



One of the many streets in Lupang Arenda, where student volunteers recently concluded site visits for the creation of as-built plans which will be used as baseline data for their structural assessment and proposed retrofitting measures for the Co-Design Project under the Global Youth Empowerment Fund (GYEF).

## TECHNICAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS VISIT LUPANG ARENDA FOR CO-DESIGN PROJECT

IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, technical student volunteers from three partner universities – University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, University of Santo Tomas (UST), and University of the East (UE) conducted a series of site visits to Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal for the Co-Design Project. The Co-Design Project aims to conduct a structural assessment of seven houses in Lupang Arenda and propose retrofitting measures based on the result of the structural assessment (See *YP Enewsletter Oct-Dec 2018*).

An initial site visit was carried out on January 4, 2019 and was attended by twelve students and one community youth volunteer. Engr. Rajiv Eldon Abdullah, a faculty member from UST College of Engineering, also joined the initial site visit. The objective of the site visit was for the students to familiarize themselves and see the situation in Lupang Arenda first-hand. A team building activity – an egg drop challenge – immediately followed the site visit. The group was divided into three teams, representing each partner university. The objective of the challenge was to ensure that

the eggs given to each team would not break when dropped from a two-storey building. All teams successfully completed the challenge.

The initial site visit was very important because the technical student volunteers were able to witness the actual situation in Lupang Arenda, and reconcile any assumptions they have formed based on accounts given by the community leaders during the project orientation last year.

The activity that followed was the site visit of Team 2 to their assigned houses. Team 2 is composed of three

civil engineering students from UST and three architecture students from UP Task Force Arki (UP TFA). However, only the UST volunteers were able to attend the site visit conducted on January 28. The objective of the site visit was to take measurements of the assigned houses to be able to draw up an as-built plan for each of the two houses assigned to them. Four UST civil engineering student volunteers took the measurements on the houses of Lualhati Lin in Purok 2, and Politico Arnante in Purok 5. They were joined

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APOLA leader, Rogelio Batulina, Jr. (in yellow), points at Laguna de Bay while showing the student volunteers around during their initial site visit to Lupang Arenda.

## TAO joins Tabletop Exercise on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) of Quezon City for the 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake

Testing the local government’s contingency plans in the event of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake, a tabletop exercise was facilitated by ACCORD (Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development) with the QCRRMO (Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office). The exercise was held on February 18, 2019 at Sulo Hotel in Diliman, Quezon City. Participating groups were QCRRMO’s earthquake response clusters, and a group of private sector and CSO (civil society organization) representatives that included TAO-Pilipinas.

The activity is part of the MOVE UP (moving urban poor

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### FEATURE ARTICLES



TAO launches new publication and holds second lecture in series

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### NETWORK ACTIVITIES



Field trip to Mangarita Organic Farm with Masagana leaders

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### YP READING LIST



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“As we near the Philippine general elections, what issues do you think candidates should give priority to?”



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## PPVHOA, partner NGOS visit high-density housing (HDH) projects

MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S PLANVILLE Homeowners' Association (PPVHOA) took a tour of four high-density housing (HDH) sites in Metro Manila on February 12 and 16. They were accompanied by partner NGOs TAO-Pilipinas, Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP), and Community Organizers Multiversity (COM). Twenty-four PPVHOA members visited Ernestville Homeowners' Association and Alyansa ng mga Mamamayan sa Valenzuela (AMVA) Housing Cooperative on February 12, while thirty-one members visited Alliance of People's Organization along Manggahan Floodway (APOAMF) and St. Hannibal Christian Community (SHaCC) Phase 17 on February 16. The learning visit is part of the pre-design phase of PPVHOA's high-density housing project wherein

TAO-Pilipinas serves as the consultant for planning and design.

Before touring the guests around their housing site, each host community shared the background of their respective organization and housing project. Ernestville, AMVA, and APOAMF discussed their journey towards their new homes—from the inception of the housing project to their current, improved housing situation. They also gave advice and empowering speeches to help PPVHOA with their nascent housing project. Because SHaCC Phase 17 is still under construction, only a representative from the community, Mr. Yuan Saway, met with the visitors. He also talked about the background of their housing project and toured the visitors around their building.

The four sites showed various types of HDH that PPVHOA could incorporate in their own housing project. Ernestville, located in Novaliches, Quezon City, has 12 two-storey buildings with 212 'loft-able' dwelling units. AMVA, which is in Valenzuela City, has 30 three-storey buildings with a total of 1,440 'loft-able' units. On the other hand, APOAMF in Pasig City has 15 five-storey buildings with 900 dwelling units; 'loft-able' units are provided only on the topmost floor of each building. Lastly, SHaCC Phase 17 in Pasay City, has a five-storey building with 60 dwelling units; unlike the other housing projects, SHaCC Phase 17 has a roof deck and commercial spaces on the ground floor.

other communities with similar housing projects. The tour was also arranged to aid the participants in making informed decisions for their upcoming planning and design workshop, wherein they would generate schemes for their site development and building design.

PPVHOA's proposed HDH project for 200 households is located at a GISIS property on De Dios Street, Barangay 632 in Sta. Mesa, Manila. The project is funded through the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) of Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). The engagement between PPVHOA and TAO-Pilipinas was facilitated by COM as the community organizer and FDUP as the CMP mobilizer. (TRJ)

The learning visit allowed the PPVHOA participants to gain insight and inspiration from the experiences of



Ernestville in Novaliches, Quezon City.



AMVA in Valenzuela City.



APOAMF in Santa Lucia, Pasig City



Ernestville, PPVHOA, TAO-Pilipinas, FDUP, and COM



AMVA, PPVHOA, TAO-Pilipinas, FDUP, and COM



APOAMF, PPVHOA, TAO-Pilipinas, FDUP, and COM



SHaCC Phase 17 in Malibay, Pasay City



SHaCC Phase 17, PPVHOA, TAO-Pilipinas, FDUP, and COM



AMVA Housing Cooperative President, Enriqueta Catayong, discusses their Estate Management.

## TAO LAUNCHES NEW PUBLICATION AND HOLDS SECOND LECTURE IN SERIES

THE SECOND OFFERING OF THE TAO Lecture Series, entitled “Participatory Approaches in Community and Shelter Design and Construction” was held on February 9, 2019 at the RDEC Training Room of the Agricultural Training Institute in Diliman, Quezon City. This CPD seminar, worth 2 credit units, sought to provide an overview of participatory planning, design, and construction processes and methods.

The half-day event began with welcome remarks from the President of TAO-Pilipinas’s Board of Trustees – Dr. Laura David, followed by the launch of *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*. Arch. Arlene Lusterio, one of the authors, gave a brief overview of the book – which shares the processes and challenges involved in conducting participatory shelter design and construction in a humanitarian, post-disaster context – a fitting resource to accompany the two lectures that followed.

The first lecture, *Participatory Community Planning and Design*, was given by Arch. Geraldine Matabang. She began by defining community participation and discussing the different levels of participation or involvement of a community in a project – from Information (where authorities alone initiate, plan, implement, and maintain the project) to Self-Help (where all these stages are controlled by the community alone). She went on to define participatory planning and design as “an approach that actively involves community members in the planning and design process to help ensure that as its end users, the designed product meets their needs and is usable,” and listed the many benefits of applying a participatory approach. She gave a brief rundown of the activities involved in a participatory design and construction process, noting that each activity can have different levels of participation, depending on the project’s objectives and limitations. Finally, she used four TAO-Pilipinas projects as practical,

real-world examples of applications of the participatory approach – the Masagana Resettlement Project, the Manicani Sustainable Shelter component of Project Pagbangon, the Caga-ut Permanent Shelter Project, and the technical assistance extended to Socialized Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) in Cagayan De Oro for the participatory review & assessment of subdivision and house plans of communities applying for SHFC’s Community Mortgage Program (CMP). For each example, she presented the project’s context, stakeholders, activity objectives, participatory planning and design process, workshop tools and outputs, and the use of these outputs. In closing, Arch. Matabang stressed that, to employ the participatory approach, there is a need to shift from the architect-planner’s traditional role of creator or provider to that of enabler. In order to facilitate community participation in the planning and design process, the architect-planner must cultivate a few more skills – they must learn to design with instead of for people; create the mechanisms to extract creativity or design input from the community; translate that input into a feasible design solution that reflects the community’s aspirations, ideals and values; communicate technical knowledge to non-technical people; and to have considerable respect, empathy, patience and perseverance.

The second lecture, *Participatory Shelter Construction and Community Contracting*, was delivered by Arch. Verna Lucia Sarraga. She began by explaining how TAO-Pilipinas came to take on construction projects because of the need to construct shelters and/or buildings, after a series of disasters brought about by the onset of climate change devastated the country. As such, most of TAO-Pilipinas’s construction projects are post-disaster reconstruction projects.

Before proceeding with the lecture on participatory construction and management, Arch. Sarraga characterized the stages of post-disaster recovery and clarified the difference between rehabilitation and reconstruction, with the latter being a

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## Technical student volunteers visit Lupang Arenda... *(continued from page 1)*

by their professor, Engr. Michelle Galarion, and two TAO technical staff – Arch. Angelus Sales and Arch. Geraldine Matabang.

Another site visit was conducted on February 11, 2019 to measure the remaining five houses. On this site visit, six technical student volunteers from UP Task Force Arki (UP TFA) joined the four TAO staff that facilitated the activity. They were joined by Arch. Faith Varona, a professor from UP College of Architecture. In the morning, the group was divided into two teams to measure the houses of Dionisia Rolle from Purok 1 and Arnel Manzan of Purok 3 simultaneously. In the afternoon, the teams were divided into three, and again simultaneously took the measurements of the houses

of Alex Adora from Purok 4, Ernesto Tamayo from Purok 6, and Maria Teresa Cobalida from Purok 7.

Creating the as-built plan of the selected pilot houses is a vital part of the project, because it is assumed that most of the houses are non-engineered houses, which means they may not have technical plans. To be able to produce retrofitting recommendations, there must be an existing base plan for the technical drawings that will be made.

Currently, the student volunteers are finishing the as-built plan of the seven houses. The next activity is the actual structural assessment based on a uniform template. The project is scheduled to be finished by May 2019. (AMPS)



UST civil engineering student volunteers pose for a group photo with their professor, and two community youth volunteers who assisted them in taking measurements of their assigned house. (Left to right: Carl Batulina, Rodel Batulina, John Rex Reyes, Michael Dumuan, Ferdinand Laurente, Ma. Angelika Remigio, and Prof. Michelle Galarion.)



UP TFA volunteers, Flora Caluya (left) and Arriane Lopez (right), measure their assigned house using a laser meter.



The egg drop challenge was facilitated by Arch. Angelus Sales who led the dropping of each team’s output.



TAO launches new... *(continued from page 3)*



Participants of the CPD seminar and book launch, with TAO-Pilipinas staff and Board members.

long-term development activity that seeks to build better and more resilient communities. This is the context in which her succeeding examples of participatory construction projects were conducted.

Arch. Sarraga defined construction management and presented the common types of project delivery – the traditional, where the owner or client manages two contracts (with the designer, and with the contractor); and the design-build, where the owner manages a single contract with a contracting entity. However, given the complex mix of humanitarian, developmental, and participatory approaches that post-disaster reconstruction projects require, they do not fit within the aforementioned common project delivery frameworks. She subsequently introduced a framework of participatory construction based on the experience of TAO-Pilipinas, with multiple stakeholders being involved in the construction process. In participatory construction management, the owner (a single entity in common project delivery) could be composed of the funding agency and the family beneficiaries. The technical professional/s could be the intermediary between the owner/s and the designers (community members, enabled by the technical professional/s) and contractors (local skilled workers). She proceeded to outline the different phases of construction management, from initiation to closure, delineating the key activities that take place in

each stage. After which, she showed the results of TAO-Pilipinas’s participatory construction projects, noting each project’s context, objectives, the different roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, and the ensuing risks and challenges of post-disaster reconstruction in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs). To end the lecture, she presented the results of Manicani Island’s Post-Occupancy Evaluation survey, which revealed the various types of extensions and improvements that the beneficiaries have made to their homes and lives. These results show both the tangible and intangible values of ensuring community participation in the entire reconstruction process.

An open forum was held after the two lectures, with Arch. Lusterio, Arch. Matabang, and Arch. Sarraga as the panelists. Participants asked about logistical challenges encountered in small-island construction, notable differences between the results and impact of participatory and conventional construction, mechanisms for participatory beneficiary selection, and the contrast between construction projects in the context of humanitarian aid vs. developmental action. From the discussions, it became evident that participatory approaches in development are challenging in that they require more time, skills, patience, and determination. These challenges are only compounded by the many problems associated with disaster. However, the results of TAO-Pilipinas’s



(Left to right) Arch. Verna Lucia Sarraga, Arch. Arlene Lusterio, and Arch. Geraldine Matabang answer questions at the panel discussion, following their lectures.

projects show that while it is difficult, it can be done; more importantly, it is worth the trouble.

The program ended with closing remarks from Ms. Herminia Caringal, a member of TAO-Pilipinas’s Board of Trustees. She stressed the value of participatory approaches to development in empowering communities and consensus-building. She also emphasized the importance of strengthening disaster preparedness and risk management, aside from rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. (RMBA)



Engr. Juan Paulo Genzola of FDUP gives a testimonial for *Battling Waves*, TAO’s latest publication.

## FIELD TRIP TO MANGARITA ORGANIC FARM WITH MASAGANA LEADERS



Field trip participants listen to SIBAT's Mr. Shen Maglinte give an introduction to Mangarita Farm.



Solar-powered water pump supplying all the water requirements of Mangarita Farm.



Officers of MASAGANA HOA looking at the organic ricefield, (right) Jimmy Hersano - auditor, and (third from right) Juana H. Cavalida - president.

Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc. (SSCFI) organized a field trip to the Mangarita Organic Farm of Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT) last January 16, 2019. TAO-Pilipinas and its partner community for Project Recharge, Masagana Homeowners Association (HOA), was invited along with the teams of 2030 Youth Force and Keep Hope Alive who are also participants of the Sikat Impact Challenge 2018. The Masagana leaders who participated were Juana Cavalida, Erlinda Tolero, and Jimmy Hersano Jr. while the representatives of TAO-Pilipinas were Lorena Hernandez and Jazel Virtusio. The program started with a lecture about the development of renewable energy in the Philippines by SIBAT. They also shared their projects utilizing renewable energy like the Microhydro project and a small wind turbine for remote islands that were devastated by Typhoon Haiyan like Manicani Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The mechanisms of solar photovoltaic systems were also briefly explained. Finally, the experiences of Sibat in Community-based Renewable Energy System (CBRES) which is targeted towards the unserved population in rural areas were also presented.

was facilitated by Shen Maglinte of SIBAT. Mangarita Organic Farm is located in Brgy. Manga, Capas, Tarlac. It is an organic farm that showcases sustainable agricultural practices and is being maintained by Sibat. The farm has a size of around 1.3-hectares for livestock farming, diverse species of plants, trees, and other crops, a seed bank, bio fertilizers and vermiculture, mushroom cultivation, fisheries, herbal plants, and a warehouse where they train youth in welding. They keep a greenhouse to propagate and acclimatize the seeds, which they distribute to local farmers. A fishpond for Tilapia can also be found in the farm. They utilize solar energy in their gravity-fed drip irrigation which was constructed and established last 2013. They operate using the principle of "limited area, maximum production" which encouraged the existence of a healthy ecosystem that they are currently maintaining and developing. At present, the Masagana HOA is putting up its own organic farm. They were able to learn from Mangarita, and even bought plants and biofertilizers from them. (MLPH)

The lunch served were fresh produce and livestock raised in the farm. After that, a tour of the farm

## TAO joins Tabletop Exercise... [\(continued from page 1\)](#)

communities towards resilience) project of ACCORD and its partners that began in 2016. The earthquake tabletop exercise simulates a real crisis, aims to test how Quezon City's response clusters operate in worst-case earthquake scenarios, and looks at the resulting response gaps and challenges in order to improve disaster contingency plans.

Prior to the exercise proper, Director Susan Juangco of Office of Civil Defense Capacity building and training services (OCD-CBTS) discussed the Harmonized National Contingency Plan for 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake in Greater Metro Manila. The plan outlines the pre-arranged response actions to provide assistance in projected earthquake affected areas in Metro Manila and regions 3 (central Luzon) and 4A (CALABAZON). Mr.

Roderick Guisadio of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also briefly oriented the participants on guidelines in evacuation center coordination and management.

The tabletop exercise began with a presentation of eleven earthquake scenarios to the participants who were grouped according to their response clusters - Camp Coordination and Management; Logistics; Debris Clearing; Communications; Rescue and Retrieval; Health and Sanitation; and Law and Order. The participants from the CSO, academe and private sector formed a separate group.

The first scenario described night-time ground shaking of at least intensity 7 (destructive) in the PHIVOLCS Earthquake Intensity

Scale. Subsequent scenarios describing worst-case events (immediately after the earthquake and up until five days later) were presented. In each scenario, the groups were given five minutes to type out a response in laptops provided and submitted using an online form. In some scenarios, injects were introduced (e.g. aftershocks, occurrence of earthquake-induced fires and dam-breaks) that compounds the situation and prompting more response actions from the groups.

After the groups provided their responses to the eleven scenarios, ACCORD consolidated the responses for each scenario. These were then presented to the plenary and a panel of evaluators gave their insights on each given scenario and their feedback to the group responses. Evaluators included representatives

from OCD, PHIVOLCS, DSWD, barangay officials from Tatalon and Roxas, and QCRRMO. The results of the exercise will be documented and shared by ACCORD to review existing contingency plans for earthquake response.

The tabletop exercise laid out the potential impacts of a major earthquake coming from the West Valley Fault. It showed the participants the plausible mayhem, huge damage and fatalities that will occur if the Big One happens and government is not prepared. It also underscored the importance of capacitating the barangays and local communities in earthquake preparedness when national and local government responders are not immediately available to assist, as simulated in the tabletop exercise. (GRM)



# TAO JOINS SECOND LEG OF THE CONVENING INITIATIVE ON INNOVATION FOR EARTHQUAKE RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE

THE SECOND WORKSHOP IN THE convening initiative on earthquake resilience and response was once again hosted by Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) in partnership with the Asia Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF). This follow-up to the first workshop last November was held over three days (Feb 19-21, 2019) at Brentwood Hotel in Quezon City. ([See YP E-newsletter October-December 2018 issue.](#)) Seven of the eight teams that participated in the November workshop continued with the second leg of the convening initiative.

In the first workshop, the teams tackled defining problems, understanding its context and root causes, and building a challenge brief. The process initiated in the first workshop has resulted in the teams sharpening their initial innovation ideas on improving humanitarian action. The second workshop builds on these learnings, with sessions intended to more clearly articulate their ideas into a persuasive narrative and develop solid proposals for funding.

In between the first and second workshops, the teams were provided with a small budget to carry out research activities in support of their innovation ideas. The team representing FDUP, PHILSSA and TAO-Pilipinas focused on retrofitting

as an earthquake resilience measure for the urban poor living in non-engineered houses. They conducted a focus group discussion with members of Talanay Homeowners' Association, an urban poor community in Barangay Batasan Hills that lies very near the West Valley Fault. Other teams likewise conducted their respective research activities prior to the second workshop.

Resource persons from HIF, ADRRN and CDP took turns in facilitating the sessions in the three-day workshop. Day one focused on ideation, with sessions on creative brainstorming and concept development. Day two introduced the social business model canvas and storyboard pitching by the teams. Day three explored partnering cycles and tools and introduced the proposal canvas along with useful tips in applying for funding. Each team was also mentored by a facilitator who guided the teams in fleshing out their ideas and in completing the workshop exercises and outputs.

By the end of the workshop, the teams have built up their innovation ideas and gone a step ahead in making them into a more feasible and actionable plan. HIF also opened up a funding opportunity that the teams can apply for when they have further developed their proposals. (GRM)

## TAO attends Tuklas' Pasundayag

TAO-Pilipinas attended "Pasundayag" (Cebuano word meaning performance or presentation) of Tuklas Innovation Labs (Tuklas) on February 12, 2019 at the SM North Edsa Sky Dome – a one-day exhibit of innovations supported by Tuklas. While "Tuklas" is an acronym for "Tungo sa Kahandaan ng Pilipinas", it is also a Filipino word that translates to "discovery". Tuklas is a project of Plan International, Action Against Hunger, CARE Philippines, and Citizen Disaster Response Center that aims to raise disaster preparedness of Filipino communities by providing a

seed fund to selected groups to develop their ideas and innovations for disaster preparedness. The project began with a call for proposals or ideas to individuals, teams, or organizations. Upon selection, 40 teams all over the Philippines were given seed funding of 1 million pesos, mentorship, access to a network of professionals, support in proposal writing, and a co-working space to further develop their ideas or products.

The program started with an introduction to Tuklas Innovation Labs and CARE Philippines. Then



The innovation team of FDUP-PHILSSA-TAO during the focus group discussion with Talanay HOA in Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

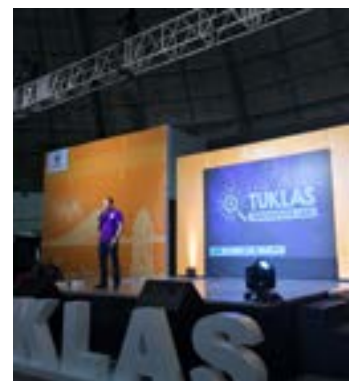


Participants and facilitators in the second workshop of the convening initiative on earthquake resilience and response.



The team of Teresa Prondosa (FDUP), Rhea Aguilar (PHILSSA) and Geraldine Matabang (TAO-Pilipinas) with mentor Sangita Das of ELRHA (standing) and Jom Pineda of CDP.

Prim Paypon, the Executive Director of Asian Institute of Management (AIM) - Dado Banatao Incubator talked about the different Filipino innovations that AIM has been supporting. Following the introductions, a total of 13 booths were officially opened to guests — one for each project participant, and the rest were for CARE Philippines, Tuklas, Partners for Resilience, and Moving Urban Poor Communities towards Resilience (MOVE UP). A networking area was also established to encourage interaction between guests and project participants.



Tuklas Innovation Labs (Tuklas) consortium manager, Mr. Angelo Hernan Melecio, giving a brief introduction to Tuklas.

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## TAO ATTENDS CHRISTIAN AID PARTNERS' MEETING

CHRISTIAN AID (CA) HELD A Partners' Meeting entitled "Standing together for dignity, for equality for justice" on February 19-21, 2019 in Walter Hogan Hall, ISO Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University. The 3-day gathering was attended by CA partners from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The meeting started with a panel presentation on the national development context, looking at the current socio-economic and political situation, with Jose Enrique Africa of IBON Foundation and Richard Heydarian of De La Salle University as resource persons.

A second panel dealt with human development, humanitarian emergencies, and climate change. Richard Denis dela Torre of UP Center for Local and Regional Governance Resilience Institute (UP CLRG - RI), Kairos dela Cruz of Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) and Esteban Masagca of Pampanga Disaster Risk Reduction Network (PDRRN) were the resource persons.

In order to share the different initiatives of partners, CA asked all partners to bring a poster about their organization. At the end of Day 1, a few partners were given the chance to present their organization's background, while other organizations were asked to leave their posters up for everyone to view in between breaks in the following days.

Days 2 and 3 were spent on group workshops to discuss 3 issues: urban and small island resilience, locally-led preparedness and response, and human rights.

On Day 2, the most significant development challenges were discussed, and the group most affected by these challenges were identified. Following this, the most significant change envisioned by CA partners for the group, as well as the group's own vision of the most significant change for themselves were identified. The rationale for the project and the strategies for achieving the envisioned change, with the corresponding roles and contributions of CA partners and resources required, were identified thereafter.

Day 3 started with a workshop on crafting a results framework for the Theory of Change envisioned. Groups were also asked to formulate a 2-minute pitch which will be presented to donors in London. A role-playing exercise was performed, with CA acting as the donor. Representatives from each team presented their pitch. Finally, each group drew up proposals for targeted donors - the European Union, and the groups of philanthropic organizations under the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership. CA gave their critique of partners' presentations, gave tips on how to enhance them, and what to highlight among the many issues that surfaced in their consortium proposals.

TAO-Pilipinas joined two work streams - one on urban, and another on small islands resilience. The work stream on urban resilience identified the homeless in Metro Manila as the most vulnerable population, while the work stream on small islands resilience identified fisherfolks with sub-categories of fisherwomen and children fishworkers as the most vulnerable groups in small islands. Several small islands were identified in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao as geographic areas for the project.

At the end of the three-day Partners' Meeting, CA presented its strategic direction with the theme

"Life with dignity, ending poverty" which focuses on poverty, power, and taking on a prophetic voice. Poverty being the biggest problem and root cause of vulnerability; giving power, by giving voice to the vulnerable and the invisible; taking on a prophetic voice, by speaking the truth and voicing the painful realities of our

society. CA also summed up the three-day meeting as a chance to have a shared analysis of the national situation, have a defined vision and long term goals with partners, identify possible strategies and programs for collaboration, and have concrete areas for funding. (ACDL)

## TAO attends Tuklas'... [\(continued from page 6\)](#)



Mr. Prim Payon of AIM presents the 8 cohort programs that they are presently supporting.

Project pitches of the teams began after lunch. The "Civil Defense Board and Card Games" by Civil Defense, is an interactive game that simulates the actions of humanitarian disaster response. "Mundare Aqua" by Pluvia Technologies, is a rainwater collecting system that can be utilized for household use like dishwashing, laundry, and bathing, among others. "Mainstreaming Disability-Inclusive DRRM" is project by Foundation for These Aabled Persons, Inc. It promotes inclusive and participatory disaster risk reduction management for persons with disabilities. Ania Design Lab's "Disaster Preparedness Simulator" allows users to experience and learn from disaster scenarios using a virtual reality application. The "Flaremob" project of the Technological Institute of the Philippines is a mobile application that can gather real-time information about the status of the residents during flood-related disasters in Brgy. Nangka, Marikina City. It also includes a web-based system for barangay officials and community leaders to monitor the situation, identify the vulnerable areas, and send alerts to residents. Xtelent's "Watchme" is a smart watch that can help parents locate and communicate with their children, especially in times of disaster. "Enhancing Indigenous Food Source Management" of The Samdhana

Institute documents and improves the traditional food sources of the Tagbanwa community for disaster-preparedness. "Floating Agriculture Towards Resilient Livelihood" by Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation, Inc. (CONCERN) promotes community empowerment, food security, additional income, increased resiliency, and reduced pollution by creating a 16sq.m floating garden consisting of a variety of vegetables like okra and string beans. Lastly, Prod.jx Artist Community shared "Ligtas Pad" which is the gamification of disaster preparedness in addition to light-based participatory 3D mapping.

The "Pasundayag" was conducted specifically for the project presentation of the innovations and ideas of the 9 participating groups in Central and Southern Luzon as they have scheduled different dates for the groups in Northern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. It included Region III, IV-A, IV-B, V, and NCR. For more information on Tuklas Innovation Labs and the projects that they support, go to <http://tuklas.ph/>. (MLPH)



Group photo of Christian Aid with partners.



Title:

**The Philippine Experience: Climate Change, Disaster Capitalism, and Food Security**

Authors:

**Mary Ann Manahan, Clarissa V. Militante, Joseph Purugganan, and Lina Sagalar Reyes**

Publisher:

**Focus on the Global South (2016)**

The book is a compilation of two researches that relate to the past experiences of the Philippines on climate change, disaster capitalism, and food security after Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) and Typhoon Sendong (Washi). The first research by Mary Ann Manahan, Clarissa V. Militante, and Joseph Purugganan, entitled “Preventing Disaster Capitalism and Advancing Climate Justice, Human Rights, and People’s Participation in Post-Yolanda Recovery Efforts, provided baseline data on Region 8 as well as its situation after the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. It examined incidents of land grabbing and disaster capitalism that resulted to some residents losing their security of tenure. The Reconstruction Assistance for Yolanda (RAY),

Local Recovery and Rehabilitation Plans (LRRP), and the “bottom-up” approach were also discussed. It also provided interviews of the project beneficiaries. Furthermore, the authors noted that the vulnerability of the Philippines to disasters due to aggravated environmental conditions because of climate change, highlights the country’s need to advocate for climate justice. Finally, the response and stories of civil society organizations and local residents after Typhoon Haiyan were shared.

The second study is entitled “Women’s Responses to Climate Change-Induced Food Insecurity Among Households in Post-Sendong Resettlement in Cagayan De Oro” by Lina Sagalar Reyes. The focus of this

study are the women of the households affected by Typhoon Sendong. They were randomly selected and living in any of the 6 post-disaster resettlement sites completed in Cagayan de Oro. After conducting focus group discussions, it was evident that their understanding of climate change and its implications were limited. The availability and access to food in the area were asked as well as their total household expenditures and food consumption. They have also listed the various challenges and difficulties that they encounter in order to provide food for their families.

Overall, the studies included in the book are great reference materials for people who are interested in learning about the needs of the affected



population and things to be considered after a disaster. It also emphasizes the need to encourage participation of the beneficiaries in the planning phase of each project so as to better address their needs. The women’s evaluation regarding food security on the selected resettlement sites showed their priorities and their resources which can be used as parameters for future development on the site. (MLPH)

Title:

**Towards Better Urban Spaces in Harmony with Microclimate: Urban design and planning regulations in hot dry Damascus, Syria**

Author:

**Mooammed Wassim Yahia**

Publisher:

**Housing Development & Management, Lund University (2014)**

The book is Mr. Yahia’s doctoral thesis for Architecture and Built Environment at Lund University. His research aims to fill the knowledge gap on the relationship between microclimate, thermal comfort in outdoor spaces, and urban design in the hot and dry climate of Damascus, Syria. Yahia noted that no study has yet investigated microclimate and thermal comfort during summer and winter seasons using field measurements and surveys, for different types of urban design, while calculating for different thermal indices to be compared with other studies.

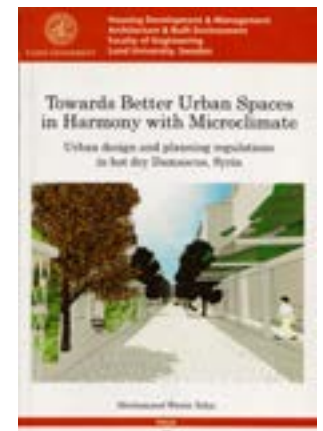
The study is based on the analysis of urban planning regulations (e.g. aspect ratio, setbacks, plot coverage), exploring how these affect thermal comfort. Yahia does this by selecting 6 different locations, categorized into

three: (1) residential areas in modern Damascus, (2) Old Damascus, and (3) parks in modern Damascus. This was done to compare different urban environments and morphologies (Old Damascus building geometries are attached, while modern Damascus buildings are detached).

In order to determine the relationship between microclimate and thermal comfort, micrometeorological measurements and structured interviews were conducted simultaneously. This resulted in the determination of the upper and lower thermal comfort limits during summer and winter, for two thermal comfort indices – the physiologically equivalent temperature (PET) and the standard effective temperature for outdoors (OUT\_SET\*). A parametric study was also conducted to examine

how vegetation and landscape elements affect thermal comfort by investigating different building scenarios and different landscape elements during different times of the day.

The study concludes that existing planning regulations in Damascus are insufficient, in that there are no shading requirements for pedestrians and land use is inefficient – with more land occupied by streets, pavements, and yards. The author also finds that in the case of urban canyons like in Old Damascus, the aspect ratio, street orientation, and vegetation are very important considerations for thermal comfort in street design. For detached buildings, such as in modern Damascus, aspect ratio and street orientation are less important, and the key to improving thermal comfort is



vegetation. Yahia ends the study with recommendations for future urban planning regulations.

This book will be very useful to urban designers, landscape architects, and planners who are/will be designing for hot and dry climates. It is also a good read for academics who appreciate the rigor of evidence-based design.

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



# The Path Least Taken

by Gabriel R. Gersaniba  
February 25, 2019

TAKING A BREAK FROM THE USUAL academic life, an opportunity was presented to me to widen my perspective in the field of architecture. I've always thought that architects should be the designer, the translator – turning the client's specific needs and wants for a project into a tangible object. Little did I know that there is more to architecture than just a set of walls and spaces.

Typically, it is the client that will reach for help from the architect for a particular project, but I find it very different for TAO-Pilipinas – it is they who reach a helping hand, especially to those who need it the most. Guided by the belief that people know what is best for them and planning and design must go through a participatory process, the organization serves as the facilitator to help end-users come up with informed and educated decisions for their community. It is this inclusion of the community's thoughts and ideas that makes the solution tailor-fit for their situation, producing a sense of ownership over their solutions.

I've also seen how TAO-Pilipinas strives to help young professionals become more aware of our society, to help them see the communities that live behind the huge structures that we, both students and professionals, typically aim to build. This is very important to help mainstream the idea that everyone deserves adequate

housing in a liveable community. It is a way of passing the torch to younger generations, and to keep the "fire" burning.

These acts are very noble, but as my immersion with the organization and the communities continue, they made me realize that nobility alone is insufficient and dedication to your plan of action is essential. Given the opportunity, I've asked every staff why they chose to work for the people; some of them said that it was simply an opportunity presented to them and they took a chance, others said that it is a way of personal and professional development, but the answer that is very common to each and every one of them is that this kind of work allows them to feel fulfilment. That answer, together with the strong sense of family within the organization, aids them in giving their all with ease, most importantly their dedication.

My time as a volunteer-intern is truly an eye-opener, and I encourage fellow students to volunteer as well. And hopefully, as time passes by, there will be a shift of interest for professionals, both young and old, to dedicate themselves to a profession of service for the people, by the people. As my professor used to say, "there must always be this someone who takes the path least taken..." and I have high hopes that someday this "someone" will become everyone.

**“My time as a volunteer-intern is truly an eye-opener, and I encourage fellow students to volunteer as well.”**



(Right, kneeling) Gabriel Gersaniba (a.k.a. Gab) in Masagana assisting TAO staff in the conduct of the "Workshop on Sustainable Development through the use of Renewable Resources," for Project Recharge.



## As we near the Philippine general elections, what issues do you think candidates should give priority to?

CHARM BARTOLAY, 32

1. Education

DANILO VIDAD JR., 32

1. Philippine sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea
2. Corruption of the Presidential appointees
3. Addressing poverty
4. Human rights violations

KATRINA MARIE MAGTOTO, 25

1. Marriage equality
2. Discrimination against LGBTQ
3. Endo
4. Climate change
5. War on drugs
6. Lowering of minimum age of criminal responsibility
7. TRAIN law
8. Environmental justice
9. Political dynasties
10. Martial law
11. Mental health

KAREN MAE BANTANG, 30

1. Faster internet services
2. Universal healthcare system
3. Institutionalization of structures that cater to the needs of women, girls, (people of diverse) SOGIE and PWDs (e.g. comfort rooms, breastfeeding stations, etc.)
4. Protection of Philippine resources and preservation of historical treasures and sites
5. Waste management system
6. Strict implementation of the Clean Air Act

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