

ypenewsletter



The technical team that visited Masagana Angat to inspect the soil condition in the resettlement site. (Photo by: Faith Varona)

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TAO marks 15th year; gets feedback from project partners

TAO-PILIPINAS INVITED ITS COMMUNITY AND NETWORK partners to a small gathering on August 22 to mark its 15th founding anniversary. The event, held at Max's Restaurant in Quezon Memorial Circle, sought to celebrate TAO's 15 years of technical assistance work through a brief reflection session with project partners.

The anniversary celebration was themed "Learning from past actions towards more responsive interventions now and in the future". Among

Pls. turn to page 2.

Fr. Jorge Anzorena returns to UST for YP Lecture

FR. JORGE ANZORENA REVISITED UST architecture students on August 18, 2016 as a guest speaker in a short seminar organized by UST Archinet. UST Archinet is a student organization of University of Santo Tomas based in the College of Architecture. The organization aims to promote camaraderie and familiarity among architecture students and professionals from various nations. Fr. Jorge last visited UST College of Architecture for TAO's Young

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“Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by virtue of his humanity.”

- St. Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997), Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun who founded the Missionaries of Charity and was recently canonized by Pope Francis last September 2016.

TAO marks 15th year... (From page 1)

those that joined the event were representatives from TAO's academic partners (PUP-CAFA, UST Archinet and UE Civil Engineering); its non-government organizations partners (PMPI, PHILSSA, JJCICSI, FDUP, COM, INAM, MAG, and CTI); and its people's organizations partners (Masagana of Angat, SAMASAIIP, Suburban, Park 7 and Marytown).

Dr. Laura David, TAO Board of Trustees President, welcomed the guests and opened the anniversary program. This was followed by a presentation of TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio who outlined TAO's Sustainable Human Settlements Development Framework. Afterwards, two short video presentations were shown to the guests. The videos featured TAO's shelter assistance projects that were part of post-Ketsana rehabilitation in Rizal province and post-Haiyan rehabilitation in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. Scaled models of shelter units

that were built for these projects were also displayed during the event.

Guests formed into focus groups to discuss and share their feedback about the partnership with TAO-Pilipinas on various projects. The partners were asked for their opinion on TAO's project contributions and the changes that were brought about by TAO's assistance in the communities. They also talked about potentials for future strategic partnerships with TAO.

During the sharing of each group's discussion results, several points were raised about TAO's core competencies as well as the challenges to TAO's work. Dean Ted Inocencio of PUP-CAFA highlighted the continued need to raise design students' social awareness especially in the area of social housing. He also suggested leveling-up TAO's advocacy for socially-aware young professionals to regional activities and to more multi-

disciplinary participation.

Ms. Annie Sollestre of INAM, speaking for the group of NGO partners, emphasized the participatory approach and community orientation of TAO's technical assistance. Their recommendations for TAO's future work includes integration of climate-resiliency in community planning, greater focus on staff wellness and health, and a more defined role for TAO (as a technical resource organization) within the NGO network's advocacy issues.

Each PO partner also gave their feedback. They stressed how TAO's capability building activities contributed to their empowerment and confidence in dealing with LGUs on shelter issues and concerns. They mentioned the useful knowledge about disaster-resilient construction which they gained from TAO trainings and eventually applied in their communities.

Special guest Fr. Jorge Anzorena who has served as a mentor since TAO's founding

15 years ago, gave inspirational remarks for the TAO ladies. Fr. Jorge encouraged them to maintain their passion to help communities as professionals and advised further developing linkages with universities to inculcate these ideals with students. He stressed the connection that TAO makes with people and the confidence and trust it has built with the communities.

"More than the money is the passion to do something for the poor. Trust, if we are doing the right thing, something will come." Fr. Jorge told TAO staff and partners.

Prof. Lody Padilla of UP-CSWCD pointed out the technical nature of TAO's assistance as its strength and its need for competent NGO partners especially in community organizing. As an external evaluator for some of TAO's projects, she also stressed the need for TAO to improve its project monitoring and evaluation system.

Architect Faith Varona, TAO Board of Trustees Secretary summed up the partners' feedback and recommendations. Speaking for the organization, she acknowledged that TAO-Pilipinas cannot work alone and needs its partners; she also recognized the changes that TAO-Pilipinas needs to make so that technical assistance can be responsive to the new challenges that have emerged after 15 years.

Avic Ilagan, TAO Board of Trustees Treasurer, closed the program by thanking all who joined TAO's anniversary celebration. As lunch was served, guests were given umbrellas and notebooks as simple tokens of appreciation. (GRM)



TAO staff with partners from the academe, NGOs, and POs as well as consultants from various projects pose for the group photo during the anniversary celebration of TAO.

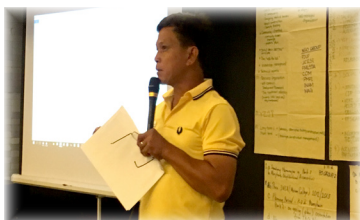
TAO AT 15



Community representatives are being assisted by Verna Lucia Sarraga, Human Settlements and Environment Deputy Program Director, during the focus group discussion for PO partners.



Academe representatives are being assisted by Angelus Maria Sales, Young Professionals Deputy Program Director, during the focus group discussion for academe partners.



Bong Villanueva, president of SAMASISIP, present their group's answer for the focus group discussion.



TAO Advisory Board, Fr. Eduardo Jorge Anzorena, share his latest travels visiting urban poor communities in Southeast Asia and Africa with Faith Varona.



Fr. Eduardo Jorge Anzorena, longtime mentor to TAO ladies, reacts to the presentation of TAO partners during their focus group discussion.



TAO Board of Trustees Treasurer, Avic Ilagan, gives the closing remark.



TAO Board of Trustees President, Laura David gives the opening remark for the anniversary celebration.



TAO Executive Director, Arlene Lusterio, presents the Sustainable Human Settlements Development Framework.



Representatives of NGO partners share their inputs in a focus group discussion.



Arlene Lusterio shows the 3d scaled models of some of the projects done by TAO-Pilipinas to project partners.



From left to right: Lolita Capariño and Diane Antipuesto of Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association; Marivic Padilla, Angelus Sales, and Verna Sarraga of TAO-Pilipinas; Jacqueline Espillo of SAMASISIP; TAO volunteer, Audrey Esteban; TAO Board of Trustees Secretary, Faith Varona.

Fr. Jorge Anzorena returns... (From page 1)



The lecture was held at the Medicine Auditorium to be able to accommodate all sections of first year and second year architecture students as well as other year levels who are interested to listen.

Professionals Lecture series in 2007.

TAO - Pilipinas coordinated with UST Archinet to invite Fr. Jorge in their lecture event entitled "Interlace: Approaches to Solving Social Housing Problems." It was held in the Medicine Auditorium of the St. Martin de Porres Building. The auditorium was filled with mostly freshmen and sophomore architecture students. The lecture

event started with opening remarks given by Arch. John Joseph Fernandez, the former Dean of the College of Architecture. It was then followed by a brief introduction about Fr. Eduardo Jorge Anzorena.

Fr. Jorge's lecture focused on young technical professionals doing community development work. He shared his recent travel to Thailand where he met with Kon Jai Baan (KJB)

Studio, a group of community architects based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He discussed how the group helped in the regeneration of the Mae Kha-Lamkuwai Canal by involving the communities around the canal. The group facilitated collaborative design projects with the communities to help them solve issues related to housing, community culture, environment, and cultural heritage.

Aside from Fr. Jorge, two UST architecture students, Shalena Mae Caasi and Verl Arvin dela Cruz, also gave a brief presentation about their internship experience at TAO-Pilipinas. The two students gave a brief background on the projects they worked on and shared the work output that they produced while doing their internship. They also shared the valuable lessons that

they learned during their two-month stint at TAO-Pilipinas.

The presentations were followed by an open forum where the UST students asked questions mostly about Fr. Jorge's lecture. They asked how traditions and culture were prioritized in housing developments and how community projects and non-profit organizations like TAO-Pilipinas get funding support. Fr. Jorge advised the audience that challenges and funding limitations should not deter them from working directly with communities in need.

Overall, the lecture event was a success in providing UST students with a venue to learn more about the role of architects in community development work. (AMPS)



The officers of UST Archinet with their guest speakers (from left to right in the front row) Shalena Mae Caasi, Verl Arvin dela Cruz, Fr. Eduardo Jorge Anzorena, and Arch. Angelus Sales.

Workshop series to craft Salcedo LSP continued

THE THIRD LEG OF THE local shelter planning (LSP) workshops for Salcedo, Eastern Samar was carried out from August 31 to September 2, 2016 at the Morante Function Hall in Barangay 13. This continued on the consultations that were conducted in June and July in the same venue and facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas. (See YP E-newsletter June-August 2016 issue.) Ninety-eight participated in the third workshop series including municipal officers, barangay officials representing the 41 barangays of Salcedo, and civil society representatives.

The third workshop originally sought to lay out an implementation plan to carry out shelter interventions within the 9-year timeframe of the Local Shelter Plan. However, information needed to make a detailed implementation plan was still incomplete. Data gaps include an updated socio-economic profile that identifies the income groups in Salcedo and an inventory of available potential lands for resettlement sites. The workshop instead presented the initial analyses of available shelter data to determine target households and to program the LGU's shelter assistance for the next nine years. Among those presented by consultants were the projected shelter need and land requirement of Salcedo and the results of GPS mapping of infrastructure and utilities in Salcedo. Appropriate housing approaches for Salcedo were discussed, as well as recommendations for infrastructure

improvements to support shelter development.

In order to fill in some of the data gaps for planning, the barangay officials present during the workshop were asked to identify available lands within their barangays that could be potential resettlement sites. Using the parcel maps provided by the Municipal Assessor's Office, an initial listing of about 50 lots throughout the municipality was made. These lots would be overlaid on hazard and risk maps to determine their site suitability as residential areas.

Participants also reviewed the shelter strategies they proposed during the second LSP workshop last July. These strategies were prioritized according to a set of criteria that they also formulated. The six criterion that became basis for prioritization included the following, (1) addresses urgent shelter needs; (2) extensive positive effect benefitting all sectors; (3) financially viable and implementable; (4) sustainable or without negative impact on the environment; (5) acceptable to communities and transparent; and (6) integrated with MLGU and BLGU plans. The participants, divided into focus groups, assessed each of the proposed strategies and applied a scoring method based on the criteria to prioritize strategies that should be included in the local shelter plan.

Towards the end of the workshop, the participants were oriented on the survey

that will be conducted in all the 41 barangays to obtain baseline socio-economic data. The survey, using a questionnaire form and targeting a sampling size of 10% of the barangay household population, will be carried out by the Municipal Planning and Development Office. The results of the survey will be used to make the affordability analysis for housing and to recommend appropriate housing financing options for Salcedo.

Before the three-day workshop was concluded, the Municipality of Salcedo presented TAO-Pilipinas with a Certificate of Appreciation for the technical assistance being

provided in crafting the Local Shelter Plan of Salcedo. TAO-Pilipinas Executive Director Arlene Lusterio received the plaque from Sanggunian Bayan member Charles Cabus and Matarinao Barangay Chairperson Albino Garcia.

The workshop facilitators will work with a smaller technical working group to draft the work and financial plan for the 2017-2025 LSP, using the results of the consultation-workshop series conducted from June to September. A final consultation-workshop is scheduled to be held in October to present the draft LSP for validation. (GRM)



Barangay representatives rank the strategies that they mentioned during the second workshop by giving scores for each strategy based on the criteria that the group agreed upon.



Certificate of appreciation presented to TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio by MENRO Danny Duran, MSWDO Pastora Daganio, Municipal Engineer Gil Apilado, MPDO Coordinator Isabel Abella, ABC Romualdo Estor, Matarinao Barangay Chairperson Albino Garcia, and SB member Charles Cabus.

Project to stabilize Masagana soil begins; UP TFA leads volunteers pool



L.Arch Vic Dul-loog (left) and L.Arch Cathe Nadal (middle) studying the site development plan of Masagana Angat Resettlement Site with Arch. Verna Sarraga (right).

THE INITIAL STEPS FOR THE soil stabilization project for the Masagana Angat resettlement site have started last August. TAO-Pilipinas sought the assistance of UP Task Force Arki (UP TFA) in carrying out the project. Initial meetings were set last August

to discuss the parameters of the project. Arch. Verna Sarraga, Deputy Program Director of the Human Settlements and Environment Program, is the lead project coordinator for this project. With the help of UP Task Force Arki, TAO was able to meet

with landscape architects Cathe Desiree Nadal and Vic Dul-loog to assist with the soil stabilization project.

On August 14, 2016, UP TFA represented by Jan Kamilla de Leon and Jo Lyle Guerrero together with L.Arch Cathe Desiree Nadal and L.Arch Vic Dul-loog went to Angat resettlement site to check the slope conditions. They were accompanied by Arch. Verna Sarraga, Arch. Angelus Sales, and Arch. Faith Varona from TAO-Pilipinas. The visiting technical team went around the site and inspected the soil condition of the site. They were toured around by the community leaders of Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association led by Juana Cavalida.

After the site visit, recommendations were given by L.Arch Dul-loog and L.Arch Nadal

on how to stabilize the soil in the resettlement site. L. Arch Dul-loog suggested to stabilize the banks first with used tires before planting anything. The landscape architects also recommended to use native plants already found in the area such as bamboo. They also suggested to create swales to improve the drainage in the site.

The soil stabilization project is funded through the grant received from Western Union as part of their "Chain of Betters" promotion. The aim of the project is to arrest the ongoing soil erosion experienced in the area by planting Vetiver grass and other soil-stabilizing plants. In connection with this project, an on-going campaign drive to collect used car tires is being circulated around social media by TAO-Pilipinas. For those interested to donate old or used car tires, please contact Juana Cavalida at 09984593433 or email: info@tao-pilipinas.org. (AMPS)

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

TAO attends CTI's workshop on Project Monitoring and Reporting System

A TWO-DAY PROJECT Monitoring and Reporting System (PMRS) Workshop was conducted on August 24-25, 2016 by The Consulting Team, Inc. (CTI). The workshop was participated by nine MISEREOR partner organizations (MPOs) namely, TAO-Pilipinas, Urban Poor Associates (UPA), Alternatibong Kalusugan sa Pamayanan (AKAP), BALAY Rehabilitation Center, Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD), Integrative Medicine for Alternative Healthcare Systems (INAM), KAISAHAN, Medical Action Group, Inc. (MAG),

and Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID). The workshop aimed to guide MPOs establish, if not improve, their own PMRS tools. Three TAO-Pilipinas staff attended the workshop namely, Michelle Abon, Cecille Del Rosario, and Engr. Ma. Lorena Hernandez.

At the start of the workshop, the participants were asked to write the questions that they think should be answered during the course of the workshop. Some were concerned on how to measure indicators of change

that are non-quantifiable in nature and how to go on with monitoring if the beneficiaries are uncooperative.

The plenary sessions that followed encouraged MPOs to share past experiences and learnings. A common predicament among the MPOs is the non-inclusion of monitoring activities in the project budget and the perception that monitoring activities are a burden. CTI's Ricardo Armonia emphasized that monitoring should be considered from the planning stage of a project.

A proposed framework for setting-up or assessing a PMRS was also introduced. The tool highlights the establishment of baseline data and clear indicators for each project objective. Using the PMRS tool, four MPOs presented their projects while the other four MPOs shared their

thoughts on how the tool may be used by their organizations.

On the second day of the workshop, a sample monitoring tool using data matrices was presented by CTI. The MPOs were urged to come up with their own monitoring tool that can cater to the demands of their respective projects. At the end of the workshop, the MPOs shared their plans relative to project monitoring. Most plan to enhance their monitoring system with the help of the tools introduced by CTI while some intend to develop a simple monitoring tool that can be used at all levels of work.

Since some questions on PMRS during the first day of the workshop were left unanswered, a follow-up PMRS workshop was scheduled to be conducted on September 28, 2016. (MLPH)

TAO helps critique proposed community kitchen design for St. Martha Estate

LAST AUGUST 05, UST Archinet invited TAO-Pilipinas to critique the community kitchen design presented by architecture students of University of Tokyo. The Department of Architecture of University of Tokyo collaborated with UST College of Architecture to help St. Martha Estate build a community kitchen. St. Martha Estate is a resettlement site in Bocaue, Bulacan. The construction of the community kitchen is supported by Kamal Freda, a non-profit group that taught urban gardening to the community of St. Martha Estate.

TAO-Pilipinas was represented by Arch. Faith Varona and Arch. Angelus Maria Sales during the critiquing session moderated by Arch. Rizalito Mercado of UST College of Architecture. The Department of Architecture of University of Tokyo was led by Assistant Professor Ko Nakamura with Yuki Takamura as his teaching assistant. Four groups presented different design proposals for the community of St. Martha Estate. Two of the four groups focused on the community kitchen design while one group presented their design proposal for house extensions and another group presented their proposal to recycle tarpaulins for gardening.

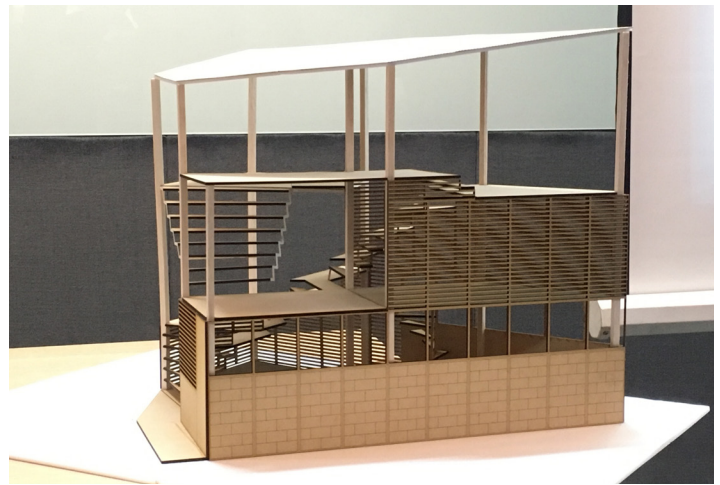
The St. Martha community in Bocaue is composed of 3,500 families

with each family averaging five to twelve members. The architecture students from the class of Professor Nakamura and members of UST Archinet worked together to come up with the community kitchen designs. The Phase 1 of the project began last April 2016 where the students visited the site and talked with community members.

Phase 2 of the project began last August wherein the University of Tokyo students returned to the Philippines to present their design proposals to the community. Before they presented their output to the community, UST Archinet held a critiquing session with TAO-Pilipinas and other architecture students from UST. Each group made a 3d scaled model to show their design proposal for the community kitchen and the house extension.

The first group designed the community kitchen with a food cart as the focal point of the design. In their design proposal, the community kitchen will serve as a parking facility for their food cart when it is not going around the community selling food. The other group, on the other hand, made use of public space to promote interaction in the community kitchen. The design of their community kitchen made use of tents to extend the dining area into the streets.

Both groups made their community kitchen to be



3d scaled models of the proposed community kitchen made by University of Tokyo architecture students. The model above was made by the first group which houses a food cart inside while the model below is from the second group which made use of masonry blocks as building material.

multi-functional with spaces allocated for children and adults alike. Both groups' designs also had multi-level areas; one group proposed to use louvers while the other proposed using masonry blocks. Another common design characteristic of both design proposals was the openness of the plan and the fluidity of the spaces.

Overall, the design proposals for the community kitchen of St. Martha Estate are aesthetically pleasing. The recommendation of the guest panel is to take into account fire safety regulations as well as ensuring that spaces are also safe for children to play in. They also pointed out that

their structure should be able to withstand strong typhoons and must have provisions for solid waste management.

The session was very valuable for both the University of Tokyo and UST students. For the part of the University of Tokyo students, they were able to get important feedback to improve their designs and inputs on how to effectively present their design concepts to the community. For the UST students, they were able to learn from the design process that University of Tokyo articulated in their presentation and they saw how the various design considerations were translated into physical form. (AMPS)

TAO joins FE project consortium



Mr. Dick Balderrama of PHILSSA facilitates the project consortium meeting.

TAO-PILIPINAS TAKES PART in a consortium of NGOs to implement a project for the capacity-building of civil society organizations (CSOs) on disaster preparedness and response. The project, entitled "Urban Disaster Preparedness,

Response and Resilience in Greater Manila Region", is supported by the Financial Enablers (FE) fund of START Network led by Oxfam GB. The project proposes to develop an integrated framework, strategies and coordination

mechanisms among CSOs and with other stakeholders for an effective urban disaster preparedness and response. Project demonstration areas are selected communities in Baseco, Manila; Taytay, Rizal; Tandang Sora, Quezon City; and Valenzuela.

The consortium is led by Alternative Planning Initiatives (Alterplan), with Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) as consortium secretariat. Other NGOs joining the consortium are Community Organizers Multi-versity (COM), Foundation for Development Alternatives (FDA), Foundation for the Development of the

Urban Poor (FDUP), Health Alternatives for Total Human Development Institute (HealthDev), Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS), Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya (SIKAT), and Urban Poor Associates (UPA).

A project inception meeting was held on August 4, 2015 at the Hive Conference Place with all ten consortium members in attendance. Each member shared their experiences on disaster risk reduction and management before initial project implementation planning was conducted. The project will run for about one year until December 2017. (GRM)

TAO in learning session with PMPI partners

THE PHILIPPINE MISEREOR Partnership Inc. (PMPI) conducted a National Learning Session on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR) on September 15-16, 2016 at Robbinsdale Hotel in Quezon City. The learning session closes the PMPI partnership building program for 2013-2015 wherein CC-DRR is one of its thematic concerns along with Sustainable Agriculture, Anti-mining campaign, and Peace and Human Rights.

PMPI invited partners working on the CC-DRR theme for a two-day conference to learn from project implementation experiences on the ground and look at more effective communication and coordination mechanisms. TAO-Pilipinas, along with about 15 other organizations

from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao attended the conference.

Day one of the conference had the participants discuss their organizations' efforts and expertise in different aspects of CC-DRR, including capacity-building, humanitarian response, collaboration with LGUs, and rehabilitation work. PMPI also presented what has been done under the 2013-2015 Partnership Plan. These included national conferences, cluster study sessions, circulation of IEC materials, development of a CC-DRR framework, establishment of a Quick Relief Fund, organizing of the Disaster Quick Response Teams, development of coordination protocols, and relief and rehabilitation response activities.



PMPI partners during the learning session on climate change and disaster risk reduction

Day two of the conference was supposed to be allotted for a study session with a resource person from the Office of Civil Defense who unfortunately was unable to attend. The participants, however, still discussed the Sendai Framework on DRR for 2015-2030 and the Sunset Review for RA 10121 (DRRM Act). This was followed by a presentation of the 5th PMPI General Assembly

Resolution on CC-DRR which outlined the commitments made and advocacies pushed for by the general assembly. The conference ended with a workshop wherein participants discussed and recommended cluster activities that adapt the Sendai Framework's priority actions. (GRM)

Shalena Mae Caasi is a 5th year architecture student from University of Santo Tomas. Sha worked as a TAO intern from June to July 2016 as part of her OJT subject. During her internship, she did construction monitoring for Masagana Angat Resettlement Project together with two of her fellow UST batchmates who also did their internship at TAO. She also assisted the TAO technical team in the documentation of the local shelter plan workshop and subdivision planning and house design workshop in Salcedo.



One of the tasks assigned to Sha is construction monitoring of the core house construction in Masagana Angat Resettlement Site. In this picture, she is taking measurements of the footing excavation to check if it is according to plan.



Part of the documentation work that Sha did for the subdivision planning and house design workshop in Salcedo, Eastern Samar is to draw the floor plan of the 3d scaled models done by the workshop participants.

"WHY DID YOU TAKE UP architecture? Why do you want to be an architect?" Questions people bring up to an architecture student every single time. From freshmen year to senior year, the answer varies all the time. This may be affected by the love-hate relationship with architecture. Motivation goes up but sometimes goes down, because of stress and sleepless nights. We sometimes forget our motivation why we took up this profession in the first place.

In my fourth year as an architecture student, we were asked to have an internship and we were free to choose where we want to have our first job experience. For me, I wanted an experience that could make my love for architecture grow deeper. I wanted to be in a firm or organization that has deeper purpose with

their works rather than a usual business-minded one. And that's when I found about TAO-Pilipinas Inc., a nonprofit, non-government organization which technically assist communities in need.

I was captivated by their drive to serve people who are not usually attended to by most of the other architects. Their drive to go to remote places just to educate and assist people to have better shelter and living conditions is what I have not thought of in my four years as a student. Discovering the purpose of this organization, I immediately applied, fortunately got hired and started my young professional experience, right after my fourth academic year ended.

I had my internship with them in just two months, but the learning I gained is worth more than a year I had in college. I was not

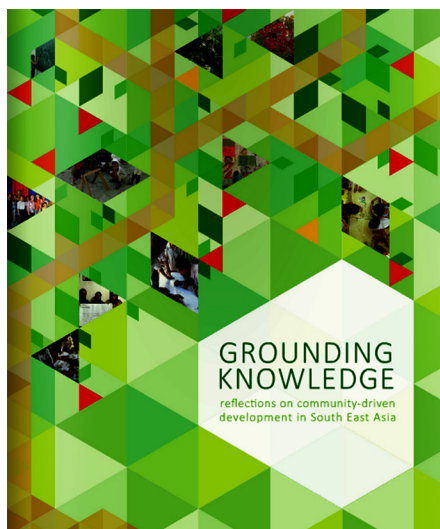
just assigned on computer aided drafting works all-day in front of the computer which was expected in typical firms. I handled tasks that taught me a lot and which widely varied, from model-making, preparation of workshop materials, documentation, site visitations and inspections, computer aided drafting, rendering, and so much more. Even the little details such as arranging miniature cut-out lots made me knowledgeable of standard sizes and of course, taught me to be patient.

It was not only the assigned tasks that taught me a lot, but also the interactions with my officemates, mentors, mothers of Masagana, project contractor and his workers, and the people whom the organization serves within the Masagana community and the Salcedo municipality. The whole experience may be

unexpectedly fully loaded with tasks and entailed all-day work, but the people I had interacted with, made it lighter and meaningful.

This experience made my love for architecture grow deeper. I suggest that this internship is a great preparation for young professionals, as they must establish genuine passion for their profession. This unforgettable experience will be carried with me until I pursue my goal to be an architect and an environmental planner someday. I hope to be able to reach out and improve peoples' lives, and advance the notion of architecture as a significant profession in making the world better.

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: Grounding Knowledge: reflections on community-driven development in South East Asia

Authors: Johanna Brugman, et.al.

Publishers: DPU, ACHR, CAN (2014)

Grounding Knowledge is a report on the experiences of five interns from an experimental internship program for recent graduates of University College London's Development Planning Unit, in partnership with the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights.

The interns share how each of them approached participatory and community-based planning in four Southeast Asian countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam. The book is divided into those four case studies, but five over-arching themes tie their stories together – people mobilization, design, mapping, scaling up, and strategic partnerships. All of these themes are discussed, in different contexts, throughout the book.

Planners and administrators interested in the processes and challenges involved in participatory planning and community building at

grassroots level will find the stories and strategies shared in this book useful. The authors write about the challenges they faced, what worked and what didn't, and how they learned to adapt to different situations, in different settings. This book also deserves the attention of policy-makers and government units, to see how they could be involved in the process, and provide adequate support. All in all, a great and inspiring read. (*Rosanne Marie Aldeguer*)



Title: Baan Mankong at Klong Bang Bua Community Guidebook

Authors: Supreeya Wungpatcharapon and Supitcha Tovivich

Publishers: CODI, CAN, ACHR (2012)

encourages the participation of the community in processes that lead to the upgrading of their housing with Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI), the main project implementer, and other individuals, institutions, and private organizations.

The community guidebook is an informative tool that delves into the case of the five communities along the Bang Bua Canal, focusing on community plans for improvement and the role and participation of the community members. Moreover, the guidebook provides useful information on how the Baan Mankong is being implemented. This is relevant not only for communities that are also interested in starting their own community upgrading project but also for the local

authorities who may want to consider the feasibility of such a project in the Philippine setting. The book stresses the need for each community to have a strong organization and to establish networks with other communities before going through with the process.

Although the community upgrading project was a long process, it became a model of successful on-site upgrading where stakeholders were very much involved in the process. The communities along the Bang Bua canal had to prove through public hearings that their existence along the canal would not hinder the development of the city of Bangkok. In the end, the project showed that the community can offer solutions to their own housing problems. (*MLPH*)

Klong Bang Bua or the Bang Bua Canal runs 13 kilometers through 12 communities, five of which are under the Baan Mankong Community Upgrading Project. Baan Mankong, meaning “secure housing”, was initiated by the Thailand government in response to the housing situation in the country. The project



CALL FOR DONATIONS

**THE MASAGANA OF ANGAT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
NEEDS USED TIRES FOR SOIL STABILIZATION.
IF YOU WISH TO DONATE, PLEASE CONTACT NANAY JUANING:**

0998 4593433/ (02) 441-0998



Used Tires Needed for Soil Stabilization Project

THE MASAGANA OF ANGAT HOMEOWNERS Association is need of old or used car tires for their soil stabilization project. The banks of the creek in their resettlement site are getting heavily eroded and technical professionals have recommended to use old car tires instead of sandbags to strengthen the banks.

If you have old or used car tires just waiting to be disposed, please bring them at 27A Matiyaga St. Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City. Or if you are residing near Bulacan, please call Juana Cavalida at 09984593433 and coordinate with her for directions to the resettlement site.

Donations for annual TAO Christmas gift-giving

THE BER MONTHS ARE HERE AND THAT MEANS CHRISTMAS IS NEAR. TAO-Pilipinas is once again calling on individuals and/or organizations who want to donate for the annual Christmas gift-giving activity of TAO-Pilipinas. You can either donate cash or give material donations such as school supplies, children's clothes, shoes, or toys.

You can drop your donation at **27A Matiyaga St. Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City**. For cash donations, please deposit to the following account:

BPI Current Account
Account Name: TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.
Account Number: 4431-0074-31

For further questions about the annual Christmas gift-giving activity, you can call 441-0998 or email info@tao-pilipinas.org.