

e-newsletter

MARCH – APRIL 2012



Residents cross the newly-retrofitted wooden bridge at Isla Pulo, Tanza . Through community self-help and fund support for construction materials, the bridge was repaired and made more disaster resilient. Photo by Verna Sarraga (*more photos on page 2*)



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Bridge retrofitting completed in Pulo, Tanza

FOLLOWING A SERIES OF DRR WORKSHOP AND ACTION PLANNING CONDUCTED last November and December, SAMAS AISIP (Samahan ng mga Maralita sa Isla Sitio Pulo) completed in January the self-help retrofitting of the wooden bridge in their community. The bridge retrofitting, along with earth dike repairs, came about as proposed structural measures for disaster risk reduction (DRR) during the community consultations. The dike and bridge provide access for the island-community and a critical emergency evacua-

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TAO sponsors livelihood development training for partner POs

TAO-PILIPINAS LAUNCHED ITS LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM ON January 28, 2012 with an initial hands-on training on liquid soap making held at the TAO office. The program seeks to provide TAO's partner people's organizations (POs) with practical skills and opportunities for livelihood development. Among those who attended the training were representatives from Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association, Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangangalakal ng

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“
The real authority of a judge is moral, and the source of that authority is the character of the judge.
”

- Retired Supreme Court Justice **Vicente V. Mendoza** as quoted in the book *Shadow of Doubt* by Marites Vitug

Bridge Retrofitting...

(From page 1)

tion route especially during typhoons and storm surges.

The retrofitting of community infrastructures in Isla Pulo is part of pilot demonstration activities (PDA) implemented by TAO-Pilipinas for the project "Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Flood-prone Areas" funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB). The project includes the conduct of community-based DRR trainings and formulation and implementation of community disaster preparedness and mitigation/adaptation plan. DRR trainings for SAMASISIP were conducted on November 25-26, 2011 and community consultation workshops were held on December 17, 2011 where structural and non-structural DRR measures were outlined.

Prior to the actual retrofitting, structural engineering consultant Engr. Harold Aquino from the UP College of Engineering assessed the existing wooden bridge and provided recommendations for retrofitting. He also supervised the hands-on training on retrofitting on January 20-21, 2012. The community mobilized a group of volunteers to provide the labor force for the retrofitting. Structural supports (wooden posts with concrete foundation and wooden beam joists) were added to strengthen the existing bridge. Additional wood planks and handrails were also placed to make the bridge safer to cross.

The repair and retrofitting of small community infrastructures in Isla Pulo is planned to be completed by July 2012. *(Ge Matabang)*

(More information about the project may be viewed at <http://beta.adb.org/site/ngos/activities/ngo-build-disaster-resilient-community>.)



Engr. Harold Aquino facilitates on December 17, 2011 the community assessment of the bridge and dike and action plan for their repair and retrofitting.



ADB representatives conduct site visit at Pulo on January 20, 2012



SAMASISIP volunteers provide manpower support for the bridge retrofitting



A series of photos showing the bridge before retrofitting (photos above) and after retrofitting (photos below)

TAO sponsors livelihood...

(From page 1)

R.Domingo, Samahan para sa Angkop na Pabahay ng San Pablo Apostol (SAPSPA), and St. Hannibal Empowerment Center (SHEC).

Trainers from SIGE (Simulaing Gabay sa Entrepinay) Foundation, Inc., led by Marilou Casten and Carmen Gonzaga, served as resource persons for the hands-on training. They demonstrated the standard procedures for making three product lines: liquid hand soap, dishwashing liquid, and fabric softener. Following the demonstration, the participants

were grouped and given the ingredients and tools to apply the soap-making procedure and make sample products.

After the training, TAO discussed with the participants the procurement of raw materials/product ingredients, pricing, packaging, quality control and marketing. They explored the next steps for the POs to possibly become suppliers of liquid soap products for commercial use. (Ge Matabang)



Photos at right: (above) trainers from Barangay Holy Spirit demonstrate proper mixture of ingredients to make dishwashing liquid; (below) trainers supervise the hands-on activity

Lund University Students on Field Study in Metro Manila

FROM FEBRUARY 13 UNTIL MARCH 4, 2012, ten architecture students from Lund University in Sweden went on a field study of various areas in Metro Manila and its nearby provinces (Laguna and Cavite) as part of the course program "Architecture in Extreme Environments – Urban Shelter". The students visited housing projects for low, middle, and high-income families, museums, and government agencies involved in housing such as the National Housing Authority. The study tour was facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. through its Research and Publications program in coordination with the Urban Shelter Course Coordinator, Mr. Johnny Åstrand from the Housing Development and Management of Lund University. The students' 3-week field study in Metro Manila was part of their research activities to complete their design exercise/assignment for the course, a

housing project in Mandaluyong City for low- to middle-income Filipino families. This has been the fourth year that TAO-Pilipinas facilitated the field study program for Lund University's Urban Shelter Course.

The students were a diverse batch coming from different countries such as France, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, USA, and Canada. They went to GK

Baseco and the NHA housing project in Smokey Mountain and conducted interviews with residents to learn about the culture and way of life of the people. They visited private housing developments such as Avida Estates by Ayala Land and San Benissa by PHINMA Properties. Aside from interviewing local residents, the architecture students also interviewed

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Visiting architecture students with course coordinator Johnny Astrand and Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte at the Quezon City Hall.

PMPI holds 4th General Assembly in Baguio



The welcome presentation during PMPI's 4th Gen. Assembly

THE PHILIPPINE MISEREOR PARTNERSHIP INC. HELD ITS General Assembly in the City of Pines with the theme *"Harnessing faith, culture and integrity of creation towards a renewed peace and development paradigm"*. On February 27 up to March 1, two hundred eighty-four (284) organizations from 15

regional clusters all over the Philippines met together to discuss issues affecting the majority of society.

The four-day event was fully loaded with discussions on relevant topics including Peace in Mindanao, Climate Change and Sendong Experience in CDO and Iligan, Organic Agriculture Act, Pnoy Engagement of the Urban Poor, and Entrepreneurship in the Fair of Ideas. The Fair of Products and Exhibits showcased local produce from the different regions in the country and local efforts and achievements in development.

The General Assembly proper defined the very being of the Partnership with the approval of its organizational manual, development agenda, development frameworks and resolutions. Of the ten resolutions presented, three priority resolutions on Climate Change, Peace and Sustainable Agriculture were approved, which defines PMPI's priority issues in addition to Anti-Mining Campaign for the next three years. Letters of support to regional issues in Aurora (APECO), Leyte (Eco-tourism), and Davao

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Lund University Students...

(From page 3)

technical professionals and visited the offices of the United Architects of the Philippines, Palafox Associates, and TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. to get a glimpse of what kind of work architects in the Philippines do. They also visited Casa Manila, San Agustin Museum, and the Malacañang Palace Museum to have more information about the history of the Philippines.

After a field visit to the actual site of their design assignment, the architecture students presented their initial concepts and designs to project stakeholders at the National Housing Authority (NHA) Boardroom on March 2, 2012. They were divided into four groups and each group presented a design proposal. The students' presentations showed different approaches in tackling the

housing design assignment. One of the groups employed a landscape-based concept and a more organic approach to their design, while another took on a city building/master planning perspective to their proposal. Another group conceptualized various design options for multi-family dwellings. The design schemes were critiqued by a panel composed of representatives from the government housing sector and the academe. The students will be finalizing the schemes when they go back to Sweden to complete the Urban Shelter Course.

Apart from the field visits facilitated by TAO-Pilipinas, the group also took the time to go to tourist areas such as Banaue, Palawan, and Boracay which helped them more in understanding the cultures of the Philippines. (*Angel Sales*)

Photos at right: a tour of the Malacañang Museum; ocular inspection of the design project site in Welfareville, Mandaluyong City; presentation of design schemes at the NHA.





NPO SSS-Japan donates to Masagana resettlement project

NPO SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICE OF JAPAN RESPONDED TO TAO'S appeal for help following the onslaught of Typhoon Pedring (Nesat) on September 2011. A non-profit organization based in Japan, NPO SSS donated PhP256, 000 to support the post-disaster rehabilitation of Masagana community in Tanza, Navotas. The Japanese

group previously went to Masagana area in October 2010 during a field visit in the Philippines.

The NPO SSS fund will be utilized by Masagana to support its long-term recovery and sustainability of Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association. The fund has been allocated for a small community livelihood project (rice-selling) in Tanza and for the site preparation works at the Masagana Resettlement Project in Angat, Bulacan.



Participatory design workshops continued under CA Post-Ketsana Rehabilitation Program

TAO-PILIPINAS FACILITATED A SERIES OF PARTICIPATORY DESIGN workshops for its Christian Aid-funded project, *Self-Help Retrofitting and Community Infrastructures Development*. Design workshops with community representatives were held last February in different areas in Rizal province --- Damayan sa Floodway in Taytay (Feb 16); Banaba, San Mateo (Feb 17); and

Suburban, Rodriguez (Feb 20). Communities validated the design schemes for the various small infrastructure projects to be constructed under the Post-Ketsana Rehabilitation Program of Christian Aid.

In Taytay, community members used scaled models to present their preferred design of a housing unit in the floodway area. In Banaba, community representatives refined the design schemes for a barangay livelihood-evacuation center. In Suburban, a validation workshop was conducted to finalize the design of a footbridge and the community members also came up with design schemes for a chapel-evacuation center.



Community Planning Workshop at Bgy. Doña Imelda, Quezon City

TAO-PILIPINAS FACILITATED A PARTICIPATORY PLANNING workshop with residents of Areas 29, 42, 48, 81, 100, RASYC, and RIBANA of Kapiligan Street, Barangay Doña Imelda, Quezon City. Forty community members participated in the activity representing the over-1,000 families that are informally occupying areas along the San Juan River. The planning workshop, held at the barangay hall on February 25, 2012, is part of the people's process to formulate a development plan for housing informal settlers.

Assisted by Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), the community in Doña Imelda is one of the identified priority areas for in-city housing under the PhP10B Housing Program Fund of Pres. Aquino. The program will move informal settlers from danger areas in the cities of Metro Manila.

During the workshop, TAO conducted a brief orientation on minimum design standards for socialized housing developments. The participants were then divided into groups and using planning tools developed by TAO, they came up with four design schemes. The community proposed the building of MRBs or medium-rise buildings in their conceptual development plans.

PMPI...

(From page 4)

(Aerial spray) were also approved by the Assembly. A torch parade to SM Baguio was also organized to express PMPI's objection to cutting of trees.

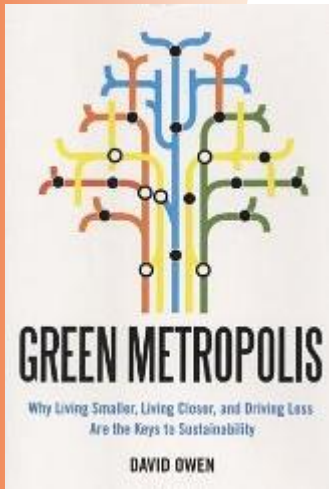
The really heavy agenda of the Assembly was fused with the cultural presentations of the Northern Luzon starting with the welcome dinner, a sumptuous rendition of local cuisine, cultural dance and music engaging the participants in an agreement or Bodong with the host cluster, Northern Luzon, captured in a prayer and the lighting of candles. The lavish welcome was reciprocated by all the clusters in a cultural presentation during the solidarity night with the token of a promise kept in the time capsule that will be opened in the next Assembly three years after. The event was capped by the election of co-convenors and the turn-over of responsibilities between the old and new cluster point persons. (Arlene Lusterio)



The torch parade in front of SM Baguio

YP Reading List

Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library>. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.

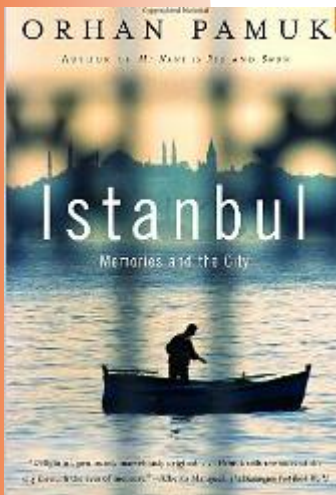


Title: **Green Metropolis**
Author: **David Owen**
Publisher: **Riverhead Books (2009)**

This book is subtitled *Why Living Smaller, Living Closer, and Driving Less Are the Keys to Sustainability* and that is precisely what author David Owen drives at when he argues that New York City is a model of environmental sustainability. Owen's arguments are highly interesting because it counters conventional thinking about sustainability (i.e. countryside open spaces, green technologies such as solar panels, backyard composting). He is persuasive as he extols the environmental benefits of high-density urban living particularly in New York City, how its efficient transit system, high-rise apartment buildings and compact network of civic services mean less driving (more walking and biking), using up less space, and less resource consumption which ultimately result to lower per capita energy use and carbon output than the rest of the U.S.

The author is critical of some supposedly "green" developments that in his analysis actually fail their environmental sustainability goals by building them in non-dense and in transit-inaccessible locations and making them dependent on expensive eco-gadgets. He finds the best examples of energy-efficient patterns of activity by looking at New York City and old European towns with densely developed cores. He stresses however that because New Yorkers have lower environmental impact than other Americans does not necessarily mean they are more enlightened. Such built-in, unconscious energy efficiency is largely the outcome of living in dense, compact, mixed-use cities with reliable public transport.

Green Metropolis presents a different perspective on sustainable urban forms but avoids discussion of some of the arguments against the compact city form such as social segregation and the relationship between city and the countryside. It is highly recommended especially for urban planners (whether one is for or opposed to the compact city) as it explores the connections between population density, transport, urban form and energy consumption in the context of climate change issues and concerns. (*Ge Matabang*)



Title: **Istanbul: Memories and the City**
Author: **Orhan Pamuk**
Publisher: **Vintage Books (2004)**

Istanbul is not really a book about the city but is primarily a memoir of Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk. It is a chronicle of his youth and family life set against the backdrop of a historic city that is geographically straddled between East and West. (Part of the country does lie in Asia and another part lie in Europe.)

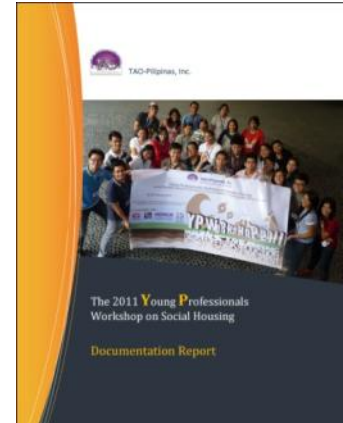
The book is a fascinating read because the author delves into how his birthplace and its history have shaped much of his identity and creativity. Most interesting is the concept of *hüzün* (Turkish for melancholy), a cultural affliction unique to the *Istanbullular* that the author attributes to lamenting the city's decline from its great Ottoman past. Pamuk writes in this same dark mood and the accompanying black and white photographs beautifully lend a nostalgic tone to his text.

Pamuk's account is actually a loving, soulful portrait of his city. A strong sense of place is encountered as he describes its cobblestone streets, the old mansions (*yalis*) along the Bosphorus, and its great mosques and monuments. For a one-time visitor of Istanbul, these offer an intriguing view of the city, one that can only come from a native son or daughter of the place. (*Ge Matabang*)

2011 YP Workshop Report

THE 2011 YP WORKSHOP REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE online for download at [http://ypws.tao-pilipinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/2011-YP-Workshop-Report_final-draft.pdf]. This report is a documentation of the proceedings from the 2011 Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing, a 7-day training program held on October 19-25, 2011 in Quezon City.

The YP Workshop is a capability-building activity organized annually by TAO-Pilipinas to orient young design professionals and students about social housing, with different thematic focus every year since 2005. In this fifth cycle of the YP Workshops, the program focused on the theme “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Community Planning and Development”. Fifteen (15) senior students of architecture, engineering and planning completed the workshop along with eight (8) community representatives.



More new interns welcomed at TAO

Three more new interns have started volunteering at TAO-Pilipinas. 2011 YP Workshop participants Hazel Lapastora and Sarah Chavez are completing the required volunteer work hours (as sponsored participants). Hazel is a BS Architecture student at UP-Diliman and Sarah is a graduating BS Environmental Planning and Management student at Miriam College. They are helping in developing planning tools for TAO’s participatory community planning workshops and doing research for the next issue of TAO-Shelter Magazine. AIESEC Miriam College also sent in a foreign intern, civil engineering graduate Ana Sofia Moreira da Silva from Portugal. She is assisting in a Christian Aid-funded project involving community small infrastructures development. To all our new interns, welcome to TAO!

Call for Articles on *Resettlement*

TAO-Pilipinas is publishing the 11th issue of its bi-annual magazine, TAO-Shelter, in June 2012 with the theme, *Looking at Philippine Resettlement Projects*. We are soliciting articles, papers, or studies related to **Resettlement**. If you are interested to have your article or paper published in TAO-Shelter, please email info@tao-pilipinas.org no later than **16 April 2012**.