

ypp e-newsletter

august - september 2008



Photo for the Month

Youth presenters from the Buklod ng Kabataan, a theatre group composed of children from the Buklod-Tao organization based in San Mateo, Rizal, perform during the 2nd National Conference of Communities on Disaster Risk Management at ISO-Ateneo last September 13, 2008.

Quote for the Month

“Design for the poor must leave them options for the future. The type of architecture that they require is one of empowerment; one that encourages their incremental inputs, that sees building more as a process than as product.”

“The architecture of empowerment is not abandonment of the traditional role of the architect as form-giver or of the urban planner as land-use specialist, rather it is an enrichment of these professions. Just as a deeper appreciation of environmental issues does not restrict the creativity of architects but adds an extra dimension to their work, so this deeper understanding of the needs of the bulk of humanity makes architecture and urban planning --- to the extent that they are disciplines concerned with creating a better built environment for humans --- more effective and more sensitive professions.”

- **Ismail Serageldin**, Egyptian professor, economist, city and regional planning specialist, director of the Library of Alexandria, and author of *“The Architecture of Empowerment: People, Shelter and Livable Cities”*

TAO is now 7 years old. Preparations for marking this milestone in the organization last August was rife with recollections of what TAO has done because we had to produce an Accomplishment Report that spans six years of TAO's involvements as an NGO. For the staff, it seemed rattling at first sifting through stored project documents --- both hardcopies and e-files --- but in the end, it all gave us a good sense of relevance and direction for the future. Our ED sums up the path documented in this report: *“From communities beside the Pasig River to the fishponds of Navotas, the dense settlements in Baseco, Parola, Payatas, and Malibay, Pasay to disaster-prone areas in Infanta, Quezon and Albay, Bicol, TAO-Pilipinas continues to work with the poor, the NGOs, and the academe, touching lives, leaving a legacy of knowledge, information and technology to help the poor transform their lives.”*

Getting this (long-overdue) report done was an accomplishment in itself for us, so we would appreciate if you could browse through its online copy at <http://tao-pilipinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/tao6yearrep.pdf> and let us share with you our continuing journey.

Speaking of journeying with us at TAO, we were pleasantly surprised at the very good turnout of registrations for the YP Design Challenge 1: Sustainable Shelter which closed last week. Eleven architecture and engineering colleges in Metro Manila are represented in the competition registrations (*more of this on page 3*). Our thanks go to the deans and professors who integrated the design challenges in their class requirements. We look forward to the proposed designs that the registrants will submit by October. Good luck to all!!! (For those who were not able to make it to the registration deadline, Trash Transformation and Portable Playground schedules have been moved to give you another chance at taking on the YP Design Challenge.)

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“It's time for us to go to the people rather than ask the people, especially the poor, to come to us.”

TAO marks 7th anniversary

TAO-Pilipinas celebrated its 7th anniversary with a series of events at UP-Diliman last August 20-22, 2008. An exhibit of alternative building materials and technologies (ABMAT) for socialized housing was mounted at Building 1, College of Architecture on August 20. Product exhibits included alternative building materials produced by JFLFI (Julio & Florentina Ledesma Foundation, Inc.), FDUP (Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor), and Habitat for Humanity. Lecture presentations on ABMAT scheduled on the same day were postponed to August 22 due to Typhoon *Karen*.

The ABMAT lecturers included Arch. Cesar Aris of FDUP who presented micro concrete roofing (MCR) and compressed earth blocks (CEB); Arch. Gertrudes Samson of TAO presented concrete interlocking blocks (CIB) used in Habitat for Humanity housing projects; and Arch. Faith Varona of TAO presented interlocking compressed earth blocks used by JFLFI in its housing projects in San Carlos, Negros Occidental.

In line with the anniversary celebration, TAO-Pilipinas presented its 6-year Accomplishment Report: 2001-2007 to funders and project sponsors. (The report can be viewed online at <http://tao-pilipinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/tao6yearrep.pdf>) A new TAO brochure was also released along with the 4th issue of TAO Shelter Magazine (see page 5). The TAO Resource Center (Library) was also formally opened to researchers. The TAO office library currently houses a small collection of materials on social housing and human settlements issues. (Interested researchers should call Angel at 441-0998 for library use schedule and guidelines.)

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ABMAT exhibit area at the College of Architecture



Audience at the ABMAT lecture presentations

12th Bicol Cities Sharing held in Ligao City

Ligao City hosted the 12th Bicol Cities Sharing and Planning Workshop last August 12-13, 2008. The theme of the workshop was "Redesigning Our Relationship with Nature and Energy through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives in the LGU Urban Development & Housing Planning Framework." It was attended by the chief executives and representatives of seven Bicol cities (Naga, Legazpi, Iriga, Masbate, Sorsogon, Tabaco, Ligao) and BUPCC (Bicol Urban Poor Coordinating Council).

The workshop was a joint effort of the 7 Bicol cities and supported by PHILSSA. It aimed to identify enabling measures for the effective management of DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) at the local setting. In one of the break-out conferences, TAO-Pilipinas staff Geraldine Matabang and Rosalyn Marcelo presented the results of their research project, "Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and House Design of Resettlement Projects in Albay." Their research highlighted the design and construction of eight housing types/models provided for resettlers in Taysan, Legaspi and Anislag, Daraga.

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National Community Conference on DRM held at ISO-Ateneo



The CBDRM Training and Learning Center organized the 2nd National Conference of Communities on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at ISO-Ateneo, Quezon City last

September 12-13, 2008 with the theme, "Kapitbisig ng mga Taga-Komunidad Tungo sa Handa, Ligtas at Matatag na Komunidad." The activity gathered community representatives from different regions of the country and was highlighted by sharings on local DRM experiences by groups from Zamboanga, Dagupan City, Iloilo City, and Marinduque. Workshops were held to discuss the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines and the proposed DRM Bill for Congress. Presentations on climate change and global warming were also made.

TAO-Pilipinas participated in the workshops and shared its materials on disaster-resilient technology for socialized housing in the conference exhibit area.

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YP Design Challenge updates: deadlines extended

June of this year, TAO-Pilipinas launched the YP Design Challenge --- a design ideas competition for young professionals and students (of architecture, engineering, industrial design, interior design, fine arts, and environmental planning) that aims to generate ideas and design solutions for sustainable community development in urban poor settlements. The competition has three categories: Sustainable Shelter, Trash Transformation, and Portable Playground.

To accommodate additional entries from different universities which integrated YP Design Challenge as a student design plate/project requirement for the semester, TAO extended the deadlines for registration and submissions as follows:

Design Challenge 1: Sustainable Shelter

Registration Deadline: September 16, 2008 (now closed)

Submission Period : October 1-24, 2008

Results Announced : December 2008

Design Challenge 2: Trash Transformation

Registration Deadline: October 17, 2008

Submission Period : November 3-21, 2008

Results Announced : December 2008

Design Challenge 3: Portable Playground

Registration Deadline: October 17, 2008

Submission Period : November 3-21, 2008

Results Announced : December 2008

The updated competition rules and guidelines which already include the revised competition schedule, answers to FAQs, and the jury panel composition for each of the design challenges are already posted in the competition website www.yppdesignchallenge.tao-pilipinas.org. New posters for Trash Transformation and Portable Playground have also been disseminated (*see page 4*).

Forty-four (44) individuals/teams have registered for the Sustainable Shelter category (as of the September 16 deadline). These represent students and graduates from eleven (11) architecture and engineering colleges in Metro Manila --- Adamson, CCP, FEATI, FEU, Mapua, PLM, PUP, TUP, UE, UP, and UST. By November, the jury panel composed of Arch/EnP. Arlene Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas, Arch/EnP. Dinky von Einsiedel of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners, and Engr. Ramby Nolido of RA Nolido Construction Corporation will select the winning entries for Sustainable Shelter.

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Graduate students from National Taiwan University with residents of Malibay, Pasay City

NTU graduate students immerse in SHEC community

Graduate students from the National Taiwan University (NTU) were in the Philippines September 2-13, 2008 to conduct fieldwork studies in urban poor communities as part of their practical curriculum in the Graduate Institute of Building and Planning of NTU. The NTU team members included Prof. Liang-Chun Chen, Prof. Feng-Tyan Lin, PhD student Cindy Tseng, and masteral students Jane Lin, Justina Wu, Oneham Lin, Shane Lee, and Dinding Liao. TAO-Pilipinas and the UP College of Architecture facilitated the immersion of the NTU team at St. Hannibal Empowerment Center (SHEC)-assisted communities in Barangays 156 and 165, Malibay, Pasay City. Student volunteers from UP-Task Force Arki (TFA) also partnered with the Taiwanese students to help carry-out their study in the community.

The NTU team conducted community mapping, photo-documentation, and interviews with residents of Barangays 156 and 165. Their documentation focused on resource use (e.g. water, waste management), community open space use, affordable housing design, and disaster management in the community. The team's preliminary findings and recommendations were presented to community leaders and members in a validation workshop held at the SHEC office last September 11, 2008. The NTU team will finalize their report by October 2008.

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Student registrants visit the SHEC community in Pasay City as part of the mandatory requirements for the design competition.

ypdesignchallenge: ideas for sustainable communities

UPCYCLE --- extend the lifecycle of wasted materials.
Transform trash into innovative products and
create opportunities for income-generating activities
by poor communities.

TRASH TRANSFORMATION

PAPER
Who can enter
 Open to individuals or teams of undergraduate students of architecture, engineering, interior design, fine arts, industrial design, and environmental planning; and young professionals (YPs) in the above mentioned disciplines with not more than 5 years of professional experience.

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Organizer
 TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.
 (63-2) 441-0998 / 436-7301
 Email: ypdc@tao-pilipinas.org
Sponsors
 MISEREOR * SELAVIP
 YKL FUJIFILM
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METAL
Schedule
 Registration Deadline: October 17, 2008
 Submission Period: November 3-21, 2008
 Results Announced: December 2008

GLASS
Registration
 Fee: Php 300.00
 Download competition guidelines and registration form at <http://ypdesignchallenge.tao-pilipinas.org>
Prizes
 First prize: Php 20,000.00
 Second prize: Php 10,000.00
 Third prize: Php 5,000.00

www.ypdesignchallenge.tao-pilipinas.org

PORTABLE PLAYGROUND TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

Give kids in poor communities their space for **PLAY**

Create a demountable and portable play area for places where open space is not always available

Who can enter
 Open to individuals or teams of undergraduate students of architecture, engineering, interior design, fine arts, industrial design, and environmental planning; and young professionals (YPs) in the above mentioned disciplines with not more than 5 years of professional experience.

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ypdesignchallenge: ideas for sustainable communities

TAO holds DRR forum at UP- College of Architecture

TAO-Pilipinas, in cooperation with UP College of Architecture and National Taiwan University, organized a forum on disaster risk reduction last September 5, 2008 at UP-Diliman, Quezon City. Both Philippine and Taiwanese experiences in disaster risk reduction were presented.

Presenters of local DRR experiences were Dr. Celine May Vicente, Manager of the Center for Environmental Geomatics of the Manila Observatory, and Dr. Romeo B. Santos, professor of the University of the Philippines College of Architecture. Dr. Vicente presented the risk assessment made in Albay, Bicol (one of the most disaster-prone areas in the country) while Dr. Santos discussed the results of a recently concluded *APEC Study on Women in Times of Disaster*, giving disaster a gender orientation.

Dr. Liang-Chun Chen, Director of the National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) in Taiwan, gave a presentation on *Taiwan's Experiences in Disaster Reduction* which discussed their country's approach to disaster response and how various agencies work together to make disaster response effective. The presentation by Dr. Feng-Tyan Lin, Division Head of Information Division of NCDR, tackled *Disaster Management Information Systems in Taiwan* that is a vital tool in the real time disaster response and reduction. Dr. Chen and Dr. Lin are professors in National Taiwan University's Graduate Institute of Building and Planning.

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UST-ACES volunteer for project with TAO and FHP

Fourth and fifth-year BS Civil Engineering students of University of Sto. Tomas answered the call for volunteers to help in mapping out 16 houses in a creek-side location in Rodriguez, Rizal. The houses are part of an informal settlement and were damaged by Typhoon Frank last June 2008. Food for the Hungry (FH) Philippines is sponsoring the house repair for these households and TAO-Pilipinas has been tasked to provide technical assistance in the design of modular and demountable units appropriate for the area.

Dean Peter Lim of the UST Faculty of Engineering delegated a student group to attend the initial briefing for volunteers held last September 10, 2008 at the TAO office. Group leader Bryan Rollon mobilized a total of 16 UST-ACES (Association of Civil Engineering Students) members who conducted the mapping activity last September 15, 2008. They were also accompanied by Engr. Jess Fajardo, the student organization's faculty adviser.

The UST-ACES volunteer group is set to present their work outputs, including schemes for house repair and improvements, to TAO and FHP by the end of the month of September. They also plan to volunteer in the actual construction work for the houses to be repaired by October 2008.



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Announcements

Congratulations

Congratulations to YP volunteers who recently passed and topped the licensure exams for Geodetic Engineers given this September 2008: YP 2007 summer interns Mark Anthony Lopez and Aaron Andro Ching placed first and seventh respectively, and YP 2006 workshop participant Rex Atienza placed eighth.

TAO Shelter Magazine Issue no. 4

The 4th issue of TAO Shelter Magazine is now available for sale for Php100.00 each.

You can also visit TAO Shelter online at www.tao-pilipinas.org/taoshelter. If you're interested in obtaining past issues of the magazine, call TAO-Pilipinas at (632) 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email your request to info@tao-pilipinas.org.

For everyone in the YP E-newsletter mailing list: Free YP T-shirt for the first 25 (single) orders of the magazine and free YP messenger bag for magazine orders of 5pcs or more. (Free shirts and bags available until supplies last.) Magazine orders and freebies should be picked up at the TAO office at 27A Matiyaga St., Bgy. Central, Diliman, QC.

