

e-newsletter

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2012

A worker places ridge tiles on the micro-concrete roofing of the community livelihood center in Isla Pulo, Navotas City.



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DRR-community infrastructure projects near completion

TAO-PILIPINAS' TWO COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS RELATED TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION are already near completion. Construction is still on-going for the Christian Aid-funded project in Suburban, Rodriguez comprising of a pedestrian bridge and a multi-purpose/evacuation center. The other community infrastructure project is ADB-funded and provides a bamboo bridge, livelihood center and multi-purpose center for the SAMASAISIP community in Pulo, Navotas City. Both projects are aimed at increasing the

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Participatory planning workshops continued for SHFC's CMP projects in CDO

TAO-PILIPINAS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (SHFC) in its Community Mortgage Program (CMP) projects to resettle informal settler families affected by Typhoon Sendong in Cagayan De Oro (CDO) City. The first in the series of participatory planning workshops which facilitated the drawing up of subdivision schemes by the housing beneficiaries were held in April 2012 (see YP E-newsletter May-June 2012 issue). On October 29-30, 2012, follow-up planning sessions were conducted for the participatory assessment of

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Sabbagh's *Power Into Art*

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TAO Shelter Issue No. 11-12
2012 Christmas Gift-giving for Children

“
The abnormal is the new normal. No one is immune to climate change – rich or poor. It is an existential challenge for the whole human race – our way of life, our plans for the future.”

- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

DRR... (From page 1)

communities' disaster resilience and reducing their vulnerabilities through the provision of disaster-resilient community infrastructures. Community involvement in construction management and use of alternative building materials have been integrated in the projects.

The accompanying photos in this page show the construction progress that has been made so far. Expected full completion of the projects is by the end of the year.

Livelihood Center in Pulo, Navotas



Top: The elevated livelihood center will store supplies of rice and fishing nets; Workers construct the framing for the installation of micro-concrete roofing (MCR)
Bottom: Architect Cesar Aris of FDUP supervises the laying of MCR tiles.

Bamboo Walkway in Pulo, Navotas



Constructed over the earth dike and over 300 meters long so far, the bamboo bridge was elevated up to 3 meters high for Pulo residents to safely cross during high tides.



Left: SAMASAISIP community members, mostly fisher folks, drive bamboo poles into the fishpond;
Right: Bamboo poles form a ramp to reach the elevated walkway.

Multipurpose Center in Pulo, Navotas



Foundations have been set for the new multi-purpose center with the existing community center being dismantled at the background.

Pedestrian Bridge in Suburban, Rodriguez



Top: Steel reinforcements for the concrete bridge to ensure earthquake-resilience. Bottom: The completed pedestrian bridge that connects Phase 1A and Phase 1B of Suburban; at left of the concrete bridge is the existing metal bridge that residents have been using to cross the area.



Multipurpose-Evacuation Center in Suburban, Rodriguez



Top: The multipurpose center was built just behind the Suburban covered court that serves also as temporary evacuation center for the community. Bottom: Wood-wool cement boards are used for the walls.

Participatory planning... (From page 1)

subdivision plans in three project areas: Balubal (Medalla Phase 1 and Phase 2), Lumbia (Villeview), and Indahag (CONHA).

The proposed subdivision plans were reviewed based on topographical conditions of the site, compliance to Batas Pambansa 220 minimum standards, and MGB hazard assessment report findings and recommendations. The participants, about thirty community representatives together with their CMP mobilizers and engineer-consultants, were grouped according to their project areas to assess the plans and propose changes if needed.

Prior to the participatory assessments, the community groups were oriented by TAO-Pilipinas on reading technical plans and on BP 220 planning standards for them to understand the subdivision plans they were to assess. Technical inputs from CDO City Planning and Development Officer Engr. Alfredo Nambatac (on development permit requirements) and SHFC consultant Engr. Toto Bañares (on estimated costs for site development works) also guided the communities' assessment. At the end of the assessment workshop, more plan revisions were recommended by TAO-Pilipinas and the CMP mobilizers were tasked to integrate the changes in order to finalize the subdivisions plans.

On the second day of the planning workshop, the community groups worked on their housing unit designs by using 3D scaled model sets. Each community group came up with two housing design options that their engineers may consider in drawing up the house construction plans. The site development and housing design plans in the three project areas is scheduled to be finalized by December 2012, almost a year after Typhoon *Sendong* struck Cagayan De Oro City. (*Ge Matabang*)



Participants during the October 30 planning workshop in Cagayan De Oro City



Community groups assess the proposed subdivision plans for their relocation housing

PHILSSA holds 2nd Urbanization Forum

The Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA), of which TAO-Pilipinas is a member, showcased multi-stakeholder partnership models aimed to address urbanization concerns during the 2nd Urbanization Forum held on September 26, 2012 at the BSWM Convention Hall in Quezon City. PHILSSA partners nationwide including LGUs, NGOs and POs attended the day-long forum with the theme "Celebrating Partnerships and Innovations Towards Secure and Safe Settlements for All".

The program started with welcome remarks from PHILSSA's Chairperson Ms. Rosemarie Herrera of HealthDev. The keynote address was delivered by DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman who read President Aquino's message for the forum. In his message, Pres. Aquino commended PHILSSA's initiatives and highlighted the engagement of civil society organizations in social protection through DSWD's "Bantay Gabay, Kaagapay Tulay" program. Social housing and climate change concerns were also emphasized, affirming the need for geohazards studies and livelihood programs in housing for the urban poor sector. Sec. Soliman also announced

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PHILSSA-WFP conducts DRRM training for Laguna LGUs

PHILSSA, with the support of World Food Program (WFP), conducted a series of training activities on disaster risk management with local government officials of Mabitac and Pila, Laguna as participants. The *Training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Policy Development and Advocacy* were held on November 12-14 (for Mabitac group) and November 14-16 (for Pila group) at the Institute of Social Order (ISO) in Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City.

The training series is part of the PHILSSA-WFP project, "Capacity-Building Support to Selected Municipalities in the Province of Laguna on Disaster Preparedness and Response". The project aims to assist three pilot municipalities in Laguna (Mabitac, Pila, Rizal) in promoting disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation and community resilience initiatives through networking and coordination, training and technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluation.



For the training-workshops, PHILSSA tapped TAO-Pilipinas and SALIGAN (Alternative Legal Assistance Center) as resource persons for technical issues and legal issues, respectively. About thirty participants (composed of SB members, barangay captains, local DRRMC officials, LGU-accredited PO/NGOs) from each of the municipalities attended the 3-day training. (Ge Matabang)

Christian Aid partners join Urban Resilience Conference-Workshop

A conference on Urban Resilience organized by Christian Aid (CA) last September 27-28 for its partners was a venue for sharing and reflection on partners' work with urban poor communities. The two-day activity was held at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo City with the theme *Distilling Lessons by Assessing Strategies and Challenging Assumptions*. Christian Aid aimed to gather these learnings in urban poverty context to feed into a resilient livelihood framework that they are developing, exploring urban complexities to clarify resilience goals, share and assess how current strategies enhance or reduce resilience, and synthesize these resilience lessons and identify imperatives for different urban stakeholders. CA partners that attended the conference came from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Starting with an overview by Allan Vera on CA's resilience thinking, he expounded on the Christian Aid definition of resilience being "the power of individuals and communities to live with dignity, responding successfully to the disasters and risks they face by taking full advantage of the opportunities that they have". This is based on the idea that in a constrained world complexity, diversity, and uncertainty persists therefore it is important to recognize that our world is changing and there is a need to address future-oriented risks and current needs of the poor; understand, link and coordinate the different actors; and define what resiliency we are building for.

Christian Aid wants to enable the poor to go beyond survival and subsistence by building the resilient livelihoods framework wherein disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are integrated into poverty reduction at various levels -local, national, and global. This is in line with its new strategy ---Partnership for Change --- that set out the goal of building resilient and thriving societies.



After the resilience overview, the Gallery Walk followed to showcase the work of partners. This activity re-acquainted partners with what each is thinking, planning and implementing in the communities. TAO-Pilipinas won the award for best presentation.

Dr. Ana Marie Karaos of JJCICSI followed with a comprehensive overview of Philippine urban poverty situation, the factors and process of urbanization, and the causes for the vulnerabilities of the poor. She closed the presentation by highlighting some prevalent urban contradictions: population growth yet fixed land resources; higher unemployment rates in cities; shrinking space for the urban poor in cities in spite of being providers of cheap labor; increasing risks to urban population on climate change and environmental degradation yet more people (mostly the poor) occupy hazardous places; and the concentration of population increases resilience on "common goods" yet the weak public sector is unable to protect the common good.

The partners' presentations followed the urban poverty situationer divided in three (3) themes spread out over two days: 1) Complexity: Translating Needs and Risk Analysis to Action, 2) Diversity: Partnering Towards Resilience, and 3) Re-

Pls. turn to page 5.

Christian Aid...(From page 4)

Learning Resilience: Re-inventing Strategies. An open forum and workshop followed every theme presentation. This sharing enabled the partners to feedback and/or validate ideas, processes, and methodologies on the urban complexities and also reflecting on their organizations' learning processes.

During the conference, the Ketsana book and video documentation was launched over cocktails-dinner. The book "Resilient Urban Communities: Stories from the Ketsana Rehabilitation Programme" highlighted the partners' work in post-disaster rehabilitation. TAO-Pilipinas contributed an article on its technical assistance to Barangay Banaba assisted by Center for Disaster Preparedness through Buklod-Tao.

Finally on the synthesis, the following processes were affirmed: people-led governance through participation and effective implementation; advocacy influencing others using bibingka/barbecue approach; networking/partnering by filling the gaps and bonding with like-minded groups and bridging to different sectors and using ecosystem-based approach and with cultural sensitivity; capacity building through legal, DRR, trainor's training, livelihood, psychosocial support; enterprise development to raise financial capacities, employable skills, and diversification of income sources; and enhancing spirituality through values formation and active citizenship.

Multi-level learnings include at the national and global level – having a common agenda and sharing amongst local, national, and international institutions; at the local level – having dialogues and linkages within and among local communities in different sectors and disciplines; and time – consideration of risks and needs and learning institutions including entry and exit strategies.

As a way forward, the group has this to look forward to: more emphasis on gender, capacity-building, building more durable physical capital, better partnering, developing social entrepreneurship, creating leverage and alternatives, reflecting, qualifying strategies and learning, second-lining and replicating, continuous model building, enriching spirituality and finally addressing good governance, partnership and leadership among the groups.

The conference ended in a positive note, affirming the importance of people-led governance, networking/partnering, enterprise development, community organizing, advocacy, capacity-building, and spirituality in building resilient communities. *(Faith Varona)*



PHILSSA...(From page 4)

that DSWD along with DILG, DPWH and DBM will continue the framework formulated by the late DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo for the PhP50B fund for housing informal settlers in high-risk areas. This news was warmly received by all. A message of support was also given by Mr. Steph Lysaght, Head of the Political Economic Section of the British Embassy. He affirmed the commitment of UK to global development, particularly better housing delivery and urbanization policies through projects with UK aid assistance.

The morning session featured three presentations on Local Partnerships in Governance and Social Service Delivery. The first was a presentation on Davao City Land Use Planning given by Councilor Arnulfo Cabling who is Chair of the Committee on Housing, Urban and Rural Development. Mr. Cabling presented the Davao City experience in formulating their comprehensive land use plans. He stressed the shift from land use planning based on actual use to one that is more science-based. Terrain analysis and geohazard assessments by MGB guided their planning and the protection of aquifer or water recharge areas was prioritized. He also shared some of the challenges to planning, particularly how they resolved conflicting uses of land and how climate change effects have forced affected areas to voluntarily relocate.

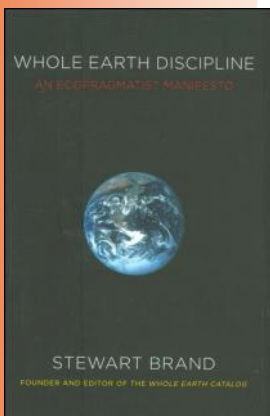
Next to present was Mr. Jayson Miranda of Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) who talked about the Quezon City Social Housing Fund, a revolving city fund for projects for the urban poor and managed by NGOs and CSOs led by FDUP. Mr. Miranda discussed the various committees formed for fund management and project monitoring. He reported that 12 organizations have been supported by the fund for community-driven projects involving security of tenure, community upgrading, and livelihood programs. He also shared the advantages and challenges of a project that offers financing support for communities. The third presentation was given by Ms. Jastene Simon of Foundation for Development Alternatives (FDA). Ms. Simon presented the project on Malabon City Poverty Mapping, a tripartite partnership of FDA, the local government of Malabon, and AIMM (a PO federation in Malabon). She shared how the poverty mapping project was organized and implemented to establish a socio-economic database for city shelter planning and identify the needs of informal settlements in Malabon. Open forum followed the morning session presentations.

In the afternoon session, a dance presentation was staged by the SIKAP Youth Group and a video presentation about the PHILSSA DFID Project was shown. The video highlighted people's participation and showcased experiences of key actors in the projects. Afterwards, a talk about "Opportunities and Challenges in Providing Secure Settlements for Informal Settler Families (ISFs) in Danger Areas" was delivered by Atty. Angel Ojastro III, the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the DILG. Atty. Ojastro outlined the opportunities and challenges for both the government and the urban poor sector in the utilization of the PhP50B fund for housing ISFs in danger areas. He stressed the need to follow the basic premise of immediate bias for the poor and adopt a multi-scheme approach to housing. He also emphasized the need for good models of Medium-Rise housing derived from community-initiated schemes, encouraged POs to keep pushing for engagement with LGUs, and advocated mandatory city shelter planning and greater PO participation in local housing boards. Finally, he reiterated the commitment of DILG under the new Sec. Mar Roxas to continue with the late Sec. Robredo's housing project initiatives. Mr. Jose Morales of UPALL and PHILSSA National Coordinator Mr. Dick Balderama gave reactions to Mr. Ojastro's presentation. Mr. Balderama outlined some of the challenges for CSOs to get the most benefit out of the PhP50B housing fund, including the need for preparatory social and technical work, development of financing schemes, and identification of suitable lands.

Dr. Jing Karaos of JJCICSI gave the synthesis of the day's proceedings. She summarized the highlights and learning points in the all the presentations. The final activity in the program was the launching of a new project, the PHILSSA-PEF Partnership on the Fund to Assist Social and Technical Preparations for Social Housing Project, which will be called "FAST Housing". This was followed by the distribution of new publications from PHILSSA. *(Ge Matabang)*

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.

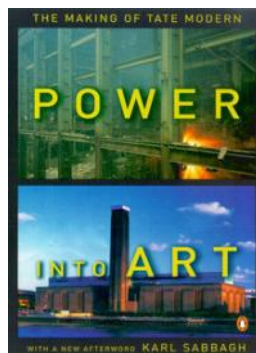


Title: **Whole Earth Discipline (An Ecopragmatist Manifesto)**
Author: **Stewart Brand**
Publisher: **Viking (2009)**

Ecologist Stewart Brand (founder of the Whole Earth Catalogue) is an elder statesman in the environmental movement. In his book *Whole Earth Discipline*, Brand argues for a science-based and pragmatic approach to deal with climate change. His arguments debunk traditional green ideologies as he advocates urbanization, nuclear power,

biotechnology and genetic engineering as effective tools for climate change adaptation and responsible stewardship of the planet. Brand starts off with frightening scenarios about climate change but turns reasonably optimistic with each chapter as he presents these tools for managing the planet. He lays the facts bare, brings to light counterarguments (and even recants some of his previously-held viewpoints) and thus comes across as reasoned and convincing.

I highly recommend this book especially for non-scientists because it is thoroughly readable and will broaden your views about many aspects of the green movement and climate change. Brand's take on nuclear energy and geo-engineering is especially thought-provoking and persuasive. Urban planners will take interest in his analysis on how cities accelerate innovation and cure overpopulation. Lastly, the literature he references in this book shows his extensive network and influence among environmentalists and he leads us to more interesting books about the subjects he discusses. (*Ge Matabang*)



Title: **Power Into Art (The Making of Tate Modern)**
Author: **Karl Sabbagh**
Publisher: **Penguin Books (2001)**

Power into Art: Creating the Tate Modern documents the making of the beautiful Tate Gallery building in London. The book is written by Karl Sabbagh, a Palestinian-British writer, journalist and television producer. He is famous for non-fiction books that documents historical events.

The book centers on the conversion of Sir Giles Scott's Bankside power station to one of the most successful project in 2000, the Tate Modern. It documents six years of the development and chronicles the events from the building's conception as a mere idea, the announcement of its creation in May 1994, its actual implementation processes and interactions with the nearby community. It is a blow by blow account of the inside stories of making a huge development such as a museum.

The story telling starts from the search of the architect to the evolution of the building design with the guidance of the Tate team that served as construction managers and developers. It is written from the point of view of an author who was present during the entire development process. The book demonstrates the difficult yet fruitful efforts of converting an existing building primarily built as a power station to a gallery and the Tate team's efforts that made the local community embrace the project.

Power into Art is an easy read and perfectly brings back the excitement of being in the construction field. The book inspires and articulates a true, non-idealistic and non-theoretical experience of building construction development. Architects and architecture students will learn a lot from the experiences of people involved in making a building that mattered not only in London but all over the world. (*Gloryrose Dy*)

Announcements

TAO Shelter Magazine Issue # 11-12

TAO Shelter Magazine Issue Nos. 11 and 12 (double issue) will be out this December. The upcoming issue has the theme "**Looking at Philippine Resettlement Projects**" and features the following articles:

- *Local Government-initiated Urban Revitalization by Nathaniel von Einsiedel*
- *The Evolution of Resettlement Policies and Program in the Philippines: Where Will It Take Us? By Faith Varona*
- *Pushing Towards Genuine Community-initiated Resettlement by Verna Lucia Sarraga*
- *Rule of Law in Public Administration: The Philippine Local Government Urban Poor Resettlement and Housing Program by Edna Estifania A. Co*

TAO Shelter tackles technical knowledge, experiences, good practices and perspectives on issues confronting the planning, development and management of human settlements, especially socialized housing. Issue Nos. 11&12 will be sold at Php165.00 and is available at the TAO office.

2012 Christmas Gift-giving

TAO-Pilipinas will once again hold its annual Christmas Gift-giving for Children. Since 2010, this has been a yearly activity that is organized to offer holiday cheer to children in urban poor communities particularly in Navotas City. We are now accepting cash and in-kind donations so we could assemble 250 Christmas gift packages for children 12 years old and below.

You may send us children's toys, storybooks, school items, clothing and candies. Educational toys will be very much appreciated. You can also donate old toys and clothes but these should be in usable condition. (Please have them repaired and cleaned before you send them to us.)

Kindly send in-kind donations to TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. 27A Matiyaga St., Barangay Central, Diliman, Quezon City. For cash donations, deposit to the BPI account of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. [Account number 4431-0074-31] Please fax or email the bank deposit slip to (632) 441-0998 or info@tao-pilipinas.org for verification.