



Members of the People's Planville Homeowners Association (PPVHOA) smile as they pose for a picture with their site plan, building layout, and housing unit designs. This photo was taken at the end of their 3-day Participatory Community Planning and Design Workshop, held last March 16, 17, and 23, 2019. They are joined here by FDUP, COM, SHFC, and TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

PPVHOA lives up to its name; creates "People's Plan"

ON FEBRUARY 2019, THE PEOPLE'S Planville Homeowners Association (PPVHOA) together with TAO-Pilipinas conducted site visits to three high density housing projects. The visits and sharing with HOAs in successful high density housing served as learning sessions for the PPVHOA and prepared them for the next undertaking – the planning and design workshop.

As a follow through to these site visits, and as part of the continuing technical assistance to PPVHOA, TAO-Pilipinas conducted a three-day Planning and Design workshop in coordination with Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP), Community Organization Multiversity (COM), and Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC).

Held last March 16, 17, and 23 in Ramada Hotel, Binondo, Manila, the planning and design workshop was participated by four associations under PPVHOA namely, Samahang Kapitbahayan sa Juan de Moriones (SKSJDM), Samahang Maralitang Magkapitbahay sa Del Pan Island-I (SMMDI-I), Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Valderama (SMV), and Solar Riverside Valley Neighborhood Association (SRVNAI).

A total of forty (40) participants attended the workshop, with resource persons and facilitators from TAO-Pilipinas, representatives from FDUP, COM, and SHFC. After the three day workshop, a separate validation workshop was subsequently conducted on April 4, 2019.

The first day of the workshop focused on setting objectives and expectations, a review of relevant laws, and an introduction to technical concepts. Subsequent days focused on actual planning and design.

The first day of the workshop began with the opening remarks of Ms. Luz Malibiran of COM and Mr. Chris Salise of SHFC. They reminded the participants of their roles and responsibilities during and after the workshop. This was followed by an expectation setting and laying of workshop objectives facilitated by Arch. Sales. She also presented the program for the three-day workshop to the participants. A series of lectures quickly followed, in preparation for their design activities in the afternoon.

Engr. Lorena Hernandez gave a review of Batas Pambansa 220 (BP 220), and a comparison of the visited high

density housing projects. She discussed the necessary provisions on socialized housing as required by the BP 220 and other related laws. TAO-Pilipinas conducted an earlier workshop on BP 220 with PPVHOA last February 6, 2019, and Engr. Hernandez's presentation served as a refresher.

Arch. Arlene Lusterio followed with a lecture on the concepts of clustering for high density housing. She showed examples and possible clustering options for the community. This was followed by a lecture on Gendered Spatial Considerations for High Density Housing by Arch. Faith Varona. She highlighted the role of women in development as well as the common gender biases. She then presented a checklist for gendered spatial considerations that can be used as a guideline for inclusive development of the community.

An open forum followed the lectures, providing participants a venue to discuss their various concerns and suggestions. They expressed their initial suggestions and reminders on the planning and design of their site, housing units, and building. They

Pushing for participatory processes: TAO joins CSOs in stakeholder consultations in the drafting of RA 11202 Implementing Rules and Regulations

REPUBLIC ACT 11201, OTHERWISE known as "An Act Creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Defining its Mandate, Powers and Functions, and Appropriating Funds Therefor" was passed into law in 2018. Since its passage, focus has been on the adoption of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the processes and mechanisms to ensure stakeholder consultations.

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. is participating in stakeholder consultations in the drafting of the law's IRR. The most

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First on the list of priority bills of the newly-elected senators is the lowering of the criminal age of responsibility. The bill supposedly seeks to protect children from being used by syndicates to commit crimes. As built environment professionals, what strategies or interventions do you believe are most effective in preventing crime and/or unwanted conduct?

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PPVHOA lives up to its name... *(continued from page 1)*

expressed concern on the playground and community facility requirements, fearing that these will lessen the available space for residential use. There were also mentions of commercial spaces that the members plan to add in the design.

Before the afternoon session, Ms. Regine Dela Paz of FDUP discussed the affordability levels of the community and the loanable amounts from SHFC. She gave a brief presentation on the socio-economic profile of the associations under PPVHOA. Additionally, she discussed the loanable amount and interest of SHFC, and showed a sample computation for their amortization. Mrs. Maricel Genzola of FDUP followed, and explained the usufruct agreement of the landowner with the community.

As a response to the presentations, the community members raised their concerns on loan payment, including questions of transferability to children, specifically for the senior citizen members of the community. Other pressing issues covered the members' ability to pay, and the conduct of capacity building on livelihood to enhance capacity to pay.

Engr. Ramon Nolido then presented and discussed the estimated total project cost, amounting to PHP 145,205,015.41 – an amount which is PHP 25,208,015.41 higher than their budget. This prompted concerns about increasing costs, inflation, and the possibility of exploring alternative building materials. Recognizing the need to discuss alternatives and considering the number or queries raised, it was resolved that FDUP will arrange a separate meeting on March 27, 2019 for product demonstration of two identified alternative (non-conventional) building materials: the Permaforms and the Structurally Reinforced Concrete (SRC).

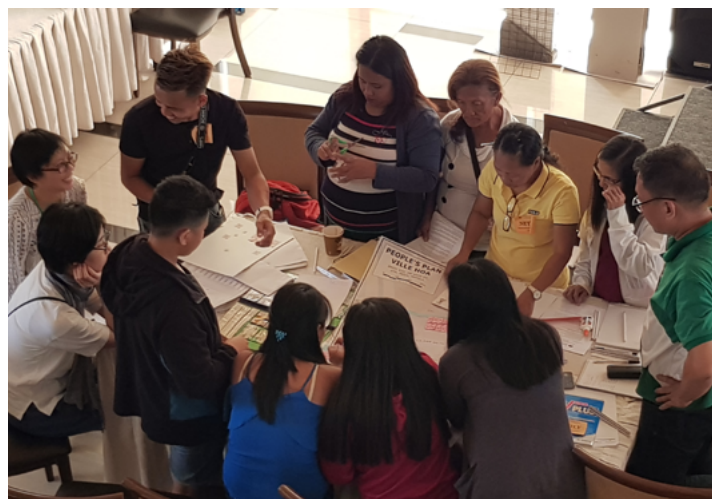
The afternoon session was designed to enhance the participants' technical skills through lectures and practical exercises. The session was opened by Arch. Therese Julia with her presentation on understanding technical drawings. She discussed the parts of a plan and drawing scales. She also gave a short exercise on measuring plan dimensions using a triangular scale. The second presentation, by L. Arch. Rosanne Aldeguer, was the inventory and analysis of PPVHOA's planned resettlement site at De Dios

Street, Barangay 632, Sta. Mesa, Manila. She discussed the characteristics of the 3,164 sqm. compound. This includes the existing debris on the site, number of trees, orientation of the site, wind direction, and sun path. She also located the significant hospitals, schools, transportation hubs, and government institutions near the site. The members asked about the number of seedlings that they will need to plant on-site. They also expressed their concerns about the amount of site clearing that has to be done before the construction starts. L. Arch. Aldeguer clarified that seedlings can be bought from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) who will then plant the seedlings at a different location.

For the activity on building design and site planning, Arch. Geraldine Matabang explained the objectives of the activity as well as the design parameters that the community will use. She also reminded the community members that they will need to have at least 200 residential units to accommodate all PPVHOA members. The participants were then grouped into four, wherein representatives of four associations were evenly distributed. Facilitators handed out a site planning toolkit and a base plan to each group while she gave out instructions for their use. They were also given guide questions to help them describe and allocate necessary spaces in their design.

After the completion of the site plan and building layout on the second day, the groups were asked to present their design and their answers to the guide questions. Arch. Matabang provided a summary and analysis on the outputs of the community after their presentations. The designs were compared according to the number, shapes, and clustering of buildings, number of floors, type of roof, dimension of housing units, width of corridors, type of stairs, existence and areas of non-residential spaces, road widths, parks and playgrounds, community facilities, parking areas, and other distinguishing characteristics.

Having completed the site plan and building layout, the residential unit design and layout immediately followed. Facilitators handed out a 3D design toolkit to each of the four groups, while Arch. Sales gave instructions. As with the previous design activity, Arch. Matabang provided a summary and



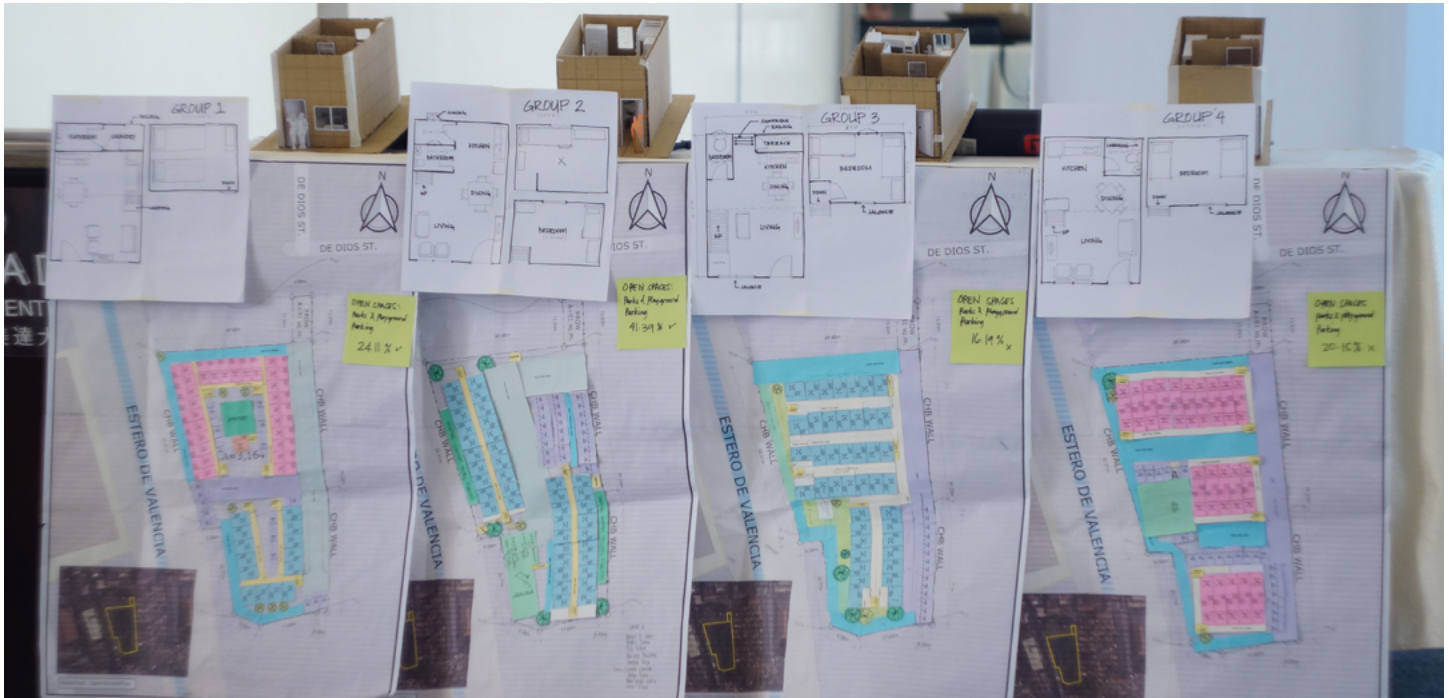
March 16, Day 1: PPVHOA members create their site plan and building layout, while TAO-Pilipinas staff assist and facilitate their discussions.



March 17, Day 2: All four groups' housing unit design schemes, created using TAO-Pilipinas' 3D housing design toolkit.

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PPVHOA lives up to its name... *(continued from page 2)*



The four site plan, building layout, and housing unit schemes designed by PPVHOA members, laid out side-by-side for the evaluation and selection of their preferred scheme. The selected scheme was further refined by TAO-Pilipinas to conform with BP 220 and other pertinent laws.

analysis for their design schemes after their presentations.

On the third day of the workshop, digitized building layouts and site plans of the four groups were displayed so that the participants would be able to easily visualize their designs. Arch. Sales began by opening the plenary for suggestions on the criteria for evaluation of the four proposed schemes. Arch. Lusterio and Arch. Sales organized their suggestions into five general categories. The participants were then asked about the weight that they would give to each criterion. Their final criteria are as follows: 40% for proper building design, 25% for good site plan, 20% for safety, security, and inclusivity, 10% for affordability, and 5% for being environment friendly. Before the groups were allowed to vote for their preferred schemes, Arch. Lusterio reviewed the schemes and their conformity with the design standards. The groups were then given a score card and were asked to analyze the schemes of the other groups according to the established criteria. In the end, the winning building layout scheme consisted of two identical buildings which are rectangular in shape, while the selected unit layout measures 6m x 4m and has a mezzanine of 3m x 2m. Arch. Lusterio confirmed the participants' acceptance of the selected

designs. She also facilitated further suggestions of the participants on the design, and assured the participants that TAO-Pilipinas will process the output to come up with two schemes for final design validation. With this, the three day planning and design workshop was concluded, and was followed by a validation workshop a week after.

After the three day planning workshop, TAO-Pilipinas began processing the workshop output in preparation for the validation workshop conducted on the 4th of April at the same venue. The validation workshop was attended by 66 participants; 43 of which came from the community, while the rest consisted of representatives from partner organizations. The validation workshop began with the community's recap of their general assembly, where they presented their workshop outputs to other PPVHOA members who were unable to attend the planning and design workshop. They affirmed that other members also approved of their chosen design.

Proceeding with the validation, Arch. Lusterio explained the features of the two schemes that the community would choose from. She presented digital 2D and 3D illustrations of the schemes to aid the community in visualizing the schemes. The



A group of participants select their preferred scheme according to the criteria that they have developed and agreed upon.

community members were then invited to comment on the schemes. After the discussion, each community member present was asked to vote for one building layout and site plan scheme, and one housing unit scheme. Results revealed that the irregularly shaped building scheme, with the 4m x 6m housing unit, received the most votes from the participants.

Arch. Varona facilitated the discussion on the details of the design, like the types of doors and windows, toilets, laundry area, balcony, loft, provisions for aircon opening, use

of excess units, garbage collection system, roofing, rainwater harvesting, and the colors of paint to be used. The validation workshop ended after the distribution of SHFC's prizes for early birds, perfect attendance, and the certificates of participation for all the community members, facilitators, and guests. PPVHOA's President, Mr. Elago expressed his gratitude towards SHFC, FDUP, TAO-Pilipinas, and COM for their guidance and support to create a design that they can call their own. PPVHOA's working drawings are now on the final stages of completion. (MLPH)

TAO-Pilipinas and Ateneo Innovation Center conducts hands-on training on solar-powered systems

LAST APRIL 30, 2019, TAO-PILIPINAS, Inc. in partnership with Ateneo Innovation Center conducted a hands-on training for the assembly and maintenance of solar-powered streetlights (SSLs) and water purification systems (WPS) with the Masagana of Angat Homeowners Associations (Masagana HOA). The training, led by Mr. Reymond Cao of the Ateneo Innovation Center (AIC), is a continuing effort under AIC's partnership with TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. for Project Recharge. The training, which was held at Masagana's Community Based Resource Center (CBRC) allowed the leaders of Masagana HOA to witness first-hand how solar powered energy and water purifying systems work.

Prior to the start of the training, TAO's team – composed of its sole engineer, Lorena Hernandez, and Jazel Virtusio, together with resource persons from Ateneo Innovation Center were warmly welcomed over breakfast by Masagana HOA President, Juana Cavallida.

Right after breakfast, the demonstration and instruction on solar-powered streetlights began. Only five male members of the HOA were present, as most of the members had work and their housewives had earlier commitments. Nevertheless, those present were very engaged in the process, and were impressed with the intricacies of both systems. They listened and watched as Mr. Reymond Cao, showed them the different steps for installation – the connections of wires and other equipment, as well the processes and parts involved in a solar-powered water purification system. The resource speaker ensured participants' understanding by making the explanations simple and accessible and by responding to the participants' queries.

While the training took place under a challenging summer heat, the participants did not seem to mind. The topic interested them and they were engaged particularly on the practical applications and the possibilities the systems might provide for their community. They also looked forward



Ateneo Innovation Center's Mr. Reymond Cao demonstrating the assembly and connection of pipes for the water purification system.

to the installation of both systems and on the role that they will play in maintaining the same.

One of the more engaged participants was Tatay Eliseo, 70 years old. He is a frail senior citizen who actively participated in the discussion on solar energy and water purification. Since Tatay Eliseo used to be a carpenter, he was instrumental in the construction of the CBRC, and some of the houses in the community. It is his long history of community work that encouraged him to learn and engage in the training conducted by TAO, and other activities of the Masagana HOA.

The hands-on training ended in high spirits, with the participants feeling

confident in their knowledge of both systems. Giving thanks to the resource speakers and to TAO, the participants of the training then expressed readiness in welcoming the installation of the systems in the community, and of their willingness to use the new knowledge gained in maintaining the systems to be installed under Project Recharge.

It is worth noting that two months after the training, the SSLs and WPS were already installed in Masagana. (see "TAO conducts final Project Recharge workshop..." page 4) Its maintenance is ensured by the members of the Masagana HOA, including those who attended the community-based demo in April of 2019. (Jazel C. Virtusio)

TAO conducts final Project Recharge workshop; turns project over to Masagana

TAO-PILIPINAS CARRIED OUT BACK-to-back activities with Masagana community in Angat, Bulacan for the final phase of Project Recharge. The Project Sustainability and Evaluation Workshop and the Project Turnover Ceremony were held on June 8 and 9, 2019 respectively. The activities make up the Evaluation Phase of Project Recharge – a renewable energy initiative seeking to address issues on health, safety, and security in Masagana. The project is part of Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc.'s (SSCFI) Sikat Impact Challenge 2018..

Project Recharge Sustainability and Evaluation Workshop

TAO-Pilipinas carried out the third and final workshop for Project Recharge on June 8 in Masagana's Community-Based Resource Center (CBRC). It was attended by twenty-five participants

from Masagana and three facilitators from TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

Lorena Hernandez delivered the welcome remarks and facilitated the expectations setting for the workshop. She then provided a recap of the first two capacity-building activities conducted as part of the project – the Workshop on Sustainable Settlements Development Through the Use of Renewable Resources held on October 14, 2018, and the Hands-on Training on Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Water Purification Systems on April 30, 2019.

This was followed by Rosanne Aldeguez's presentation on the Solar Street Light (SSL) Project Overview, where she discussed the community's latest site development plan and the results of the first workshop, wherein

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Project Recharge is a project under Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc.'s (SSCFI) Sikat Impact Challenge 2018. It is a renewable energy (RE) initiative that utilizes solar energy and rainwater to address some Masagana community's identified needs – water, electricity, lighting, and livelihood. The project aims not only to promote RE and build infrastructure to improve the lives of the residents; it also seeks to facilitate a sense of ownership and empowerment among the community members, which is crucial to the sustainability of the project. Ten solar streetlights (SSL) were installed in priority areas to improve safety and security for the residents. A solar-powered water purification system (WPS) was also constructed adjacent to the Community-Based Resource Center (CBRC) to provide a cheaper alternative source of potable water for the community. In addition, various capability-building activities were conducted to equip community members with knowledge and skills necessary for the operation and maintenance of the SSLs and WPS. Project Recharge began on June 15 last year and ends June of this year.

TAO conducts final Project Recharge workshop... *(continued from page 4)*

Masagana community members identified priority locations for the SSLs. She then presented the final locations of the ten SSLs erected, which were determined from the results of the said workshop. She also provided a breakdown of the SSL project's capital and operating expenditures, for their maintenance and incremental expansion. The participants agreed that a maintenance fee of P58 is acceptable, for the project's sustainability.

Afterward, Therese Julia talked about the Water Purification System (WPS) Project Overview and its Proposed Business Model. She provided a summary of the capital and operating expenditures of the WPS, and discussed the sales report for its first month of operation. She then presented the proposed WPS business model, for the livelihood project to be validated by the community. The participants welcomed the livelihood opportunity, and resolved to patronize the product of their very own WPS.

After the lectures, TAO-Pilipinas facilitated three focus group discussions (FGD). Participants from Masagana were divided into four groups to answer guide questions for the FGDs and report on their respective outputs afterward. The FGDs aimed to accomplish the following: (1) formulate an Operations and Maintenance Plan for the WPS and SSL; (2) organize an Operations and Maintenance Committee also for the WPS and SSL; and (3) conduct an evaluation of the project.

Project Recharge Turnover Ceremony

Following the final workshop, the Turnover Ceremony of Project Recharge was held on June 9. In addition to Masagana and the three workshop facilitators from TAO-Pilipinas, the turnover was attended by Dane Amador of SSCFI, Raymond Cao of Ateneo Innovation Center (AIC), Francis dela Cruz of Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Arlene Lusterio and Jazel Virtusio of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc., and TAO volunteer Verna Sarraga.

To kick off the turnover ceremony, opening remarks were delivered by Masagana HOA Secretary Diana Antipuesto, Masagana HOA President Juana Cavalida, and Lorena Hernandez. This was followed by the ribbon-cutting of the WPS that was led by the

representatives of SSCFI, AIC, ICSC, TAO-Pilipinas, and Masagana.

A short game was played afterwards, wherein guests were given two different glasses of water, and were asked to identify which sample came from the WPS, and which one came from the more expensive water refilling station. Participants commented on the samples' characteristics and voted for which they thought was from the WPS. Four out of six got the correct answer.

The next part of the program was the tour of the SSLs - community members and guests walked around Masagana, visiting all ten SSLs erected on the identified priority areas of the community. This was followed by the awarding of certificates to resource persons and organizations—SSCFI, AIC, ICSC, and TAO volunteer Verna Sarraga—whose assistance were instrumental in the implementation of Project Recharge.

Finally, TAO-Pilipinas Executive Director Arlene Lusterio delivered the closing remarks. She thanked the resource persons on behalf of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. and Masagana, and reiterated the valuable roles they played in Project Recharge. Addressing Masagana, she highlighted that the project turnover also meant the transfer of responsibility to the whole community. She added that it was now up to the community to take care of the project and expressed hope of seeing it develop in the future. (TRJ)



Masagana community participants and TAO-Pilipinas facilitators at the end of the Project Sustainability and Evaluation Workshop.



Juana Cavalida (Masagana), Arlene Lusterio (TAO-Pilipinas), Dane Amador (SSCFI), Raymond Cao (AIC), and Francis dela Cruz (ICSC) during the ribbon-cutting of the Water Purification System (WPS).



Masagana community members, TAO-Pilipinas, SSCFI, AIC, and ICSC at one of the priority areas where a solar streetlight has been installed.

A wall that unites: TAO facilitates an ideas workshop for Parola community mural

ON MAY 24, 2019, TAO-PILIPINAS, Inc. with the support of International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) conducted an ideas workshop for the planned community mural for the perimeter walls of Parola. The 47 workshop participants were primarily composed of Eco Patrol Leaders and Purok Leaders of Parola from Barangay 20, and were predominantly female. The ideas workshop was a half-day activity, with two different sets of participants for the morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session was attended by 27 residents from Gates 1 to 14, while the afternoon session was attended by 20 residents from Gates 15 to 20. The workshop was facilitated by Architects Geraldine Matabang and Angelus Sales and Landscape Architect Rosanne Aldeguer of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. They were joined by ICTSI representatives – Sustainability Development Manager, Mr. Rosauro Luntayao, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Mr. Cleo Angelo Guevarra, and Sustainability Development Specialist, Ms. Cyrah Karmina Albat.

The objectives of the workshop were to: 1) develop the idea of a mural for the walls of Parola communities along MICT Road; 2) engage Barangay 20 to facilitate local ownership of the idea and design; and 3) generate a community-approved concept and scheme that will guide the actual mural to be implemented. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted to determine the community members' perception of the proposed perimeter wall mural project, and to draw out their own ideas for the mural. L. Arch



A group of Parola residents conceptualize and illustrate their proposed community mural.

Aldeguer gave a presentation showing different examples of wall murals done both locally and internationally, to aid them in generating their own mural ideas.

The planned community wall mural was born from the suggestion of Barangay 20 Chairman Bryan Mondejar, which ICTSI readily supported. TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. became involved when Mr. Luntayao contacted the organization to assist in their plans of improving the walls of Parola. He was familiar with TAO's engagement with Parola communities during its

early years. An initial meeting with community leaders of Barangay 20 was held last April 3, 2019 to inform them about the planned project and get their support in mobilizing their community to attend the ideas workshop.

The ideas workshop resulted in feedback from the participants regarding what they would like to see in the mural. The community's suggestions and ideas were to: portray good Filipino values to instill discipline in their youth; show the history of Parola and cultural traditions of Filipinos, such as *bayanihan*; depict

environmental themes such as climate change; have slogans that would serve as reminders for the community; have green walls to complement the planned community mural.

The ideas workshop ended with some action planning for the implementation of the planned community wall mural. A report will be submitted by TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. to ICTSI, along with its recommendations for the planned community wall mural. (AMPS)

TAO-PILIPINAS RECEIVES GRANT FOR MASAGANA HOA SMALL INFRASTRUCTURES PROJECT



Left: Arlene Lusterio, Executive Director - TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. receives a grant from DFAT of Australia, for the "Sustainable Community Development of Masagana Homeowners Association Angat."



Right: Masagana representatives Juana Cavalida, President; Diana Antipuesto, Secretary; and Erlinda Tolero, Treasurer; pose for a picture at the ceremony.

TAO-PILIPINAS WAS AMONG THE awardees of the Direct Aid Program (DAP) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government. TAO-Pilipinas received the grant amounting to PHP 825,000 in a turnover ceremony at the Australian Embassy in Makati last April 8, 2019. The grant is for a project entitled, "Sustainable Community Development of Masagana Homeowners Association Angat." The project will support the development of small infrastructures at the Masagana resettlement site, which includes partial concreting of pathway, construction of community kitchen and toilet, greenhouses to

support its permaculture project, and an elevated water tank. The project also covers capacity-building of Masagana members on estate management and house extension, solid waste management and permaculture.

Present in the turnover ceremony were Masagana representatives, Juana Cavalida – President, Diana Antipuesto – Secretary, and Erlinda Tolero – Treasurer. Representing TAO-Pilipinas were Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio - Executive Director, and Arch. Geraldine Matabang - Core Operations Head for Internal Affairs. (ACDL)

TECHNICAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS CONDUCT VISUAL STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS FOR CO-DESIGN PROJECT

THE CO-DESIGN PROJECT AIMS TO conduct a structural assessment of seven houses in Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal, and propose retrofitting measures based on the result of the said structural assessment. It is led by the Young Professionals Program of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc., and is partly funded by the Global Youth Empowerment Fund (GYEF). The team has been facing several challenges since the project began in August 2018 – conflicts in the schedules of technical student volunteers and community youth leaders, as well as a lack of structural engineer mentors who will guide the civil engineer students in the conduct of structural assessments. These have caused significant delays in the project. Despite the setbacks, technical student volunteers from UP Task Force Arki (UP TFA) and UST Civil Engineering Department were able to complete the visual assessments of the seven pilot houses included in the project on June 6, 2019.

The visual assessments were held on June 4 and 6 with TAO-Pilipinas staff accompanying the technical students on both occasions. On June 4, UP TFA members Janelle Sagcal, Camille Bernardez, Therese Checa, and Arriane Lopez together with TAO technical staff, Architects Arlene Lusterio, Therese Julia, and Angelus Sales and Engr. Lorena Hernandez completed the structural assessment survey form

made by TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. They assessed one house each from Purok 1, Purok 3, and Purok 7. The houses assessed by the team ranged from one to three storeys in height.

On June 6, the team was composed of eight students from UST Civil Engineering Dept. and one faculty member – Duke Manalili, Angelika Remigio, Ferdinand Laurente, Michael Dunuan, Joseph Edang, Abigail Ajesta, Karla Padama, and Joren Delos Reyes were joined by faculty member, Engr. Michelle Galarion. Arch. Angel Sales from TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. accompanied the team. They were able to finish the visual assessment of the four remaining houses using the same structural assessment survey form provided by TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. The houses that were assessed were multi-storey houses with two houses reaching up to three floor levels.

Visual assessments included a search for cracks along walls, floors, posts, and beams as well as a measurement of the sizes of the structural components of each house. The structural assessment survey form was based on a similar form provided by the UST Civil Engineering Dept. as reference material for this project. It focused on looking for deficiencies and giving points to those deficiencies. The form provided by UST was first pre-tested on Lupang Arenda by student



Arch. Sales briefs UP TFA volunteers on the structural assessment survey form to be used.

volunteers from UP Engineers Without Borders (UP EWB) Diliman Chapter on March 30. The pre-test was done to see if there were sections in the survey form that needed to be revised. The structural assessment survey form was slightly revised, then written in Filipino so community members could easily understand the survey form.

Only visual assessments of structural components were made and no invasive probing was done, mainly due to budgetary constraints and the complexity of the method. Owners were also interviewed by the technical students to determine how each house was constructed, and to find out the kinds of construction materials that were used.

The Co-Design Project is nearing completion. Upcoming activities are



Janelle Sagcal of UP TFA measures the parapet wall of one of the houses.

mentoring sessions and a plenary presentation of the result of the assessment to the community. A terminal report will also be submitted to GYEF on July 2019. (AMPS)



Urban Shelter students setting-up for the final presentation in HDM-Lund University. (Photo by MFYV May 2019)

The Urban Shelter Course 2019

THE YEAR 2019 MARKS THE 12TH YEAR of collaboration between TAO-Pilipinas and Housing Development and Management (HDM)-Lund University, Sweden in the conduct of international courses in the Philippines. It started in 2007 with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)-funded international training courses on Conservation and Management of Heritage Buildings (CMHB) and Shelter Design and Development (SDD) that took place mid- February until mid-March. CMHB was only held once but SDD lasted five years (2007-2011). In 2009 another course was added—the Urban Shelter: Architecture for Extreme Environments, a regular Lund University course offered by HDM. Every year it conducts its housing field

study in the Philippines, coordinated by TAO-Pilipinas in cooperation with private, NGOs, and national government agencies.

The Urban Shelter course aims to enrich and broaden the students' perspectives on housing, highlighting the importance of site and context in the design of sustainable and safe human settlements, wherever it is in the world. The output of the course is a housing proposal on two levels: neighborhood (as a group) and house/building design (individual).

This year, 15 architecture students joined the course that began in Sweden in the last quarter of 2018. Ten were

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The Urban Shelter Course 2019 *(continued from page 7)*

Swedish, two French, and one each from Ireland, Switzerland and USA. Only two are male out of the 15. Lund University has a regular exchange program with foreign universities for undergraduate and graduate students and the Urban Shelter course is among the top course choices. The students also fund their own travel (airfare, lodging and accommodation) to the Philippines for the 3-week course.

The program of the 3-week field study took the students to housing projects that ranged from social housing to high-end mixed use developments. To provide the proper context for the field study, lectures were conducted on the local housing situation, buildings standards and government housing programs by the National Housing Authority (NHA) at their main office. NHA-led social housing project visits were then made in Smokey Mountain Permanent Housing Development (Manila City); National Government Center-West Low Rise Housing Development (old and new), Harmony Hills, and Camarin Residences I (Quezon City); and Manggahan (Floodway) Residences-East Bank Low Rise Housing (Pasig City).

Private sector-led middle-income projects visited were DMCI Homes' Magnolia Place (medium-rise housing) and Amaryllis Residences (high-rise housing) and PHINMA Property Holdings' Sofia Bellevue mid-rise condominiums in Quezon City. The local government of Quezon City also showed their initiatives in social and economic housing projects that cater to informal settler families in Quezon City and also government employees in Bistekville 2 and 4. In-city relocation projects by NGOs visited in Pasay City were SHACC Phase II assisted by St. Hannibal Empowerment Center (SHECC), and Ernestville housing project assisted by the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) in Novaliches, Quezon City. For the high-end mix-use development, the group visited Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation in Bonifacio Global City and the Ayala Land main office in Ayala Central Business District.

NHA provided the study site for the students' field study in Harmony Hills, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, a 7.5 hectare land with rolling terrain, partly occupied by both formal and informal settlers and private businesses. This will be phase 2 of the



Students visit Ernestville housing project in Novaliches, Quezon City. Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) introduce the students to the community, and give an overview of the housing project.



Panel member Fiona de Heer (middle) giving her final comments on the students' work. Looking on are HDM faculty Laura Liuke (left) and HDM Director Johnny Astrand (right).

NHA development in the area, the first phase has launched the construction of 4-storey buildings earmarked for orphaned families of military personnel.

Before the foreign students returned to Sweden in the first week of March, they presented their preliminary concepts on site and building design to the local partners to get additional inputs, comments and also clarify the applicability of their initial design ideas based on the context. This was attended

mainly by architects and engineers from NHA, DMCI, and TAO-Pilipinas.

The final site and housing design were presented at the end of May in HDM-Lund University to a panel of local and international reviewers. The site and building designs this year focused a lot on improving the indoor climate and outdoor environment and taking advantage of the topography to maximize ventilation and light at the site and inside buildings. The Urban Shelter proposals were then exhibited, part of

the annual end of term culmination activity of Lund University.

The Urban Shelter housing proposals will be compiled in an A3-size catalogue and shared with select partner institutions in the Philippines as a reference for design ideas that could be useful in future housing initiatives. (MFYV)

TAO JOINS ICSC'S ENERGY CAMPAIGNING 101

ON MAY 28, 2019, AS PART OF ITS continuing drive to incorporate renewable energy in its projects, TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. attended Energy Campaigning 101: Skillshare for new energy campaigners at the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) along Mother Ignacia Avenue, Quezon City. The forum was organized by the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) in partnership with Oxfam International. The skillshare aimed to examine salient issues that need to be addressed in order to facilitate the shift to RE in the power sector.

Participants to the forum were comprised of students, activists, policy advocates, and technical professionals from organizations that tackle wide-ranging issues on energy such as anti-coal mining campaigns, use of renewable energy (RE) in sustainable communities, transition of workers in the power sector to RE, and applications of RE in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).

An introduction to energy in the Philippines by Paula Valencia of ICSC kicked off the forum. This was followed by a presentation on "Financing the Shift to RE" by Sara Jane Ahmed, Energy Finance Analyst for Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). She explained the coal power development process and noted the pressure points in the process to redirect funding to RE. Afterward, Alberto Dalusung III, Director of Preferred Energy, Inc., discussed the "Technological Requirements

and Barriers on the Shift to RE". He reviewed the feasibility of the RE sector taking over the coal industry. The final presentation, an "Overview of the Implementation of RE Act and EPIRA", was then delivered by ICSC Energy Policy Advisor Jose "Viking" Logarta Jr. He provided a background and review of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA) and the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 since their enactment.

After the presentations, an open forum was facilitated by ICSC Partnerships and Advocacy Advisor Francis dela Cruz, wherein the speakers, participants, and organizers

exchanged ideas for the energy campaign. The main action point raised during the forum was to form a communication network among the facilitators and participants, to support and strengthen their respective campaigns. The participants were also given an opportunity to share their learnings and plans as new energy advocates. TAO-Pilipinas, Inc., represented by Lorena Hernandez and Theresse Julia, talked about implementing Community-Based Renewable Energy Systems (CBRES) among its partner communities as part of developing sustainable human settlements. (TRJ)



Participants of Energy Campaigning 101 exchange ideas during the open forum.

PMPI launches Power of Purple

May 7, 2019 at Max's Restaurant, Harbour Square, Pasay City, Philippines – the Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. launched the Power of Purple 2019, an election education campaign that aims to share with the public the profile and performance of 2019 senatorial candidates with ratings based on the thematic issues in which the Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI) are currently engaged with – 1) Peace and Human Rights; 2) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; 3) Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Development; 4) Environment and Anti-Mining Campaign and 5) Good Governance.

PoP 2019 is a crowdsourcing hub for information on the candidates running for the May 2019 elections. It showcases their position, advocacies and actual actions on various issues and concerns. It provides a rating of the candidates' performance according to the thematic concerns of PMPI. A smiley means the candidate has performed positively, relevant to the PMPI's 5 advocacies, and is rated +1. A frown means the candidate's performance is against the

PMPI's advocacies and is rated -1. A straight face means he/she exhibited ambivalence regarding PMPI's advocacies and is rated -.50. A question mark or NA means either no data is available or the candidate made no actions relevant to PMPI advocacies. A watch out blast means the candidate is involved in controversial issues and is rated -.50.

Candidates were also rated according to their positions on the 4 major current issues: (1) West Philippine Sea and China, (2) tokhang and human rights violations, (3) Charter Change/ Federalism and (4) Martial Law. In this case, ambivalence and lack of stance on the issue is rated a -.50 as this shows a lack of political independence. Twenty-four (24) candidates were rated using available information online, and survey responses.

During the launch, the statement of PMPI on the coming May 13 Elections was read by Arlene Christy Lusterio, PMPI Co-convenor for Luzon and Executive Director of TAO-Pilipinas. The scoring process was explained by Yolanda Esguerra, National



Arlene Lusterio, Executive Director - TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. answers questions from the audience.

Coordinator of PMPI. Together with PMPI is Bishop Broderick Pabillo, Executive Director of the Episcopal Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines; Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Secretary of National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA/Caritas Philippines), the humanitarian development and advocacy arm of the Catholic Church; and Atty. Alex Lacson, convenor of People's Choice Movement (PCM). Fr. Edu talked about the message of Pope Francis about the church playing an active and responsible role in the current elections, so that leaders may lead responsibly. Bishop Pabillo stressed the need for an

independent senate as the last hold of democracy, and the need therefore to elect senators who make independent decisions – and are not influenced by the current administration. Atty. Lacson stressed on electing servant-leaders who put God first and in the center of decisions. He also thanked PMPI for establishing the criteria for selecting candidates. He referred to this as principled partisanship. He also stressed the need for an independent senate. To ensure this, he listed PCM's 10 recommended senators.

The PoP was launched to provide a guide in making an objective choice in the coming May 13, 2019 elections. (ACDL)

TAO, FDUP, AND PHILSSA CONDUCT RTD ON HOUSE RETROFITTING IN URBAN POOR COMMUNITIES

A research team composed of staff members of FDUP, PHILSSA and TAO-Pilipinas recently conducted a roundtable discussion (RTD) on house retrofitting in urban poor communities. Last February, the same team previously attended a workshop series that explored innovative solutions to address challenges in earthquake response and resilience. (See YP Enewsletter Jan-Mar 2019 issue.)

The RTD served as a research activity to firm up the team's proposal to initiate a demonstration project on structures assessment and retrofitting in the urban poor community of Talanay in Barangay Bataan Hills, Quezon City. The team also wanted to get feedback from different stakeholders and gather potential technical and financial support for the initiative.

The activity was held on May 23 at Max's Restaurant in Matalino Street, Quezon City. It was attended by representatives from two government agencies - Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) and Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), as well as non-government organizations such as Build Change, and PHILSSA network members Kasagana-Ka Development Center and Alterplan. Community leaders from the homeowners association Tinig at Lakas ng Mamamayan sa Talanay (Talanay HOA) also joined the discussion. Their community in Batasan Hills, located near the West Valley Fault, is the demonstration area for the proposed project.

PHILSSA National Coordinator Benedict Balderrama welcomed all guests and gave the opening remarks. This was followed by a brief introduction of the RTD objectives by FDUP's Teresa Prondosa, who served as the program emcee. Architect Geraldine Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas then presented the proposed demonstration project brief, outlining the proposal's objectives,

activities and intended outputs. The research team is proposing to come up with a structures assessment tool that will be used to formulate a seismic retrofitting strategy for the non-engineered houses of Talanay. Arch. Matabang also shared the results of focus group discussions (FGDs) that the research team conducted with members of Talanay HOA last February.

Community Development students from UP-CSWCD were also invited to present the results of a participatory capacities and vulnerability assessment (PCVA) that they conducted with Talanay HOA. The PCVA revealed the perception of hazards, earthquake awareness and the level of disaster preparedness of Talanay HOA community. Community leaders Myrna Monjares and Amelia Pellazar confirmed that their houses are mostly self-built and that they did not pay attention to how house foundations were built. It was only after knowing about the Big One and experiencing recent earthquakes that concerns about strengthening their houses became apparent.

In the open forum that followed the presentations, guests gave feedback and advice on different aspects of the team's proposal. Mr. Ishmael C. Narag, officer-in-charge of the Seismological Observation and Earthquake Prediction Division at PHIVOLCS, welcomed the team's initiative and emphasized that the aim of retrofitting is for the prevention of house collapse during an earthquake. He pointed out the need to study the elements of the non-engineered houses in Talanay, identify its building components and materials and the building standards used in its construction. He also advised the team to look into studies on damage impact from ground shaking scenarios, and the PHIVOLCS software for structures assessment which engineers can use. Moreover, Mr. Narag recommended that validation also be done, to determine whether retrofitted structures were strengthened, through a post-retrofit analysis.

Architect Sarah Redoblado of Alterplan suggested that the team explicitly lay out the scope and assumptions for the project. She noted that this kind of project covers communities that already have security of land tenure and that the initial study was limited to the site context and situation of Talanay HOA. Arch. Redoblado also pointed

out the importance of the organizing aspect in the proposal, especially if the project will deal with an organization like Talanay HOA and not individual households.

Ms. Maricris Valte of Kasagana-Ka on the other hand, stressed the need for more models for incremental retrofitting. She also shared their experience in implementing a retrofitting loan and savings program, noting the requirements for their retrofitting loan such as secure land tenure, updated payments of amortization, and building permit.

Engineer Kim Acupan, a project manager at Build Change, commented that the team's proposal is similar to how Build Change operates its retrofitting projects. She mentioned that in their project with Kasagana-Ka, there was huge difficulty in the marketing of retrofitting loans, and that in other areas, Build Change also partners with local government to access government subsidies. She added that Build Change is currently developing a digital documentation tool to monitor the cost of retrofitting with the aim of improving project scalability. Engr. Acupan summarized three concerns in their retrofitting projects - accessibility of building permits, homeowner's capacity to pay and savings mobilization, and marketability.

Engineer Elsa Calimlim, manager for NCR North at SHFC, commented that the concept of retrofitting has been associated with cost implications. She noted that while there is currently no SHFC financial assistance package for house retrofitting, there may be a possibility of applying it under the house construction and site development loan. She expressed

the need to prove that the proposed retrofitting process and system will be feasible, with the assurance of structural integrity of retrofitted structures. Engr. Calimlim recommended that the team write a proposal about retrofitting demonstration to SHFC and specify the support requested from SHFC. Mr. Christopher Salise added that SHFC could also support capacity building activities and trainings, to address the community's lack of knowledge on earthquake preparedness and retrofitting.

Proponents of the project also gave their feedback. Architect Arlene Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas suggested that Talanay HOA already start to gather data from households on how their houses were built. She also observed that from a technical standpoint, a potential difficulty for the project may be finding engineers willing to respond to the challenge of retrofitting houses that are self-built, non-engineered and did not use modular building systems. Mr. Balderrama of PHILSSA meanwhile, recommended an integrated intervention package that combines the structural/technical solutions with complimentary financial schemes, considering urban poor households' capacity to pay for retrofitting measures. He stressed the importance of gathering socio-economic data of Talanay households, and that a partnership with Kasagana-Ka can also be explored to support savings mobilization.

FDUP's Maricel Genzola concluded the RTD by summing up the important discussion points from the session. She put forward the possibility of implementing a pilot retrofitting project in an urban poor community with SHFC's support. (GRM)



Arlene Lusterio, Executive Director - TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. answers questions from the audience.

TAO FORMALIZES “MARRIAGE” WITH DLSU-COSCA

OLD AND NEW PARTNERS OF DE LA Salle University (DLSU) - Manila's Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA) came together on May 25, 2019 for the Lasallian Partners Gathering and Orientation, held at Room 1103, Bro. Andrew Gonzales Hall, De La Salle University, Manila.

The whole day event was divided into four parts: Lasallian Formation orientation, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signing, breakout sessions for programs orientation, and a campus tour. In Mr. Neil Oliver Penullar, COSCA's Director's opening statement, he likened the partnership to a marriage, pointing out that De La Salle began the pamamanhikan or the courting by reaching out to organizations and getting to know them. In the case of TAO, this was done through Mr. Joel Anonuevo, who contacted and visited our office several times in order to get to know our work. He noted that the Partners Gathering and Orientation is an opportunity for the organizations to get to know De La Salle University in turn.

The Lasallian Formation orientation was composed of a series of talks that were all geared towards introducing La Salle's values, goals, and objectives to its partners. The first talk was a brief overview of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), presented by Mr. Leo Tadana,

Lasallian Sustainable Development Program (LDSP) Coordinator. After listing and explaining the 17 SDGs, which guide La Salle's programs and activities, he asked the organizations present if these are the same goals that they are working towards achieving. Participants responded with a resounding yes, affirming that all organizations aspire to the same goals and objectives, even though some were previously unaware of the U.N. SDGs.

The second talk was the Lasallian Orientation, which introduced the participants to the life and mission of St. Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, the patron saint of teachers. This was quickly followed by a presentation on DLSU and its Social Engagement Framework, by Ms. Marichel Escalante, Partnership and Network Development Program (PNDP) Coordinator. La Salle's community engagement programs are guided by their Lasallian Reflection Framework (LRF). The LRF is a cyclical process of seeing and experiencing (masid-danas) social realities, analysis and reflection (suri-nilay), commitment and action (taya-kilos). The LRF has many similarities to TAO-Pilipinas' participatory approach. Through the Young Professionals Formation project, technical students and young professionals are introduced to a different paradigm of technical service - one that is more facilitative instead



DLSU-COSCA partners, including TAO-Pilipinas, at the ceremonial signing of Memorandum of Agreement between DLSU-COSCA and each partner organization.

of prescriptive, and one that enjoins designers and planners to work with the community, instead of simply working for them. This alignment of values and approaches led to the formalization of TAO's partnership with DLSU COSCA in the ceremonial signing of MoAs that followed.

After the signing of MoAs, it was time to get to the nitty-gritty. Organizations were divided into two breakout sessions - one for the National Service Training Program (NSTP), and the other for the Service Learning Program (SLP). TAO-Pilipinas was assigned to the SLP, which “aims to integrate social development principles and service activities in the academic programs of DLSU.” Unlike the NSTP, the SLP

is required of all DLSU students, regardless of citizenship, course, and level of education. It enables encourages all students and faculty to apply their expertise in various activities for social change, through DLSU's partner organizations.

A quick campus tour capped off the day, with student volunteers serving as guides. This was for partners to familiarize themselves with the campus, as it is anticipated that many fruitful partnership activities will be held within its walls. It is TAO's hope that this marriage to DLSU COSCA gives birth to socially-oriented children who will proactively take on the task of building sustainable communities. (RMBA)

Pushing for participatory processes... [\(continued from page 1\)](#)

recent consultations were on the finalization of the draft IRR held at the House of Representatives in Batasan Hills, Quezon City on April 10 and April 30, 2019.

On April 10, the office of Representative Alfredo Benitez, chair of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, hosted the consultation-workshop on the DHSUD IRR formulation with civil society organizations (CSOs), academe and people's organizations (POs). Rep. Benitez presided over the consultations and led the discussion of various CSO and PO development agenda, opportunities, and challenges to consider in the IRR formulation.

To lay the ground for the consultation, the salient features of

RA 11201 were reviewed during the workshop as well as the outputs of preliminary consultations with CSOs and POs. The proposed provisions of the DHSUD IRR were presented, followed by an open forum to discuss specific CSO recommendations for the IRR. An integrated position paper for the development of the RA 11201 IRR by the CSOs was then consolidated from their recommendations. The CSO inputs focused on four development agendas: 1) institutionalizing participatory approaches in land use and shelter planning; 2) ensuring sustainable financing for socialized housing; 3) resettlement sites development; and 4) unlocking land for socialized housing.

Another round of consultation with CSOs was subsequently held on

April 30. This round of consultation was hosted by the Housing and Urban Development and Coordinating Council (HUDCC). Atty. Angelito Aguilar, director of Policy Development Group of HUDCC presided over the meeting and presented the HUDCC draft version of the IRR. In the open forum that followed, the integrated position paper of the CSOs consolidated from the April 10 consultations was shared with HUDCC for feedback. Several urban development issues were likewise brought up such as the Manila Bay reclamation and regulation of private sector developments, and social housing provision requirements. The CSO groups also underscored the lack of a specific urban development framework or strategy that the DHSUD should advance in its

mandate as the sole policy making body for urban development.

At the end of the meeting, the CSO groups were advised to provide HUDCC the documentation of their recommendations, specifically their proposed textual revisions in the draft IRR and the strategic and policy framework recommendations for the DHSUD Secretary. It is TAO-Pilipinas' hope that the consolidated position of the CSOs earlier presented will be duly considered and that participatory and inclusive processes be institutionalized not only in the drafting of the IRR but in the entire land use and shelter planning. (GRM)

TAO-PILIPINAS TAKES PART IN THE FUTURE ENERGY SHOW

RENEWABLE ENERGY IS THE FUTURE. TAO-Pilipinas recognizes this and has begun incorporating renewable energy in its technical assistance projects. Part of this initiative requires awareness of the most recent trends, technology, and innovations in the field of RE. It is with this aim that Arch. Arlene Lusterio and Engr. Lorena Hernandez of TAO-Pilipinas attended the Future Energy Show, a two-day event held in SMX Convention Center last May 20-21, 2019.

The event consisted of simultaneous conferences on Solar Energy, Power Generation, Energy Storage, Smart Energy, Electric Vehicles, Wind Energy, Microgrid, and Energy Innovations. The sessions on each conference ran for 30 minutes and the attendees were free to choose which sessions/conferences they would like to join. The event was attended by a mix of technical individuals involved in the field of power and electrification, businesses and organizations engaged in energy, enthusiasts, and generally curious minds.

There were two theaters dedicated to Solar Energy. Solar Energy Theater I focused on current developments and innovations related to Solar Energy. Solar Energy Theater II talked about available local and foreign entities and programs that provide financing support to interested individuals and groups. The Power Generation Theater featured speakers that talked about the Philippines' energy mix, innovations on power generation, transmission, and distribution, and available sources of energy in the country. Both conferences provided useful information for TAO-Pilipinas, particularly for Project Recharge, and for projects in the pipeline that aim to incorporate renewable energy (RE).

The other theaters and conferences were focused on energy storage, smart energy, electric vehicles, wind energy, and microgrid systems. Like the previously mentioned conferences, the presentations consisted of researches, studies, and insights on the topics mentioned. Innovations regarding the components and systems were also showcased. At the Energy Storage Theater, speakers talked about various energy storage components, and utility-scale energy storage systems. The Smart Energy Theater focused on a new and

exciting technology that some energy systems apply, while the electric vehicles conference facilitated discussions on PUV modernization, the future of electric vehicles in the Philippines, and other topics related to electric vehicles. The Wind Energy conference showcased the technology behind wind farms as well as its potential. Finally, the Microgrid conference shared different Microgrid systems used in remote areas, especially in small islands.

One of the event's highlights is the Energy Innovation Arena, which opened on the second day. The arena showcased different start up projects focusing on energy. It was a space where start-up projects presented and displayed their innovations before a panel. In turn, they earned free passes to the Asian Power and Energy Summit, and a discounted price for an exhibition booth.

Keynote Sessions were also held between 10:30 AM to 12 NN and 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM. The keynote speakers were representatives from the Department of Energy, Meralco, ReNew Power, and Tesla.

Overall, the sessions were very informative, having discussed systems and technologies of varying degrees of scale and complexity. The conference catered not only to those involved in the field of power and electrification, but also to enthusiasts and curious minds that are interested in venturing into the field of RE.

Exhibitors, comprised of manufacturers of various technologies, also gathered at the event. Most of these exhibitors were hoping to find a local distributor for their respective products. There were also places allotted specifically for networking. Solar streetlights, solar panels, inverters, and generators were showcased in the event. According to the event's website, more than 8000 people attended the conference. The sessions and the exhibits were open to the public and were free for all – creating a space for individuals and organizations to access the future of energy. (MLPH)



Mr. Shah Nawaz Ahmad from the World Nuclear Association presents the situation on energy scarcity for the poor as well as the aggravating circumstances.



An electric vehicle on display near the electric vehicle theater during the event.



A "Housing Power System" by Outdo Battery that can charge mobile phones, electrify fans, LED lights, and other appliances. It was one of the innovations exhibited by a number of manufacturers present on the event.

Title: **The Modern Urban Landscape**
 Author: **Edward Relph**
 Publisher: **Johns Hopkins University Press (1987)**

Edward Relph's classic book takes the reader on a chronological tour of contemporary Western—albeit predominantly American—urban landscape. Covering a century of ever-evolving urban fabric, Relph dissects the various “separate yet interconnected” changes and influences that shaped the backdrop of modern cities in the West. The author designates 1880 as reference point for the book due to the significant developments that have occurred in architecture, planning, technology, and society since then. The late 19th century also marked the era when the first skyscrapers pierced through the Chicago cityscape with their steel skeleton-frame system.

The chapters of the book course through the history of the modern urban environment, while offering fundamental theory and criticism of the pervading visual context. In

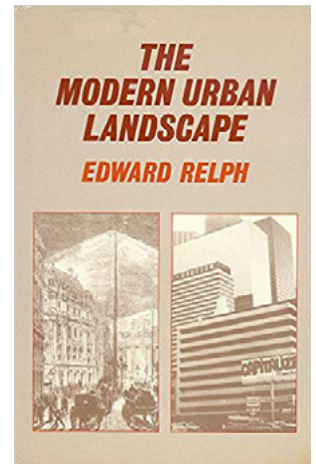
the opening chapters, the author narrates the utopian socialist societies envisioned by authors Edward Bellamy and William Morris. Relph notes how these speculations were thwarted when “capitalism and commercialized materialism flourished” and shaped modern society. He also discusses the ideal city movements – whether partially adopted or completely unrealized to this day – that were conceived by prominent visionaries such as Daniel Burnham, Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Le Corbusier.

The succeeding chapters shed light on how various influences and elements of the city reflected the zeitgeist of the post-1880 era. Relph examines the different architectural styles and urban planning concepts that emerged alongside, or as a result of, technological and societal changes. He points out society's propensity for

nostalgia through the revival spree that occurred in the late 1800s to early 1900s. He also analyzes how the self-consciousness, or lack thereof, of certain architectural styles has rendered urban spaces pretentious but vibrant, or dull but efficient.

In his concluding chapter, Relph explores the qualities of modernist cityscapes and post-modern townscapes. He recognizes the persisting tensions that mold cities as a “patchwork of landscapes” and notes that the paradox of urban landscapes has to be grasped as “unities of disunity”. After all, Relph remarks, a lot of these landscapes were conceived to resolve economic and social injustices, and consequently, to create good societies.

Ultimately, the book is an enjoyable and nostalgic refresher for those with a background in architectural



and planning history. (It might even help a budding built environment professional to get into the right mindset for board examination!) The author also utilizes relatable language and storytelling, supplemented with photos and illustrations; it appeals to anybody with a fondness for cities, whether as something to observe or experience. (TRJ)

**Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment only. You may call Therese Julia at 287-6446 / 436-7301 to schedule your visit.*



YP PULSE

First on the list of priority bills of the newly-elected senators is the lowering of the criminal age of responsibility. The bill supposedly seeks to protect children from being used by syndicates to commit crimes. As built environment professionals, what strategies or interventions do you believe are most effective in preventing crime and/or unwanted conduct?

I have read this study way back in college. It found that humans tend to be positive and have a better outlook in life when they are nearer to nature and/or they experience proper and enough personal space when needed. The study shows people look for better jobs and think clearly when they are in a good environment, which lead to fewer crimes. Since people don't often get professional advice on how to attain this (and of course aminin natin na mahal din talaga ang bayad sa serbisyo natin), and since wala din namang inaabot ang gobyerno na tulong like public doctors or public lawyers; walang public architect.

I hope we, or the UAP, can have an official website for providing free design consultations for the people who truly need it. Although we have Facebook pages right now wherein professionals give their advice, but a legit website wherein normal people could get professional help for a minimal fee would benefit creating a better environment. This could also uplift our profession to illiterate clients. Madaming tao ang gusto lumapit sa arkitekto kaso hindi nabibigyan ng tamang idea kung paano ba tayo trumabaho. If everyone could get proper consultation, just like how we seek out public hospitals, it could be better.

CRISTINA BELEN-LOVEREZ, ARCHITECT

The problem cannot be solved with a linear solution. We need to study the parameters involved in the crimes committed. Basic questions such as what, where and when must be answered first in order for us to provide an effective solution. What are the types of crimes involved? Where do the incidents usually happen? And when do these crimes occur? We can identify the type of places where crimes occur the most. This can help us enumerate the characteristics of the place and identify what makes it vulnerable to such crimes. The following design interventions are just assumptions and would probably help to prevent crimes.

1. Provide sufficient lighting - Most criminals do not want to attract witnesses. Having sufficient lighting makes it hard for them to hide their identity
2. Avoid hidden corners in planning – Hidden corners are very vulnerable since these are also areas where no one is there to help the victim.
3. Police visibility – The presence of law enforcing bodies makes it very difficult for perpetrators to proceed with the crime.

CARLOS BORROMEO, ARCHITECT AND MASTER PLUMBER

Disclaimer: The views and opinions presented do not necessarily reflect the views of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

Part of That World: Reflections of a Landscape Architect in Development Work

by Rosanne Marie Aldeguer

I came to TAO in 2016 because I was looking for something – purpose, meaning, contentment, growth? I wasn't sure exactly what it was that I was looking for, but I thought I'd find it here. I was a newly minted landscape architect, but I already had around four years of working experience. I've been working while studying. I've worked at a small, private firm, at a design and build firm, a large, corporate firm, and I've freelanced. I value all these experiences but I've always felt like something was missing. After just a few months or years, I would plateau – feeling like I was no longer growing, like I was churning out work that I was caring less and less about.

Being from the University of the Philippines, I had many friends in the development sector. I would listen in on their conversations about work, all their frustrations and subsequent passionate rants, and I would always be curious. It seemed exciting, challenging, purposeful. They looked tired, yet always fired up. Talking about their little wins would bring a glint in their eyes. I was fascinated by their common language, and I marveled at how huge and different their world was from mine. I wanted in.

But I also wanted to keep practicing my profession. I love planning, creating,

and designing. I didn't want to give that up. And so I sought out TAO-Pilipinas, which I've gotten to know briefly through a CWTS class I took in college. Working with TAO meant that I could still put my profession to good use while working towards a more equitable society – something that I felt I could commit to, that would challenge me, and give me purpose. I applied, and I was hired. But after a few months I was once again at a loss. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but it wasn't the same kind of restlessness I felt before. You see, I liked where I was. The problem was, I didn't know my place in it.

I had been working at the office, in front of a computer, doing mostly graphic design and social media management tasks. I was longing to apply my technical skills and knowledge, but there was no opportunity to do so, especially for a landscape architect whose services are really seen as a luxury in this country. I certainly didn't feel like a fish out of water, but I felt like a fish that's been plucked out of my aquarium and thrown into the river.

Then came the 2017 Young Professionals Workshop. It felt like I saw what TAO was all about for the first time. TAO's brand of technical assistance really isn't prescriptive at all. It is participatory at every stage of

the planning process, and I learned how much more difficult it is to teach and facilitate, than to simply consult. I learned that it wasn't just about development, but also empowerment. I said then, at the reflection session at the end of the workshop, that "This is my turning point," that I liked this work and I will stay and continue to work in the development sector.

I haven't really been able to grasp what I was turning towards when I said that. I realize now that it means that I've chosen to pursue bigger dreams, and work towards bigger goals – those that will require not just my own (I don't want to say blood) sweat and tears, but a nation's. In short and at the risk of sounding cheesy, I've chosen to believe in our people and our future.

So now I understand why there's so much frustration and so many passionate rants at the dinner table when they talk about work. Especially with the current state of the nation, it's easy to feel down, heartbroken, or hopeless because it feels like you're coming up against a brick wall – those big dreams and those big goals are out of your grasp, and those people you believe in don't really care. But then again, I also now understand why there's a glint in their eyes when they see little signs of progress or signs of hope. Because the

thing with working towards this kind of big dream is, it is beautiful even in its smaller scales – the community women who decided and demanded that they have appropriate spaces for children and adults to play are as inspiring as the influential and trailblazing women in planning and design; and the small community center planned and built by its members is as notable a feat as the sustainable cities planned and designed with representation from all sectors.

Fast forward three years later, and I'm still here; navigating the waters of the river I've been thrown in (rather threw myself in). I must admit that I still miss the traditional sense of designing, planning, and creating – but I've become aware that that is the mindset of the fish from the aquarium. I am slowly relearning what it means to be a designer, a planner, in a world bigger than my own. In the words of U2, "I still haven't found what I'm looking for." I don't know if I'm on the right path, but I do know I'm in the right place. Perhaps the path is something I can create on my own; that's the beauty of not living in an aquarium.



Rosanne Marie Aldeguer (a.k.a. Ros) at the 2017 YP Workshop on Planning for Climate and Disaster-Resilient Urban Poor Communities, reflecting on her experience. (May 29, 2017)



Rosanne Marie Aldeguer (a.k.a. Ros) hosting the launch of "TAO-Pilipinas: architects in the margins," a book documenting TAO's work for 16 years. (August 29, 2018)

“Because the thing with working towards this kind of big dream is, it is beautiful even in its smaller scales – the community women who decided and demanded that they have appropriate spaces for children and adults to play are as inspiring as the influential and trailblazing women in planning and design; and the small community center planned and built by its members is as notable a feat as the sustainable cities planned and designed with representation from all sectors.”

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