

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

ypp e-newsletter

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Christmas greetings from TAO-Pilipinas! Although December this year comes with sad news of tragedy and more displaced families especially in Albay Province, we hope that this instead can kindle in us a spirit of sharing and solidarity with those who have been further marginalized.

In this last e-newsletter of the year, we also extend special thanks to all YP volunteers who have helped us in bringing technical assistance to poor communities...to the college deans and heads that have been very supportive of the YP projects and facilitated their students to be involved in them... to our resource persons who unselfishly shared with us their professional expertise...and to the communities we have worked with and from whom we and the volunteers learned a lot, lessons that can only be taught outside the classroom.

We call for more support and volunteer action for TAO-assisted projects this coming 2007. In this issue, we feature the volunteers who became part of our projects this year and we also introduce the different ways you or your organization can be part of the YP program.

In this month's e-newsletter:

- **Volunteer Opportunities at TAO-Pilipinas for individuals, student organizations and academic institutions in January-June 2007**
- **IN PICS: YP volunteers in 2006**



Rite of passage: Almost all of our YP volunteers this year had to cross this bamboo bridge to the SANAGMANA relocation site. Only one reportedly fell through the poles but she survived the knee-deep waters of the fishpond. (Yes, that's you Angel!)

Please download the attached .pdf file for full story articles. Previous e-newsletters can be accessed at www.tao-pilipinas.org/ypp.htm.

Continue to visit the homepage www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org for more of the YP project updates.

Quotes for this month:

"People are not poor because they are stupid or lazy. People are poor because they have no financial structures to help them! Poverty is a structural problem, not a personal problem."

"One shouldn't just give people money. That is usually the wrong way to help. Free money makes the recipient passive and reinforces his belief that he should just sit there with his hand out. To give a beggar money is just another way of telling him to disappear. This type of help ensures only that one must help even more. If we really want to solve the problem of poverty, we must get involved with the people it strikes."

"I really don't see why anybody on this planet should be poor. There is enough to make everybody happy... In my twenty years with Grameen I have seen that greed is not the only driver of free enterprise. Social benefit can replace greed as a powerful motor. The business world does not have to be a battlefield of bloodthirsty capitalists. Good people can feel called upon to steer the world sustainably in the right direction."

- **Muhammad Yunus**, Bangladeshi economist, founder of the Grameen Bank, and recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

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

Get Involved by being a YP Volunteer

Volunteer Opportunities at TAO-Pilipinas for individuals, student organizations and academic institutions (January - June 2007)

As all of us make preparations for activities in the coming year, we urge you to include TAO-Pilipinas in planning your options for 2007. For us at TAO, much work remains ahead and we welcome more volunteers to sign-up for our various projects. The Young Professionals program facilitates the mobilization of volunteers in TAO-assisted projects (mostly self-help community projects) where volunteer work contributes much in reducing the community's expenses on technical professional expertise. At the same time, volunteers' integration helps carry out our advocacy of providing technical assistance to the underserved sectors. Volunteers' involvement may range from short-term volunteer works to three- to six-months stints. It's about time to give something back to the community. Be a YP volunteer.

Here's how you and your friends or colleagues can get involved:



1. The YP Internship positions

Stage 2 of **YP-OTP*** (see page 4) involves selecting YP interns or trainees to be part of the TAO teams that shall work on various community projects needing technical help. As YP interns, architecture/engineering/planning senior students or new graduates will work from a period of three to six months with stipend/allowance. The focus of the internship is community-based technical assistance and fieldwork activities. The internship positions require dedication, flexibility, dependability, and an openness to learn and practice alternative development approaches in housing.

Please visit www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org to download the application form for the internship positions and to find out more about the YP-OTP Stage 2 program of TAO-Pilipinas. Make sure you apply before January 15, 2007 because volunteer works will begin immediately at the start of the year.

2. The YP Volunteer Groups

For organizations trying to find worthwhile projects they could spend their talents and energy on, TAO also works with architecture and engineering college-based student orgs. Orgs can provide mapping, and drafting/design support to TAO-assisted housing projects or they can help us make several of the training tools (like posters, scaled models, mock-ups, etc.) on participatory subdivision planning, disaster-resilient housing, and community solid waste management. Another option for your org's volunteer work is to host fundraisers for TAO communities.

To link up with TAO-YP and undertake group volunteer works, get in touch with Ge Matabang at 926-9504 / (0915)3166822 or email yp@tao-pilipinas.org



3. The YP Academic Partners

TAO also forges partnerships with academic institutions to involve architecture and engineering students in community-based projects as part of the school's extension services to poor communities. TAO facilitates concrete technical assistance and fieldwork activities by students (such as structures mapping and research works) which are integrated into their academic requirements for the semester. Agreements for resource sharing/pooling are entered through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TAO-Pilipinas and the academic institution.

To explore project partnerships with TAO-YP, email yp@tao-pilipinas.org or call Ge Matabang at 926-9504 / (0915)3166822.

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IN PICS: YP Volunteers in TAO projects (2006)



Project: Design and Drafting of 5 housing units for Samahan ng Angkop na Pabahay para sa San Pablo Apostol (SAPSPA) in Tondo, Manila

Volunteers: UP-Task Force Arki (TFA) members – Frances Cortez, Pauleen Gacula, Rhoupheline Cadiz, Christian Paje, Casey Bigcas, Anna Madredia, Ray Sebastian, Jericho Ray Francisco, Mindy Nallos, Kennex Camba, Noraiza Marquez, Mangelica Chua



Project: Drafting and Drawing Workshop Series for children and youth of Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Maralita ng Navotas (SANAGMANA) in Tanza, Navotas

Volunteers: interior designer Enika Hernando; civil engineers (UST graduates) – Anthony Vincent Bicenio, Jeffrey Sison, Recto Mariñas II, Jesy Tiberio; and UP TFA members – Frances Cortez, Mangelica Chua, Leslie Aguirre



Project: Research on Alternative Building Materials & Technologies for Socialized Housing in the Phils.

Volunteers: 4th year BS Architecture students and Research Methods class of Dean Ted Inocencio, Polytechnic University of the Philippines – College of Architecture and Fine Arts (PUP-CAFA)

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

YP Goods still on sale

Limited edition YP goods are now available even for those who were not able to participate in the YP Workshops. (You can at least get to shop.) Wear them for your community volunteer work or to your next badminton game. Proceeds from the sale will support the work of TAO's YP Program.



YP shirt in S, M, L sizes
Php 200.00

YP bag
Php 300.00

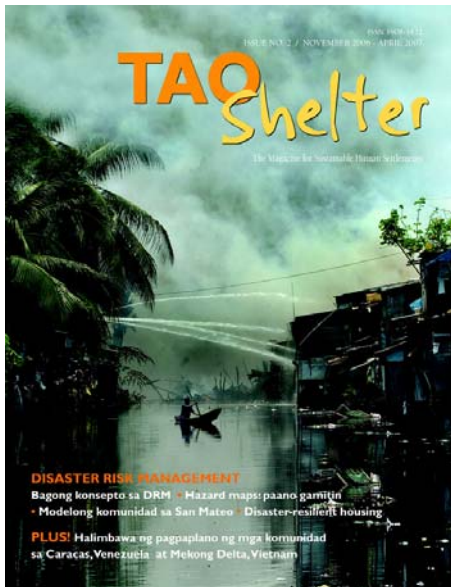
For Metro Manila residents, you can buy and pick up these YP goods at the TAO office or get them through courier delivery, with additional Php100 charge. Payments may be made through China Bank SM North Branch (Account Name: **TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.**; Account Number: **208-074941-5**) and fax your validated deposit slips to (632) 926-9504.

The 2006 YP Workshop Sessions CD

The CD includes all the 12 lecture presentations from our resource persons. Free copies for workshop participants only.

TAO-Shelter Magazine Issue no. 2

TAO Shelter Magazine (Nov2006-Apr2007) is now available for sale. The magazine's second issue focuses on Disaster Risk Management, with feature articles on:



Mga Bagong Pananaw sa Disaster Risk Management

Limang progresibong konsepto sa DRM

Hazard Mapping

Saan kinukuha at paano ginagamit

READY ka na ba?

Ang hazard mapping and assessment project ng PHIVOLCS, PAGASA at MGB

Surviving the Storm

The story of one woman's resilience in an extremely vulnerable environment in Navotas

Buklod Tao: Halimbawa ng Sama-Samang Paghahanda

Modelo ng Community-Based Disaster Risk Management sa San Mateo, Rizal

Ang Pagsasaayos ng San Rafael-Unido

Ang proyektong nanalo ng Holcim Gold Award for Sustainable Construction

Living with Floods: Settlements of the Vietnam Mekong Delta

Lessons learned from the perennially flooded river basin in Vietnam

Ligtas ba ang Lugar Mo?

Mga pwestong hindi dapat tayuan ng bahay

Pagtayo ng Bahay Pagkatapos ng Sakuna

Hindi sapat na magbigay lamang ng emergency shelter

YP Workshop 2006 Tackles Disaster Risk Management

Reflections of the participants

Cover Price: Php 100.00

Payment and Delivery Options for Orders within the Philippines:

- Direct payment and pick-up at TAO-Pilipinas office, 23A Mapagbigay Street, Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City. (Discounts on bulk orders apply.)
- Payments may also be made through China Bank SM North Branch (Account Name: **TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.**; Account Number: **208-074941-5**) and fax your validated deposit slip and subscription form to (632) 926-9504.

For foreign orders, please email info@tao-pilipinas.org

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***YP-OTP** or the Young Professionals Orientation and Training Program is the key project of TAO's YP program. YP-OTP aims to provide a balanced theoretical and practical learning experience to committed young professionals as rudiments to socially-responsive professional practice. It has two stages of implementation: Stage 1 was the recently held 5-day YP Workshop on Community-based Disaster Risk Management in Antipolo, Rizal and Quezon Province, while Stage 2 will run from January until June of 2007 and will involve the selection of interns/trainees to work on the following projects: (a) SANAGMANA Temporary Housing Development in Tanza, Navotas; (b) SANAGMANA 11-ha. Subdivision Development Planning in Tanza, Navotas; (c) SANAGMANA Solid Waste Management and Construction of a Materials Recovery Facility in Tanza, Navotas; and (d) SAPSPA Housing Construction Supervision in Tondo, Manila. *Learn more of the YP-OTP activities on www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org*

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