



TAO Executive Director, Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio with Philippine pavilion curator, Arch. Edson Cabalfin during the Venice Architecture Biennale opening. (Photo by: Arlene Christy D. Lusterio)

TAO-PILIPINAS JOINS EXHIBITS IN THE 16TH VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

THE 16TH VENICE Architecture Biennale officially opened on May 26, 2018 in Arsenale and Giardini in Venice, Italy. It is curated by Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects. The exhibition is entitled “Freespace” which refers to the gifts that architects give for free, through good design. For the second time after 51 years, the Philippines joins the Venice Architecture Biennale and claims a place in the Artiglierie building complex along Arsenale Street in Venice.

Entitled the “city who had two navels”, Architect Edson Cabalfin, the curator of the Philippine pavilion, presents Philippine architecture in

the context of the evolving influence of colonialism and neoliberalism to Philippine society. The exhibition departs from the previous depiction of the Philippines as a backward country of indigenous people living in traditional houses.

On May 24, 2018 TAO-Pilipinas executive director Arlene Christy Lusterio joined five (5) other exhibitors in the preview of exhibits in Venice, Italy. TAO shares its work in two videos about community partners assisted by TAO-Pilipinas and about TAO-Pilipinas as an organization of women technical professionals in community development work. Also exhibited are models of buildings made by the people in Homonhon

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TAO signs MOUs with community partners

TAO-PILIPINAS FORMALIZED THEIR PROJECT engagement with three community partners as it continues its technical assistance work for the next three years. From September 2018 to August 2021, TAO is set to implement the project, “Building Sustainable and Disaster-Resilient Communities in Metro Manila and Luzon”, in three project areas --- Tandang Sora in Quezon City, Lupang Arenda in Taytay, and Angat, Bulacan. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each set of collaborating partners is the culmination of a year-long series of assessment and planning activities that TAO facilitated with the communities.

Profiling and data gathering activities in the three areas were started last year and followed by situational and needs assessment workshops. Afterwards, planning sessions conducted jointly with the area partners continued until each completed the detailing of a 3-year Community Action Plan (CAP). TAO noted the technical interventions included in the CAPs and these fed into the MOU documents that were drafted.

In Tandang Sora, TAO will be collaborating with Santuario de San Vicente de Paul Parish (Santuario) and Foundation for Development Alternatives (FDA). In Lupang Arenda,

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“Now that the Mental Health Law has been signed, what do you do to relieve the stress of everyday work as technical professionals?”

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TAO's "Project Recharge" joins Sikat kick-off camp

THE SIKAT IMPACT Challenge 2018 officially launched its Incubation Program last June 15 to 16 during the Kick-Off Camp at Mount Purro Nature Reserve in Antipolo, Rizal. As one of the four teams chosen to undergo the ten-month program, TAO-Pilipinas participated in the two-day event in behalf of its entry, "Project Recharge". The renewable energy (RE) project aims to implement a solar-powered clean water and lighting system for the Masagana Community in Angat, Bulacan. The TAO-Pilipinas team was represented by technical staff Lorena Hernandez, Verna Sarraja, and Theresse Julia.

They were joined by Masagana representatives Juana Cavallida, Diana Antipuesto, Jimmy Hersano, Jr., and Reniel Fecara.

An initiative of the Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc. (SSCFI), the Sikat Impact Challenge aims to develop RE projects in rural communities with a seed grant of up to Php 500,000 ([see YP ENewsletter March-May 2018 Issue](#)). Aside from TAO-Pilipinas, the three other teams that round out the Sikat Impact Challenge 2018 include: 2030 Youth Force PH, Keep Hope Alive, and Project Liwanag PH.

During the Kick-Off Camp, each team was allotted seven slots comprising members of the proponent team and representatives of the partner community. The four teams introduced their respective organization and project on



Part of the team building activity is providing a solution for a design thinking problem which in this case is using solar streetlights for Masagana community.

the first day of the camp. "Project Liyab" by 2030 Youth Force PH involves powering a solid waste management (SWM) system in an Aeta community in Sitio Haduan, Mabalacat, Pampanga; Keep Hope Alive's "Project Bantay Kalusugan" aims to power a local health center for a Mangyan community

in Panaytayan, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro; and Project Liwanag PH's "Sampung Ningning sa Dilim" seeks to expand their electrification project for an Aeta community in Sitios Duray, Yangka, Tarukan, and Capas in Tarlac. All four teams plan to utilize solar energy to carry out their RE projects.

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Sikat Kick-off Camp Reflection by Lorena Hernandez

AS THE TEAM LEADER OF Project Recharge, I feel a huge amount of pressure not only because of the responsibility that being a "Team Leader" entails but also because of the help that I received from writing the project proposal to the final project pitching, not to mention that the project is for the site development of our partner community, Masagana. The feeling of needing to do well was magnified upon learning that our project was chosen to be a part of this year's Sikat Impact Challenge along with three other projects. I am aware, however, that the success of the project will not solely rest in me but also on other team members and our partner community as well. Fortunately, the Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc. (SSCFI) arranged a kick-off camp to welcome the successful teams in the

incubation program. The kick-off camp also aimed to orient the different teams and their partner communities to the SSCFI and to acquaint and build networks and camaraderie. During the two-day camp, the participants underwent a workshop and team building exercises. Energy remained high among the young team leaders. Each team with their community partners were separated into different groups to promote teamwork between the participants. The groups were compelled to collaborate and answer questions to win prizes. Despite being the only TAO-Pilipinas member on my group, I was able to connect with the other members. The schedule was hectic and there was barely any time to rest. Nevertheless, it was a great experience to learn about each project and organization that supports the other teams and communities. Everyone also



The staff of TAO-Pilipinas and members of Masagana pose with SSCFI Executive Director, Al Santos (middle) and President, Henry Co (next to Mr. Santos).

picked-up new knowledge on Renewable Energy and Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines during the trivia part of the Amazing Race game. The venue, Mount Purro Nature Reserve (MPNR), provided a great experience for the participants with its relaxing ambience and cool weather. In addition to this, the Dumagats co-exist in the area and some are provided with livelihood in the MPNR as helpers and cooks in the reserve. This shows the acceptability and support of the Dumagats for the nature reserve.

The kick-off camp allowed the participants to learn about the situation of the partner communities of the other teams. Moreover, the camp helped the participants, especially the community leaders, gain confidence by generating activities that encouraged the participation of all members. I believe the camp was also able to set the overall tone of the incubation program, Sikat Impact Challenge, which is to inspire, collaborate, and uplift.

TAO "Project Recharge"... *(continued from page 2)*

Following the team introductions, Program Coordinator Lyka Aguilar gave an orientation on the Sikat Impact Challenge and discussed the mechanics of the program. A series of keynote addresses were then delivered by SSCFI executives Vice President Art de Guia, President Henry Co, and Executive Director Al Santos. Program Head Dane Amador also gave a presentation on "Design Thinking" as a problem-solving approach to aid the teams in accomplishing their RE projects. The teams were then shuffled for a design thinking exercise, giving them an opportunity to work with and learn from other organizations and communities. The four ad hoc teams later presented their exercise outputs. This was followed by a bonfire gathering that capped off the first day of the camp.

On the second day, Alberto "Toto" Malvar and his son, TJ Malvar, talked about the history and their advocacy behind establishing Mount Purro Nature Reserve with the Dumagat Tribe, an indigenous peoples (IP) community in the Sierra Madre mountain range. Program Coordinator Ara Cinco then provided the instructions for the Sikat Amazing Race wherein the new teams would complete sets of obstacles that also involved RE and IP-related trivia. The friendly competition aimed to foster camaraderie among the Sikat teams. Lastly, the camp participants and facilitators gathered for a reflection session and to set the date for the first monthly meeting of the Incubation Program. (TRJ)

Venice Biennale... *(continued from page 1)*

Island, Guiuan and tool kits for participatory design process.

The preview of exhibits started with a press conference with the Philippine press delegation. Curator Edson Cabalfin gave a walk-through of exhibits and questions and answers followed. The formal ceremonies started with opening remarks by National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Chairman and National Artist Virgilio Almario. A message from the Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano was read by Philippine Ambassador to Italy Domingo Nolasco. Cabalfin also gave a message and closing remarks were by Senator Loren Legarda. A tour of exhibits and cocktails followed. Also present were Fernando Zobel de Ayala and family, Architect Paulo Alcazaren, and members of the Philippine press.

The exhibitors are Artist Yason Banal, four (4) schools of architecture - University of

the Philippines - Mindanao; the University of San Carlos in the Visayas region; and the University of the Philippines - Diliman and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde in Luzon. TAO-Pilipinas is the only non-governmental organization (NGO) among the exhibitors.

The exhibit will run until November 25, 2018. (ACDL)



The title of the exhibit for the Philippine pavilion is inspired by Nick Joaquin's novel, *The Woman Who Had Two Navels*.

TAO signs MOUs... *(continued from page 1)*

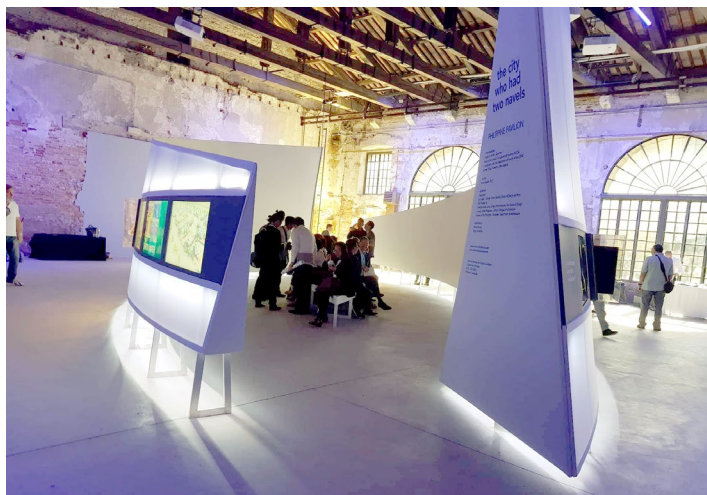
TAO is set to work with Alliance of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) and Community Organizers Multiversity (COM). Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association (Masagana), a long-time community partner since 2009, will also continue working with TAO in the next three years.

The MOU with Santuario and FDA was signed last June 18. APOLA and COM signed the project MOU on June 28 while Masagana set to sign theirs on July 28.

TAO's project with the community and collaborating partners aims to "contribute to improved quality of life with security of tenure, access to affordable disaster-resilient homes, and practice of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures of poor communities in Metro Manila and Luzon". According to the MOU signed by the parties, they shall agree to mutually implement its four project components focusing on formation of community-based structures, capacity-building, planning and design, and site development planning. (GRM)



Representatives from the exhibitors of the Philippine pavilion pose with Sen. Loren Legarda during the opening of the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale.



The main installation of the Philippine pavilion located in Artiglierie Building embodies the concept of "the city with two navels".

TAO-Pilipinas supports PMPI's Salakyag



Ms. Jean Faye Daguman (left) and Mr. Angelo Herrera (right) host the event that PMPI organized.



Partner NGOs and POs of PMPI in Metro Manila await the caravan coming from other provinces.

ON JUNE 5, 2018, coinciding with the celebration of World Environment Day, Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI) and the National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA)/ Caritas led the culminating activity of Sama-samang sakay, lakad, at layag para sa Sangnilikha (Salakyag) at the Mendiola Peace Arch in Manila. Salakyag is part of PMPI's campaign against mining and climate change and their disastrous effects in the nature especially in Manicani and Homonhon Islands, Eastern Samar; Calatagan, Batangas; Olongapo and Sta. Cruz, Zambales; Vitali, Zamboanga City;

Zamboanga del Norte; Kibungan, Benguet; Rapu-rapu, Albay; Marinduque; and Tampakan, South Cotabato. In addition to that, it also aims to promote awareness on the rights of nature which will give our ecosystem the "right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles" (see <http://therightsofnature.org>).

Salakyag is a nationwide caravan that started May 28 of this year in Zamboanga City and then proceeded to various destinations in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The participants of the caravan travelled either by walking, riding a vehicle, or riding a

boat. The vast network of NGOs, communities, and faith-based groups that support PMPI and its partner organizations contributed to the success of the project. As part of the PMPI NCR Urban Cluster, TAO-Pilipinas staff and interns, along with a community leader from Masagana participated in the culminating activity where the "salubong" or the convergence on the final leg of the caravan took place. The pre-program started around 3 pm at the Mendiola Peace Arch, which was the designated meeting and assembly place of the NCR participants. Apart from TAO-Pilipinas, PMPI partners who attended the culminating activity included Urban Poor Associates (UPA), Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), Ugnayang Lakas ng mga Assosasyon at Pederasyon (ULAP), Medical Action Group (MAG), and Peace and Conflict Journalism Network (PECOJON) among others.

PMPI synchronized the mobilizing of the NCR participants coming from Recto Avenue and the Salakyag participants coming from Nicanor Reyes Street. A short program was held to commemorate the convergence of the participants, after which everybody marched back to the Mendiola Peace Arch. The program continued with an opening remark from Ms. Yolanda Esguerra, the National Coordinator of PMPI, followed by church and community representatives. To keep the ball rolling, PMPI also aimed to gather and submit one million signatures to the Office of the President to show the people's support for the passage of Alternative Minerals and Management Bill (AMMB), Forests Resources Bill (FRB), and the National Land Use Act (NLUA) along with other pressing environmental concerns. (MLPH)



Performing artists entertained the crowd during the Salakyag caravan in Mendiola.

RIGHTS OF NATURE TACKLED IN PMPI PARTNERS MEETING

THE PMPI PROJECT Pagbangon partners participated in a two-day activity at The Hive Hotel and Convention Place in Quezon City. The meeting started with a learning session on the Rights of Nature on June 21 and culminated with the Partners Meeting on June 22.

The Rights of Nature learning session started with a Skype presentation by Mari Margil, associate director of US-based Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). The discussion revolved around the definition of rights of nature including the right to exist, flourish, restore, evolve, regenerate, to represent itself in court, and the right to resist. They stated that nature is not a property but a resource that is limited and can be depleted. They also pointed out that existing environmental laws only regulate how much people can harm the environment, and does not really focus on protection of nature. A short film was also presented during the learning session about Columbia's Atrato River having been awarded rights by the country's constitutional court. Different sectoral representatives presented their reactions in the context of the sector they represent. The representative of the farmers group raised the

need for seed protection to ensure the sustainability of a good plant and harvest quality. A discussion followed world café style.

Panel of reactors included Rosel Bahni, Executive Director of Igorota Foundation, Inc. and a member of PMPI Northern Luzon Cluster presenting the indigenous people perspective; Cris Panerio, National Coordinator of MASIPAG, a member of PMPI Southern Tagalog Cluster presenting the farmers' perspective; Ruperto Alerosa (Ka Uper) of National Union of Rural-Based Organizations (PKSK) Inc., a member National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) presenting the fisherfolk perspective; Atty. Mark Penalver of Interface Development Interventions, Inc. (IDIS) and a member of the Davao Region Cluster, presenting the environmental group perspective; Sr. Bing Carranza of Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) and Sisters of the Green Mountain Monastery and Thomas Berry Sanctuary presenting the religious perspective; Vicky Diamzon of Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) presenting the urban poor perspective; and Arnold Tarabago, chief of staff of Congressman Tom Villarin, for the lawmaker perspective. Congressman Villarin committed to sponsor a law on Rights of



TAO representatives attend the learning session on the Rights of Nature together with other NGO and PO partners.



PMPI staff pose with other partner NGO representatives during the Partners Meeting held in Hive Hotel and Convention Place.

Nature. Also present were member organizations of PMPI including Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), Sentro para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya (SIKAT), Permaculture Society of the Philippines, TAO-Pilipinas, ULAP-Manila and PMPI Project Pagbangon Team.

The second day was devoted to the discussion of the Project Pagbangon external evaluation report presented by the secretariat. Project Pagbangon partners gave their reactions and critique to the evaluation and at the end of the day agreed to

send back to the evaluators all the comments for finalization and correction. Partners especially those with continuing projects in Guiuan committed to continue to support and coordinate with the Project Pagbangon team to maintain synergy where possible in the implementation of projects in Guiuan as well as in Manicani and Homonhon Islands. Partners present included COM, Medical Action Group (MAG), Pecojo, Permaculture Society of the Philippines, SIKAT and TAO-Pilipinas. (ACDL & VLPS)

28th PHILSSA General Assembly



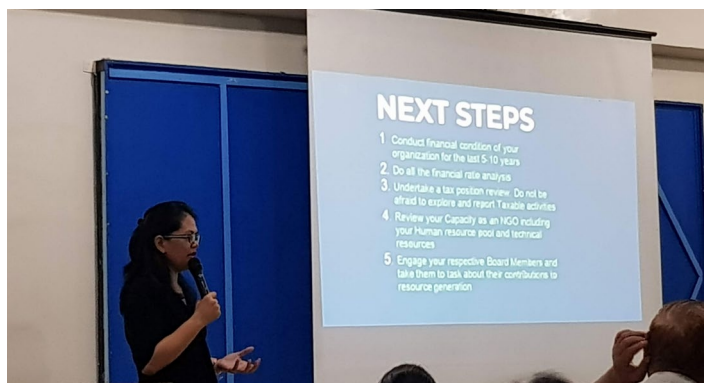
The resource speakers who attended the WUF9 answer questions during the open forum. **From left to right:** Cipriano Fampulme, Jojo Carandang, and Sarah Redoblado.

PHILSSA HELD ITS 28TH General Assembly (GA) last June 21 and 22 at the ISO Complex in Ateneo de Manila University. Forty-five out of 60 PHILSSA members attended the two-day assembly, mostly from the NCR cluster. The first day of the GA was a learning event, as video presentations of various projects by PHILSSA members were featured. Films shown included the DERF Marawi Project (ALTERPLAN with PHILSSA and ICES-DEV); Financial Enablers Project (ALTERPLAN-PHILSSA consortium); Barangay Disaster Risk Sensitive Shelter Planning Project (ALTERPLAN WITH KPS, ICES-DEV, A2D and SAC-Legazpi); Community Organizing in Times of Disaster (UPA); City Wide Planning Project (World Bank with FDUP, MDF, ALTERPLAN); DFID Project (PHILSSA with member NGOs); and Project Pagbangon (PMPI with SIKAT and TAO-Pilipinas). Following the film showing was a reflection session moderated by Anna Marie Karaos of JJCISI. The key issues raised were about project sustainability, partnerships with government agencies and with other PHILSSA members, advocacy on land and housing, and education of the Marawi people about their rights especially their land rights.

The afternoon session focused on two panel discussions. The first

was entitled “Innovative Technologies on Water” and the invited resource speakers were from Ateneo Innovation Center (AIC), Del Rosario Compound Homeowners Association (DRCHA), and Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines. Carlos Oppus, Executive Director of AIC, presented two AIC-developed technologies, the mobile clean water disaster kit ([See YP ENewsletter March-May 2018 Issue](#)) and the solar-powered rainwater filter system installed in communities needing clean water. This was followed by the presentation of Rommel Laxamana, President of DRCHA where the solar-powered rainwater catchment facility was installed. He gave a brief background and history of their organization and the challenges and lessons his community faced in project implementation. The next resource speaker was Cecilia Alcantara, Executive Director of Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, who talked about Agos Project. The water stewardship project provided potable water access to far-flung communities and focused on watershed protection, rainwater harvesting and installation of hydraulic ram pump.

The next panel discussion was entitled “Learnings from the World Urban Forum (WUF9) 2018”. Three resource speakers



Ms. Gigi Arroyo discusses resource generation for NGOs as part of the NGO Sustainability panel.

who attended WUF9 were invited to share their learning. Sarah Redoblado, Executive Director of ALTERPLAN, narrated the events that took place in WUF9 and provided the NGO perspective in the discussion. She emphasized the value of setting-up a Philippine urban development-related projects and the importance of understanding the New Urban Agenda as indicators of sustainable cities. Jojo Carandang of Social Housing and Finance Corporation (SHFC), meanwhile gave the government’s perspective of the discussion about WUF9. Representing the perspective from people’s organization was Cipriano Fampulme, National Chairperson of Aksyon sa Kahandaan sa Kalamidad at Klima (AKKMA). Mr. Fampulme shared that his take-away from the event is the importance of data collection that communities themselves can use in times of disaster. He also talked about the World Grassroots Assembly, one of the WUF9 events.

The second day of the PHILSSA GA was divided into the morning learning session and the afternoon annual business meeting. The learning session was about “NGO Sustainability” with speakers from Association of Foundations (AF) and Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO). Joji Abot-Camelon from AF talked about the research that they conducted regarding leadership transition in non-profit organizations. Interestingly, AF’s study showed

that 56% of the staff of the surveyed organizations has no interest in taking up leadership positions. The next speaker was Gigi Arroyo who talked about resource generation for NGOs and the different kinds of resources that sustain non-profit organizations. She emphasized the importance of recognizing the value of not just the financial resources but human and technical resources as well. The last speaker of the learning session was Ms. Roselle Rasay, Executive Director of CODE-NGO. She talked about the sustainability plans and initiatives of CODE-NGO, discussing the challenges encountered and the changes made to ensure sustainability of the organization.

The annual business meeting was held in the afternoon session. The chairperson, secretary, and treasurer of PHILSSA each gave their annual reports after which Ivy Marian Panganiban of CODE-NGO presented the impact assessment study that they did on PHILSSA. The annual business meeting also gave time for the regional clusters to convene and come up with resolutions that PHILSSA Board Members have to approve. The general assembly concluded with the election of BALAYAN, Xavier University, FDUP, and TAO-Pilipinas as new board members of PHILSSA. They join ICES-DEV, HEALTHDEV, COSCA, SALORSEDFI, JJCISI, KAFCODE, FORGE, and KPS Seed as Board Members. (AMPS)

National Environmental Dialogue



Mr. Celestino Santander of Sabang Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour Guide Association speaks during the session on Community Livelihoods and Sustainable Enterprise.

A NATIONAL environmental dialogue on Landscape Governance was convened by Forest Foundation Philippines last July 10-11 at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. The two-day event gathered representatives from government, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, academe, and private organizations working on environmental and natural resources

management throughout the country. Dubbed “Geography of Governance: Landscape and Resource Management”, the national dialogue aimed to serve as a platform for learning and exchange on environmental policy and governance and to support informed and inclusive decision-making on natural resource governance in light of a possible shift to a federal form of government.

A series of breakout sessions facilitated 8 discussion streams. These included (1) Forest and Climate Change Interface; (2) Water and Agriculture; (3) Urban and Sustainable Cities; (4) Integrated Coastal Resource Management; (5) Green Bills and Environment Code; (6) Ancestral Domain, Indigenous Peoples, and Traditional Knowledge; (7) Multi-Stakeholder Management; and (8) Community Livelihoods and Sustainable Enterprise. The first four themes were tackled on the first day of the dialogue, and the last four themes on the second day. Different organizations headed each of the breakout sessions.

TAO - Pilipinas (represented by Geraldine Matabang) participated in two sessions. On day 1, she joined the discussion on Urban and Sustainable Cities organized by Institute

for Climate and Sustainable Cities; and on day 2, the session on Community Livelihoods and Sustainable Enterprise organized by the Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Program.

Each breakout session had its distinct set of presentations from resource persons and discussed policies, processes and practices related to their topics. Afterwards, the groups summarized their discussion by identifying the key elements and enabling conditions that ensure sustainable landscape governance and outlining recommendations and concrete actions for effective landscape governance. These were presented to the plenary at the end of the day. At the close of the program, the recommendations from the breakout sessions were synthesized and translated into a proposed action plan by the plenary. (GRM)

ALTERPLAN project closing

PHILSSA INVITED its network partners including TAO-Pilipinas to the closing activity of the DIB-Alterplan project “Promoting disaster risk-sensitive shelter planning”. The closing activity was held on June 8th at the Microtel UP Technohub in Quezon City.

Alterplan presented the results of the project implemented from 2015 to mid-2018 in project areas in Ligao City, Bohol, Iligan City, and General Santos City.

Brief presentations were given by project stakeholders who shared the various tools and outputs of the projects. These included Ricky Cabunyang of KPS Foundation; Rowena Acuram of Duyan; and Fr. Rex Arjona of SAC Legazpi. Following the presentations of project partners, Mr. Dennis Mancina of ICESDEV outlined the challenges encountered and some ways forward in engaging communities in shelter planning.



PHILSSA members and ALTERPLAN project partners pose with Arch. Sarah Redoblado (peach blouse), Executive Director of ALTERPLAN. Photo source: Puri Gamon.

HUDCC Director Mylene Rivera addressed the group at the close of the program. She gave a short remark encouraging the replication of the project’s initiatives to

influence policymakers and for grassroots-level planning outputs to feed into the city/ municipal CDP and CLUP processes. (GRM)

Dreams, Seeds, Realities

by Elaiza Ann Taguse

Elaiza Ann Taguse is an architecture graduate from Technological Institute of the Philippines, Quezon City. She is one of the participants of the 2017 YP Workshop on Social Housing and also became part of the 2017 batch of YP Interns. During her internship, Elai worked on doing as-built plans and construction monitoring for TAO's shelter projects. She is currently working for a construction company in Metro Manila.

PERHAPS YOU'RE READING this as a student who dreams to someday change the world for the better. Perhaps you're an employee stuck in a daily routine and you dream to do something different and fulfilling. Or maybe you have lived long enough in this world to be hurt beyond healing, yet still dream a way to treat it. Wherever you are in your journey, we all have something in common. We dream.

One year ago, I was that student romanticizing that when I step out of campus, I will go straight to serving the underprivileged through Architecture. That's why I decided to take that step during my senior year; I met TAO-Pilipinas and joined its Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing.

During the 6-day workshop, I met fellow students with the same heart for the underprivileged. There were also the group of young professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering, and social work, taking time off work to awaken their community spirit. And the last group were the community leaders who represent the needs of their community. Under one roof, we all learned from the series of lectures which was the first chapter of the workshop.

The second chapter of the workshop was community immersion. This involved applying what we learned from the lectures by doing a transect walk and participatory planning in the community. This was my favourite part of the workshop because the "underprivileged" in my vocabulary by then already had faces and names. I

got to interact with them during the activities as well as during our stay with the host families. It was a short while but I was beyond grateful for these experiences I took home.

After the workshop, the experience lived on as I became an intern at TAO-Pilipinas for two months. Together with some of the students from the workshop, our work mainly involved producing drawings for their projects. We also visited the construction site at Angat, Bulacan. But what I liked most from internship was when we went to Pampanga to visit a project site using earth bag construction, a low-cost building construction method.

TAO-Pilipinas holds a culminating activity at the end of the internship period to present the projects that interns were involved in and discuss what they learned. On July 21, 2017, we had our culminating activity. TAO invited technical professionals to form a panel and discuss the interns' outputs.

I was the first of the five presenters for the culminating activity. I was glad to find in the panel Ar. Rizalito Mercado who I met him earlier when he spoke at a seminar about social housing that I attended at the University of the Philippines. I was overwhelmed with his heart for the underprivileged and felt honored to speak before him. As scripted, my presentation flowed from my educational background and the reason I joined the workshop and the internship program to the projects I was involved in and finally about everything I have learned throughout the whole experience.



Elaiza is part of YP Team 3 that facilitated the community workshop for Kawan 3 in Tandang Sora during the 2017 YP Workshop on Social Housing.



Elaiza learns how to properly stake a lot together with her fellow interns during their visit in Masagana Angat resettlement area.

They gave good remarks about my presentation but one member of the panel said that maybe I was romanticizing the whole thing. As a graduating student so fired up to be socially responsible, I have decided to cross "entering the corporate world" off the list after graduation. He remarked that it is not a bad thing to enter the corporate world, just because you would like to serve the poor. You can always join volunteer works on the side and still be socially responsible even when you are in the corporate world.

So that is where I am now.

After graduation, I entered a construction firm in the private sector. I am not performing participatory planning that I learned from the workshop and I may not be visiting community-initiated projects like the site in Pampanga. Instead, I watch paid laborers

do their job. I may not be CAD detailing as-built plans for the urban poor from the Masagana resettlement project like I did during my internship but for now I am producing shop drawings for businessmen for their commercial projects. It may not seem so, but I am planting.

Harvest time may not be anytime soon but I know for sure that these seeds will grow and any labor to water them will not be in vain. My dream is like a seed that takes time to grow deep roots and build a strong foundation.

When one dreams, one is still hopeful that change can and will come. So whether you're a student, a young professional, or a community leader, we should not stop dreaming. But more importantly, we should take action to plant the seed, water them, and turn those dreams into reality.

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment. You may call Angel Sales at 287-6446 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



This book comes for an analytical assessment about how the materials economy is shaping today's society. It offers an engaging yet elaborate dissection on the processes of human consumption: starting from the stages of extraction up to the disposal end.

The manner of narration and language used in the book was highly coherent and naturally relatable since it addresses and appeals to consumers, which

Title: The Story of Stuff
Author: Annie Leonard
Publisher: Free Press (2010)

all people are. It will provide the reader an amusing reading experience as the scholarly facts and figures were infused with several hints of humor and sarcasm. Aided with comical illustrations throughout the pages, Leonard instills stories and critique. She elaborates distinct explanations of what is wrong, relates it into real life situations then commends feasible solutions.

The Story of Stuff explores deeper into the faults and defects of the materials economy. This is the author's platform in an attempt to make a change in our declining economic system. Leonard applies the concept of a systems thinking where one recognizes that "everything exists as a part of a larger system and must be understood in relation to other parts". Stressing that everything is connected accordingly, she broke down the predicaments in chapters,

from the stages of extraction, production, distribution, consumption, up to the disposal; each chapter is divided into expanding subsections edifying about the consequences affecting our environment and the society.

The author underscores the toxic amount of Stuff people possess. The culture of consumerism is that people lose sight of what is significant through the influences of trading strategies: planned obsolescence wherein products are *designed for the dump* which keep unwitting consumers buying; coupled with the mastermind of all this sorcery: advertising. Despite acquiring more and more Stuff, unhappiness and dissatisfaction still prevails amongst consumers. The market is filling a void (once the role of public amenities, neighborly activities, or friends) with privately purchasable stuff or services, yet people are becoming more isolated.

Despite the crisis regarding materialism and consumerism, Leonard offers solutions of

resistance and positive change starting with an excerpt from Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone*, "by challenging the fear of sacrifice and describing one version of what life can look like when we focus on the quality of our life, rather than the quality of our stuff." It commends humanity to change the system by restoring connections based on sustainability and impartiality. People are still capable of stopping environmental deterioration, threats in health, and social injustice generated from hazardous productions and extreme consumption. People need to practice reciprocity, adherence, and dependency not on material stuff but on community building.

Overall, the Story of Stuff motivates the society to turn away from the typical "growth-driven" prototype of economic advancement. Leonard finds resolution on low impact lifestyles and presents to us her extensive yet hopeful visions enabling the people to rethink our life choices and how we treat our planet. (Ara Laurice SD. Pascual)



Title: The Garbage Book: Solid Waste Management in Metro Manila
Author: Matthew S. Westfall and Nicholas Allen
Publisher: Asian Development Bank (2004)

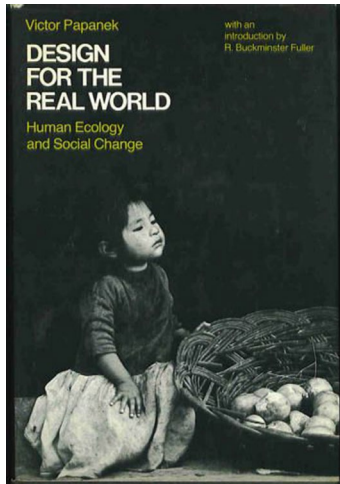
countless infographics, The Garbage Book establishes the inherent problem of solid waste management in the National Capital Region and provides possible solutions to this crisis in the form of community-based initiatives and an action plan for change.

Upon opening this book, one is immediately captivated by the intense and explicit images of mounds of garbage accompanied by the words, "Urgent Need for Change." The authors of the book introduce the long stretch of history behind the waste disposal crisis in Metro

Manila and its continuing effects on the population and the environment. In particular, the book details a timeline of the crisis and the amount of additional dump sites that were opened as a result. Moreover, the book also discusses the dangers of unregulated dump sites. Liquid runoff, or leachate, from the active sites such as the Rodriguez and Payatas dump sites is hazardous and toxic to human health and environment. Overall, the contention highlights the severity of the garbage crisis in Metro Manila and the crucial need for working solutions.

Finally, I chose this book because of the topic's relevance to one of the new projects at TAO Pilipinas focused on the site at Lupang Arenda. In my opinion, the book was helpful in clarifying details in the bureaucracy of solid waste management in the region through the visuals and statistics. In addition, the work is an effective report but at times I found the graphics and data visualizations to be a bit overwhelming. Definitively, The Garbage Book is a great casual read for those seeking a rude awakening to Manila's garbage disposal crisis. (Atrianne Dolom)

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment. You may call Angel Sales at 287-6446 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



"There are professions more harmful than industrial design, but only a few of them...only one profession is phonier. Advertising design, in persuading people to buy things they don't need, with money they don't have, to impress other who don't care".

Title: Design for the Real World: Human Ecology and Social Change

Author: Victor Papanek

Publisher: Pantheon Books (1971)

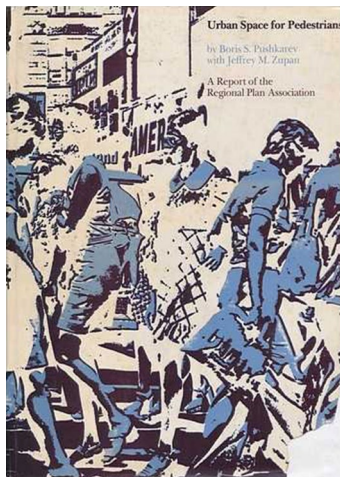
Papanek started greatly with this opening phrase as he criticizes the culture of consumerism. He seeks for a deeper purpose within the architecture profession that is not only aesthetics centered but takes on a broader role as an exponent of green development and of social inclusion.

In the book, the author redefines design. Function is the executed intent of design, while aesthetic value is just a small part of it. He lists six essential facets of function, namely (1) methods, the interplay among tools; (2) use, the assessment of its functionality; (3)

need, a human being's economic, psychological, spiritual, technological and intellectual needs; (4) thesis, whether it responds justly to its context; (5) association, the psychological factor; and (6) aesthetics, which gives form to the design. He finds fault on the consumer economy where mass production and advertising accentuate conformity making it tougher for creativity to be attained.

Overall, the impact of *Design for the Real World* provides a significant and ideal model for modern design practice. Formalism is evaded which demands

the designer to think comprehensively ahead of the future implications of his/her design, its capacity to improve the quality of living and the positive/negative impacts it will bear to society. Papanek reminds us that *"the most important ability that a designer can bring into his work is the ability to recognize, isolate, define, and solve problems."* The transcendental message is to open our eyes and extend our visions when it comes to the different principles of designing. (Ara Laurice SD. Pascual)



This report published by the Regional Plan Association is a summation of a study done on human density in urban spaces. The extent of the work delineates how urban spaces are filled and how this can be calculated and predicted. The authors intend to communicate the significance in the way spaces are designed for the population that

Title: Urban Space for Pedestrians / A Report of the Regional Plan Association

Author: Boris Pushkarev with Jeffrey M. Zupan

Publisher: The MIT Press (1975)

can be expected to occupy the space. Specifically, their mission is to define quantitative methods to estimate pedestrian space in dense city centers to aid urban designers, architects, and other figures in zoning matters. Pushkarev and Zupan detail their findings in the form of tables, graphs, and mapped images as a way to properly analyze the philosophy of "urban space for pedestrians." Furthermore, the downtown center in question is Manhattan, New York, where the authors study and propose a comprehensive rethinking of pedestrian circulation in urban centers including, but not limited to, car-free zones, the reconstruction of below-ground public

environment like subway stations, and the integration of ground level and underground spaces.

I was particularly drawn to this book because of how it meticulously analyzes the way urban space functions. Although, the authors intended this report to be applicable to different city centers aside from Manhattan, I think the report is limited in its relevance for application to cities outside the West. Thus, I am curious about how this report can help create a framework that allows this philosophy of "urban space for pedestrians" to be applied to non-western cities. Urban space and how one behaves in urban spaces are largely influenced by

culture and how deeply ingrained the automobile is in that specific culture. Therefore, if applied to cities like Manila many variables must be considered. All things considered, this book is a dense read and can drag on with the meticulous data and statistics provided; however, it provides a very clear framework for this idealized future for pedestrians. Conclusively, *Urban Space for Pedestrians* is a very detailed report advocating for pro-pedestrian urban centers and I would highly recommend it to individuals interested in the science behind this type of urban design. (Atrianne Dolom)

TAO Coffee Table Book Is Now Available!



THE COFFEE TABLE BOOK PUBLISHED BY TAO-Pilipinas is now available for purchase. This coffee table book marks TAO's 16th year, and documents TAO's journey towards sustainable human settlements development.

Entitled "TAO-Pilipinas architects in the margins", the book highlights TAO's unique participatory approach in taking on various projects that require the skills of technical planning and design professionals. From resettlement, to rehabilitation, to education - this book captures their triumphs, failures, and the lessons that came with them; sharing a rich body of knowledge that hopes to inspire others to take the path less travelled.

This hardbound book is available for purchase at Php1,500.00 for local purchase and 30.00USD for international purchase. Delivery charges are not yet included. To reserve a copy of the book, please fill-up our [reservation form](#). We only printed limited copies so please fill-up our form to reserve your copy.

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"Meditation on daily basis. Running on weekends if time permits."

- ARCH. ABBEY ANDINO, 30, PROJECT ARCHITECT

"Play Mobile Legends or Xbox. Eat KFC since this is my comfort food and do window shopping of gadgets."

- ARCH. JAN MICHAEL HALILI, 36, SENIOR TECHNICAL DESIGNER

"Watch movies before going to bed and go to the park on weekends."

- ARCH. IRENE GOROSPE-BERMUDO, 34, SINGAPORE-BASED ARCHITECTURAL COORDINATOR

"I play with my dog, Mucho."

- ARCH. MILDRED KAY GASCON, 36, FREELANCE ARCHITECT

"Eating while watching on Netflix."

- ARCH. MARY VENTURA, 34, BIM COORDINATOR



Now that the Mental Health Law has been signed, what do you do to relieve the stress of everyday work as technical professionals?