



TAO-Pilipinas and its partners from various NGOs, POs, the academe, and government agencies gathered at the Commission on Human Rights last August 20 for the 4th TAO Forum, themed "Housing Rights and Urban Resilience in the Context of the New Normal," in celebration of TAO's 18th Anniversary.

TAO partners with the Commission on Human Rights in its 18th Anniversary Forum

ON AUGUST 20, 2001, TAO-PILIPINAS (Technical Assistance Organization), Inc. was officially registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. TAO-Pilipinas was conceived when a small group of friends gathered together and exchanged ideas over coffee and doughnuts, and under a mango tree in the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Exactly 18 years later, TAO-Pilipinas brought together a much larger crowd to hold conversations and exchange ideas similarly—but this time, over coffee and falafel wraps inside the air-conditioned PARDEC A & B function rooms at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Commonwealth Avenue, UP Complex, Diliman, Quezon City. To celebrate its 18th Anniversary of bringing technical assistance to marginalized communities, TAO-Pilipinas invited friends from partner NGOs, communities/POs, the academe, and government agencies, and launched the 4th TAO Forum on Sustainable Communities on August 20, 2019.

The first three TAO forums—conducted in 2014, 2015, and 2017—composed a trilogy that focused

on post-disaster rehabilitation of communities following the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Typhoon Haiyan). Under the theme "Housing Rights and Urban Resilience in the Context of the New Normal", this year's TAO forum shifted the discourse on sustainable communities by reflecting on adequate housing as a human right, challenges and risks of climate change, and how communities can take action to build climate resilience. The event comprised four lecture inputs on housing rights and climate change, which were punctuated by open forum sessions and delivered by a multidisciplinary group of speakers.

To kick off the anniversary forum, Dr. Maria Antonia Tanchuling, Vice President of TAO's Board of Trustees (BoT), delivered the opening remarks. She congratulated TAO-Pilipinas for its 18th Anniversary and noted how far the organization has come from its humble beginnings. She also thanked CHR for co-hosting the event, welcomed the guests, and hoped for a productive forum.

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING AND A BALANCED AND HEALTHFUL ECOLOGY

Delivering the first presentation was Ms. Klarise Grace Espinosa of CHR's Center for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. She presented an introduction on the right to adequate housing and how this human right relates to the effects of climate change—giving an overview of economic, social, and cultural rights (ECSR), which include the right to adequate housing.

The speaker enumerated the freedoms and entitlements covered by the right to adequate housing, which includes participation in housing-related decision-making. Ms. Espinosa remarked that with community participation, actual needs of the users are addressed; with community decision, accountability and ownership are reinforced. The speaker also covered the conditions to be met for housing to be considered adequate. She underscored the three-pronged obligations of the government under the International Covenant of ESCR: to respect, protect, and fulfill economic, social, and cultural rights.

[READ MORE: P2](#)

Masagana HOA's ecobricks drive a big success

TAO-PILIPINAS OPENED A CALL FOR donations of ecobricks last July 15, 2019 for our partner community, Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association, Inc. They will be constructing a community kitchen and toilet near their Community-Based Resource Center (CBRC), and they opted to use ecobricks instead of conventional concrete hollow blocks (CHBs) in order to keep costs down. The said structure is part of the Direct Aid Program 2019 project of Australian Embassy with TAO-Pilipinas and Masagana. It will provide a cooking space for malunggay pandesal making, community soup kitchen, and other food processing community activities that can also be a source of income. Meanwhile, the need for comfort rooms arose because of the frequent visits of volunteers, student organizations, TAO-Pilipinas staff, and others who support Masagana in their various endeavors.

At least 600 pieces of 1.5-liter ecobricks are needed to fill the walls of their kitchen and toilet, so the members of the community were initially

[READ MORE: P4](#)

FEATURE ARTICLES



Kyushu University carries out first people's planning activity in Payatas

[P8](#)

NETWORK ACTIVITIES



The Architecture Biennale is now in Manila

[P10](#)

YP READING LIST



[P12](#)

What do you think of the provincial bus ban to be imposed in EDSA?

YP PULSE
[P12](#)

TAO partners with the Commission on Human Rights... *(continued from page 1)*

Ms. Espinosa discussed the threats of climate change on the right to adequate housing—how extreme weather events affect communities, especially informal settlements that often lack access to resources necessary to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. At the end of her talk, the speaker emphasized that climate change is a human rights issue, and that all nation-states are compelled to address it.

TIRAHAN, PAGKAIN, KURYENTE: PAANO SILA MAAPEKTUHAN NG PAGBABAGO NG KLIMA?

Next up was the presentation on climate change by Dr. Laura David, a physical oceanographer and professor at UP Marine Science Institute, who is also part of the TAO-Pilipinas BoT. Dr. David's lecture focused on understanding climate change and shedding light on its effects, particularly on shelter, water, and electricity. Talking about why climate change calls for action and what can be done to address it, Dr. David began by discussing the impact of sea level rise on coastal communities, which is exacerbated by the lack of land tenure of poor communities. Dr. David added that this is not just the poor's problem; well-off developments have also boomed in coastal areas and, thus, are similarly vulnerable to sea level rise.

Dr. David then went on to talk about the responses to climate change in the aspect of shelter, water, and electricity that can be undertaken at the community level. She shared lessons learned from post-Yolanda rehabilitation efforts, such as considerations for easements from bodies of water and relocation of coastal communities to low-risk areas. She expressed the need for alternative water sources to prevent excessive groundwater extraction, which has adverse effects like ground subsidence and groundwater salinization. She highlighted the importance of mangroves, as well as seagrass and coral reefs, in climate change adaptation. Finally, she noted that although they cannot stop climate change, they can mitigate it through various alternative sources of energy.

RE TECHNOLOGIES: ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO ADAPT TO AND MITIGATE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Mr. Arturo Tahup, who is the Project

Coordinator of RE-Charge Pilipinas under the Institute of Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), was the third speaker of the TAO Forum. Following an open forum right after the first two presentations, Mr. Tahup talked about the use of renewable energy (RE) technologies for community adaptation and mitigation of the climate crisis. He explained referring to climate change as a crisis to emphasize the urgency of the matter.

Proceeding with his presentation, Mr. Tahup briefly reviewed the effects of climate change before delving into the challenge of energy amidst climate change and the RE-related solutions that can be explored. He discussed the lack of energy integration in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and humanitarian response in the country, and stressed the importance of energy cutting across all clusters. Mr. Tahup also shared the RE initiatives of ICSC following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yolanda. Among these initiatives are the Solar Scholars, wherein Yolanda Survivors were trained in DRR and photovoltaic (PV) technology; Solar TekPak, a portable PV system collaboratively developed with Yolanda survivors; and RE-Hub, a community resource center on RE and sustainable solutions. Moreover, Mr. Tahup underscored energy democracy and allowing communities to become innovators, planners, and decision-makers in low-carbon development initiatives. He also imparted that human-centered design is key to the climate crisis adaptation and mitigation.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The final presentation was delivered by Engr. Ma. Lorena Hernandez, Team Leader for Masagana and Tandang Sora of TAO-Pilipinas, and Ms. Diana Antipuesto, Secretary of Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association (Masagana HOA). They discussed "Project Recharge", the RE initiative implemented by TAO-Pilipinas with Masagana HOA under Sikat Impact Challenge 2018. The project utilized solar energy and rainwater to address some of Masagana Community's identified needs—lighting, livelihood, water, and electricity. Ms. Antipuesto first provided a background of Masagana Community, which is



The lecturers: (top-left) Ms. Klarise Espinosa provides a backgrounder on human rights, particularly on the right to adequate housing; (top-right) Dr. Laura David explains the impact of climate change on coastal communities and their resources; (bottom-left) Mr. Arturo Tahup talks about various human-centered applications of RE technologies to empower communities and (bottom-right) Engr. Lorena Hernandez presents about TAO-Pilipinas and Masagana Community's Project Recharge.



The audience: (top-left) Ms. Edelyn Flores of Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) asks about the application of RE technologies in her community; (top-right) Mr. Lloyd Ranque of Kyushu-JICA Project expresses appreciation for the cross-examination of housing rights with climate change at the forum; (above) Participants of the 4th TAO Forum on Sustainable Communities pose for a photo with TAO staff.

TAO partners with the Commission on Human Rights... *(continued from page 2)*

located in a 1.4-hectare resettlement site in Angat, Bulacan. Ms. Antipuesto also outlined the components of Project Recharge while Engr. Hernandez discussed the outputs.

For the project outputs, Engr. Hernandez cited the facilitation of three capability-building workshops, installation of ten solar streetlights, water purification system (WPS), solar PV system, and creation of a project sustainability fund (PSF) to maintain, sustain, and potentially replicate the project. She also shared the gaps, challenges, and evaluation results of the project. Among the gaps encountered was the lack of knowledge and experience in RE systems and business models, as well as the social acceptance of the purified water based on its taste. On the other hand, the evaluation

revealed, among others, that the project had sparked interest in RE from the community. Engr. Hernandez also noted that one out of five households had shifted from drinking groundwater to purified water from the WPS.

OPEN FORUM

Following the second, third, and fourth presentations, the floor was opened for questions and answers or sharing of insights. The discussions ranged from challenges the country is facing and the gaps of the government when it comes to the right to adequate housing and addressing climate change, to the different ways that RE technologies can be applied to the audience's respective communities.

From the forum, Dr. David and Ms. Espinosa both mentioned the value of

collective action to put pressure on the government to shift harmful status quos. Dr. David noted that public support is needed to change outdated laws on the environment without scientific basis. On the other hand, Ms. Espinosa remarked that there is a need to constantly call out the government to do its role when it comes to lapses in doing its state obligations. Dr. David also shared her insights on the broad discussion of the Manila Bay reclamation project, wherein she cited salient points that the government must consider before undertaking the project. RE discussions revolved around specific ways the audience members can integrate RE systems in their own communities. Mr. Tahup also reiterated his support for the energy democracy movement and community-based RE systems.

SYNTHESIS AND CLOSING REMARKS

The final remarks of the 4th TAO Forum and anniversary celebration were delivered by the two founders of TAO-Pilipinas. Arch./EnP. Arlene Christy Lusterio, TAO's Executive Director, gave a synthesis of the whole event and underscored the main takeaways of each presentation. Arch./EnP. Maria Faith Varona, Secretary of TAO's BoT, then delivered the closing remarks. She thanked all of TAO's partners—old and new, from NGOs, POs, the academe, and government agencies—that have worked with TAO in assisting communities. To end, she jokingly referred to the 18th anniversary as a coming-of-age for TAO-Pilipinas and hoped for more opportunities for the organization to learn and work with current and future partners. (TRJ)

TAO marks 18th Anniversary by working towards gender-responsive settlements development

TAO-PILIPINAS GAVE SPECIAL FOCUS on gender as it marked its 18th anniversary this year. Two activities were lined up that looked into integrating a more gender-responsive approach to technical assistance for the women-led and staffed organization.

The first activity was a focus group discussion (FGD) with four target communities of TAO-Pilipinas which was conducted on August 20, 2019. The second, held on September 14, was a CPD seminar-workshop on "Gender Perspectives in Spatial Planning and Design" targeting built environment professionals (see separate article). In both activities, TAO partnered with the Center for Women's Human Rights and Gender Equality of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as resource organization and co-host.

The FGD was participated by three community partner organizations under the Misereor project, "Building Sustainable and Disaster Resilient Communities in Metro Manila", and one under the project, "PPVHOA High-Density Housing". These were Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association from Pulong Yantok, Angat, Bulacan; Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) from Taytay, Rizal; Basic Ecclesial Communities of Santuario de

San Vicente de Paul Parish (Santuario BEC) in Tandang Sora, Quezon City; and People's Plan Villa Homeowners Association (PPVHOA) from Del Pan Binondo, Manila City.

TAO-Pilipinas prepared a program along with sets of guide questions to facilitate the FGD. Community partners reflected on gender perceptions and roles in their respective households and communities. Prior to this discussion, Atty. Twyla Rubin of the Commission on Human Rights gave a brief introduction on "gendered spaces" and oriented the participants about gender and its link to community development.

Three focus groups were formed. Group 1 was Masagana; group 2 was APOLA; and group 3 was the combination of Santuario BEC and PPVHOA. The groups talked about nine aspects of family and community life seen through a gender lens. At the household level, this included (1) access to resources; (2) decision-making; (3) division of responsibilities; and (4) restrictions on access and mobility. At the community-level, they discussed (5) group engagements; (6) barriers to participation; (7) how time is spent and location of activities; (8) efforts towards community resilience; and (9) forms of violence in the community. Each group shared the outputs of their discussion



FGD groups from Masagana (top-left), APOLA (top-right), Tandang Sora, and PPVHOA (bottom-left) conducted a gender analysis of their respective communities, facilitated by TAO staff. Afterwards, Atty. Twyla Rubin of the Center for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights commented on the results (bottom-right).

and explained the situation in their community.

Following the groups' presentations, Atty. Rubin of CHR commented on the results of the FGD which apparently showed that it was the first time participants reflected on gender issues in their respective communities. The activity outlined the differences in activities, work and responsibilities of men and women but it likewise revealed the multiple burdens placed on women. This was seen in how the women must strategize to balance their expected housekeeping and care-giving tasks at home with community work such as waste management, urban gardening, and attendance to community meetings. She also pointed out how undervaluing

women's care work also impacts their enjoyment of work.

Atty. Rubin emphasized the need for a more thorough gender analysis of the communities. They must further ascertain who has access to and control of resources, who has power in making decisions, and who are given restrictions. This can help them identify harmful gender norms that need to be changed and plan solutions to lead them towards a more gender-responsive development of their communities. Atty. Rubin also mentioned that gender analysis should also take into account intersectionalities by including the experiences and concerns of other groups like children, the elderly, LGBT and PWDs. (GRM)



Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) students, (left-to-right) Veronica Katrina Ching, Gerwin John Rodriguez, Marian Jimenez, Lou Jillain Bangayan, Samantha Nicole Roque, and Adrian Bernard Dofitas pose next to APOLA community leaders, Nicanor Berdigay Jr. and Maria Theresa Aves, and TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Formation Project Team Leader (YPF PTL) Rosanne Marie Aldeguez after visiting Barangay Sta. Ana's health office. After which, they continued to go around Lupang Arenda on patrol vehicles provided by APOLA (below).

TAO partners with the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) for an academic program

TAO-PILIPINAS HAS PARTNERED with the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) in the conduct of their Learning Experiences in Communities (LEC) Program. LEC is an integral part of the ASMPH's (Doctor of Medicine and Master of Business Administration (MD-MBA) curriculum because it integrates the clinical medicine, public health, and management concepts and competencies. The program is taken by 3rd/4th year ASMPH students, after sufficient preparation in both theoretical (operations/marketing management, family/social medicine, preventive medicine & community health, research) and actual practice (community & clinical exposure, facilitating skills, crisis counseling). LEC is a two-year program, spanning at least 240 hours of learning in and with the community assigned to a group of students.

On August 30, 2019, six ASMPH students, Veronica Ching, Gerwin Rodriguez, Lou Bangayan, Marian Jimenez, Samantha Roque, and Adrian Dofitas, dived straight into their first community visit in Lupang Arenda,

Taytay. On this visit, they got to know TAO-Pilipinas through talks with TAO-Pilipinas's Young Professionals Formation (YPF) Project Team Leader, Ms. Rosanne Aldeguez and Lupang Arenda Project Team Leader, Theresse Julia. They also got acquainted with our partner people's organization—the Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) through conversations with various community leaders about the organization's history and their needs and issues. The students also familiarized themselves with the environment by going around the community on patrol vehicles driven by APOLA members.

Together with TAO staff, they encircled the entire 96-hectares of Lupang Arenda, making one stop at the barangay health center to ask a few questions. At the end of the day, they asked the community leaders about their priority issues, and how they would like the students to help. The six ASMPH students will be back for another visit on September 20, 2019, where they will explore possible interventions to improve the community's health. (RMBA)

Masagana HOA's ecobricks drive...

(continued from page 1)

required to produce 10 ecobricks per household, as there were already some households who were making ecobricks at home. TAO-Pilipinas decided to help the community reach their target by posting a call for ecobrick donations. In a span of 2 weeks, the post had reached more than 150,000 people and had generated more than 12,000 engagements. Since all sizes of ecobricks were accepted, donations from schools, private offices, partner organizations, and individuals started to fill the office of TAO-Pilipinas. Some meet-ups were scheduled and accommodated, but most donations were delivered to the TAO-Pilipinas office. For the first few days, clean, empty plastic bottles were also accepted. However, when the volume of donations multiplied, only ecobricks were accepted. Ecobricks donations were received until 31st of July. After that, a few TAO-Pilipinas staff, along with the community

members, began to sort ecobricks according to acceptability, with respect to their weight and filler materials.

After days of sorting ecobricks, it became evident that the number of acceptable ecobricks was almost the same as that of the rejected ones. TAO-Pilipinas rented a truck to transport both the accepted and rejected ecobricks to Masagana in Brgy. Pulong Yantok, Angat, Bulacan last August 6, 2019. The members of the community helped to load and unload the sacks of ecobricks. The members continued to fill the rejected ecobricks on-site so that it would reach the accepted weight.

The community has since completed the 600 pieces of 1.5-liter ecobricks necessary to create a wall for their community kitchen and toilet. The community is now trying to incorporate the rest of the ecobricks into other community-initiated projects like in gardening and drainage making. The ecobrick drive had also appealed to the other partner communities of TAO-Pilipinas in Taytay and Tandang Sora,

who had expressed their interest in utilizing alternative building materials, like ecobricks, in their respective communities.

Finally, TAO-Pilipinas sends its appreciation and gratitude to everyone who donated their ecobricks and to the community members who shared their energy in sorting, delivery, and filling of the ecobricks. (MLPH)

TAO staff and Masagana volunteers sorted and packed the donated ecobricks, according to volume and acceptability, at the TAO office, before delivering them to Masagana. (below and right)



#ProjectPagbangon gets a sequel—MCR production begins in Borongan

PROJECT PAGBANGON—PHILIPPINE Misereor Partnership, Inc.'s (PMPI's) post-Yolanda rehabilitation project in the islands of Homonhon and Manicani in Guiuan, Eastern Samar (wherein TAO-Pilipinas rendered the shelter and evacuation center component) was revived in June 2019, when PMPI approved the implementation of “#ProjectPagbangon: MCR Production” in Borongan City, Eastern Samar, with TAO-Pilipinas as the implementing partner, Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor, Inc. (FDUP) as the resource organization, and Caritas Borongan, Inc. as the local counterpart.

The aim of the project is to transfer the technology of micro-concrete roof (MCR) tile, an alternative building material (ABMAT) which was used on the houses constructed in Homonhon Island, providing a livelihood opportunity for the locals. It also aims to introduce climate resiliency through the use of the ABMAT. The idea of transferring the knowledge of MCR production had been in the works since the implementation of Project Pagbangon—it was Caritas Borongan, a church-based organization and network partner of PMPI, who welcomed the prospect of adopting the MCR tile technology in their town.

PREPARING FOR PRODUCTION

On June 25 to 27, Arch./EnP. Arlene Christy Lusterio and Arch. Theresse Julia of TAO-Pilipinas, and Arch. Cesar Aris, Jr. of FDUP met with representatives of Caritas Borongan: Executive Director Rev. Fr. Juderick Paul Calumpiano, Mr. Ryan Ambil, and Mr. German Silvero, to visit the site of the MCR production center to be constructed. The group also checked the production equipment that were stored in Caritas Borongan's warehouse, adjacent to the site—they discovered that some components were missing, such as the wooden frames attached to the MCR moulds and some parts of the two MCR machines.

The group then tested one MCR machine (the other was unusable and scheduled for repair) by producing sample MCR tiles. With Arch. Aris guiding the process, they first assembled a few wooden frames for the MCR moulds before preparing the concrete mixture composed of cement, sand, and water. An MCR tile was shaped



(top) June 25—TAO-Pilipinas, FDUP, and Caritas Borongan visit the site of the production center.
(bottom) June 26—The group fabricates the wooden frames for the MCR moulds.

by vibrating the concrete mixture on the machine and transferring it to the MCR mould. The samples were then stacked to dry for 24 hours before submerging them in water. Although the water curing process is supposed to take 7 days, followed by 3 weeks of air drying, the samples were removed from the water after only 24 hours, due to the time constraint of the visit. This resulted in most samples breaking. Nevertheless, the activity was conducted to introduce and orient the key persons of the project to the MCR production process.

Before leaving, TAO-Pilipinas and FDUP sketched the plan for the production center to be built on the site. They specified the use of interlocking compressed earth blocks (ICEB) (which were already available in the warehouse as surplus from the Project Pagbangon shelter construction) for the columns of the production center.

MCR PRODUCTION TRAINING

On August 11, Arch. Aris and Arch. Julia returned to Borongan to train locals who were interested in the technology, and to eventually determine two teams, with three workers each, to

continue the production process. By then, the production center was already constructed, with minor alterations from the initial design. However, the repair of the other MCR machine was still underway, thus the training was conducted with only one working MCR machine.

The MCR production training proper, on August 12 to 16, was attended by seven potential workers. However, only two of them were completely present for the five-day training period as some of them had other commitments on other days. A few other staff of Caritas Borongan also dropped by during the sessions to learn about the technology. All the participants and facilitators, including Rev. Fr. Calumpiano, were given the chance to produce an MCR tile.

On the first day, Arch. Aris gave an introduction to MCR production. He also shared his experiences working with MCR tiles, which are suitable for coastal communities like Borongan, because they are non-corrosive and are less likely to be blown away by strong winds during typhoons.

Throughout the hands-on training, several obstacles were encountered. There was great difficulty in getting the right concrete mixture and issues with the MCR machine's motor. Initially, the cement used was a quick-dry imported brand that failed to properly bind the concrete during the moulding process. A local Portland cement was procured later to resolve the problem. Another issue was that particles of the sand were too fine for the mixture. To remedy this, a different type of sand with larger particles (but still less than 10 millimeters in diameter



August 12—Arch. Aris gives an introduction on MCR tiles (top); the trainees prepare the concrete mixture (middle); the MCR machine is used to produce and mould the concrete mixture (bottom)

[READ MORE: P6](#)

#ProjectPagbangon gets a sequel...

(continued from page 5)



August 14—MCR tiles undergo the water curing process for one week (above-left)



August 15—trainees install MCR tiles on the roof for the production center (above-right)



August 16—Caritas Borongan, FDUP, and TAO-Pilipinas pose with the participants of the MCR production training held in their newly-constructed production center in Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

as required) was combined with the mixture. Getting the right proportion of cement, sand, and water was a trial-and-error process that eventually led to the appropriate ratio of ingredients based on the locally available materials. Conversely, the troubleshooting of the MCR machine issues (e.g., breaking of the motor belt, loosening of the steel frame, etc.) provided an opportunity for the trainees to learn how to handle speed bumps during MCR production.

Additionally, Arch. Aris taught the trainees how to detect a quality MCR tile by knocking on the tile and listening to the sound—it should be crisp without cracks. He also showed how strong the MCR tiles should be by dropping a sample at eye-level or stepping on it without breaking. Lastly, he demonstrated how to install an MCR tile by tying it nylon string to the purlins of the production center. They

used readily available surplus MCR tiles that were also stored in Caritas Borongan's warehouse.

Arch. Cesar and Arch. Julia were accompanied by Mr. Ambil and Mr. Silvero throughout the training process, and assisted with the procurement of additional materials for the training.

PRODUCTION PERIOD

MCR production began on August 27 and is scheduled to continue for a month. With Mr. Ambil supervising the production, two working machines are now being operated by two teams of workers (two members and one leader per team). Approximately 1,980 pieces of MCR tiles are targeted to be produced after a month. Arch. Aris and Arch. Julia are scheduled to visit Borongan on September 30 to October 2 to conduct an MCR tile testing and installation training. (TRJ)

TAO takes part in DLSU-COSCA's GEPCOMM Advocacy Forum

TAO RECENTLY TOOK PART IN AN advocacy forum organized by De La Salle University-Manila's Center for Social Concern and Action (DLSU-COSCA). All DLSU students are required to undertake DLSU's Service Learning Program (SLP), a program integrated into DLSU's classes, where students are given the opportunity to apply academic learning and skills to help COSCA's partner organizations and communities.

On the morning of July 1, 2019, TAO-Pilipinas, along with Buklod Tao Inc., Most Holy Trinity Parish, and Humanitarian Legal and Assistance Foundation (HLAF) each gave a brief overview of their organizations' history, advocacies, and activities. After the presentations, students were asked to form groups of five, and to select an organization that sparked their interest and wish to serve. These groups of students were directed to separate rooms, according to their chosen organization. Each organization was served by at least three groups of students.

In these breakout sessions, each group formulated their advocacy plans, with the guidance of COSCA staff and the organization's representative. For TAO-Pilipinas, the students planned to produce digital copies of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to provide information on (1) different early warning systems (EWS) that could be implemented by poor communities, (2) possible livelihood projects for unemployed mothers, and (3) the improper disposal of single-use plastics and its negative effects on the environment.

The GEPCOMM Advocacy Forum was a great platform for COSCA's partner organizations to get to know each other and to spread awareness of their various advocacies. However, since the students were not able to interact directly with the communities that we serve, there was very little follow-through from them. Only one group submitted their output at the end of the semester. (RMBA)



YP Formation Project Team Leader, Rosanne Marie Aldeguez talked about TAO-Pilipinas's history, work, advocacies and activities (top), and Ka Noli of Buklod Tao, a people's organization in Brgy. Banaba, San Mateo Rizal, talked about their history and green initiatives for a disaster-resilient community.

TAO delves deeper into gender and development in the TAO Lecture Series: Gender Perspectives in Spatial Planning and Design



Participants of the TAO Lecture Series “Gender Perspectives in Spatial Planning and Design” pose for a photo with TAO-Pilipinas staff and community partners (Masagana, APOLA, and PPVHOA).

CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TOWARDS making settlements development more gender-responsive, TAO-Pilipinas conducted its third CPD (continuing professional development) program since becoming an accredited CPD provider for architecture and environmental planning in 2018. This latest seminar-workshop, dubbed “Gender Perspectives in Spatial Planning and Design” under the TAO Lecture Series, was developed with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as resource organization and co-host of the activity. It was held on September 14, 2019 at PARDEC A of CHR in Diliman, Quezon City.

The day-long program began with welcome remarks from Arch/EnP. Geraldine Matabang who laid out the overall program objective – to introduce gender awareness among built environment professionals. A group about twenty (20) architects, engineers, and environmental planners from local government, SHFC, HLURB, Habitat for Humanity and other private architecture/planning firms attended the event. They were joined by TAO staff and community leaders (mostly women) from TAO’s partner organizations who served as key informants during focus group discussions.

The keynote lecture, “*Engendering Spaces and Engendering Development*”, was given by Atty. Twyla Rubin who heads the Center for Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights of CHR. Her very enlightening presentation explored the interface of gender, development, and of space and their link to sustainable cities and communities. She emphasized that space can be seen and understood through a gender and development lens; and explained how the function of space is more than its physical existence but an exercise of

power and status, where it can produce and reinforce inequality and exclusion. She stressed the importance of taking into account intersecting identities (e.g. elderly, persons with disabilities, children, indigenous peoples, etc.) in the design of spaces. She also drew insights from the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG#5 – Gender Equality and SDG#11- Sustainable Communities) to challenge built environment professionals to recognize that spaces are gendered and to create empowering and inclusive plans/designs.

Atty. Rubin’s keynote lecture was followed by three reactors’ presentations. The first response was about “*Women’s Access to Housing*” from social worker Ms. Teresa Prondosa of Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP). Ms. Prondosa reflected on the experiences of FDUP in implementing social housing finance projects and community organizing with a gender lens. She highlighted the value of gender-disaggregated data in community profiling; discussed the legal obstacles faced by women in land acquisition and titling; and noted that women’s active engagement in managing community affairs is an extension of their care/reproductive work. Ms. Prondosa stressed the need to change how social housing projects are currently being developed and built - oblivious to gender and sector considerations, with the spaces allocated for women’s care work (eg laundry, cooking) and children’s safe play usually the first to be reduced or dispensed with.

The second reactor was Arch/EnP. Arlene Lusterio, executive director of TAO-Pilipinas, who talked about “*Women’s Participation in the Planning Process*”. She first emphasized the need to advance gender equality through



Atty. Krissi Shaffina Twyla Rubin of the CHR giving the keynote lecture (top-left), followed by reactor presentations by Ms. Teresa Prondosa of FDUP (top-right), Arch/EnP. Arlene Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas (bottom-left), and “Arch/EnP. Faith Varona of UPCA (bottom-right).

representation of women in political leadership, workforce, and in the development planning processes. She then presented case studies of gender-responsive interventions towards creating safe public spaces for women and girls, including consultation and mapping activities to address gaps in sex-disaggregated data (Uruguay); participatory program design with diverse communities (Guatemala); advocacy to prevent sexual harassment (Manila); women’s safety audit of public infrastructures (India); and citywide campaign against sexual harassment (Mexico City). She concluded that the participation of both women and men in the planning process should be key inputs to urban planning and design; it aids in drawing gendered association to spaces, and are important to finding local solutions and changing harmful gender norms.

Arch/EnP. Faith Varona of UP College of Architecture gave the third reaction with a presentation on “*Women’s Needs and Priorities in Spatial Planning and House Design*” that directly responds to the design challenge of creating spaces that enhance the value of women’s care/reproductive work, promote the sharing of care work, and break stereotypes on gender roles. She focused her discussion on the gendered-approach to urban development and presented a gendered checklist for housing and planning. She

explained these with several photos of existing housing development projects, showing how spaces can be gender-responsive to address needs for function and convenience; independence and individuality; solidarity and cooperation; health and security; and development and engagement.

An open forum was held after the four lecture presentations wherein there was a rich discussion among the CPD participants. Many gave their insights on gender considerations in the design and construction of housing projects. Some shared personal reflections about their housing design experiences. Others commented on culturally-sensitive space planning; the recognition of women having multiple burdens but less power in decision-making; and the male perspective in advocating for women empowerment. The conversation also focused on the realities and challenges of providing and maintaining open spaces in social housing projects.

After the learning-filled morning session, the afternoon was devoted to focus group discussions (FGDs). Arch. Angelus Sales first gave a background presentation about the three community associations (Masagana of Angat, Bulacan; APOLA of Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal; and PPVHOA from Manila City) and introduced

[READ MORE: P8](#)

TAO delves deeper into gender and development... *(continued from page 7)*

the community representatives joining the participants in the FGDs. Arch. Matabang then explained the instructions and guide questions in facilitating the consultations with the community representatives as key informants. The participants were divided into 3 focus groups.

In workshop 1, the focus groups discussed the division of roles and activities of men and women in each community and spatially identified where women's and men's activities are located. From this exercise, the groups pointed out the gender norms and issues that were prevalent in the community. A member from each group was assigned to present the results of their group discussion in a plenary. In workshop 2, the groups were asked to select community spaces that could be made more gender-responsive and based on the discussion outputs in



Participants conducting a gender-analysis with representatives from TAO's partner communities, with TAO staff facilitating the discussions.

workshop 1, propose an appropriate design for those community spaces and accommodate gender considerations. These were also done in consultation with the community representatives and each group's proposal was likewise presented in the plenary.

After the plenary, LArch. Rosanne

Aldeguer summarized the learning points from the workshop results. She emphasized that gender is part of the participatory approach. Although it may be tedious and complicates the planning and design process, gender awareness is an important first step to identifying the concerns of marginalized sectors that lead to well-thought out solutions



LArch. Rosanne Aldeguer of TAO-Pilipinas, giving a synthesis of the whole day seminar-workshop.

and more sustainable interventions. She also pointed out the importance of sex-disaggregated data to reveal experiences and concerns by gender, identification of both practical and strategic gender objectives of an intervention, and the allocation of resources to be able to prioritize gender-responsive solutions. (GRM)

Kyushu University carries out first people's planning activity in Payatas



A series of presentations were delivered by the Kyushu project team (Kyushu University, TAO-Pilipinas, COM, and PCUP) to introduce PASAGANA to the People's Plan.



After the presentations by the project team, participants were divided into six groups of five to locate existing common spaces and envision future common spaces and their uses.

THE JICA-FUNDED PROJECT HEADED by the Kenichi Tanoue Laboratory, Faculty of Design, Kyushu University, entitled "Technical Support Project of Housing Design for ISFs (Informal Settler Families)" conducted its first activity last September 15, 2019 at PASAGANA Homeowners' Association, in Brgy. Payatas, Quezon City.

The said project primarily aims to generate a new, sustainable model of carrying out the People's Plan for High-Density Housing (HDH) in a timely manner; one that promotes a high level of ownership among implementers, inherently considers aesthetic and spatial needs, as well as livelihood concerns of vulnerable groups (women, children, old people), and has a positive overall impact on the well-being of the family beneficiaries. Secondly, the proposal aims to produce local community organizers (COs), local technical experts (land titling experts, architects, engineers), and community leaders, who can work together seamlessly and are well-versed in carrying out the People's Plan for HDH in a poor community context through the participatory approach.

The project hopes to achieve this by piloting the people's planning process in three communities in Metro Manila, with the assistance of at least 3 community organizers and 3 local technical professionals. The

project will also produce handbooks and tools for professionals, and establish a networking platform for all stakeholders. TAO-Pilipinas is providing technical support to the project, with the goal of not only giving technical assistance to poor communities, but also of capacitating technical professionals to undertake participatory planning processes with these communities.

On the day of the activity, five technical professionals from TAO-Pilipinas, two community organizers from Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), one staff of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), and three representatives of the Tanoue Laboratory of Kyushu University introduced the people's plan to PASAGANA HOA in Brgy. Payatas, Quezon City, and facilitated workshops aimed at identifying existing common spaces and their uses, as well as planned (future) common spaces. Despite the inclement weather and the less than ideal venue setup, the activity proved to be a success due to a high turnout and active participation of participants until the end of the day. This is the first of many activities with PASAGANA HOA—the first pilot community under the project. At the end of our engagement with PASAGANA, the result of the people's planning process, a complete set of architectural plans, will be provided to the community. (RMBA)

Housing stakeholders in Cebu learn about Estate Management

THE SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE Corporation (SHFC) and TAO-Pilipinas continue to collaborate on capacity-building activities targeting various stakeholders in the social housing sector. Last March 28-29, TAO served as resource organization in SHFC's learning exchange for its accredited builders in the Community Mortgage Program (CMP). TAO introduced the participatory or community-driven approach to social housing development to CMP project contractors.

Just recently, TAO-Pilipinas assisted SHFC in conducting a training-workshop on estate management, primarily for the St. Thomas Group Homeowners Association (STG HOA), whose member-families have started to move into the newly-built LGU housing project located in Bulacao, Cebu City. The housing development for STG HOA is supported by SHFC's CMP with Pagtambayayong Foundation as its mobilizer.

The training aimed to give participants knowledge on maintaining and conserving community assets and resources through estate management. TAO-Pilipinas designed a two-day program that orients participants on the functionalities of estate management. Focus group discussions were included in the program for STG HOA to begin identifying key estate management policies to consider in formulating agreements for community living.

The training, held on August 5-6 at the Azia Suites in Cebu City, was also opened to CMP mobilizers, local government representatives and SHFC regional officers who wanted to learn about estate management. Thirty-seven (37) STG HOA members attended the training along with 35 CMP mobilizers, 6 local government reps, and 17 SHFC regional officers.

Four TAO-Pilipinas architects served as resource persons and took turns in facilitating the training sessions that focused on different functionalities of estate management. Geraldine Matabang handled introduction to estate management and care and use of common spaces and facilities; Angelus Sales facilitated the session on building maintenance and repair; Faith Varona spoke on community safety and security; and Arlene Lusterio discussed sanitation and waste management.



Arch. Arlene Lusterio facilitates the expectation setting session

Arch. Matabang introduced estate management, outlining its five functionalities and discussed the roles and responsibilities of the HOA in creating the structure for and implementing estate management. She then explained care and use of common areas in housing projects, including pertinent Batas Pambansa 220 minimum standards as guidelines. Afterwards, Pagtambayayong's Engineer Adel Revilla gave a brief presentation about STG housing, showing the site plan and design features of the project. Arch. Matabang then proceeded to facilitate a workshop wherein STG HOA members identified rules for managing and maintaining common spaces in the STG housing project.

Arch. Sales continued the second session on building maintenance and repair. She first coached the participants on how to understand building plans and on using a triangular scale to figure out drawing measurements. They enjoyed going through a hands-on exercise on reading a set of architectural plans for a high-density housing project. Arch. Sales then discussed common maintenance and repair problems in residential buildings and outlined a preventive maintenance guide for individual unit owners.

The TAO architects briefly visited the STG housing project by the end of the training's first day. In the early evening, the architects looked at the 64-unit housing project nearing completion, and observed how residents who have already moved in were furnishing the units or putting on their own interior finishes. Pagtambayayong project coordinator Hope Minor and STG HOA president Jocelyn Sabejon were



(top) Participants are from St. Thomas Group Homeowners Association (STG HOA), CMP mobilizers, local government representatives and SHFC regional officers who wanted to learn about estate management



(bottom) Participants and organizers pose for a group photo at the end of the 2-day training-workshop

on hand to explain how the project was planned and built using interlocking compressed earth blocks (ICEBs).

On the second day of the training, Arch. Varona facilitated the third session focusing on community safety and security. She first tackled community-based disaster risk and management (CBDRM), highlighting the community's preparedness as first responders should emergencies occur. Then she discussed fire protection and safety, mentioning relevant Fire Code provisions for fire safety standards. After Arch. Varona's presentation, the participants reassembled into focus groups to propose community policies that address building maintenance and community safety and security issues in their housing project.

The last session on sanitation and waste management was led by Arch. Lusterio. She tackled national laws that ensure the protection of health and the environment, including provisions in the Water Code, Clean Air Act, and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. She emphasized proper segregation and disposal of garbage and what

communities can do to manage their wastes. She likewise discussed liquid waste management, particularly septic tank use and maintenance. The session ended with participants suggesting policies to maintain the cleanliness of surroundings in their housing project area.

After the four sessions were completed, the participants briefly answered training evaluation forms while the TAO architects consolidated the outputs from the focus group discussions and turned them over to STG HOA. To conclude the activity, Atty. Rosalie Taguian, SHFC Vice President for Program Development and Enhancement, facilitated the plenary discussion on ways forward after the training. Some articulated how new knowledge gained from the training can be applied in both old and new CMP projects. Others shared their intent to echo the learning to other HOAs, meet with community membership to plan the implementation of estate management, and initiate the formulation of community deeds of restrictions. (GRM)

The Architecture Biennale is now in Manila



Among those on display at the exhibit are select outputs from TAO's participatory design workshops.

LAST YEAR, TAO-PILIPINAS WAS invited to participate in the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale (VAB) – the City Who Had Two Navels by its curator, Dr. Edson Cabalfin (see _ article). This year, the Philippine Pavillion's exhibit has come to Manila, opening at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Building, Pasay City on July 2, 2019.

The event began with an introduction on the concept and development of the exhibit by Dr. Edson Cabalfin. Four exhibitors from the academe presented their design solutions in response to the theory of colonialism and neo-liberalism as forces influencing future development in the next 50 years. These include the University of St. La Salle-Benilde, School of Design and Arts; University of the Philippine Diliman, College of Architecture; University of San Carlos, College of Architecture; University of the Philippines Mindanao, Institute of Architecture. TAO-Pilipinas joined them as the only non-government organization presenting its experiences as an alternative model of architectural practice, and as a response to both neo-liberalism and colonialism.

The exhibit opening ceremony was led by Commissioner and National Artist, Virgilio Almario, of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Others who graced the event include: Joselito Campos, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Metropolitan Museum of Manila; Undersecretary Ernesto Abella of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Governor Jose Diokno of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (who is the host of the exhibit); and Senator Loren Legarda (who is behind the Philippines' participation to the VAB). The exhibit will run until October 19, 2019. (ACDL)

Advocates get together for the development of Kwentong Klima—a documentary

THE OSCAR M. LOPEZ CENTER FOR Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation Inc. is pursuing the production of a documentary film dedicated to showing the story of climate change in the Philippine context—an initiative in line with TAO's climate resilience advocacy.

On July 23, 2019, TAO-Pilipinas, together with Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI), participated in one of the mini-workshops organized by OML, held at the Conference Room 349 of the Marine Science Institute in UP. The mini-workshop was intended to give the film production team factual

information for their narrative.

The mini-workshop had four speakers: Dr. Laura T. David, Director of UP Marine Science Institute and also a member of the TAO-Pilipinas Board of Trustees, discussed the effects of climate change to Philippine Seas, Candy Hidalgo of PMPI shared about the consortium approach of Project Pagbangon in the Post-Super Typhoon Yolanda response of the network. Arlene Christy Lusterio of TAO shared its experience in providing resilient and cost-efficient house designs for vulnerable families, and Kathleen Almonte of Philippine Business for

Social Progress shared about their program to address the water through the Water Alliance, a private sector partnership effort to address the water crisis and campaign for the protection of environment.

Also in attendance were representatives from the Climate Change Commission and civil society organizations. Another consultation will be called once the team has put together their storyline to solicit comments from practitioners in the field. (ACDL)

TAO takes part in COSCA and GlobalGiving's DRRM workshop for partners



The speakers, from Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), the Municipal DRRM Office of Lian, Batangas, PhilPrep, Buklod Tao, Inc., Las Piñas Persons with Disability Federation Inc., Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC), Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya, Inc. (SIBAT), pose with COSCA Director Neil Oliver Penullar (left) and Sandrina da Cruz, Crisis Response Specialist of GlobalGiving (right)

ON AUGUST 8, 2019, TAO-PILIPINAS participated in a workshop entitled "Conversations on Strengthening Community Resilience through Localized DRRM in the Philippines," held at the Multi-purpose Hall, 20th Floor, Br. Andrew Gonzalez Hall, De La Salle University–Manila (DLSU). The whole day event was organized by TAO-Pilipinas's partner, DLSU-Manila's Center for Social Concern and Action (DLSU-COSCA) and GlobalGiving, with the aim of harnessing the knowledge and experience of stakeholders across DRRM disciplines and areas of practice, by providing an engaging platform that fosters innovative thinking and collaboration.

The event began with welcome remarks by Mr. Emmanuel Balajadia, representative of Usec. Ricardo Jalad

of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and Sandrina da Cruz of GlobalGiving. They both emphasized the importance of coordinated, localized DRRM efforts, noting that the workshop was organized to provide a platform for improving existing DRRM efforts by identifying challenges and opportunities, highlighting best practices, fostering partnerships among multiple stakeholders.

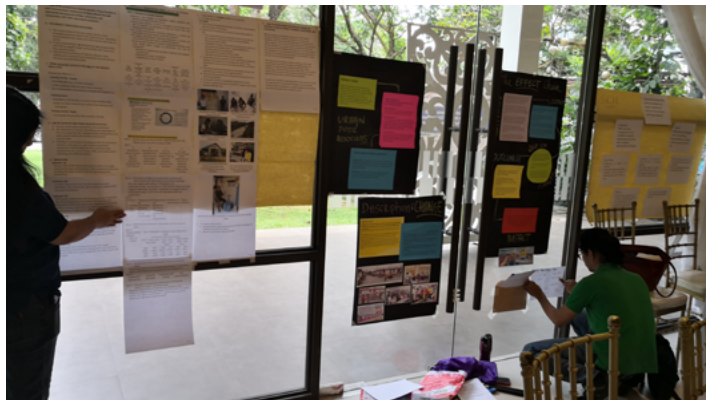
The day was divided into three sessions, with Mr. Emman Serrano of PhilPrep sharing their experiences on "Coordination in Disaster Mitigation, Prevention and Preparedness in the first session." On the second session, Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) Executive Director Ms. Kim Leduna and Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya, Inc. (SIBAT) Deputy

National Director Mr. Sansen Maglinte discussed their "Best Practices and Learnings in Operationalizing DRRM During Emergency Response, Recovery and Rehabilitation Phases." And finally, on the third session, Mr. Manuel "Ka Noli" Abinales of Buklod Tao, Inc., Ms. Maria Fe Maravillas of Las Piñas Persons with Disability Federation Inc., and Mr. Edgardo Lamano of the Municipal DRRM Office of Lian, Batangas shared their stories from the ground, in "Coordinating with Local Communities and Vulnerable Sectors in DRRM."

At the end of each session, Mr. Edwin Salonga of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) Philippines, would ask each participant to write key takeaways from the presentations. He also asked participants to identify their own organization's best practices, challenges, and opportunities with regard to the topics covered.

To close the event, Mr. Neil Oliver Penullar, COSCA Director gave the closing remarks. Thanking everyone for their attendance and participation despite the rain, he noted once again the importance of forging partnerships for a disaster-resilient Philippines. (RMBA)

Misereor caps series of OIO trainings with a Participatory Assessment Workshop



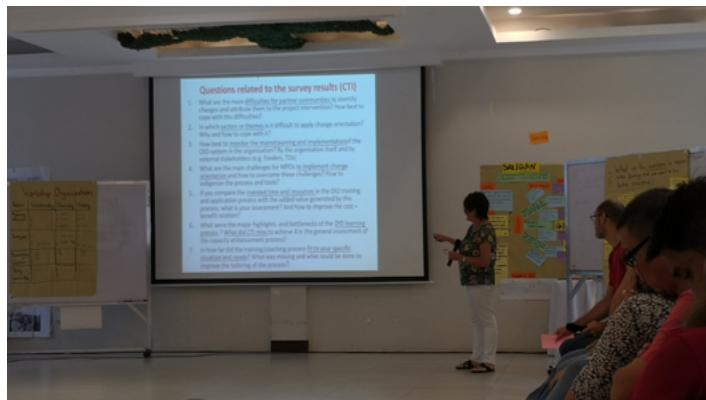
TAO-Pilipinas staff assemble their visual aids for the market space activity.



Ms. Cecilia del Rosario listens to Urban Poor Associates' (UPA) pitch about their change-oriented projects.



Ms. Luz Malibiran of Community Organizers Multiversity accepts their organization's award for Best Community-based Monitoring Tool.



The facilitator of the workshop, Ms. Josephine Beck-Elberg, shows the questions raised by the Misereor Partner Organizations (MPOs) during the presentation of survey results.

MISEREOR, TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.'s institutional donor, conducted a Participatory Assessment Workshop last August 21-23, 2019, with the Luzon-based Misereor Partner Organizations (MPOs). It was facilitated by Misereor consultants, Ms. Josephine Beck-Elberg and Mr. Chris Uhle. A total of 26 organizations participated in the assessment, with two representatives each. Lorena Hernandez and Cecille Del Rosario attended the said activity for TAO-Pilipinas. The workshop aimed to engage the MPOs in sharing their experiences in utilizing Outcome and Impact Orientation (OIO), to evaluate the OIO capacity building processes conducted by Consulting Team, Inc. and MAGI Consulting to MPOs, and to discuss the possible ways to sustain and continue the practice of using OIO.

The first day started with a game that grouped the participants into different clusters (e.g. gender, target beneficiaries, scope, focus, position in the organization, etc.) which enabled the MPOs to see the diversity of the participants and the organizations they

represent. Afterward, the facilitators presented the results of the survey that Misereor had asked the MPOs to answer regarding OIO, its effectiveness, and their perception of their level of expertise on the matter. The facilitators then asked the participants to raise questions and clarifications regarding the results, yielding 7 questions, which were to be discussed the next day. In the afternoon, a "marketplace" activity was conducted, where all MPOs were asked to display and "market" their OIO monitoring and evaluation practices to other MPOs, using visual aids that the facilitators have asked them to prepare beforehand. At the end of the activity, the participants voted for the groups that had the best practices in OIO, involving the community partners in utilizing OIO, and using effective project monitoring and evaluation tools.

On the second day, each group of participants was tasked to answer a question that was asked from the previous day. After which, each group presented their answer to the plenary,

where other MPOs expressed their opinions and additional thoughts. This resulted in a sharing of different organizational practices in resolving issues faced in the application of OIO to programs and projects.

On the third and last day of the workshop, the facilitators announced that CTI and MAGI would no longer provide trainings on OIO to Misereor partners. In line with this, the MPOs were tasked to formulate possible mechanisms that would ensure the sustainability of using OIO, and to share the knowledge of OIO with other MPOs. Among the most prominent mechanisms presented were for a basic guide to be created so that it may be used by MPOs as a reference, for MPOs to designate an OIO officer who would be tasked with providing refreshers and capacity-building activities on OIO, and for a budget to be allotted for OIO in proposals. Since the participants believe that plans to gather MPOs for a regular sharing of experiences and practices would not materialize without an institution that would lead the

activities, they have identified PMPI as the convener of that activity. Moreover, the MPOs stated that further guidance from CTI is still necessary.

The facilitators declared that they will report the results of all discussions back to Misereor. They also added that a more concrete set of plans and decisions regarding the issue will be delivered to the MPOs early next year. They stressed that Misereor was planning to decentralize OIO, but it seemed that the MPOs still found ways to centralize it, by nominating PMPI as the convener for OIO activities. Finally, CTI extended their gratitude to the MPOs, who participated not only in the assessment workshop, but also in all their coaching/mentoring sessions, and other OIO related activities. (MLPH)

Title: **Let My People Go Surfing: The Education of a Reluctant Businessman**

Author: **Yvon Chouinard**

Publisher: **Penguin Books (2016)**

Let My People Go Surfing: The Education of a Reluctant Businessman is the story of Patagonia, a California-based global outdoor apparel company, penned by its owner, Yvon Chouinard, who is a noted mountaineer and rock-climbing equipment designer turned billionaire entrepreneur. The book starts off as his memoir about founding Patagonia, then transitions into a manual for running a socially-responsible business, and ends as a blueprint for business tackling the climate crisis.

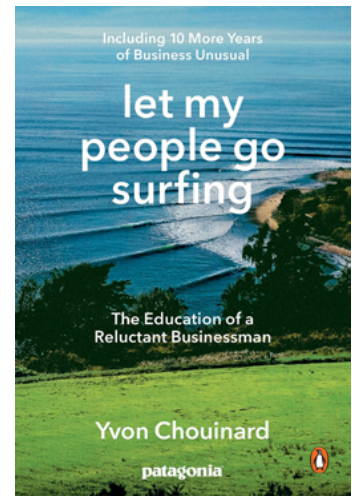
With his strong views against consumerism and environmental degradation, Chouinard comes across as the anti-businessman. How he has steered Patagonia, established in 1973, into an eco-conscious private company today with global sales of over \$1bn is truly impressive. It was enlightening to read what is behind the

brand I've only known as being quite expensive but high-quality made. His passion for protecting and restoring the natural environment for future generations has led to more radical business practices (even as he admits there is no such thing as a totally sustainable, nondamaging product) compared to large corporations just "green-washing" their environmental sins with their token corporate social responsibility programs. His company uses only responsibly-sourced materials in products (e.g. 100% organic cotton in garments) and buildings, invests in on-site child care in its offices, donates at least 1% of net sales to environmental charities as "earth tax", and has boldly campaigned for consumers to buy less.

The set of philosophies that guide Patagonia in design, production, distribution, marketing, finance,

human resources and management, and its far-reaching environmental philosophy, are well laid-out in the book. They are easy to understand since we are also shown how these ideas are put into action in Patagonia.

Overall, the book is inspirational, though it may also come by as preachy. Personally, the biggest takeaway from the book is that change lies with consumers – the environmental impact expands as we spend more especially on disposable goods. Reading how Patagonia garments are made to be functional, durable, repairable and can be resold has influenced me as a consumer to be quality- and waste-conscious. It may seem counter-intuitive for a business to encourage less consumption, but this book proves that with high-quality products and consumers considering sustainability, it may very well work. (GRM)



**Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment only. You may call Therese Julia at 287-6446 / 436-7301 to schedule your visit.*



What do you think of the provincial bus ban to be imposed in EDSA?

Implementation of a provincial ban will not have too much effect in EDSA. EDSA, now known as The New Parking Lot, needs strong measures to lessen the vehicle volume. Government may increase measures on proper Loading and Unloading Bay, revised coding matrix, and removal of colorum vehicles. Banning provincial buses will be another problem for passengers.

BRIGITTE NICOLE FRANCISCO, 25, MARKETING AND ADMIN ASSISTANT

I think the positive impact of this new traffic policy will be unnoticeable, given that the ratio of provincial buses to the total number of vehicles passing through EDSA is very small. On the other hand, the negative impact of this policy is undeniably very evident given that traffic mess seems to just worsen everyday.

RALPHY TOLENTINO, 20+, INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYST

Super unfair to the majority of the Filipino people who need to commute. Imagine, mahirap nang mag commute tapos ibaban pa yung provincial buses. As if not stressful enough for people living in the north and central Luzon yung biyahe to Manila in itself.

If they really want to do that, they have to really get to improve our mass transportation system, including rail, jeepneys, UV, and yes, both city and provincial buses. The experience has to be cohesive and convenient, na hindi hassle lumipat from one vehicle to another.

Also, consider the fact na the current prices of fares vs the minimum wage is already a burden in itself.

RUEMER ALLAN SANTILLAN, 23, MARKETING OFFICER

They should restrict private cars rather than provincial buses. The ratio of passengers of car:bus (1:60) is quite large. Kawawa naman yung mga commuters na walang pang-grab o sariling kotse tapos kelangan pang magbayan-bayan. It will take them 3-4 rides instead of 1. Sakit din sa bulsa non. I think they should implement full anti-colorum activities against buses that don't have permits. Also, impose regulations on private cars. Coding should have 2-3 combinations of 2 digit plate codes. Para madaming hindi makakagamit ng mga kotse nila. Saka sana dapat may batas na bawal magkakotse kung walang parking lot at bawal ang loan.

JESSA MARIE NATIVIDAD, STUDENT (POST-GRADUATE)

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

WE WANT YOU.

AND YOU.

TAO-Pilipinas has 2 open positions.

1. Project Staff for Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal

[Click here for more details.](#)

2. Finance Assistant/Bookkeeper

[Click here for more details.](#)

To apply, e-mail us at:

hr@tao-pilipinas.org

Not ready to commit? No pressure.

If you would like to be contacted for job (full/part-time*) or volunteer opportunities, you may sign up to our Young Professionals Volunteers and Consultants Pool.

*For part-time services, we usually require the ff:
CAD drafting and rendering, model-making, graphic design, documentation

*Images by freepik. Downloaded from www.freepik.com



TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.



CALL FOR DONATIONS

EVERY YEAR, WE ORGANIZE A CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING ACTIVITY FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES; NOT ONLY TO SPREAD THE CHRISTMAS CHEER, BUT ALSO TO HELP EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THEIR FAMILIES BY PROVIDING COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED ESSENTIAL GOODS. **THIS YEAR, THE CHILDREN OF MASAGANA COMMUNITY IN ANGAT, BULACAN AND LUPANG ARENDA, RIZAL WILL RECEIVE CLOTHES AND BACKPACKS FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES—WITH YOUR HELP.**



WHAT'S INSIDE?

OUR GOAL THIS CHRISTMAS IS TO ASSEMBLE 100 BACKPACKS CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- NOTEBOOKS, PAPERS, AND WRITING PADS
- PENS, PENCILS, AND COLORING MATERIALS
- ERASERS
- SHARPENERS
- SCISSORS
- HIGHLIGHTERS
- RULERS
- GLUE



IN ADDITION TO THE 100 BACKPACKS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 6 TO 12, WE WILL ALSO BE GIVING CLOTHES TO 50 CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE. WE ARE APPEALING FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN ORDER TO MEET THIS GOAL.

A DONATION OF PHP 250 PROVIDES FOR 1 BACKPACK WITH THE LISTED SCHOOL SUPPLIES, OR 1 SET OF CLOTHES. WE WILL ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS IN KIND.

HOW TO DONATE?

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2019, AND HANDING THE GIFTS TO THE TARGET COMMUNITIES BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

DONATIONS IN KIND MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT OUR OFFICE AT 27A MATIYAGA STREET, BARANGAY CENTRAL, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT MS. JAZEL VIRTUSIO AT +63 929 7947153 OR CALL OUR OFFICE LANDLINE AT +63 2 82876446 OR +63 2 34367301

CASH DONATIONS MAY BE DEPOSITED TO OUR BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (BPI) CURRENT ACCOUNT:

**ACCOUNT NAME: TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 4431-0074-31**

! UPON DEPOSIT OF YOUR DONATION, WE ASK THAT YOU E-MAIL A PHOTO OF YOUR DEPOSIT SLIP ALONG WITH YOUR NAME TO YP@TAO-PILIPINAS.ORG FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES.

“IT IS TIME FOR US TO GO TO THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN ASK THE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE POOR, TO COME TO US.”



PHOTO CREDIT: ABS-CBN NEWS

CALL FOR DONATIONS

For the 700-800 families who were victims of a fire that broke out in Barangay North Bay Boulevard North (NBBN), Navotas last week (October 18, 2019).*

*ACCORDING TO THE CITY DRRM OFFICE (CDRRMO), REPORTED BY NEWS OUTLETS

THE VICTIMS ARE IN NEED OF:

Cash
Clean clothes
Toiletries
Kitchenwares
Materials for temporary shelters (tarpaulins, nails, etc.)

IF WILLING TO DONATE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE CENTER FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH:

**(+632) 2821878 /
GEWHRC.CHR@GMAIL.COM**