

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

ypp e-newsletter

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The YP program of TAO-Pilipinas continues to expand its network partnerships for more socially-responsive practices among our young professionals. At the start of this year, links were established with the Volunteer Organizations Information Coordination and Exchange (VOICE) Network and also with Bulacan State University's Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts (BulSU-IARFA). We've been exploring possible partnership arrangements with BulSU-IARFA in some of the planned YP projects for the rest of the year.

In this issue, we bring you the following features:

- **Preparations underway for conduct of structures mapping and socio-econ survey in PACOMNA community**
- **YP student volunteers to be tapped for research work and development of training toolkits**

We also take note that many of the requests for technical assistance that TAO have been receiving from communities involve carrying out data gathering activities such as mapping and research works. As a supplement to our current YP news features, we've included a special note on the significance of structures mapping in community development planning. We expect a lot of effort to be put in by volunteers for these activities and we welcome other academic extension programs to partner with us.

Please download the attached .pdf file for full story articles. And if you missed last month's e-news, go to www.tao-pilipinas.org/ypp.htm and download our archived e-newsletters.



Quote for this month:

"(1) Follow traffic rules, follow the law; (2) Whenever you buy or pay for anything, always ask for an official receipt; (3) Don't buy smuggled goods. Buy local. Buy Filipino; (4) When you talk to others, especially foreigners, speak positively about us and our country; (5) Respect your traffic officer, policeman and soldier; (6) Do not litter. Dispose your garbage properly. Segregate. Recycle. Conserve; (7) Support your church; (8) During elections, do your solemn duty; (9) Pay your employees well; (10) Pay your taxes; (11) Adopt a scholar or adopt a poor child; (12) Be a good parent. Teach your kids to follow the law and love our country." - Alexander L. Lacson, author of "12 Little Things Every Filipino Can Do to Help Our Country"

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



View of PACOMNA community from Pasig River

Preparations underway for conduct of structures mapping and socio-economic survey in PACOMNA community

TAO-Pilipinas is set to provide technical assistance to PACOMNA (Parola Compound Neighborhood Association) in formulating their community development plan as an advocacy strategy for security of tenure. PACOMNA is an informal settlement of about 500 families located inside the Philippine Coast Guard Headquarters compound in Parola, Manila and is expected to be affected by the implementation of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Project's 10-meter wide Environmental Preservation Area along the banks of Pasig River.

Social preparations have already been started in cooperation with DAMPA (Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api). Last August 2005 during the YP Orientation Workshop on Social Housing, PACOMNA was one of the community immersion sites where Action Planning consultative workshops were held. Among the recommendations resulting from the workshop was the conduct of structures mapping and socio-economic survey (see boxed insert). The data that will be gathered from these activities are essential inputs in drawing up community-initiated plans and proposals for secure land tenure. The involvement of volunteers to carry-out the task of mapping houses and conducting household surveys was also identified as crucial to completing the data gathering process for planning.

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Action planning workshop in PACOMNA last August 2005 during the YP Orientation Workshop on Social Housing



STRUCTURES MAPPING

Since informal settlements like PACOMNA are not part of the formal land management system, reliable information (particularly spatial data) on these communities is commonly unavailable or lacking. Up-to-date maps or aerial photos are necessary data in producing community development plans (especially plans with upgrading and reblocking schemes). In the absence of these maps, a structural survey is undertaken to come up with a current physical layout of the informal community.

The mapping of structures on ground is considered a pre-planning stage activity. It is a time-consuming task and requires technical training to be able to produce a reliable output. Interventions by volunteers with technical skills, like architecture and engineering students, are therefore most beneficial for poor communities needing technical professional services that are clearly not accessible to them.

When completed, the structures map shall be extensively used in planning the proposed community development plan which in turn will be utilized by the community to facilitate negotiations for securing land tenure.



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

TAO's YP program, through its YP Volunteers Pool project, has been coordinating with academic extension offices to facilitate the placement of student volunteers in extra-curricular activities that promote social responsibility. Bulacan State University's Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts (BulSU-IARFA) dean, Arch. Saturnina Parungao, has signified their willingness to participate in the PACOMNA project as part of the required on-the-job training for architecture students. The BulSU-IARFA students are scheduled to undertake the structures mapping and socio-econ survey in PACOMNA community this April-May of 2006. ©



DAMPA community organizer Inno Bernardo during a PACOMNA general assembly

YP student volunteers to be tapped for research work and development of training toolkits

TAO plans to tap YP student volunteers as researchers and illustrators in the continuing development of its training toolkits for community-based technical assistance initiatives.

Among the planned projects with strategic participation from student volunteers include (1) **Research Compendium of Alternative Building Materials and Technologies for Socialized Housing Projects**; and (2) **Popularization of Training Modules in community-based solid waste management, disaster management, and participatory planning**. Although several researches and publications on these topics have been previously undertaken, comprehensibility and user-friendliness of results are the foremost challenges in producing the outputs intended for dissemination to community-based organizations.

The research work to be performed for the compendium of alternative building materials and technology is designed to coincide with a semester-long class activity of an architecture undergraduate class. The popularization of training modules, on the other hand, targets fine arts students to create illustrations or cartoons that graphically explain technical concepts/principles of solid waste management, disaster management and subdivision planning. Initial coordination have been carried out with Bulacan State University's Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts (BulSU-IARFA) for possible integration into class activities on the first semester of AY 2006-2007.

The participation of student volunteers in TAO projects not only helps in accomplishing project deliverables but more importantly, it fosters social responsibility among future technical professionals by focusing their talents and energy on addressing the technical needs of marginalized communities. ©



JOIN US @ TAO



Staff positions are open for committed individuals with technical background and willing to immerse in community development work. Interested applicants may inquire at (63-2) 926-9504 or email yp@tao-pilipinas.org



If you wish to learn more of the YP projects featured in this newsletter, contact:

TAO Pilipinas, Inc.

(Technical Assistance Organization)
P.O. Box 27 UP Campus Post Office
Diliman, Quezon City 1100 Philippines
URL: www.tao-pilipinas.org
Fax: (63-2) 4367301
Email: info@tao-pilipinas.org

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