

Bicol Community Planning Workshops

Capability-building / training services

Location : Naga City and Pili, Camarines Sur;
Daet, Camarines Norte

Date : November 26-29, 2004; October 6-10, 2004; April 16-18, 2005

Client : Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise, Inc. (COPE)

Project partners

- Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise, Inc. (COPE)

Funding support

- Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise, Inc. (COPE)

Contract / agreement value

- PHP



Participants (community organizers and leaders) of the workshop on participatory community planning in Daet, Camarines Norte

Project brief

Community Organizations of the Philippines Enterprise (COPE) Foundation is an NGO involved in community organizing and advocacy work addressing land tenure security and social housing in urban poor communities in the Bicol region. COPE articulated the need for technical assistance in its project areas, including those covered by Presidential Proclamation 40 which declared unutilized Philippine National Railways (PNR) properties for disposition to its occupants as socialized housing sites. They engaged TAO-Pilipinas to provide technical capability building for COPE staff and COPE-assisted community organizations in Sorsogon, Legazpi, Tabaco, Daet, Pili and Naga.

TAO-Pilipinas conducted ocular surveys of COPE-assisted areas and proclaimed sites in Legazpi City and Tabaco in May and October of 2004. Preliminary discussions were also held with key leaders in the urban poor communities along the waterways in the cities of Legazpi, Tabaco and Sorsogon. The main concern they raised was the need for technical assistance both in the proclaimed areas and the informal settlements along waterways. COPE needed technical support from TAO-Pilipinas in developing alternative community development plans needed for negotiation with government or private landowners of sites occupied by informal settlers. The distance of the Bicol region from Manila, however, posed a limitation on TAO's full involvement in the COPE project areas. Hence, technical capability building for COPE staff on the technical aspects of community planning and development was prioritized. The strategy was to build the technical skills of community-based leaders and organizers through a training program by TAO-Pilipinas and then gradually build a local technical pool of architects and engineers to assist COPE in the long-term.

TAO-Pilipinas developed training modules on participatory community planning and development to orient the community organizers (COs) and leaders and enable them to conduct the planning process in their respective communities even with limited intervention from TAO-Pilipinas. In April 2005, TAO-Pilipinas conducted a series of technical capability-building workshops with COPE COs and leaders in Sorsogon, Legazpi, Tabaco, Daet, Pili and Naga.

Project outputs

- Training needs assessment
- Orientation on Participatory Community Planning and Development