



TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.



Guests pose with TAO staff during the coffee-table book launch event held in Gerry's Grill Matalino.

TAO MARKS 17 YEARS WITH BOOK RELEASE AND NEW PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

TAO-PILIPINAS MARKED an important milestone on its 17th anniversary with the release of its first coffee-table book titled “TAO-Pilipinas architects in the margins”. The coffee-table book, edited by Lourdes Didith Mendoza-Rivera, features the work of TAO-Pilipinas in the last 16 years along with the stories of its partner communities. Five TAO staff served as contributing authors of the book; writing separate essays were Arlene Lusterio, Faith Varona, Verna Sarraga, Lorena Hernandez, and Angelus Sales.

The book launch event which also doubled as its founding anniversary celebration was held on August 29 at Gerry's Grill in Matalino

Street, Quezon City. Several of TAO's collaborators from the communities, NGO network, academe and project partners and volunteers attended.

Research and Publication (R&P) staff Therese Julia emceed the event and started the program by showing a video vignette that featured the work of TAO-Pilipinas in the Philippine pavilion of the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale. Afterwards, another R&P staffer Rosanne Aldeguer, who was also the book's layout artist, presented the book overview and highlighted the different sections that each author contributed. She also introduced a short audio-video presentation by book editor Ms. Mendoza-Rivera who

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TAO receives Global Youth Empowerment Fund

THE GLOBAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND (GYEF) IS a partnership between the Junior Chamber International (JCI) and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Action Campaign that provides grants to youth-initiated projects and social enterprises that promote the Sustainable Development Goals in local communities all over the world. It aims to empower young people around the world to bring about significant change in their communities. This year, TAO-Pilipinas is among the five grantees from around the world selected to receive a 5,000 USD grant. The announcement was made during the 2018 JCI Global Partnership Summit in New York City which was held last July.

GYEF will be funding the CO-DESIGN Project which will be implemented by the Young Professionals Program of TAO-Pilipinas together with Community Organizers Multiversity (COM) and Alliance of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA). CO-DESIGN Project aims to do a structural assessment of seven pilot houses in Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal. Teams composed of civil engineering and architecture students as well as community youth leaders of APOLA will be created to conduct a structural assessment on selected pilot houses. Each team will be mentored by one civil engineer and one architect. The

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unfortunately was not able to grace the launch.

PHILSSA National Coordinator Benedict Balderrama, one of the TAO partners who wrote a foreword in the book, offered a brief review and commentary. "Although the book is a product of 16 years of experience, with technical assistance as the core of this experience," he shared, "it presents this in a non-academic manner and instead weaves the communities' stories based on the concrete experiences of these women architects."

Four of the book authors - Lusterio, Varona, Hernandez and Sales - participated in a Q&A session with the guests. With questions ranging from the amusing to more serious takes on housing, the authors engaged in a lively hour-long exchange with the audience. Overall, the discussion put emphasis on the book's value as documentation of TAO-Pilipinas' distinct approach to technical assistance to communities and as learning instrument for other technical professionals and housing stakeholders.

TAO's 17th anniversary celebration then segued into a presentation of what's next for TAO-Pilipinas. Executive Director Arlene Lusterio announced new project partnerships with three community partners. TAO-Pilipinas will be working with Masagana of Angat, Bulacan; APOLA and COM in Lupang Arenda, Taytay; and Santuario de San Vicente de Paul Parish and FDA in Tandang Sora, Quezon City under a new three-year Misereor-supported project called "Building Sustainable and Disaster-resilient Communities in Metro Manila and Luzon". Representatives from the three project areas were on hand to receive the signed and notarized Memorandum of Agreement between TAO-Pilipinas and community partners.

Three lucky guests won free copies of the coffee-table book. The raffle winners were YP intern Gab Gersaniba, Rhea Aguilar of PHILSSA, and Dolly Felicio of Damayan. The celebration ended with a short closing remark by Faith Varona, Secretary of the Board of Trustees. (GRM)



The authors answer questions during the open forum session of the book launch. From left to right: Arlene Lusterio, Faith Varona, and Angelus Sales and Lorena Hernandez.



Lucky winners of the raffle who got free copies of the coffee-table book receive their prize with Arlene Lusterio (left) and host, Theresse Julia (right). Left photo: Rhea Aguilar. Right photo: Dolly Feliciano.



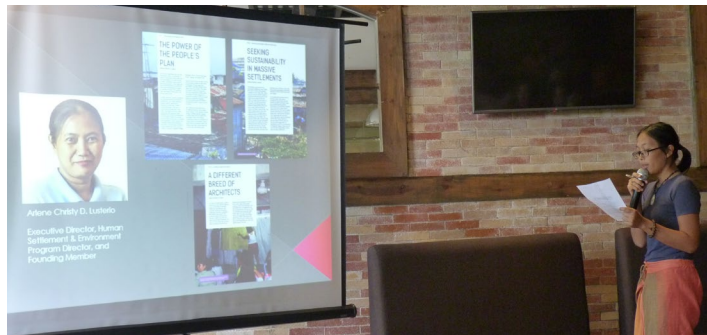
From left to right: TAO Exec. Dir. Arlene Lusterio, FDA Executive Director Lita Asis-Nero, Santuario de San Vicente de Paul BEC Leaders Marissa Tinao, Luz Singew, and Rose Pascual receive the notarized agreement for Tandang Sora under the new three-year Misereor project.



Representative of APOLA, Maria Fe Ranario (middle), and COM, Sherlynn Mae Lucas (right), accepts the copy of the notarized agreement for Lupang Arenda.



MASAGANA of Angat Homeowners Association receives their notarized agreement through representatives, Juana Cavalida (middle) and Diane Antipuesto (right).



Top photo: TAO Program Staff for Publications, Rosanne Aldeguer provides an introduction about the TAO coffee-table book.

Bottom photo: Mr. Benedict Balderrama of PHILSSA gives his feedback regarding TAO-Pilipinas: architects in the margins.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE BOOK LAUNCH



1) TAO Exec.Dir. Arlene Lusterio gives the opening remarks for the book launch. 2) Arlene Lusterio pose with TAO Advisory Board, Fr. Jorge Anzorena (middle) and Joey Mendoza (right). 3) Partners from PHILSSA network pose with Angelus Sales. Clockwise: Ivy Shella Pagute and Al Bernarte from UPA; Teresa Prondosa from FDUP; Benedict Balderrama of PHILSSA. Former TAO staffs pose their question during the open forum session. 4) Rosalyn-Frances Veneracion. 5) Marie Edraline Belga-Casano.

Guests give their questions and comments regarding TAO's work. 6) TAO Volunteer, Gab Gersaniba. 7) Ms. Ariane Roxas of SHFC. 8) Ms. Maria Fe Ranario of APOLA. 9) Ms. Amy Jerusalem of Damayan HOA. 10) Ms. Francia Clavecillas of COM. Book signing by the authors. 11) Arlene Lusterio signs a copy for UPA. 12) Lorena Hernandez and Angelus Sales sign a copy for Voltaire Tila.

TAO conducts project assessment with partner communities



TAO invited guests to observe the community assessment and provide a gender perspective in the discussion. **Left photo:** Ms. Fides Bagasao of COM.

Right photo: Ms. Charisse Jordan of UN Women

TAO-PILIPINAS, TOGETHER with its three partner communities, conducted a project assessment workshop on August 24, 2018 at the Century Club Building in Quezon Memorial Circle. The activity served to evaluate the project activities implemented with TAO's collaborating partners in the last year and to prepare for a new three-year project partnership.

The workshop was attended by representatives of Alliance of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) of Taytay, Rizal; Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association (Masagana) of Angat, Bulacan; and Santuario de San Vicente de Paul Parish Basic Ecclesial Communities (Santuario BEC) of Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Partner NGOs were also present in the workshop, including Community Organizers Multiversity (COM) which is a collaborator in Lupang Arenda, and the Foundation for Development Alternatives (FDA) for Santuario BEC.

The workshop was also an opportunity for sharing and learning of experiences among the three community partners. Each presented a brief background of their respective communities, their shelter situation and the actions that they have undertaken to address shelter needs.

A focus group discussion (or FGD) as the main method for project assessment was designed by TAO. To facilitate the FGD, the workshop participants were divided into seven (7) focus groups: AUPFI, LAHOFI, and KOALISYON (based on the federations comprising the APOLA umbrella organization); Kawan 1, Kawan 2 and Kawan 3 (representing the three BEC areas of Santuario Parish); and Masagana of Angat HOA.

The FGD sought to identify and assess a) the community actions done during the time frame of July 2017 to August 2018; b) the observed effects of the community's partnership with TAO-Pilipinas; c) the communities' priority actions for the next three years; and d) technical assistance needs to support the communities' plan of action. To achieve these objectives, each focus group was given questionnaires to answer and charts to complete. A facilitator from TAO was also assigned to each group to guide them in their discussion.

Before each group presented the results of their discussion, short talks about gender sensitivity in community development planning were given by Ms. Fides Bagasao of COM and Ms. Charisse Jordan of UN Women. Ms. Bagasao talked about how shelter issues are essentially women's issues. She emphasized the need to

look at how projects help improve the situation of women in the community. On the other hand, Ms. Jordan shared important points on gender equality, equal rights, and how these contribute to sustainable community development.

The results of each groups' discussion were shared with the rest of the groups. They explained what community activities have been conducted, its outputs and how these have affected the community's shelter situation. They also outlined what needs to be done further to accomplish community goals and what kind of technical assistance they require. After each group's presentation, Architect Arlene Lusterio responded and gave feedback on how TAO-Pilipinas can support the communities' action plans.

At the end of the program, Architect Geraldine Matabang summarized the outputs of the assessment activity. She reviewed the identified shelter-related needs and issues in the three project areas, pointing out their common issues while recognizing the different contexts for project collaboration with TAO.

Architect Faith Varona gave a brief closing remark, encouraging more interaction among the project area partners and opportunities for learning and bonding. TAO-Pilipinas is set to form a Project Management Committee with representatives from the three community partners to conduct monthly project monitoring and meetings. *(GRM with Gab Gersaniba)*



Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association members discuss among themselves their answers to the community assessment.



Mr. Rogelio Batulina, Jr. of Lupang Arenda Homeowners Federation, Inc. presents their answer during the project assessment of partner communities.

TAO's "Project Recharge" exhibited in Powertrends 2018

FROM SEPTEMBER 4 TO 6, TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. got to showcase "Project Recharge" during the "Powertrends 2018: 13th International Exhibition and Conference on Directions for Energy, Power and Electricity" at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. Through the Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc. (SSCFI), TAO-Pilipinas had the opportunity to exhibit its renewable energy (RE) project with Masagana Community to an international audience comprising corporations in the energy industry, non-government organizations, government agencies, and energy enthusiasts among others. The TAO-Pilipinas exhibit was manned by Engr. Lorena Hernandez and Arch. Verna Sarraga on September 4; L.Arch. Rosanne Aldeguer on September 5; and Theresse Julia on September 6.

Organized by Leverage International in cooperation with the Department of Energy (DoE) since 1995, Powertrends is an international exposition and conference featuring the latest developments, trends, and issues relating to the energy sector. This year, the organizers partnered with the National Renewable Energy Board to execute Powertrends under the theme, "Building a Resilient and Sustainable Philippine Energy Future: A Transformative Shift to Cleaner Energy." The exhibition aimed to promote the development and utilization of renewable energy resources in the country by bringing together key players, institutions, and stakeholders in the Philippine energy sector.

For Powertrends 2018, SSCFI returned as an exhibitor

and invited the three teams of its Sikat Impact Challenge (see [YP ENewsletter March-May 2018 Issue](#))—TAO-Pilipinas, 2030 Youth Force PH, and Keep Hope Alive—to showcase their respective RE initiatives during the three-day exposition. The teams highlighted their partner communities, the problems they aim to address, the RE applications in response to these problems, and the potential impact it can bring to the communities. All teams aim to utilize solar energy in their RE projects. TAO's "Project Recharge" seeks to implement a clean water, power, and lighting system for Masagana Community in Barangay Pulong Yantok, Angat, Bulacan; 2030 Youth Force PH's "Project Liyab" intends to develop a solid waste management system in an Aeta community in Sitio Haduan, Mabalacat, Pampanga; and Keep Hope Alive's "Bantay Kalusugan" plans to power a local health center for a Mangyan community in Barangay Panaytayan, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.

In addition to building platforms and bridges for energy innovations, Powertrends provides opportunities for rural communities such as Masagana, Sitio Haduan, and Panaytayan to connect with enterprises and institutions that can potentially assist in applying RE technologies or in maximizing the impact of current RE undertakings. For TAO-Pilipinas, the event introduced networks and technologies useful to "Project Recharge" since the project is nearing its implementation phase. (TRJ)



The booth of the Sikat Solar Foundation, Inc. showing the projects of each team who are included in the Sikat Impact Challenge.



Booth goers are treated to a puzzle game of arranging the logos of each team included in the Sikat Impact Challenge. TAO logo is the most difficult to do according to booth goers.



Project Recharge team member, Arch. Verna Sarraga gives a background about the Masagana community and their involvement in Project Recharge to booth goers

Sincerity in every deed

by Ara Laurice Pascual

Ara Laurice Pascual is a 5th year architecture student of Univeristy of Santo Tomas. She did her OJT with TAO-Pilipinas from June-July 2018. In her brief stint as a YP intern, she assisted in the photo documentation of TAO's community planning workshop. She was also able to visit Masagana in Angat, Bulacan and Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal during her internship.

I could probably produce about ten pages of paper defining what architecture is, however none of it will be sincere. I tend to look up to a lot of outstanding and well-accomplished people in the field and acquire their wisdom, but I never actually was able to relate to them. Soon, I realized that I was already confined by the four corners of the classroom and that everything I know are based from only what I was told. I entered architecture school enthusiastically, but I found myself lost along the way.

My reason for choosing this profession was quite simple: it is so I could design my dream house someday. Almost five years has passed yet we were never given such a project. I always considered that designing a house is much more meaningful than five-star hotel or a grand theater.

In the psychology of space, they say that the house is the reflection of oneself. Thus, becoming our identity. In that sense, people tend to be very personal when it comes to their homes and I saw that through the several times we went to the communities of Masagana and Lupang Arenda.

The period of my internship in TAO-Pilipinas Inc. was too short to fully grasp everything. Although I did have a difficulty in adapting to the environment, it left an impression to me. I was able to witness the process with my own eyes: as simple as community people fighting over where they should place their bathrooms for over an hour. Coming from people who were deprived of proper housing facilities, having that privilege and opportunity to decide was a very important matter for them. I realized



Ara learns how to properly stake a lot together with her fellow intern and schoolmate, Gab Gersaniba, during their visit in Masagana Angat resettlement area.



Ara presents her internship report to TAO staff and fellow interns during the YP Internship Culmination activity.

that letting people solve their own problems is how the organization of TAO-Pilipinas Inc. show their sincerity - by guiding them towards independence.

It seems like schools nowadays has turned into factories producing architecture graduates who have imaginary impressions about the environment we live in. Referring themselves as the generation of the "woke" when most of us only base our knowledge from what we read on social media. We were never exposed to the real and actual situations of the different societies that we, in the future as designers and architects, will build in. I have had enough of being

spoon-fed to become a certain type of a professional with no sense of oneself, that is why this experience was relevant to the architect which I will become.

Perhaps I will never be content with how I perceive architecture as it is, with my current experiences, no matter what I will always question its every aspect and seek my place in it. Setting aside being in the field of design, I simply imagine a world with more sincere people, and I was glad that this internship experience has saved me to become one of them.



Ara Pascual (right) conducts a socio-economic survey with her fellow YP intern, Tria Dolom (middle) using the KoboToolbox app in Masagana, Angat.

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



Title: Low Tech Architecture
Editor: Josep Maria Minguet
Publisher: Instituto Monsa de Ediciones (2010)

and opposes the coldness of modern architecture. Low tech architecture promotes active participation of end users in the design and building process. It advocates the use of wood and earth as construction materials.

“Low Tech Architecture” is more of a picture book that features eight structures using organic and natural materials. Its premise is that these structures are examples of low-tech architecture, developed as a response to the oil crisis of the 1960s

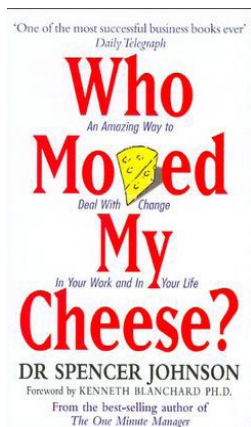
The book is mostly composed of pictures showing the different featured projects. Through the pictures, the design process of each structure is narrated with a few text accompaniment. Illustrations showing floor

plans, elevation, and sections are also included. Most used wood as the main building material while some used stones.

My favorite part of the book is seeing the design process through the early drawings of each structure. These sketches give us a glimpse into the design process. The only critique I have of the book is that the English translation of some of the text explanations are not clear. The book is bilingual with both Spanish and

English text provided but may seem to be catering more to Spanish readers since even the labels of some of the floor plans are in Spanish.

Overall, the book provides good examples of how with thoughtful site planning and design, structures can blend with the natural surroundings of the site. It also showed that you do not always have to build with concrete especially if local materials such as stones, mud bricks, bamboo, or timber are available in the area. (AMPS)



Title: Who Moved My Cheese?
Author: Matthew S. Westfall and Nicholas Allen
Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons (1998)

“Who Moved My Cheese?” is a short story that is meant to aid people who are experiencing changes in their life and find it hard to adapt to the

Each of them depict in a metaphorical way how people react differently whenever change is just around the corner. It's either we “sniff out the changes, or scurry into action, or get hemmed in the situation, or learn how to adapt with changes and realize that it is meant for something better.” They are meant to represent the simplicity and complexity of our minds when placed in such a position.

situation. Written in an easy-to-read manner, readers will find it hard to miss the valuable lessons embedded by the author.

It revolves around the four (4) fictional personas portrayed in the parable – the mice: Sniff and Scurry; and the tiny people: Hem and Haw.

The book is set in a maze where the four journey to look for the Cheese with a capital C. This mirrors the reality of inevitable hurdles we face to achieve our goals. On the other hand, the Cheese symbolizes the things we desire the most in

life, regardless if it is materialistic or abstract in nature. Renowned as a best-selling motivational book, the parable has helped readers from different walks of life and found use in corporate management. Provided with two additional sections, “The Gathering” and “The Discussion”, the book also presents to the readers the different takes people can have about the parable. No matter what your preferences is for your own Cheese, the book has it all for you. (Gabriel Gersaniba)

TAO receives Global... (continued from page 1)

teams will also recommend feasible retrofitting measures for each house in the form of technical drawings and 3d scaled models after the structural assessment.

GYEF will run for one year from August 2018 to August 2019 but TAO-Pilipinas hopes to finish the project within seven months. It will hold a roundtable discussion on September 28, 2018 to

introduce the project to possible academe partners and professional organizations.

JCI is a non-profit organization composed of youth from ages 18-40 years old whose main objective is to provide development opportunities that empower

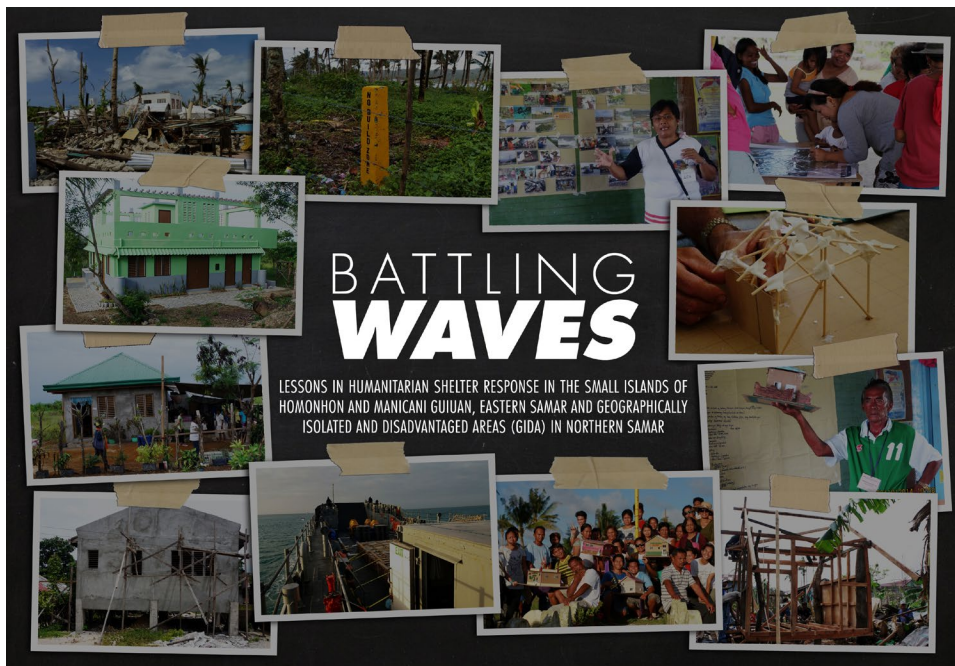
young people to bring about positive change all over world. To learn more about the Global Youth Empowerment Fund, you can visit their website at <https://www.gyefund.org/> (AMPS)

TAO featured in Inquirer article

LAST SEPT. 8, 2018, INQUIRER FEATURED TAO-PILIPINAS in an article written by Arch. Vittoria Lou Mawis. The article, entitled “Design for the Masses”, discussed how TAO-Pilipinas provides technical assistance to marginalized communities. The article is a good introduction about our organization. It focused on the people’s planning process which TAO has done for its partner communities. If you need quick and brief information about our work, the article is a good read. The article is available online in the following address: <https://business.inquirer.net/256860/design-for-the-masses>



Battling Waves Will Be Available Soon!



ANOTHER PUBLICATION from TAO-Pilipinas will be available in November 2018. The book entitled “Battling Waves: Lessons in Humanitarian Shelter Response in the Small Islands of Homonhon and Manicani, Guiuan, Eastern Samar and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) in Northern Samar” narrates the experience of TAO in doing post-disaster shelter intervention. It discusses the challenges of doing humanitarian shelter response in areas which are not easily accessible. The book is authored by Arlene Christy Lusterio and Verna Lucia Sarraga and edited by Ms. Lourdes Didith Mendoza-Rivera.

TAO is now an Accredited CPD Provider

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION Commission Continuing Professional Development (PRC CPD) Council of Environmental Planning has approved TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. as an Accredited CPD Provider (Accreditation No. 2018-006). The three-year accreditation allows TAO to provide courses (eg seminars, workshops) with CPD credit units to environmental planners.

TAO’s initial CPD offering shall be the TAO Lecture Series set on November 24, 2018 with the

theme, “Sustainable Development in a Humanitarian Context”. This is scheduled to coincide with the release of the TAO-Pilipinas publication, *Battling Waves: Lessons in Humanitarian Shelter Response in Small Islands and GIDA in Samar*. The CPD program of the lecture series is still in the process of approval for credit units. Registration and program details will be posted at www.tao-pilipinas.org.