

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

ypp e-newsletter

j u n e 2 0 0 7

Dear Friends,

In this special issue of our monthly e-newsletter, we give way to the TAO Fundraising Photo Exhibit invitation. From June 22 until July 31, 2007 about 60 photographs will be exhibited at the Blacksoup Project Artspace in Cubao, Quezon City. These photos were taken by the TAO staff in the course of providing technical assistance in the informal settlements of Parola, Baseco, Punta Sta. Ana, Navotas, and in the typhoon and mudflow-devastated Bicol region. Through this event, we are asking for generous contributions from donors to help us continue our work of making design services accessible to the poor and marginalized communities in Metro Manila and Luzon.

You can contribute to the organization by buying any of the prints that will be featured in the photo-exhibit. Each print costs Php 2,000. Proceeds from the photo-exhibit will specifically fund YP activities, including the 2007 YP Workshop to be held in Legaspi City, Albay, and the continued publication of TAO-Shelter magazine.

Please download the attached .pdf file to know more about the TAO Fundraising Photo Exhibit and on how to make your contributions to TAO-Pilipinas. To know more of the organization's projects, please visit www.tao-pilipinas.org.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Matabang
YP Program Coordinator

Quotes for the Month

"...at one time or another, we have seen human tragedies that broke our hearts, and yet we did nothing -- not because we didn't care, but because we didn't know what to do. If we had known how to help, we would have acted. The barrier to change is not too little caring; it is too much complexity. To turn caring into action, we need to see a problem, see a solution, and see the impact. But complexity blocks all three steps."

"...take on an issue – a complex problem, a deep inequity, and become a specialist on it. If you make it the focus of your career, that would be phenomenal. But you don't have to do that to make an impact. For a few hours every week, you can use the growing power of the Internet to get informed, find others with the same interests, see the barriers, and find ways to cut through them. Don't let complexity stop you. Be activists. Take on the big inequities. It will be one of the great experiences of your lives."

- **Bill Gates**, founder of Microsoft, in his commencement speech after receiving an honorary degree from Harvard University on June 7, 2007.

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

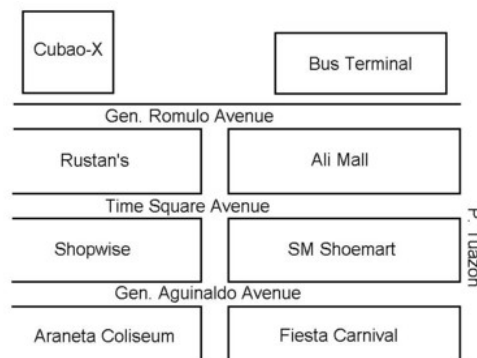


You are invited!



Come to the opening of **“TAO” – A Fundraising Photo Exhibit** by the Technical Assistance Organization (TAO) – Pilipinas on June 22, Friday, 6:30 pm, at the *Blacksoup Project Artspace*. The event aims to raise funds for the projects of TAO-Pilipinas. To know more about us, the exhibit, and how to support our cause, read on below.

Blacksoup Project Artspace is located at Shop 61, Marikina Shoe Expo, Romulo Avenue, Araneta Center, Quezon City. The exhibit will run until July 31, 2007. The gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 4pm to 9pm. Cocktails will be served during the opening.



About the artists

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. is a women-led, non-profit, non-government organization composed mainly of architects, planners and engineers committed to helping urban and rural poor communities create clean, healthy, inclusive, disaster-resilient, and environmentally-sustainable settlements.

Since 2001, TAO-Pilipinas has assisted poor communities through conducting participatory community development planning; building awareness on housing standards and laws; assisting in land acquisition, site development planning, and housing and public space design; and educating and training communities on estate management, disaster risk mitigation, and solid waste management among others.

About the exhibit



“TAO” is an exhibit of photographs selected from hundreds of snapshots taken by TAO-Pilipinas staff in the course of their work. The title refers both to the name of the organization and the people whom the organization serves.

These photographs were taken while working with communities such as informal settlements in Punta Sta. Ana, Parola and Baseco, Manila; a charcoal-making community beside a garbage transfer station in Pier 18, Manila; a flood-prone resettlement area in Tanza, Navotas; barangays devastated by Typhoon Reming in Bicol; and idyllic rural communities in

Infanta, Quezon.

Many of the images show various states of natural and man-made landscapes, from the chaotic to the serene. They reveal not only the fragility and vulnerability of communities, but also their strength and resilience. The presence of children is also evident. Wherever they are, they seem to have the capability to just be ‘in the moment,’ and enjoy themselves.

The creative spirit of TAO-Pilipinas' staff is expressed in these photographs. The images reflect their different personalities and inclinations, from the dramatic to the mundane. The images reveal their eye for capturing fleeting moments—from the morbid and depressing to the uplifting and joyful. This exhibit is a sum of their various artistic perspectives.



Who will benefit

Proceeds from the exhibit will directly benefit the projects of TAO-Pilipinas' various programs:

- Human Settlements and Environment – the provision of planning, engineering and architectural services to urban and rural poor communities
- Education and Training – the conduct of seminars and workshops on participatory community development planning, disaster risk management, solid waste management and estate management
- Research and Publications - the production and dissemination of materials related to sustainable human settlement planning and holistic urban development
- Young Professionals – the program for technical students, new graduates and young professionals that serves as a venue for social awareness and volunteerism

Through your support, TAO-Pilipinas hopes to be able to continue helping marginalized communities in Metro Manila, the Bicol Region and other provinces in the Philippines.

Make a difference! Pledge now

Support us by pledging to buy an 8" x 10" print of any of the photographs in the exhibit. Each print costs **Php2,000**. (Buyers outside Metro Manila and the Philippines will be charged an additional costs for postage and handling.) A maximum of ten copies of each photograph will be printed and sold.

Just fill up the form below and a catalogue of the photos will be sent for you to choose from. You can also see the actual prints during the exhibit at the Blacksoup Project Artspace. The prints will be sent to you after the exhibit has closed on July 31.

You can pay cash, or through a check payable to TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. You may deposit your donations/pledges to the following bank account:

China Bank, Cyberzone, SM North EDSA Branch
Account Name: Technical Assistance Organization (TAO-Pilipinas), Inc.
Current Account Number 208-074941-5.

Your validated deposit slips can be faxed to (632) 926-9504 or emailed to info@tao-pilipinas.org. For inquiries, please email Ge Matabang (grmatabang@gmail.com) or Yeye Perdigon (yeyeperdigon@yahoo.com.ph). You can also call telephone number (632) 926-9504.

"TAO" Photo Exhibit Pledge Form

Name: _____ Affiliation/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

ZIP Code: _____ Email: _____

Office Number: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Contact within TAO-Pilipinas (name of staff): _____

I am interested to pledge for _____ (number) prints. Please email me the catalogue.

I am interested to pledge for _____ (number) prints. Do not send the catalogue.
I will visit the photo exhibit.

Fax this form to (632) 926-9504 or email it to your contact in TAO-Pilipinas; Geraldine Matabang (grmatabang@gmail.com); or Yeye Perdigon (yeyeperdigon@yahoo.com.ph). Thank you very much for your support.