

ypp e-newsletter

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Maligayang Bagong Taon!

We are sending out our New Year greetings with the release of the first e-newsletter of TAO-Pilipinas' Young Professionals Program. For the rest of the year of 2006, we'd be keeping you informed of TAO-YPP updates with this monthly e-newsletter.

As many of you may already know, the YP program started in 1993 as an initiative of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) to provide orientation for young professionals' involvement with urban poor communities. The need to develop socially responsive professional practices and social commitment among technical professionals is, now more than ever, called for in light of the growing shelter security problems especially in the underserved sectors of society. In an effort to revive a worthy undertaking started by ACHR more than a decade ago, TAO-YPP commenced in 2005 its key project – the **Young Professionals Orientation and Training Program (YP-OTP)**.

For those still unfamiliar with the YP Program, more of the program background information is at www.tao-pilipinas.org/ypp.htm and consider this newsletter an invitation to be part of the YP experience, as we look forward to more fruitful endeavours in 2006. Join the YP training workshops, sign-up as YP volunteer, set-up YP groups in your colleges or simply spread the word on YP --- we'd appreciate it if you could forward this e-newsletter to your friends and associates.

In this issue, we feature the activities that have made 2005 an eventful year for TAO-YPP and the people who have made the reactivation of the YP program possible.

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Quote for this month:

"It is very important for us to realize that each positive action is a very important stone in the construction of a more just society of our dreams. It is also equally important for us to realize that our action, however important it may look to each of us, is merely a stone of the many stones required." - **Fr. Jorge Anzorena**, Ramon Magsaysay awardee for international understanding and author of "Housing the Poor in the New Millennium"

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

TAO-YPP in 2005: A Year in Review

Preparations for 4-day workshop on social housing kick-start TAO-YPP activities for 2005

Preparations for the scheduled August 17-20, 2005 orientation workshop on social housing for young professionals kept TAO staff busy almost 24/7. Funding support from Misereor, Selavip and ACHR made possible the conduct of YP-OTP Stage 1 activities in 2005. Apart from the requisite logistical arrangements for the workshop, pre-workshop activities were capped by a roundtable discussion with representatives of different academic institutions, coordination meetings and site visits at DAMPA and SANAGMANA communities, the application and selection process for participants, and the workshop module design.

June 08 Roundtable Discussion

TAO formally launched the Young Professionals Orientation and Training Program with a Roundtable Discussion held last June 08, 2005 and attended by department heads of various architecture, engineering and planning institutions in Metro Manila. The forum was organized to introduce the YP program and explore the possibility of involving their students in the YP-OTP activities. Professor Daniel Mostrales of MSU-IIT was also present to give a briefing on the YP National Network initiatives.

Attendees to the forum included Dean Gloria Teodoro of PUP-CAFA, Dr. Phares Parayno of Miriam College-EPD, Arch. Roberto Duran of Adamson University Architecture Department, Engr. Alexander Caparas of UP-Geodetic Engineering Department, and Engr. Cesar Salandanan of MLQU-Civil Engineering Department. Their response to the planned program activities has been encouraging and possibilities of collaboration with their departments were opened up, especially with regards to student volunteer works for the communities that need technical assistance.



Roundtable discussion on YP program. (from left, seated: Engr. Salandanan, Engr. Mostrales, Dean Teodoro, Arch. Duran, Engr. Caparas, Dr. Parayno, Arch. Lusterio, and Arch. Matabang)



Coordination with community leaders of Buklurang Mamamayang Community Association (BMCA) in Bagong Silangan, Quezon City.

DAMPA and SANAGMANA Communities

Since field work and community immersion were essential parts of the workshop design, several coordination meetings and site visits were conducted with community organizers and leaders of DAMPA and SANAGMANA, two of the peoples' organizations TAO has been working with. After a thorough technical needs assessment, four areas --- BMCA in Bagong Silangan, SANKAHILLE in Payatas, PACOMNA in Parola Compound, and SANAGMANA communities in Navotas --- were selected as immersion sites for the workshop participants.

TAO-Pilipinas forge partnership with JFLedesma Foundation for YP national network activities

While TAO-Pilipinas has been organizing YP activities in NCR, YP initiatives in the Visayas and Mindanao Region have also been spearheaded by Julio & Florentina Ledesma Foundation, Inc. JFLFI is a non-profit corporation based in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental and has over 20 years of social development experience, with projects that target the marginalized sectors of upland communities and indigenous peoples, farmers, fisher folks, urban poor, women and children.



Signing of the MOU between TAO-Pilipinas and JFLFI. (from left: Arch. Ge Matabang, TAO-YPP Dep. Coordinator; Arch. Arlene Lusterio, TAO Exec. Director; Dr. Billy Tusalem, JFLFI President-CEO; and Engr. Danny Mostrales, YP Nat'l Coordinator)

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

In order to bring together the various regional YP activities and develop a YP program on a national scale, an executive meeting/planning session among TAO-Pilipinas and JFLFI representatives was held last May 5-6, 2005. A common vision-mission-goal was formulated and an operational plan for 2005 was developed for the YP national network. Programmed activities include an annual YP National Camp, development of the YP website and information center, and publication of a regular YP newsletter. The output of the planning session was formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding signed between TAO-Pilipinas and JFLFI to jointly undertake the "Development and Support of the Young Professionals Program in the Philippines."



The 2005 YP-OTP Workshop participants at the Walter Hogan Conference Center of Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City.

New batch of YPs participate in YP-OTP Stage 1: General Orientation Workshop on Social Housing

After a decade since the last YP workshop was organized in Metro Manila, the first stage activity of TAO-Pilipinas' YP-OTP, the General Orientation Workshop on Social Housing, was successfully held last August 17-20, 2005 with the theme "*Young Professionals & the Informal Communities: A Collaborative Partnership in Social Housing.*" The four-day workshop gathered 20 senior university student and young professionals who were selected after

undergoing an application and interview process, together with community leaders and organizers from the people's organizations DAMPA (Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api, Inc.) and SANAGMANA (Pederasyong Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Maralita ng Navotas).

The workshop participants included: Aragon, Rod (UP-GE); Bobier, Dyan (UP-GE) Belga, Edra (UP-Arch); Caro, John (CCP-Arch); Faenar, Karisse (UST-CE); Bicenio, BZ (UST-CE); Hernando, Erika (UP-CSWCD); Maslog, Avenger (UP-GE); Moron, Cheryl (TIP-CS); Sanchez, Ronna (UST-CE); Quincena, Lew (UST-CE); Sarmiento, Lech (UST-CE); Reyes, Rhocelle (UP-GE); Sushitani, Kayoko (UP-LArch); Tan Seng, Aissa (Adamson-Arch); and Venzon, Geraldine (Adamson-Arch). Young professionals from Negros Occidental also participated and represented JF Ledesma Foundation, namely Bini, Riza; Despi, Brando; Lim, Felipe; and Tellermo, Cris.



Workshop participants conduct ocular inspection with community leaders and facilitate community action planning workshops.

Workshop Highlights

The first two days of the workshop were held at the Walter Hogan Conference Center of ISO-Ateneo. The training lectures on social housing were divided into four (4) sessions and the participants heard 11 presentations from key resource persons from government agencies, non-government organizations, the academe, and professionals involved in social housing projects. Open forums and discussions from the floor followed every session and small group discussions were also conducted to facilitate participants' interaction and bring about deeper analysis of the issues that were raised in the lectures.

By the afternoon of Day 2, the participants were divided into two groups and proceeded to arranged field visits to different housing sites in Manila City and Quezon City before heading off to their assigned communities where the workshop practicum activities for the next two days were to be carried out. These pre-selected communities were BMCA in Bagong Silangan, SANKAHILLE in Payatas, PACOMNA in Parola Compound, and SANAGMANA communities in Navotas.

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Day 3 was spent by the YPs at the four community sites where each group simultaneously facilitated a Community Action Planning workshop together with TAO-Pilipinas staff and community organizers/leaders from DAMPA and SANAGMANA. Host families in the communities accommodated the YPs in their 2-days stay-in community immersion. On the morning of Day 4, the participants reassembled at the Water Hogan Conference Center to report the results of the workshop practicum in their assigned communities. Each group formally presented the completed Action Plan Charts and also added creative reporting techniques to their presentations.

Following the plenary reporting was an open forum where panelists (EnP. Joel Oaña and Ms. Cheng Roque) and community leaders inquired on how they viewed their roles as future technical professionals after having undergone the process of participatory planning. Each participant also shared individual reflections on their exposure to working with urban poor communities. This provided the opportunity for the participants to express how the activities of the past three days have influenced their perception on the marginalized and underserved sectors of society and on



YPs on the last day of the workshop and with completed mural painting at the background.

their role as technical professionals in helping the poor attain their aspirations for secure tenure and decent shelter. These reflections summed up the learnings and impacts of the workshop for the YP participants.

The final activity of the workshop was mural painting, conceptualized and executed by the YPs together with the community representatives. The mural painting graphically depicted the newfound perspectives on marginalized/urban poor communities the participants gained after undergoing the orientation workshop on social housing.

Student volunteers mobilized for DSOP structures mapping

When the peoples organization Dike-Side Organization of Punta (DSOP) requested for assistance in mapping the structures affected by the Pasig River 10-meter Environmental Protection Area (EPA) within their area in Punta, Sta. Ana, three groups of students volunteered to carry out the task. Students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines – College of Architecture and Fine Arts (PUP-CAFA), University of Sto. Tomas – Department of Civil Engineering (UST-CE), and University of the Philippines – Task Force Arki (UP-TFA) were able to map out around 900 structures in 10 barangays last September 2005. This undertaking was part of the alternative on-site resettlement proposals which TAO has been developing with DSOP.

A Memorandum of Agreement to undertake the project, "Young Professionals' Community Integration in Punta, Sta. Ana," was signed by DSOP, PUP-CAFA, and TAO-Pilipinas. Orientation lectures on the project, ocular visits and initial consultation with community leaders were conducted prior to the student-volunteers' structures mapping.



PUP-CAFA Dean Gloria Teodoro (extreme right) leads her urban planning class during the ocular inspection of DSOP communities they were to map out.

Thirty-one architecture students under the Urban Planning class of PUP-CAFA Dean Gloria Teodoro mapped structures in barangays 898, 899, 901, 902, and 903. PUP-CAFA students who participated include the following: Abarintos, Brian Walter; Alvero, Jhanice; Arabia, Marivic; Arcilla, Anna Lea; Baesa, Yvette; Cabonegro, Clarinda; Dalangin, Ivan Glen; Deposposa, Rowelyn; Edwin, Fesalboni; Esteban, Alvin; Fernandez, Ronaiza; Giron, Jayson; Katigbak, Joey; Lachica, Gary; Libroero, Nennen; Magbuttos, Allan; Mariano, Harold; Mendejar, Jackie Lou; Mendoza, Armie Joy; Nilag, Jubelle; Oliveros, Melquicedes; Orquia, Abbey; Palmero, Richard; Pimentel, Gracechelle; Ramos, Laurence Yoracl; Sacbubit, Emerson; Sebastian, Rodolfo JR; Tamayo, Mark Dominic; Tambongon, Mark; Tuazon, Ferdinand; Uaje, Joynee.

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Left: PUP architecture student Emerson Sacbibit consults with Baby Villavicencio, DSOP secretary, on barangays covered by the structures mapping.

Right: PUP student volunteers measure easements along the Pasig River dike in Barangay 903.

UST-CE Department Head Engr. Peter Lim also supported the participation of 33 senior civil engineering students and UST-ACES members in the structures mapping of barangays 894, 895, and 896. The group was led by UST-ACES president and YP volunteer BZ Bicenio and included: Abratigue, Rhea; Bernardo, Joana Marie; Bicara, Devorah; Cruz, Kevin Brian; Datay, Kervy; De Leon, Kresa; Dela Cruz, Reinald Vincent; Dispulo, Joyce; Enriquez, Sheryl; Esguerra, Cyprus; Evangelista, D.A. Voltaire; Francisco, Eugene; Gatbonton, Ruth; Hernandez, Loui Michael; Lyons, Krystle; Mariano, John Martin; Megia, Julius; Osorio, Monvi Carlo; Payumo, Monica; Pedro, Jerome; Remo, Vonn; Reyes, Renee Paulette May; Salapong, Renee Lee; Santos, Jay Ryan; Santos, Jennifer; Sarmiento, Louie; Tan, Michael; Varias, Derrick; Villaceran, Villaceran; Villanueva, Sheryl Rose; Villasenor, KC; Zamora, Jocas.



Left: UST civil engineering students and DSOP community leaders meet at Cardinal Sin Village before proceeding to their assigned barangays.

Right: UST students in barangay 896.

UP-TFA has often volunteered for TAO projects and for the DSOP mapping, current chairperson Ian Paje pooled 31 of its members and applicants to map structures in barangays 900 and 905. TFAers who participated include the following: Aguila, Paolo; Aguilar, Darlene; Albicann, Andino; Alombro, Christina; Amar, John Jay; Anit, Myra; Arugay, Karen; Bigcas, Marie Charlene; Brito, Norman June; Cadiz, Aya; Caisip, Hazel Joy; Cernitchez, Jane; Cua, Claire; Cuarto, Aldrin; Dayrit, Tessinerin; De Borja, Ericka; Fabrero, Jhun; Florentino, Claire; Francisco, JR; Gacula, Pauleen; Lacsamana, RJ; Marquez, Norai; Nallos, Mindy; Ng, Giselle; Pablo, Ida; Paje, Christian; Racelis, Roelle; Rollo, Arlene; Sacdalan, Louie; Salvador, Jessa; Sebastian, Ray; Vertucio, Jan Michael.



DSOP president Vener Alpapara accompanies UP-TFAers to barangay 900.

TAO-YPs and UP-TFAers meet with Talaandig tribal representatives

The Talaandig tribe is one of indigenous peoples (IPs) of the Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park in Bukidnon. Through the initiative of John Ong of the Manila Observatory in Ateneo, an exploratory meeting was conducted between the Talaandig tribal representatives and the young professionals of TAO and UP-TFA. The session was aimed at sharing the experiences of the YPs in providing professional technical services to marginalized groups (and this includes the IPs) and that of learning from the indigenous culture of the Talaandig.

Ms. Easter Canoy of the Kitanglad Integrated NGOs, Inc. (KIN), Bai Inatlawan and Datu Dumapal of the Talaandig Council of Elders presented the current undertakings of their group to complete the

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Heritage Center structures. Paolo Aguila of UP-TFA and Arch. Anna Gonzales of Philssa also shared their experience in working with the tribe in Bukidnon when they were tasked to assist in drawing up the plans for the tribal community center. The session ended with the expectation that similar technical assistance to indigenous tribal communities shall be continuously pursued.

YPs and TFAers meet with Talaandig tribal leaders at the Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City.



YP volunteers join in the SANAGMANA solid waste management training activities at San Lorenzo Parish, Navotas

YP volunteer-trainees join TAO project activities for YP-OTP Stage 2: Community Integration Process

A number of participants in the orientation workshop on social housing held last August proceeded to become more actively involved in the communities that TAO have been working with. Architecture graduate Edra Belga has formally joined TAO as HSE program staff, while geodetic engineering graduate Osan Reyes and interior designer-social work graduate student Enika Hernando have signed up for various volunteer works as part of the YP-OTP Stage 2: Community Integration Process.



Enika and Edra facilitate the subdivision scheme selection workshop at the SANAGMANA office.

During the months of September and November, the YP volunteers assisted in the subdivision planning activities for SANAGMANA communities in R-10, Little Samar and Sipac Almacen. They conducted ocular inspection of the identified relocation site, facilitated community consultation workshops, and generated various schemes for the subdivision layout. These outputs were later validated and a final scheme selected through another series of community consultations. The project is currently in the process of technical coordination with other engineering trades.



Field data processing of surveyed properties for DAMPA. (from left: YP volunteer Osan Reyes, Engr. Osang Marcelo, and Engr. Benjie Orpilla)

Enika also participated in the Solid Waste Management training activities of SANAGMANA and later helped conduct the impact monitoring and evaluation of the SWM trainings in different households in R-10, Little Samar, and Sipac Almacen. Osan, meanwhile, helped out in the surveying of lot boundaries in Bgy. Payatas for DAMPA.

TAO-YPs join annual YP National Camp in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental

JFLFI sponsored the 2005 YP National Camp which invited university students from various architecture and engineering schools in the country to tackle the role of young professionals in social development. The camp site was located within the grounds of an agricultural training center at the foot of Mt. Kanloan in Negros Occidental.

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Edra, Enika and Osan joined the 2-day camp that included a series of lectures from resource persons from the government, private sector, academe, and NGOs. Former CHED chairman Bro. Rolly Dizon was the keynote speaker and in his address he urged the camp participants to take up the challenge of providing solutions to poverty and homelessness in our society as a future career path.

Site visits were also conducted in the public parks and low-cost housing projects in San Carlos City. The on-site production and use of compressed earth blocks as an alternative building material in the construction of the low-cost houses was also highlighted in the site visits.



Enika, Osan and Edra at the YP Camp in Negros Occidental.



CALL FOR YP VOLUNTEERS

2006 will be equally busy for TAO as in the past year. We are still in need of volunteers for our different projects. DAMPA community sites in Parola, Manila and Crusher, Norzagaray need assistance in structures mapping. Other volunteer works include research, CAD and model-making. Those interested to do some volunteer work for TAO may get in touch with Ge Matabang at (63-2) 926-9504 or send an email to yp@tao-pilipinas.org



Architecture and engineering students from different universities across the country at the annual YP national camp.

JFLFI and TAO conduct YP lecture series in Iligan and Cagayan de Oro

TAO's ED Arch. Arlene Lusterio and Arch. Ge Matabang joined JFLFI's ED Dr. Billy Tusalem and Prof. Danny Mostrales at MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City on November 14 and at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City on November 15 to conduct a series of lectures on urban development. Senior engineering students from both universities participated in the discussion of issues on homelessness, appropriate housing technologies, and environmental protection. The lecture series was also intended to widen the network of young professionals with social commitment to address the problem of shelter security through responsive professional practices.



Civil engineering students of Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology at the Young Professionals Forum on Urban Development.

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

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