



TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.

**YP**  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
eNEWSLETTER  
AUGUST - OCTOBER 2017

A 3d scaled model of Homonhon Island made by TAO-Pilipinas is part of the exhibit held during the culminating activity of Project Pagbangon. (Photo by: Lorena Hernandez)

## ACTIVITIES MARK CONCLUSION OF PROJECT PAGBANGON

PHILIPPINE MISEREOR PARTNERSHIPS, Inc. (PMPI) led a two-part culminating activity to mark the end of the three-year run of Project Pagbangon. Project Pagbangon is a multi-sectoral rehabilitation effort for the survivors of super typhoon Haiyan covering the aspects of shelter and evacuation center, health, water and renewable energy, coastal resource management, communication, and land resource and sustainable agriculture. Present during the three-day activity were the six other NGOs who were part of the project consortium, namely Technical Assistance Organization (TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.), Medical Action Group (MAG), Integrative Medicine for Alternative Healthcare System Philippines (INAM), Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT), Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya, Inc. (SIKAT), and Peace and Conflict Journalism Network (PECOJON).

### *Barangay Culmination Activities*

The representatives of the seven NGOs were first gathered and oriented by PMPI in their Guiuan office last September 12 to prepare for the barangay culmination activities. Prior to this, twelve teams of 3 to 4 members from the consortium were formed and each NGO was asked to assign their staff to any of the barangays in Manicani or Homonhon Island. The teams were tasked to facilitate the first part of the culminating activity which was to happen simultaneously in the barangays on September 13.

The activity venues were prepared by PMPI's community organizers and youth volunteers were also present in each barangay. Scaled models of the two islands were prepared and assembled by TAO-Pilipinas. The models, created from layers of chip board and topped with a cork sheet, showed the island topography and

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## Five YPs Complete Summer Internship at TAO

LAST JULY 21ST, FIVE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YPs) – ELAIZA Ann Taguse, Kristine Culaba, Niña Macaranas, Herculhes Ebol, and Christian Erolid Enriquez – concluded their month-long summer internship at TAO-Pilipinas with the YP Summer Internship Culminating Activity, held at the TAO Office in Quezon City. This event was attended by TAO staff and UST professors - Arch. Rizalito Mercado and Arch. Carlo Fundador Marudo.

The YP Internship is an extension of the YP Workshop on Social Housing, and is a venue for immersion into human settlements development practice, and for shaping socially responsible young professionals. This year, our interns worked on various projects that allowed them to hone their skills, and to experience working with urban poor communities.



**Maria Elaiza Ann Taguse** (5th Year, BS Architecture, Technological Institute of the Philippines)

Elaiza became an intern in May 2017, even before participating in the May 2017 YP Workshop. She applied for the internship in order to see how architects work with communities. During her internship, she prepared YP Workshop materials, facilitated the design workshop for the Masagana Community-Based Resource Center, and prepared the as-built plans of the Manicani Island Shelter Assistance Project. Inspired by her experience in TAO, Elaiza is now working towards

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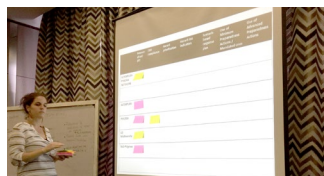
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### YP REFLECTIONS



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## Activities mark... *(continued from page 1)*



Part of the culminating activity in Brgy. Banaag is to mark the location of the project areas where partners of Project Pagbangon implemented their project.

featured place markers for the different Project Pagbangon programs/projects implemented in the barangays. Workshop materials were distributed while some partners also brought giveaways like fans and vitamins for the participants.

The reception in the different barangay activities were varied; in some barangays, it was not as warm and lively as in the others. Some were only able to gather 10 participants for the program while others had nearly 80 participants. The length of the program also differed since some barangays were able to prepare cultural presentations or have longer reflection sessions.

In the main part of the program, a member of each of the sectors that participated was asked to deliver their reflection regarding the impact of the implemented project in their lives, their families, and to the whole community. The participants included farmers, fisherfolks, vulnerable groups, Community Health Workers (CHW), Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management (CBDRRM), Evacuation Center Committee (ECC), shelter beneficiaries, Renewable Energy (RE) Club, Radio Operators, and livelihood beneficiaries.

TAO-Pilipinas' permanent shelter beneficiaries were especially vocal about their

happiness in being part of the project. They said that because of the permanent shelters, they can now sleep safely and peacefully. They also expressed their willingness to accommodate their neighbors in times of disasters.

The complementation of the different sectors' projects was also evident during the reflection of those who have been part of more than one project. An example is the shelter beneficiaries who integrated their acquired knowledge in sustainable agriculture for their backyard gardening. Another case was of the fishermen who not only have stabilized and increased their catch because of the artificial corals project of SIKAT, but also have their own radio where they can contact the coast guards or other radio operators in times of distress. The radio system was established by another network partner, PECOJON.

After giving their reflections, each representative was asked to pin the placemark (that locates implemented projects) on the scaled model. Food for 100 people were prepared by the community in each barangay to share and enjoy. Overall, the first part of the culminating activity was a success for all barangays.

### Guiuan Town Plaza Exhibit

While the first part of the culminating activity in the barangays was underway, the



TAO-Pilipinas set up an exhibit booth showcasing the shelter and evacuation center projects done in Manicani and Homonhon Islands for Project Pagbangon.

staff of each NGO who were left in the mainland started to prepare their respective exhibit stalls. A stall was assigned for each NGO to exhibit their projects and participation in Project Pagbangon. One stall was also allotted for the community members of Manicani and Homonhon Island to display their own products like soap, handbags, and hats, among others. Unfortunately, due to heavy downpour and strong winds, some partners had to halt their preparation for the day. Upon the return of the teams on September 14, the preparation was finally completed.

INAM made an improvised room for their ventosa, massage, and acupuncture services while beside them, MAG played the short videos they produced about the interventions that Terre des Hommes-Germany and its partner NGOs implemented for Haiyan survivors. PMPI also distributed solar flashlights to exhibit visitors. The alternative building materials used in the shelter and evacuation center construction was displayed by TAO-Pilipinas along with the scaled model of Manicani and Homonhon shelter units. SIKAT opened an interactive booth that includes a face-in-the-hole board and a film showing. However, the main attraction for the whole exhibit remained to be the scaled model of the two islands. Everyone who visited highly praised and appreciated the model. The exhibit was opened from September 14 until

the last day of the culmination activity, September 15.

### Final Culmination Activity

The final part of the culmination activity started with a prayer followed by the national anthem. Mr. Philip Aranas who represented Mayor Sheen Gonzales recounted how PMPI and its partners engaged the citizens of Guiuan right after Haiyan struck. He admitted that looking back now, people can easily laugh at the thought, but that their situation then was not a laughing matter. With the celebrities that PECOJON invited over, he said, the weight of the devastation was somehow lifted from the residents. In behalf of the Mayor, he expressed his gratitude for the help that Project Pagbangon brought to the municipality.

Following Mr. Aranas' address, PMPI's National Coordinator Yolanda Esguerra presented the context of the activity and the Project Pagbangon report. Ms. Esguerra mentioned that she cannot describe her feelings about ending the 3-year run of Project Pagbangon and that the community members instead will probably have more insight on the project. She narrated that PMPI and its partners chose to help the two small islands of Manicani and Homonhon since support was already pouring in the mainland. Furthermore, the mandate of the network had always been to make the poorest of the poor their priority. Upon seeing the state of the islands though, they realized that

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## Activities mark... *(continued from page 2)*

relief goods will be insufficient, so a Post-Disaster Needs and Capacities Assessment (PDNCA) was conducted. From the PDNCA report, the network was set in motion and with the support of Misereor, Project Pagbangon was born. Ms. Esguerra said that had the communities rejected their help, Project Pagbangon would not have stayed for as long as it lasted. She thanked the partners of the project especially the community members who participated in various trainings and programs. The achievements of the different sectoral projects were listed and their sustainability were affirmed by the community.

The farmers group representative, Ms. Catalina Badocdoc, reported that due to Project Pagbangon, farmers from both islands are now aware of sustainable agriculture and land research management. They are now able to sell their organic products to their neighbors. Mr. Marcial Somook, more popularly known

as “Mano Gaing”, said that the coastal cleanups effectively helped increase their catch. He also pointed out that SIKAT distributed fishing tools.

For the vulnerable groups, a youth leader from Homonhon, Ms. Jonalia Badinas said that they were educated by MAG about their rights and obligations as youth. Due to the formation of their group, they are now conducting small projects for the betterment of their community. The CHWs were represented by Ms. Azela Sevilla who said that the trained CHWs can now recognize the signs and symptoms of common diseases. They were also trained by INAM to heal using alternative medicine including the use of herbal medicine, ventosa, and moxibustion, among others. Also, they now have community health gardens where they can grow herbal plants.

Ms. Genevie Saig, as the representative of ECC, followed the affirmations. She said that

their primary task is to clean and maintain the evacuation centers constructed by TAO-Pilipinas. She explained that even with the added work, she sees it as an opportunity to bond with her neighbors and co-committee members. After that, Ms. Rebecca Destajo also shared her reflection as a beneficiary of TAO-Pilipinas’ permanent shelter project. She described how her family used to sleep in raincoats under an umbrella because rainwater dropped from holes in their roof until her permanent shelter was built. Now she says that her family sleeps peacefully because her house is not only permanent but is also located in a low-risk area. She added that the houses helped enhance the beauty of their community since the beneficiaries planted different plants and flowers around their houses.

Mr. Jonar Villamor of the renewable energy sector spoke about the solar home systems. He said that they now fully understand the advantages of using renewable energy. He feels safer since they can now rely on solar powered lights during nighttime. The barangay chairwoman of Brgy. Bitaugan, Homonhon Island, Ms. Eugeline Badar, represented the radio operators. She stressed that the training about radio communications were most helpful to her especially since she can use it to communicate to the MDRMO or to get updates and announcements.

Lastly, Ms. Wevina Gaytos spoke about the livelihood projects of PMPI. She expressed that the store that PMPI established for the communities helped them earn a little income while having something to devote their time to. Also, since the store offers the products at affordable prices, they can use the money that they save for their children’s education.

All representatives emphasized that through countless trainings, they are now able to stand in a stage in front

of people to share their gained knowledge and experiences. They also expressed their deep gratitude to the network for giving them once-in-a-lifetime chances and the opportunities.

The presentation of the scaled models of Manicani and Homonhon Islands followed. Since the models were partitioned according to the barangay boundaries, each barangay was held by a representative and combined on the stage as a symbol of solidarity, while an oath to sustain the project was being read by community members. The model and the placemarks were also explained to the audience by Arch. Arlene Lusterio. The Immaculate Conception Dance Troupe performed a cultural presentation to end the morning program.

The afternoon program resumed with a cultural presentation from Manicani Island community representatives. A message from PMPI Eastern Visayas Cluster and from Misereor-Germany was read by Atty. Kiko Pacencia and Ms. Candy Hidalgo respectively. Consecutively, Cong. Tamtam Sison delivered his speech before he was awarded a plaque to commemorate the official turn-over ceremony of Project Pagbangon as a representative of the local government unit. After that, Ms. Catherine Gapate, a TAO-Pilipinas staff, gave a rendition of the song, You Raise Me Up. This was followed by Mr. Shen Maglinte’s closing remarks. To end the program, a mass was celebrated at the church of Guiuan.

Even though Project Pagbangon has officially ended, the engagement of some partners will continue. PMPI will monitor the projects for a year. (MLPH)



Ms. Rebecca Destajo shared her reflections and experiences as one of the shelter project beneficiaries of Project Pagbangon in Manicani Island.



The 3d scaled model of Manicani Island is presented during the final culminating activity held in the town plaza of Guiuan.



# TAO holds back-to-back workshops for Project Pagbangon



Workshop participants discuss what they remembered and learned from the previous workshops during the first focus group discussion of the shelter extension workshop.

A TEAM OF TAO-PILIPINAS STAFF headed to Guiuan, Eastern Samar last August to facilitate two consecutive workshops with Project Pagbangon beneficiaries of Homonhon and Manicani Islands. The first one, a shelter extension workshop, was held on August 7 at St. John the Baptist Church in Barangay Casuguran, Homonhon Island; while the second one, an evacuation center workshop, was held on August 9 at Banago Beach Resort in Barangay Sulangan. The workshops are continuations of the shelter and evacuation center component of Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc.'s (PMPI) Project Pagbangon, a post-disaster initiative in response to the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda. TAO-Pilipinas has undertaken the design and construction of permanent shelters and community

evacuation centers for the islands of Homonhon and Manicani in Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

## Workshop 1: Homonhon shelter unit extension

With the Homonhon Sustainable Shelter Project nearing its completion, a one-day shelter extension workshop was carried out in Barangay Casuguran, one of the project areas, in preparation for the anticipated expansion works by beneficiaries of permanent shelters in Homonhon Island. Lecture inputs and capability-building activities, provided the homeowners with guidelines on the proper use, extension, and maintenance of the permanent shelters while taking into consideration the various building components and typologies.

Out of the 78 household beneficiaries from the 8 barangays in Homonhon Island (Bitaugan, Cagusuan, Canawayon, Casurguran, Culasi, Habag, Inapulangan, and Pagbabangnan), a total of 59 participants were able to attend the workshop. For the participatory exercises, the participants were divided into six groups based on the typology of their shelter units: two groups for low-risk single-detached, two groups for high-risk single-detached, one group for low-risk duplex, and one group for high-risk duplex.

### Review of basic concepts in disaster resilient shelters

The first part of the workshop was allotted to the review of disaster-resilient concepts in house design and construction. The groups engaged in a focus group discussion (FGD) that gauged what the participants have learned regarding the topic throughout the duration of the project. They recalled lessons from the previous participatory house design workshop that was conducted in April 2015 ([See YP E-newsletter April-May 2015 issue](#)).

During the output presentation, the groups noted that they learned about the various characteristics of a disaster-resilient shelter, such as: the use of quatro aguas (hip) for the roof and CHB for the walls, the correct proportions in a concrete mix, and the adequate sizes for structural members. They also cited the value of site selection and structural elevation to reduce disaster risk, and how adept workmanship and proper handling of materials contribute to disaster resilience.

Arch. Angelus Sales then delivered the first lecture input which provided a recap on the basic principles in disaster-resilient design and construction. She reaffirmed that disaster resilience does not entail invulnerable shelters; rather, it means that a shelter only sustains minor damage during disasters and can still be repaired afterward. Arch. Sales then discussed the considerations for shelter design and construction, such as: location of the building, site preparation, building shape, foundation type, floor design, columns and beams, walls, doors and windows, and roof design and framing.

### Memorandum of agreement

After the first lecture input, a discussion on the memorandum of agreement between PMPI and the beneficiaries was carried out, with PMPI Project Pagbangon Coordinator Ms. Melody Asia providing a recap of the terms and conditions. Arch. Verna Sarraga and Ms. Deceril Di Santo, TAO Guiuan Staff for Finance and Procurement, handed out an inventory of construction materials in which the beneficiaries marked the items they received. Arch. Sarraga and Ms. Di Santo noted that they would cross-reference the inventory with the transmittals recorded.

The discussion allowed the beneficiaries to air their grievances throughout the duration of the project. Issues and concerns that were raised regarding the construction phase of the project included the claiming and handling of materials, inconsistencies between data logged in the inventory versus spoken claims of some beneficiaries,

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Ms. Melody Asia of PMPI discusses the beneficiary selection process and the terms and conditions agreed upon by both PMPI and the shelter beneficiaries.

## TAO holds back-to-back... *(continued from page 4)*

and issues with some of the contractors. The participants also asked if there was budget left for their shelter extensions, to which Arch. Sarraga replied that the beneficiaries would have to shoulder their own costs as counterpart. She added that they could use salvaged materials from their dismantled old houses to construct the extensions.

### *House extension design workshop*

A model-making exercise for the shelter extension followed the forum. Each group was provided with a toolkit containing materials and equipment that included a 100-square-meter lot scaled at 1:30 meters and a collapsible scaled model for the core house. The participants were tasked to assemble three-dimensional scaled models of their respective building typology and add their preferred house extension scheme. A corresponding set of guide questions were also answered by the groups for another FGD session regarding their design scheme.

During the presentation of FGD results and 3D scaled models, all the groups agreed that there is a need to extend their houses so they can comfortably accommodate several members of their households. Most of the beneficiaries plan to begin construction once they have sufficient resources while a few had already started the expansion works. Representatives per group explained their FGD answers and 3D scaled models, which featured various added spaces like a terrace, bedroom, dirty kitchen, dining room, and toilet and bathroom. Two groups

with high-risk shelters (single-detached and duplex) elevated their extensions similar to the core house. The other high-risk single-detached group chose to build their extension on grade, noting that they would raise the floor level via filling or adding layers of concrete hollow blocks (CHB).

### *Technical guidelines on shelter use, extension, and maintenance*

The model-making exercise was followed by the lecture input on technical guidelines in house extension, delivered by Engr. Lorena Hernandez. She laid out the aspects of a shelter that should be taken into account before working on the extensions, namely: structural feasibility, availability of adequate space for expansion, and suitability of the type of extension. The speaker then provided examples of extension layout schemes. She noted that the Homonhon shelter units located in high-risk areas were elevated for a reason, and added that it would be preferable to elevate the extensions similarly. Furthermore, Engr. Hernandez stressed that the extension should not compromise the structural integrity of the shelter. If the participants were uncertain about the structural configuration of their planned expansion, she advised that they just follow the original structural plan of the house.

Arch. Sarraga presented the final lecture input on guidelines in the use, maintenance, and repair of the shelter units. Using Project Pagbangon shelters as examples, she asked the participants to identify errors in the construction of houses. She also showed examples of how the Manicani beneficiaries



*Workshop participants make 3d scaled models of their proposed shelter extension.*



*Workshop participants pose for a group photo with their 3d scaled models.*

extended their shelter units. Arch. Sarraga then discussed the specific guidelines for various components of the Homonhon shelter, such as: wood flooring and framing, CHB, galvanized (GI) sheet roofing, and septic tank.

### *Evaluation*

The concluding FGD evaluated what lessons the participants learned from the workshop and what changes they expected after acquiring the permanent shelters. The participants resolved to take care of their houses and fix any defects immediately, bearing in mind the guidelines imparted in the workshop. They noted that they would be able to save up on repairs with their disaster-resilient shelters. Ultimately, the participants expressed that the houses allowed them to feel safe and secure, especially for their families.

## **Workshop 2: Evacuation center management and maintenance**

Two days after the shelter extension workshop, the TAO team along with PMPI staff made their way south to Barangay Sulangan to facilitate the workshop on the community evacuation centers of Homonhon and Manicani Islands. Participants were composed of Evacuation Center Committee (ECC) members of barangays with Project Pagbangon evacuation centers. Through lecture inputs and participatory activities, the workshop oriented the ECCs on the key concepts and guidelines in formulating the policies on the operation, management, and maintenance of their respective barangay's evacuation center.

A total of 34 ECC members and representatives came from 11 barangays of the small

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## TAO holds back-to-back... *(continued from page 5)*



Participants of the evacuation center management and maintenance workshop are able to see the 3d scaled models of their proposed evacuation center for the first time.

islands: 23 participants from the eight aforementioned barangays of Homonhon Island, and 11 participants from Banaag, Hamorawon, and San Jose of Manicani Island. Buenavista is the only barangay in Manicani without an evacuation center due to the unavailability of a suitable site for the community facility.

### *The Evacuation Center Committees*

Ms. Asia of PMPI gave an introduction on the ECCs per barangay, which comprise of local shelter volunteers of Project Pagbangon, and discussed their contingency plans to be employed before, during, and after disasters. Ms. Asia emphasized the guiding principles of the community evacuation centers – that the facilities are multi-purpose and for everyone regardless of affiliation (e.g., whether anti-mining or pro-mining). She then talked about the ECCs' initial draft of policies for the evacuation center, which would be further examined and developed in the FGDs.

### *Role-playing exercise*

The participants were given an opportunity to bust out their acting chops during the role-playing exercise. They were

divided into three groups to portray three sets of scenarios on operating and maintaining the community evacuation center.

The first group, consisted of participants from Manicani, enacted a scene showing poor use and maintenance of the facility's comfort rooms. This resulted in having the CRs locked to maintain their cleanliness. The group then played out how various members of the community would adjust to the situation.

The second play, which was portrayed by members from Canawayon, Casuguran, Culasi, and Inapulangan, depicted problems in solid waste management of the evacuation center. In the situation, disagreements were shown between the ECC and the barangay captain on how their garbage should be disposed or dealt with.

Lastly, participants from Bitagan, Cagusuan, Habag, and Pagbabangnan played out the accommodation of evacuees. The scenario showed the evacuation center reaching above its maximum capacity during an impending calamity. The group enacted how additional evacuees would be accommodated, with



One of the activities in the evacuation center management and maintenance workshop is to do role-playing of scenarios that happen in evacuation centers.

PWDs and pregnant women as priority.

### *Design of the evacuation center*

After the jovial role-playing exercise, Arch. Sarraga delivered the first lecture input on how the designs for the 11 community evacuation centers in Manicani and Homonhon Islands were developed. Both islands had distinct designs that were developed through participatory workshops (See [YP E-newsletter April-May 2015](#) and [June-July 2015 issues](#)). The presentation discussed the differences between the two schemes in terms of building plan, features, allocation of spaces, and the maximum capacity for accommodating evacuees. Arch. Sarraga also provided layout options for emergency accommodations in the facility, such as partitioning of spaces and possible gender segregation.

### *Guidelines for the use, maintenance, and repair of the facility*

The second lecture input was presented by Arch. Sales. She first established the difference between maintenance and repair before tackling the common defects in buildings for the structural aspect, building envelope, plumbing and electrical systems, building grounds, water seepage, and fire safety. The final part of the lecture discussed the technical guidelines in maintaining

various components and materials of the community evacuation center, such as: CHB, GI sheet roofing, micro-concrete roof (MCR) tiles, concrete roof deck, rainwater harvesting system, and septic tank.

### *Formulation of policies*

Having been equipped with the necessary information and guidelines, the ECCs were divided into 11 groups based on their barangays to draft the policies of their community evacuation centers through focus group discussions. The groups answered a total of 34 guide questions under four categories: (1) use of facility during emergency, (2) use of facility during non-emergency, (3) safety and security, and (4) building utilities, and site maintenance. The ECCs then presented the results of their FGDs.

In the end, the capability-building activities laid the groundwork for the evacuation center policies. Arch. Sales emphasized the need to specify the contents of their output. Additionally, Ms. Asia noted that the results of the workshop would be linked to the account management and contingency plans of the communities' CBDRRM. PMPI, along with community facilitators, would still validate the outputs before having the ECCs finalize the policies of their respective community evacuation centers. (TRJ)

## Five YPs Complete... *(continued from page 1)*



*The 2017 YP Summer Interns with TAO technical staff and UST professors as panel reactors. From left to right: Engr. Lorena Hernandez, Arch. Rizalito Mercado, Niña Macaranas, Herculhes Ebol, L.Arch Rosanne Aldeguer, Arch. Angelus Sales, Theresse Julia, Elaiza Taguse, Arch. Verna Sarraga, Kristine Culaba, Christian Erol Enriquez, and Arch. Carlo Fundador Marudo.*

completion of her thesis on regeneration of a condemned urban poor neighborhood in Taguig, entitled "BAGONG TAYOG CONDOMINIUM: A Study on Urban Regeneration of the Fort Bonifacio Tenement through Themed Neighborhood."



**Kristine Culaba** (4th Year, B.S. Architecture, University of Sto. Tomas)

Kristine was a participant of the May 2017 YP Workshop, who came to intern at TAO in order to have a change of setting. She wanted to explore a community-centered and socially-responsive architectural practice, and experience a very hands-on and immersive internship. During her internship, Kristine researched on techniques and tools for teaching

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management to kids. She also helped create the scaled models of Manicani and Homonhon Islands for Project Pagbangon, designed construction signboards for Project Pagbangon evacuation centers, and helped prepare as-built plans of houses constructed in Brgy. Buenavista and Brgy. Hamorawon, Manicani Island. Because of her internship, Kristine has acquired a deeper interest in community architecture. She now plans to join similar workshops, and is contemplating taking up a Master's in Community Development.

**Niña Macaranas** (4th Year, B.S. Architecture, University of Sto. Tomas)

Niña was not a participant of the May 2017 YP Workshop, but learned about TAO-Pilipinas from friends. Niña was involved in the

Masagana of Angat Resettlement Project and the design of their Community-Based Resource Center. She also researched on municipal waste recycling projects or programs in Salcedo, Eastern Samar, and worked on several aspects of Project Pagbangon – the Manicani post-occupancy assessment and evaluation, the Manicani and Homonhon Islands scaled models, and the Homonhon Evacuation Center construction drawings. She says her experience with TAO has "opened her to exploring non-conventional construction techniques and to exploring community development, urban planning, and project management as a future profession."

**Herculhes Ebol** (4th Year, B.S. Architecture, University of Sto. Tomas)



Ebol first learned of TAO-Pilipinas at the UST Archinet's and University of Tokyo's design presentation for the design of a community kitchen, which TAO was asked to critique. This encounter led to his participation in the May 2017 YP Workshop and, subsequently, to his internship at TAO. His work revolved mainly around the Masagana of Angat community, where he was tasked



to facilitate a design workshop for their community-based resource center (CBRC). After several design development and validation passes, the Masagana of Angat's CBRC is now under construction. Aside from this, Ebol also had a hand in the creation of the Manicani and Homonhon Island scaled models, under Project Pagbangon.

**Christian Erol Enriquez** (4th Year, B.S. Architecture, University of Sto. Tomas)



Erol also met TAO for the first time at the UST Archinet and University of Tokyo's design presentation. This piqued his interest about the organization, which prompted him to join the May 2017 YP Workshop. During his internship, Erol assisted in the documentation of the YP Workshop proceedings, and wrote a feature article for the YP e-Newsletter. He also partnered with Ebol in the design development of Masagana of Angat's CBRC, and created a construction manual for the residents. Erol was also involved in the design of Project Pagbangon's scaled models. (RMBA)

## Financial Enablers Project Nears Completion

AS THE FINANCIAL ENABLERS Project (FEP) nears its project ending, several activities were implemented over the past three months. The original project ending of July 2017 was extended until September 2017. The past three months saw a flurry of activities for the project partners in the consortium. Monthly meetings continued with the project management team and among the technical

resource group (TRG) members to discuss final assignments as well as end-of-project activities to showcase project outputs.

### *Community validation and planning workshops*

TAO-Pilipinas continued to extend the needed technical support for area-based partners requesting assistance. Arch. Angelus Sales provided lecture

inputs on disaster-resilient communities and preparing for "The Big One" during the community validation and planning of three community associations in Valenzuela City. This was organized by Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) with the support of Valenzuela People's Organization Network (ValPONet) on August 23 and 24, 2017. The workshop

participants were community leaders from Bagong Sibol Homeowners Association, Villa San Jose Homeowners Association (both from Brgy. Mapulang Lupa), and Del Rosario Compound Neighborhood Association (from Brgy. Coloong) and was held at the ALERT Center of Valenzuela City DRRM Office. Another resource person, Ms. Rosemarie Johnson-Herrera, from HealthDev Institute gave inputs about rapid health

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## Financial Enablers... *(continued from page 7)*

hazard and evacuation sites assessment and talked about assessment tool and response menu for health during disaster situations.

At the end of the two-day workshop, each community association identified priority projects that would focus on shelter and health. All three community associations proposed to have a rainwater catchment installed in their community. Additionally, Del Rosario Compound Neighborhood Association proposed hand rails for their concrete walkway, urban garden, and communal toilets while Villa San Jose Homeowners Association proposed to plant vetiver grass to address their soil erosion problems.

Another community validation and planning workshop was attended by Arch. Sales and architect-in-training Ms. Therese Julia for the communities under the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul in Brgy. Tandang Sora. This was organized by Foundation for Development Alternatives (FDA) and was held in the function hall of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul on August 25, 2017. Lecture inputs given by TAO technical staff were about basic concepts on disaster risk reduction and management, climate change and its implications to human settlements, and what to expect

when “The Big One” happens. The workshop was attended by barangay officials and purok leaders, pastoral council members from Santuario, and basic ecclesial community (BEC) leaders. Other resource persons invited in the workshop was Ms. Johnson-Herrera of HealthDev Institute, Kagawad Virgilio Singew, Brgy. Tandang Sora Peace and Order Committee Chairman, and TJ Talusan, Administrative Staff of Brgy. Tandang Sora. Ms. Johnson-Herrera talked about the same lecture topics that she discussed in the Valenzuela workshop while Kgd. Singew gave a brief introduction about Brgy. Tandang Sora. Mr. Talusan, on the other hand, discussed the DRRM programs of Brgy. Tandang Sora as well as a brief introduction on RA10121 or the Philippine Disaster Reduction Management Act of 2010.

During the one-day workshop, Fr. Roland Tuazon, parish priest of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul, presented the newly installed DRRM ministry to the barangay council. The workshop was also able to identify vulnerabilities and capacities of Brgy. Tandang Sora from the perspective of barangay officials and community church leaders.

### *Project evaluation and assessment*

Aside from the workshops, TAO also participated in the different evaluation and reflection sessions conducted for the FEP. Oxfam conducted a peer evaluation session on August 29, 2017 at the conference room of John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCICSI). In this session, project partners reflected on their learnings based on guide questions given by Oxfam. Evaluators who facilitated the session were Mr. Tom Smith of Oxfam and Ms. Maita Palo of Bohol Consortium for Humanitarian Assistance. Most of the feedback from the



*Ms. Maricel Genzola of FDUP presents the reflection of FDUP during the evaluation workshop with JJCICSI.*

project partners were positive as all of them agreed that the project met their expectations. It was also an insightful activity for the consortium since this was the first time that project partners got valuable feedback from one another regarding lessons learned from the project.

Another assessment meeting was attended by TAO-Pilipinas but this time organized by one of the project partners, Sentro para sa Ikakaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya (SIKAT). The objectives of the assessment were to assess data tools, methodologies, processes, and management; evaluate coordination hub performance and stakeholders' engagements with the project targets; and document lessons from the field and recommendations. The assessment took a whole day to finish and was facilitated by Mr. Chito Dugan, Executive Director of SIKAT. In this reflection session, area-based partners looked back on the data collection process that included the household survey, ocular visits, and hazards mapping workshops. They highlighted good practices such as pre-tagging of structures for the household survey and forming a support group for the data managers and recommended a thorough pre-trial of the survey covering data management. This assessment was held on September 26, 2017 at Hive Hotel and was attended by representatives from PHILSSA, FDA, FDUP, and COM.

Another evaluation was held with the rest of the project

partners on October 3, 2017 at Max's Restaurant in Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City. This was facilitated by JJCICSI, the external evaluator contracted by the consortium. Ms. Anna Marie Karaos together with Mr. Gerald Nicolas led the evaluation workshop focusing on three main points, namely: stories of change, identifying lessons and innovations, and measuring value for money. All 10 project partners were present and contributed to the reflection session. Notable recommendations were to conduct learning exchanges among area-based partners and to do a chronological mapping of hazards in the communities. Significant stories of change mentioned were a deepening sense of community for the BEC leaders of Tandang Sora, community acceptance on the susceptibility of Lupang Arenda to liquefaction, and an increase in knowledge and capacity for all the community leaders involved in FEP.

As the Financial Enablers Project winds down to its end, most of the area-based partners are in the implementation stage of their planned interventions. DRRM plans for each partner community have been formulated and/or enhanced through the workshops conducted by the area-based partner organizations. There are still a few remaining activities left such as a roundtable discussion to critique the knowledge products made from the project outputs and a culminating activity to present project outputs and lessons learned. (AMPS)



*Fr. Roland Tuazon of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul discusses the proposed organizational structure of the DRRM Committee to barangay officials and purok leaders.*



# TAO-Pilipinas attends ALERT Trial Roll-out and Training



Mr. Vincent Henson of HelpAge presents problems that the ALERT program hopes to solve

ON OCTOBER 5, 2017, TAO Research and Publications program staff, Rosanne Marie Aldeguer, attended the ALERT Trial Roll-out and Training organized by Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) and HelpAge London for members of the ALTERPLAN-

PHILSSA Consortium, at the Hive Hotel in Quezon City. The event was also attended by ALTERPLAN, PHILSSA, COM, and Oxfam Philippines.

According to their website,\* "ALERT is one of the key innovation

projects under the START Network, and is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as part of its Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Programme (DEPP) Portfolio." It is an information management and monitoring tool that follows the principles of good emergency preparedness, and the core humanitarian standards (CHS). Its networking function also facilitates coordination between different organizations.

With training sessions usually lasting up to three days, the one-day rapid training session allowed the trainers from HelpAge to introduce the ALERT

platform, along with its organizational structure, modules, features, and functions. ALTERPLAN-PHILSSA Consortium's account was created, and participants were able to set-up their individual accounts and gain an initial and practical understanding of the platform. However, everyone agreed that there is still much to learn and to decide amongst consortium members in order to make full and optimum use of the tool. Hence, another training session is being targeted in November. (RMBA)

\*ALERT Website: <http://portal.alertpreparedness.org/the-alert-project/>



## If given the chance, how would you address the on-going traffic in Metro Manila?

"There is no single ultimate solution to solve the traffic problem in Metro Manila since it involves different parts of society but it seems to boil down to a simple trait we can all learn to teach to ourselves: discipline."

- ARCH. RONALD BALANE, 33, FACULTY MEMBER OF UP DILIMAN COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

Disclaimer: The views and opinions presented do not necessarily reflect the views of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

"Metro Manila's bad traffic condition is a result of different multi-sectoral projects without proper planning. Lack of LGU coordination on different national agencies, lack of discipline among commuters and car owners are some of the problems that greatly contributed in the chaotic traffic system of the metro. Given a chance, I would want to approach the problem holistically. Decentralizing Metro Manila by establishing different CBDs on its nearby provinces which could be accessed through centralized mass transit systems like buses or trains. Regulation on the acquisitions of private cars could only be effective if the mass transit system is already working efficiently."

- CHRISTIAN EROLD ENRIQUEZ, 21, 5TH YEAR UST ARCHITECTURE STUDENT

"Beyond dealing with the behavior of the stakeholders (drivers and commuters), there is the use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) which is the use of technology in traffic management. This will not only provide real time information to the stakeholders but it will also effectively eliminate corruption in the streets since "negotiations" with traffic

enforcers will be avoided. Another way is to develop and rehabilitate our mass transportation system. In the end, traffic congestion is everyone's problem so cooperation is crucial especially since there are as many causes of traffic congestion as there are ways to alleviate it."

- ENGR. LORENA HERNANDEZ, 24, MASTER'S STUDENT IN CIVIL ENGINEERING MAJOR IN TRANSPORTATION AT UP DILIMAN

## Crossing Boundaries

by Niña Joy T. Macaranas

Niña Joy T. Macaranas is a 5th year architecture student at UST College of Architecture. She finished her OJT placement at TAO-Pilipinas last July 2017 wherein she was able to conduct field visits to Masagana in Angat, Bulacan among other things.



Niña (right) together with her fellow UST intern Erol Enriquez measures the footing excavation made for the housing project of Masagana Angat.

ARCHITECTS DESIGN FOR THINGS TO work. In a society in chaos, maybe now is the time to utilize the architectural skill of designing and making things work in order to make peace out of the chaos. I think this is what TAO-Pilipinas, through their community development projects, had been contributing to society. Through my internship at TAO-Pilipinas, I was able to witness how the organization helps out communities, like in Masagana, Homonhon and Manicani, in order to create a better environment for them. What's also commendable is that TAO-Pilipinas helps without really encouraging the community to be dependent on the organization.

My internship at TAO-Pilipinas taught me to be more meticulous with my work. The projects assigned to me involving CAD works really helped to refresh my graphics and technical skills. A project involving scaled models also helped me to be more patient and careful in working. Every cut must be precise because of time and budget restrictions.

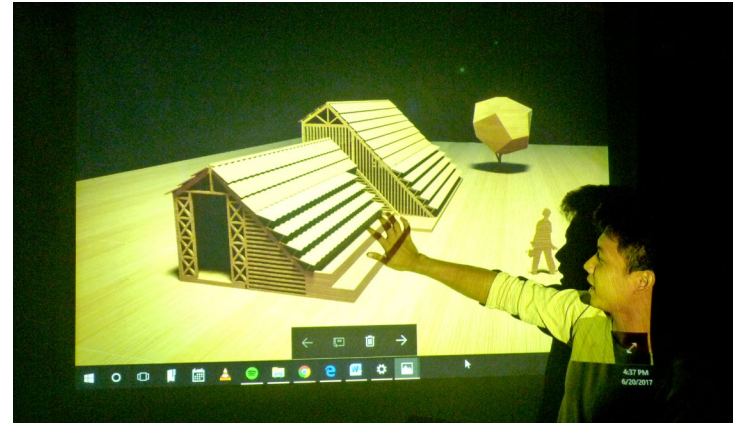
The activity that really caught my interest and made an impact was the field activity. It made me realize that maybe after college I would pursue project management. For me, there's a different feeling of excitement and fulfillment when going to the site than working in the office the whole day.

I believe that my overall experience in TAO-Pilipinas was interesting. The internship inspired me to be involved in projects about community development. I believe that as architects, we design to make society productive and empowered. I think that the tasks given to us during the internship was a balance of office and field works. This is a good thing since we were exposed to both sides of the work. I think that in the future, there can also be a balance of technical, research and design works for the interns. All in all, the internship experience was enjoyable, fulfilling and helpful for my school and future work. (NJTM)

## Serving the "tao ng Pilipinas"

by Herculhes H. Ebol

Herculhes H. Ebol is a 5th year architecture student at UST College of Architecture. He was a participant of the 2017 YP Workshop on Social Housing which was held last May. After the workshop, he also did his OJT with TAO from June to July 2017 where he got involved in projects such as the design of the community based resource center for Masagana in Angat, Bulacan.



Herculhes presents to TAO staff his initial design scheme for the community-based resource center of Masagana Angat.

GRADUATION IS FAST APPROACHING and as a requirement for our degree, we are obliged to render 240 hours for an on-job-training (OJT) program. During those searching moments for firms where I could apply, I always thought of being in an organization that would somehow guide my path as I embark on my journey in the field of architecture.

I learned about TAO-Pilipinas when our professor, Arch. Rizalito Mercado, invited TAO architects Faith and Angel to join us on the design presentation of Japanese masteral students at the UST College of Architecture. At that moment, I had no idea what TAO-Pilipinas is. Little did I know that it will be the organization where I will do my OJT. I really love social design that I promised myself it would be the topic of my thesis. Seeing an opportunity before my eyes, I didn't hesitate to try my luck to be their intern. Fortunately, I was accepted and I couldn't be more relieved.

TAO-Pilipinas was about to have a workshop about DRRM (Disaster Risk Reduction and Management) that was posted all over our building. I didn't let myself miss this chance to be part of something relevant to society, so I applied for a slot in this workshop. This was the first opportunity I had

to meet the people that composed TAO-Pilipinas. For the first few days of the workshop, we had lectures and introductions about DRRM and we were able to meet the leaders of an urban poor community. We also had some participants from different organizations that are involved in the development of this marginalized sector. The workshop became truly engaging for us, young professionals, for we had truly seen and observed the current conditions in urban poor communities that undoubtedly needed assistance. I can honestly say that with the collective effort of everyone, the workshop had been successful in gathering information that will be useful in making DRRM proposals and designs that will contribute to community resilience. With that workshop, my experience with TAO-Pilipinas began.

Fast forward to June 5, 2017, the start of our journey as interns in TAO. At first, we were assigned to different mentors and were given tasks that fit our abilities. In my case, I was supervised by Arch. Verna Sarraga and she made me do some digital visualization of TAO's current projects. This lasted for a week and a half and I was able to produce 4 rendered works. My next task was designing the community-based resource center (CBRC) of

[READ MORE: P11](#)



## A Change of Setting

by Kristine S. Culaba

Kristine S. Culaba is a 5th year architecture student at UST College of Architecture. She was a participant of the 2017 YP Workshop on Social Housing where she experienced facilitating a community consultation workshop. She also did her OJT with TAO from June to July 2017. As an intern, she did numerous tasks including research and making 3d scaled models.



Kristine facilitates a session during the community consultation workshop of the 2017 YP Workshop on Social Housing

IN OUR COLLEGE, ARCHITECTURE HAS always been presented in a corporate sense. Students are educated and trained to become part of the corporate world, to become owners of our very own firms. I find nothing wrong with this orientation. In fact, I fully support such ambitions. However, I've never been satisfied with the idea of a corporate work and life. For me, it was lacking in terms of social responsiveness and community orientation which I believe are very relevant today.

I decided to join the YP Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience to immerse myself in a different environment. The workshop was a perfect venue for exploring community-centered works which requires the application of the skills and knowledge of technical professionals, including architects.

The first two days of the workshop were filled mostly with lectures on social housing, climate change and disaster risk reduction management. The lectures helped deepen my understanding on topics related to the theme of the workshop. Although I missed some lectures during the first day, I was still able to follow through with the seminar because the presentations were included in the manual given to us. The

manual contained, aside from the lectures, guidelines on how to conduct the community workshop properly. The next day, we all went to visit Bistekville 2 and Ernestville where we were oriented about the background of the projects and the issues concerning its residents. We were also given the opportunity to explore the community.

The succeeding days were allocated for the community workshop. We were divided into three groups: kawan 1, kawan 2 and kawan 3; I was assigned to kawan 1. We were adopted by a family from the community for three days and two nights. During our first day in the community, we conducted a transect walk around the area. On the second day, the community consultation was held and we, young professionals, facilitated the activity. The next day was dedicated to the preparation for the presentation and the mural painting. On the last day of the workshop, all groups presented the outputs of their respective community workshop and mural painting to invited panelists.

One of the highlights of the activity was the community workshop in the respective kawans. The tasks for the workshop were equally distributed among the group members, giving each member the chance to

experience working on all tasks. This was the most memorable moment for me in the whole YP workshop because it was during this activity that I started to understand what participatory planning was and what its significant impact was to the involved communities. It also made me realize the importance of providing technical assistance to the urban and rural poor communities.

On June 5, 2017, I returned to TAO-Pilipinas as an intern. I was tasked to assist in the research on Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction Management (CBDRM) for children. Another work I was given was making the scaled model of Homonhon and Manicani islands and doing the as-built layout plans of houses under Project Pagbangon. I was also involved in various field works. One of these was the Masagana of Angat Project where I was able to experience staking of lots and monitoring of construction progress. I also took part in earth bag construction where we assisted in the ongoing construction of the Climate Resiliency Field School dormitories at Gerona, Tarlac. The field works were the most memorable activities for me because these exposed me to the reality of the organization's work. I got to see firsthand how challenging yet rewarding the practice was. I was also able to see more the value of the organization's works. Another reason was because this was the first time I got to work in the actual site. We never really had fieldworks in our college.

Overall, my experience with TAO-Pilipinas sufficed my initial desire to have a change of setting. The activities and tasks given to us were immersive and practical. It has also deepened my understanding and appreciation of community-centered architecture and made me realize its importance in our society today. My experiences also made me realize just how important it is to empower people and how significant the role of professionals is in empowering people. The empowerment of people, for me, is just as significant as the final physical output of any project. (KSC)

## Serving the... [\(continued from page 10\)](#)



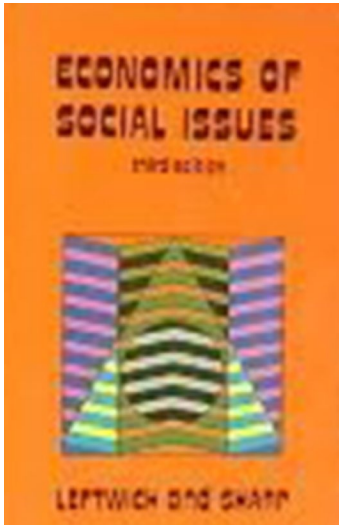
Herculhes also got to experience doing construction monitoring work for the housing project of Masagana Angat.

Masagana in Angat, Bulacan; this time I was team-upped with Erol, a fellow intern. We spent a couple of days coming up with our individual designs of the CBRC. We then presented our design with everyone in the office in order for us to improve it.

During the course of our internship, we also did some site visits and hands-on construction that introduced us to different methodologies and technologies and allowed us to better our designs. The rest of our stay in TAO was devoted to making construction drawings and manuals for the Masagana CBRC. It was actually a fun experience. There were even some moments when we needed to stay overnight to be able to finish our work and meet a project deadline. Those were the kind of experiences that I will never forget and will be proud of.

Six weeks later, our internship came to an end. I was a very lucky that I had the chance to work for this kind of office. The people in TAO were so kind and I surely did learn a lot from them. I know that by interning at TAO-Pilipinas, I had also served the "tao ng Pilipinas". (HHE)

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 <http://www.resourcecenter.tao-pilipinas.org>. You may call Angel Sales at 287-6446 / 436-7301 or email [lib@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:lib@tao-pilipinas.org) to schedule your visit.



*Economics of Social Issues* is a recommendable book for people who want to gain background knowledge or develop an interest in economics. Leftwich and Sharp

Title: **Economics of Social Issue**

Author: **Richard H. Leftwich and Ansel M. Sharp**

Publisher: **Business Publications, Inc. (1978)**

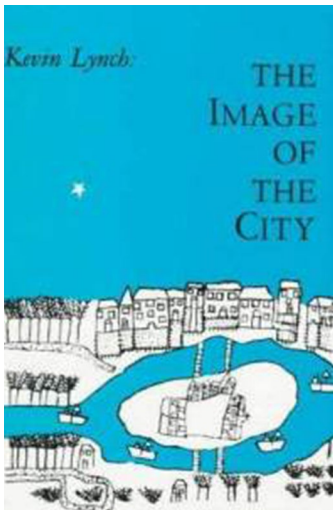
highlight the importance of economics and relate it with different social issues. They recommend practical solutions and alternatives to various social issues while defining economic concepts and terms in a way that can be easily understood.

The book is divided into four parts. The first part introduces population growth and discusses its implication to the economy. The second part is about resource allocation and discusses topics such as the government's role on controlling prices, the

economical aspect of higher education, the economic analysis on energy supply problems, the economic cost and effect of crimes and pollution, the concept of consumerism and the economic perspective on health issues. The third part of the book tackles distribution of income. This chapter discusses the concept of poverty and the negative consequences of discrimination to the economy. The fourth part discusses stabilization and shows the economic perspective of

unemployment, the effect of inflation and lastly, it also discusses debt and whether it's bad or beneficial to an economy.

What's really nice about this book is that each part and subpart have their own summary. This is helpful if you don't want to delve too much on a certain topic and you just want to get the gist of what it's about. Though the book is quite old already, majority of the social issues discussed are still visible and applicable today. This book is a great way to be acquainted with economics to be able to use it in making well-informed decisions. (NJTM)



*The Image of the City* written by Kevin Lynch is one of the most known and significant books in urban planning. It presents ways on how cities could be viewed; for instance, understanding the important elements and little details which constitutes it

Title: **The Image of the City**

Author: **Kevin Lynch**

Publisher: **MIT Press (1960)**

as a whole. The book is intended for all; however, it will most likely be appreciated by those in the field of urban planning, landscaping and architecture.

To understand how people perceive their respective cities, Kevin Lynch conducts a study of three American cities namely Boston, Massachusetts; Jersey City, New Jersey; and Los Angeles, California. He used two methods in his study: interview and field reconnaissance. By comparing and analyzing each city, and the way it is perceived by its

inhabitants, he was able to establish the five elements of city image which he thoroughly discusses in the book. He was also able to present recommendations on how such legibility could be achieved in cities.

Lynch provided substantial evidence to support his propositions. He was able to critically analyze and provide grounded arguments which reflected his expertise and background in the field of urban planning. The fact that he drew his conclusions with careful consideration on the knowledge and experience of the people themselves is also one of the strongest points of

his research. There is also the adaptability and universality of the elements established by Lynch. People around the world can use these elements to help them understand their cities. The book however, is also highly conceptual. The standards of legibility presented by Lynch are almost impossible to achieve.

Despite being obviously already outdated, the book can still give its readers a brand-new perspective on cities and their environment. After reading the book, the reader becomes more sensitive and critical of little details and elements which he/she may have regarded as previously insignificant. (KSC)



# 2017 Christmas Gift-giving for Children

*MAKE THE COMING HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BRIGHTER FOR CHILDREN THROUGH TAO'S ANNUAL GIFT DRIVE*



This October, TAO-Pilipinas will begin accepting donations for its Christmas Gift-giving for Children. The beneficiaries of the gift giving will primarily be the children of Masagana community in Angat, Bulacan. We will also be distributing gift packs for children to our partner communities in Quezon City and in Taytay, Rizal.

This year, we will be putting together backpacks with school supplies as Christmas gifts. Your gift of a school bag with materials will not only bring Christmas cheer to the kids but will benefit their education as well. Our goal is to assemble and distribute at least 60 backpacks for children.

We will be collecting new school bags and the following list of basic school supplies:

- notebooks • ballpens and pencils • crayons or markers • writing and sketch pads • glue • scissors • rulers • erasers • sharpeners

Donations of children's books, coloring and activity books will also be highly appreciated.

For those who prefer to give monetary support or sponsor gifts for children, a donation of **Php 300 provides 1 backpack with school supplies**. Cash donations may be deposited to the following Bank of the Philippine Island (BPI) current account:

Account name: **TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.**  
Account number: **4431-0074-31**

You may even **host your own gift drive** for the TAO Christmas Gift-giving by volunteering to collect backpacks filled with useful materials (please refer to the aforementioned school supply list) through your organizations or offices. These may then be sent to us at TAO.

Last Christmas, because of the generosity of TAO friends and volunteers, we were able to distribute 194 gift packs to children in communities we work with in Angat, Bulacan and in Salcedo and Guiuan, Eastern Samar. We hope you can make this Christmas as blessed and joyful to children with your gift donations.

Gift donations can be dropped at **27A Matiyaga St., Bgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City**. For more information, you may call **287-6446** or email **info@tao-pilipinas.org**