



Masagana community members utilize ecobricks from TAO's donation drive last year to construct the ground floor of the multi-purpose community facility (MCF) through their bayanihan efforts.

Work on DAP project continues amid COVID-19 pandemic

AMID THE GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS outbreak, TAO-Pilipinas and Masagana carried on with the implementation of Australian Embassy's Direct Assistance Project (DAP) named "Sustainable Community Development of the Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association". DAP activities, started in February 2019, comprise of capability-building for Masagana members and the construction of community infrastructures in the Angat resettlement site.

Community workshops

A couple of months before the imposition of quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19, TAO has conducted a series of capability-building workshops focusing on permaculture and estate management. The training on estate management was facilitated in three parts, with separate workshop sessions on house extension, community-based solid waste management (CBSWM), and estate management.

During the permaculture workshop, the community members learned the basics of permaculture and designed their backyard gardens and the community garden. Through the house extension workshop, community

members created seven extension schemes for existing houses in Angat. Lectures about proper extension, maintenance, and repair of their houses were also included in the said activity.

The Masagana community also learned about ecological solid waste management as mandated in Republic Act 9003. During the CBSWM workshop, they discussed the different types of garbage, proper waste segregation and disposal, and composting.

In the estate management workshop, the community members formulated a draft of their community policy. Further validation and discussion of the provisions is necessary before the community policy is finalized.

Construction of community infrastructures

The construction component of DAP commenced last December 23 with site grading for road concreting. Problems with the vehicle used for site grading and the temporary closure of the main access road to the site contributed to delays in construction. Road concreting was completed through the bayanihan efforts of the

community. They gathered every Sunday until March 8, a week before the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) was implemented in Luzon. Masagana members living on site finished the 5-meter-wide, 50-meter-long community road on April 2, 2020.

Other small community infrastructures to be constructed include a greenhouse and a multi-purpose community facility (MCF). The 6 sqm greenhouse will serve as a plant nursery and for plant propagation. It will be located in the playground area beside the community garden. Site clearing and excavation for the pedestals were completed before the ECQ but due to the length of time that passed, grass and weeds around the site started to regrow.

On the other hand, construction of the 4-storey MCF, located beside the community-based resource center, is ongoing. Each level has a floor area of 12.5 sqm. A toilet and community kitchen are on the ground floor while the office of the community leaders, which will also be used as a guest room, will be on the second floor. The third level is a roof deck and the fourth level will house the elevated water tank for

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TAO looks back at year 1 of Misereor Project; conducts assessment with community partners

ONE YEAR AFTER IMPLEMENTING the three-year project supported by Misereor, "Building Sustainable and Disaster-Resilient Communities," TAO-Pilipinas carried out a project assessment with its community partners, Masagana HOA of Angat, Bulacan and APOLA of Taytay, Rizal. Covering the project period from February 2019 to January 2020, the assessment activities for both communities were conducted separately—Masagana HOA on February 25 in Navotas and APOLA on March 2 in Taytay. The project assessment was facilitated by TAO Core Operations Head for Internal Affairs Geraldine Matabang and the respective area project teams, Lorena Hernandez and Dessica Salvador for Masagana HOA and Angelus Sales and Theresse Julia for APOLA.

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FEATURE ARTICLES



Urban Shelter Course: Architecture in Extreme Environments 2020

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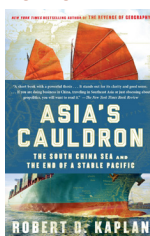
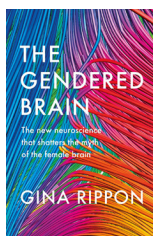
NETWORK ACTIVITIES



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TAO looks back at Year 1... *(continued from page 1)*

The project assessment particularly aims to achieve three specific objectives. First is to examine any observable effects after one year of project implementation and if it has caused change in the community. Second is to identify and evaluate the outcome of activities undertaken and have a grasp of the community's understanding and appreciation of project activities. Last is to check the progress of the project and plan the next steps with the community.

To accomplish these objectives, TAO-Pilipinas prepared a whole-day program divided into five parts comprising presentations, focus group discussions (FGDs), and plenary sessions for the project assessment. Additionally, group quizzes punctuated the sessions to gauge the participants' awareness and recollection of topics covered in previous workshops. The short quizzes on DRRM (disaster risk reduction and management), climate change, and *Batas Pambansa* (BP) 220 were given during the Masagana and APOLA assessment activities. APOLA participants were also quizzed on geohazards and the soil condition in Lupang Arenda.

The first part was establishing the baseline data for each target group.

The community situation at project inception was reviewed by validating the results of the KoBo Toolbox community profile survey in 2017 for APOLA and 2018 for Masagana. Data categories of the survey included demography; shelter and settlement; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and disaster preparedness. The community action plan formulated at the start of the project was also presented to the respective community.

The next part was the orientation on TAO's three-year project with Misereor. Geraldine Matabang highlighted the project goal, planned activities, and intended outcomes. She also explained the general indicators for the success of the project, as well as the sub-indicators specific to each community. The indicators common to both APOLA and Masagana were (1) improved site condition, (2) increased awareness on hazards, (3) increased awareness on the relationship between energy and settlements, and (4) application of low-carbon technologies and practices. Also included as an indicator for APOLA was (5) the formulation of People's Plan for on-site development. In the FGD that followed, the participants were divided into groups with an assigned indicator to focus on. The session

gathered the participants' expected effects and changes after complete project implementation. The FGD also compared the community situation in 2018 and early 2020 from the participants' perspective.

The third part was the review of implemented activities and the evaluation of their results. The area project teams narrated a brief history of their respective community by presenting the timeline and milestones. The participants were then asked to recall the community activities from January 2019 to February 2020 in a plenary session. TAO-Pilipinas proceeded to arrange the list of activities into categories to be assigned to each focus group. For the second FGD, the groups examined the activities by identifying the outputs and corresponding use of output.

After the presentation of FGD results, an effects monitoring for year 1 of the project was carried out in a plenary discussion. TAO-Pilipinas asked the participants about experiencing any effects or changes in their community after a year of implemented activities. The plenary further evaluated the progress of the project based on the thoughts and experiences shared by the participants.

Updating of the community action plan was the final part of the assessment activity. After having examined the first year of the project, the plenary tackled the planned activities for the next two years. The area project teams once again showed the community action plan and gathered the participants' insights on the upcoming activities. Specifically, the participants were asked about possible changes to the plan, other priorities to be considered, and additional remarks they wished to air. To conclude the assessment activity, the plenary discussed the ways forward for the next two years.

The assessment activity is part of TAO's annual change-oriented monitoring of the project with its partner communities based on the outcome-impact orientation (OIO). Results of the project assessment, along with additional documentation by the area project teams, served as basis in determining changes that the project successfully brought about and drawing conclusions from the first year of project implementation. Furthermore, the results of the assessment activity were used to come up with recommendations for the next year of project implementation with Masagana and APOLA. (TRJ)



Lorena Hernandez facilitates the discussion with Masagana senior citizens during the first FGD.



APOLA participants listen to presentations during the project assessment in Lupang Arenda.

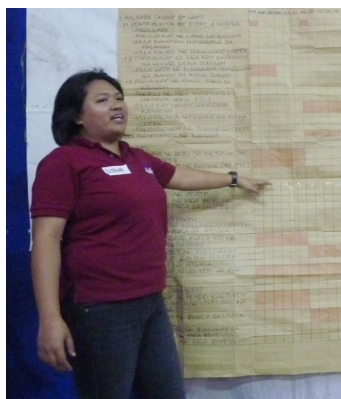


Masagana participants pose for a group photo with community organizer Jonjon Sarmiento and the facilitators from TAO-Pilipinas after the project assessment activity.



APOLA groups raise their answers to a question during the quiz on geohazards and soil condition in Lupang Arenda.

MASAGANA Project Assessment



Lorena Hernandez discusses Masagana's three-year community action plan.



Geraldine Matabang explains the Misereor project indicators to Masagana.



A community member expounds on his answer for the BP 220 quiz with Dessica Salvador.



The participants answer a multiple-choice question during the group quiz on DRRM and climate change.

THE PROJECT ASSESSMENT WITH Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association, Inc. was conducted on February 25, 2020 at the Barangay NBBS Health Center in Navotas City to accommodate the majority of members who are still living in Navotas. Transportation was provided to the members of Masagana who are living in Angat, Bulacan. A total of 47 out of 63 members attended the activity. Masagana's community organizer (CO), Jonjon Sarmiento, and TAO-Pilipinas' intern from the UP Diliman College of Social Work and Community Development, Luna Salanio, also attended the assessment.

During the review of community situation, the participants noted the increase of community members who have relocated to Angat, Bulacan since 2018. From 19 households, there are currently 26 households residing in the area permanently. The increase in the number of disaster-resilient houses, access to clean drinking water, and effective soil retention projects to specific areas in the site were also cited by the members as notable changes in their situation. Meanwhile, the community mentioned that they have yet to establish their own DRRM (disaster risk reduction and management) committee. Additionally, the garbage collection in Angat, Bulacan and the risk to flooding of the members living in Navotas have not been addressed. The participants were then grouped into four—senior citizen; women living in Angat; women living in Navotas; and men—for the quizzes and the focus group discussions (FGDs) that followed.

In the first FGD, the senior citizen group covered the indicator on improved site conditions. They stated that the development of community

infrastructures and increased access to utilities would help make their lives safe and comfortable. The women group living in Angat, Bulacan tackled the indicator on increased hazards awareness. The group said that a better understanding of DRRM would lessen the effect of disasters on the families. The creation and implementation of DRRM plans and a good rapport with the LGU are necessary to achieve the said indicator. The indicator for increased awareness on the relationship between energy and settlements was assigned to the men's group. They believed that being conscious about their contribution to the greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and source of their drinking water would not only make their community eco-friendlier, but it would also improve their quality of life and livelihood. Finally, the application of low-carbon technologies and practices was discussed by the women's group living in Navotas. The group focused on the community garden for food security, waste management as a source of livelihood for recyclable waste, and compost for organic waste.

For the review of implemented activities, the categories that came up were site development and construction of community facilities, organizational development and resource mobilization, capacity building, and other housing-related activities. In the plenary session that followed, the members expressed their appreciation for the concrete pavement, which they believe has enhanced their safety and security. On the other hand, the community leaders stressed the urgency of the members' settlement in Angat, Bulacan. They explained that access to government programs, like the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) which requires at least 50%

of their members residing in the area, would be easier.

During the updating of community action plan the plenary agreed that road concreting should be continued and further expanded to other critical areas on or near the site. The topic raised the discourse on the community entering CMP because if accepted, CMP would cover site development so they would not need to exert their bayanihan efforts and contributions for it. On the other hand, the members expressed their reservations regarding the transferring of lot title and amount of loan. To which, Engr. Hernandez explained that regardless of their involvement to CMP, they would get their titles once it has been cleared and they have completed their payments including taxes. The other details like the amount of loan and length of payment will still be discussed with a CMP mobilizer so it will be TAO-Pilipinas' task to complete all necessary preparations and discussions for the possible CMP orientation. The brief discussion continued about the possible effects of this to the members and the community in general. Nevertheless, the members are open to exploring the possibility. Meanwhile, the community is determined to construct their chapel; however, they must continue raising funds. Initial works on the chapel are encouraged to attract funders. The livelihood components of the action plan—livestock and crop production—were also discussed. Masagana's CO shared that he could help the livelihood committee develop their livelihood plans. Finally, due to the action points identified through the discussion, it has been agreed that further updating of the community action plan would be conducted after the CMP orientation and the completion of the organizational development activities with Mr. Sarmiento. (MLPH)



The group of women compares Masagana's situation in 2018 and early 2020 during the first FGD.

APOLA Project Assessment

TAO-PILIPINAS CONDUCTED THE project assessment activity with Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) on March 2, 2020 at the SAMATHOA covered court in Purok 1, Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal. A total of 55 participants representing 23 HOAs under the 3 federations of APOLA (ie LAHOPI, AUPFI, and KOALISYON) attended the project assessment. Facilitating the activity were TAO staff Geraldine Matabang, Angelus Sales, and Therese Julia, together with Community Organizers Multiversity (COM) executive director Luz Malibiran and local community organizer Victoria Diamzon.

Tackling increased awareness on renewable energy (RE), AUPFI-2 also brought up improved lighting and, consequently, reduced crimes by minors. Households would also reduce their electricity bills by using energy-efficient fixtures and appliances. Lastly, KOALISYON focused on the application of low-carbon technologies and practices. For their assigned indicator, the expected outcome of the group included the reduction of foul odor, pollution, and disease due to improper waste disposal. They also hoped for the community to become more pleasant after completion project.

In the plenary session, the participants were asked to recall the activities of APOLA in the past year. TAO-Pilipinas then categorized the items into the following: activities with young professionals (YPs), pre-proclamation activities, site development activities, people's planning activities, and capacity building. For the next FGD, the groups evaluated the activities by identifying the outputs and use of output of the activities under their assigned category.

When asked about experiencing effects or changes in the community so far, some of the participants noted gaining confidence and hope in their endeavor of achieving security of land tenure. They also mentioned having more appreciation for the technical assistance and being involved in the technical processes. Lastly, they noted that gaining awareness of various scientific concepts has led to their deepened understanding of direct implications to their housing situation.

After the discussion on the updated community action plan, APOLA president Vicente Barlos and Ms. Luz Malibiran discussed the ways forward and delivered closing statements. Mr. Barlos offered his remarks on the next steps for the community wherein he underscored the value of building their technical capability and encouraged active participation in the planned activities. Furthermore, Ms. Malibiran highlighted the value of working together with various actors such as people's organizations, partner NGOs, LGUs, and government agencies. She also emphasized the importance of having a holistic approach in their issue-based community organizing to achieve the community's goal focused on land and housing. (TRJ)

During the establishment of the baseline data for the assessment, the participants commented and validated the 2017 Kobo survey of Taytay households. Among the observed changes that the participants mentioned during the review of community situation were reduced flooding due to improved roads and drainage, increased number of households with Level 3 water supply, and more residents having their own toilet with septic tank. They also noted shelter improvement as more houses now have mixed but predominantly strong materials.

For the subsequent focus group discussions (FGDs), the participants were grouped into five based on their respective federations—two LAHOPI groups, two AUPFI groups, and one KOALISYON group.

Each group was assigned an indicator to tackle for the first FGD. On improved site conditions, LAHOPI-1 noted that the installation of streetlights would facilitate safety and security within the area. They added that concreted roads and proper drainage would reduce flooding and increase accessibility, especially for emergencies. Next, LAHOPI-2 covered the formulation of People's Plan. The group stated that vehicles would have ease of access around the community with roads following proper guidelines. They also remarked that flooding and other hazards would be reduced and that commerce would continue to flourish in the community. On increased awareness of hazards, AUPFI-1 hoped to see the development of their drainage system and concrete roads, as well as the improvement of lighting in the area. Additionally, the group expected that the resolution on house construction would be implemented with the community becoming more aware of



Angelus Sales presents the results of the 2017 Kobo community profile survey of Taytay households.



Geraldine Matabang comments on the groups' output for the first FGD.



LAHOPI-2 group tackles the indicator on formulation of People's Plan during the first FGD.



Therese Julia asks the participants to recall APOLA's activities in the previous year.



A participant presents the result of her group's output-based review of people's planning activities.



Vicente Barlos delivers the closing remarks during the project assessment with APOLA.



COM Executive Director Luz Malibiran illustrates their holistic approach of community organizing.

COVID-19 relief donations for Masagana community

Since Masagana members do not have any means to go outside of the Angat site, their community remains COVID-19 free. They rely on their self-planted vegetables while one member who owns a motorcycle had been asked to buy necessary items in the nearby market during ECQ. However, some members do not have enough resources to buy food for their whole family as most of the families are from the informal sector.

TAO-Pilipinas was able to successfully extend relief to the 25 families in Masagana area through distribution of rice on April 18 and May 21. Jonjon Sarmiento donated 3 sacks of rice. Members of the Board of Trustees of TAO, Ana Dizon and Faith Varona, along with an anonymous donor, contributed PHP20,000 worth of groceries which were distributed on August 19. The grocery items included 7 sacks of rice, 25 kgs of mung beans, 9 kgs of onion, 6.5 kgs of *tuyo*, 6.25 kgs of garlic, 90 pcs face mask (made by Sewing Hope: Community Action for Front liners and our People), 25 pcs face shield, 25 pcs soap, and 2 gallons of alcohol.

TAO-Pilipinas is still accepting relief donations for Masagana community. You may contact us through our Facebook page or email info@tao-pilipinas.org

Work on DAP project continues... [\(continued from page 1\)](#)



Backyard gardens have flourished in Masagana since the conduct of the permaculture workshop last year. Community members were able to rely on vegetables from their gardens during the ECQ period.



The community road, which is 5 meters wide and 50 meters long, was completed by Masagana members on April 2, 2020 through their bayanihan efforts.



(Left) Groceries for hygiene and facemasks and faceshields to protect the members when they go outside; (Right) Sacks of rice, garlic, onion, and mung bean for the 25 families in Masagana



emergency purposes. As of August 22, the MCF's structural members, septic tank and second floor slab have been constructed.

Construction monitoring

Remote construction monitoring is imperative due to quarantine restrictions and has proved to be a challenge for the project. Difficulties encountered include the lack of skilled workers in the community and rectifications made in rebar layout which contributed to construction delays. A skilled worker who was contracted to build one of the houses in Masagana, agreed to be the project foreman. Community leaders gave crucial support to the TAO project team in construction monitoring.

A prepaid wifi modem at the site was purchased to facilitate the transfer of construction photos and to make video calls with the foreman and community leaders. Currently, the system for construction monitoring includes sending a 3D image of the correct assembly and layout of rebars from project staff Dessica Salvador. The community leaders alongside submit photos from the site, monitor materials delivered, and log the daily weather and laborers' names.

The community members remain vigilant by maintaining physical distancing, wearing face masks, and observing 14-day isolation for families and members who went home from Navotas and other areas. The implementation of ECQ caused major schedule delays and minor changes in the project budget but the project is expected to be completed by October 2020. (MLPH)

CPD Seminar-Workshop on Gender Perspectives in Spatial Planning and Design

TAO-PILIPINAS CONDUCTED ITS first continuing professional development (CPD) program for 2020 on March 7 with accreditation from the CPD councils on architecture, environmental planning, and landscape architecture. The seminar-workshop on "Gender Perspectives in Spatial Planning and Design" was developed with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as resource organization and co-sponsor of the day-long activity held at the CHR conference rooms in Quezon City.

The overall learning objective of the seminar was to introduce gender awareness among built environment professionals as spatial planners and designers, along with community representatives as users of space. The 28 participants joining the activity were composed of architects, planners, practitioners from government agencies and the academe, TAO staff members, and women leaders from the partner communities of TAO.

Keynote lecture

The keynote lecture, "Engendering Spaces and Engendering Development," was given by Atty. Twyla Rubin, who heads the Center for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights of CHR. Her very enlightening presentation explored the interface of gender, development, and space, and their links to sustainable cities and communities. When seen and understood through a gender and development lens, Atty. Rubin explained how the function of space is more than its physical existence

but an exercise of power and status, where it can produce and reinforce inequality and exclusion.

A brief Q&A followed the keynote lecture. The discussion focused on laws that mandate local government to advocate for affirmative actions and provide gender-responsive facilities in public spaces. Among these are the Safe Spaces Act, a directive on zero tolerance for sexual harassment, and the adoption of anti-discrimination ordinances

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CPD Seminar-Workshop... *(continued from page 5)*

requiring public facilities to have gender-neutral toilets and breastfeeding rooms for lactating mothers. Actions in the transport sector were also discussed, including the provision of gender-based violence desk and safety rooms in railway stations.

Reactor presentations

Two guests shared their reactions after the Q&A. The first response was about "Women's Access to Housing" from registered social worker Ms. Teresa Prondosa of Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP). Ms. Prondosa reflected on the experiences of FDUP in implementing social housing finance projects and community organizing with a gender lens. She highlighted the value of gender-disaggregated data in community profiling; discussed the legal obstacles faced by women in land acquisition and titling; and noted that women's active engagement in managing community affairs is an extension of their care/reproductive work.

The second reactor was LArch. Rosanne Aldeguer of TAO-Pilipinas, who talked about "Women's Participation in Planning and Design Processes." Her presentation delved into space-making processes, which aspects of space-making involve women, and ways that gender can be integrated in planning and design. She emphasized that planners and designers ought to recognize that space is inherently gendered. She also differentiated practical from strategic gender needs, highlighting strategic design solutions that address spatial inequities and seek to change harmful gender stereotypes. Gender considerations she urged involve engaging women and empowering them to articulate their spatial needs or preferences, ensuring gender-balanced representation and decision-making, research and analysis to include sex-disaggregated data, and conducting gender audits.

Another open forum was held after the reactors' presentations. Participants discussed the need for sex-disaggregated and sector-disaggregated data to plan for appropriate interventions. To address the undervaluing of women's concerns, Atty. Rubin reiterated the need for both practical measures (eg space provision) and strategic measures (eg awareness and empowerment) so that prevailing negative attitudes and power relations are changed.

Workshop sessions

After the learning-filled morning session, the afternoon was devoted to focus group discussions (FGDs). The three community associations (Masagana of Angat, Bulacan; APOLA of Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal; and PPVHOA from Manila City) were introduced by Arch./EnP. Geraldine Matabang. She explained the workshop mechanics and divided the participants into three focus groups.

In workshop 1, the focus groups discussed the division of roles and activities of men and women in each community, and spatially identified where women's and men's activities are located. From this exercise, the groups pointed out the gender norms and issues that were prevalent in the community. A member from each group presented the results of their group discussion in a plenary. In workshop 2, the groups selected community spaces that could be made more gender-responsive. Based on their discussion outputs in workshop 1, they then proposed appropriate designs for those community spaces and accommodated gender considerations. These were done in consultation with the community representatives, and each group's proposal was likewise presented in the plenary.

After the group presentations, Atty. Rubin gave her critique of the workshop outputs. She noted that both practical and strategic measures could be clearly delineated in the solutions presented by the groups, and she also saw the challenge posed by uncertainty regarding the impact of strategic measures. She pointed out the lack of interventions that address the spatial issues of other vulnerable or marginalized groups in the community, and that these have to be given more thought. LArch. Aldeguer added to the learning points by noting the gender-sensitive design features from each of the group schemes. She expressed satisfaction that all the attendees did not waste the opportunity to exercise their "gender-seeing muscles" and actively participated in the workshop.

At the close of the seminar, participants received their CPD certificates. The seminar was given 3 credit units for architecture; 3.5 credit units for environmental planning; and has pending approval of credit units for landscape architecture. (GRM)



(From left to right) Twyla Rubin gives her keynote lecture, "Engendering Spaces and Engendering Development"; Teresa Prondosa delivers the reactor presentation, "Women's Access to Housing"; Geraldine Matabang introduces the three community associations for the workshop sessions; and Rosanne Aldeguer comments on the workshop outputs of the participants.



Participants of the CPD seminar consult the community representatives from Masagana to come up with a sex-disaggregated activity profile for the first workshop session.



Participants of the CPD seminar "Gender Perspective in Spatial Planning and Design" pose for a photo with the speakers, Rosanne Aldeguer of TAO-Pilipinas and Twyla Rubin of CHR; community representatives from Masagana HOA, APOLA, and PPVHOA; and the event organizers/facilitators of TAO-Pilipinas.

TAO CPD seminars for 2020 postponed

BEFORE COMMUNITY QUARANTINE and mass gathering restrictions were imposed to curb Covid-19 spread, TAO-Pilipinas was slated to conduct a number of CPD programs scheduled within the first half of the year (March to July 2020). These PRC-accredited CPD programs included seminar-workshops on Gender Perspective, Rights of Nature, Social Housing Orientation, and People's Planning. All of these were developed with in-person and hands-on learning modules in mind.

The CPD seminar on Gender Perspectives pushed through last March 7, but the rest of the scheduled

seminars have been postponed to a later date when normality resumes. They will remain indefinitely postponed until the Covid-19 public health situation improves and mass gathering restrictions are lifted. Payments made by seminar registrants have been refunded.

For now, TAO-Pilipinas will be preparing for transition to a new normal by developing its training modules to incorporate online learning and webinars. Updates on our capability-building programs will be posted on our website (www.tao-pilipinas.org) and social media accounts. (GRM)

Urban Shelter Course: Architecture in Extreme Environments 2020

THE FIELD STUDY OF THE HOUSING Development and Management (HDM) – Lund University Urban Shelter Course: Architecture in Extreme Environments took place from February 17 to March 7 this year. Twenty-three (23) senior architecture students participated in the course—16 from Sweden, three from France, and one each from Northern Ireland and New Zealand. The field study is an annual learning activity with the objective to broaden and enrich the foreign students' understanding of local housing and environment issues and contribute to addressing these issues through the development of a viable housing proposal. This is coordinated locally by TAO-Pilipinas and implemented in cooperation with the key shelter agencies, leading real estate developers in the private sector, NGOs, and the local government of Quezon City.

This year was especially challenging for the urban shelter course as the field study pushed through amidst the uncertainties brought by disasters. The field study started just at the aftermath of the Taal Volcano eruption in mid-February that caused the lockdown of several towns and cities in Cavite and Batangas, and ended just as the Covid-19 virus was starting to spread critically in China and South Korea. It was a good learning experience for the students and an apt activity for the course.

Among the field study activities this year were site visits to public, private, and civil society-facilitated housing projects in several cities in Metro Manila that showcased social/ low, middle, to high-income housing and resettlement projects. Lectures were also held at the National Housing



Housing Development and Management (HDM) – Lund University Director Johnny Astrand addresses the students at the National Housing Authority (NHA). (Photo credit: MFYV)

Authority (NHA), University of the Philippines College of Architecture, the local government of Quezon City through the City Architect's office, Ayala Land Inc., and TAO-Pilipinas. Two study sites were provided, one by the local government of Quezon City and another from the NHA. The students were tasked to develop a housing proposal at the neighborhood/

community and individual/household level, and last May 26–28, six design works/proposals were presented to a panel of experts via Zoom. A video screening was held on the last day as a culminating activity. The video is part of the students' course requirement aimed at showing a more thoughtful and reflective, but also fun side to the Manila field study. (MFYV)



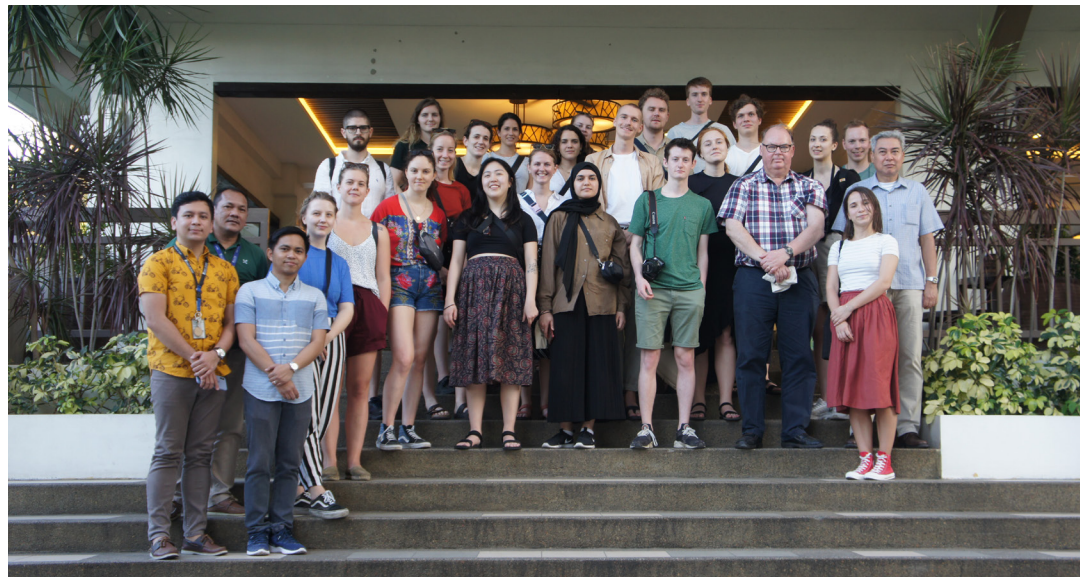
Madeline Suarez of Alliance of People's Organizations Along Manggahan Floodway (APOAMF) introduces her community during the site visit in Pasig City. (Photo credit: MFYV)



Paulo Genzola of Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) provides an overview of the Ernestville housing project during the site visit in Novaliches, Quezon City. (Photo credit: MFYV)



Students conduct household interviews at Bistekville 2 in Quezon City. (Photo credit: MFYV)



The Urban Shelter Course students pose for a group photo with HDM Director Johnny Astrand, Arch. Gerry Ramos, and the technical staff of DMCI Homes during the DMCI Home's Zinia Towers site visit. (Photo credit: MFYV)

TAO proceeds with PPVHOA technical assistance despite the pandemic

TAO-PILIPINAS HAS CONTINUED providing technical assistance to partner communities despite the ongoing pandemic. One such partner community is People's Planville Homeowners Association (PPVHOA). PPVHOA is composed of 200 families coming from four neighborhood groups in Binondo, Manila, who will be transferring to Sta. Mesa, Manila. Last year, TAO-Pilipinas conducted a series of participatory planning and design workshops to help the community come up with their own design ([See YP Enewsletter April – June 2019 Issue](#)) for their low-rise housing project.

Since last year, TAO has begun working on the technical plans needed by PPVHOA to apply for their community mortgage program. With the purchase of their proposed project site by Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) on December 27, 2019, several activities were put

in motion at the beginning of 2020. First was a stakeholders meeting on January 24, 2020, organized by partner organizations, Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) and Community Organizers Multiversity (COM). The objective of the meeting was to update TAO-Pilipinas and PPVHOA on the development regarding land acquisition and the activities to be implemented to be able to apply for Phase 2 of the community mortgage program.

The next activity was meeting with representatives from the Engineering Office and Office of the Building Official of Manila local government on February 18, 2020. The objective of the meeting was to present the initial architectural plans and get feedback from building officials. The officials present were Rene Echavez and Manuel Garcia from Office of the Building Official and Engr. Joseph Bulanon from

Department of Engineering and Public Works. Feedback from the officials were positive regarding the proposed low-rise housing project and no adverse objections were given.

A second soil boring analysis was also conducted by DBA Engineering Consultancy on February 23, 2020 to determine an alternative option for a foundation system that is less expensive than the previously proposed one. The result of the soil boring analysis yielded positive results which significantly cut down the construction cost.

During the January stakeholders meeting, TAO-Pilipinas initially proposed to finalize the technical plans by March 2020. However, due to the onset of the pandemic, this was revised. In June 2020, an online stakeholders meeting was conducted, and the finalization of technical plans was moved to August 2020. After the stakeholders meeting, TAO-Pilipinas,

with its engineering consultants, began finalizing the technical plans and contract documents. A series of online stakeholder meetings have also been conducted since June 2020 to keep the community and other project stakeholders abreast of the developments. The goal of TAO is to have the technical plans printed before September ends and have it submitted to SHFC for the Phase 2 application of the community mortgage program for vertical housing.

As of writing, TAO has already submitted a soft copy of the final architectural plans to FDUP, who subsequently emailed it to SHFC. Structural, mechanical, and sanitary plans have already been finalized. The final format of the technical specifications has also been written and awaits final confirmation from mechanical and electrical engineering consultants. (AMPS)

ASMPH students conduct CBSWM workshop in Lupang Arenda

ON MARCH 6, 2020, SIX STUDENTS from Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH), together with TAO-Pilipinas, carried out the Community-Based Solid Waste Management (CBSWM) workshop in Lupang Arenda. A total of 14 APOLA leaders and Purok 5 community members attended the workshop, which took place at the AKBAI HOA Office in Purok 5, Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal. The CBSWM workshop is part of the students' activities under the Learning Experiences in Communities (LEC), an integral program of the ASMPH Doctor of Medicine and Master of Business Administration (MD-MBA) curriculum.

The CBSWM workshop had three objectives: to describe the situation of waste management in Purok 5; to inform the participants about the medical and financial benefits of proper waste management; and to formulate a pilot design, together with the community, for a garbage collection system in Purok 5 that could be replicated for other areas in Lupang Arenda. To accomplish these objectives, the MD-MBA students provided presentations, group exercises, and focus group discussions (FGDs) with the assistance of TAO-Pilipinas.

The first group exercise, led by ASMPH student Gerwin Rodriguez, described the current environmental



Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) students, TAO-Pilipinas staff, and APOLA leaders and members pose for a group photo in front of the AKBAI HOA Office after the CBSWM workshop

condition in Lupang Arenda. The participants shared that littering of garbage is a problem and SWM practices like waste segregation are not commonly applied in the community. Next, ASMPH students Marian Jimenez and Adrian Dofitas presented the first lecture about the effects of improper waste management on humans and the environment. Ms. Jimenez covered topics such as pollution, flooding, infestation, and climate change; while Mr. Dofitas focused on the various ways that people, especially the most vulnerable sectors, can acquire diseases due to improper waste management.

For the second group exercise, Jill Bangayan of ASMPH explained the Problem Tree Analysis activity to dissect a major problem in Lupang Arenda, which is the lack of proper waste management. The participants fleshed out the problem by discussing its causes like the lack of discipline, lack

of knowledge on segregation, and lack of strict implementation of SWM laws. They also identified the effects of the problem such as contracting diseases, blocked drainages, and burning of garbage. This activity was followed by presentations on using garbage as a source of livelihood by ASMPH student Nikki Roque, and on the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (R.A. 9003) by TAO staff LArch. Rosanne Aldeguer.

After a group exercise on segregation, ASMPH student Veronica Ching gave the guide questions for the FGD. The activity allowed the participants to reflect on the role of the urban poor in contributing to and controlling the growth of solid waste in Lupang Arenda and Metro Manila. Lastly, Mr. Rodriguez led a plenary session for the community action planning on CBSWM. The session generated various action plans



ASMPH students assist the participants during the Problem Tree Analysis activity.

to be accomplished in three months, six months, and one year. Most of the action plans focused on information dissemination, capacity-building, and coordination with LGUs. The discussion also tackled the role of men, women, and the youth in CBSWM, as well as possible penalties for violation of SWM laws.

The ASMPH students planned to conduct activities for the validation and finalization of the pilot CBSWM system, and distribute IEC materials to disseminate information on the benefits of the system. However, because of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the consequent community quarantine, all the planned activities were cancelled. Nonetheless, the ASMPH students, TAO-Pilipinas, and APOLA leave the door open for possible future engagements in the context of the new normal. (TRJ)

ICOMOS Philippines partners with TAO for heritage webinar

DURING THIS COMMUNITY quarantine, TAO-Pilipinas was invited by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Philippines to attend their heritage webinar on July 07, 2020. The Core Operations Head for External Affairs, Arch. Angelus Sales, was invited to be one of the panel reactors for the webinar entitled “When Communities Engage – Tools for Community Participation in Heritage.”

The webinar was organized by ICOMOS Philippines with other partner organizations that included University of the Philippines Archaeological Studies Program (UP-ASP), Tuklas Pilipinas, Intramuros Administration, Kapisanan ng mga Arkeologist sa Pilipinas, Inc. (KAPI), TAO-Pilipinas, and ICOMOS Thailand. The topic of the webinar is community archaeology with focus on the tools and approaches used in archaeology to promote community engagement and participation.

The invited speakers were Stephen Acabado, PhD., associate professor of Anthropology from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Marlon Martin, head of Save Ifugao

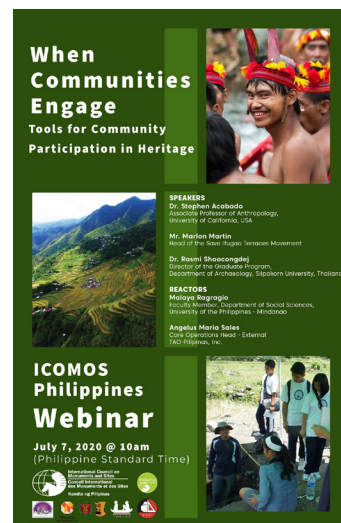
Terraces Movement (SITMo), and Rasmi Shoocongdej, PhD., director of graduate program of the Department of Archaeology from Silpakorn University in Thailand. Joining Arch. Sales as panel reactor was Malaya Ragragio, faculty member of the Department of Social Sciences from the University of the Philippines, Mindanao.

The webinar had more than 4,000 views on Facebook Live and continues to grow as the recorded video can still be viewed online via the Facebook Page of ICOMOS Philippines.

Dr. Acabado talked about the Ifugao Archaeological Project and how they included the local community as one of the project stakeholders. Dr. Shoocongdej meanwhile discussed her archaeological project in the highlands of Pang Mapha in northwest Thailand and how she involved the Tham Lod community in the area. Both speakers emphasized the importance of doing community archaeology as part of the overall archaeological research project and not just an afterthought. Consultations with local communities were very much present in the methodology of both speakers. Unfortunately, due to signal

difficulties, Mr. Martin was unable to present his topic. Dr. Acabado filled in for him and discussed how the Ifugao Archaeological Project partnered with SITMo to engage the local community in Kiangnan, Ifugao.

The panel reactors also provided good discussion points to further the discourse on community archaeology with Ms. Ragragio, who has a background on both archaeology and anthropology, pointing out the complex layers involved when engaging indigenous communities in heritage endeavors. She commented on the years needed to fully understand local communities as shown by the work of Dr. Shoocongdej. She also brought up the topic of tension and friction in the field when archaeological findings may not be what the local communities expect. On the other hand, Arch. Sales raised the intersectionality of development work and community archaeology and agreed with the challenges mentioned by the speakers with regards to working with communities. She asked the speakers if they were able to measure the impact of the community programs that they have implemented in their archaeological projects and what



(Poster credit: ICOMOS Philippines)

were the tools they used to do project monitoring and evaluation.

The webinar was concluded with a synthesis of the discussion given by ICOMOS Philippines President, Tina Paterno and an invitation to attend upcoming webinars organized by ICOMOS Philippines. This webinar was hosted and moderated by Kate Lim of Tuklas Pilipinas. (AMPS)



(Poster credit: Metropolitan Museum of Manila)

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF Manila and the Japan Foundation Manila (JFM), in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines and JT International (Philippines), Inc., hosted a webinar entitled “Our Built Environment: Withstanding Disaster and Responsive Design” on September 1, 2020 from 4:00 to 5:40 in the afternoon (PST). The webinar aimed to promote the virtual exhibit entitled “Built Environment: An Alternative Guide to Japan.”

TAO-Pilipinas participates in ‘Our Built Environment’ webinar

The exhibit features 80 infrastructure and landscaping projects from all over Japan as curated by architectural historian Shunsuke Kurata, landscape design scholar Satoshi Hachima, and Kejiro Hosaka, curator of the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo. Due to the restrictions related to COVID-19, the exhibit is only accessible through Metropolitan Museum of Manila’s website from September 1–30, 2020.

Tina Colayco, president of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, started the webinar with a short message to the attendees. After that, the exhibition tour video was played to the public. Tomoko Nakamura from JFM also briefly addressed the public. The moderator of the webinar, Arch. Manuel Miñana, introduced Prof. Kurakata as the first presenter. Prof. Kurakata showed some of the exhibit photos and stressed the importance of awareness on the relationship of the man-made or artificial structures to the natural environment in designing the built environment. He also mentioned that rather than designing a structure that is resilient against a single hazard

(eg COVID-19), the designer should recognize the characteristic of hazards to be multi-layered and cascading.

Three webinar panelists followed to discuss their post-disaster interventions in the built environment. First was Arch. Kurokawa Sho who shared his disaster-related projects. These included constructing structures made of paper tubes in one province in China after the Sichuan earthquake and an employment support center in Iwate, Japan after the Tohoku earthquake. Next was the chairperson of the Emergency Architects Committee of the United Architects of the Philippines, Arch. Jose Miranda. He presented their organization’s emergency response initiatives like the Alternative Temporary Shelters (ATS) they installed in Barangay Catmon, Malabon City after a fire incident wherein they used PVC pipes and clamps as the pillars for the ATS. Additionally, he showed the isolation facility that they installed in the Malabon Amphitheater under the MOVE UP project to cater to the increasing cases of COVID-19 patients in the city.

Finally, Engr. Lorena Hernandez, project team leader of TAO-Pilipinas, shared their experiences in co-designing with disaster survivors in island communities. Her presentation focused on the construction of shelter units and evacuation centers in Eastern Samar province. These structures were located in Manicani and Homonhon islands in Guiuan and in barangays Caga-ut and Matarinao in Salcedo. She highlighted the use of alternative building materials like the interlocking compressed earth blocks (ICEB), micro-concrete roof (MCR) tile, and wood wool cement boards in TAO’s projects. Questions for the curator and the panelists were entertained at the end of all the presentations.

The webinar was hosted via Zoom and was streamed live on Facebook. A total of 300 attendees were recorded on Zoom and 14,000 on Facebook (with 500 staying throughout the webinar). The webinar has been shared at least 100 times on Facebook. (MLPH)

PMPI holds 6th General Assembly

TAO-PILIPINAS JOINED OTHER PMPI partner networks in attending the 6th General Assembly of Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI). The 6th General Assembly was held at Hive Hotel in Quezon City from February 26 to 28, 2020. An opening ceremony was held on the night of February 25 with a brief dance performance from the Infanta National High School Thespians' Circle, followed by a parade of banners from the different regional clusters that participated in the assembly. A showing of *Kwentong Klima* was also held during dinner of the opening night.

The general assembly was attended by representatives from the following regional clusters: NCR Urban, NCR National, Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Negros, Panay, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, CABUSTAM (Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Surigao, Tandag, Malaybalay), DOPIM (Dipolog, Ozamis, Pagadian, Iligan,

Marawi), KIDMACO (Kidapawan, Marbel, Cotabato), Davao Region, and ZAMBASULI (Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu, Ipil). The general assembly had a Fair of Products, Fair of Ideas, and Fair of Exhibits as part of the three-day program. It also conducted its usual business meeting which saw the election of new co-covenantors for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao and adoption of a new name for PMPI. The assembly also voted to adopt climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction and management (CCAM-DRRM), sustainable agriculture and fisheries resource conservation and management, and good governance as the thematic focus for the next three years.

The Fair of Products featured trade products for sale by different regional clusters. These included calamansi soap products from Homonhon Island, brewed coffee and strawberry jams from

Northern Luzon, and pillowcases and bed sheets made by communities from NCR Urban. On the other hand, the Fair of Exhibit showcased past activities from the different regional clusters. The Fair of Ideas had simultaneous lecture sessions sponsored by the different regional clusters sharing their experiences on various issues such as Universal Health Care Act from the NCR Urban Cluster, Parish-based DRR-CCA Committee by the Bicol Cluster, Karst Landscape Management and its Application by Central Visayas Cluster, and Empowering Women in Self-Help Groups by the KIDMACO Cluster.

In between the business meetings and lecture sessions of the three-day general assembly were cultural presentations and entertainment provided by the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA). A short play directed by Joseph Madriaga

of PETA was performed by Infanta National High School Thespians' Circle during the first day of the general assembly. A cultural night was held on the second day where regional clusters each prepared a group presentation. On the third day, a solidarity action was held at the PETA Theater where participants were treated to performances by artists Noel Cabangon, Ja Quintana, Pordalab, and Talahib. PETA also led the closing ceremony with a performance from PETA Kalinangan Ensemble during the last day of the general assembly.

A posthumous award ceremony was held for PMPI partners who have passed away. PMPI also awarded regional clusters that performed remarkably. The general assembly of PMPI is held every four years, with the last assembly held in Tagum City, Davao del Norte. (AMPS)



Members of Infanta National High School Thespians' Circle perform a short play directed by Joseph Madriaga of PETA.



Arlene Lusterio is one of the co-host during the opening ceremony of the PMPI General Assembly.



Regional clusters present their body of work in the Fair of Exhibit.



PETA Kalinangan Ensemble perform during the last day of the general assembly.

Title: **The Gendered Brain: The New Neuroscience that Shatters the Myth of the Female Brain**

Author: **Gina Rippon**

Publisher: **Penguin Random House (2019)**

Gina Rippon, a professor of cognitive brain neuroimaging, sets out to challenge the categorization of “male” and “female” brains in the very readable *The Gendered Brain*. She takes us through centuries of sexism and how science has vigorously looked for differences between the brains of men and women on the belief that they are two distinct sets of beings that think, behave and achieve differently. With findings of advanced brain imaging studies, Rippon shows us our brains are highly plastic and rule-seeking systems which suggest that the purported differences are more socially constructed than biologically determined. In short, the gendered world produces a gendered brain. This is powerfully illustrated in a chapter on how social construction of gender starts even in babies.

The book also tackles the under-representation of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and

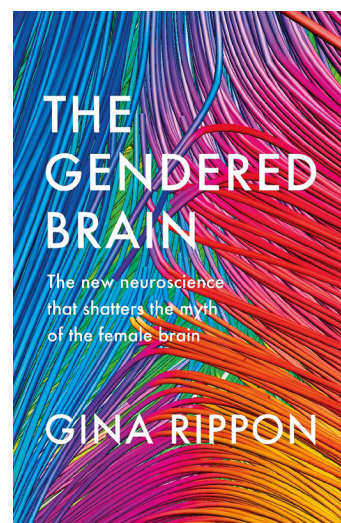
mathematics). Gendered upbringing (manifested in toy choices for children), attitudes and expectations determine the skills we gain and our chosen preferences and ultimately shape the career opportunities and positions of power that society grants to women. Rippon gives a history of brain research, revealing that most of established differentiators are largely wrong. But misguided findings of outdated research continue to be peddled as scientific basis for sex differences in the brain—reinforcing misperceptions that persist to this day and maintaining the status quo.

In the end, Rippon considers the question itself (what makes men and women different) as problematic. Current brain research indicate that male and female brains are more similar than different and clear-cut differences are actually diminishing or disappearing. The book calls on science to move on from the

simplistic male-female dichotomy. Neuroscience in particular is seen to bridge the gaps in the nature vs nurture debate and this certainly has significant and hopefully positive implications to our understanding of the concept of gender identity.

This nearly 400-page book was a surprisingly enjoyable read especially when the author expertly debunks long entrenched beliefs on sex differences. It's comprehensive, detailed and has witty takes on science as a masculine institution. There's so much to grasp from each chapter that leads us to question our own assumptions, biases and prejudices and cautions us on internalized stereotypes. (Is taking pride for being a female architect partly due to an acceptance that women are not supposed to have good spatial skills?)

The book also teaches us to be circumspect about gender research



findings presented in popular media, fact-checking to avoid the pitfalls of “neurotrash” that can mislead or misinform the public. There are a couple of topics that in my view could have been better examined in the book, such as a deeper scrutiny on hormonal differences and the transgender experience. Overall, the book shines a new light onto ongoing gender debates. (GRM)

Title: **Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific**

Author: **Robert D. Kaplan**

Publisher: **Random House (2014)**

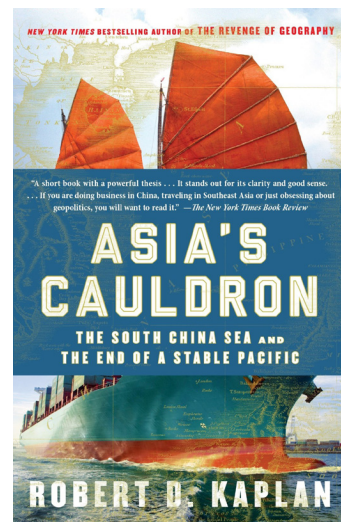
The Philippines is one claimant, along with a number of Southeast Asian nations, of some portions of the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea for Filipinos)—considered the most contested body of water in the world today—and where China, the demographic and economic powerhouse, is expanding its military power and claim over the region. As such, *Asia's Cauldron* by geopolitical analyst Robert Kaplan is a particularly interesting read as it examines the conflict in the region and its implications for global peace and stability.

The book establishes the strategic significance of South China Sea which links commerce and trade in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. It also

illustrates the naval capacity of the United States which, in coalition with smaller powers in the region, currently dominates the regional balance of power and how this is challenged by a fast catching-up China. In the context of the geopolitical conflict, the author presents the history of different claimant countries involved, in captivating travelogue style,—including chapters on Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Taiwan. This gives the reader a very insightful background of each nation and helps to understand the interests and motivations of their governments. Kaplan does reveal an admiration for pragmatic leadership and autocratic governments such as those of Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad and Singapore's Lee

Kwan Yew. Not surprisingly, the chapter (“Asia's Colonial Burden”) about the Philippines criticizes its dysfunctional government and describes the country as a nearly-failed state, delivered in unemotional, straightforward prose.

The author favors the strengthening of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, instead of relying on US power and influence, to balance against China's surge. Much has transpired since the book was published six years ago, considering China's aggressive expansion of its military presence in the area. This book remains an informative primer about the complicated regional conflict although written with a Westerner's perspective. This



also leads us to look for alternative outlooks about the conflict, possibly from an Asian standpoint and perhaps with a less scathing analysis of the Philippine situation. (GRM)

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