



The Caga-ut resettlement site as viewed from the roof deck of the evacuation center in Caga-ut. (Photo by: Ma. Lorena Hernandez)

Feature Articles:

House extension and maintenance workshop with Caga-ut beneficiaries

Student volunteers plant bamboo and vetiver in Masagana site

Notes from the Field: Construction of shelters and evacuation centers

Hazards mapping and assessment workshop in Tandang Sora

Salcedo LSP workshop series

TAO staff development session

Annual TAO Christmas gift-giving activity

Network Activities:

Project activities for Financial Enablers Project started
PLCPD Conference on Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Internship Postscript:

Thoughts from Verl Arvin Dela Cruz

YP Reading List:

Marine Reserves in the Philippines
by Angel C. Alcalá

Manual on Facilitating Participatory Research by IBON Foundation

TAO conducts house extension and maintenance workshop with Caga-ut beneficiaries

TAO-PILIPINAS CONTINUED TO CONDUCT CAPABILITY-building activities with housing beneficiaries for the Christian Aid-supported post-Yolanda shelter assistance project in Salcedo, Eastern Samar. Midway into the construction of houses in Barangay Caga-ut, the 23 housing beneficiaries were mobilized to attend a two-day workshop on how to extend and maintain the permanent shelter units they'll be living in.

Pls. turn to page 2.

Student volunteers plant bamboo and vetiver grass to arrest soil erosion in Masagana site

THE SOIL STABILIZATION PROJECT FOR the Masagana resettlement site in Angat, which began its initial planning back in August, had its planting phase successfully come to a close. TAO-Pilipinas coordinated with UP Task Force Arki (UP TFA), National Service Training Program (NSTP)

Pls. turn to page 7.

“The legitimacy of law is kept float by the underlying ethical values of a society. We should not wait until the ‘sea of ethics’ runs dry, nor should we allow the navy captain to altogether dismantle the ‘lighthouse’ that gets in his way.”

- Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales, Ombudsman of the Philippines and 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee.

TAO conducts house... (From page 1)

The workshop, held on November 29-30, 2016 at the Caga-ut Health Center, is intended to provide the beneficiaries with the proper inputs to guide future house extension works and to ensure that the features of the structure remain disaster-resilient. (During the workshop, it was noted however that extension works will not be part of the shelter assistance project but an undertaking that beneficiaries themselves would have to shoulder.)

Caga-ut barangay officials were on hand to set-up the venue and to help in the workshop preparations. TAO-Pilipinas also invited Engineer Raymundo Mendoza who did the structural design of the Caga-ut shelter prototype, to provide some technical inputs on house extension.

Disaster-resilient design

The workshop began with recalling lessons from a previous workshop held last June when the beneficiaries took part in participatory shelter design activities. In a focus group discussion, the participants were asked to pinpoint which features of the Caga-ut shelter prototype

made it disaster-resilient. The beneficiaries mentioned the safe location of the houses; its concrete foundation, posts and beams with adequate steel reinforcement and proper concrete mix; the hip roof design; the firewall placed in duplex units; and the lot setbacks that are not built-up.

Arch. Angel Sales of TAO-Pilipinas completed the discussion with a short lecture presentation, a review of disaster-resilient design and construction principles. This was followed by a dialogue with Ms. Isabel Abella, the Municipal Planning and Development Officer of Salcedo, on the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement for the resettlement project.

MOA stipulations

Ms. Abella reassured beneficiaries already have security of tenure with the LGU working for them to have individually titled lots. But she also emphasized the conditions of the resettlement project, including restrictions on selling the lots and setting guidelines for allowable house extension works. (Vertical extension of the house is not permitted.) Ms. Abella urged the beneficiaries to



Shelter beneficiaries are asked to make 3d scaled models of the house extensions they are planning to do with their core housing unit.

organize themselves and form a homeowners association which the LGU requires.

Ms. Abella likewise discussed the overall development planned for the resettlement site, including the provision of production areas for vegetables. She encouraged the beneficiaries to start planting vegetable gardens to improve family nutrition, discouraged concrete paving of open spaces to help in surface runoff drainage, and recommended natural fencing of boundaries using plants or trees instead of walled fences.

Ideas for house extension

After the dialogue, Arch. Geraldine Matabang facilitated the design workshop to draw out the beneficiaries' intentions for house extension. Four groups were formed and each were tasked to create a 3d model showing how they plan to put additions or extensions to the Caga-ut house prototype. (Three groups worked on the single-detached house type, while one group, composed of those assigned to duplex units, worked on the duplex house type.) Using a guide questionnaire and the 3d toolkit that TAO volunteer Francheska Ela prepared, the groups were able to present their ideas for

house extension.

The beneficiaries signified their intentions to do horizontal extensions, like adding a dirty kitchen or a sari-sari store and relocating the toilet to outside the core house, as soon as they have the resources for it.

Critiquing of extension schemes

After each group presented their 3d house models with extension, the TAO architects and Engr. Ray Mendoza commented on the groups' design schemes. They assessed which schemes were viable and gave recommendations to make structurally sound extension works. Maintenance of lot setback requirements was also emphasized.

Engr. Mendoza stressed maintaining the structural integrity and water tightness of the core house; using stiffer columns for additions; and placing corbels to support roof extensions. He also recommended limiting additions to horizontal expansion because the structure was not designed to support vertical addition unless a new foundation and framing system would also be properly added. Horizontal expansion would also be less costly than adding a second storey.



Ms. Isabel Abella discusses with the shelter beneficiaries the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement including the restrictions set by the local government regarding the selling of lots and house extensions.

Pls. turn to page 3.

TAO conducts house... (From page 2)



Beneficiaries present their proposed extension work for the single-detached house unit.

Technical guidelines for house extension

Engr. Mendoza gave further technical inputs with a lecture on how to do appropriate horizontal and vertical extensions. The structural plans of the Caga-ut core house was reviewed and Engr. Mendoza explained the important components of the structure that have to remain intact. These include the foundation, grade beam, columns, roof beam and trusses. A detailed 3d model of the Caga-ut core house that TAO intern Therese Julia made, also aided in showing the beneficiaries these components.

TAO project coordinator, Arch. Verna Sarraga, gave the last lecture of the day with a presentation on correct

construction methods and practices to guide planned extension works. She showed a series of photos that documented incorrect house construction methods to emphasize what beneficiaries should not do.

Maintenance guidelines

The second day of the workshop focused on orienting the beneficiaries with the proper use and maintenance of the Caga-ut house which uses alternative building materials. Apart from the concrete hollow blocks (CHB), the house is built with micro-concrete roof (MCR) tiles, interlocking compressed earth blocks or ICEB (for duplex units), and plastic septic vaults.



Arch. Verna Sarraga explains the maintenance work that should be done on the different components and materials that make up the Caga-ut core house.

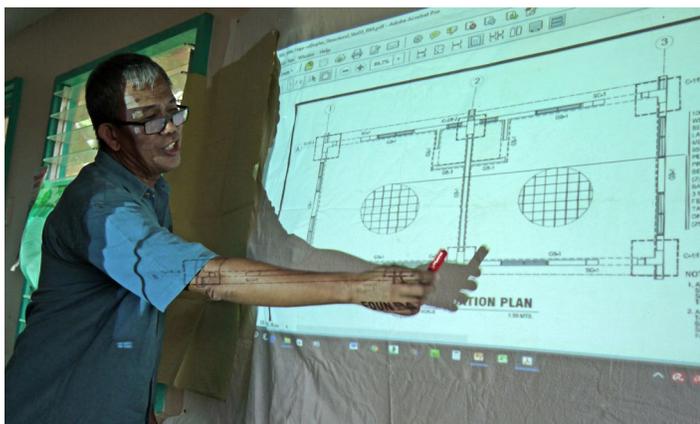
Arch. Sarraga presented the important advices for the upkeep of the different materials used for the house. She also instructed them on the right repair procedures and techniques for the MCR tiles and the ICEB walls, as well as the proper care for their septic tanks. The poster materials, one about extension works and the other on maintenance and repair, were distributed to each household beneficiary.

Evaluation and project consultation

The workshop ended with a short evaluation of the implications so far of the housing project for the beneficiaries. They indicated that relocating to a safer site, although a bit farther from their fishing area and from

their children's school, assured them of being out of harm's way especially when there is flooding. And because of the disaster-resilient features of their houses, they now don't see the need to evacuate during typhoons.

After the workshop, the beneficiaries remained to attend a consultation session facilitated by Christian Aid's Sabyte Paguio. The session sought to look into the progress of Caga-ut house construction and to work out the problems and difficulties that cause delays in project implementation. Completion of house construction is targeted in mid-December. (GRM)



Engr. Raymundo Mendoza explains the structural plans of the Caga-ut core house to the shelter beneficiaries during the house extension workshop.



The participants of the house extension workshop from Brgy. Caga-ut pose with their 3d scaled models

Caga-ut Shelter and Evacuation Center Construction



Shelter beneficiaries chose their own contractor and also help in the construction of their houses.



Micro concrete roof tiles have been laid out for this single-detached house.



The TAO technical staff with Engr. Raymundo Mendoza during their field visit to Caga-ut.



Arch. Verna Sarraga and Engr. Rolando Eder checking the construction of the evacuation center in Brgy. Caga-ut.



The Caga-ut single-detached house uses post and lintel construction system with walls made of concrete hollow blocks.



Some shelter beneficiaries already incorporated house extensions to their core shelter unit.



Shelter beneficiaries paint their own micro concrete roof tiles that will be used in their houses.



Alternative building materials such as micro concrete roof (MCR) tiles and interlocking compressed earth blocks (ICEB) were used for the Caga-ut Shelter Project.



Two duplex houses have walls made of interlocking compressed earth blocks.



Aside from the 23 houses, one evacuation center is also being constructed in Brgy. Caga-ut.



Engr. Raymundo Mendoza instructs Engr. Rolando Eder during his field visit to Caga-ut.



The view from the roof deck of the evacuation center in Brgy. Caga-ut

Notes from the Field: Construction of shelters and evacuation centers in Eastern Samar

AS A CONTINUATION of Project Pagbangon of Philippine Misereor Partnerships, Inc. (PMPI), construction of shelters in Homonhon Island and evacuation centers in Manicani Island are currently ongoing. The project is a consortium of seven NGO partners whose main objective is to rehabilitate the Super Typhoon Yolanda struck municipality of Guiuan, Eastern Samar. For Project Pagbangon, TAO-Pilipinas was set to construct 120 shelters, 40 of which were completed last year in Manicani Island, and 12 evacuations centers (4 in Manicani Island and 8 in Homonhon Island).

Concurrently, TAO-Pilipinas has also undertaken the design and construction of two evacuation centers and twenty-three permanent shelter units for the municipality of Salcedo. The Salcedo project in partnership with Christian Aid is likewise a post-Yolanda rehabilitation effort for Barangays Caga-ut and Matarinao in Salcedo.

Evacuation centers

One evacuation center in Barangay Hamorawon, Manicani Island under the construction supervision of Zha-Zha Sevilla, started construction last July and is currently nearing



The evacuation center in Brgy. Hamorawon in Manicani Island is almost finished.

completion, while another evacuation center in the island will begin this December in Barangay Banaag.

The floor area for the two-floor evacuation centers to be constructed in each of the 4 barangays in Manicani Island measures 208 square meters while the one to be constructed in each of the 8 barangays in Homonhon Island measures 100 square meters.

In some barangays, difficulty is encountered in providing safe locations for evacuation centers, which delays the construction. The cooperation of the barangay officials is critical in the identification of safe sites; some barangay officials refused to allow the construction of the evacuation centers because of political issues.

Shelter construction in Homonhon

In Homonhon Island, two to four hours away from mainland Guiuan, 75 out

of 80 shelters supervised by Daniel Tupaz and Eugeline Beluan have also started construction. The shelter design is rectangular in plan, measuring 6.5 meters by 4 meters. Among its features are the integration of disaster-resilient design

concepts to the structure, the use of micro-concrete roof (MCR), an alternative roofing material made by local workers, and rainwater harvesting system. One barangay was not able to use MCR because of the difficulty in transporting them to their remote location.

The household beneficiaries were expected to identify safe sites for the construction of their shelters; but because of the topography and geographic location of the island, many of them had a hard time finding a safe location.

Pls. turn to page 6.



The house of Noel Gajilan in Brgy. Caga-ut is nearing completion.



Production of MCR tiles are made in the Guiuan office of TAO-Pilipinas

Notes from the field... (From page 5)

Some beneficiaries were able to identify three potential sites but these were located in either high-risk or moderate-risk zones. Construction of permanent shelters was allowed by PMPI in those locations but under the condition that houses will be elevated 1.5 meters from the ground. The revision of the typical house plan was decided after consultation with the structural engineer. Currently, more than half of the beneficiaries built their houses on moderate-risk or high-risk sites.

The procurement and hauling of construction materials from mainland Guiuan to the site was also a challenge because of several factors, like the huge volume of materials to be ordered and shipped, the insufficient boat capacity, and the condition of the sea. The weather is sometimes unpredictable.

Last October, around 7600 bags of cement; 250 plywood sheets; 330 pieces of gutters; 288 pieces of metal straps; 10800 pieces of floor, wall, and kitchen tile; good lumbers; sanitary and plumbing fixtures; and nails and bolts were shipped with the help of Philippine Navy vessel, Batak LC299. The navy arrived on October 4 and finished 4 roundtrips to Barangay Canawayon in Homonhon Island until the 12th of October.

Construction in Salcedo

Apart from Project Pagbangon in Guiuan, TAO-Pilipinas has also started construction work in the municipality of Salcedo. Two evacuation centers are being constructed; one in Barangay Matarinao and one in Barangay Cagaut, and 23 permanent shelter units are being built in Caga-ut.

Construction of the houses in Caga-ut started last September under the supervision of Rolando Eder and is set to finish this December. Unlike the shelters in Manicani and Homonhon Island where the identification of sites were the responsibility of the beneficiaries, the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) of Caga-ut provided the resettlement site. The site development plan and the architectural plans of the prototype Cag-aut house design were derived from the previously conducted design workshops. ([See YP E-newsletter June - August 2016 issue](#))

Additionally, two duplex shelter units are being constructed as model houses or demonstration units for the use of alternative building materials. The duplex units use Interlocking Concrete Earth Blocks or ICEB, an alternative material for walls produced by JF Ledesma, and MCR tiles for the roof.



Top photo: Evacuation center in Brgy. Caga-ut in Salcedo

Bottom photo: Evacuation center in Brgy. Matarinao in Salcedo

The Caga-ut shelter is 5 meters by 5 meters in dimension, and like the Homonhon shelter design, its features include the use of MCR tiles, rainwater harvesting system, and disaster-resilient design features.

For the evacuation centers, the residents of both Barangays Matarinao and Caga-ut agreed to use the Manicani prototype design. Construction of the evacuation centers started last September and is expected to finish mid-December.

KoBo Toolbox for construction monitoring

KoBo Toolbox, an open source tool for mobile data collection, is being used by the supervisors and project coordinators to monitor progress of construction in

Manicani, Homonhon and Salcedo. It is a simple yet powerful tool for gathering data on the field using a specific form designed by the project coordinator. KoBo can also perform simple data analysis.

The collected data can be sent to the cloud with the use of internet. Once the data has been uploaded by the construction supervisors, it can be accessed by the project coordinator anywhere which makes it convenient, especially when the project coordinator is not available to go on the site. (MLPH)

Student volunteers plant... (From page 1)



Jan Kamilla De Leon of UP TFA led the orientation of Masagana community members on soil stabilization process.



Student volunteers from the NSTP classes of Prof. Nadal and Prof. Bimbao plant vetiver grass as part of the soil stabilization project of Masagana community.

of UP College of Architecture, and members of the Masagana Community to conduct a series of student volunteer activities aimed at preventing soil erosion at the site.

UP-TFA mobilized architecture student volunteers and faculty members led their NSTP classes during three days of workshop and planting activities. Community members were initially oriented on the soil stabilization

process, after which two days were spent on planting of vetiver bare-root slips and bamboo cuts with the NSTP students.

A workshop on vetiver and bamboo planting as well as a discussion on bioswale (as drainage course) were held on October 29 as a preparatory activity for the community members and student volunteers. Juana Cavalida, community leader of Masagana

of Angat Homeowners Association, toured the participants and facilitators around the area where the vetiver grass and bamboo cuts would be planted.

Planting took place on November 7, a week after the workshop, with 45 NSTP students under landscape architects Desiree Nadal and Jose Antonio Bimbao in attendance. A lecture and orientation for the planting activity, led by UP TFA's Jan Kamilla De Leon and Jo Lyle Guerrero, was held at the Museum of Filipino Architecture (MOFA) in UP College of Architecture before they headed out to the Masagana community in Angat, Bulacan. Once there, the 45 students were divided into nine groups of five, assigned each with a community member as guide, and given bundles of the vetiver grass. The participants planted along areas susceptible to soil erosion in staggered rows, covering 90 square meters of land adjacent to a steep slope. Community members proceeded to plant the rest of the vetiver during the following days.

A second batch of NSTP students went to the site on November 14. As with the first

batch, Jan De Leon oriented the students and L.Arch Vic Dul-loog gave additional inputs about bioswales during the lecture activity at the MOFA. After arriving at the site, the 35 students were divided into seven groups and assigned with a community guide. They were able to plant 72 bamboo cuts along the edge of steep slopes.

Three weeks after the vetiver planting, the grass clumps have grown leaf blades around two feet tall. The vetiver is expected to reach two meters high and three meters deep after a year while the bamboo may grow from 10 to 20 meters. Apart from providing an effective vegetative barrier for soil stabilization and erosion control due to their extensive root system, both grass species can also be utilized as construction materials and mitigation of certain hazards like landslide, flood, and forest fire. TAO-Pilipinas, UP TFA, and the NSTP faculty look forward to the next steps in providing a more stable soil condition for the Masagana community. (Theresse Julia)

TAO conducts hazards mapping and assessment workshop in Tandang Sora, Quezon City



Arch. Geraldine Matabang facilitates the mapping exercise of Kawan 3

FROM NOVEMBER 21 TO 22, the Basic Ecclesiastical Community (BEC) leaders under the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul in Barangay Tandang Sora underwent a workshop on hazards mapping and assessment of their communities. The workshop was organized by TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. and Foundation for Development Alternatives (FDA) for the Financial Enablers project called “Urban Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Resilience in Greater Manila Region”. It was held in the multi-purpose hall of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The objectives of the hazards mapping and assessment workshop were the following: 1) enable the participants to identify the hazards in their area by making a community hazards map; 2) participants identify existing resources for disaster preparedness and response in their community; and 3) show which elements in their community are at risk and discuss their vulnerability to disasters. The workshop was attended by 26 participants representing the three kawan under the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul.

The first day of the workshop was divided into two parts

with lecture sessions held in the morning while focus group discussions and mapping exercises were done in the afternoon. The first lecture was given by Arch. Geraldine Matabang who discussed disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) concepts and introduced hazards mapping and assessment. In this lecture, she presented the different kinds of hazards and their classification. She also discussed the relevance of hazard maps, gave examples of different kinds of hazard maps, and mentioned which government agencies are tasked to make particular hazard maps. The next lecture was given by Arch. Angelus Sales which focused on the science behind different hazards such as earthquake, tsunami, and storm surge. She also discussed how to interpret and understand the different hazard maps.

In the afternoon, participants were grouped into three, according to their kawan representation, and began with the mapping exercises and focus group discussions. Each group was tasked to outline the boundaries of their community on the map, as well as infrastructure/utilities and basic services found in their community, and the hazards present in their area. They were also asked to outline areas with



Fr. Roland Tuazon, parish priest of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul, assists Kawan 2 in their mapping exercise.

formal settlements and shade the areas with informal settlements on the map. These were done on layers of transparent sheets placed on top of a basemap of the barangay (satellite image from Google Earth). They also made an inventory listing of the resources that their community can tap for disaster preparedness and response, such community facilities that they use as evacuation areas and active organizations in their communities.

The second day of the workshop was a continuation of the mapping exercises and focus group discussions. It was also during the second day that the groups presented their workshop outputs. The most common hazards mentioned by each group were fire and flooding due to heavy rains. Based on the resource maps done by each group, only temporary evacuation facilities are available in the communities.

After the presentation of their workshop output, the groups then identified problems that contribute to their vulnerability

to disasters. Most common problems mentioned in the focus group discussion were the following: houses are made of light materials; narrow roads and pathways; houses are built too close to one another; poor waste management; and poorly built riprap along waterways.

The last part of the workshop was a presentation by Arch. Matabang on how the groups can proceed given the outputs that were presented during the 2-day hazards mapping and assessment workshop. She presented tools for conducting problem analysis and action planning.

Ms. Lita de Asis-Nero, Executive Director of FDA, gave the closing remarks. She also led the discussion on ways forward following the hazard assessment workshop and lined-up activities for the parish community of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul. This includes a survey of 3,000 families in Barangay Tandang Sora as part of the Financial Enablers project. (AMPS)



The participants composed of BEC leaders from the parish of Santuario de San Vicente de Paul pose with the maps that they made during the workshop.

TAO completes Salcedo LSP workshop series

THE WORKSHOP SERIES to draft the municipality of Salcedo's Local Shelter Plan (LSP) was concluded after a two-day working session with the Technical Working Group. The TWG, led by Municipal Planning and Development Officer Ms. Isabel Abella, worked on detailing the Work and Financial Plan of the 2017-2025 LSP. The final consultation-workshop was held on October 26-27, 2016 at the Salcedo Demonstration Farm on the first day and at the Sanggunian Bayan's Session Hall on the second day.

On the first day, LSP consultants Arch. Arlene Lusterio, Arch. Faith Varona, and Arch. Eden Sorupia, along with GIS specialist Engr. Voltaire Tila, presented to the TWG the initial results of their analyses. Arch. Lusterio presented the shelter needs assessment;

Arch. Faith Varona for the affordability analysis; and Arch. Sorupia for the resource analysis. Engr. Tila, on the other hand, validated the initial results of the GIS mapping of utilities and infrastructure with the TWG.

After the presentations, TAO-Pilipinas facilitators divided the TWG into groups in order to detail the work plan for the three main shelter goals of the LSP. The groups accomplished the task and outlined a 9-year plan proposal which they presented to the facilitators. From these outputs, the LSP team of consultants shall firm up the final draft of the LSP document.

LSP team evaluation

The LSP team subsequently met on December 5 at the Emilio Hall of Dolcelatte in Quezon City. Analyses and recommendations that have



The technical working group pose with TAO staff and consultants during the last leg of the LSP workshop series.



The LSP team (from left to right): Angelus Sales, Lorena Hernandez, Voltaire Tila, Eden Sorupia, Faith Varona, Geraldine Matabang, Arlene Lusterio, Verna Sarraga, and Raymond Rodolfo.

been made were reviewed and the consultation-workshop process was also evaluated. Submission of the

LSP document to the Salcedo LGU is targeted by the end of December. (GRM)

TAO invites lecturers for staff development session

LAST NOVEMBER 11, TAO staff attended a staff development session in UP Balay Kalinaw. The staff development session was done as preparation for the strategic planning workshop which was held on November 14-15, 2016. The session featured lectures by different resource persons covering the following topics: 1) Green Building Construction in the Philippines and the Challenges in Implementing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Projects; 2) Low Carbon Development; and 3) Gender and Development in Human Settlements.

The first speaker was Mr. Carmelito Tatlonghari who is a LEED consultant and works at

Energy and Design Performance Network, Co. (ENDESCO). He discussed the basics behind energy efficiency and its importance. He also discussed the parameters in determining energy efficiency, including sustainable site; green materials; indoor air quality; energy consumption; and water consumption. He also shared his experiences in making buildings LEED-certified or at least LEED-certifiable. In the end, Mr. Tatlonghari emphasized that LEED is a guide and not a standard.

The next speaker was Mr. Alvik Padilla of Christian Aid. He discussed the low carbon development agenda of Christian Aid. He stressed that climate change is considered by

Christian Aid as a development and justice issue because climate change exacerbates poverty and hinders its eradication. He also mentioned that the shift from fossil fuel dependency to a low carbon development should be done as rapid as possible but also as equitable as possible. Mr. Padilla emphasized that energy poverty should also be addressed when shifting to low carbon technology.

The last speaker was Ms. Lourdes Padilla-Espenido, a faculty member of UP College of Social Work and Community Development who specializes in gender mainstreaming and development. She discussed the difference between sex and gender and what it means to have a gendered perspective. She also differentiated practical gender needs and strategic gender needs. She then tackled gender mainstreaming in

organizations, advising TAO to identify the gender needs within the organization and designate a focal person for gender and development. Lastly, she also stressed the importance of having a gender monitoring and evaluation framework.

The session facilitated learning for the staff especially on emerging topics as TAO sets the direction for its work in the next three years. The staff processed the lecture inputs and considered these in the organizational assessment activity conducted the next day.

In the succeeding strategic planning workshop held on November 14-15 at Y2 Hotel Residence in Makati City, the staff incorporated their learnings on renewable energy, low-carbon development, and gender and development. (AMPS)

TAO friends support annual Christmas gift-giving activity



The kids of Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association send their thank you greeting in a video shoutout.



The children of the beneficiaries of the Caga-ut shelter project pose with the gift packs that they received.

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF OUR YP ENewsletter, TAO posted a call for donations for its annual Christmas gift-giving activity. Several TAO friends responded and made our annual Christmas gift-giving activity possible once again.

The preparations for our Christmas gift-giving began with garage sales held in our office during the last week of November. Items donated by TAO staff, friends, and Starbucks Philippines were sold off in a series of garage sale organized by our admin staff. Through the

garage sales, TAO was able to raise PhP 8,545.00. This was added to the cash contribution from donors, raising the total donations to PhP 19,045.00. The money was used to buy gift items and TAO prepared a total of 194 gift packs for children in our partner communities in Angat, Bulacan; Cagaut, Salcedo; and in Homonhon, Guiuan.

Last December 10, sixty-eight (68) children of Masagana Angat community received their gifts. The children's ages range from 7 months to 12 years old. The gift items consisted of toys

and clothes for the infants and toddlers; toys and backpack for 3 to 6 years old; and school supplies and backpack for 7 to 12 years old. A Christmas party for the kids was organized by Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association. Parlor games were held before the actual giving of gifts.

The gift-giving activity of TAO-Pilipinas was not only limited to our partner community in Angat. TAO also sent gift packs to Barangay Caga-ut in Salcedo and to Homonhon Island in Guiuan. Seventy-six (76)

gift packs were sent to Guiuan while 48 gift packs were brought by Engr. Lorena Hernandez during her field visit to Salcedo.

TAO-Pilipinas would like to thank the following people for their continued support to our annual Christmas gift-giving activity: Marife Abon, Irene Ng Cha-Ching, Rhea Lyn Dealca, Cathania Edang, Michelle Abon-Gopez, Patrick Gozon, Joan Miranda, Razel Robines, Ibay Sicam, Voltaire Tila, Rosalyn-Frances Veneracion, Karen Varona, and Lee Bernardo Vicmudo. (AMPS)

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Project activities for FEP started

THE 10-MEMBER FINANCIAL Enablers Project (FEP) consortium led by Alterplan and PHILSSA commenced several activities under the project entitled "Urban Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resilience in Greater Manila Region". TAO is part of the technical resource group of the project, along with HealthDev, IDEALS, and SIKAT. The project covers four demonstration areas, with the organizing activities managed by the area-based partners --- COM in Taytay; FDA in Tandang Sora, Quezon City; FDUP in Valenzuela City; and UPA in Baseco, Manila.

PHILSSA and Alterplan facilitated a series of roundtable discussions with the consortium partners to draft the project's framework and strategy paper. The technical resource group has also designed a survey questionnaire as the main tool for baseline data gathering in the four project areas. The survey instrument has undergone pre-testing and several revisions.

The survey will be deployed using KoBo Toolbox, a free and open source tool for collecting field data and for data analysis. The consortium works



Engr. Lorena Hernandez orients the enumerators on how to use the Kobo Toolbox application.

remotely with Paraguay-based GIS specialist Marc Delgado to develop the survey form and to create a geodatabase for the project. The survey is divided in two parts, the first involves the geotagging of structures/houses included in the pilot areas and the second

part will carry out household interviews to gather socio-economic data.

Last December 6, community-based survey enumerators from the four

Pls. turn to page 11.

Project activities... (From page 10)

project areas were oriented on how to conduct the survey using the Android app KoBo Collect installed in their mobile phones. TAO's HSE staff, Engr. Lorena Hernandez who has been trained by

Mr. Delgado in using the KoBo Toolbox application for monitoring of TAO's projects in Eastern Samar, introduced KoBo Collect and ran through the survey questionnaire with the enumerators. As soon the

final version of the survey form is deployed, the area-based partners will start collecting data through KoBo Collect.

Additionally, ocular visits to two demonstration areas of the project have been conducted. The group went to Barangay Tandang Sora,

Quezon City on November 8 and in Baseco, Manila on December 7. Site visit to the other two areas, Taytay and Valenzuela, has been scheduled for January 2017. (GRM)

PLCPD Conference on Sustainable and Resilient Communities



One of the speakers in the conference talks about the housing program of the national government.

THREE YEARS HAVE passed since Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan) devastated the country but there is still no adequate resettlement housing for the survivors. According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), only 14% or 29,661 of the targeted housing units have been built. There are still 102,240 houses that are under construction while work on 73,332 houses has not even started. Meanwhile, the resettled families are struggling with the subpar quality of construction of their houses and the lack of access to sustainable livelihood, facilities, and basic services. The resettlement program has proven to be the most challenging gap in the response period following Yolanda.

The Philippine Legislator's Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc. (PLCPD) and Oxfam held a policy conference to identify potential actions that could address the gaps in providing shelter to people displaced by natural disasters. "Promoting Sustainable and Resilient Communities: A Multi-sectoral Policy Conference on Resilient Housing and Human Settlement" was held last 27 October 2016 at the Marco Polo Hotel Ortigas, Pasig City. The speakers were stakeholders, experts, and key officials from executive agencies.

Improve governance and convergence mechanisms

Hon. Teddy Brawner Baguilat, representative of the Lone District of Ifugao, called for convergence by shared responsibility. He said that

national government agencies and local government units (LGU), public and private sectors, the local communities, should come together in providing solutions for human settlement problems.

Take into account relevant issues

Romeo C. Dongeto, executive director of the PLCPD, said that the Philippines will not achieve resilient human settlement if it fails to address poverty and inequality. These issues are all inextricably linked with each other and contribute to the country's vulnerability to natural disaster. Isagani R. Serrano, President of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, emphasized the need to distribute development from urban to rural areas. He said that wealth and power have been concentrated in the cities, which lead to the beggaring and disempowerment of the countryside. Serrano argued that rural development, by redistributing wealth and power from the National Capital Region (NCR), is the key in equalizing poverty.

Strengthen human resource

However, one participant during the open forum grounded the discussion by pointing out that the points raised by the speakers are institutional problems and they have failed to look at the lack of ground support for local government officials. She said, "... I think we need

to look at people themselves here. Because there can be no effective planning implementation if the people themselves [who] are supposed to pull resources, supposed to implement, supposed to check, cannot do it. And they are not sufficiently capacitated; they do not have enough numbers." She said that the LGUs are overwhelmed by disasters and they need to be capacitated and assisted to be able to take on housing problems.

Pursue rights-based, inclusive community-driven approach to programs on human settlements

Dongeto concluded the conference by advocating for a rights-based, inclusive, community-driven approach to human settlements. He also endorsed the proposed National Comprehensive Framework on Resilient Housing and Human Settlements bill, which he claims would be a more responsive policy framework that can help avoid significant delays in the implementation of government housing resettlement. The strong sense of urgency for rebuilding and empowering communities to become resilient was succinctly captured by Rep. Baguilat: "We owe it to those who perished [in Yolanda] to work together to form sustainable homes and communities."

(Patricia Ann Morota)

Verl Arvin Dela Cruz is a 5th year architecture student from University of Santo Tomas. Verl worked as a TAO intern from June to July 2016 as part of his OJT subject. During his internship, he assisted the TAO technical team in the documentation of the local shelter plan workshop and subdivision planning and house design workshop in Salcedo. He is currently finishing his undergraduate thesis which is a community housing and development complex for an Aeta community in Tarlac. He used participatory design process, adapted from TAO's design approach, as part of his methodology in coming up with his design solution.



Verl assisted the TAO technical team in facilitating one of the groups during the subdivision planning workshop in Salcedo, Eastern Samar.



Part of the documentation work that Verl did for the subdivision planning and house design workshop in Salcedo, Eastern Samar is to draw the floor plan of the 3d scaled models done by the workshop participants.



Verl explains to an Aeta community the meaning of participatory design as part of his undergraduate thesis. Photo by: Jensine Filio dela Cruz

ARCHITECTURE HAS always been stereotyped by the majority as an elite profession. Soaring skyscrapers, grand facades and complex designs have dominated the field ever since. Although these representations are valid, there is so much more that architecture can offer; something beyond what people can see. Humanitarian Architecture has lately influenced my view of the architecture profession. Ever since a visit to a rural Aeta community in Tarlac, I have decided to pursue a more socially responsive

field in architecture. This led me to pursue a social approach to my architectural undergraduate thesis. My thesis, entitled TAWO: Aeta Community Housing and Development Complex, aims to provide a decent socialized housing for the Aetas of Tarlac, as well as provide a sustainable community with social, health, and livelihood elements.

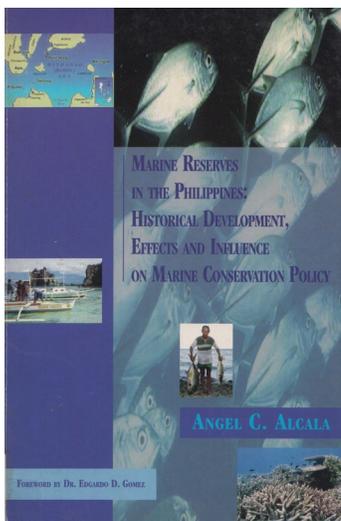
As a requirement for a degree in architecture, we are required to undergo a 200-hour apprenticeship period for our summer term. I saw this as an opportunity to gather experience

for my thesis, so I immediately searched for architectural firms/organizations in line with the field of community and social design. As I was browsing through different humanitarian organizations, a friend of mine recommended the organization, TAO-Pilipinas, to me. I researched their profile, and I instantly fell in love with their work. Before I knew it I was an official YP intern of TAO-Pilipinas. Working for the organization has definitely broken and moulded me as a young professional. It was certainly difficult working for a small office. The heavy workload, long office hours, travel distance, and community immersions, proved to be a challenge for a struggling architecture student like me. Although as difficult as it may have been, my time working with TAO-Pilipinas has given me a new outlook about the profession that I wouldn't change for the world.

The greatest thing I picked up from TAO-Pilipinas is their participatory approach in design and planning. Although there are some parts with the method that I question, I definitely agree with the importance of community participation in planning. Because of this, I applied this design approach to my undergraduate thesis. I drafted my own participatory design outline that I think would fit with the goals and objectives of my thesis. The first leg of the participatory design workshop consists of expectations setting, house ideologies, house construction, and Aeta cultural inputs. The whole process was a culmination of all that I have learned as an intern at TAO-Pilipinas.

As cliché as it may sound, I want to change the world through my profession. I believe that as long as we have the passion, architecture can save lives.

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. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



Title: Marine Reserves in the Philippines: Historical Developments, Effects and Influence on Marine Conservation Policy

Author: Angel C. Alcala

Publisher: Bookmark (2001)

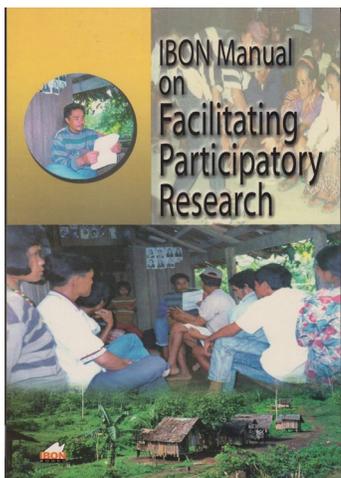
The Philippines has an extraordinary level of marine biodiversity. But our marine regions face numerous problems and threats that contribute to their significant degradation (e.g. pollution, overfishing, harmful fishing

methods, etc.). Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are one of the most important tools in coastal resource management. They are any defined areas established for conservation and protection -- activities are managed based on specific rules and guidelines. A marine reserve is an MPA where all uses are controlled or regulated to the extent necessary. The Philippines hosts 1,557 MPAs, the most number in Southeast Asia. However, only over 100 MPAs are properly managed due to lack of funding and conflicts

between stakeholders (World Wildlife Fund).

Marine Reserves in the Philippines: Historical Development, Effects and Influence on Marine Conservation Policy by Dr. Angel C. Alcala chronicles the history of marine reserves in the Philippines and the development of the Marine Laboratory and its program of teaching and research at Siliman University. The book highlights the experiences of marine reserve management in the islands of Sumilon, Apo, and Selinog. They have shown

that effective reserves can improve marine biodiversity, increase the density, biomass, and size of fishes in them, and cause the so-called "spillover effect" of adult fish to non-reserve areas. Dr. Alcala emphasizes that the success of marine reserves highly depends on the local community. The communities must be involved in their management and in the analysis of the causes and solutions for the depletion of resources and destruction of the marine environment. (PAM)



Title: IBON Manual on Facilitating Participatory Research

Author: IBON Foundation, Inc.

Publisher: IBON Foundation, Inc. (2004)

For community organizers and civil society organizations, this manual shows how to facilitate and conduct people's research that will capacitate and empower communities to tackle problems

and implement viable solutions.

This manual is based on the Participatory Research on Upland Production Systems and Appropriate Technology conducted by BADASU (Balay Dangdawan No'k Subanen, or Welcome House of the Subanen) based in Zamboanga del Sur and home to the Subanen people, and KADISA (Katigboan to Dibabawon to Sangan, or Unity of the Dibabawon People of Mount Sangan) based

in Davao del Sur.

The book drew on the lessons of this pilot research project to create step-by-step instructions on how to facilitate and conduct people's research – a scientifically conducted participatory research wherein the people in the communities design, implement, and evaluate their own research.

At the end of the research, BADASU and KADISA's research

reports show a deepened understanding of their problems and their environment, as well as the challenges that they face. Equipped with this knowledge and awareness, they were able to propose and immediately implement appropriate remedies and solutions. (RMA)