

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

## Young Professionals Program

[www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org)



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# JANUARY-MARCH 2011 e-newsletter

Welcome to our first e-newsletter for the year with its slightly revamped front page layout. We started 2011 with activities related to disaster risk reduction and with Japan's triple disaster (earthquake-tsunami-nuclear radiation fallout) still in the news, it's anticipated that DRR will continue to be highlighted in forthcoming activities. The next YP Workshop on Social Housing will in fact have as its thematic focus, "Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction".

The workshop is now tentatively scheduled on July 2011, as we are still working out the workshop program and logistics. The workshop application form can be downloaded at [www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org) starting April 4 and we will begin accepting completed application forms by April 27 until May 25, 2011. Early submission should be made by those applying for sponsored workshop slots.

## YP Lectures held in CCP and UE-Manila

A series of lectures on "Design Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation" was held on February 9 and 28, 2011 at the Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP) College of Engineering and University of the East (UE) College of Engineering, respectively. The YP Lecture Series is regularly organized by TAO-Pilipinas to provide discussion on issues in social issues, shelter security, and sustainable

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## NTU students conduct fieldwork in Navotas

Graduate students from National Taiwan University conducted fieldwork activities in Barangays Tanza and Tangos, Navotas from February 12 to 17, 2011 as part of their curriculum in the Graduate Institute of Building and Planning. The team of Taiwanese students (Hsin-yi Hsueh, Pei-Hsuan and Kray Lin, Yin-wei Huang and Ching Shan Wu) was led by their professor Dr. Liang-Chun

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# 10

2011: A DECADE OF TAO

*"The philosophy that I adhere to in my professional life, in making proposals and in creating buildings is to give back to the community as much of the green as it is possible and in some cases giving back 100% of the land in the form of gardens that I try to make accessible to the community at large... in other cases I give back the greenery by creating vertical gardens."*

**Emilio Ambasz**, Argentine architect, at the architecture symposium held in Manila.

## YP Lectures held in CCP and UE-Manila (From page 1)

development for architecture and engineering students.

Arlene Christy Lusterio, Executive Director of TAO-Pilipinas presented a lecture on “Integrating Water in Urban Development.” She outlined different examples of how water influences settlements development, both in the developed countries and in third-world countries. Arch. Lusterio’s lecture showed infrastructure designs that consider climate change adaptation and with water as an element in the design. Another presenter was Angelus Sales, Research and Publication Staff of TAO-Pilipinas. She presented a lecture on “Lessons in Climate-Responsive Design from Vernacular Dwellings”. Arch. Sales enumerated the different types of vernacular dwellings and their features and how each can resist varying weather conditions through the years. TAO-Pilipinas’ Education and Training Program Director Geraldine Matabang, another presenter, gave a lecture on “Disaster-Resilient Design Principles”. Arch. Matabang discussed building design and site planning recommendations to make low-cost housing developments resilient to earthquake and typhoon hazards. *(Argean Guiaya)*

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From top: YP lecture at CCP College of Engineering; the lecturers with UE College of Engineering Dean Dominador Pagbilao and ACES-PICE student leaders; UE civil engineering students at the lecture.



TAO workshop facilitators with the Tacdugan students.

## TAO conducts Participatory Design Workshop in Ticao Island, Masbate

TAO-Pilipinas partnered with International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in conducting a participatory workshop for the design of a classroom at Tacdugan Elementary School in Ticao Island, Masbate. The workshop is part of IIRR’s SOLVE (Safe School to Offset Vulnerabilities and Increase Empowerment of Children) project. TAO provided technical assistance to come up with an architectural design of a disaster-resilient classroom in the school situated near the shoreline.

Members of the school faculty, elementary students, and the students’ parents participated in the workshop. Lectures on disaster resilient design (focusing on earthquake and typhoon hazards) and classroom design standards were given by TAO prior to conducting exercises in site assessment and participatory design through scaled model making. At the end of the workshop, the groups came up with the scheme for an elevated one-storey classroom building. TAO developed the schemes into architectural drawings with cost estimates and IIRR will raise funds to complete the classroom project. *(Ge Matabang)*

(If you want to give financial support to the SOLVE classroom project, please email Maggie Rosimo of IIRR at [miyagisun.rosimo@gmail.com](mailto:miyagisun.rosimo@gmail.com).)

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## TAO facilitates Final Phase of Shelter Design and Development Course in Manila 2011

Twenty-three technical professionals from Asia and Africa convened in Manila last February 14-25, 2011 for the continuation of the SIDA-funded Shelter Design and Development (SDD) Advanced International Training Programme that started last autumn 2010 in Sweden. The SDD course is a six-month training programme conducted twice a year in spring and autumn by HDM Lund University. Each course starts with a 3-week program in Lund, Sweden and culminates in the final 2-weeks of the course period in either Africa (spring course) or Asia (autumn course) with a presentation of the proposal for change by each participant.

The SDD course aims to equip professionals working in shelter design and development with deeper knowledge and wider perspectives to enable them to develop long-term solutions to fight poverty through effective capacity and institutional development. The phase in Manila enabled the participants to gain insights on how shelter design and development is done in the Philippines through the lectures from government shelter agencies and practitioners, and the study visits of high, middle to low-income housing projects, including resettlement sites.

Since it opened in 2006, around 50 architects, engineers, and other professionals in the Philippines has benefitted from the training programme. TAO-Pilipinas has been a partner of the SDD programme in Asia since 2007, locally organizing the course in close coordination with the Housing Development and Management department of Lund University under its Director, Johnny Astrand. Last February's autumn continuation phase in Manila also marked the closing of the SDD programme's 5-year contract period with SIDA. *(Faith Varona)*



Participants of the 2011 Shelter Design and Development Course in Manila

## NTU students conduct fieldwork in Navotas

(From page 1)

Chen. They did a series of interviews with Tanza and Tangos community members to come up with design schemes for house improvement and repairs. Their proposals were presented to the community in a workshop.



Dr. Chen's group at MASAGANA community in Tanza

TAO-Pilipinas, having had previous undertakings with NTU, facilitated the students' fieldwork with selected members of two communities it assists, Samahan ng Maliit na Mangangalakal ng R. Domingo in Barangay Tangos and Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association in Barangay Tanza. On February 12, the team went for an ocular visit of the areas as part of their initial assessment. On February 15 and 16, the team interviewed the residents, focusing on their socio-economic status as well as disaster management in the community. Their findings and initial recommendations were then presented on February 17 to the community members for validation. The team has returned to Taiwan and will further develop their design schemes for the areas. *(Argean Guiaya)*

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*Benedict Balderrama PHILSSA Secretariat National Coordinator opening the advocacy agenda setting workshop in Romblon attended by representatives from community-based networks in Metro Manila, Laguna and Rizal.*

## TAO completes PRA for PHILSSA DRR Advocacy Agenda Setting

### Participatory Rapid Assessment (PRA) of Poor Communities along the waterways of Greater Metro Manila

From November 2010 to January 2011, TAO-Pilipinas was commissioned by the Partnerships of Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA), a network of social development NGOs, to conduct a participatory rapid assessment (PRA) of 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila, 15 towns in the province of Laguna and 14 towns in Rizal to support the aim of PHILSSA to formulate a disaster risk reduction advocacy agenda to help the communities living along the danger zones. After the

typhoon Ondoy devastation in 2009 the government declared the immediate clearing of all waterway easements believing it would prevent more flooding casualties. But the affected communities' protested and wanted to remain where they are. An 8-month moratorium was declared in the clearing operations and PHILSSA sees this as an opportunity to draft a research-based advocacy agenda to help the affected communities. A participatory rapid assessment (PRA) of the general demographic and disaster preparedness situation in the communities along the waterways was conducted to support the agenda setting. Research methodology included internet-based and actual visits to local government units (LGU) and agencies. The research team is composed of community leaders and members that gathered primary data from their respective city/municipality.

PRA findings show the extent of the scarcity in data and information when it comes to disaster preparedness and mitigation, especially at the barangay and community levels. There is in general no baseline information on informal settlements in danger zones especially along the waterway easements.

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## TAO and Masagana plan resettlement site

A workshop on site development planning was facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas for the community members of Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association on February 20, 2011. It was a follow up action for Masagana's resettlement housing project located in Angat, Bulacan.

The participants were divided into six groups to formulate a site development scheme of 100 and 64-square meter lots with roads and community facilities. The groups were given scaled print-outs of the site and cardboard cut-outs representing lots sizes 8m x 8m (for 64 square meter lots) and 12.5m x 8m/10m x 10m (for 100 square meter lots). After the presentation, the community members voted for the best site plan and came up with two schemes. The first plan has the total of 90 lots and also included the provision of roads that can accommodate fire trucks in case of emergency. The second scheme has 103 lots in total and made a zoning based on the accessibility of the community facilities.



In the end, the community also discussed their action plan for the housing project. TAO will develop the schemes from the workshop into technical drawings and present it to Masagana to finalize their site development plan. *(Verna Sarraga)*

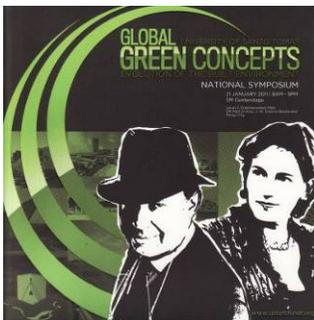
## Participatory Rapid Assessment... (From page 4)

There is also a significant absence of information on disaster preparedness in cities and municipalities—this may be due to either the lack of an instituted information gathering system or the outright refusal by the concerned LGU to share information.

There is also the lack of data or documentation on the presence of informal settlements and their poverty situation in cities/municipalities thus local development plans (CLUP/CDP/Zoning) also do not reflect or integrate the needs of this sector. Thus the significant data gaps made comparisons of existing situations between cities/municipalities unreliable. A major recommendation from the findings of the PRA study is the initiation of a database of information on the existing situation of informal settlements especially in danger zones, perhaps by the PHILSSA network itself. This will be useful in tracking changes and in the drafting of plans not just for advocacy but also for better “grounded” community development. *(Faith Varona)*

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## TAO NETWORK EVENTS



### UST Archinet holds National Architecture Symposium

On January 21, 2011 the student organization, University of Santo Tomas Architecture Network, successfully organized a National Architecture Symposium with day-long lectures by internationally-acclaimed architects Emilio Ambasz and Francine Houben. The symposium, entitled “Global Green Concept: The Evolution of the Built Environment”, continues on the discussion of sustainability and green principles in architecture. (Archinet also organized last year’s symposium featuring Ken Yeang and Darko Radovic.) The event was held at the SM Centerstage of Mall of Asia in Pasay City and attended mostly by architecture students from various universities.

Emilio Ambasz, Argentine architect and industrial designer, delivered the first lecture which discussed his design philosophy and the rationale behind some of his prestigious projects. A pioneer of sustainable architecture, Ambasz has designed green buildings since the 1970s and has received numerous awards for his works. Some of the projects Ambasz presented in his lecture included the Fukuoka Prefectural and International Hall in Japan; Master Plan for the Universal Exposition of 1992 in Spain; ENI Headquarters in Italy; a private estate in Montana; Salamanca Plaza Mayor in Spain; and Glory Art Museum in Taiwan.

The second lecturer of the symposium was Francine Houbard, leading Dutch architect and founder of Mecanoo Architecten in the Netherlands. The design firm is known for interweaving playful and humane aspects in architectural design as well as for the expressive use of lighting in buildings. Houben discussed their design philosophy through 10 vision statements. In her lecture, Houbard also showed several audio-video presentations and walk-through of Mecanoo’s past and current projects including that of the Library of Birmingham in the UK, Fiftytwodegrees Business Center in the Netherlands, and National Performing Arts Center in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. *(Ge Matabang)*

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### 4th ACCA-Country Process held in Mandaue, Cebu

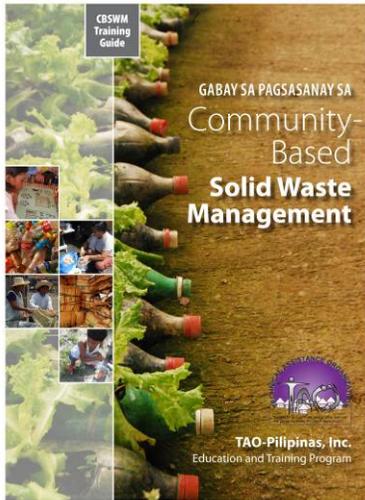
Partners of Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA) from NCR, Cebu, Davao and Iloilo gathered in Mandaue on February 25-26, 2011, to present updates on community projects and gear up for the last leg of the ACCA 3-year project. The meeting was hosted by Homeless Peoples Federation (HPFPI) and participated by 32 community leaders and representatives from various partner NGOs and POs including TAO-Pilipinas.

The meeting covered presentations and sharing on issues, assessment of ACCA small and big projects, community influencing policy reforms, connection with other sectors, engagements between LGU and POs, and plans for ACCA activities in regional level. There were also site visits in Subangdaku and Talisay area that have Community-led Upgrading Projects such as land filling, incremental housing, communal toilet and communal water tank/pump. The group was joined by representatives from Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), Somsook Boonyabancha and Thomas Kerr along with two community leaders from Thailand.

Since it will be the last year for the ACCA program, the activity ended with a challenge and encouragement to make a bigger impact to the communities and continue the work that has been started. *(Verna Sarraga)*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



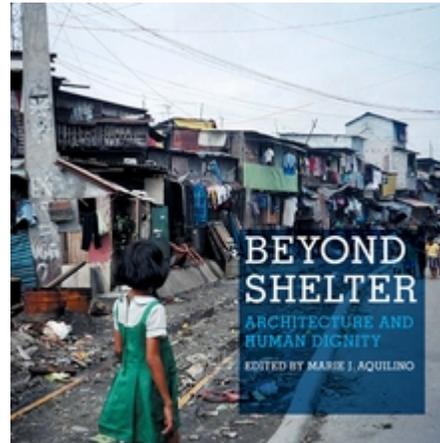
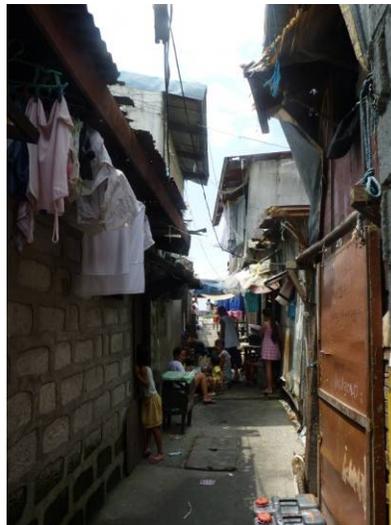
### New Publication by TAO: CBSWM Training Manual

The Community-Based Solid Waste Management (CBSWM) Training Manual is now available at the TAO office for PhP300 each. The training manual was made by the Education and Training Program and is a facilitator's guide on how to conduct an orientation workshop on community-

based solid waste management. The manual is written in Filipino and targets communities who want to practice solid waste management. It contains 10 modules and different visual aids that are used in conducting the CBSWM workshop. For more information about TAO's CBSWM training, you may contact Ge Matabang at (632) 441-0998.

### CALL FOR YP VOLUNTEER GROUP

TAO-Pilipinas is looking for volunteers, preferably a group of civil engineering or architecture students who represent a university-based student organization, to work with us on the Shelter Improvement Schemes for a community in Tangos, Navotas. The project is one of the ACCA-funded small upgrading projects that TAO facilitates. What will be done by the YP Volunteer Group includes ocular assessment of houses identified for repair, interview with household members, and development of schemes for house repair with cost estimates. If your group is interested to work on this project, please email [grmatabang@gmail.com](mailto:grmatabang@gmail.com).



### TAO-Pilipinas featured in Metropolis Books' *Beyond Shelter (Architecture and Human Dignity)*

An essay by TAO-Pilipinas Executive Director Arlene Lusterio is one of the featured articles in a new publication by Metropolis Books, "Beyond Shelter (Architecture and Human Dignity)". The book, edited by Marie J. Aquilino, is a compilation of essays from design professionals working in disaster-stricken areas around the world. Arch. Lusterio's contribution is entitled "Sustainable Communities: Avoiding Disaster in the Informal City".

The book is due to be released in the US by May 31, 2011 and will be distributed outside the US by Thames and Hudson. Information about the forthcoming book is available online at <http://www.artbook.com/9781935202479.html>.

