

# e-newsletter

MARCH - MAY/JUNE - JULY 2014

2 CHECKLIST AKIT DI-RUMAH RESIDENTIAL AREA	BAANO MATUGUNAN ANG KAKILANGAN PARA RUMASA SUMUNOD SA CITY ORDINANCE	ISSUES & CONCERNS MAYIPAT NA ANG MGA NOZ SA KAILANG PERSISTENT SHELTER WHERE THEY SHOULD BE SOME ON THEIR DAILY LIVING NO PROBLEMA
DI LIGTAS ANG A NAKATIRA SA A COASTAL AREA	TUMIRA SA LISTAS AT MALINIS NA LUGAR	AWALANG MGA SARILING LUPA SAAN KAMI PUPUNTA MAGANG AKSYON PARA SA MGA DAGDAG NA SUPPLY NG KURENTE AT TUBIG SA BARANGAY AT PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL KAILANGANG IPATUPAD ANG ORDINANSANG PANGKALINISAN SA ATING BRGY.
ANSAN ANG PROYEKTONG ITO?		



Outputs from the Community Action Planning Workshops are displayed for barangay validation. (Photo by Faith Varona)



## TAO Contributes to Tacloban City Rehab Efforts

Engaged by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Tacloban City, TAO initiates Community Action Planning for 17 Barangays in the Old Sagkahan Area.

TAO-PILIPINAS' ARCHITECT-PLANNERS SPENT CLOSE TO TWO MONTHS (FROM April 21 to June 26) in Tacloban City to complete a project under the Catholic Relief Services Philippines' Typhoon Yolanda Response Program. The engagement of TAO-Pilipinas in the CRS post-disaster intervention in Tacloban City involved developing and facilitating a Community Action Planning process in 17 barangays in the Old Road Sagkahan district (Pampango, Magallanes, Sagkahan) where there are approximately 3,000 severely-affected households.

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## TAO Joins PMPI Post-Disaster Shelter Needs Assessment in Manicani and Homonhon Islands

TYPHOON HAIYAN, LOCALLY KNOWN AS YOLANDA, FIRST MADE LANDFALL IN Guiuan, Eastern Samar last November 8 at around 4:40am. More than three months after the devastating typhoon brought havoc to the municipality, the Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI) pooled teams of experts to conduct an assessment of the agriculture, health, shelter and environment, geo-hazards, and coastal resource management situation in the islands of Manicani and Homonhon which are under the municipality of Guiuan. The architect-planners of TAO-Pilipinas, along with

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“ One of the most important lessons that the World Bank Group has learned in Aceh which was hit by the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 and Java by an earthquake in 2006 is that, given the proper support, communities can and should take the lead in their own recovery. ”

- Motoo Konishi,  
World Bank Country  
Director for the Philippines

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

# TAO Contributes to Tacloban... (From page 1)

The Community Action Planning (CAP) project was aimed at generating community profiles and action plans to address priority settlements needs in each of the 17 barangays through a participatory, bottom-to-top approach. TAO-Pilipinas developed a 2-phase workshop module and tools for the conduct of a series of participatory workshops and formed its own GIS team for spatial data compilation and GIS-based mapping. The CAP workshops were conducted in two phases, Phase 1: Situational Analysis and Phase 2: Settlement Planning, and targeted 10% of the total households in each barangay. After each phase was completed, validation activities in each barangay were held to present the workshop results to the majority of the barangay households and provide them with an opportunity to give feedback.

In the Phase 1 (Situational Analysis) workshop with a two-day program, participants examined the pre-Yolanda and post-Yolanda situations of their barangay, covering water, sanitation, drainage, solid waste management, electricity, road infrastructures, social services and facilities, public spaces, economic activities, and housing situation. Through focus groups discussions and mapping exercises, the participants also conducted a hazards-vulnerabilities-capacities assessment of their barangay. In the barangay validation, the outputs from these workshop activities were presented along with the initial results of the CRS Household Registration Survey which the GIS team compiled and processed.

In the Phase 2 (Settlements Planning) workshop, participants identified settlements-related priority needs for community resilience and the improvement of their barangay. They looked into their barangay's risk zones and site suitability for housing and identified potential areas for transitional housing in the safe areas

of the barangay. Participants also proposed priority projects and formulated community action/strategic plans (with detailed steps, actors, timeframe, and resources needed) which they intend to present to CRS for financial support. These were accomplished through a three-day program that comprised of focus group discussions, mapping sessions, and vision drawings. In the barangay validation, these workshop outputs were likewise presented for feedback and confirmation/agreement with the majority.

The series of workshops were finished in the span of two months by clustering the 17 barangays into three batches. Batch 1 consisted of Barangays 56A, 60, 60A, and 61. Batch 2 included Barangays 48, 48A, 48B, 51, 54, 54A, and 58. Batch 3 consisted of Barangays 31, 35, 35A, 51A, 52, and 56.

The workshops were held in various venues, including University of the Philippines Tacloban, Ritz Tower de Leyte, Liceo de Verbo Divino, and Leyte Normal University. Working with TAO-Pilipinas' workshop facilitation team and GIS team were a group of CRS volunteers who helped in various tasks, including registration, note-taking, photo-documentation, translation, and logistical arrangements for barangay validation.

The outputs from the consultation process facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas are intended to aid CRS in developing appropriate options for its program aimed towards community resilience, particularly in its household-level shelter assistance and barangay-level infrastructure support. These shall also form the baseline data for monitoring the impacts of CRS intervention on Old Sagkahan households. (GRM)



Workshop participants are divided into focus groups to discuss the pre- and post-Yolanda situation of their barangay.



Mapping exercises are conducted to delineate hazard zones within the barangay.



A group reporter presents the result of their FGD to the plenary.



Focus groups formulate action plans for their proposed community projects.



Potential areas for housing are identified and located on maps.



The TAO-Pilipinas technical team in Tacloban City, from left: Ge Matabang, Ony Martinez, Ian Zuiñga, Verna Sarraga, Angel Sales, Arlene Lusterio, and Faith Varona (not in the picture): Janeen Cayetano and Audrey Esteban)

**Community Action Planning  
in Old Sagkahan, Tacloban City  
April 21 – June 26, 2014**

**Barangay Validation Workshops**



*Barangay 31*



*Barangay 35*



*Barangay 35A*



*Barangay 48*



*Barangay 48A*



*Barangay 48B*



*Barangay 51*



*Barangay 51A*



*Barangay 52*



*Barangay 54*



*Barangay 54A*



*Barangay 56*



*Barangay 56A*



*Barangay 58*



*Barangay 60*



*Barangay 60A*



*Barangay 61*

## TAO Joins PMPI... (From page 1)

environmental planners from Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Reconstruction (ASSURE), formed one team to assess shelter damage in the islands. The PMPI assessment is being done in the context of the organization's long-term island-wide development plans for the islands.

### Manicani Island Assessment

From February 24 till March 8, 2014, the technical staff of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. was in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The first week was allotted for fieldwork in Manicani Island with Arch. Geraldine Matabang, Arch. Angelus Sales, Arch. Verna Sarraga of TAO-Pilipinas, and Arch. Claudio Rillera, Jr. of ASSURE doing the shelter damage assessment. There are four barangays in Manicani Island namely: Hamorawon, Buenavista, Bana-ag, and San Jose. In each barangay, focus group discussions were facilitated by the team as well as a resource and hazard assessment of their area. An individual household interview was also conducted to further assess the extent of damage in the houses of the community. Key informant interviews of barangay officials, health workers, and community representatives were also done to help validate the data that was gathered through individual household interviews and focus group discussions. Local coordinators from PMPI's local partner organization, Save Manicani Movement (SAMAMO), also assisted the technical team as they went around the island.

### Homonhon Island Assessment

The second week was allotted for Homonhon Island with more members comprising the technical team because there were eight barangays to be covered. Arch. Arlene Lusterio, Arch. Angelus Sales, and Arch. Verna Sarraga were the technical staff for TAO-Pilipinas involved in the damage assessment of Homonhon Islands while ASSURE had Arch. Claudio Rillera, Jr., Engr. Antonio Sumague, Kriszia Enriquez, and Dominador Gualberto II. PMPI also sent one of their staff, Candy Hidalgo, to help in the shelter damage assessment of Homonhon. The technical team were divided into two teams with Team One going to Barangays Inapulangan, Habag, and Bitagan while Team Two was assigned to handle Barangays Pagbabangnan, Culasi, Canawayon, and Cagusu-an. Barangay Casuguran was handled by both teams and was the last barangay to be assessed. The same process used in Manicani Island was also used in Homonhon Island. Individual household and key informant interviews were also conducted together with focus group discussions for each barangay in Homonhon Island. Resource and hazards mapping were also part of the focus group discussions for each barangay. The local partner organization of PMPI that assisted with the coordination of the shelter damage assessment in Homonhon was Homonhon Environment Rescuers Organization (HERO).

### Presentation of initial assessment results

The initial results of the assessment were then presented in a forum organized by PMPI last March 19 and 20. Assessment made by other groups that focused on agriculture, health, and coastal resource management was presented in the first day. The shelter group comprising of TAO-Pilipinas and ASSURE gave initial recommendations as collation of data gathered was not yet finished during the forum. These included coming up with a master development plan, technical training on disaster-resilient construction, road and bridge repairs, and



*top photo: Arch. Verna Sarraga facilitates the focus group discussion for the women of Brgy. Hamorawon as they answer the FGD questionnaire.*

*bottom photo: The shelter team in Manicani island with the local coordinators of PMPI and SAMAMO (from left: Arch. Verna Sarraga, Arch. Geraldine Matabang, Jovie Marie Yodico, Rebecca Destajo, Emiliana Balbada, and Arch. Claudio Rillera, Jr.).*

construction of barangay evacuation centers. Updates on the activities done in each island and a planning workshop were the highlights of the second day.

### Validation of assessment results

The community validation of the assessment results was held on April 28 and May 3 in Manicani and on April 29 and May 1 in Homonhon. In Manicani, the scheduled validation was extended due to poor attendance from some barangays. Validation activities were held in Barangays Buenavista and Hamorawon in Manicani while in Homonhon, they were held in Barangays Inapulangan and Casuguran.

The community validation team was a multi-disciplinary group of individuals led by PMPI National Coordinator, Yolly Esguerra. Each team of experts pooled by PMPI had a representative to present their findings to the community, all except the agriculture group. Members of the validation team included Melody Asia of PMPI, geologist Arlene Tengonciang for geo-hazard, Arch. Angelus Sales of TAO-Pilipinas for shelter, psychologist Maria Laya Lara of Medical Action Group (MAG) for health, community organizer Edgar Orencio of Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya Inc. (SIKAT) for coastal resource management, and EnP. Lorraine Mangaser, documentor of the group. Billy Abueme of HERO

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## TAO Joins PMPI... (From page 4)



Rodrigo Lagramada is one of the 30 household interviewees for the damage assessment in Barangay Cagusuan. His house was among those destroyed by typhoon Yolanda.



The shelter team in Homonhon Island (from left:Emiliana Balbada, Arch. Angelus Sales, Arch. Claudio Rillera, Jr., Kriszia Enriquez, Arch. Verna Sarraga, Engr. Antonio Sumague, Candy Hidalgo, and Arch. Arlene Lusterio) having a photo op with Lisa Masa (center).

gave the presentation for agriculture in behalf of Dr. Chito Medina and Lucille Ortiz of Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG). Local coordinators from SAMAMO and HERO were also a vital part of the team as they assisted with the coordination and logistics of the validation workshop.

The community validation was a whole day program open to all the residents of the islands of Manicani and Homonhon. The morning session consisted of the presentation of the initial assessment of each group. An open forum followed each presentation to give the community a chance to voice their opinions. A brief recap showing the important points of each presentation began the afternoon session. It was then followed by a visioning exercise wherein the participants, grouped according to their barangays, were asked to draw their dream community and how they see their barangay in the future. In their vision drawings, the most common elements featured by both participants from Manicani and Homonhon were disaster resilient houses, improved infrastructure, community facilities, and basic services, evacuation centers, expanded mangrove areas, and no further mining activities.

An action planning activity was the last agenda in the community validation program. The participants came up with a list of community projects pertaining to each sector (i.e. geo-hazard, shelter, health, agriculture, coastal resource). For the geo-hazard groups, both participants from the two islands prioritized construction of evacuation centers and the formulation

of an evacuation protocol. For the shelter groups, the common projects mentioned were construction or repair of their homes and repair of damaged roads and bridges. For the health groups, the proposed projects were lying-in clinics and community pharmacies. The agriculture groups prioritized livestock raising, planting of crops, and production of organic fertilizers, while the coastal resource management groups listed construction of boats, fishing gear provision, and coastal livelihood activities for their community projects.

Towards the end of the validation program, Ms. Yolly Esguerra reminded the participants that the proposed projects by the communities will still have to be considered for the long-term island-wide rehabilitation program that PMPI is planning. Other funding assistance can be sourced for these proposed community projects.

Overall, the community validation achieved its objective of informing the communities and getting feedback from



Billy Abueme of HERO presenting the findings of the agriculture group to the residents of Manicani in Barangay Buenavista during the community validation.

them. Most agreed with the findings and assessment by each sector. Residents suggested various crops they want to plant as well as farming tools they need. There were inquiries about land acquisition and titling processes that may be required of them to access shelter and infrastructure support. They also saw the usefulness of the geo-hazard information that was presented to them.

### Future plans

The project of PMPI in Manicani and Homonhon Islands is now focused on the long-term rehabilitation and development of the islands. A new model of cooperation is being pushed by PMPI which involves different network members from various fields of expertise coming together to rehabilitate and develop the islands within three years. In turn, TAO-Pilipinas will continue to support PMPI in this three year project endeavour. (AMPS)



One group of women from Homonhon drawing their dream community during the visioning exercise part of the community validation in Barangay Inapulangan.

# TAO Organizes Metro Manila Field Study for International Course on Urban Shelter

SIXTEEN (16) SENIOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS FROM LUND UNIVERSITY, Sweden came to Manila in February to conduct a three-week field study for the Urban Shelter course: Architecture for Extreme Environments headed by Johnny Astr nd, Director for Housing and Development Management (HDM). A majority of the foreign students come from various universities in Europe (Spain, Portugal, Germany, Finland, Austria, Sweden), Asia (China), and North America (USA, Canada) and attended the Urban Shelter course as part of a student exchange program in Lund University.

TAO-Pilipinas' Faith Varona organized the program for the students' local visits. The field study in Manila programme included interviews, lectures and site visits to various public (Smokey Mountain Resettlement project in Manila, Gawad Kalinga in Baseco, NHA-Karangalan Village in Pasig, QC HURA Homes 2 in Vasra and Bistekville II in Fairview) and private housing projects (DMCI Cedar Crest Medium-rise Housing in Taguig, Pinma Sofia Bellevue Condominium in Tandang Sora, SHECC Phase 2 in Pasay) among others. Lecturers invited to share about housing and urban development in the Philippines included the National Housing Authority, TAO-Pilipinas, University of the Philippines College of Architecture, private developers (Pinma and DMCI), and the local government of Quezon City. The National Housing Authority (NHA) and Quezon City local government provided actual project study sites in Manila for the Urban Shelter course.

The National Housing Authority provided a vacant plot intended for housing government employees and informal settlers located in Pleasant Hills Subdivision, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. The local government of Quezon City provided a plot in Old Sauyo, Quezon City. The foreign students, divided into four groups, are required to come up with a neighborhood master plan and design a model medium-rise housing to complete the urban shelter course. At the end of the Manila field study in March, the four (4) groups presented their preliminary ideas for design at the NHA conference room. These ideas were further developed when they went back to Sweden.

The Urban Shelter course ended in May with the students' presentation of their final design proposals that ranged from simple clustered multi-family housing to medium scale mixed-use developments that effectively integrated social, economic, and environmental aspects with the architecture and planning in the design. Sustainability, disaster resiliency and energy efficiency were also special features that were echoed in almost all of the housing development proposals. (MFYV)



*left photo: Lund University students during their site visit at Smokey Mountain Resettlement project in Balut, Tondo, Manila. (Photo by Johnny Astr nd)*  
*right photo: A scaled model of one of the design proposals of the students during their final presentation for their Pleasant Hills Subdivision project.*

## Three PUP-CAFA Students Complete the 2014 YP Summer Internship

THIS SUMMER, TAO-PILIPINAS ACCEPTED THREE student-interns from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Architecture and Fine Arts (PUP-CAFA). The interns were Erika Jane Sabas, Wilma Sy, and Mary Mae Jeremias who applied to the YP Summer Internship Program to fulfill the on-the-job training requirement in PUP-CAFA. Their internship work, which began last April 7, is part of the continuing partnership between PUP-CAFA and TAO's YP Program.

Despite most of the technical staff of TAO doing fieldwork in Tacloban City, the interns were still mentored by a technical staff thru Arch. Beryl Baybay who has rejoined TAO for part-time work engagements. The interns did various work ranging from research to drafting to preparing cost estimates and specification documents. They also assisted the TAO staff in preparing the workshop tools needed for the community action planning process that was conducted in Tacloban City. Particular tasks were also assigned to the interns. Erika did illustrations for a bamboo construction manual; Wilma prepared technical drawings, cost

estimates and specification documents; and Mary Mae was assigned to do research on socialized housing projects and land research.

The performance of the three student-interns was regularly evaluated by Arch. Baybay and their final evaluation was given upon the completion of the required 200 working hours last May 20. YP Program Deputy Director likewise gave each of the interns a one-of-one assessment of their internship work and issued their certificates of completion. (AMPS)



*The three PUP-CAFA student-interns (from left to right: Erika Jane Sabas, Wilma Sy, and Mary Mae Jeremias).*

## Memories from MASAGANA: UP-TFAers Conduct Art Workshop for Children

*Bernadette Ereñeta of UP-TFA recounts their organization's outreach activity with children in a resettlement community in Angat, Bulacan.*

ON FEBRUARY 22, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines Task Force Arki (UP-TFA), in cooperation with TAO-Pilipinas, spent an afternoon conducting an arts and crafts workshop dubbed "Halina't Maglikha" for the children of the MASAGANA Community in Angat, Bulacan.

UP-TFA is a socio-civic and service-oriented organization within the UP College of Architecture that responds to the needs of blighted and underprivileged communities using architectural and design solutions. In addition to this, it routinely organizes outreach activities with such communities in order to expose its members to the realities of poverty and underdevelopment in the country and learn from the people it is determined to serve.

The day began at noon time with lunch provided by the organization. UP-TFA members and children from the community ate together and bonded. Some members even assisted the youngest participants with their meals. As soon as lunch

was finished, the arts and crafts workshop commenced. Members of the organization distributed kits containing all the materials needed for the day's projects while a handful of members demonstrated the step by step how-to's of the different craft projects. The craft projects were varied and the participants enjoyed creating origami animals and insects, stars, boats, and airplanes, as well as hand bound and decorated notebooks for school.

In between the arts and crafts activities, UP-TFAers moderated some games to keep the kids awake and active in the midst of the sweltering heat. Quiz games like Pinoy Henyo tested the wits of the kids, who proved themselves to be little geniuses in their own right by correctly guessing the mystery words within seconds. Cheering games like Hip, Hip, Hooray! brought up the children's energy levels and enthusiasm.

Members also organized some icebreaker activities in order to get to know the kids on a more personal



*UP-TFAers teach the children of MASAGANA Community how to create handbound notebooks from scratch papers.*

level and develop closer bonds with them. In one activity, the children were asked to write down their wishes on strips of paper, which were later fashioned into stars and attached to a wish mobile. The children shared their wishes and most, if not all the members, were deeply moved by the contents of the children's wishes and dreams.

The day ended with an awarding ceremony that recognized and thanked the kids for their enthusiastic participation in the day's events. More giveaways were handed out to the kids and all of the task force members said goodbye to their newfound friends. UP-TFA Chairperson Paola Santos thanked the head of the MASAGANA Community for their warm welcome on behalf of the organization.

Indeed, it was an afternoon well spent.



*Part of the arts and crafts workshop is teaching the children origami or the art of paper folding.*



*The organizers of the arts and crafts workshop with the participants from MASAGANA Community in Angat, Bulacan.*

# Build Change Shares Lessons in Post-disaster Reconstruction

THE WORLD BANK IN THE PHILIPPINES INVITED SHELTER agencies, NGOs and community-based organizations in a presentation titled “Disaster Resilient Housing and Economic Development” on March 18, 2014 at the WB Office in Taguig City. The guest speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Hausler Strand, a skilled mason and engineer, who is also the CEO and founder of Build Change, a non-profit organization that design-builds disaster-resilient housing. Dr. Strand shared her organization’s experience in implementing a homeowner-driven post-disaster reconstruction program in developing countries. Build Change has worked on developing this approach particularly in Haiti after the destructive 2010 earthquake, as well as in India, China, and Indonesia. The World Bank sees that lessons from Build Change’s reconstruction program can be applied in the citywide upgrading and relocation housing projects for informal settler families.

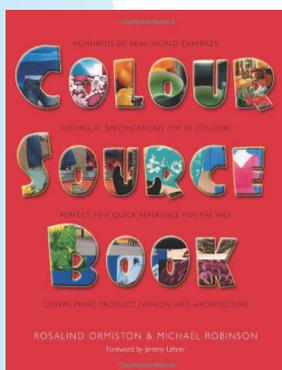
Dr. Strand’s presentation focused on how family or homeowner-driven retrofitting is a much better approach to rebuilding than providing donor-driven transitional shelters and contractor-driven resettlement housing. Their experience have shown that engaging affected families in the rebuilding and providing them with technical assistance along with conditional cash transfers

have resulted to disaster-resilient houses and job generation for locals. The overall cost for rebuilding is likewise lower when it is the families that lead because of lessened opportunities for corruption. Poor quality construction is avoided because the financing provided for the rebuilding of their homes also serves as the incentive for safe construction.

An open forum followed her presentation. Many were interested in how the Build Change approach can be potentially applied to social housing and the Post-Yolanda reconstruction program in the Philippines. The success of the homeowner driven approach, according to Dr. Strand, is also tied to a strong partnership among the technical assistance provider, the financing subsidy provider and the community organizers. Trained engineers who can communicate well with community members are needed for supervision of disaster-resilient construction and the program should be well-funded so that houses will not be left unfinished. She acknowledged that these are challenges to the approach and that there are no quick solutions to the massive reconstruction needs in disaster-affected regions. Dr. Strand also shared some of their training materials and guides for seismic retrofit of houses. (GRM)

## YP Reading List

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at [www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library](http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library). You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email [lib@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:lib@tao-pilipinas.org) to schedule your visit.



Title: **Color Source Book**  
Authors: **Rosalind Ormiston** and **Michael Robinson**  
Publisher: **Flame Tree Publishing (2007)**

This book is a handy guide for designers dealing with colors. It is like having a swatch of colors in book form. The book tackles the theory of color allotting one whole section to discuss concepts like color wheel, complementary colors, and web colors among other things. It also discusses the contribution of scientists such as Sir Isaac Newton and artists such as Leon Battista Alberti and Albert H. Munsell in the advancement of color theory. The most useful part of the book is its section on the different kinds of colors. This book gives 92 color samples and gives each sample a detailed definition and background in terms of history and culture. Each color sample is also given its corresponding technical information and common color combinations which is very useful for graphic artists and print designers.

Overall, if you are a layman who just needs technical information on colors, this book would suffice. It is easy to read and comes with beautiful illustrations for better understanding of the different colors. You do not need to read the whole book to get the information that you need. The background information that accompanies each color is an added value that artists, designers, and individuals who like colors will find interesting and very useful. (AMPS)



Gloryrose Dy is a 28-year old Davao City-based architect who was part of the YP Interns batch 2009 and TAO HSE program staff in 2010. She has since set up her own organization called Switotwins Digital Storytelling Philippines, a social enterprise that she co-founded with her twin sister. Switotwins aims to provide a venue for people to express their talents in different fields of art including writing, animating stories, voice recording and video editing. Gloryrose shares with us her personal reflection and thoughts on the architect's social responsibility.

### The Architect's Role in Rebuilding People's Lives

I WAS BORN DURING THE HEIGHT OF PEOPLE POWER I. Months before my birth, my mom, with me and my twin sister in her womb, led the people in the small city in the Visayas called Dumaguete City, to join the national efforts to stop martial law. My mom believed that the efforts of the small provincial city which was a fraction of the nation's voice can bring a huge impact in the society's call against social injustice. She believed that small passionate actions can be bigger with much determination and that someone should take the lead in this.

Years later, my family transferred to the wonderful island of Mindanao. The story of our relocation was quite an irony. My father, with his dream to improve our living space, loaned a huge amount of money from the bank to own a house. Unfortunately, it was impossible to pay so the bank had to retrieve our house. We lived there, in our own house, as "squatters" for a time until we finally decided to go to Mindanao and find new opportunities.

It was in Mindanao that I saw a more cruel social issue than being a squatter, and introduced to me the term "bakwit", or Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). These are our fellowmen who lost their homes due to

armed conflicts and calamities and have not regained hope in the process. I was also introduced to other relevant social issues such as the need to preserve indigenous cultures in Mindanao.

Living in Mindanao opened my sensibilities to the extreme level and drove me to have the passion to fight more for social justice. However, what made me really found a social enterprise, together with my twin sister, was the hope to help not only Mindanao but the entire country as well. And the emergence of our organization was very timely when calamities were speedily becoming perennial.

In 2009, Ondoy killed over 100 people and affected almost 340,000. In 2011, Sendong hit Cagayan de Oro City and left 957 people dead and my family displaced from our original settlement. In 2012, Pablo swiped away areas in Davao Province and in 2014, the Philippines was devastated by not one but two major disasters. It can be said that the fuelled need to have more architects and design-build organizations who sincerely want to help people recover from disaster is an understatement. Suddenly, there was a demand for people who care.

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"TINGOG SA INGA BATA" (CHILDREN'S VOICE), A SWITOTWINS DIGITAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOP IN NAPALICO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ARAKAN, NORTH COTABATO, DEC 12 - 13, 2013. ORGANIZED BY UP OMEGA ALPHA ALUMNI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SWITOTWINS INC.

Switotwins, Inc. teaches the children about digital storytelling in the off grid community of Arakan, North Cotabato.



Switotwins, Inc. through its project, *Istoryang Inamiga* Switotwins Digital Storytelling Philippines, empowers the women in the community in the fight against violence of women and children.

## Architect's Role... (From page 9)



*IDPs in Zamboanga. Switotwins, Inc. produces a documentary about the impact of the armed conflicts in Zamboanga to children. (Photos by Jonathan Olarte)*

But what was also very stressing was that as the demand for architects and designers to help in emergencies increased, most designers know of architecture as something that has to be imposed. This really bothered me a lot. Because one thing's for sure, in my short experience with TAO Pilipinas, a women-led technical organization that believes in the practice of participatory design, what I learned is that design for the community should not be imposed. Instead, design should and will always be participatory because designing is a form of nation building.

That is why, for me, community development is very important in the process of providing shelter for people who lost homes. It is very important for architects to not just design and impose their designs to people, but rather, immerse themselves with the community with only a pen and paper (literally) and ask the people what they need.

Considering this, it is also very important for architects to partner with community organizers to be able to fully be involved in the community at the onset



*Gloryrose Dy joins Earth Village Project in creating an Earthship Biotechure in Barangay Batug, Dulag, Leyte, one of the areas which survived Typhoon Haiyan. Switotwins, Inc. is currently drafting an architectural tour on alternative construction to be set in Dulag, Leyte.*

of their first interaction with the community. This way, as designers, we can have the right rapport with our stakeholders and have a good relationship during the participatory design stages.

The process of designing together can be very therapeutic especially for people who lost their homes and the exchange of ideas and concepts can lead to better community engagement and even lasting recovery. After all, architecture is not just a profession of merely designing and building but rather it is a profession that drives designers to help in the process of rebuilding people's lives.

While I was doing my first talk in front of experienced and renowned architects last December 7, 2013 at the "UAP Design Forum 2013: Solutions for Safer Communities", a forum organized by UAP Emergency Architects, someone from the group told me "So, you are not just an architect, you are a psychologist?". I said "No" because I am not a doctor. But if doctors such as psychologists are known to help a lot of people, then I would proudly say that yes, architects can be the psychologists of the built environment.

Because, yes, I am an architect, and I can help rebuild people's lives for lasting recovery.

*Editor's note: Through Switotwins, Gloryrose has organized various digital storytelling workshops and tours in Zamboanga City, North Cotabato, and Tacloban City. More information about their projects can be viewed online at [switotwins.com](http://switotwins.com). They are also featured in the [Google Business Group](#) success stories.*

## Job Openings at TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

### Research and Publication Program Director

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general guidance of the Executive Director, the incumbent shall:

1. Report directly to the Executive Director and work with other TAO program directors.
2. Develop and conduct at least one research project per year for TAO-Pilipinas that would support its vision towards sustainable human settlements on topics including but not limited to:
  - Sustainable human settlements (social housing, land tenure, gender)
  - Climate change and disaster risk reduction and management issues
  - Heritage conservation and/or preservation
  - Community-based GIS
  - Alternative building materials and technology and self-help construction
3. Manage the maintenance, development, and production of regular TAO-Pilipinas publications and the publications in print or digital format of research outputs and popular materials.
4. Undertake the maintenance and documentation/cataloguing of books, serials, etc. under the TAO Resource Center and the establishment of Community-based Resource Center.
5. Monitor the maintenance and development of the TAO website and social media sites (blog, twitter, etc.).
6. Prepare RP program reports and project proposals.
7. Ensure the delivery of program target outputs towards intended/desired outcome or impact.
8. Respond to the requests from other organizations on RP-related concerns.
9. Represent TAO-Pilipinas at meetings involving RP projects.
10. Responsible for disbursement and allocation of Misereor Petty Cash Fund and shall also perform other relevant tasks (that may be assigned by the Executive Director) aligned with the overall vision of the organization.

#### Qualifications:

1. University degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering or Environmental and/or Urban Regional Planning; advanced university degree in Human Settlements, Community or Environmental Planning or experience of equivalent nature is an advantage. Knowledge in the use of project monitoring and evaluation (PME) is required.
2. Preferably with **at least five (5) years of significant work experience** in the technical disciplines and research work. Must have experience working for non-governmental organizations or in a similar working environment. Experience in working with urban poor housing-related issues is an advantage. Experience in direct community interaction related to human settlements and environmental issues, organizing, and facilitating workshops is desirable.
3. Fluency in written and spoken English and Filipino.

### Organization, Networking, and Advocacy Deputy Program Director

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general guidance of the Executive Director, the incumbent shall:

1. Under organizational consolidation and strengthening:
  - Coordinate the finalization of TAO Administrative Policies and Operations Manual.
  - Implement and monitor the compliance to TAO APO Manual.
  - Implement staff development activities in coordination with ET program.
  - Build-up TAO portfolio of services, programs and projects for accreditation and fund sourcing.
  - Identify potential sources of funds for TAO programs and projects.
  - Support program directors in funding proposals preparation and other fund sourcing activities.
2. Under networking and advocacy:
  - Represent TAO-Pilipinas in network meetings and actively participate in relevant network activities.
  - Establish and maintain linkages with partner organizations and other stakeholders for the implementation of project targets and/or facilitate support for community partners needs beyond the TAO-Pilipinas' competence.
  - Expand network with strategic actors to support TAO advocacy in sustainable human settlements development.
  - Promote TAO approaches/ methodologies, services, resources (publications and researches), and training programs.

#### Qualifications:

1. University degree in Organizational Development or Business Administration or experience of equivalent nature.
2. Preferably **three (3) years experience in a non-government organization** or similar working environment. Experience working in urban poor housing-related issues essential. Experience in direct community interaction related to human settlements development is desirable. Proficient in funding proposal preparation and familiarity of the procedures and project cycles of international donors/funders is an advantage.
3. Fluency in English and Tagalog with excellent writing ability essential (especially when it comes to writing funding proposal).

### Human Settlements and Environment Program Staff

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general guidance of the HSE Program Director, the incumbent shall:

1. Assist in the delivery of direct technical assistance to target groups through participatory planning, design, construction services and management.
2. Assist in the preparation of tools and materials for the conduct of the people's planning process.
3. Assist in the conduct of land research, site identification, assessment and selection.
4. Assist in the conduct of workshops and consultations with communities for people's plan formulation.
5. Attend meetings, consultations with non-government organizations, academe, and concerned government agencies for planning, design and implementation of project/s assigned.
6. Prepare CAD drawings and 3D images of people's plan/s and other assigned projects.
7. Undertake project data consolidation and filing, report writing, in support to HSE Project Documentation.
8. Prepare and submit to HSE Program Director periodic project briefs, updates, and reports.
9. Recommend to the Program Director changes or actions necessary for the smooth and effective implementation of project/s assigned.
10. Monitor projected outcomes of assigned projects.
11. Perform other duties/tasks that may be assigned by the HSE Program Director/Executive Director.

#### Qualifications:

1. University degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering is required. Advanced degree in Human Settlements, Community or Environmental Planning or experience of equivalent nature is desirable.
2. At least two (2) years work experience as a professional, work experience in a non-government organization, working on urban poor housing issues is desirable. Knowledge of community-based participatory planning and design processes, relating to human settlements issues is an advantage.
3. Fluency in written and spoken English and Filipino with excellent technical drafting ability essential.

To learn the full details of the job vacancies, please download the terms of reference at [www.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.tao-pilipinas.org). All applicants interested for the abovementioned positions should read the TOR first before applying and follow all given instructions when submitting the following documents: 1) Application Letter including preferred salary; 2) Curriculum Vitae; 3) Two (2) recommendation letters from former employers or professors. Email the requirements to tao\_phil@yahoo.com or fax it to (632) 4410998.