



**TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.**

**Y P**  
**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**  
**eNEWSLETTER**  
 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2018



Circles in the subdivision plan represent the streetlights as members of Masagana Angat community plan the placement of streetlights to be built under Project Recharge. (Photo by: Gabriel Gersaniba)

## TAO LECTURE SERIES LAUNCHED AS ACCREDITED CPD PROGRAM

THE INITIAL OFFERING of the TAO Lecture Series was held on November 24, 2018 at the RDEC Training Room of the Agricultural Training Institute in Diliman, Quezon City. With the theme, “Sustainable Development in a Humanitarian Context”, the activity was also an accredited CPD seminar (with 5.5 credit units) for environmental planners. The CPD course was offered to provide EnPs with an overview of development work within the context of humanitarian action (eg emergency response, post-disaster assistance) and an understanding of how the humanitarian sector functions and operates.

The Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), of which TAO-Pilipinas is a network member, supported the activity through its PHILSSA Small Grant for Capacity Building. Representatives of other NGO members from the PHILSSA NCR cluster joined the seminar to form a small audience of about 25 persons.

The day-long program was started with welcome remarks from EnP. Geraldine Matabang, TAO’s education and training director, and a preview of TAO-Pilipinas’ upcoming book “Battling Waves” which documents TAO’s involvement in humanitarian shelter projects.

## Co-Design Project begins implementation

THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM OF TAO-Pilipinas is spearheading a project entitled, “Co-Design: Empowering Community Youth and Students on Social and Technical Processes for Disaster Resilience”. The project was introduced to academe partners during a roundtable discussion which was held on September 28, 2018 at Ateneo de Manila University. Present during the roundtable discussion were faculty representatives from UST College of Architecture and College of Engineering, UP Diliman College of Architecture and Institute of Civil Engineering, Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Architecture and Fine Arts, and University of the East College of Engineering Manila and Caloocan branches.

Representatives from project partners Community Organizers Multiversity (COM) and Alliance of People’s Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) were also present during the roundtable discussion to give a backgrounder on the project area. Engineer Ronaldo San Juan, the municipal engineer of Taytay, Rizal also attended the round table discussion and briefed participants on building restrictions in Lupang Arenda.

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# TAO Lecture Series... *(continued from page 1)*

The preview included a video teaser created and presented by LArch. Rosanne Aldeguer of TAO's research and publications program. The subject of the book was linked to the theme of the CPD seminar where four lectures were presented.

The first lecture, *Core Humanitarian Principles and Locally-led Humanitarian Response*, was given by Mr. Benedict Balderrama, national coordinator of PHILSSA. He introduced the four key humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence which guide the work of humanitarian actors. He also explained nine quality criteria for humanitarian interventions, including the commitment to accountability and to "do no harm". He discussed key factors towards localization of humanitarian action, highlighting lessons drawn from disaster response experiences of the PHILSSA network in Palawan and Marawi.

The second lecture, *Integrated Approach to Small Island Rehabilitation and Development*, was given by EnP. Candy Hidalgo, coordinator of Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI). Her presentation featured the rights-based and multi-disciplinary approach employed by PMPI in implementing Project Pagbangon in the islands of Guiuan and Panay. She discussed each project component that included shelter and evacuation, coastal resource management, health, sustainable agriculture, water supply, communication, and disaster risk reduction. Stories of change within the households and communities

after Project Pagbangon were presented through video snippets.

After the first two lectures an open forum was then held where participants fielded questions to Mr. Balderrama and Ms. Hidalgo. The ensuing discussion focused on compliance of projects to core humanitarian standards, addressing challenges to implementation in polarized communities, and on the resources needed to undertake participatory processes in humanitarian interventions.

The third and fourth lectures were presented after lunch with question-and-answer sessions after each lecture. EnP. Faith Varona gave a lecture on *Understanding the Work of Architect-Planners in the Humanitarian Sector* which looked at a number of international architecture and urban planning groups involved in humanitarian projects. She highlighted the key issues and urban planning considerations when engaging in humanitarian assistance.

EnP. Arlene Lusterio, executive director of TAO-Pilipinas, gave the final lecture about *Humanitarian Shelter Response in Small Islands and Geographically Isolated Areas*. She presented the different typologies of shelter assistance in humanitarian projects and then focused on TAO's post-typhoon Yolanda shelter response in Manicani and Homonhon Islands in Eastern Samar. She explained how they addressed the many challenges of implementing housing projects in remote islands and shared the lessons learned from the shelter response experience.



LArch. Rosanne Aldeguer gives a preview about the upcoming publication of TAO entitled "Batling Waves".



Invited speakers, EnP. Candy Hidalgo of PMPI and Mr. Benedict Balderrama of PHILSSA, answer questions from participants during the open forum.



Guest speakers, EnP. Candy Hidalgo and Mr. Benedict Balderrama, receive their certificate of appreciation given by TAO Board of Trustees, EnP. Faith Varona and Ms. Ana Dizon.



TAO resource speakers, EnP. Arlene Christy Lusterio and EnP. Faith Varona, also receive their certificate of appreciation given by TAO staff, EnP. Geraldine Matabang and Arch. Angelus Sales.



Participants, speakers, and organizers of the TAO Lecture Series for environmental planners pose for a group photo.

Despite the small audience, there was rich and engaging discussion and active participation from the seminar participants. They gave feedback and gave insightful questions in the exchange with speakers

following each lecture.

TAO-Pilipinas is slated to offer another TAO Lecture Series by February 2019, with CPD credit units targeted for architecture professionals. (GRM)

# Project Recharge conducts its first workshop!

A WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE settlements development through the use of renewable resources was conducted on October 14, 2018 in the Community-Based Resource Center (CBRC) of Masagana Homeowners Association, Inc. (Masagana). The said workshop marked the commencement of Project Recharge, an initiative to address issues on health and security of the Masagana community through the use of renewable energy. The project is implemented with the partnership of Masagana, TAO-Pilipinas, and Ateneo Innovation Center (AIC) with the support of Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc. (SSCFI).

The workshop started with welcoming remarks from Theresse Julia who

provided a brief overview and background of the project. She also facilitated the setting of expectations activity where the 31 participants expressed that they wanted to learn about solar energy, how to assemble a solar Photovoltaic (PV) system, and how to maintain and troubleshoot the system. After that, Lorena Hernandez laid out the program and objectives of the workshop where the participants learned that the first workshop was designed to be an introduction to the concepts of sustainability and renewable energy, presentation of the proposed business model for the water purification system, and identification of the 20 critical areas where the solar-powered street lights will be installed.

*Introduction to sustainable development and renewable energy*

The first lecture was delivered by Lorena Hernandez. She discussed sustainable development and its defining principles then proceeded to facilitate the first focus group discussion (FGD) on differentiating sustainable and unsustainable activities. The participants were provided 12 photos each and they were grouped according to the sectors they represent (women, senior citizens, youth) along with the officers. Each group explained each picture and whether the activity it depicted is sustainable or unsustainable. All groups correctly identified the classification of the pictures except the senior citizens' group where they claimed that land reclamation and land conversion were sustainable acts and that drying of clothes under the sun is an unsustainable act. However, the rest of the groups argued that the first two activities mentioned were unsustainable and the latter was a sustainable act.

An introduction to renewable energy followed. Presenter Theresse Julia explained renewable energy, listed its examples and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using renewable energy. Mr. Arturo Tahup of Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) then provided an introduction to Solar Energy. He explained the terms 'solar' and 'energy' and how it becomes 'solar energy'. He showed the behavior of the chemicals inside the solar panels by asking seven participants to sit under the sun in a circular pattern and to move in a clockwise pattern as they are exposed in the sun. The photons that the solar panels receive from the sun excite the

chemicals in the solar panel and ultimately produce the energy to be stored in the batteries. Mr. Tahup also showed the portable solar PV system called "Solar Tekpak" that ICSC produces and develops. He provided tips on installation, operation, and maintenance of the components of the solar PV system.

*Solar-powered water supply*

Next, Mr. Paul Cabacungan of AIC introduced the solar-powered clean water supply system that they have developed specifically for emergency situations and for remote locations with potable water supply issues. He explained that in the system, the water passes through a set of filters before being sterilized by an ultraviolet (UV) light. Furthermore, he showed a few versions of the system that was installed and modified according to the situation and needs of their partner communities. A hands-on demonstration of the system was also conducted where the participants were able to observe the mechanism and drink the purified water produced. Mr. Cabacungan also discussed the water tests that need to be conducted to ensure the water potability.

The final lecture before lunch was the presentation of the proposed business model for the water purification system. Theresse Julia shared the potable water demand and supply of the Masagana community. The proposed business model included the projected operation and maintenance expenses and the projected income for the community. Due to the minimal difference in operation expenses between using rainwater and water from the water district, the participants agreed to use the water from water district. Some expressed their fear of lacking water supply during the dry season if they chose to continue with using rainwater in the system.



Mr. Arturo Tahup of ICSC gives an introduction about solar energy to the community of Masagana Angat.



Mr. Paul Cabacungan of AIC explains the solar-powered filtration system for the water supply.

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## CO-DESIGN Project... *(continued from page 1)*

For the Co-Design Project, the YP Program has to form three teams of technical student volunteers and community youth leaders to do a structural assessment of seven houses in Lupang Arenda. The three teams will also have to give feasible retrofiting recommendations for each of the seven houses based on the results of the structural assessment. Seven houses will be selected by APOLA, one house for each of the seven purok areas. Two teams will have to assess two houses each while one team will

assess three houses. Each team will be joined by two technical professional as mentors, one for architecture and one for structural engineering. The project is scheduled to be finished by April 2019.

Based on the roundtable discussion and continuous talks with different faculty representatives, the following have committed to provide technical student volunteers for the project: 1) UP Task Force Arki; 2) Engineers Without Borders – Diliman;

3) UE Manila Association of Civil Engineering Students; 4) UE Caloocan College of Engineering; 5) UE Caloocan College of Fine Arts, Architecture, and Design; and 5) UST College of Engineering. APOLA has also gathered six community youth leaders to join the project.

On November 26, 2018, seventeen student volunteers together with two community youth leaders attended the project orientation held again at Room 210 of Benigno Mayo Hall at Ateneo de Manila University. They were joined by four leaders from APOLA

and a community organizer from COM. The orientation consisted of an introduction to the Co-Design project and its project stakeholders; a brief background on the project area including a presentation of the consolidated geotechnical study done in the area; lectures on BP 220, DRRM concepts, hazards present in Lupang Arenda; and a lecture on communicating technical knowledge to communities.

During the orientation, the participants laid their expectations on the project. The common answer among the group of technical students is that they are excited to have a venue where they could apply academic learning and at the same time help communities.

Currently, the project is still in the phase of firming up the final composition of each team. The next phase of the project is the structural assessment phase and is slated to begin in January 2019. (AMPS)



The technical student volunteers and community youth leaders pose with project stakeholders during the project briefing for the Co-Design Project.

## Project Recharge... *(continued from page 3)*

### Solar Perimeter Light

Upon the start of the afternoon session, Lyka Aguilar and Ara Cinco of SSCFI showed and explained the use, assembly, and maintenance of the Solar Perimeter Light (SPL) donated by Power4All, a producer of renewable energy technologies for communities. They further explained that the SPL will be lent for 30 days each to the community partners of the teams involved in the Sikat Impact Challenge 2018 of SSCFI, one of which was the Masagana community. At present, the SPL is installed in the Masagana area.

### Street lighting locations

Finally, Rosanne Aldeguer provided a short lecture on

streetscape design and then proceeded to conduct the second FGD, the identification of 20 critical areas within the site. The participants resumed their groups in the previous FGD and were provided copies of the site development plan of Masagana. They were asked to place 20 light green stickers in the locations they identify as critical areas and dark green stickers for the locations that need big trees.

The four groups presented their maps and discussed the reasons why they chose specific places as critical areas. Majority of the critical areas identified by each group were identical. The outputs from the second will be processed by TAO-Pilipinas before undergoing community



Team Project Recharge poses with staff from Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities. From left to right: Theresse Julia, Arturo Tahup, Francis Dela Cruz, Lorena Hernandez, Rosanne Aldeguer, Golda Hilario, Verna Sarraga, and Joseph Manalo.

validation.

It was also decided that the establishment of the water purification system will be implemented first since the market trends and the overall

feasibility of the system will be observed for three months before finalizing the business model for the said system. (MLPH)

# San Carlos City officials tackle liveable cities and sustainable development



City department executives of San Carlos LGU actively participate in the orientation workshop on liveable cities and urban governance.

TAO-PILIPINAS EXTENDED assistance to the San Carlos Development Board (SCDB) of San Carlos City in Negros Occidental. SCDB is a multi-sectoral, non-government organization that coordinates and oversees the implementation of the San Carlos City Master Development Plan. Working under a project called “San Carlos City Rural & Urban Governance - 2019 & Beyond”, TAO and SCDB jointly conducted a capability-building workshop that oriented participants on the livable cities framework for governance and sustainable development goals.

The workshop was held over two days, on November 12-13 at L’Fisher Hotel in Bacolod City. It was participated by a small group of city department executives led by San Carlos City Mayor Gerardo Valmayor Jr. Architects Faith Varona and Geraldine Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas facilitated the learning activity along with Prof. Louie Gonzaga of JF Ledesma Foundation.

SCDB Executive Director Engr. Anacleto Villarante Jr. opened the program and stressed the importance of sustaining the local government’s development

initiatives. San Carlos City was declared as the second most livable city in the world for a population not exceeding 150,000 in 2011 by International Awards for Livable Communities (LivCom Awards). It is also a multiple recipient of Galing Pook Awards and already a hall of famer. Engr. Villarante attributes the city’s exemplary performance to its political stability and continuity of development efforts in the last three local administrations.

The 2-day workshop served as a preparatory activity for the city officials ahead of a planned partnership with the Center for Livable Cities (CLC) Singapore for capability-development and advisory support. A delegation of city officials is set to attend training sessions with CLC in Singapore sometime December 2018.

City planning officer Maggie Antonio briefly reviewed the national and regional development goals, San Carlos’ comprehensive development plan, and their adherence to the UN sustainable development goals or SDGs. Architect Varona then oriented participants on the concepts of SMART city growth and livable cities. Her presentation centered on the 10-point principles of integrated



Local executives of San Carlos also give their inputs and feedback during the two-day workshop. **Left:** San Carlos City Mayor Valmayor. **Right:** Prof. Louie Gonzaga of JF Ledesma Foundation



San Carlos City officials pose for a group photo during the two-day workshop conducted by TAO-Pilipinas.

master planning and development and dynamic urban governance as advocated by CLC.

After the lecture inputs, the participants were tasked to identify and discuss the development issues and concerns of San Carlos City. They were split into focus groups during the workshops and were divided according policy areas (settlements, environment, production, and infrastructure). Each group also tackled on-going or proposed interventions to address identified development issues and how they align with UN SDGs and the livable cities framework. The results of the focus group discussions were then presented on the second day.

Discussions continued on the second day, with the groups

identifying legislative priorities to attain city livability outcomes. At the end of the program, Prof. Gonzaga observed that the workshop process is a useful approach to further refine and update their master development plan. In his synthesis, he pointed out the need to maintain San Carlos City’s competitiveness and to build up the competence of city executives through interagency cooperation and sharing of expertise.

Mayor Valmayor closed the activity with a brief address. As the city is about to revisit its old executive-legislative agenda, he called for the continuous pursuit of San Carlos City’s development vision even when new leaders take office. (GRM)

# WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPING INNOVATION IDEAS FOR EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCE



Representatives from FDUP, PHILSSA and TAO attended the workshop organized by HIF, ADRRN, and CDP. Left to right: Teresa Prondosa, Rhea Aguilar, Geraldine Matabang.

A CONVENING INITIATIVE on “Innovation for Earthquake Resilience and Response” was organized by Elhra’s Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) in partnership with Asia Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP). They invited civil society organizations, the academe, government and private sector to form teams to generate innovations in earthquake resilience and response. A two-part workshop was set to help the teams develop their humanitarian innovation ideas.

A group representing Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP), Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), and TAO-Pilipinas was among the nine teams that responded to the call for innovation ideas. The team is composed of Teresa Prondosa of FDUP, Rhea Aguilar of PHILSSA, and Geraldine Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas.

The first workshop hosted by CPD was held on November 27-29, 2018 at Brentwood Hotel in Quezon City. The 3-day workshop was intended to help the teams identify and define the problem that their proposed innovation idea will address. A series of workshop sessions were conducted allowing the teams to gain a greater appreciation of problem recognition as an important requisite to developing innovative solutions.

The workshop sessions were facilitated by the organizers from ELHRA, ADRRN and CDP. They gave inputs about starting point assessment, refining a problem statement, and building partnerships. Key inputs on local earthquake generators and earthquake preparedness plans for the “Big One” were also given by representatives from PHIVOLCS and the Office of Civil Defense.

The participants also witnessed an actual earthquake drill that was conducted on November 30 at the BASECO community in Manila City.



Residents of BASECO in Manila participate in the earthquake drill conducted by the barangay. Workshop participants joined the event as observers to give feedback on the earthquake drill process.



Workshop participants pose for a group photo with the facilitators of the workshop.

They served as observers to the earthquake preparedness activity led by the barangay. They presented their observations to the responders at an assembly after the drill.

The teams built on these knowledge to each produce a “challenge brief”, a preliminary output that attempts to frame their identified problem and defines a response. The teams also gave “elevator pitches” of their innovation ideas which included ideas for new products, application of technology, services and processes. The workshop organizers gave

feedback to guide the teams in further developing their ideas and in outlining basic research activities.

The second part of the workshop will continue on February 2019 with the teams reconvening with the results of their research activities. (GRM)

# Masagana holds Christmas Raffle Draw



Parlor games for both children and adults are also included in the program.

LAST DECEMBER 16, Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association held its “Masaganang Paskuhan sa Masagana” Raffle Draw which coincided with the organization’s Christmas party. The raffle contest is a fundraising activity done by Masagana to raise the needed money to build their community chapel and other community projects.

Attending the event were members of Masagana and its officers led by their president, Juana Cavalida. TAO staff Lorena Hernandez and Jazel Virtusio were also present to facilitate the program. Barangay officials also went to the raffle draw program and donated grocery items to the community. Grocery items donated by Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc. were also raffled off to community members present during the event.

The following are the lucky winners of *Masaganang Paskuhan sa Masagana*:  
 Voltaire Tila - 1st prize: TCL Smart TV  
 Karen Monte - 2nd prize: Fujidenzo single tub washing machine  
 Arthur Baladad - 3rd prize: 1

sack of rice  
 Ruben dela Cruz - 4th prize: Germani stand fan  
 Angelus Sales - 5th prize: Hanabishi oven toaster  
 Consolation prize: 5 packs of grocery items  
 - Olivia Sicam  
 - Arlene Salazar  
 - Ma. Jonilyn De Hitta  
 - Hazelyn Joy Tan  
 - Kevin Wesley Morales

Masagana would like to thank everyone who purchased their raffle tickets, from fellow members and their relatives to TAO staff and their friends. They were able to raise a total net profit of Php28,138.00. If anyone wishes to donate or help Masagana with their community projects, you may contact TAO’s office at 287-6446 and look for Ms. Jazel Virtusio. (AMPS)



Children of community members and some community leaders like Sarah David (bottom photo) participate in picking the winning stubs for the raffle contest.



TAO staff, Lorena Hernandez (right), facilitates the program throughout the day.



Norvie Armeza receives one of the grocery items that were donated by Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc.



One of the winners of the consolation prizes for *Masaganang Paskuhan sa Masagana* is Kevin Morales which was received by his uncle, Warlito Apruebo.



Barangay Captain, Nestor San Pedro (left), draws the stub for the 1st prize winner.

## PMPI NCC Meeting

THE PHILIPPINE Misereor Partnership Incorporated (PMPI) held its National Coordinating Committee meeting on November 12-14, 2018 at Mindanao Alliance of Self-Help Societies - Southern Philippines Educational Cooperative Center (MASS-SPECC) in Cagayan de Oro City. It was the second Council meeting of PMPI Network for 2018 and was attended by point persons from its 13 clusters nationwide.

The meeting started with a learning session on Current Issues presented by Dr. Jayeel Cornelio, associate professor and director of Ateneo de Manila University Development Studies Program. The current issues were presented with an analysis in the context of

the Duterte administration's populist leadership. Urgent national issues were then mapped out and prioritized from all clusters for action in the next 6 months.

The Co-convenors' meeting was held in the evening in preparation for the Business meeting the following day.

The Business meeting was chaired by Sister Susan Bolaño of Oblates of Notre Dame Hesus Foundation, Inc., the Co-Convenor for Mindanao. Clusters present reported on regional issues and concerns and updates on cluster initiatives regarding the four thematic concerns of PMPI. Reports of the Co-convenors and the National Secretariat were also presented. Misereor



Representatives from the different PMPI cluster pose for a group photo with Steffen Ulrich and staff of PMPI Secretariat.

representative Steffen Ulrich read a message from Misereor and presented updates including the new directions for partnership with PMPI. The day ended with a solidarity night and the Dance Troupe from Cagayan de Oro wowed the participants with a medley of folk dances. Many of the participants were encouraged to join the dances, many tried

and failed in Tinikling but everyone enjoyed the night.

The last day was a discussion on proposed advocacies including Rights of Nature and the four thematic concerns, as well as preparations for the next General Assembly which will be held on February 2020 in Eastern Visayas. (ACDL)



## What has been your most unforgettable experience in doing volunteer work?

**“When members of the community welcome you in their humble homes exchanging life stories/lessons while sharing a meal that they prepared- bringing home the feeling that you are welcome and part of their community.”**

- ANA TERESA PRONDOSA, 31, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN POOR (FDUP)

**“The best part in doing volunteer work is meeting x number of strangers in the community and coming home with x number of new friends.”**

- IVY SHELLA ESPINELI-PAGUTE, 36, DRR AND SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR FOR URBAN POOR ASSOCIATES (UPA)

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

- 1) Nung natulog kami overnight sa isang open-air house-on-stilts literally above Navotas River, take note, wala namang lamok, pero wala ding soil pipe ang toilet namin.
- 2) Nung nasundan yun ng pagtulog sa isang shanty sa R10, nakatalukbong ako magdamag sa floor dahil nagtatakbuhan ang mga daga sa paligid at sa ibabaw ko.
- 3) Nung kumain kami ng sinigang na hipon sa Candaba, tapos tinanong kami nung scientist na supervisor namin kung alam ba daw namin kung saan kinuha yung tubig pang-sabaw.
- 4) Nung first-time kong mag-site visit sa Navotas mag-isa pero sinalubong ako ng baha bago dumating sa meeting venue namin. Lumusong ako, pero ang baha habang papasok ng kalsada ay mas tumaas... umabot hanggang singit ko! Tapos si ate girl na nasa loob ng bahay nila dumura sa kung saan ako dumadaan. All of this in a sea of floating garbage. Buti na lang at dumating ang PO partner namin, binuhat niya ako, piggy-back style.

- MARIE EDRALINE BELGA-CASONO, 34, ARCHITECT

## At home, abroad

by Atrianne Dolom

*Atrianne Dolom is a Filipino-American who did her internship with TAO-Pilipinas last June 2018. Tria did household surveys in Masagana Angat and assisted in coming up with design cover schemes for Battling Waves. She is currently finishing her undergraduate degree in architecture and urban studies with focus on sustainable development in Columbia University in New York.*

YEARS REMOVED from the Philippines, I came to TAO-Pilipinas with zero expectations. No more than a general knowledge of the non-profit's organizational work, I came into the experience with an open mind and an excitement to learn. As internship experiences go, I was familiar with the initial slump of clerical work; however, what captivated me most about my introduction to the organization was more than their outreach and technical work but their familial work environment that welcomed me with open arms. From that point, my two months at TAO-Pilipinas was not only an immersive learning experience but also a self-discovery journey.

My atypical placement into the organization's YP internship program stemmed from the initial goal of immersive learning and experiencing more than just the conventional corporate architectural intern summer experience in New York City. After a long semester

abroad in Barcelona, I found myself in Metro Manila after realizing that I didn't want to spend long days in a sterile studio office drawing and rendering for a single wealthy client. Instead, I sought to step outside my comfort zone and pursue an unconventional internship experience with an NGO as well as refamiliarize myself with my home country. In the span of two months, I was able to gain so much working with the bright women in TAO-Pilipinas. From site visits to data collection to creatively designing the cover of *Battling Waves*, I learned the value of community development at a local scale and saw its large impact on larger communities. I witnessed the fruitful partnerships and work that TAO-Pilipinas' accomplishes to benefit the lives of many. Ultimately, my summer at TAO-Pilipinas was a transformative experience that altered my view on non-governmental work and its simple joys in helping those in need.



*Tria (middle) interviews a household member of Masagana Angat together with her fellow intern, Ara Pascual (right), as part of the socio-economic profiling done in the community.*



*Tria helps in handing out school supplies to children of Masagana Angat community.*

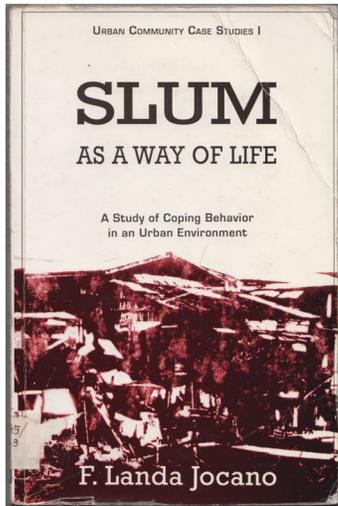


*Tria joins TAO staff during the Kobo Toolbox app orientation conducted by Lorena Hernandez (red shirt).*



*Tria presents her internship culmination report to TAO staff during the last day of her internship with TAO.*

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: Urban Community Case Studies I Slum as a Way of Life: A Study of Coping Behavior in an Urban Environment**

**Author: Felipe Landa Jocano**

**Publisher: UP Press (1975)**

during the time of stay were thoroughly interpreted and vividly described in this book. The aim of the study is to define to the readers what makes a slum environment by answering the questions of what it is like to live as a slum dweller, how things work inside, and why individuals and groups behave as such.

As the reader progresses through the different chapters, he/she can gain insights about the subject as if he/she is experiencing it first hand.

Jocano successfully translates and relays pointers, from the details that make

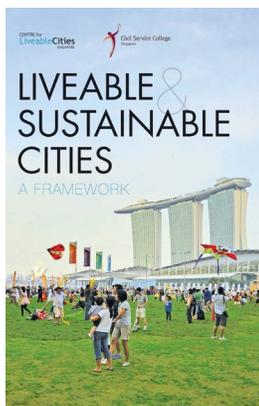
up the setting of an informal settlement, including the different personalities and characters of slum dwellers, to the various norms and traditions practiced by families and by the whole community itself. Readers can grasp and define the idea of living among the “marginalized.”

It is remarkable how the author was able to dedicate and sacrifice a portion of his life of comfort for this study. The book presents an imagery of a population often unseen or neglected by middle and upper class society. As a result, Jovano offers us a

wider perspective and an opportunity to develop empathy.

Serving as a basis on how the slums were like in the 60's people interested in the aforementioned subject can use this as a guide to check whether there have been improvements or if such conditions still apply to our current setting. A glimpse of the situation then should lead us to reflect if we have truly paved the way towards a better society. (*Gabriel Gersaniba*)

*Slum as a Way of Life* is a synthesis of data and information that were carefully collected through an immersion conducted by the author that lasted for three years (1964 – 1967) in the community of Looban, Sta. Ana. The observations



**Title: Liveable & Sustainable Cities: A Framework**

**Author: Khoo, Teng Chye et.al.**

**Publisher: Centre for Liveable Cities Singapore and Civil Service College Singapore (2014)**

In a single generation, Singapore was transformed from an urban slum in the 1950s into a modern metropolis with a globally competitive economy in the 1980s. Today it leads in knowledge and innovation, a highly dense city-state with high liveability standards. *Liveable and Sustainable Cities: A Framework* looks at the urbanization story of Singapore and synthesizes learning from its urban planning and development process.

The book begins with an explanation of the concept of liveability and the desired outcomes for a liveable city – a competitive economy, sustainable environment,

and high quality of life. In succeeding chapters, the book delves into two approaches to achieve these outcomes – that of integrated master planning and dynamic urban governance. It then details ten underlying principles for physical planning and urban governance as applied in the Singapore context and experience.

The ten principles highlighted in the book serves as a good reference to other city officials in formulating solutions to their own urban development challenges. Replication of Singapore's experience may not be possible because their circumstance is unique as a small island city-state. However, these basic urban governance principles can be widely applied as shown in the book's final chapter where successes of other international cities in urban development planning and

governance are also highlighted.

The Singapore story is indeed impressive. Looking at our own local situation, one cannot help but feel a tinge of envy at how a culture of integrity (i.e. accountability and incorruptibility in public officials) has been ingrained in Singapore's leadership and institutions. Naturally, the accomplishments of Singapore are given prominent feature in this book and provide inspiration. Current challenges and difficulties are likewise presented (e.g. congestion, income inequality) but one is also left to wonder what may be the deeper social implications of its successful governance policies. (*GRM*)

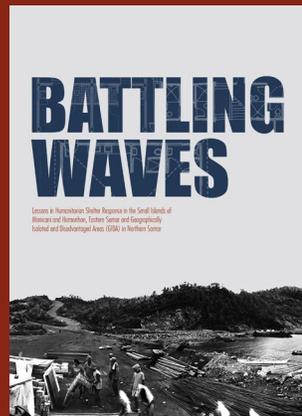
## We are now accepting pre-orders for Battling Waves!

TAO-PILIPINAS HAS created an online reservation for those who will pre-order our next publication entitled, "Battling Waves: Lessons in Humanitarian Shelter Response in the Small Islands of Manicani and Homonhon, Eastern Samar and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) in Northern Samar". Battling Waves chronicles

TAO-Pilipinas' four-year journey with people from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) of Northern and Eastern Samar, as their communities transition from mere survival to recovery, and eventually to resilience – in the aftermath of the most devastating natural disasters to hit the Philippines and the world.

Traversing the tricky path between humanitarian and developmental actions and approaches, and between social and technical concerns and methods – this book is a raw and gritty account of the real struggle for safe, comfortable shelter in the midst of mounting environmental, economic, and socio-political pressures. The

book will be available during the first quarter of 2019. Those who will pre-order and pay before the book launch can avail of the discounted price of **Php1,300.00**. After the book launch, the book will be sold at Php1,500.00. The price of the book does not include delivery charges. For those who want to pre-order now, please register [here](#).



### Book Bundle Offer!!!

WE HAVE A BOOK BUNDLE OFFER IN STORE for those who will pre-order Battling Waves. We have bundled it with our TAO coffee table book. If you pre-order Battling Waves for Php1,300.00, you can buy our TAO-Pilipinas: architects in the margins for a discounted price of **Php1,200.00**. The original selling price is Php1,500.00 exclusive of delivery charges. The book bundle offer is only valid until the book launch for Battling Waves.

## Testimonials from readers of *TAO-Pilipinas: architects in the margins*

"The "Architects in the Margin" is an attempt of TAO Pilipinas to compile and share the lessons learned in their work with different communities pursuing tenure and shelter security.

It captures not only the physical improvement made in the community but also the changes in the lives of the members of the community they have worked with. The process of actively engaging the community members, and working with them to ensure understanding of the technical aspect of their community – the present site conditions, and the proposed changes; the interplay of the affordability of the community in building, and making their dream community come true. All these new knowledge and the participatory process have empowering effects on the leaders and community members to claim "ownership" on the plan, and the determination to make this dream a reality.

The participatory process or the people's planning process has and is never easy in working out with any community but it has been a mantra of the TAO Pilipinas movers. A process instilled in every undertaking it enters into.

The experiences and lessons learned by TAO Pilipinas as an institution is documented in this book, the reflections they shared captures the role of technical professionals in building capacities of community members to build safe and secure settlements.

This book shares the challenges, triumphs and lessons learned and the inspiration in continuing to work with the disadvantaged communities."

~ Maricel Genzola and Ana Teresa Prondosa of FDUP

"So glad I got a copy of the book "Architects in the margins" by TAO-Pilipinas with very nice dedications written by architects we should all admire for their awesome and inspiring work.

This book will for sure find a prominent place among my other books. I recommend it to everyone who is concerned about the poor, relocation, disaster risk management and architecture.

Being sensible to the plight of the poor I can only comment the outstanding work done by TAO-Pilipinas.

TAO-Pilipinas is a female-led group of technical professionals which makes themselves exclusive to the needs of the marginalized sector. Instead of resorting to violence and opposition, the group encourages people to lay out their ideas in drawings, maps, models and artwork. The TAO-Pilipinas architects facilitate the discussion between all the stakeholders and giving a voice to the aspiration of the poor.

Beyond technical empowerment TAO-Pilipinas also helps people plan for disaster risk management, climate change and heritage conservation. It also trains college students, academics and young professionals in social action regarding issues in human resettlement."

~ Sidney Snoeck of Project Pearls