



At TAO, the acronym CBDRM has been the office buzzword for about a year already and finally after months of preparation, we have conducted the YP Workshop for a new batch of young professionals. We felt that dealing with "disaster risk management" had been pressing considering the spate of disaster impacts experienced by different sectors throughout the country. Just weeks before the YP workshop, we were beset with news of environmental damages from the Guimaras oil spill and infrastructure destruction brought about by typhoon "Milenyo" (especially in the Bicol region).

For the organizers, the 5-day workshop was not only a coordination and logistical challenge but was also a test of faith in divine providence. The month of October has the highest frequency of storms in Infanta (our workshop immersion site) and we incessantly prayed for good weather, dreading the YP Workshop itself would turn into a rescue operation for stranded YPs. So, not only were we blessed with excellent weather and attendance in Infanta but grateful also for the support given by our network partners and sponsors.

Continue to visit the homepage www.ypps.tao-pilipinas.org for more of the YP workshop documentation and project updates.

In this month's e-newsletter:

- [2006 YP Workshop tackles CBDRM](#)
- [YP reflections by Angel Sales](#)
- [Guide to YP events and goods](#)
- [Features for TAO Shelter's Issue No.2](#)

Please download the attached .pdf file for full story articles. Previous e-newsletters can be accessed at www.tao-pilipinas.org/ypp.htm

Quotes for this month:

"If you ask people, 'How do you depend on nature?' most will focus on things: food, fiber, medicines, and more recently genes. Most people are unaware of the concept on 'ecosystem services.' These are benefits provided by intact ecosystems: cleansing of air and water, partial climate regulation, making of fertile soils, provision of habitat, and control of pests and pathogens. Only when we begin to lose these services do we realize they're valuable."

- **Dr. Jane Lubchenco**, environmental scientist and marine ecologist, Oregon State University

"Climate change threatens the basic elements of life for people around the world --- access to water, food production, health, and use of land and the environment... The impacts of climate change are not evenly distributed --- the poorest countries and people will suffer earliest and most. And if and when the damages appear it will be too late to reverse the process. Thus we are forced to look a long way ahead."

"The benefits of strong, early action outweigh the costs...There is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change if strong collective action starts now."

- **Sir Nicholas Stern**, economist and author of the Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change

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



Session 1 speakers: Blenn Huelgas (UN-Habitat); Mayfourth Luneta (CDP); Laura David (UP-MSI)



Session 2 speakers: Rhodora Gonzalez (UP-GE Dept.); Armie Jean Perez (Seastems); Karlo Queaño (DENR-MGB)



Session 3 speakers: Rem Zamora (PDI); Ger Samson (TAO); John Ong (Manila Observatory)



Session 4 speakers: Danny Mostrales (MSU-IIT); Arlene Lusterio (TAO); Lorna Victoria (CDP)



Panelists: Avic Ilagan and Ellen Ramos (Blacksoup); Billy Tusalem (JFLFI); Noli Abinales (Buklod-Tao); Jo Vicente-Angeles (COPE); YP Workshop Emcee Irene NgCha-Ching

2006 YP Workshop tackles CBDRM

"It's very good to see young people into disaster risk management." This was the shared reaction of UN-Habitat's Blenn Huelgas and Mayfourth Luneta of the Center for Disaster Preparedness when the 2006 Young Professionals (YP) Workshop was started with presentations from disaster management specialists. From October 17 to 21, TAO-Pilipinas conducted the YP Orientation Workshop on Social Housing with select participants from Metro Manila-based architecture and engineering schools and representatives of people's organizations (POs) from Infanta, Quezon Province.

This year's theme for the annual YP Workshop was "Young Professionals working towards Sustainable Communities: Integrating Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in Social Housing." The objective of the 5-day workshop was to orient both design professionals and PO representatives in actions and approaches that can contribute to enhancing the capabilities of communities, especially in social housing sites, to reduce and cope with the negative impacts of disasters. Disaster resilience is seen as one of the key characteristics of sustainable communities.

The YP workshops have always been carried out in two levels: *theoretical*, through lectures and presentations; and *practicum*, through field visits and community immersion. After the training sessions held at Villa Cristina in Antipolo during the workshop's first two days, participants made a brief visit to Buklod-Tao communities in San Mateo, Rizal where community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) programs are already well-placed. Community immersions were concentrated in Barangays Agos-agos and Dinahican in Infanta which are in the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction after the December 2004 flashfloods and landslides. Architecture, civil engineering and geodetic engineering students and the PO reps were grouped into teams to simultaneously conduct community consultations in the following sites:

- Pope John Paul II Village, a resettlement site located in the uplands of Bgy. Agos-agos and where beneficiary families are flashflood victims from Infanta, Real and Gen. Nakar;
- Dinahican Visayan Village Fishermen's Association (DVVFA), a people's organization in a small fishing village along the coasts of Bgy. Dinahican and whose member-families are informal settlers; and
- Munting Sabang Tagumpay Association, another people's organization of informal settler-families in Bgy. Dinahican who are in the process of relocating to an identified resettlement site along the southern coastal area of Infanta.

Prior coordination by TAO-Pilipinas with other organizations working in these areas like the Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise (COPE) and the Prelature of Infanta's

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

2006 YP... (from page 2)



Ka Noli gives a tour of Buklod Tao communities in Barangay Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal for YPs



YPs hike to one of the immersion sites in the uplands of Barangay Agos-agos, Infanta



Participants of the 2006 YP Workshop in Antipolo

Social Action Center (SAC) made possible the teams' participatory hazards assessment, mapping activities, focus group discussions and action planning with the communities. And for two nights, the workshop participants were accommodated within the homes of host families in the sites.

At the fourth day of the workshop, each of the teams presented their practicum outputs before a plenary. Several issues were brought up during the plenary discussions, among which included the engagement of LGUs in CBDRM programs, organizational strengthening of POs,

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YP reflections



YP workshop participants are encouraged to reflect on their community immersion experiences. Angel Sales, one of TAO's R&P staff, shares with us her blog entries.

The 16th until the 21st day of October was an important week for all of us in the office. I dreaded for that week to come because of the Young Professional General Orientation Workshop in Social Housing. The weeks that came before were tough ones too mainly because of the preparations we had to endure to make the workshop a success. I was very anxious as the weeks rolled on and I thought it was going to be a hell week. I was proven wrong.

As the weekend going into the workshop week ended, my anxiety grew even more. I remembered going to church hoping and praying that I will be able to do my responsibilities well and will not cause any disappointment for my officemates. I also prayed for good weather and good health for me to be able to endure the demands of the workshop.

Finally, the workshop week started, six long days of being away from home and from my own comfort zone. Though it was not my first time to be gone for so long, it had been awhile since I experienced being on my own again. I needed to remember what it was like to be independent again and to trust my own decisions. The workshop week definitely taught me that.

The YP 2006 Workshop was definitely an experience I will not forget. More than the long hours spent with my officemates forming bonds and strengthening them, it is the many realizations that I have chanced upon that made the workshop more meaningful for me. Once again I have proven to myself that I am most fulfilled when I am able to help others. Cliché as it may sound, it is the kind of satisfaction that no material possession can ever give me. The community immersion also made me realize that despite my family's own financial problems we are still very fortunate as compared to those families who were ravaged by the 2004 typhoon.

Hearing their stories and seeing their conditions first hand, the community of Pope John Paul II Village earned my respect for the resiliency and strength of character that they have shown. They are a joyful bunch of people



Angel and Osang conduct ocular inspection of the resettlement site in Agos-agos



Angel with YPs and host family in Agos-agos



Angel in charge of video documentation of the YP workshop



Angel facilitates hazard assessment workshop with Agos-agos community

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

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2006 YP... (from page 3)

mangroves area protection, the perennial problem of lack of basic services in resettlement sites (that residents consider as everyday hazards in their lives), and previously urban area concerns that now also affect rural communities (e.g. garbage disposal, groundwater depletion and contamination). It was also noted that in the four groups where participatory hazards assessments were held, the hazards which were prioritized by people were the lack of potable water supply, flooding, typhoons, and solid waste. These practicum outputs were a validation that the scope of disaster risk management should encompass both natural and human-induced hazards.

On a more personal level, the workshop participants also shared their reflection over their involvement in the community immersion activities. For most of the students, it was their first experience in directly interacting with poor communities as technical service clients. They acknowledged that the workshop activities were an eye-opener that gave them a wider perspective on their roles as professionals and a deeper appreciation of basic shelter needs. *"It was clear from the presentations that YPs faced a tough task where you were not only architects and engineers but also became researchers, organizers and teachers,"* commented one of the panelists (TAO Board member and filmmaker Avic Ilagan).



The Dinahican-YP team visiting the coastal areas...

...facilitating focus group discussions with fisherfolks

...presenting their community immersion outputs.



The Agosagos-YP team gives a creative presentation of their immersion experience through puppetry.



Kate Teves of FEU-IARFA explains her reflection drawing.



YPs paint with hands for their group mural painting.

The community immersions were primarily aimed at letting the YPs experience first-hand participatory planning approaches by conducting community consultations. They were also opportunities for them to apply and validate their understanding of the CBDRM lectures from the first part of the workshop. However, the activities facilitated by the workshop participants in the immersion sites would be considered as just the initiation phases in the whole CBDRM process. Indeed, much of the information drawn out from the people need to be analyzed and further coordination (among various stakeholders) and community work are expected to be done so that effective disaster risk management at the grassroots level can be fully realized. With YPs willing to focus their talents and energies on such endeavors, TAO-Pilipinas hopes to contribute more in helping create disaster-resilient and sustainable communities.

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YP Reflections... (from page 3)

whose faith in God is unwavering despite the hardships that they have faced. Most importantly, it is the hospitality of the community that would leave a lasting impression on me. I will not forget how one community member remembered my name upon arriving at their village and greeted me warmly despite the fact that I have only visited their village just once. I felt ashamed of myself for not even bothering to get her name.

Lastly, the event was even more memorable because I had the opportunity of meeting different interesting people. From the students to the community participants, all of them contributed in making the workshop a success. It certainly was a week that I will not forget not because of the hard work that we went through but because of the lessons that all of us learned from one of another.

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YP Events and Announcements

We appreciate links to our website from groups that share our goals. You can send us your org's events schedules and announcements. If you wish to add a link to our site, write to us at yp@tao-pilipinas.org

Watch out for the **YP Regional Camp** scheduled for February 2007 in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental and the **YP National Summer Camp** on April 2007 at Iligan City, Lanao del Norte. For more information, contact Ms. Maricel Binghay of JF Ledesma Foundation, Inc at (034) 312-5256 / 0917-3120300 or email mcba2mb@yahoo.com

PIEP's National Convention on November 10-11, 2006
Theme: "GO GREEN: Planning for a Greener Philippines"
For more information, contact Ms. Arlene Ty of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners at (632) 920-9705 / 0917-3225556 or email piep_secretariat@yahoo.com

Sahmakum Teang Tnaut

If you're interested to explore community volunteer work in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, link up with Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (meaning "sugar palm frond" in Khmer), a Cambodian NGO that shares our cause for housing rights and working with informal, marginalized communities. They have set up a program for volunteer work in Cambodia, including international volunteers and research students. For more information on the organization, contact Hallam Goad of STT at 012-360472 or email hallam@camintel.com and you can visit their website www.teangtnaut.org

YP Goods

Limited edition YP goods are now available even for those who were not able to participate in the YP Workshops. (You can at least get to shop.) Wear them for your community volunteer work or to your next badminton game. Proceeds from the sale will support the work of TAO's YP Program.



YP shirt in S, M, L sizes
Php 200.00

YP bag
Php 300.00

For Metro Manila residents, you can buy and pick up these YP goods at the TAO office or get them through courier delivery, with additional Php100 charge. Payments may be made through China Bank SM North Branch (Account Name: **TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.**; Account Number: **208-074941-5**) and fax your validated deposit slips to (632) 926-9504.

The 2006 YP Workshop Sessions CD

The CD includes all the 12 lecture presentations from our resource persons (see page 2 of this newsletter). Free copies for workshop participants only.

Features for TAO Shelter Issue No.2

Issue No. 2 of TAO Shelter Magazine will be available for sale starting November 2006. Cover price in Metro Manila is Php 100.00 (including postal delivery). Call TAO or email asrodil@tao-pilipinas.org for more details.

Mga Bagong Pananaw sa Disaster Risk Management

Ang diin ng DRM ay dapat nasa paghahanda at paglalakas ng kakayahan ng isang komunidad

Hazard Mapping

Ano nga ba ito at bakit ito kailangan?

READY ka na ba?

Ang proyekto ng gobyerno na inaasahang makakatulong sa mga siyudad at munisipyo sa paghahanda laban sa mga panganib sa kanilang lugar

Surviving the Storm

The story of one woman's resilience in an extremely vulnerable environment in Navotas

Buklod Tao: Halimbawa ng Sama-Samang Paghahanda

Kilalanin ang isang modelo ng Community-Based Disaster Risk Management sa San Mateo, Rizal

Ang Pagsasaayos ng San Rafael-Unido

Ang plano ng mga arkitekto sa Caracas, Venezuela na nanalo ng Gold sa Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction ngayong 2006

Living with Floods: Settlements of the Vietnam Mekong Delta

TAO-Pilipinas' Arlene Lusterio recounts lessons learned from her research on the perennially flooded river basin in Vietnam.

Ligtas ba ang Lugar Mo?

Saan dapat hindi magtayo ng bahay, at mga simpleng solusyon na maaaring gawin sakaling nasa mapanganib ka na lugar

Angkop na Tulong

Mas mahalagang palakasin ang kakayahan ng mga tao na magtayo ng matibay na bahay kaysa pagbibigay lamang ng emergency shelter pagkatapos ng isang sakuna

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