



A view of the deck of BRP Batak AT299 as it approaches Brgy. Buenavista in Manicani Island to unload two concrete mixers which will be used for the construction of the evacuation centers. The crates of concrete roof tiles on the foreground are bound for Homonhon Island. Photo by: Verna Sarraga

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## Philippine Navy's freight mission for Project Pagbangon a success

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY'S BRP BATAK AT299 LED THE shipment of construction materials for Project Pagbangon Shelter and Evacuation Center in Manicani and Homonhon Islands. The cargo vessel was able to transport 3,057 pieces of micro concrete roof tiles (packed in 153 crates), 4 one-bagger cement mixers, cement bags, rebars and other building materials required for the construction of houses in Barangay Canawayon, Homonhon Island, Guiuan. The mission was spearheaded by Lt. Ariel Constantino PN, the Commanding Officer of AT299. Along with 18 Navy officers, they managed to successfully dock at the ports of mainland Guiuan and the two islands. They were joined by two representatives from TAO-Pilipinas, the implementing partner for the Shelter and Evacuation Center component of Project Pagbangon.

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## Preparations underway to hold 2016 YP Workshop on Social housing in Cagayan de Oro City

AT THE START OF THE YEAR, MEETINGS WERE held to discuss the possibility of doing the 2016 Young Professionals (YP) Workshop in Social Housing in Cagayan de Oro City. The first meeting was with Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) in La Breza Hotel last January 4. Ana Oliveros, president of SHFC, proposed the idea of holding the YP Workshop in Cagayan de Oro with the engineering students of Xavier University. She wanted Xavier University

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“One of the biggest mistakes that architects make is that they tend to deal with problems that only interest other architects... The biggest challenge is to engage with the important non-architectural issues - poverty, pollution, congestion, segregation - and apply our specific knowledge.”

- Alejandro Aravena, Chilean architect and 2016 Pritzker Prize recipient



# Philippine Navy's... (From page 1)



Porters haul the cement mixer through a makeshift ramp.

Project Pagbangon is a post-disaster rehabilitation initiative of Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI) in the islands of Manicani and Homonhon. Last December 2015, the shelter assistance for Manicani Island came into full circle and 40 concrete houses on safer areas were built. The project is now gearing towards the construction of 4 evacuation centers in Manicani, plus 80 houses and 8 evacuation centers in Homonhon.

At the start of the year, the first four barangays (Canawayon, Pagbabangnan, Bitaugan and Culasi) in Homonhon were selected for the first

phase implementation of house construction. There have also been positive developments concerning land and the issuance of permits for the construction of the evacuation center in Barangay Hamorawon in Manicani.

## Request of assistance

The involvement of the Phil. Navy in Project Pagbangon happened when TAO-Pilipinas' President, Professor Laura David, requested for assistance to transport building materials for shelter construction in Homonhon Island through a referral from former Senator Leticia Shahani. Fortunately, Flag officer in Command, Phil. Navy Vice Admiral



Unloading of the remaining construction materials and equipment in Homonhon. Photo source: Erick Arcangel

Caesar Taccad granted the request and initially scheduled the mission on December 2015. There were some delays encountered but the mission pushed through come February through close coordination with Lt. Ermil Nasayao, PN, Operations Officer of Naval Forces Central Headquarters.

## Loading of shipment and other challenges

On February 9, 2016, BRP Batak AT299 was able to dock at Guiuan Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). Loading was a bit of a challenge for the porters because they had to build makeshift ramps and pass through another vessel full of cement. The hauling and loading of materials started early in the morning but finished by night time already. The Navy helped out by directing the proper area to place the materials and by securing the cement bags from getting wet with salt water and rain. They also strapped every material safely to minimize displacement and movement.

AT299 set out for the two islands the following day. It was also a challenge for the Navy to dock on the unpaved wharfs of Manicani and Homonhon, and considering the strong winds and current. The vessel had

to re-approach Barangay Buenavista in Manicani thrice before quickly unloading two cement mixers intended for the construction of evacuation centers. At around high noon, AT299 arrived at Barangay Canawayon in Homonhon but waited for the proper timing to dock the vessel. The Navy sent out crews on rubber boat to survey the area. Although a tedious task, it became fruitful after a few hours. By 2:30 pm, they were able to dock on the wharf and were ready to unload the remaining materials. The vessel was welcomed by the shelter beneficiaries who were to receive the cargoes. The unloading in Homonhon was completed by 9:05 pm and the crew generously gave the porters (shelter beneficiaries) coffee and rice porridge.

## Off to the next port

It took two days to haul and ship the cargoes to the two islands. There were unexpected challenges but the task was successfully accomplished. By February 11, BRP Batak AT299 set sail towards Ormoc City for the next port of mission. (VLPS)



The Philippine Navy crew of BRP Batak AT299 led by Lt. Ariel Constantino. Photo source: Erick Arcangel



## Preparations... (From page 1)

to be able to provide technical assistance to the urban poor communities of Cagayan de Oro City through its Engineering Resource Center. The workshop will be funded by SHFC.

Following up on SHFC's initiative, Architects Geraldine Matabang and Angelus Sales of TAO's Education and Training (ET) Program flew to Cagayan de Oro City last January 15. Together with Atty. Junefe Payot of SHFC, they met with the College of Engineering of Xavier University to discuss the YP Workshop. Present in the meeting were Janet Lumayag of SHFC CDO office, Engr. Dexter Lo of Xavier University Engineering Resource Center, Dean Hercules Gascon, dean of the College of Engineering, and Bob Flores of Xavier Ecoville Project. The representatives of Xavier University were very open to the opportunity of learning about participatory planning and design through the YP Workshop.

Aside from meeting Xavier University representatives, the ET Program also met with

local government officials of Cagayan de Oro City and representatives from some communities assisted by the city government. During the meeting, SHFC and TAO-Pilipinas discussed the plans for the YP Workshop and how the community will be involved in the workshop. Present in the meeting for the LGU were Cynthia Rosales of Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor CDO office, Vern Fernandez of Task Force Shelter under the Estate Management Division of the LGU, Gina Jabol, and Zizen Justalero, both community mobilizers. Representatives of Gusa Hillside United Neighborhood Association, Inc. (GHUNAI) and Balacanas Consolacion Urban Poor Association, Inc. (BACUPAI) were also present in the meeting. The two communities were considered as possible immersion sites for the workshop but after a site visit the following day, several issues arose that made them not feasible to be immersion sites.

A couple of faculty members and seven students of Xavier University were



*Representatives from Xavier University gets a briefing from Ms. Janet Lumayag of SHFC CDO office during the site visit in Brgy. Consolacion.*

able to join the site visit. It served for the students as an initial exposure to the kind of groundwork carried out when doing participatory community planning and development. The site visit also gave SHFC the chance to assess the possibility of the communities to join their Community Mortgage Program. At the end of the site visit, a short de-briefing was conducted to process the students' experience in the community.

In preparing for the conduct of a YP Workshop in CDO, TAO has been in coordination with SHFC and Xavier University. TAO has started module development for a 7-day workshop program that is scheduled to be held on

March 15 to 21, 2016. The first three days is allotted for lecture and orientation sessions and the next four days will be for the participants' community immersion activities. The expected participants of the workshop are engineering students and faculty members from Xavier University, community representatives from chosen community immersion sites, and community mobilizers.

The upcoming 2016 YP Workshop on Social Housing is hoped to set off design professionals in Cagayan de Oro City to be more involved in providing technical assistance to urban poor communities in their city. (AMPS)



*Representatives from Xavier University listen to the community leaders of Gusa Hillside United Neighborhood Association, Inc. (GHUNAI) during the site visit in Brgy. Gusa.*



## University lecture circuit continues in 2016



Dean Ted Inocencio and Arch. Lutap of PUP CAFA present the certificate of appreciation to Arch. Geraldine Matabang during their 16th PUP CAFA Lecture Series.

A FEW MORE INVITATIONS for speaking engagement in universities were received by TAO-Pilipinas at the start of the year. University of the Philippines Diliman College of Architecture Student Council (UP ASC) invited TAO as resource person for their multi-perspective discourse event entitled Agora. The Polytechnic

University of the Philippines College of Architecture and Fine Arts, on the other hand, asked TAO to speak during their 16th Annual PUP CAFA Lecture Series. In both events, Architect Geraldine Matabang of TAO's Education and Training Program gave lecture presentations.

The lecture for UP ASC's Agora, given on January 21, was about "Socially Responsible Practice of Architecture". Arch. Matabang presented how TAO-Pilipinas responds to shelter design needs of urban poor communities. Her lecture showed how a participatory approach to community planning and design was applied in a demonstration project on building disaster resilience in a flood-prone community in Tanza, Navotas City. The UP students appeared largely indifferent to the lecture presented and were not very inquisitive.

On February 15, Arch. Matabang also presented a lecture on "Building Disaster-resilient Communities" at the PUP-CAFA Lecture Series. She

discussed the concept of disaster resilience to a mixed audience of Architecture and Interior Design students. She also talked about TAO's recently-concluded post-Haiyan project, Manicani Sustainable Shelter Assistance in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The PUP students showed much interest in how post-disaster rehabilitation was being done in the island settlement and the range of interventions carried out in other Haiyan-affected areas. Some also inquired about working at TAO-Pilipinas through its internship program.

At the end of both lectures, Arch. Matabang encouraged the university students to tackle the subject of informality in their student design and research works and to directly engage with poor communities in order to understand design issues in the underserved sectors. (GRM)

## Masagana and Manicani children receive Christmas gifts from TAO friends



TAO staff and volunteers pose with the children of Masagana community along with their parents after the gift giving activity.

TAO-PILIPINAS CONTINUED ITS yearly endeavour of bringing holiday cheer to children in the communities where the organization currently has projects. Last December, friends of TAO-Pilipinas once again gave their donations to support the Christmas gift-giving activity for children. With their donations, 200 gift packs were assembled; 140 were sent to Manicani Island in Guiuan

while 60 were distributed to children in Masagana community in Angat, Bulacan.

TAO-Pilipinas likewise held a rummage sale at the office garage on December 8 and 9 to augment funds for shipping and transportation expenses. Put on sale were mostly clothing and accessories contributed by TAO staff and items donated by Starbucks Philippines.



Deceril Di Santo, a member of PROMISE, handed out the gifts to the children in the four barangays of Manicani Island.

TAO turned over the gifts for Manicani children to PROMISE (Protect Manicani Island Society), the partner PO for its shelter project in Guiuan. The gifts were distributed to children in the island's four barangays --- on December 23 in Barangay Buenavista; December 27 in Barangays Hamorawon and San Jose; and December 28 in Barangay Banaag.

The gifts for Masagana children, on the other hand, were personally delivered by TAO architects and volunteers on December 22. The community prepared a small covered space where the children gathered and presented song and dance numbers. TAO volunteers

Voltaire Tila, Audrey Esteban and Razel Robines gave gift prizes to the children who performed.

TAO-Pilipinas thanks its staff and friends who continue to support its annual gift giving activity for kids. They are Amillah Rodil, Angelus Sales, Ananeza Aban, Anna Villanueva, Arlene Lusterio, Audrey Esteban, Cecilia Del Rosario, Edric Santos, Faith Varona, Genevieve Matabang, German Avengoza, Ibay Sicam, Irene Ng Cha Ching, Joannie Tongol, Lorena Hernandez, Lee Vicmudo, Lorie Arceo, Marivic Padilla, Michelle Abon, Rhea Lyn Dealca, Rosalyn Veneracion, Verna Sarraga, and Voltaire Tila. (GRM)

# Bakas Pilipinas, National Museum host international symposium on seismic retrofit of churches



Prof. Daniel Torrealva and Arch. Roz Li with the TAO staff who attended the symposium. Photo source: Arch Roz Li

FOLLOWING THE 2013 Bohol earthquake, Bakas Pilipinas spearheaded the gathering of international experts on the preservation of heritage structures to discuss seismic retrofitting of the damaged churches of Bohol. Bakas Pilipinas is a US-based not-for-profit organization that aims to safeguard, promote, and uphold the preservation and conservation of the historic architecture and sites in the Philippines.

The Bishop of Tagbilaran, Bohol, Bishop Leonardo Yuzon Medroso remarked that Bohol was once known as the "Heritage Capital of the Philippines" because most of their churches are considered heritage churches, but after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that shook the province on October 15, 2013, it is now known to be the "Heritage Laboratory" because of the number of professionals who visit the province only to study and analyze the destroyed churches. The heritage churches in Bohol

were discovered to be most vulnerable to damages caused by earthquakes since they were constructed using unreinforced masonry (URM), and at the same time, the topography and geographic location of the Philippines are also considered as contributing factors.

To bring more awareness on the issue, Bakas Pilipinas and the National Museum held the International Symposium on Seismic Retrofit of URM Heritage Churches in the Philippines on January 13 to 14, 2015. The symposium was organized in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), University of Santo Tomas Graduate School-Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET), International Council on Monuments and Sites-Philippines (ICOMOS Philippines), National Museum of the Philippines, Diocese of Tagbilaran, and

Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The symposium showcased 19 interconnecting topics, including four case studies, which relates to the current state of the heritage churches in the Philippines, especially in Bohol. These were presented by 15 field experts from Italy, Turkey, USA, India, Peru, UK, and the Philippines. The presentations were divided into four sessions, covering a broad range of topics that were informative and interesting. Discussed were a brief explanation of the topography of Bohol, failure mechanisms of URM structures following a seismic activity and its causes, data gathering techniques and proper identification of materials to be used during retrofitting of URM structures, global and local issues, innovations, and codes and guidelines about retrofitting of structures with URM.

The symposium was open to and attended by both technical and non-technical people like architects, engineers, students, NGOs, and the clergy, as primary stakeholders, among others. Even though most presentations were highly technical, the speakers were able to explain their topics in a way that

everyone in the audience would understand.

Overall, the experts concluded that the best way to protect and preserve the URM heritage churches in the Philippines is by proper and continued maintenance. They also emphasized the fact that URM structures differ from one another, prompting a second reminder that retrofitting URM structures calls for a series of studies and research in order to avoid having a reverse effect on the integrity of the structure. Finally, according to the Association of the Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP), review and revision of the national codes and guidelines on retrofitting to improve the seismic performance of a structure, is a priority. They are hosting a series of seminars to give further attention to the topic.

Apart from the churches of Bohol, we have a number of heritage churches throughout the country. Unfortunately at present, most are deemed to be undergoing both external and internal damages but remain unattended to. Bakas Pilipinas continues to raise awareness about historic preservation; the symposium program and speakers' presentations may be viewed online at [www.bakaspilipinas.wordpress.com](http://www.bakaspilipinas.wordpress.com). (MLPH)



# Public briefing on the Paris Agreement

“THE PARIS AGREEMENT is a hopeful and achievable plan”, stated Atty. Antonio La Viña, Dean of the Ateneo School of Government and the lead negotiator of the Philippines in the 21st Council of Parties (COP 21) held on November 30, 2015 to December 12, 2015 in Paris, France. He was the speaker for the “Public Briefing on the Paris Agreement: Its Implications for the Philippines and the Urban Sector” organized by the Philippine-MISEREOR Partnership Inc. (PMPI) Special Working Group on Urban Livability together with the Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies Inc. (PHILSSA) and the John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCICSI) held on February 3, 2016 in the San Alberto Hurtado Hall of the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

The objective of the forum was to discuss the implication of the Philippine Action Plan, disseminate information about the Paris Agreement and enable the participation of urban sector in its implementation. Auxiliary Bishop of Manila Broderick Pabillo, PMPI Convener and head of the Working Group on Urban Livability, welcomed the participants. Ms. Maricel Genzola of Foundation for the Development of the Urban

Poor (FDUP) hosted the forum.

Dean La Viña noted that the Paris Agreement was the first that binded both developed and developing countries on the issue of climate change. The signing of the agreement is targeted at April 2016 and on the same year for its ratification in the Philippines. The agreement shall be reviewed initially by 2030, followed by a series of reviews every 5 years. Dean La Viña also mentioned how the 158-member Philippine delegation worked 20-hours daily on the negotiations and made sure the country was well heard in the negotiations.

The Paris Agreement is deemed important to the Philippines because the country is among the top 5 countries that are most vulnerable to the extreme effects of climate change. Small island states with similar geographic location and topography share this vulnerability. Dean La Viña pointed out that with a business-as-usual scenario there is a high probability that an increase of 2 degrees Celsius in global temperature will take place in 20 to 30 years. Due to the Philippines’ location and natural characteristics, such increase will likely have doubled or tripled effects and we will feel a 5 to 10



*Most of the audience in the public briefing is composed of community representatives from Metro Manila with the majority coming from Navotas and Malabon.*

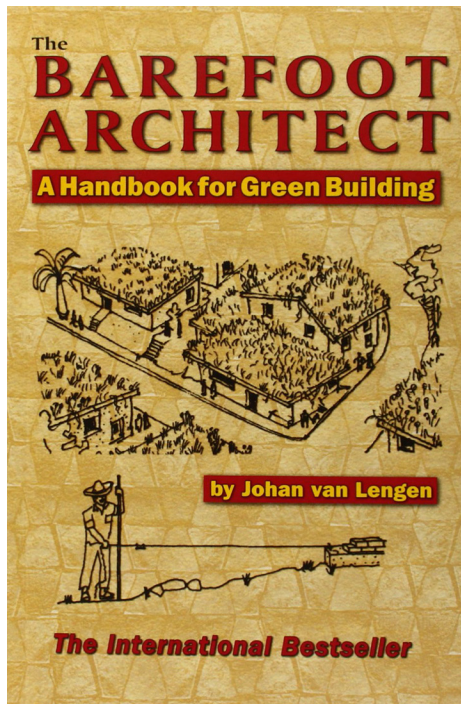
degree Celsius increase. Consequently, the rising temperature shall greatly affect agriculture and food security; the urban poor, especially coastal communities, because of sea level rise combined with strong typhoons; and health due to mosquito-born diseases.

During the course of the negotiations in the COP, Dean La Viña noted that the Philippines pushed for limiting global temperature increase to only 1.5 degrees Celsius and advocated four key issues, namely (1) long-term temperature goal; (2) human rights and ecosystems; (3) support for financing, capacity development, and technology development and transfer; and (4) losses and damages. Climate justice was a strong call during the negotiations. Major carbon-emitting countries were called to provide grants to the most vulnerable countries, along with a facility for claims of losses and damages by countries which are

affected by the extreme effects of climate change.

The discussions during the forum also underscored the rationale for urban poor sector participation in implementing a climate change action plan. Dean La Viña simply explained that that the participation of the urban poor is the best expression of refusal to contribute to the death of another member of the community. In closing, Dr. Anna Marie A. Karaos, Program Head of the Urban Poverty and Governance Program of JJCICSI reiterated that it is the duty of the Filipino people to help in the implementation of this agreement. She also emphasized the significance of the 2016 elections in achieving the agreement’s ratification which is targeted within the year. Overall, the Paris Agreement was not as perfect as expected but it paved way for steps towards saving our only home. (AUS)

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.



*The Barefoot Architect* is a good guidebook for people who want to build their own homes. It is able to explain in simpler terms some of the technical ideas related to planning, design, and construction. It is not

Title: **The Barefoot Architect: a Handbook for Green Building**

Authors: **Johan van Lengen**

Publisher: **Shelter Publications (2008)**

tedious to read even if the book is a bit thick because it is filled with illustrations that accompany the concepts and ideas presented.

The book is organized and divided into chapters which you can separately read, without having to read the whole book. It guides the readers in the whole process of building not just a house but a community as well, with tips on how to design markets, schools, roads, bridges, and other public spaces. It also features simple and traditional building practices that do not require sophisticated tools and materials. It respects the vernacular architecture found in varying climatic regions and uses it as a take off point for discussing design concepts. The book also made sure to give planning and design tips suited in humid

tropics, dry tropics, and temperate regions.

The best thing about the book is that it provides easy-to-understand information. Readers can learn about building practices from other parts of the world, such as examples of traditional building materials in Latin America. Architecture students who are still in the process of learning different design theories and construction practices will find the book useful. It covers not only space planning but utilities, construction, and building materials as well. The book is definitely not a waste of the reader's time. Its content is useful especially for builders, carpenters, masons, and homeowners who want to go into self-help architecture. (AMPS)



This book is a follow-up to the 2007 book, *Design for the Other 90%*. Just like its precursor, *Design with the Other 90% Cities* showcases the profiles of design solutions to meet the needs of the traditionally underserved sectors, but this time focuses on examples of innovations in rapidly growing cities with expanding informal populations.

Title: **Design with the Other 90% Cities**

Author: **Cynthia E. Smith, et.al.**

Publisher: **Smithsonian Institution (2011)**

The essays and interviews at the beginning of the book make a compelling presentation of how the world is fast urbanizing. They also build a strong case of how as cities attract more poor people, opportunity for livelihood and innovation is likewise multiplied. The book substantiates this with several examples of people-led efforts to improve their living conditions and build their resilience in cities.

The second half of the book is devoted to the profiles of sixty innovative solutions addressing a wide range of urban issues including urban planning, affordable housing, water and sanitation, and sustainable transport networks. Participatory planning processes are also highlighted in many of the infrastructure projects featured. Majority of the innovations are from the Global South, in Latin American and African cities; a couple are from the Philippines. Among

the more famous projects included are Elemental's Incremental Housing in Chile and Mexico; the San Rafael-Barrio Unido upgrading project in Caracas, Venezuela; and the Medellin Metrocable and Integral Urban Project in Colombia.

The book is not only an inspiring collection of ingenious design solutions and but more importantly, offers insights on how meaningful collaboration with people can generate new ideas and create innovations even with very limited resources. The book is also an invitation for today's design professionals to build a deeper awareness about informality and learn to design with communities in order to create more inclusive cities. (GRM)





# YP INTERNSHIP

## TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Program

The YP Program of TAO-Pilipinas is now accepting applications for the 2016 Summer Internship. We are looking for senior students of architecture/engineering/planning, dedicated individuals who are open to learn and practice alternative development approaches and with a strong inclination towards community development work.

Interns will be part of the TAO technical team and are expected to work on various TAO projects and perform both office-based (e.g. CAD drafting, model-making, cost-estimating) and community-based (e.g. field research, workshop documentation, construction monitoring) assignments.

### Eligibility:

- At least 18 years old;
- At least in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of study in architecture, civil engineering, or environmental planning;
- Maintains an outstanding academic performance and with good writing and research skills.

### Application Requirements:

1. Complete resume with ID photo
2. One-page personal statement (specifying the objective of the internship and how it fits within your career goals)
3. Two letters of support from current or past professors attesting to the strengths of the student
4. Optional: portfolio or samples of student work/projects undertaken

### Submission:

Email complete application requirements to:

[yp@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:yp@tao-pilipinas.org)

Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview.

For more information about the internship position, please contact Arch. Angelus Sales, Deputy Program Director for YP, at 4410998 / 4367301.

### About TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

TAO-Pilipinas is a women-led, non-profit NGO that assists urban and rural poor communities in the physical planning, development, and management of their communities. Its Young Professionals (YP) Program facilitates the mentorship of interns and mobilization of volunteers who are willing to go into community-based technical assistance. For more information about TAO-Pilipinas, please visit: [www.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.tao-pilipinas.org)



“ We run the risk of becoming museums of young people that have everything but without knowing what to do with these... What you think, you feel and you do... offer yourselves passionately and honestly to the great work of renewing your society and helping to build a better world. ”

Pope Francis' message to the Filipino youth