peter Singer, in his book, *How Are We to Live?: Ethics in an Age of Self-Interest*, he pointed out the answer to those questions.

“True, the problem is so big that one individual cannot make much impact on it; and no doubt some of the money will be swallowed up in administration, or will get stolen, or for some other reason will not reach the people who need it most. Despite these inevitable problems, even though only a small fraction of what you give reaches the people who need it, that fraction will make a far greater difference to the people it reaches than the full amount you could make to your own life. That you as an individual can make an impact on the entire problem seem scarcely relevant since you can make an impact on the lives of particular families. So will you get involved with one of these organizations? Will you yourself give not just spare change when a tin is rattled under your nose, but substantial amounts that will reduce your ability to live a luxurious lifestyle?”

In my mind, I wanted to personally involve myself in the situation besides volunteering in the relief operations. I search for giving assistance in other ways, with the knowledge I have

and what I can offer. I was currently working as a research assistant that time to one of my professors in our department; she offered me a job that will be primarily based in Tacloban. I was hesitant at first since this will be the first time I will be away from home and my family but then I thought that maybe this is the opportunity I was looking for. My friend Ian and I together with Ma’am Ony, our professor, gladly took the job and were introduced to the project together with TAO-Pilipinas. In partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), we were to develop, initiate and facilitate a Community Action Planning (CAP) process within the 17 barangays in Old Sagkahan Area in Tacloban in a span of two months. The purpose was to generate community profiles, suitability analysis and action plans that addresses the priority settlement needs for each barangay. Our part as GIS Specialists was to generate digital maps from the CAP workshop results and deliver a footprint linked map from the household registration that shows the degree of damage of the beneficiaries’ house.

In order for us to provide the most accurate digital maps we also went to the field to cross-check the location of their social service facilities and utilities and its extent of damage. These things will be a great help for us to decide on the assistance that CRS can provide their beneficiaries in each barangays. This is also a step for the beneficiaries to be aware of the situation and learn for themselves the importance in planning and analyzing the location for their transitional shelter. And for them to be involved in their community and learn in the process on how can they be less vulnerable to future hazards. With these workshops, we also built a good relationship with them as it is important in order to achieve our goals if we are in good coordination with our stakeholders. With this information and the help of TAO-Pilipinas and CRS I’ve been able to see what I can do to help these people.

Finishing the project last June, I can really say that I really learned a lot during the process especially in doing community development work. Also, I learned to be compassionate for the people around me and be thankful that I’ve made a mark in

Pls. turn to page 9.



Janeen Cayetano validating the results of the household survey done by CRS in Brgy. 56



Janeen Cayetano helping out the TAO technical staff during one of the community validations done in Brgy. 52.

YP reflections... (From page 8)

someone's life. I've been able to go out and help others and have that joy by giving back to the community. And that made me feel good. It showed me that there are a lot of things that I can do to help and that I can make a difference even in small things. It's been a great honor to work with such heart-warming people like TAO-Pilipinas and CRS. I really admired how committed they are in doing their work and serving others. These people continue to uphold excellence through its tradition of serving the people and helping them in many ways possible. And I'm thankful for being a part of that.

With those being said, this made me decide not to stop from doing community development work. I continued to work with CRS in another project in Palo, Leyte which now focuses on offering assistance in building new latrines and promoting hygiene practices to protect public health. I've also heard that our team in CRS Tacloban has finished around 1000 transitional shelter as of today. Now I'm working with them as well in planning to provide better access to communal water to households that don't have access. Besides working with CRS, during my free time and with the help of friends we collected money to buy and give out school supplies to schools in Tacloban. These things gave me joy and I believe it's something I am proud of and will never get tired of doing. From here I have proved myself regarding what Peter Singer said that "fraction will make a far greater difference to the people it reaches than the full amount you could make to your own life". Therefore, I see myself doing this in years to come and hope that I could learn more from these experiences throughout my journey.



Janeen Cayetano is still working with CRS and holds community orientation like the one pictured above. Photo from: Janeen Cayetano



Janeen Cayetano together with her friends distributed school supplies to school children in Tacloban City. Photo from: Janeen Cayetano

Announcements

Call for Applicants: 2015 Summer Internship Program

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. IS NOW ACCEPTING OJT APPLICANTS FOR its summer internship program. We are looking for 4th to 5th year architecture, planning, and/or engineering students who are willing to do development work and engage with the country's urban poor communities. The interns are expected to do technical work including, but not limited to, drafting, model making and cost estimates. They are also expected to conduct research and do site visits to our partner communities. For interested applicants, you may send your curriculum vitae (CV) together with your preferred working schedule at yp@tao-pilipinas.org. Interested schools looking for OJT placements are also encouraged to inquire about our summer internship program. To learn more about the organization, you may visit our website www.tao-pilipinas.org.



Modelmaking and drafting technical drawings are some of the work that our interns have to do during their summer internship program just like the ones pictured above.