

e-newsletter

JUNE - JULY 2015

A permanent shelter for the family of Emiliano Abucejo stands near completion. This is one of the forty shelter units under construction in Manicani Island. (Photo by Arlene Lusterio)



Christian Aid co-funds Manicani Sustainable Shelter Assistance

TAO-PILIPINAS IMPLEMENTS THE SUSTAINABLE SHELTER ASSISTANCE FOR Manicani Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar with funding support from Terre des Hommes (TdH) FR Germany. The project provides permanent shelters secured with land tenure agreements, in safe to medium-risk areas for 40 households in Manicani Island. With the aim of realizing permanent and durable shelter, additional funding was sought from Christian Aid (CA) under its Yolanda Rehabilitation Program.

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TAO workshop in Homonhon turns up community-designed barangay evacuation center prototype

THE TAO-PILIPINAS TEAM WAS BACK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUIUAN IN Eastern Samar on June 14-16 to conduct a participatory design workshop in Homonhon Island. As part of the capability-building activities under the Shelter and Evacuation Center Component of PMPI Project Pagbangon, the workshops were carried out to facilitate a participatory process of determining community needs and design preferences in building a barangay evacuation center. TAO-Pilipinas will implement the design and construction of one barangay evacuation center in each of the eight barangays in Homonhon Island.

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YP Reflections by *Andy Sztark*

“Real change takes time.
And yet, precisely because it does,
there is no time to lose.”

- Fr. John J. Carroll, SJ (1924-2014)
Jesuit priest, sociologist and co-founder of
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

TAO workshop... (From page 1)

The design workshop was conducted at the Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buenviaje Parish Church in Barangay Culasi and attended by 52 representatives coming from the eight barangays – Bitaugan, Cagusuan, Casuguran, Canawayon, Culasi, Habag, Inapulangan, and Pagbabangnan.

Lecture inputs

The workshop program started with the module on Sustainable and Disaster-resilient Settlements Planning and Design which gave the participants a comprehensive overview and familiarity with concepts related to sustainability, particularly sustainable building practices, and disaster-resilience. The lecture inputs tackled in this module included introduction to sustainable and disaster-resilient settlements; sustainable design concepts for small islands and coastal areas; disaster-resilient design and construction principles; alternative building materials and technologies; house retrofitting; and barangay development planning.

In the second part of the module, focus group discussions were conducted to draw out community attitudes and practices involving building structures and managing disaster risks. They were also asked to recap and evaluate the learning they gained from the lecture inputs.

Evacuation center design considerations

Equipped with knowledge gained from the first module, the participants underwent the next phase of the workshop which is the module on Participatory Design of a Barangay Evacuation Center. This involved building up their technical knowledge on planning and design standards and guiding them to create three-dimensional (3D) scaled models of a proposed evacuation center prototype.

Participants were oriented on guidelines followed by humanitarian agencies in the planning and design of evacuation centers, including considerations on site development, space allocation (essential areas and recommended areas), utilities and basic services, sanitation and hygiene, and safety and security. They were also shown some examples of evacuation centers in Metro Manila and many types of evacuation structures built in various Asian countries exposed to flooding and tsunami hazards.

Participatory design

Inspired by the images of evacuation centers from different places, the participants were raring to create their own design schemes. They were divided into eight groups and each group had a mix of members representing all of the barangays in Homonhon. The groups were instructed to produce a three-dimensional (3D) scaled model of their proposed design using the 3D toolkit developed by TAO-Pilipinas. The toolkits enabled the groups to create a 3D model at 1:30 meter scale.

Guide questions were provided to all the groups to help them flesh out their proposed design. These questions were discussed by group members; and in answering these questions, the groups came to agree on the design features of their proposed evacuation center. They were also reminded that budget for construction is PhP2Million and thus their proposed design should not exceed 100 square meters in floor area. Half of the day was allotted for the groups to complete their 3D scaled models.

Afterwards, the eight groups presented their proposed design to the plenary, showcasing their 3D scaled models and explaining their answers to the guide questions. [\(See page 3 for a photo gallery of the 3D models that the groups created.\)](#) Following the group presentations, the facilitators summarized the features that appeared in the scaled models and took note of common preferences the groups articulated.

Selection of a preferred design scheme

From the house models generated, the groups were asked to pick which design scheme best addresses their evacuation needs and



Left photo: One group made an evacuation center with a circular floor plan.

Right photo: Each group reviewed and scored other groups' design schemes and the group with the highest score will be the scheme used for the design of their evacuation centers.

best represents their collective design preference. They accomplished this by choosing the preferred design scheme based on a set of criteria agreed upon by the groups. They established three criterions, namely: 1) essential spaces are provided and properly laid out; 2) structure is disaster-resilient; and 3) estimated cost of construction is within project budget. Each scaled model was rated by the groups according to each criterion.

The ratings given by the groups were summed up and the model which garnered the highest score was chosen as the preferred design scheme for an evacuation centre prototype. The winning 3D model, created by group number two, was a 100-sqm single storey reinforced concrete structure and features a hip roof made of micro-concrete roof tiles; an elevated flooring; enclosed rooms for the clinic, administration office, and separate toilet-bathrooms for men and women; an open area that includes spaces for a kitchen, sleeping quarters and for multi-purpose activities; and amenities that integrate rainwater harvesting for water supply and solar panels for power supply.

Validation

After agreeing on the design proposed by group number two, the participants expressed their reliance on TAO-Pilipinas to provide structural design that would ensure a disaster-resilient evacuation center. TAO-Pilipinas clarified that the final design of the evacuation center will be based on the workshop result with some possible modifications introduced due to specific site characteristics, building material availability, compliance to building codes, and budget limitations.

After the evacuation centre designs have been finalized by TAO-Pilipinas, a validation workshop with the same participants will be conducted in August. Construction is scheduled to start by October 2015. (GRM)



Participants of the design workshop pose with their 3d scaled models

Outputs of the Participatory Design Workshop for Barangay Evacuation Center Prototype Homohon Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar June 14-16, 2015

Group 1 design scheme



Group 2 design scheme



Group 3 design scheme



Group 4 design scheme



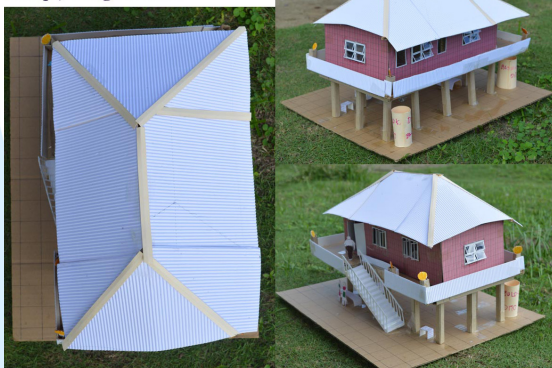
Group 5 design scheme



Group 6 design scheme



Group 7 design scheme



Group 8 design scheme



Christian Aid... (From page 1)

The Christian Aid Yolanda Rehabilitation Program aims to strengthen the resilience of institutions, communities and civil society and affirm the dignity of Typhoon Yolanda affected communities, while their access to basic functions and services are attained and control of assets are ensured with regards settlements, tenure security, livelihoods, agriculture and markets. Further, Typhoon Yolanda affected communities recover with dignity through their capacities, the catalytic support of civil society and the strengthened capacity of local government to address immediate needs while laying the foundation for resilient development in these localities.

The CA, together with TAO-Pilipinas, conducted two (2) shelter missions to Manicani Island on March 6 and July 1, 2015. The visits to the project site were carried out first, to identify shelter needs; and second, to confirm the progress of the project as proposed. Under one its priority interventions --- regaining basic functions which include possession of permanent shelter --- an additional Php 3.7M fund was provided by CA to complement TdH's Php10.12M. The co-funding shall complete the forty (40) durable shelter units with the following features: a house area of 25 square meters including a toilet; a hip roof on trusses and made



Pilgrim Bliss "Bimbim" Gayo, TdH Country Coordinator, talks to Manong Naldo during TdH visit with Manong Naldo's house in the background.

of corrugated galvanized iron sheets (51mm thickness); concrete hollow block walls; concrete slab flooring; and foundation made of independent column footings buried at 0.8 meter to 1.5 meter depth below the natural grade line, depending on soil quality.

The project targets to complete the construction of 40 shelter units by the end of August 2015 and the transfer of vulnerable households from their old house near the shore inwards to where their new and durable houses are located. (ACDL)

TIP-QC CEA students intern at TAO

THREE SENIOR B.S. ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS from the Technological Institute of the Philippines College of Engineering and Architecture in Quezon City (TIP-QC CEA) chose TAO-Pilipinas for their on-the-job-training (OJT) placement. One student, Dessica Marie Salvador, completed her internship last summer from April 22 to June 2, 2015 while the other two, Ericka Gabrielle Llabore and Nilo Rusiana, Jr., have just begun their internship on June 11. Students must complete 200 working hours as required by their school to pass the OJT program.

The interns mostly worked on TAO projects under PMPI Project Pagbangon. Under the mentorship of Arch. Angelus Sales and Arch. Verna Sarraga, the interns did

various tasks ranging from drafting to model making. Dessica helped complete the 3D toolkits used by TAO for participatory design workshops, preparing 3d scaled models of home furniture, stairs, and toilet fixtures. She also assisted in drafting the technical drawings for the proposed evacuation center to be constructed in Manicani Island. Dessica worked full-time and extended her internship beyond the required 200 hours. Once her internship was finished, she was evaluated by Arch. Sales.

On the other hand, Ericka and Nilo are both currently undertaking their internship at TAO while they are completing their academic load for the semester at TIP. Mornings are spent at TAO on various project

tasks. They continued to work on the 3D toolkits that Dessica started and have been helping to complete the CAD drawings for the Homonhon Island barangay evacuation centers. They have also been tasked to do some graphic designs and cost estimates. Ericka and Nilo expect to finish their internship by October 2015.

This has been the second time that TAO-Pilipinas mentored architecture students from TIP-QC CEA. In 2009 three architecture students (Jayson Cruzat, Joseph Catuiran, and Christina Fiel) joined the YP Workshop on Social Housing and did their internship in the following summer of 2010. (AMPS)



TIP QC CEA students doing 3d models. Left: Dessica Marie Salvador. Right: Ericka Gabrielle Llabore and Nilo Rusiana, Jr.

National Housing Summit

ON MAY 27, 2015, TAO-PILIPINAS ATTENDED THE LAUNCHING of the 1st National Housing and Urban Development Summit at the AMVACA Housing Site in Sitio Lamesa, Barangay Ugong, Valenzuela City. The event was led by Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement and Cong. Alfredo Benitez as Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on Housing and Urban Development. The launching activity was attended by representatives of key shelter agencies, the different civil society organizations involved in socialized housing, and local government officials. Representatives of people's organizations were also present during the launch.

The housing summit, the first of its kind, is an 8-month endeavor organized by the Joint Congressional Committees on Housing. Its main objective is to bring together government, private sector, and civil society to work in partnership towards implementing immediate interventions to alleviate the housing backlog among informal and formal sector. The summit pushes for the creation of the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development, a national agency that shall become the sole governing body for all housing and urban development issues. It also aims to identify key policy reforms to close the gaps in affordable housing.

The site where the housing summit was launched is a housing project for residents of Valenzuela City who lived along the



The AMVACA Housing in Valenzuela City began construction last November 2014.

waterways of Tullahan River. The housing project, implemented through the High Density Housing (HDH) program of Social Housing and Finance Corporation, consists of 3-storey buildings currently under construction. A 30-building complex is intended to house the 1,440 informal settler families which comprise the Alyansa ng mga Mamamayan sa Valenzuela at Caloocan (AMVACA) Housing Cooperative.

The launching event was short and lasted for three hours. Speeches were delivered by the lead convenors, Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito and Cong. Alfredo Benitez, as well as by a representative of AMVACA Housing Cooperative. The closing remark was given by Vice President Jejomar Binay as Chairperson of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. After the speeches, a tour of the AMVACA Housing Site was provided for the attendees and a press briefing participated by different media outlets followed afterwards. (AMPS)

3rd Regional CAN Workshop

THE 3RD REGIONAL COMMUNITY ARCHITECTS Network Workshop took place in Metro Manila from June 16 to 23. The workshop was made possible through the support of World Bank, Intramuros Administration, and Local Government of Muntinlupa City. It was organized by members of CAN led by Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI). Participants of the workshop were composed of technical professionals, students and representatives of people's organizations.

The opening ceremony was held in Casa Blanca in Intramuros, Manila with participants from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and USA. The first day of the workshop consisted of an introduction to the 8-day workshop program. It was also in the first day that participants from different countries shared their

experience as technical professionals involved in community development work. The participants then went on a tour of Intramuros to know more about the history, culture, and present condition of the walled city since Intramuros was one of the field immersion sites.

The second day of the workshop was held in Muntinlupa City. Various topics were discussed on the second day such as the Citywide Development Approach (CDA) in Asian Cities given by Ms. Makiko Watanabe of the World Bank Urban Team, Muntinlupa City and Shelter Initiatives by Ms. Alita Ramirez of the Urban Poor Affairs Office, and Muntinlupa CDA Initiatives by Ms. Tessie Robles. Site visits to different Muntinlupa communities such as Sitio Anahaw, Mariateque, and West Kabulusan followed afterwards. Group reflections were also done after the site visit.

The succeeding days of the workshop were allotted for community fieldwork by the participants. Simultaneous fieldworks were done in Muntinlupa City

and Intramuros. The participants did community mapping and settlements profiling during their community immersion. Within two days they prepared for the presentation of their community fieldwork outputs. The Muntinlupa group presented their outputs on the 22nd while the Intramuros group presented theirs on the 23rd of June.

The presentation of the Muntinlupa group was held in the Muntinlupa Sports Complex through a public forum attended by representatives of Muntinlupa LGU and involved Muntinlupa communities. The presentation included community profiles, their status and challenges encountered, and the proposed solutions made by the participants together with the community representatives. A city reflection followed the presentations. After the dialogue, a presentation about Hilti Foundation's experience in providing affordable and resilient bamboo housing in the Philippines was given by Luis Lopez from Hilti Foundation and Boram Kim.

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PMPI NCR Urban Cluster Study Session

LAST JULY 1, THE NCR URBAN CLUSTER OF the Philippine-Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI) held its regular meeting at the Arzobispado de Manila in Intramuros, Manila. (PMPI is a national network of people's organizations, non-government organizations, church/faith-based groups and Misereor.) TAO-Pilipinas attended the meeting along with other members of the PMPI NCR Urban Cluster and their PO partners. For this meeting, the cluster organized a study session focusing on two topics --- the National Land Use Act (NLUA) and the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

The resource persons tapped to discuss issues concerning NLUA was Ms. Gemma Marin of John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues and Atty. Claire Demaisip of KAISAHAN

tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan. They spoke about the importance of NLUA in development planning and some of the proposed provisions in the NLUA bill. They also discussed how long this bill has been taken up in Philippine Congress and the need for a National Physical Framework Plan as proposed in the NLUA bill. Atty. Demaisip also shared the social media campaign (Campaign for Land Use Policy or CLUP Now) that they have launched to help with their lobbying for the NLUA bill.

The next topic that was discussed was the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) which was presented by Ms. Amina Rasul of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy. She presented a brief history about the Bangsamoro people and where they originated. Ms. Rasul also discussed the plight of the Bangsamoro people and their struggle for land and sovereignty since the Spanish colonial period. She then proceeded to clarify some issues



Ms. Amina Rasul giving her talk about Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

regarding the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

An open forum followed the presentations on NLUA and BBL. Most of the questions asked by the attendees were about the BBL to which Ms. Rasul was very accommodating in answering. She even asked for their support to help with the lobbying of the bill. The meeting ended with a presentation of tokens for the guest speakers and a sharing of learning gained by representatives of each cluster member. (AMPS)

PHILSSA General Assembly

THE PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT Services Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA) held its 4th Philippine Urbanization Forum at Bayview Park Hotel, in Roxas Boulevard, Manila on June 18-19, 2015 with the theme, "Philippine CSOs and the Challenges of the Changing Times".

PHILSSA Chairperson Ms. Rosemarie Herrera welcomed the participants from different partner NGOs all over the country (NCR Cluster, Visayas and Mindanao). Atty. Jose Luis Gascon from Human Rights Victims Board presented the National Situation of CSOs in the country followed by Roles and Challenges of CSOs by CODE-NGO Chairperson Ms. Andrea M. Sarenas. Delegates actively participated in the open forum afterwards.

In the afternoon, selected partner NGOs in various sectors shared their experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of their DRRM projects in areas affected by Typhoon Yolanda. Among the presenters were representatives from Christian Aid Philippines, Urban Poor Associates (UPA), Fellowship for Organizing Endeavors, Inc. (FORGE), Sentro Para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya, Inc. (SIKAT), and Palawan Advocates for Good Governance and Empowerment, Inc. (PAGE).

On the second day, as part of the 25th PHILSSA General Assembly, partner NGOs were given the chance to clarify their issues relative to compliance of various requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Ms. Nora Flores of BIR, together with her colleagues, graciously accommodated the participants' request for a one-on-one session after her presentation. Ms. Herrera and PHILSSA Treasurer Mr. Rodrigo Olarte presented their reports during the PHILSSA Business Meeting held in the afternoon. Immediately after the event, newly elected board members gathered for their first Board Meeting. (JGT)

JJCISCI Estate Management Workshop

INITIAL WORKSHOP-MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS RESOURCE organizations have been carried out for a technical assistance project implemented by John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCISCI). The World Bank-funded project seeks to develop a capacity building program on estate management for implementers and beneficiaries of 23 housing projects under the High-Density Housing Program of the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). TAO-Pilipinas is engaged by JJCISCI as one of the resource organizations, along with FDUP, NATCCO, and KM-IPD-IPCCED Consortium.

Talks to discuss the elements of the capacity building intervention with the resource organizations tapped by JJCISCI and SHFC were started on June 5. A subsequent meeting was conducted on July 3 at the JJCISCI Conference Room to flesh out aspects of estate management that should be integrated in the training program. Functionalities of estate management identified by JJCISCI and the resource organizations included facilities management, access to services, environmental protection, safety and security, financial management and resource mobilization, organizational development, and legal issues. The resource organizations shared their existing tools or modules on estate management trainings and the content of these modules were matched with the identified functionalities. Tasking assignments and schedules for the development of a training syllabus (for each of the identified functionality) were done at end of the July 3 meeting.

Meetings for syllabus development by the resource organizations were set throughout the month of July. After finalizing the syllabus and content of the capacity building program, a series of training-of-trainer activities is scheduled to be conducted from October to December 2015. (GRM)



Andy Sztark is a 23-year old European master's student at Institut d'Urbanisme de Grenoble in France. He just recently finished a five-month internship at TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Geography and is currently finishing a Master's Degree in Urban Development and International Cooperation. His thesis focuses on the acknowledgment of the free market and the empowerment of individual initiative toward slums upgrading. He is mainly inspired by the Austrian School of Economics and its heterodox theories of the free market and the spontaneous order that object Keynesianism. He also takes part in political debates in his birth region, calling for more regional autonomy and participatory democracy. He spends his remaining free time composing electronic music and travelling.

WHILE ALL OF MY CLASSMATES WENT TO AFRICA OR TO LATIN AMERICA, my choice to go to the Philippines could seem surprising. I had the opportunity to visit South East Asia before and my experience there pushed me to spend more time in this region. I have only got good reviews about the Philippines despite the fact that it is largely unknown for most French people. The Philippines is known to be very friendly and has the world's most splendid islands. But primarily, as an urban planner, knowing that Manila is one of the megacities and hit by a fast development, it sounded like a great place to visit and to grasp.

Having this mandatory semester abroad to graduate was a great opportunity and I wanted to use it to go to the edge of the world – this is how the Philippines look like from Europe – and to enjoy this experience completely. Unlike northern European countries, Latin European students have fewer chances to get time to travel around the world; although living abroad one semester or more is a once-in-a-lifetime-experience that makes us grow up, opening our mind. Moreover, it helps us figure out many things about ourselves like for our coming career and our personal life.

For sure I don't regret this choice, I've never regretted any second of my time spent here. The change of scenery and the disorientation I experienced being here was making every day exciting. Humanly and professionally the 5 months I spent in the Philippines gave me more than I expected. Of course, arriving here all on my own, it hasn't been easy the first weeks to get used to all the "material" and cultural differences. After all this time I can admit that, the climate, transport issue, snail-speed-internet, or the urban chaos were not big issues for me to deal with. Although cultural lag and huge social disparities are the kind of things we never get used to, and that can be frustrating. Some situations seemed to me sometimes baffling or sometimes just embarrassing.

I can probably say that I've fully enjoyed my experience here as I took every moment of my free time to discover the city, traveling around the country and making a lot of new friends. In the Philippines, it feels like on a sudden impulse, you can decide

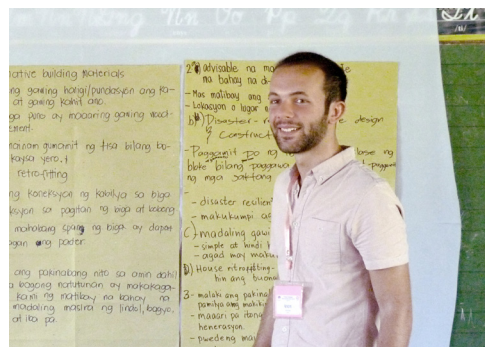
to take a bus and go anywhere. I've (almost) never been lost as there are always unknowns to help you and to orient you. There's a feeling of freedom in the Philippines that you can't experience in Europe, maybe because developed countries are over-organized and over-regulated. I discovered many different sides of the Filipino culture, in the end maybe I only regret not to have learnt more of Tagalog.

From Europe I've heard that Manila was the most dangerous city in Asia and here, Filipinos always warned me about how dangerous the city is. Maybe I was lucky but I felt much safer than in my birth town, which is probably 100 times smaller. Being a bit too adventurous, I sometimes found myself in the middle of the night crossing marginalized neighborhoods, but nothing bad happened. In France, crossing dangerous neighborhoods in the middle of the night will for sure make you lose your phone and wallet.

My time with TAO was a great professional experience wherein I've discovered brand new professional activities and got involved into the life of an NGO. It hasn't been easy every day to be the only foreigner – only boy – and youngest staff, but in the end the professional environment is really nurturing. The demanding approach and seriousness of the executives substantially improved the quality of my work and the outputs of my research. I admit I wished to participate more in the work of TAO and less on my own, working on my master thesis. I expected to be more included in the team and the life of the NGO.

The 5 days I spent with the staff in Manicani, Guiuan was a real immersion into a rural Waray community that I really appreciated. What I felt there is a bit of a stereotype but it seems like despite poverty, people are happy, smiling so much more than any French. Kids are growing up outside with plenty of friends and without any materialistic concerns. I really felt that these Filipinos are living in some conditions that are close to what the human kind is made for, in my opinion that's probably why they look so fulfilled and untroubled.

By coming to the Philippines, I was expecting to figure out how I wanted to orient my professional life. In the end, the 5 months I spent here gave me new ideas and more confidence in my abilities and more knowledge about my defects. But it also brought new interrogations. I'll probably work as an urban planner in Europe for a while before trying to set up my own business within the next couple of years. For this purpose the Philippines is a great location, there is so much to do here.



*Andy Sztark during his community fieldwork in Manicani Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar. **Left photo:** He is facilitating a review of one FGD about sustainable practices. **Right photo:** He also facilitated the recap of what happened during Day 1 of the workshop.*

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: **Smart City: The Next Generation Focus Southeast Asia**
Editor: **Ulla Geisler**
Publisher: **Aedes (2013)**

The booklet is a catalogue of projects exhibited for Smart City: The Next Generation, an initiative organized by Aedes East International Forum for Contemporary Architecture and supported by Goethe Institutes in Southeast Asia. The project aimed to bring young architects and urban planners together to discuss issues plaguing urban cities particularly cities in Southeast Asia. Workshops, exhibits, symposium, and a call for proposal on how future cities will be designed were the activities implemented for this project. Workshops were held in Phnom Penh, Jakarta, and Manila from 2012 until 2013. From the 90 entries that responded to the call for proposals, 40 were selected to be part of the exhibit that was held in Berlin, Germany from May to July 2013.

The booklet features the 40 entries that were chosen. It also gives a detailed narrative of what occurred in each of the workshops done in Phnom Penh, Jakarta, and Manila where issues such as urban and environmental degradation, inefficient public transportation, mobility, and informal settlements were among the key topics discussed. The booklet also discussed how the exhibits were set up using the concept of grid network.

The entries chosen were innovative solutions that give the reader a glimpse of the future of Southeast Asian cities. Some of the solutions have already been implemented but most of the proposed solutions showcased in the booklet are still in the conceptual phase. In the Philippines, four entries were chosen: Bamboo Bridge Community-Driven Upgrading of an Urban Informal Settlement; Warning – Pollen Landing – Relocating Informal Settlers on a Fertile Soil to Create a New Productive Community in Addition Hills; San Juan City Plan – Planning Towards a Future of Green Consciousness; and Zuellig Building – First Green High Rise. Among these four entries, the Bamboo Bridge in Matina, Davao City and the Zuellig Building in Makati City have been implemented.

While the solutions presented are innovative and visually pleasing, some come across as too idealistic or do not seem grounded in reality. In paper the futuristic designs look beautiful but implementation-wise, some of them have to hurdle challenges pertaining to the urban and social fabric of their respective cities. The booklet's layout is easy on the eyes and helps tickle the reader's imagination of future Southeast Asian cities. It is also a good resource material for architecture and urban planning students.

Overall, the booklet is a good start for discussion on the problems currently experienced by the fast-growing megacities of Southeast Asia. The design solutions offered to address problems could start the ball rolling for local and national governments to find the means to implement the solutions that were proposed. (AMPS)



Title: **Greening Asia: Emerging Principles for Sustainable Architecture**
Author: **Nirmal Kishnani**
Publisher: **BCI Asia (2012)**

Greening Asia talks about the vast growth of Asian Countries and the urgency to change the approach from green to sustainable. But the transition from green to sustainable is not easy to achieve due to the absence of references to determine how Asia can attain sustainability. However, a number of Asian countries are thinking beyond green. Collectively they manifest six principles namely efficacy, ecology, wellness, embeddedness, advocacy and integration that could be the bridge to sustainability.

This book is highly significant not only for architecture students but for everyone who is concerned with the fast-paced growth of our society and interested in knowing the difference between being sustainable and green. In greening, there are measurements and certifications required for a building to be considered as green. However, there are no simple metric that sums up sustainability in buildings. To be sustainable is to live within the carrying capacity of our planet, using resources no faster than what can be replaced or repaired naturally. In other words, sustainability means co-existing with nature. While reading this book, one can foresee the situation that nations will be facing if we continue to grow while losing our ecological balance.

The thing I like with this book is that, aside from being informative, it tickles my mind with possibilities for sustainable design that can be done in our country. This is a good reading material, even for someone who is not a nature-enthusiast; the pictures and documentation of projects from different countries in Asia give the reader an idea of how buildings can become sustainable and what can we do to preserve our environment. (Ericka Gabrielle Llabore)

3rd Regional... (From page 5)

The presentation of the Intramuros group was held in Teatrillo in Intramuros, Manila. It was this public forum that TAO-Pilipinas was able to attend. Present in the public forum were Marco Sardillo, administrator of Intramuros Administration, community representatives of Barangay 654, private landowners in Intramuros, representatives from World Bank, SHFC, MMDA, and member organizations under CAN. A tour of communities living within Intramuros was first conducted with participants divided into groups to visit particular sections of the walled communities.

The Intramuros group then presented their proposed housing options for the informal settlers in Intramuros. The first is an on-site upgrading solution for the nine communities in Intramuros; the second is a mixed-use development on a property owned by Intramuros Administration which is the Cuartel de Santa Lucia; and the third option is transferring some of the families in the MMDA-operated Gwapotel Inn. After the presentation, comments were given by Mr. Sardillo, as well as by representatives from SHFC, World Bank and MMDA.

The public forum in Intramuros was facilitated by Ms. Maricel Genzola of the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor. Since this was also the last day of the CAN Regional Workshop, a closing dinner was held for the participants later in the evening. (AMPS)