



TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.

YP
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
eNEWSLETTER
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2017 YP Workshop Participants during their site visit to Ernestville in Brgy. Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City.

2017 YP WORKSHOP HEADS TO BRGY. TANDANG SORA

TAO-PILIPINAS CARRIED OUT this year's Young Professionals (YP) Workshop on Social Housing from May 24 to 29 in Quezon City. Under the theme: "Planning for Climate and Disaster-resilient Urban Poor Communities", the 2017 YP Workshop featured a series of lecture sessions and community immersion activities. TAO-Pilipinas collaborated with Foundation for Development Alternatives, Inc. (FDA) and Santuario de San Vicente de Paul Parish to execute the project in the urban poor areas of the parish in Barangay Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The workshop had a total of 34 participants composed of 19 young professionals (YPs) and 15 community representatives. Among the YP participants were seven undergraduate architecture students, three architecture

graduates, four licensed architects, one landscape architect, one community organizer, and three representatives from the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP). Architecture students, graduates, and licensed architects were from University of Santo Tomas (UST), University of the Philippines (UP), Far Eastern University (FEU), and Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP). Community representatives were from the three kawan areas of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul Parish.

The six-day workshop on social housing aimed to build the capacity of YPs in providing technical design support to poor communities working toward shelter security and sustainable settlements. The program of activities combined two levels of training – theory (lecture sessions)

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TAO interns design a transitional Community-based Resource Center for Masagana community

ON JUNE 29, 2017, A COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON THE design of the temporary community-based resource center (CBRC) was held at the Masagana Community in Angat, Bulacan. TAO-Pilipinas was represented by Engr. Lorena Hernandez, Theresse Julia and four TAO interns from the University of Santo Tomas (Niña Macaranas, Kristine Culaba, Herculhes Ebol and Christian Eroid Enriquez). Thirteen members of the community attended the activity.

The original design for the community-based resource center developed in a separate design workshop held on April 23, 2017 was put on hold due to constraints in budget and the immediate need of the community for a multi-purpose center. Two of the TAO interns, Herculhes Ebol and Christian Eroid Enriquez were tasked to develop alternative design proposals for a temporary CBRC which utilizes the available materials in the community (such as omni-boards, mcr tiles, barb wires, 2x2 and 4x4 wood). The temporary CBRC must be built within a very limited budget but still be resilient and be able to accommodate the community's resource materials and the gathering of a reasonable number of people.

Both interns produced A-frame structures utilizing the existing materials in the community. Herculhes' design was open plan, well-ventilated and naturally-lit; the structure was

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FEATURE ARTICLES



YP interns participate in earth-bag construction in Gerona, Tarlac

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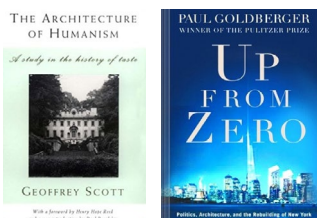
NETWORK ACTIVITIES



Second round of FEP Training-of-Trainers held in Pasig City

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YP READING LIST



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"What is your opinion on the Nickelodeon theme park that is being planned to be built in Coron, Palawan?"

— YP PULSE

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YP INTERNS PARTICIPATE IN EARTH-BAG CONSTRUCTION IN GERONA, TARLAC



The earth bag structure visited by TAO-Pilipinas together with the YP interns and a few community members of Masagana.



The YP Interns with some members of Masagana community pose with Arch. Verna Sarraga of TAO-Pilipinas and Ms. Beau Bacongus of Greenpeace Philippines

ON JUNE 22, 2017, TAO-PILIPINAS representatives Arch. Arlene Christy D. Lusterio, Arch. Verna Lucia P. Sarraga and Engr. Lorena P. Hernandez, together with YP interns, went to Gerona Tarlac to join an earth-bag construction activity to build a Climate Resiliency Field School. This construction activity is a project of Rice Watch and Action Network (R1), a group of non-government organizations that aids rice farmers and advocates sustainable agriculture. The super adobe structure that is currently being built in Gerona, Tarlac will serve as a dormitory for the Climate Resiliency Field School. The dorms will be formed by 6 clusters of circular-shaped structures that are made mainly out of earth-bags. The roofing of the dormitories will be made out of nipa.

Upon the arrival of participants on the site, a short orientation about earth-bag construction was given by Mr. Francis Joseph Dela Cruz. The overall officer in charge of the construction was Ms. Ira Beau Bacongus. Both Ms. Bacongus and Mr. Dela Cruz are members of Greenpeace Philippines. They spearheaded the activity in teaching the participants about the mechanics of earth-bag construction.

Earth-bag construction is a form of sustainable architecture that uses mainly soils as its building material. Though this construction technology may be used in rectangular or other conventional shaped structures, it is said

that the most efficient form for this type of construction is a dome. A dome form will maximize the full capacity of the earth bags; when strong winds strike the structure, the shape of the dome

together with the earth bags can distribute the force around the structure which results to a more structurally stable and resilient design.

During the construction activity, the participants helped in mixing the soil and cement mixture for the earth bags. Some joined in the preparation of the sacks or polypropylene bags to be used as the container for the soil-cement mixture. Others participated in tamping of the earth bag walls. The tamping of the layered earth bag coils will help strengthen the wall through the compression of the soil mixture. The participants were also taught how barbed wires are sandwiched between layers of sand bag coils. The wires serve as reinforcements of the structure and provide improved tensile strength.

Overall, the immersive activity gave participants additional knowledge on non-conventional construction techniques. Due to the labor intensive demands of earth bag construction, it can also be a means to promote the “bayanihan” approach and lessen labor costs. The unorthodox shape of the adobe structures may be a challenge on the easy acceptance of the people. But the sustainability, structural stability and eco-friendliness of the structure can surely outweigh this drawback. (Niña Macaranas)

TAO interns... *(continued from page 1)*

was incorporated with permeable sliding doors, glass bottles, sawali walls, folding door and built-in wooden, stepped seats which also serve as space-saving book shelves. Meanwhile, Erolld's design was a high-ceiling structure with an earth bag-walled library room. Notable features of his design include the wire mesh wall which allows the growth of crawling plants, use of MCR tiles as walls, Masagana signage painted on the roof, and fiberglass corrugated roof tiles. Their design proposals were presented during the community consultation.

The community participants voiced out their comments and suggestions on the two designs during the community consultation. All liked the flexibility and openness of the first design. They were delighted with the stepped seats/book shelf and the folding separator/divider. The use of glass bottles for natural light fenestration and the placement of Masagana signage on the front part of the structure were also welcomed by the participants. Sliding doors however were asked to be changed into wire-mesh swinging doors. The participants also wanted the main doors to face the main roads. Overall, the community participants decided to adapt Erolld's steep roof and Herculhes' open floor plan. The construction of the temporary CBRC is set to start on July 9, 2017. (Kristine Culaba)



The YP Interns facilitating the validation workshop for the design of the Masagana CBRC. Top: Christian Erolld Enriquez and bottom: Herculhes Ebol.

2017 YP Workshop heads... *(continued from page 1)*

and practicum (community immersion).

Lecture sessions

The YP Workshop kicked off with a series of lecture sessions that were held on May 24 and 25 at Felipa Hall, Max's Restaurant, Quezon City Circle. Various resource speakers were invited to discuss topics that would equip the participants with fundamental knowledge for the community immersion stage. Participatory activities were also integrated during the first two days to make the participants actively involved in the workshop.

The keynote lecture was delivered by Ms. Ana Dizon, a Board of Trustees Member of TAO-Pilipinas. Her presentation, entitled "Making a Difference: The Challenge of Housing the Urban Poor and the Role of Young Design Professionals", addressed the gap between conventional architecture and urban poor housing. She also talked about the emergence and evolution of a new role in the design profession – the "architecture of empowerment". The practice involved designing "for" and "with" the urban poor communities.

Four sessions followed the keynote speech. The first one featured two lectures that gave an overview on social

housing: "Philippine Housing Situationer" by Atty. Junefe Payot of Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) and "BP 220: Planning and Design Standards for Social Housing" by Engr. Lorena Hernandez of TAO-Pilipinas.

The second session comprised three lectures that tackled climate and disaster risks: "Key Concepts in DRRM" by Arch. Angelus Sales of TAO-Pilipinas; "Implications of Climate Change-related Risks to Human Settlements Development" by Arch./EnP. Arlene Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas; and "Vulnerabilities and Adaptive Capacities of the Urban Poor in Metro Manila" by Mr. Benedict Balderrama of Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA).

The third lecture session focused on building sustainable and resilient communities. The three lectures discussed were "Disaster-resilient Design Concept in Settlements Planning and Development" by Arch. Verna Sarraga of TAO-Pilipinas; "Creating Urban Resilience Through Retrofitting" by Ms. Maribel Larracochea and Engr. Clint Gabilo of Build Change; and "Low Carbon Communities" by Mr. Francis Dela Cruz of Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC).



The YP Workshop participants doing the team building activity called "Zoom" in the second day of the workshop.

The final session oriented the participants on the community consultation workshop that they would facilitate later in the community immersion stage. The session included: "Communicating Technical Knowledge to Communities" by Arch./EnP. Geraldine Matabang; "Presentation of FEP Survey Results" by Ms. Dominga Damian of FDA; "Profiles of the Community Immersion Areas" by Ms. Marissa Tinao, Ms. Rosemarie Pascual, and Ms. Lucia Singew, BEC leaders of Santuario Parish; and "The Community Workshop Process and Guidance to Facilitation" by Arch. Sales.

Community Immersion

On the third day of the YP Workshop, the community immersion experience of the YP participants began. First, they had a site visit to two socialized housing sites in Novaliches, Quezon City in the morning ([See sidebar article](#)). After the lunch break, the YP participants immediately went to the community immersion area which is the three kawan under the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul in Brgy. Tandang Sora, Quezon City. The YP participants were divided into three YP Teams; one team for each kawan. Each YP Team then met with the community leaders in their assigned kawan to discuss

and prepare the logistics of the community consultation workshop which will be held the following day. After the meeting, transect walks were conducted by each group to observe the living conditions and current situation of their assigned community.

The highlight of the community immersion experience of the participants was the community consultation workshop. The community consultation workshop was held on the fourth day of the workshop and was conducted by the YP participants themselves. The main objective of the community consultation workshop is for the communities to come up with strategies that would make their communities disaster-resilient and translate those strategies into community action plans. The YP participants used participatory methods such as focus group discussions and analysis tools such as the "Problem Tree" to get pertinent information from the community participants about DRR related issues. The community consultation workshop was simultaneously conducted by the three YP Teams in their respective kawan. At the end of the three consultation workshops, eight community action plans (2 action plans for Kawan 1 and 3 action plans each for



The first set of speakers for the morning session during the awarding of certificates (from left to right: Ms. Lita Asis-Nero, Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio, Ms. Ana Dizon, Atty. Junefe Payot, Arch. Angelus Maria Sales, and Fr. Roland Tuazon).

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YPs VISIT SOCIALIZED HOUSING SITES IN QUEZON CITY



The YP Workshop participants are able to see the vastness of Bistekville 2 from the rooftop of their multi-purpose building.

in Quezon City.

Greeted by rows of two-storey houses brightly painted in yellow, the participants were able to observe the recent development in Ernestville in Barangay Gulod, Novaliches. Ernestville is an off-site and in-barangay voluntary relocation site, with housing beneficiaries coming from the danger areas of Barangay Gulod particularly those who were living along the Tullahan River. Ernestville is an example of a community initiative relocation project that was started in 2014. With its new approach in creating a housing project, Ernestville is considered as the pilot High Density Housing (HDH) development in the country. A new alternative building technology was also utilized in constructing the houses. The use of PlasWall technology resulted to a column-less construction that greatly helped in reducing the construction cost of the houses.

After visiting Ernestville, the participants proceeded to Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches and visited the 48,976-sqm government-led on-site and in-city resettlement socialized housing project, Bistekville 2. Quezon City government's solution into the growing demand of housing needs in the city was a series of socialized housing projects named after the current mayor's nickname Bistek. The former site of 583 informal settler families (ISFs) is now the new site of 1,078 housing units – 703 one-storey units with loft and 375 three-storey walk-up condominium unit with distinguishable green colored walls and roofs. In Bistekville 2, the government tried to maximize the lot by designing a multi-storey housing that goes up until the 3rd floor. Bistekville 2 compound is a mixture of low cost residential, privately owned townhouses and multi-storey residential buildings with communal spaces such as a multi-purpose facility for estate management and extension of social services, and covered courts for various gatherings of the community.

With the two site visits, the participants and the community leaders were able to observe the existing conditions of the housing projects as a case study in their workshop. These projects helped the young professionals and community leaders in better understanding the importance of community organization in the success of social housing projects.

(Christian Eroid Enriquez)

AS PART OF THE 2017 YP Workshop activities, the young professionals together with the community leaders of Santuario Parish in Tandang Sora were given a chance to visit two socialized housing projects

2017 YP Workshop heads... *(continued from page 3)*



The YP Workshop participants and organizers pose with community leaders from Ernestville during their site visit.

Kawan 2 and 3) were made by the community participants. Distinct action plans such as education on land tenure processes and contacting Meralco were given by Kawan 1 and 3 respectively while common action plans such as forming a DRRM committee and making an early warning device was mentioned by at least two kawan as part of their action plan.

After the community consultation workshop, the YP Teams had a reflection session to assess and evaluate their immersion experience. The following day, each YP Teams were tasked to consolidate the outputs of their community consultation workshop. They also prepared for their plenary presentation and finished their mural painting which depicted their experience of the whole YP workshop.

Plenary Presentation

The last day of the workshop was allotted for the plenary presentation and individual reflection session of the YP participants. Representatives from the government, academe, and the private sector were invited as panel reactors for the plenary presentation. Distinguished members of the panel included Ms. Ana Oliveros, former President of the Social Housing Finance Corporation; Mr. Vincent Eugenio and Dr. Melissa Navarra

of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor; Prof. Rizalito Mercado representing UST College of Architecture; Engr/EnP. Rosalyn Veneracion of Concepcion, Inc; Ms. Lita Asis-Nero, Executive Director of FDA; and Fr. Roland Tuazon, Parish Priest of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul.

The first to present their community consultation workshop output was YP Team Kawan 3. They presented their output in a news reporting style with each members reporting on their assigned output. The community action plans of their group included the formulation of a DRRM plan, coordinating with Meralco to address electrical wiring issues, and removal of illegally parked vehicles. They concluded their presentation with an original composition sang by one of their members Elaiza Taguse who also composed the song.

The next to report was YP Team Kawan 1. They did a standard report of their community consultation workshop outputs but showed a video of their "mannequin challenge" at the beginning to showcase the different stages of the entire YP Workshop. The community action plans of their group included the formulation of a DRRM Committee in Kawan 1 and education of their community on the processes of securing land

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Snapshots of the 2017 YP Workshop on Social Housing



MOU signing involving (from left to right) Ms. Lita Asis-Nero of FDA, Fr. Roland Tuazon of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul Parish, and Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas



From left to right: Lita Asis-Nero, Engr. Lorena Hernandez, Arch. Angelus Maria Sales, Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio, Mr. Benedict Balderrama of PHILSSA, and Arch. Geraldine Matabang.



The 2017 YP Workshop participants pose for their group photo together with the organizers of the workshop.



The YP Teams during their transect walk in the communities under the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul in Brgy. Tandang Sora (from left to right: Kawan 1, Kawan 2, and Kawan 3).



Marian Calapine of FDUP briefs the YP Workshop participants about Ernestville and the processes the community went through to be able to build Ernestville.



The YP Teams during their consultation workshop with the various communities under the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul (from left to right: Kawan 1, Kawan 2, and Kawan 3).



Top photo: YP Team 1 practicing the sequence of their mannequin challenge.

Bottom photo: YP Team 1 during their mural presentation (from left to right: Regine Anne dela Paz, Kristine Culaba, and Innah Beatrice Alba)



Top photo: YP Team 2 conceptualizing their mural design

Bottom photo: YP Team 2 doing a skit as part of their plenary presentation



Top photo: YP Team 3 working together to finish their mural
Bottom photo: YP Team 3 doing their plenary presentation using news reporting format (from left to right: Maria Elaiza Ann Taguse, Nicko John Montallana, and Therese Julia)

2017 YP Workshop heads... *(continued from page 4)*



The panel reactors after receiving their certificate of appreciation with the organizers of the workshop. **From left to right:** Fr. Rolando Tuazon, Arch. Rizalito Mercado of UST College of Architecture, Ms. Ana Oliveros, former SHFC President, Mr. Vincent Eugenio and Dr. Melissa Navarra of PCUP, Engr. Rosalyn Veneracion of CONCEP, Ms. Lita Asis-Nero, Arch. Arlene Lusterio, and Ms. Avic Ilagan, TAO Board of Trustees.

tenure. The group concluded their report with a summary of their group reflection.

The last to present was YP Team Kawan 2. They did a short skit showcasing the problems encountered by their community and their vision for their community. After the role playing, the group presented the outputs of their community consultation workshop. The community actions plans that the community came up with were using a bell for their early warning system, information dissemination on DRRM, and strengthening their DRRM committee. The group's presentation ended with a song rendition of Asin's "Masdan Mo ang Kapaligiran" led by Ms. Dominga Damian.

Reflection Session

After lunch, each group presented their mural paintings. The mural paintings showcased the experiences and learnings of the YP participants throughout the entire duration of the workshop. YP Team Kawan 1 showed the process that the participants went through in the entire workshop through a series of scenes while YP Team Kawan 2 highlighted the role of the church in their mural painting. YP Team Kawan 3 showcased their ideal community against the existing one with representatives from different sectors hand in hand in the center of the painting.

An individual reflection session was also done to process the individual experience of each participant. Each was asked to illustrate their experience with a drawing and share it with the rest of the participants. Most of the participants shared that the workshop was a memorable learning experience for them. Some participants especially the students mentioned that the workshop was an eye-opening experience for them because they were able to personally experience the actual situation of urban poor communities. On the other hand, the community representatives, mostly shared that they now have more knowledge on what their ideal community should be.

Ways forward and awarding of certificates

The last part of the workshop was to discuss the next plans of action for the collaborating organizations. TAO-Pilipinas will continue to work with FDA to assist the communities under the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul in the improvement of their communities. The fully sponsored YP Participants have already started their internship last June and have already assisted in some of the projects of TAO-Pilipinas.

After discussing the ways forward, awarding of certificates followed. This was led by Arch. Arlene Lusterio and Arch. Angelus Sales of TAO-Pilipinas, Ms. Lita Asis-Nero of FDA, and Fr. Roland Tuazon of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul. Aside from certificates of participation given to each workshop participant, certificates were also given to recognize the assistance provided by each of the BEC Kawan, FDA, and Santuario de San Vicente de Paul. (TRJ & AMPS)

TAO staff visit Build Change project area



Engr. Linnel Ballesteros (left) of Build Change shows the retrofitting measures applied to the model house.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI HAD RECENTLY ANNOUNCED that over 400 houses are located within the West Valley Fault and that the local government can only provide financial aid to those who will relocate. In line with this local government policy and the impending "Big One" (7.2 magnitude earthquake) from the West Valley Fault, Build Change started a pre-disaster residential retrofit project in Barangay Pembo, Makati City. (TAO-Pilipinas touched base with Build Change during the TAO Forum on Sustainable Communities last March.) And so, on April 28, 2017, TAO-Pilipinas staff and interns visited some of the recipients of Build Change's project.

Build Change is a non-profit organization that provides technical assistance to schools and residential houses that needs retrofitting. Build Change started their project in Makati with a structural assessment of the houses that are near the danger zone of the West Valley Fault and whose households are their target beneficiaries. After assessment, they sorted potential project beneficiaries according to the level of risk of their houses. Those who live in high-risk houses and has the capacity to loan a certain amount of money can start with the retrofitting as soon as the family is ready. In order to increase the community's interest in the project, Build Change also organized a lottery wherein the first prize was a free retrofitting of the winner's house. Free structural assessment of some houses was also included as one of the prizes.

Build Change's Staff Engineer, Engr. Linnel Ballesteros, along with their Fund & Partnership Development Officer, Maribel Flores Larracochea, led the TAO-Pilipinas team to their ongoing construction works, and to the model house which was scheduled to be completed soon. They showed the TAO team some of the retrofitting techniques they applied. For instance, to ensure the structural integrity of their retrofitting, they used the toothing technique to connect the added masonry walls to existing columns; they also used shear walls to provide additional resistance to lateral forces commonly caused by seismic and wind loads. They also showed the small adjustments that they made to their retrofitting construction plans when existing walls and columns were in the way of the planned retrofitting design.

Apart from their Makati project, Build Change also offers training of local builders in constructing disaster-resilient houses. They have also produced a "Residential Design and Construction Guidelines" that is easy to understand and is available for download.

The exact occurrence of "The Big One" cannot be predicted but retrofitting and strengthening existing structures will for now be enough measures to lessen the amount of potential damage a strong earthquake can cause in urban centers. (MLPH)

SECOND ROUND OF TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS HELD IN PASIG CITY

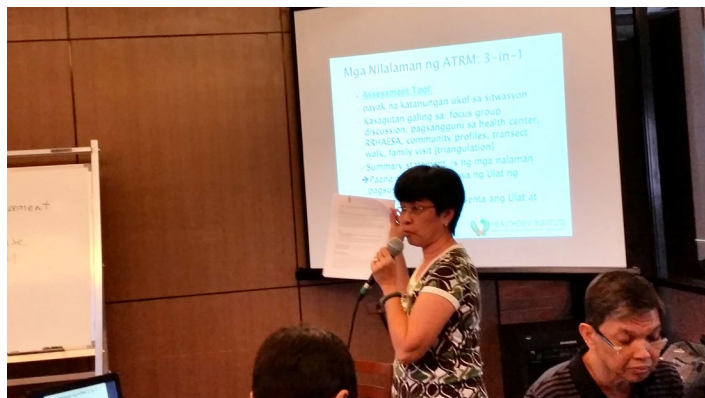
THE SECOND ROUND OF training-of-trainers (ToT) of the Financial Enablers Project (FEP) consortium was held in Max's Restaurant in Kapitolyo, Pasig City on June 6, 2017. This follow-up training on community-led urban DRRM planning was attended by community representatives from the four project demonstration areas: Mapulang Lupa and Coloong in Valenzuela City, Baseco in Manila, Tandang Sora in Quezon City, and Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal. Representatives from all the institutions (SIKAT, TAO-Pilipinas, Inc., IDEALS, ALTERPLAN, HDI, PHILSSA, COM, UPA, FDA, and FDUP) comprising the consortium were also present in the training program.

The second round of the training program was moderated by Ms. Rosemarie Johnson-Herrera of HealthDev Institute (HDI). The objective of the second round of ToT was to present the tools and strategies for health and shelter response after a disaster. The first speaker was HDI's Ms. Marian Ferreras who presented the Assessment Tool and Response Menu (ATRM) for health. The ATRM is a series of flowchart that will guide communities in determining their preparedness in facing health problems that may arise due to disasters. The ATRM can be used as a planning tool to come up with an adequate DRRM plan. ATRMs were given for water-borne diseases, upper respiratory tract infection malnutrition for both children and the elderly, burns, and psycho-social distress. After

the ATRMs were presented, the rapid health hazard and evacuation site assessment (RHHAESA) was briefly discussed.

The presentation of HealthDev was followed by a workshop to determine the strategies currently being used by the communities when responding to health issues after a disaster. The workshop was also facilitated by HealthDev. The output of the workshop led to the identification of the following gaps: 1) assessment of logistical requirements (e.g. number of toilets); 2) creation of Health Center Protocol; 3) creation of master list of drugs for pre-positioning; 3) assessment of prospective evacuation centers aside from parish church; 4) identification of EPI (expanded program on immunization) defaulters and completion of EPI; 5) need for emergency food management training; and 6) need for first aid training for community volunteers including psycho-social first aid.

The rest of the session was allotted for the shelter response strategies after a disaster. This was facilitated by Arch. Angelus Sales of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. She presented the different shelter strategies for displaced and non-displaced population after a disaster. She likewise defined the different technical terms mentioned in the presentation. The strategies presented were taken from the SPHERE standards for humanitarian response in shelter and settlements. After the presentation, a short focus group discussion was facilitated by Arch. Sales



Ms. Marian Ferreras of HealthDev presenting the Assessment Tool and Response Menu during the second round of training-of-trainers for the Financial Enablers Project.



The BEC leaders of Tandang Sora together with representatives from FDA answering the FGD questions facilitated by HealthDev.

to assess the capabilities of the communities given the SPHERE standards for shelter and settlements which was presented in the previous round of ToT ([see YP ENewsletter April-May 2017 issue](#)).

Based on the brief FGD, most of the communities identified shelter repair kits as the most viable option among the given shelter response strategies. They also identified the most vulnerable sectors and families with totally damaged structure as the prioritized groups to be given shelter assistance. The communities also mentioned that most of their evacuation facilities do not meet the SPHERE standards. They also said that they are unable to meet the SPHERE standards for space allocation of covered

living areas as most of them do not have the sufficient space. Lastly, they mentioned several issues that needed to be considered in their shelter response strategies but the most common issue for the communities is security of land tenure and limited budget.

The second round of ToT ended with Arch. Sarah Redoblado of ALTERPLAN giving the closing remark. She reminded the consortium that the Financial Enablers Project has already produced substantial data that should be fully maximized. According to her, the challenge now lies in understanding all the data acquired and integrating it in the final output of the project. (AMPS)

PHILSSA's 27th General Assembly



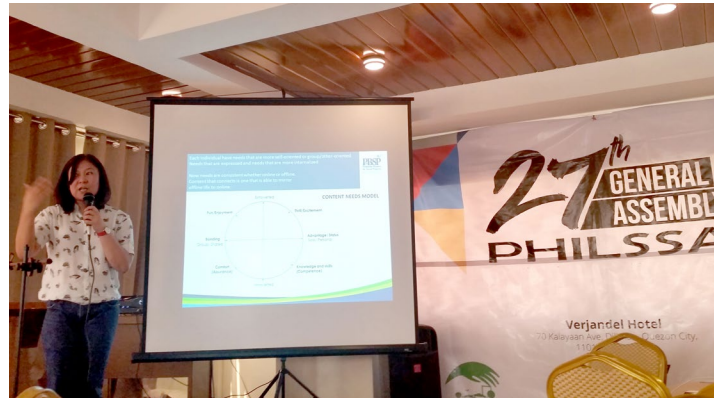
Engr. Lorena Hernandez of TAO-Pilipinas giving a brief background about the Kobo Toolbox to PHILSSA members present in the assembly.

TAO-PILIPINAS REPRESENTATIVES attended the 27th general assembly of Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies Inc. (PHILSSA) last June 15 to 16 at Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City. Majority of the members of the network from all over the Philippines were also present in the event.

The first day started with a presentation by Mr. Al Bernarte of Urban Poor Associates (UPA) of an Urban Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resilience draft framework and strategies formulated by the consortium of the Financial Enablers Project (FEP). The framework includes 9 propositions that highlight the capability of PHILSSA, and its members, to effectively prepare and respond to the disaster needs of their partner communities in the urban situation. After that, an introduction of Kobo Toolbox, the tool used in the data gathering process of FEP, was imparted to the attendees by Engr. Lorena Hernandez of TAO-Pilipinas. Few of the member NGOs of PHILSSA expressed interest in learning the technology thoroughly, one of which were using the same technology but pays a certain amount to the developer of

an application to host their data, as compared to the Kobo Toolbox where data hosting is free of charge. Following that, the Oracle + Netsuite was introduced by Ms. Joanne Pacho, the Senior Social Impact Account Executive of the enterprise. She shared that a base software for enterprise resource planning is ready to be donated to qualifying non-profit organizations and that all members of PHILSSA were already pre-qualified to avail of the software. The software has multiple tools that is designed to help with organizing their finances, inventory, and human resources, among others.

The learning session commenced in the afternoon with a lecture on the effective usage of social media for social development presented by Ms. Eloisa Rivera of Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). She proceeded to discuss not only the convenience that marketing in social media, and the social media itself, brought to its users but also its dangers if used carelessly. Ms. Celia De Jesus of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) followed up with a presentation on establishing



Ms. Eloisa Rivera of PBSP discussing the effective usage of social media during the 27th PHILSSA General Assembly.

Knowledge Development & Management (KDM) for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). A knowledge management system is thought to be necessary for all organizations in order to preserve their gained knowledge and skills for future use.

Following the presentation on knowledge management was a topic on how to engage the youth presented by Ms. Gail de la Rita, the Assistant VP for Social Development of Xavier University (XU). As part of the university's effort to provide exposure to their students, they have started a Student Social Formation which takes the form of an advocacy, volunteering, and service learning program. The program has recently been institutionalized so all XU students are required to finish the program before graduating. Finally, CODE-NGO presented their balanced score card and strategy map for 2018-2022.

The second day of the general assembly looked into the previous year of PHILSSA as a network. PHILSSA's outgoing chairperson, Arch. Sarah Redoblado of Alternative Planning Initiatives (ALTERPLAN), presented her final Chairperson's Report, while Mr. Rodrigo Olarte Jr.

of Katotohanan, Pagkakaisa, at Serbisyo-Small Enterprise and Economic Development Inc. (KPS-SEED) presented the Treasurer's Report. The Communication Plan of PHILSSA was also presented by Mr. Benedict Balderrama. In order to decide on the future plans and direction of the network, the participating member NGOs were divided into their respective clusters according to their geographic location (NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao).

Each cluster was then asked to provide and present possible PHILSSA resolutions which would help provide direction for the network in the coming months. The resolutions consisted of plans for each member organizations to donate 10 bags of cement for the Marawi rehabilitation, plans to establish local resource funds to be used for emergency situations, and oppositions against death penalty bill and the construction of a Nickledeon Resort in Coron, Palawan. (MLPH)

The YP Workshop Experience

by Regine Anne Dela Paz
June 30, 2017



Ms. Regine Anne dela Paz facilitating one of the sessions in the community consultation workshop of Kawan 1.

Hello! I'm Regine Anne Dela Paz, one of the participants of the recently concluded Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing with a theme "Planning for Climate and Disaster Resilient Urban Poor Communities". I'm a Community Development Officer from the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) with a BA on Development Studies from the University of the Philippines Manila as my academic background.

So, why did I join the YP Workshop? A few months before the workshop, our Executive Director and my Unit Head told me that TAO Pilipinas will conduct the Young Professionals Workshop for 2017. They suggested that I join the workshop because it will help me gain more knowledge on the technical aspects of housing specially I'm handling two High Density Housing Projects under the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). One of them is in the process of application of permits in the LGU while the other one is in the process of review and revisions of the technical plans. When I read the details about the workshop, I became excited to join because the activities look interesting. And aside from the technical aspects of housing, DRRM-related topics are also included which I can also share with our partner communities. So, I told our ED and Unit Head that I would like to participate in the workshop, and the rest is history.

The first two days of the workshop is composed of a series of lectures on social housing and topics on climate change and on building disaster resilient communities. There are two lectures that stood out to me the most. The first one is the lecture on "Vulnerabilities and Adaptive Capacities of the Urban Poor in Metro Manila". In this lecture, the speaker was able to capture and explain the main issues and challenges faced by the urban poor sector, one of which is social exclusion. Because of the negative perception towards the urban poor and because of their large population, other people view them as expendable (especially now with the rise of Oplan Tokhang). In addition to that, there is also a lack of public support for their issues and concerns. Aside from the negative perception, there is a lack of appreciation on their role in the city, particularly on the workforce. As pointed out by the speaker, we should think of what would happen if we eliminate all the urban poor communities and just relocate them somewhere far away from the city.

The other lecture that I liked is the "Disaster Resilient Design Concepts in Settlements Planning and Development". As I've written before, one of the reasons I joined the workshop is because of the technical aspects of housing. In this lecture, the speaker discussed about designing in relation to disaster preparedness and resilience. For me, the most important part of the lecture is about the aspects of house



Regine with her groupmates from YP Team 1 during their transect walk in Kawan 1

design and construction like the foundation, floor, walls, roof, etc. In this part, she pointed out the things that we should consider when designing and building a house.

Aside from the said lectures, the team building activity, entitled "Zoom" is also memorable for me. In this activity, each of us was given a picture, but we were instructed not to show it to the other participants. And then... Wait. I was just about to spill the whole process, but thought better of it. Sorry. The activity is kind of confusing for me, but it was fun, so I shouldn't give spoilers. All I can say is it was a good team building activity. I had these realizations – recognizing the potential leaders in a group, and how coordinated a group is.

The second part of the workshop is the community immersion. We were assigned in Kawan 1, one of the three community areas of the Basic Ecclesial Communities of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul Parish in Brgy. Tandang Sora. For me, the most memorable experience in the community is the workshop that we, the YP participants, facilitated with the members of the community as participants. In this workshop, some of my team mates discussed specific topics earlier presented to us in the lecture series, specifically the DRRM concepts. Then, each of us also facilitated/co-facilitated a series of activities: evaluation of the current condition of their community and validation of the Financial Enablers Project (FEP) survey, identification of their vulnerabilities and capacities, identification of strategies and actions, and creation of a community action plan. And of course the most memorable

part for me is the Community Vision Drawing where I was the co-facilitator. In this activity, we asked the participants to draw the sustainable and disaster-resilient community that they envision. The participants enjoyed drawing and presenting the features of their ideal community, and it was clear in their drawings that they hope for a clean, peaceful and sustainable community. I think it would be wonderful if they could turn this vision into a reality someday. But before that, I hope that they are able to implement their community action plans and push through with the DRRM Committee.

For the whole workshop, as what I've shared in the individual reflection, I realized the importance of the different stakeholders in the realization of the communities' aspirations. These stakeholders – community associations/people's organizations, community development workers, technical professionals, local government units, national government agencies, etc. – should have proper communication, cooperation, and coordination because the actions and non-action of each stakeholder can create an impact on the whole process. And that impact can make or break, or push forward or delay everything.

As a closing remark, I would like to thank FDUP for letting me join the YP workshop. And of course, I would like to thank TAO Pilipinas for accepting me as a participant in this workshop, it was truly fun and worthwhile. And lastly, greetings to my co-participants, especially my Kawan 1 group mates! Kamusta na kayo?

John Federick Mejia is an architecture graduate of Far Eastern University and goes by the nickname, Pedro. Pedro currently works for Megawide Construction and is volunteering part-time at TAO-Pilipinas after joining the 2017 YP Workshop on Social Housing.



Mr. John Federick Mejia or Pedro as he wants to be called tries to locate their position in the map during their transect walk of Kawan I.

I have waited for almost five years to join TAO-Pilipinas' Young Professionals Workshop and when I got the opportunity to partake in this program, I did not hesitate to do so even though I am already working.

The vision of TAO-Pilipinas to subserve the urban poor by providing technical assistance in housing projects had struck my interest and encouraged me to engage in the events and programs they were organizing. Being part of their YP workshop had "somehow" molded me into seeking not only self-growth but doing something for the betterment of other people (such as giving lectures on disaster risk reduction and management to communities during the workshop.)

The intensive 6-day workshop helped me discover other things that are beyond my knowledge. First, from the lecture series where some of the topics widened my understanding and educated me on the complexity of the urban poor's dilemma when it comes to legal shelter acquisition and how the government addresses their problem. This topic had served as an eye-opener for young professionals like us to be informed about the hindrances that we might encounter if we are going to assist urban poor communities in their housing projects.



Pedro facilitating one of the sessions in the community consultation workshop of Kawan I.

Second, from site visits in social housing projects such as Ernestville and Bistekville, we gained knowledge on how certain communities in Quezon City have acquired their shelters in those villages with the aid of the Local Government Unit. And lastly, in the last part of the workshop where we briefly stayed with the local families of Kawan I and prepared for a community consultation, it made me realize how other people have a hard time providing adequate dwelling for their families. (I also realized that I am blessed to have decent shelter.)

Having had this experience with TAO-Pilipinas' program made me more eager to be more immersed in helping less-fortunate communities, possibly through my knowledge and expertise in building construction. And I am hoping that with the presence of TAO-Pilipinas, I would be more able to fulfill this calling and create an impact. Our generation can help those in need, perhaps little by little until it develops into something massive that can ultimately change their lives and sustain their progress.



What is your opinion on the Nickelodeon theme park that is being planned to be built in Coron, Palawan?

"In light of recent news that Philippine Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo has approved the construction of the controversial Nickelodeon theme park project, we as an organization strongly decry the planned construction of the 400-ha undersea development and resort at Coron, Palawan. Despite the perceived economic benefits and 'aesthetic wonder' of the proposed Nickelodeon theme park, the foundation of our profession is stewardship of the land, and as such, cannot accept such a high-impact, massive, and senseless effort

to change the natural scenic beauty of Coron.

Palawan is considered as the last ecological frontier of the Philippines, and we shall do our part in keeping it so.

We urge the entities involved in the inception of this project to reconsider their position in favor of the long-term benefits of keeping intact the pristine condition of Coron that can directly affect the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the locale.

We believe that the local economy can depend

more on maintaining these natural resources rather than changing them, which may render their environment replete of what made it valuable to begin with.

In ending, we hope to engage other professionals, who may become involved in developing this project, to evaluate and decide based on what could benefit this planet that we all live in. Man's predilection to dominate and profit on nature should not become the crux that destroy both."

- OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (PALA)

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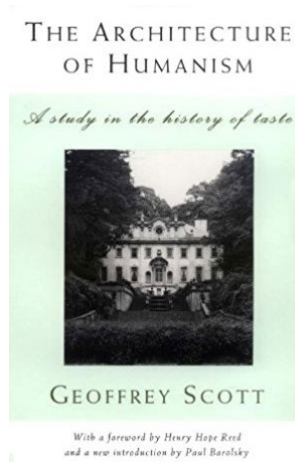
Title: The Architecture of Humanism
Author: Geoffrey Scott
Publisher: W.W. Norton & Company (1999)

The criticism of architectural works is grounded on three aspects: its structural stability, function and beauty. Typically, external factors are perceived as the shaper of these three aspects of an architectural work. Geoffrey Scott, however, challenges this traditional method of analysis on the theory of architecture.

In his work, *The Architecture of Humanism*, Scott argues that works during the Renaissance era are “architecture of taste”. That is, the design of each building, though minimally influenced by external factors such as religion, politics and social movements, generally reflect the personal

taste of its designer. To support his argument, he discusses thoroughly the history of the Renaissance era architecture. He also clarifies some concepts which have caused confusion in the analysis of architectural works to help the readers have a better understanding of his proposed method of analysis.

Scott who has an extensive background in literature, art and history encourages a deeper and more artistic approach on architectural theory. His methods however are challenging and controversial; challenging because it requires extensive knowledge and background on the subject and



controversial because it ventures away from the traditional logical and scientific method of analysis. Nevertheless, the use of his approach may result to a deeper appreciation and understanding of any architectural work.
(Kristine Culaba)

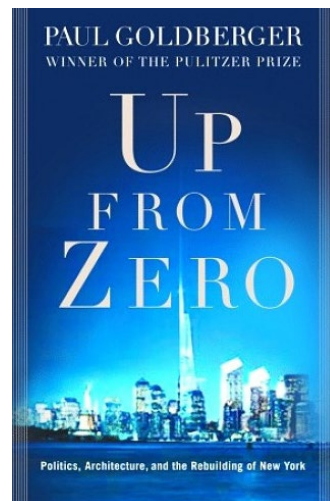
Title: Up From Zero – Politics, Architecture, and the Rebuilding of New York
Author: Paul Goldberger
Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks (2005)

Sixteen years ago, the terrorist attack in the World Trade Center Complex that caused the annihilation of the Twin Towers, created a void not only in the hearts of the people who lost their loved ones but also in the very heart of New York City itself. After this dark episode, New York faced a dilemma on how to fill in the emptiness on the 16-acre lot that once housed the Twin Towers. In the book *Up From Zero*, Paul Goldberger was able to narrate the excruciating process of filling in the emptiness brought by the destruction of one of New York's world-known landmarks. Goldberger, an architectural critic and educator, narrated the political, cultural and architectural aspects of rebuilding the Twin Towers. He was able to meticulously describe the passion and different mindsets of the stakeholders involved in the project.

The book also featured incisive critiques from

Goldberger on the bureaucratic process that the construction of the new Freedom Tower went through for its completion. According to Goldberger, the complicated process of designing the Freedom Tower was just insignificant since the new tower turned out to be “stunningly mediocre” and “anti-urban”. He believes that it is just a repetition of the mistake in the design of the original Twin Towers. Basically, the new towers are mere reflections of the egos of Pataki (NY governor), Silverstein (project developer) and Childs (project architect) who did not follow the winning design of Libeskind and who were not able to consider the suggestions of the public.

The best thing about this book is the interesting story behind the rebuilding of the former Twin Towers. After its destruction, according to Goldberger, people were divided into two factions. The first group were after the “symbolic



and cultural” significance of the building while the second group were those “whose only priority is primarily commercial”. The battle between these two groups showed that while some believed in creating a new symbolic and cultural place for the city, they were overruled by the desire of those who stand to gain profit out of the situation. At the end of the day, the story of the construction of Freedom Tower is a narrative of how power and money prevails in real world decisions.

(Niña Macaranas)



(continued from page 10)

“It is a big N-O. Coron has been visited through the years for what it offers - unmanicured natural landscape. Is that difficult for the pro-theme park to comprehend? 2nd, believing that building of any structure cannot ruin any part of it is plain stupid. 3rd, why don't they opt for Clark area instead?”

- ARCH. MICHELLE TING, 33
 HERITAGE ARCHITECT

“Ang pagkagambala sa natural na kalikasan at buhay-ilang ay isa lamang sa mga dahilan kung bakit hindi dapat ituloy ang panukalang pagpapatayo ng halos 400-hektaryang Nickelodeon-themed water park sa bayan ng Coron, Palawan.

Sa pagdating ng dayuhang pasilidad, di maikakailang magbubukas ito ng oportunidad upang madagdagan ang trabaho para sa mga lokal. Ngunit kasabay nito ay ang pagkawala ng “authenticity” ng lugar na siyang pangunahing dahilan kung bakit dinarayo ang isla na kabilang sa 10 pinakamagagandang scuba diving sites sa mundo.

Makatutulong ang malawakang konsultasyon, lalo na sa mga katutubong Tagbanua na katuwang ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Coron sa pangangasiwa ng mga atraksyon tulad ng Kayangan Lake na para sa kanila ay isang sagradong lugar.”

- LOUIE POSADAS, 23
 INTERNING AS COMMUNITY ARCHITECT/
 PALAWEÑO