

# YPenewsletter



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TAO architects Verna Sarraga and Arlene Lusterio discuss the subdivision schemes made by housing beneficiaries from Barangay Cagaut in Salcedo, Eastern Samar. (Photo by: Lorena Hernandez)

## TAO conducts Local Shelter Planning Workshops in Salcedo

WITH FUNDING SUPPORT FROM CHRISTIAN AID, TAO-Pilipinas has been tasked to help the local government of Salcedo in drafting their local shelter plan (LSP) for 2017-2025. A series of local shelter planning workshops, divided into three parts, was thus scheduled from June to August of 2016. These workshop series are organized in collaboration with the Municipal Planning and Development Office of Salcedo.

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## TAO takes in five interns

IN THE EARLY HALF OF 2016, THE YOUNG Professionals Program accepted five interns who worked in TAO-Pilipinas over the course of four months. These interns are all architecture students going into the final year of their college education. For most of them, the internship work form part of their academic requirement to complete the B.S. Architecture degree.

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“Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.”

- Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani education activist and 2014 Nobel laureate



## TAO conducts planning workshop...

(From page 1)



The participants are divided into five groups for the different focus group discussions held during the local shelter planning workshop in Salcedo.

### LSP Workshop 1

The first LSP workshop was held on June 22-24 with the following objectives: 1) update and validate database gathered for shelter planning; 2) determine the hazard and risk profile of Salcedo; and 3) establish the current shelter situation and identify core shelter concerns of Salcedo. The workshop was held at the Morante Function Hall in Salcedo, Eastern Samar.

Sixty-seven participants attended LSP Workshop 1. These comprised of representatives from selected municipal offices, Sanggunian Bayan representatives, barangay chairpersons and secretaries from 20 barangays, and representatives from civil society organizations in Salcedo. Of Salcedo's 41 barangays, 22 barangays are considered critical areas for shelter planning by the MPDO and were the ones invited to the first planning workshops. These barangays that were represented in the first workshop were Barangays 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, Abejao, Balud, Buabua, Butig, Caga-ut, Camanga, Carapdapan, Iberan, Lusod, Malbog, Matarinao, Palanas, and San Roque.

LSP Workshop 1 started with presentations about local shelter planning and a general overview of the municipality of Salcedo. The first presentation was given by Arch. Geraldine Matabang who introduced local shelter planning, including the planning process, structure, expected output, timeframe, and sequence of activities to be carried out to draft the plan. This was followed by the presentation of Ms. Isabel Abella, Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) Coordinator. Ms. Abella presented an overview about the municipality, a review of the existing comprehensive land use plan of Salcedo, and the shelter planning data that they have gathered.

On the second day of the workshop, a presentation on sustainable and disaster-resilient settlements planning and design was given by Arch. Verna Sarraga. She oriented the participants on sustainability principles, implications of climate change effects on settlements planning and design, and examples of disaster-resilient shelter design. A presentation on the different geohazards in Salcedo was discussed by Arch. Angelus Sales based on a presentation



A group representative points at the settlement locations on the barangay spot map.

made by geologist Raymond Rodolfo who was unable to attend the workshop.

earthquake-induced landslide, liquefaction and tsunami.

Five focus group discussions (FGDs) were carried out during LSP workshop 1. The FGDs were designed sequentially; each set of FGD result builds on and serves as input for the next focus group activity. The participants were divided into five FGD groups.

In FGD 1, the groups reviewed the shelter planning data presented by the MPDO coordinator. They validated the data and provided more accurate and updated information when available. These included population data, number of informal settler households, availability of basic infrastructure and quality of housing stock. In FGD 2, the groups reviewed and validated information from the geohazard maps of Salcedo. They looked at their susceptibility to flooding, rain-induced landslide, storm surge, ground shaking,

In FGD 3, the groups were able to identify ten core shelter concerns that included land for housing; house design and construction; basic services; community facilities; access to social services; community organization; disaster preparedness; human resources for shelter; livelihood opportunities; and housing financing. Each group was then tasked to focus on two core shelter concerns and provide development indicators for each.

In FGD 4, the groups assessed the existing shelter situation in Salcedo based on the shelter data they have gathered in FGD 1. Comparing these with the development indicators they formulated in FGD 3, the groups then identified the shelter development gaps under each core shelter concern. In FGD 5, the groups further

**Pls. turn to page 3.**



A group representative presents the output of their SWOT analysis and commented on by the other groups and TAO facilitators.

## TAO conducts planning workshop... (From page 2)

assessed the root causes and implications of the identified shelter development gaps in Salcedo.

At the end of LSP Workshop 1, the participants were able to carry out the first two steps in the local shelter planning process – data gathering and the assessment of the current local shelter situation and problems.

### LSP Workshop 2

One month after the conduct of LSP Workshop 1, the same participants were reconvened to continue the local shelter planning process. On July 20-22, the second leg of the LSP Workshops was again held at the Morante Function Hall. The objectives of LSP Workshop 2 were 1) to study housing typologies and housing financing options; 2) formulate shelter goals and objectives to guide shelter development in Salcedo; and 3) identify interventions to bridge shelter development gaps.

The MPDO representative first gave updates on shelter planning data being gathered in the other barangays of Salcedo. This was followed by a presentation of infrastructure consultant, Arch. Eden Sorupia. She tackled the standards and

considerations for basic services and infrastructure provision, including road and transport networks, drainage, potable and non-potable water, wastewater and sewage, solid waste, and power supply. Municipal Engineer Gilzosito Apilado then gave a report on the state of municipal infrastructure and utilities in Salcedo.

The workshop participants were grouped into the same focus groups as in LSP Workshop 1 to conduct a SWOT (strength-weakness-opportunity-threat) analysis of shelter development in Salcedo. The results of their discussion were presented and these provided ample basis and inputs for the next focus group discussions.

On the second day of LSP Workshop 2, socio-econ planning consultant Arch. Faith Varona gave a presentation on assessing affordability for housing. She emphasized the need to gather barangay socio-econ data to establish the income groups in Salcedo. She also oriented participants on the home financing programs of Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG) and Social Housing Finance Corporation.



*Group photo with the participants of the second local shelter planning workshop together with Mayor Melchor Melgar (seated, at middle of photo)*

National Housing Authority (NHA) Regional Coordinator, Dorcas Secreto, attended the LSP Workshop to give a presentation on NHA's current projects in the region and discussed some updates on the proposed NHA project in Palanas, Salcedo.

Focus group discussions were conducted as a continuation of FGDs already carried out in LSP Workshop 1. From their outputs in FGD 5, the groups identified proposed actions and policies in FGD 6 to address shelter development gaps.

The third day of LSP Workshop 2 was spent on crafting the goals and objectives for the local shelter plan. The five focus groups were regrouped into three clusters in order to formulate three goals for the shelter plan. The three clusters corresponded to 1) core shelter concerns that directly address shelter provision; 2) core shelter concerns that provide structural support to shelter development;

and 3) core shelter concerns that provide non-structural support to shelter development. After the groups worked on the goal statements, this was followed by identifying the objectives under each goal.

The groups presented the goals and objectives that they formulated and during plenary discussion, these were reviewed and rephrased to everyone's agreement. The next step that the groups undertook was the identification of strategies based on the SWOT analysis they did and the results of FGD 6. Due to time constraints, the activity on the prioritization of strategies was not done and this was decided to be accomplished during the next workshop.

At the end of LSP Workshop 2, facilitators reminded the participants of the preparations for the third and last leg of the LSP Workshops. The next workshop is scheduled to be held on August 22-24, 2016. (AMPS, GRM)

## Fondacion de France conducts final monitoring visit to Typhoon Haiyan projects

FONDACION DE FRANCE (FdF) rounded up their post-Haiyan shelter assistance projects in Eastern and Western Visayas through a final monitoring visit with local NGO partners on May 14-16, 2016. FdF's representatives Benjamin Belleguy and Philippe Ryfman, along with TAO-Pilipinas,

visited the communities of PHILDHRAA, Enfants du Mekong (EdM), Iloilo People's Habitat Foundation (IPHF) and Coup de Pouce a Barrido (CDP Barrido).

FdF funded the construction of transitional and permanent houses across Lawaan, Roxas

and Iloilo. The projects were intended to be finished by last year but some of the local partners were allowed to have project extensions. During the final visit, the beneficiary-communities also held a culmination and turn-over ceremony. Simple feasts were thrown to show their gratitude

to FdF's assistance.

Though the projects have ended, FdF expressed the need for a periodic post-project monitoring visits and the formulation of guidelines on proper way to extend the houses to ensure that the structural integrity will not be compromised. TAO-Pilipinas served as the local partner in monitoring the FdF projects. (VLPS)



# TAO facilitates design workshops for Salcedo housing project

A TWO-PART DESIGN workshop was held on June 25-27 at the Salcedo Municipal Hall to generate the subdivision plans and house designs for housing projects in barangays Caga-ut and Matarinao in Salcedo, Eastern Samar. The technical assistance is part of the Christian Aid-supported project that will provide permanent shelter units to 23 beneficiaries from Barangay Caga-ut, and create a subdivision plan for Barangay Matarinao housing beneficiaries.

The first part of the design workshop involved proposing subdivision layouts for the two housing sites. The second part involved creating house design schemes for the Barangay Caga-ut housing project. Participants of the design workshop were the 23 beneficiaries of the Caga-ut housing project and 6 beneficiaries of the Matarinao housing project.

## Lectures

The design workshop began with lecture presentations by TAO-Pilipinas architects and engineers that oriented the participants on sustainable and disaster-resilient design concepts and examples. Geohazards

maps and assessment of the municipality of Salcedo was also presented as important considerations to settlements planning and design.

Disaster-resilient house construction principles and the use of alternative materials and technologies were also discussed to build the participants' knowledge. They were introduced to micro-concrete roof (MCR) tiles as an alternative to conventional GI sheet roofing.

The final inputs to the series of lectures were about the planning and design standards for social housing projects as stipulated in Batas Pambansa 220.

## Site Planning Activities

Following the lectures to orient the participants, they were divided into groups for the subdivision planning exercises. Three groups from Caga-ut and one group from Matarinao were given site planning toolkits to plan their ideal subdivision layout, considering BP 220 standards and requirements.

Each group used a scaled drawing of the site (as base lot plan) and scaled cut-outs as representation of subdivision



Representatives from Brgy. Caga-ut present the output of their house design workshop by showing the 3d scaled model that their group made.

elements, including roads, trees, individual lot areas, community facilities, etc. Although their output was not perfect, their proposed subdivision layouts satisfactorily considered BP220 provisions.

The groups from Caga-ut presented three different layouts of the same site. While they all chose 100 square meter lots for individual lot allocation, they had varied layouts for the road networks and locations for recreational facilities. Since the site was considerably big for the 23 families, all groups allocated spaces for future development by the municipality and barangay.

The last group presented the subdivision layout for Sitio Malobago in Matarinao. They also preferred 100 square meter individual lot allocation which were laid out in six blocks.

## House Design Activities

On the third and last day of the design workshop, only the beneficiaries from Caga-ut underwent the house design exercise. The same groups were tasked to propose a typical house design by creating a scaled model. Each group was given a set of guide questions to draw out their design preferences and a set of 3-dimensional house design toolkit to build a scaled model of their proposed house design.

All the groups used a 10m x 10m lot as their base lot area. Group 1 produced a 5m x 5m single-detached house with 1.5m x 6m extension; group 2 created a 5m x 6m single-detached house with 1.5m x 2m extension; group 3 designed a 5m x 5m single-detached house with 1m x 2m kitchen extension. All designs had hip roofs; groups 1 and 3 preferred to use micro-concrete roof tiles while group 2 used GI sheet roofing.

After the TAO facilitators discussed each scheme's features, its cost implications, and compliance to BP220 requirements, the groups unanimously voted for group 3's work as the preferred design scheme. The workshop facilitators also noted that the building footprint needed to be adjusted to maintain the required lot setbacks. The use of MCR tiles may be considered if funds permit.

After the design workshop, it was resolved that the next step will be for TAO to translate the workshop results into finalized technical drawings. These drawings will be presented to the beneficiaries for validation.

The mayor of Salcedo, Atty. Melchor Mergal, gave the closing remarks to end the workshop. Afterwards, group pictures were taken with the participants, TAO facilitators and the municipal mayor. (Verl Arvin dela Cruz)



Community representatives from Sitio Malobago in Brgy. Matarinao plan their resettlement site during the subdivision planning workshop.

## TAO takes in 5 interns... (From page 1)

The interns came in batches with two students working from April to May while the other three worked from June to July. The students from the first batch were Junia Mei Moises from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) and Dessica Marie Salvador from Technological Institute of the Philippines Quezon City (TIP-QC). The second batch of students all came from University of Santo Tomas (UST) and applied to the internship program as part of their 200 hours on-the-job training requirement for the summer. They were Verl Arvin dela Cruz, Shalena Mae Caasi, and Benedict John Simbulan.

The interns were assigned various tasks ranging from manual and computer drafting, making 3d scaled models, to doing construction monitoring. Ms. Moises and Ms. Salvador were involved more in office work while the three students from UST did more fieldwork in Angat, Bulacan for the monitoring of the Masagana core house construction.

Dessica is a returning

intern who had her OJT stint with TAO last year. A talented scaled model-maker, Dessica assisted the staff in coming up with technical drawings for various projects and completed the 3d scaled model of the Homonhon permanent shelter prototype. On the other hand, Junia assisted in the completion of workshop documentation reports and in the preparation of visual tools for capability-building workshops on estate management. Junia was also involved in preparing the barangay maps for local shelter planning workshops to be conducted in Salcedo, Eastern Samar by June.

Aside from regular monitoring of the construction work in Angat, the two UST students, Verl and Shalena, accomplished various tasks for the Salcedo project. They joined the TAO staff for 8 days in Eastern Samar to serve as documenters for back-to-back workshops. They completed the workshop documentation reports for the first leg of the Salcedo local shelter planning workshop and the subdivision planning and house design workshop for



*The 3d scaled model of the Homonhon Shelter Project made by Dessica Marie Salvador during her internship with TAO.*

the Salcedo housing projects. Verl and Shalena likewise helped prepare the workshop tools needed to facilitate the participatory design workshops.

Benedict, meanwhile, started his internship late. Since July, he has been assigned to join the monitoring team in Angat. He is also currently working on the 3d scaled model of the Homonhon evacuation center design. Benedict also helped out Shalena in preparing the Caga-ut shelter design presentation boards used in a validation workshop.

This batch of interns was fortunate that TAO has been involved in a variety of projects this year. They had the opportunity to experience the different spectrum of architectural practice, from the preparation of technical drawings to the actual construction of houses. A number of them gained exposure to participatory design processes when working with the communities that TAO-Pilipinas assists.

As a culminating activity of the interns, each is

asked to present their internship outputs and their reflection on their internship experience. Last July 28, Verl and Shalena shared with the TAO staff a summary presentation of their work outputs and the lessons they gained from their two-month internship at TAO-Pilipinas. For TAO-Pilipinas, the interns' stint was very productive and they contributed significantly in helping deliver technical assistance to project partners.

TAO-Pilipinas is still accepting applicants for its internship program. Interns are expected to work for a minimum of two months. Interested applicants should email [yp@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:yp@tao-pilipinas.org) for inquiries. (AMPS)



*Interns Junia Mei Moises and Verl Arvin dela Cruz inspect the excavations made in the on-going house construction in Masagana in Angat, Bulacan.*



*Interns Verl Arvin dela Cruz and Shalena Mae Caasi observe the MCR production of TAO in Guiuan, Eastern Samar.*



## 2016 YP Interns in Action



*Shalena Mae Caasi and Verl Arvin dela Cruz record the size of the excavation as part of their construction monitoring.*



*Verl Arvin dela Cruz and Junia Mei Moises document the meeting with construction workers as Arch. Verna Sarraga gives instructions on the proper setback of the lots.*



*Most of the construction monitoring done by the interns consist of inspecting if the building components are done right and photo documentation of the construction process.*



*Verl Arvin dela Cruz and Shalena Mae Caasi man the registration table during the local shelter planning workshop in Salcedo, Eastern Samar.*



*As part of the TAO technical team, the interns' main task during the local shelter planning workshop in Salcedo is to document the workshop proceedings.*



*The interns also experienced first hand facilitating and guiding the participants during the subdivision planning workshop for Barangays Cagaut and Matarinao in Salcedo.*



*The interns also drafted the floor plans of the 3d scaled models done by the workshop participants during the house design workshop in Salcedo.*



# Masagana begins construction of core house units

**HOUSE CONSTRUCTION** for the Masagana Resettlement Project has already commenced during the latter part of May. Twelve families comprised the first batch of beneficiaries that will be provided with core housing units. They were selected based on their standing as active members of Masagana HOA, the progress of their payment for land mortgage, and their capacity to pay for the housing loan on top of the land mortgage payment.

The complete house planned for Masagana families are two-storey duplex units. However, current available funds can only cover the construction of core house units. This includes the structural framing on the ground floor, a firewall, and

zocalo for the remaining three sides of the house.

The fund for the construction of the core houses is a combination of a grant from SELAVIP and revolving funds from the ACCA loan. The fund covers the cost of materials and labor. Community contracting for labor is employed to complete the first batch of core houses.

Seven of the twelve beneficiaries in the first batch are already in the final stages of construction while construction for the remaining five will immediately follow. Student-interns regularly visit the site twice a week to monitor the progress of construction. (MLPH)



**Top photo:** Columns and firewalls have been constructed for the first batch of beneficiaries.

**Bottom photo:** One house has already constructed the wooden trusses for the roof framing.

## TAO tapped as resource organization for estate management trainings



*Arch. Matabang gives a lecture on common building defects and problems to APOAMF.*

TAO-PILIPINAS SERVED AS a resource organization for Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC)'s capability program for community associations under its High-Density Housing (HDH) Program. TAO provided inputs on building repair and maintenance for the series of community orientations on Estate Management held in June 2016. They joined other resource groups (FDUP, NATCCO, and PUP) that also gave

inputs on the other functionalities of estate management, including management of common areas, safety and security, organizational management, and financial management.

Target beneficiaries of the estate management trainings were community associations in three HDH project sites. The trainings were conducted on June 3 for Bistekville 2 Block 6 / Building

orientations on estate management in July 2016.

Prior to the trainings for SHFC-assisted communities, TAO also helped FDUP in conducting a similar workshop for the community association APOAMF (Alliance of People's Organizations Along Manggahan Floodway)'s low-rise housing project under the National Housing Authority. About 18 community representatives of APOAMF attended orientations about building maintenance on May 18 and about project construction monitoring on May 21, held at the FDUP office.

D Homeowners Association in Barangay Kaligayahan, Quezon City; on June 8 for Corrinai Housing Cooperative in Pasay City; and on June 10 for Goldmine Interior Homeowners Association in Barangay Nagkaisang Nayan, Quezon City.

Architects Geraldine Matabang and Angelus Sales from TAO's Education and Training Program served as speakers on the topic of building maintenance and repair. Architect Matabang talked about common building defects and problems to guide the community associations in undertaking building maintenance and repair works as part of estate management. Architect Sales, on the other hand, explained the role and duties of a building maintenance and repair committee as well as the obligations of individual owners in the upkeep of housing units.

Three more HDH project areas are lined-up to receive community

Architects Matabang and Sales gave inputs on building maintenance as a guide for proper care and management of building structures especially of common spaces. They also facilitated some exercise to teach the participants how to read and understand the building plans of the APOAMF housing project. The second part the workshop gave the community an overview of construction monitoring and evaluation activities. (GRM)



# TAO attends CAN Regional Workshop in Thailand

THE 4TH REGIONAL workshop of the Community Architects Network (CAN) was held at Chumsaeng City of Nakhonsawan Province, Thailand on July 14-21, 2016. It was co-hosted by Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), Community Organization Development Institute (CODI), The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA), Community Architects Network (CAN-Thailand), Phranakhon Rajabhat University, and the local government of Chumsaeng. Eighty four (84) representatives from the network organizations of CAN attended the workshop. TAO-Pilipinas sent Engr. Lorena Hernandez as one of the participants together with three other Philippine representatives from the Philippine Alliance namely Ruby Haddad from Homeless Peoples Federation Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI), Precious Anne Lopez from LinkBuild, Inc., and Carl Earvin Beray from Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI).

The theme of this year's workshop was "Co-Creation" which highlights the participation of stakeholders

throughout the development of their hometown. The workshop started with the sharing of experiences on city development involving participation of stakeholders from Dr. Wijitbusaba Ann Marome from Thammasat University of Thailand, Mr. Stanley Lung from Turenscape, and Mr. Dharnesh Jadeja from Dustudio. The participants were also able to visit two communities before their arrival in Chumsaeng.

The first community was the Bang Bua Community which is also involved in the Baan Mankong Community Upgrading Program that caters to the urban poor of Thailand. The program Baan Mankong, meaning "secure housing" in Thai, was initiated by the government of Thailand and is currently being implemented by CODI. The Bang Bua Community is often cited as a best practice case study for housing because of the success of their on-site development. Another community visited by the participants was the Tambon Thong En of Singhaburi Province. The Tambon Thong En sub-district consists of 15 villages, majority of which is headed by female village leaders. The community showcases a sustainable livelihood wherein



Health group gathering for a meeting before setting out to look for existing and potential sites for green spaces. Photo source: Phonsakong Sonsong

they produce local products for export.

When the participants arrived in Chumsaeng, they were divided into seven groups to tackle specific issues regarding housing and communities, heritage and culture, road network, urban planning and public space, local government and policies, and health. Chumsaeng has been involved with CODI since the 2011 heavy flooding in the area. Representatives from different sectors and organizations in Chumsaeng joined the seven groups of participants on the general discussions about the important things found in Chumsaeng. The group discussion was conducted in order to level-off with the CAN participants about the characteristics of the community and the mindset of the citizens before delving into specific issues in the community. The groups were given three days to determine the issues related to their given topics and to come up with a solution or plans for the said issues. The groups were asked to report at the end of each day about their progress in order to attain a harmonious and inclusive plan for the city. The policy group divided themselves to join other groups to see the possible developments concerning the

policies in the city. The housing groups inquired about the state of the houses in the city while the heritage and culture group searched for institutions and people who might be able to help them with locating the said institutions as heritage sites. On the other hand, the urban planning group surveyed the area for existing open spaces. The road network group discussed with the biking group in the community and the health group discussed with the health volunteers and the group of elders.

During the final presentation, the housing group revealed their house design and site development plans for the community along with the current typology of the houses in the community. The urban planning and open space group and the health group both worked on improving the green spaces around the community but using different approaches. The urban planning and open space provided a plan for the existing open spaces turning it into a green space while the health group mapped the existing green spaces and potential green spaces for organic farming. A lecture on participatory policy making was made by the policy group in order to raise the level of participation and cooperation



CAN workshop participants gather for a reflection session with workshop organizers. Photo source: Giovanna Astolfo



# TAO attends training on Complaints Response Mechanism

CHRISTIAN AID NOMINATED TAO-Pilipinas Inc. and PhilNet-RDI to participate in the training on Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM) organized by Lutheran World Relief (LWR), in partnership with ACT alliance and Alliance of Sphere Advocates of the Philippines (ASAP), on 30 May to 1 June 2016. The 3-day workshop, which was held in Quest Hotel Cebu, aimed to help identify CRM policies and procedures that need to be instituted in organizations and their humanitarian programs. TAO-Pilipinas was represented by Joannie Tongol, the Head of Finance and Administration Unit.

On the first day of the workshop, participants were

briefed by LWR's Technical Advisor on Emergency Capacity Building, Mr. Subhashis Roy, on the concepts, framework and procedure of CRM. The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS), including its structure and its nine commitments and quality criteria, was introduced and discussed. CHS is a direct result of the Joint Standards Initiative (JSI) in which the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) International, People in Aid, and the Sphere Project joined forces to seek greater coherence for users of humanitarian standards. The CRM training focused mainly on the 5th of the nine commitments, that is "communities and people

affected by crisis have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints".

On the second day of the training, participants learned to use information and communication technologies and to integrate monitoring and evaluation in the CRM system. Mr. Angelo Hernan of Plan International presented the use of information technology in supporting feedback mechanisms. Participants had hands-on training on the use of Poimapper Plus, a software used by Plan International, using mobile devices. Poimapper is an application that allows field workers to collect data with mobile phones or tablets (online and offline) and share the information immediately for decision making and monitoring.

Another software that was introduced was Frontline SMS which can be downloaded for free.

It turns a computer and a modem into a central communications hub or SMS gateway that enables users to send and receive text messages with groups of people through mobile phones. Unlike Pointmapper Plus, the latter does not require internet connection and all data lives on the computer, rather than on a server controlled by someone else. In the afternoon, Ms. Aivon D. Guanco of World Vision Development Foundation shared their organization's CRM experience, their practice and lessons learned.

A writeshop and individual presentations were held on the third day of the training. Some participants who have an existing CRM system were asked to present the improved policies and procedures, while for others who have drafted it for the first time, LWR suggested discussing and validating the proposal to the organization (most importantly to their Board of Trustees). (JGT)

# Western Union award to help in soil stabilization of Masagana site

MASAGANA OF ANGAT Homeowners Association was awarded 1,000 USD by Western Union as part of their "Chain of Betters" promotion for the month of February. Acting on behalf of the community, Arch. Verna Sarraga of TAO-Pilipinas submitted an online application to Western Union to provide a more sustainable solution to the soil erosion problems that Masagana is experiencing in their resettlement site in Angat, Bulacan. In Arch. Sarraga's proposal, vetiver grass will be planted on the sloping parts of the site.

Since relocating from a flooded site in Tanza, Navotas to the rich fertilized land in Angat, Bulacan, the community has made efforts to protect their acquired land from erosion caused by an adjacent creek. With donations and

contributions from community members, they were able to collect funds for gabions and for concreting eroding slopes. However even with those in place, intense downpours cause saturation of the clayey soil especially in the higher parts of unprotected slopes.

The proposed planting and cultivation of vetiver grass on the slopes will help stabilize the soil. Vetiver grass has roots that run to a depth of 2 to 4 meters. It grows in different types of soil and can survive through drought, soil saturation, and frost. TAO-Pilipinas plans to work with landscape architecture student-volunteers to create a landscape plan that will incorporate planting vetiver grass on critical slopes. (MLPH)

# TAO's ED is speaker at Green AP lecture series

THE GREENARCHITECTURE Advocacy Philippines, Inc. (GreenAP) featured TAO Executive Director, Architect Arlene Lusterio, in its 2016 lecture series with the theme, "Climate Change: Killing Me Softly". GreenAP holds the monthly lectures at the Wilcon Builders Depot in Libis, Quezon City. Architect Lusterio, the guest speaker for the month of May, presented a lecture entitled "The Utopian Communities: Is There Such?" on May 25, 2016.

Green AP's Lecture Program Director, Architect Freddy Bautista gave the introductory remarks to start the program. Architect Mike Guerrero, Green AP Chairperson, also gave a brief presentation of on-going post-Haiyan shelter projects in Leyte.

Architect Lusterio began her presentation with the effects of climate change and its design implications. She noted that the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions

come from the transport sector and built infrastructure. Green solutions, she emphasized, means low energy consumption and low carbon emissions. She then outlined the measures that can be employed to address the root causes of climate change. These were categorized into measures that reduce exposure, those that reduce vulnerability, mitigating measures, and adaptation measures.

The second part of Architect Lusterio's lecture highlighted utopian concepts of sustainable development and climate change adaptation. She presented architect renditions of eco-cities, floating cities, and low-carbon cities which are mostly works in progress in first-world countries. The lecture concluded that "models of utopian communities exist in parts in different places but not in one city where all the pillars of sustainability are successfully at play". (GRM)



# TAO attends CAN Regional Workshop... (From page 8)

with the local government. The road network group provided short to long term plans regarding the transportation of the city. Lastly, the heritage and culture group exhibited the testimonies of the elders in the

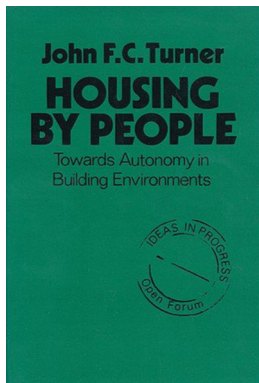
community. They also produced a possible route for tourists. The presentation was attended by the members of the community, the Mayor of Chumsaeng, and heads of ACHR and CODI.

Compared to previous meetings, this CAN workshop is considered the most relaxed. The workshop was also dubbed a success because of commitments by the local government to use the plans shared by the participants. A reflection session with the group of foreign participants, the group of Thai participants, and

the group of the Chumsaeng citizens was conducted at the end of the workshop. The workshop ended with a farewell dinner with the members of the community, a cultural presentation showcasing the talents of the people of Chumsaeng, and a performance by an indie band from Chiang Mai. (MLPH)

## 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](http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library). You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email [lib@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:lib@tao-pilipinas.org) to schedule your visit.



**Title: Housing by People: Towards Autonomy in Building Environments**

**Author: John F.C. Turner**

**Publisher: Marion Boyars Publishing Ltd. (1982)**

*Housing by People* is an essential book for those who are interested in the subject of autonomous housing.

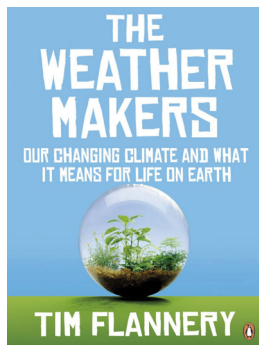
Housing, as a primary problem in most countries, is viewed from an anarchist perspective by John F. C. Turner in this book. Turner is known for his contributions in the field, with his argument of housing being best built and controlled by those who settle in it, rather than being managed by central structures. In the autonomy of built

environments, Turner stated that there is much to learn from the rapidly developing cities of the South America.

In the book, the author pointed out the superficial response of government to housing problems. On the other hand, he emphasized the significance of the people, their insights and potential to convey what is best for them. One of his colleagues, Colin Ward, introduced the book with the statement that "the moment housing becomes defined as a problem, a housing problems industry is born". This book is considered as simply a reaction to the bankruptcy of housing policy in all countries.

The chapters in this book further explains Turner's thesis; the author tackles various issues in every chapter that are vital in planning built environments. He presents his observations of current housing conditions in different locations and offers solutions based on his studies and first-hand experience with people such as the Peruvian community. In the later sections, Turner discusses housing principles, practices, and programs to undertake. These are explored and presented in detail to serve as an essential guide for future implementation.

The book is a must-read, not only for those who are interested in participatory community design and planning but for all planners, who should always consider the people in decision-making processes. (Shalena Mae Caasi)



**Title: The Weather Makers**

**Author: Tim Flannery**

**Publisher: Penguin Books Limited (2007)**

Tim Flannery is an internationally acclaimed scientist, conservationist, and is one of Australia's

leading writers on climate change. He has the seemingly effortless way of presenting complex ideas and making them accessible to people. This is true for his book, "The Weather Makers", where he talks about climate change as one of the most challenging collective actions the world has to face. The book captures the readers' imagination through its details, arguments, research, and insights not only into the history, science, and politics of

climate change, but also the environmental behavior of humanity which can lead to Mother Earth's catastrophe. Every chapter ends up describing how we can make simple changes in our lifestyle to reduce our impact on the planet.

The book starts with the history of climate change. It explains how a variety of geohistorical techniques have independently demonstrated the many epochal climate variations of the earth's past can be explained by variations in the amount greenhouse gases then present in the atmosphere. The plot then proceeds to Flannery's analysis of how global climate change is affecting millions of people. In one of these analyses he also interestingly discusses drought and genocidal conflict in

Africa due to farmers who are not culturally distinct.

I particularly like his discussion about sea temperature which affects coral reefs. Instead of saying that life in the sea will be doomed when these reefs die, he offers some hope that a few species will survive and be able to multiply. After 22 chapters of evidence demonstrating that global warming is a real threat, the final third of the book discusses about solutions. He did not talk about what an individual can do, but talked about his analysis of the international and government actions required to slow and eventually reverse climate change.

Flannery is passionate about educating us about global warming. With this book he showed that we humans have the environmental behavior as the tool to be "weather makers" to preserve or destroy earth. (Cate Jessie Ann Yleña)



# Job Openings for Research and Publications Program Staff

## Program Staff for Research and Documentation

### Duties and Responsibilities:

The incumbent shall be responsible for TAO projects baseline data establishment. Specifically:

1. Collect and establish the baseline data of TAO community partners.
2. Undertake data collation and documentation for new community partners.
3. Undertake project site visits and conduct consultations with partner communities to gather baseline data before TAO project intervention.
4. Prepare periodic documentation reports of on-going projects for publication in TAO Shelter Magazine.
5. Coordinate with RP staff assigned to publications and project coordinators for project documentations.
6. Maintain the physical setup of TAO Resource Center including filing and cataloguing of books, magazines, publications and other unpublished documents.
7. Perform other tasks relevant to TAO-Pilipinas which may be assigned by other Program Directors and the Executive Director.

### Qualifications:

1. Preferably a graduate of Communication or Development Research, Planning, or Human Settlements with knowledge of basic research methodologies, participatory data gathering techniques, and human settlements related issues.
2. At least 2 years experience in a private, academic, or non-government research institution working on sustainable human settlements and development (SHSD)- and housing and urban development (HUD)-related issues. Extensive experience in technical report writing and project documentation work. Experiences in community-based participatory (physical) planning and design processes and community exposure are highly desirable.
3. Fluency in Filipino and English languages is required. Fluency in another Filipino dialect is highly desirable.

## Program Staff for Publications

### Duties and Responsibilities:

The incumbent shall be responsible for the compilation of TAO project documentations and coordination of publication of the same through the TAO Shelter Magazine. Specifically:

1. Set-up a systematic digital bank of TAO projects, publications, unpublished reports, and documents.
2. Undertake data collation and preparation of project abstracts/ project summary for the following past and on-going projects:
  - Initiating Self-Help Retrofitting and Small Infrastructures Development with Technical Capability-building towards the Development of Community Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Plan (CA-Infra 2011)
  - Construction Monitoring for Fondation de France Solidarité Philippines 2013 - Haiyan Post-Reconstruction in Panay, Leyte, and Samar (Project Code 1405).
  - Sustainable Shelter Assistance for Manicani Island, Guianan (Project Code 1409)
  - Masagana Community and Resettlement Project (2006- present)
  - Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA) Project (2010 – present)
  - The Bahai (Bridging Access to Affordable Housing Assistance and Innovations) Project (2015)
3. Review previous TAO Shelter Magazine issues and propose a content outline for the next issues.
4. Collate project documentations for inclusion in TAO Shelter Magazine and invite or solicit relevant article contributions from TAO staff or outside contributors.
5. Coordinate with TAO Shelter Editor, layout artist and printer for the finalization and printing of publication.
6. Maintain, update and expand subscriptions and feedback to TAO Shelter Magazine and TAO-Pilipinas Website.
7. Perform other tasks relevant to TAO-Pilipinas which may be assigned by other Program Directors and the Executive Director.

### Qualifications:

1. University degree in Communication or Development Research, Planning, or Human Settlements or experience of equivalent nature.
2. At least 2 years experience in a private, academic, or non-government research institution and research work on issues pertaining to SHSD and HUD. Extensive experience in conduct of research and documentation work. Knowledge and experience in community-based participatory processes including (physical) planning and design is highly desirable.
3. Fluency in Filipino and English languages is required. Fluency in another Filipino dialect is highly desirable.

To learn the full details of the job vacancies, please download the terms of reference at [www.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.tao-pilipinas.org). All applicants interested for the abovementioned positions should read the TOR first before applying and follow all given instructions when submitting the following documents: 1) Application Letter including preferred salary; 2) Curriculum Vitae; 3) Two (2) recommendation letters from former employers or professors. Email the requirements to [tao\\_phil@yahoo.com](mailto:tao_phil@yahoo.com) or fax it to (632) 4410998.