

e-newsletter

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013



Rafael Paragas and Iyah Robles of UP-Task Force Arki (UP-TFA) gives basic drawing lessons to kids of Masagana community in Angat.



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UP-TFA Holds Art Workshop with Masagana Children

LAST OCTOBER 19, AN ART WORKSHOP WHICH CATERED TO ABOUT THIRTY KIDS OF THE Masagana community was held at their resettlement site in Angat, Bulacan. This brief seminar was called "Halina't Maglikha" and was spearheaded by Arch. Geraldine Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc., with the help of eleven architecture student-volunteers from the UP Task Force Arki who facilitated the workshop.

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Damayan Youth Set-up Community Garden

THE DAMAYAN YOUTH GROUP FROM FLOODWAY-B, SITIO LUMANG ILOG, TAYTAY, RIZAL SET UP THEIR own community garden as a Community-based Solid Waste Management (CBSWM) good practice. Theirs is the third community garden set-up and maintained by youth groups (following R.Domingo in Navotas and Masagana in Angat) under the TAO-Pilipinas CBSWM project supported by Starbucks Fund and Give2Asia Foundation.

Following the orientation sessions on CBSWM and hands-on training on container gardening they underwent last September with TAO-Pilipinas (see YP Enewsletter August-October 2013 issue) and with the support of community leaders, the group implemented their garden design and layout plan in a small open plot in Block 37. They mobilized youth members

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YP Reading List:

ACHR's **Community Mapping for Housing by People**

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela (1918-2013), former president of South Africa

UP-TFA... (From page 1)

The activity started with a comprehensive lecture about color appreciation. UP-TFA officers Rafael Paragas and Iyah Robles demonstrated how to produce the secondary colors through the combination of the primary colors. The kids were also taught the basics of rendering through the incorporation of lights and shadows in their drawings. This was followed by a hands-on session geared towards the kids' career ambitions. In this part of the seminar, the children were asked to visualize their dreams and to draw them using art materials provided by both TAO and UP-TFA. Each drew what they wanted to become in the future and this resulted to drawings that saw themselves as teachers, doctors, nurses, policemen, and pilots.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the children were each asked to present their art works and a short background on their personal aspirations. The kids explained through their drawings how they wanted to teach students, restore the health of the sick, fly aircrafts, or become superheroes. Many also expressed a desire to fly abroad when they have the jobs that they wanted so that they could be with their OFW parents.

For the UP-TFA members who facilitated the art workshop, the activity reflected how it is crucial to stimulate the establishment of the children's respective aspirations in life as early as possible. This reinforcement anchors their anticipation of a brighter future onto a more concrete plan, which will hopefully give them a sense of direction as they grow up. As budding architects, our utmost objective is to contribute in paving the way for the realization of these sprouting dreams. (Bea Baluyot)



Top, left: One of the kids of Masagana drawing his future aspirations during the afternoon session of the art workshop

Top, right: Toddlers also participated in the art workshop and were given one-on-one tutoring.

Bottom: The kids of Masagana who attended the art workshop together with the architecture student-volunteers of UP-TFA.



Top: Workshop participants doing their resource and hazards mapping exercise

Bottom: Members of Grandville HOA presenting one of their house design schemes.

TAO Conducts Planning Workshop for Final Batch of Sendong-affected CMP Express Lane Beneficiaries

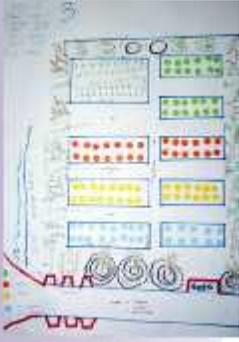
ON NOVEMBER 22 AND 23, 2013 THE SOCIAL HOUSING Finance Corporation (SHFC) in Cagayan De Oro City organized the last workshop in a series of participatory planning and design workshops for TS Sendong-affected families that availed of the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) Express Lane Window of SHFC. Representatives from three community associations (Monsanto, Blessedville, and Grandville) formed the last batch of housing beneficiaries that underwent the technical workshop facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas. All in all, 14 CAs or community associations in CDO have undergone TAO's participatory workshops since 2012.

Through the workshops, the CA reps and their mobilizers made informed decisions regarding proposed subdivision and housing design schemes. At the start of the workshop, TAO-Pilipinas architects Faith Varona, Geraldine Matabang, and Angelus Sales oriented participants on basic knowledge and tools for understanding

technical drawings and familiarized them with planning and design standards for social housing projects as stipulated in Batas Pambansa 220. The Mines & Geosciences Bureau (MGB) geohazard assessment and findings for the proposed resettlement sites were also explained to the CAs. Site development and housing project cost considerations and project management issues were likewise tackled. Technical inputs on securing development permits were given by CDO City Planning & Development Officer Engr. Alfredo Nambatac.

Equipped with these information, the community reps then reviewed and assessed the subdivision and housing plans submitted to them by their engineers and proposed changes to the plans when needed. Further discussions on the CMP financing package and affordability levels of beneficiaries (i.e. their capability to pay monthly

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Left to right: Plan of the garden drawn by the youth themselves; The actual garden set-up wherein various vegetables were planted.



Christine (left) and Juvie (right) of Damayan tending their urban garden

Damayan Youth... (From page 1)

to begin the gardening tasks during the last week of September. They tilled soil for plant beds, fenced off the garden area and created plant containers from recycled plastic bottles and PVC pipes. About 20 youths continued to work on the garden until October, completing a wooden A-frame to house the various recycled plant containers and a small shed for the compost and tools storage.

As the Damayan youths wait to see the full effects of their gardening efforts, a short project assessment was conducted on October 5 with those who actively participated in the container gardening activities. The assessment provided them a venue to articulate their impressions on spearheading a CBSWM project for their community. They noted a newfound awareness on proper waste management and discovered gardening to be an enjoyable communal activity. By harnessing the youth's energy towards the common goal of maintaining a community garden, the project showed the potential for more youth-led efforts in the community.

TAO staff visited Damayan's community garden in October and found growing sprouts of various vegetable plants including pechay, okra, hot pepper, bell pepper, radish, sitao, bitter gourd, and squash. (Ge Matabang)



Vegetables planted in various ways: in seed beds, in used PVC pipes and in recycled plastic bottles and containers.

TAO Conducts Planning Workshop... (From page 2)

amortization) guided the CA's decisions on homelot sizes and housing unit design preferences. SHFC CDO officers Janet Lumayag and Engr. Jake Tubaon, along with Atty. Miriam Quizon, explained the CMP project timelines and loan package inclusions.

The communities' preferred housing unit designs were explored on the second day of the training with a 3D design workshop. Each CA used scaled model tools to come up with housing unit design schemes based on the homelot sizes in the subdivision plans and the house construction loan package available to them. A number of design schemes were generated, including a "complete house" and a "shell house" that can be completed incrementally by the beneficiary-families. These 3D models of the housing units will be presented by the CA reps to their general membership for validation and for discussion with their architects or engineers.



The final batch of Sendong-affected CMP Expresslane beneficiaries with TAO-Pilipinas and SHFC staff.

The final activity for the participants was formulating a project implementation plan that is aligned with the CMP Expresslane timeframe. In an action planning workshop, each CA outlined the steps that they will need to carry out, from completing documentary requirements for land acquisition to actual site development and house construction. They also detailed the identification of tasking duties, resources needed and schedules or deadlines to meet for each step in the action plan. (Ge Matabang)

Network Activities

DILG Organizes Round Table Discussion on Enhancing Disaster Preparedness

ON OCTOBER 18, 2013, THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) held a round table discussion (RTD) on disaster risk reduction that focused on enhancing disaster preparedness through science and governance. The target participants for this RTD were civil society organizations (CSOs) and people's organizations (POs). The invited resource persons were Francisco Magno, Director of De La Salle University Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Governance; Leorey Marquez, Senior Research Scientist from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Division of Mathematics, Informatics, and Statistics; Mahesh Prakash, Project Leader for the Disaster, Digital Productivity and Services Flagship of CSIRO; and Emmanuel Lallana, Chief Executive of ideaCorp.

Mr. Magno discussed the disaster preparedness audit (DPA) being promoted by DILG. According to Dr. Magno, the objectives of conducting a disaster preparedness audit is to 1) establish benchmark information on disaster preparedness of local government; 2) assess post-intervention disaster preparedness to determine performance gaps; and 3) incentivize institutionalized disaster preparedness as proof of official recognition. DPA has two levels of assessment. The first level assesses the leadership structure, guide to action, and disaster preparedness of LGUs while the second level assesses search and rescue and evaluation center management.

The next speaker was Mr. Marquez who shared a study made by World Bank about disaster risk and the urban poor. Included in the study is an analysis of urban poor risks associated with climate change and disasters, identification of strategies and financing opportunities, and case studies of good practices. According to Dr. Marquez, one of the key findings of the study is the significant role that the city government plays when it comes to disaster risk reduction. The LGUs are the main drivers for addressing risk and they have the capacity to build the resilience of the urban poor by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into urban management.

Mr. Marquez was followed by his colleague in CSIRO, Mr. Prakash who presented the latest in computer modeling and simulation tools for flooding analysis. He enumerated various softwares which can be used to determine flood levels and simulate flooding and landslide scenarios in a particular area. He also emphasized that data gathered from computer modeling and simulation can be used to help local government units to properly relocate the informal settlers in their respective cities.

The last speaker was Mr. Lallana who talked about eGovernance and its role in disaster risk reduction and management. He defined eGovernance as the use of information and communications technology (ICT) for the transparent and participatory steering of society. According to Mr. Lallana, eGovernance is different from eGovernment in such a way that eGovernance is more encompassing and involves civil society and the public in societal decision making. The key innovation of eGovernance is computer networks that create new digital connections among different stakeholders. He also emphasized the important role that ICT plays in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Communities must harness ICT tools for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. He gave a few examples of ICT tools that can be used for the different stages of DRRM such as GIS mapping, risk mapping, modeling and simulation for disaster mitigation; early warning systems for disaster preparedness; and open source software such as SAHANA for disaster response and recovery.

An open forum followed the presentations. CSOs and POs asked questions and gave inputs regarding the typical situation that happens during disaster. The main concern of the group is whether LGUs will be able to deliver and do their work during times of disaster especially at the barangay level. Lastly, each invited CSOs and POs gave their opinion on the project that DILG is undertaking with regards to disaster risk reduction and management. (Angel Sales)

TAO Facilitates Planning Workshop for INSA-assisted Communities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INSTITUTIONAL NETWORK FOR SOCIAL ACTION (INSA), TAO-Pilipinas conducted a participatory workshop for People's Planning at the Seminar Room of Miriam College on November 23, 2013. Representatives from two of INSA's supported communities, namely Samahan ng Mamayan ng Park 7 and Marytown, attended the workshop.

The objectives of the activity were: (1) to formulate a comprehensive plan towards security of land tenure; and (2) understand the process of formulating people's plan and share it with the community. The program started with welcome remarks by Ms. Malou Turalde-Jarabe, INSA Executive Director. This was followed by a lecture about people's plan and guidelines in planning for Medium-Rise Buildings (MRBs) given by TAO-Pilipinas' Arch. Arlene Lusterio and Arch. Verna Sarraga.

The workshop consisted of two parts which were the hazard identification and the MRB planning design on Park 10 site in Varsity Hills Subdivision, Quezon City. Four groups were able to come up with different MRB schemes. These schemes will be collated and used in further developing their people's plan. Another workshop or meeting between the communities and assisting NGOs will be scheduled as the follow-up activity. (Verna Sarraga)



Left to right: Workshop participants during their MRB planning design workshop; Planning output by Marytown and Park 7 community representatives.

PHILSSA holds 3rd Philippine Urbanization Forum

THE PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT SERVICE AGENCIES (PHILSSA) Inc., with support from Christian Aid, recently organized the 3rd Philippine Urbanization Forum to discuss urbanization issues. PHILSSA member organizations and partners were gathered at the ISO in Ateneo de Manila University on December 3, 2013 for the event that has been held annually since 2011. This year, the theme of the discussions focused on "Building Urban Disaster Resilience" in light of the 7.2-magnitude tremor that shook Bohol and Cebu last October.

The program started with welcome remarks by PHILSSA Chairperson Rosemarie Johnson-Herrera who reminded the audience of the timeliness of the forum theme. She stressed the need to break the complacency in taking action to prevent

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ADB Photo Exhibit features PDA project in Pulo

A FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION DUBBED AS "RESILIENCE: THE ISLA PULO Community" by British photographer and expatriate Justin James Wright formally opened at the Asian Development Bank Headquarters last November 25. It was a follow-up to a successful exhibition held at the Ayala Museum in October 2013 and a post-activity of ADB-Pilot Demonstration Activity Project for Pulo, Navotas.

The exhibit was hosted by ADB and joined by the members of SAMASISIP (Isla Pulo community), the British Council Philippines, TAO-Pilipinas, and Mr. Wright's team among others. The crowd was welcomed by Mr. Richard Edwards, ADB's Alternate Executive Director, followed by a heart-warming speech from Mr. Nick Thomas, British Council Philippines' Director. Ms. Theresa Audrey Esteban of ADB's Sustainable Infrastructure Division gave a brief introduction about ADB-PDA while Manuelito Villanueva expressed the gratitude on behalf of the people in Pulo.

Mr. Wright presented the exhibit as a series of poignant, fine art photographs that takes the viewers into the heart of the people of Isla Pulo. He admired the incredible spirit of the people and the way the whole community works together as one family for the common good. Mr. Gil-Hong Kim, ADB's Sustainable Infrastructure Division Director wrapped up the event.

The photographs were displayed at ADB Cafeteria Hallway from November 25 to 28. It also can be viewed on the websites: [<http://www.jjwrightfineart.com/isla-pulo-navotas-philippines/>] and [<http://www.flickr.com/photos/justinjaxeswright/sets/72157632771128050/with/10704850663/>].
(Verna Sarraga)



Left-right: The photo exhibit hosted by ADB showcasing the Isla Pulo community; SAMASISIP Members with the exhibit guests including Arch. Verna Sarraga of TAO-Pilipinas.

PHILSSA... (From page 4)

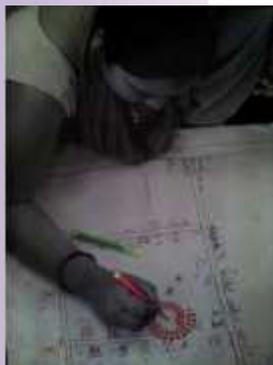
climate change and earthquake-related disasters. PHILSSA National Coordinator Benedict Balderrama also gave introductory remarks and looked back at the issues discussed that also dealt with disaster resilience during the previous forums organized by PHILSSA.

Earthquake hazards in the Philippines were tackled in two succeeding presentations by resource persons. The first input was given by Mr. Peter Ferrer of Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards). Mr. Ferrer gave an orientation on earthquake science and the secondary effects of earthquakes. Architect Geraldine Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas gave inputs on measures for climate change adaptation and earthquake risks mitigation. She outlined the anticipated impacts of climate change and earthquake hazards and their implication on how settlements are planned and how houses are designed. She also explained some examples of disaster-resilient house design features. Open forum followed each of the presentations.

At the end of the forum, PHILSSA Board Member Dr. Anna Maria Karaos of JJICSI gave a synthesis of the half-day activity. Her synthesis emphasized these points: basic technical knowledge for communities to have a clear understanding of the hazards and of their options for risk reduction; connectivity within shelter institutions and local governments for information sharing and in ensuring safe settlement sites; the role of PHILSSA network in facilitating access to technical information for people's processes that are happening in the communities; and the importance of capacitated local government units for disaster response and preparedness. (GRM)

YP Reading List

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library>. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



Title: Community Mapping for Housing by People
Author: Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
Publisher: ACHR (2012)

This book gives a good insight on what community mapping is all about. It gives a detailed narration on how communities conduct their own mapping exercises with photos and illustrations of the maps made by different communities across Asia and the Pacific. This book emphasizes the role of community architects and the various ways by which they can facilitate a community mapping exercise.

The good thing about this book is that it gives detailed accounts of how to do community mapping. Enumerating the advantages of mapping urban poor communities, the book shows mapping as a tool to improve their living conditions. Basic tools can be found at the annex part which communities can use to begin mapping. Included in the tools are survey forms, graphing paper with scaled grids, rulers, and pictures of houses, trees, and other entourage drawn to scale.

Some of the English text in the book though needs editing. Nevertheless, the photos and illustrations provided compensate for a few of the hard to understand English. Another critique is how community mapping is presented as a simple and easy-to-do exercise. The book seems to gloss over the difficult aspects of doing community mapping. It would have been better if the difficulties encountered by the communities were also shared so that the readers will have a realistic expectation of community mapping. Overall, the book is substantial enough in giving basic information and is a good companion tool for community associations who are planning to do community mapping. (Angel Sales)