



Photo for the Month

In this photo, a community workshop participant takes notes on a school notebook. Initial workshops on *sustainable communities* have been conducted with community leaders in the Anislag and Taysan resettlement sites in Albay.

Quote for the Month

"I am only one; but still, I am one. I cannot do everything; but still, I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

- Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), American author and Unitarian minister

Call for Applications: 2007 YP Workshop on Social Housing

It has been almost a year since disaster struck in Albay, Bicol when mudflows, at the height of typhoon *Reming* last November 30, 2006, flowed from the slopes of Mayon volcano and buried surrounding villages, rendering thousands of families homeless and displaced. The urgent need to provide relocation for displaced families from affected villages and lahar risk areas has resulted to rapid reconstruction work in resettlement sites with less than minimum site development.

The post-disaster rehabilitation work in Albay should be an opportunity to integrate the principles of sustainability in the development of resettlements sites, such as building the capacities of communities, enhancing community participation in the planning processes, and transferring the technology of disaster risk management. More than building disaster-resilient homes, housing for the resettled families should also factor in ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and culturally appropriate solutions.

The Young Professionals Program of TAO-Pilipinas Inc., in collaboration with COPE Foundation in Bicol, invites Bicol-based young professionals, new graduates and 3rd-5th year college students in the fields of architecture, engineering (civil, geodetic, sanitary, mechanical, electrical) and environmental planning to participate in the 5-day YP Workshop on Social Housing scheduled on 12-16 November 2007 at Legazpi City, Albay. The workshop theme for this year is **"Building Sustainable Communities in the Resettlement Sites of Albay Province, Bicol."**

This year, the annual YP workshop focuses on bringing together technical professionals, affected communities in Albay, the government and NGOs in one forum to discuss resettlement planning and design problems, issues or needs that must be addressed to improve safety, environmental and health protection and economic sustainability of the people in the resettlement sites. The workshop also aims to revive and strengthen the Bicol Young Professionals (BYP) as a volunteer technical assistance group capable of responding to poor communities' technical needs.

For more on the 2007 YP Workshop Application, pls. turn to page 2.

In this month's e-newsletter:

- **Call for Applications: 2007 YP Workshop on Social Housing in Albay, Bicol**
- **Projects by YP Volunteer Groups: UP-TFA and UPCLAS**
- **TAO supports Bantay Bahay, Bantay Buhay! Campaign and the Anti-Eviction Fund Drive**
- **TAO hosts Phase 4 of the SDD Course by Lund University, Sweden**
- **Applications now open for 3rd batch of YP Interns (October'07-March'08)**

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

Call for Applications: 2007 Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing

“Building Sustainable Communities in the Resettlement Sites of Albay Province, Bicol”

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The 2007 YP workshop shall be conducted in two levels: **theory** (lectures/training sessions, group activities) and **practicum** (exposure visit, 2-day stay-in community immersion). These activities are aimed at encouraging the involvement of architects, engineers and planners in community development work and in working with the poor. Community immersion areas will be in the resettlement sites at Anislag, Daraga and Taysan, Legazpi.



Housing units by COPE-Christian Aid under construction in Taysan, Legazpi Resettlement site (as of September 2007)



Resettlement site at Anislag, Daraga (as of September 2007)

Application is open to all interested senior students and young professionals. Selected participants will form the membership for the Bicol Young Professionals (BYP) group, a pool of technical resource volunteers to provide technical support to the resettled communities in Albay. Workshop participants shall be selected based on the following criteria:

Level A: willingness to work w/ urban poor communities; strong inclination to go into community development work; and openness to learn and practice alternative development approaches in housing

Level B: high level of consciousness about housing issues; experience in working with urban poor communities; and experience in working with socialized housing projects

Level C: commitment to go into community development work

A limited number (25 slots) of Bicol-based applicants will be selected as sponsored YP participants based on review of completed application forms and interview. Sponsorship shall cover workshop registration fees, including food and lodging. Interested NCR-based applicants will have to shoulder transportation costs to and from the workshop venues and find external sponsorship for the workshop registration fee of Php 3,000.

To apply, please complete the application form (download at www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org) and submit to:

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. P.O. Box 27 UP Campus, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City
or to

COPE Foundation, Inc. 107 Toledo's Compound, Gogon Legazpi City

For further inquiries, please contact:

Arch/EnP. Geraldine R. Matabang (0915-3166822)

Engr. Rosalyn-Frances O. Marcelo (0917-4477144)

YP Workshop Coordinators

tel: (63-2) 436-7301 fax: (63-2) 926-9504 email: yp@tao-pilipinas.org

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YP Volunteer Groups

Two YP groups have on-going volunteer works with TAO-assisted communities in Punta Sta. Ana, Manila and Malibay, Pasay City. **UP-TFA** (Task Force Arki) is an organization of BS Architecture students from the University of the Philippines, while **UP-CLAS** (Circle of Landscape Architecture Students) is an organization of BS Landscape Architecture students also from UP-Diliman.



UP-TFA is involved in the project **Design Options for Renovation and Extension of DSOP Core Housing**. The people's organization **Dike Side Organization of Punta (DSOP)** is

among those affected by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Project. After years of struggle for security of tenure, DSOP has successfully negotiated with PRRC for near-city resettlement and a number of families will be relocated to the Rodriguez, Rizal resettlement site with standard 22-square meter core housing. The need for future house improvements and extensions has been articulated by the families to be relocated and UPTFA has volunteered to come up with design alternatives to guide the families in doing incremental improvements on the housing units in the resettlement site. Scaled models of various house design options have been generated by UP-TFA and will be presented to DSOP.



UP-TFAers inspect the core housing units at the Rodriguez, Rizal resettlement site.

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UPCLAS is working on the project **Landscape Development Plan for St. Hannibal Housing Project – Phase 2**. The St. Hannibal Empowerment Center (SHEC) assists the residents of Barangay 165 in Rodriguez Street, Malibay, Pasay City in their housing needs under its Housing Program. Approximately 346 families occupy a public land under the name of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) abutting the Maribacan Retarding Pond maintained by Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). In its initial dialogue, MMDA disclosed their plan to clear the DPWH property turned over to them as part of the flood control program. The site is environmentally critical and prone to flooding. However, no resettlement site is offered to the informal occupants. TAO-Pilipinas is providing technical assistance to SHEC in its efforts to provide security of tenure to the informal settlers in Barangay 165.

Part of the SHEC Housing Program is Phase 2, the near-site relocation of families in a property owned by the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) located just within the barangay. Through Habitat for Humanity and the "Pondo ng Pinoy" fund and under the Community Mortgage Program, informal settlers along the Estero Tripa de Galinna will be relocated in Phase 2's two-storey walk-in apartments with two-family units per lot. UPCLAS has volunteered to help in coming up with landscape design proposals, including design of open space areas, roadside plantings, typical front yard landscaping of housing units, and urban agriculture options for the residents.



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TAO supports Bantay Bahay, Bantay Buhay! Campaign and the Anti-Eviction Fund Drive

The Philippine-Misereor Partners Technical Working Group on Housing and Urban Livability and the Urban Poor Alliance (UP-ALL) launched the Bantay Bahay, Bantay Buhay! Campaign last October 6, 2007. This initiative is an educational campaign on housing rights and against the forcible and inhuman evictions and demolitions happening in the informal settlements of Metro Manila today. It also includes fund raising for an Anti-Eviction Fund to support poor communities who will file cases or initiate actions that will pursue government's compliance to the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) provisions ensuring humane and orderly evictions. [A brief background on the Bantay Bahay, Bantay Buhay Campaign is provided on page 4.]

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BANTAY BAHAY! BANTAY BUHAY!

Philippine-Misereor Partnership TWG on Housing and Urban Livability with Urban Poor Alliance (UP-ALL)

IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE OUR CITIES SURVIVE WITHOUT THE URBAN POOR. THEY ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR SOCIETY. THEY ARE OUR DRIVERS, MARKET VENDORS, GARDENERS, MASON, DOMESTIC HELPERS, LAUNDRY WOMAN AND EVEN OUR TEACHERS AND SOLDIERS.

OPPOSE FORCIBLE AND INHUMAN EVICTIONS AND DEMOLITIONS.

CONTINUE AND EXPAND SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMS FOR THE POOR: COMMUNITY MORTGAGE PROGRAM, PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RESETTLEMENT.

CREATE MULTI-SECTORAL COMMISSIONS ON URBAN LIVABILITY IN EVERY CITY.

A backgrounder on the Bantay Bahay, Bantay Buhay campaign

- The middle of August just before the death anniversary of Ninoy Aquino, informal settlers in Tripa de Gallina in Pasay City were demolished amidst the rain and on a Sunday. The following day August 20 was declared a holiday and the demolition went on. Some 100 families lost their houses and small children were left under the rain without protection from the elements.
- About three weeks before the demolitions, the Metro Manila Interagency Committee on Shelter (MMIACS) declared targets for clearing informal settlements along waterways and railroad tracks. According to MMDA some 15,000 of 84,000 families are targeted starting next year until 2010. Specific areas mentioned are in Quezon City those along EDSA and the NHA Triangle property, Commonwealth Avenue, the corner of Ramon Magsaysay and Santos Sts., Barangays Masambong and Manresa and Araneta Avenue. The Port Area in Manila and 15 lateral roads to Bonifacio Drive were also identified as target areas for clearing. ⁽¹⁾
- MMDA targets to remove 17,000 families per year according to MMDA general manager Robert Nacienceno, in order to achieve a *squatter-free metropolis* in three years. ⁽²⁾
- According to PCUP, the government targets to demolish 100,000 families affected by government infrastructure projects in Metro Manila within the next three years. If private lands are included the figure will go up to 300,000 families. These 300,000 families will not get any assistance due to lack of funds allotted for resettlement. The government has no capacity to provide relocation. As a strategy, the government threatens and/or intimidates the families until they volunteer to leave. ⁽³⁾ According to PCUP Chairman Percival Chavez, MMDA and DPWH do not comply with the provisions of UDHA. Examples:
 - (1) they invoke the cut-off of the Urban Development & Housing Act (RA 7279) in 1992, making informal settlers ineligible to the provisions of UDHA.
 - (2) Provisions of Section 28 under UDHA are not enforced. In the past demolitions done by MMDA, there was a typhoon, it was night time, Sunday, holiday, there was no consultation. In Pasay, the MMDA demolition team came and demolished the area on Sunday 19 August. It was raining and still they demolished. The next day, 20 August was a holiday they came back again and demolished 40 houses. They said they will come back to demolish all.
- The government prides itself in its plan to spend \$1.11B for the resettlement of informal settlers from Metro Manila (to other areas outside Metro Manila), of which \$334M is allocated for basic project implementation from the Department of Budget and Management. Another \$779M will be a loan through DBP and Land Bank and \$44.5M will be from bonds sold by National Housing Authority (NHA). ⁽⁴⁾
- The NHA has allocated 3,000 lots in Calauan, Laguna for the first 15,000 families that will be demolished. ⁽⁵⁾ The government plans to build a total 265,955 housing units from the consolidated budget. ⁽⁶⁾
- The recent experiences of the urban poor in Metro Manila clearly show that provisions of section 28 c were not enforced and the government does not show any indication of enforcing the law. (refer to attached Section 28 of UDHA)
- Skewed allocation of lots - 3,000 lots for 15,000 families, does not mean that there are already places for people to move to.
- A billboard posted in the middle of a bridge or along a waterway announcing the schedule of river cleanup and demolition of houses along the banks does not equate to adequate consultations, the families don't even know where they will be relocated, because there is actually no relocation prepared for them, when all that is left of their makeshift shanties are loaded to MMDA trucks and taken away.
- The law, RA7279 is very clear that demolitions can be undertaken provided the provisions of Section 28 are complied with.

¹ 15,000 Manila slum dwellers to be relocated in next 2 years. Accessed from <http://nesinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/metro/view_article.php?article_id=79818> on 3 August 2007.

² "No squatters in 3 years, agency vows". Accessed from <http://www.manilastandardtoday.com/?page=policy1_july19_2007> on 6 August 2007.

³ Sotero Sabare, Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise (COPE) Foundation Regional Coordinator for NCR, Report to Philippine Misereor Partnerships (PMP) Special Meeting, unpublished. 28 August 2007

⁴ "Philippines to spend \$1.11B to resettle squatters in Manila". Accessed from: <http://alheadlinenews.com/articles/7008011656> on 3 August 2007.

⁵ Loc cit, <http://nesinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/metro/view_article.php?article_id=79818>.

⁶ Loc cit, <<http://alheadlinenews.com/articles/7008011656>> on 3 August 2007.

The above information presents in brief the housing situation of the majority of the informal settlers living along waterways in Metro Manila. It is with appreciation to MMDA that we walk the streets with lesser floods than before. But are we aware of the social costs of the action.

TAO-Pilipinas in supporting the **Anti-Eviction Fund** believes in humane, just and participatory approach to solving problems. We believe that although informal settlers need to be removed from danger zones there is a more humane way as outlined in UDHA Section 28 than what MMDA is doing. By virtue of being human we all have the right to live a humane life and be treated as human beings, not as garbage swept away without due process.

The more proactive approach is to plan together and for the national government agencies to synchronize their plans rather than just one agency moving ahead with his assignment without coordination with other line agencies and the local government units.

The price being paid by the already very poor is doubling their economic hardship with the loss of property, livelihood and sickness especially when the demolitions were done during typhoon and rainy season. The demolitions did move them out of declared danger areas (waterways, railroads, etc.) but moved them especially the children, to more dangerous areas like the

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Backgrounder on the Bantay Bahay, Bantay Buhay campaign

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highways. When they can not go back to school because they lost most if not all of their belongings, they went to the streets to beg. When before the demolition they live in wooden shanties, now they live under tents made of plastic or sacks, no place to cook, no pots for cooking, no water to drink or bathe nor a place to bathe.

The only way to swiftly stop unjust demolitions like this is to demand the enforcement of the law through litigation.

We are never against the clean up of rivers to reduce floods, we want both, but we want it the humane way and according to the law.

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Provisions of UDHA Section 28:

SEC 28. **Eviction and Demolition.** – Eviction or demolition as a practice shall be discouraged. Eviction or demolition, however, may be allowed under the following situations:

- a. When persons or entities occupy danger areas such as esteros, railroad tracks, garbage dumps, riverbanks, shorelines, waterways, and other public places such as sidewalks, roads, parks, and playgrounds;
- b. When government infrastructure projects with available funding are about to be implemented; or
- c. When there is a court order for eviction and demolition. In the execution of eviction or demolition orders involving underprivileged and homeless citizens, the following shall be mandatory:
 1. Notice upon the affected persons or entities at least thirty (*30) days prior to the date of eviction or demolition;
 2. Adequate consultations on the matter of resettlement with the duly designated representatives of the families to be resettled and the affected communities in the areas where they are to be relocated;
 3. Presence of Local government officials or their representatives during eviction or demolitions;
 4. Proper identification of all persons taking part in the demolition;
 5. Execution of eviction or demolition only during regular office hours from Mondays to Fridays and during good weather, unless the affected families consent otherwise;
 6. No use of heavy equipment for demolition except for structures that are permanent and other of concrete materials;
 7. Proper uniforms for members of the Philippine National Police who shall occupy the first line of law enforcement and observe proper disturbance control procedures; and
 8. Adequate relocation, whether temporary or permanent; provided, however, That in cases of eviction and demolition pursuant to a court order involving underprivileged and homeless citizens, relocation shall be undertaken by the local government unit concerned and the National Housing Authority with the assistance of other government agencies within forty-five (45) days from service of notice of final judgement by the court, after which period the said order shall be executed: provided, further, That should relocation not be possible within the said period, financial assistance in the amount equivalent to the prevailing minimum daily wage multiplied by sixty (60) days shall be extended to the affected families by the local government unit concerned

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Announcements

TAO hosts Phase 4 of the 2007 *Shelter Design and Development Course* by Lund University, Sweden

The international training program *Shelter Design and Development (SDD)* by Lund University in Sweden will be conducted in Manila on October 22 to November 2, 2007. TAO-Pilipinas will serve as local coordinator for the program's Phase 4 activities which are typically held in Asian countries. Special lecture sessions, field visits and exposure trips to Metro Manila housing sites will be part of the training for this year's 23 international participants. The SDD program is part of the postgraduate training course offered by Lund University's Housing Development and Management and aims to give professionals working on shelter projects and policies deeper knowledge and a wider frame of reference to help them create long-term conditions to combat poverty through effective capacity and institutional development. TAO's Research and Publications Program Coordinator, Arch. Faith Varona, is an alumnus of Lund University.



(More information about the course is available on-line at http://www.hdm.lth.se/education/international_training_programmes/shelter_design_development/)

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Applications now open for 3rd batch of YP Interns (October'07-March'08)

The 3rd batch of internship positions for the Young Professionals Internship Program is now open for applications. Interns will work with TAO for a maximum of 6-months, within the period starting October 2007 until March 2008. The positions will have stipend/allowance depending on the actual total number of hours worked on the project. A specific/personalized work schedule shall be arranged with the selected volunteers/interns.

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 approaches in housing. Interns will be part of the TAO project teams and will work on the following on-going projects: (1) SANAGMANA Community Facilities Design; (2) Farmers Cooperative Office Building and Sugar Refining Plant; (3) 2007 YP Workshop on Social Housing; and (4) Popularization of Training Materials on Solid Waste Management and Disaster-Resistant Technologies.

Interested new graduates or senior students of architecture, civil engineering, and environmental planning may visit the YP Workshop homepage at www.ypws. tao-pilipinas.org to download the application forms or may contact Ge Matabang at 926-9504 / 0915-3166822 or email yp@tao-pilipinas.org.

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TAO supports Bantay Bahay...

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TAO supports the creation of the Anti-Eviction Fund and extends this call for contributions to its Young Professionals network/groups. Authorized solicitation forms are also available at TAO and may be faxed to organizations that may wish to conduct collection from its members. *[Contributions may be deposited to the account of the CMP Congress, BPI-Blue Ridge Branch Current Account # 0411-0121-66. Fax deposit slip to 913-2751, addressed to Rhodora David.]*

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