



YP
YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.

e NEWSLETTER

July - August 2021

TAO begins celebration of 20-year anniversary

by Geraldine Matabang

2021 IS AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR FOR TAO-Pilipinas as the organization marks two decades of technical assistance work amidst a raging Covid-19 pandemic. TAO goes online with its toned-down but meaningful celebration with network and community partners. Three anniversary events are lined up within the second half of the year. In line with these, a fundraising appeal and an impact assessment survey were also launched.

In a build up to its official founding day on August 20, TAO kicked off their commemoration by holding a virtual reunion with Young Professionals (YP) alumni on July 31. To reconnect and enliven the YP alumni network, TAO invited all those who have been involved in its Young Professionals Formation program since it was implemented in 2005. (See related article below)

The second event that will be held is scheduled on August 20, wherein the annual TAO Forum on Sustainable Communities will now be conducted online after last year's cancellation because of the pandemic. This year, the theme focuses on "Renewable energy (RE) solutions for urban poor settlements". Guest lecturers were invited to give presentations that are intended to address the RE learning needs of TAO's three active partner-communities: Masagana of Angat HOA (Bulacan); APOLA (Taytay, Rizal) and PPVHOA (Manila). The forum will be held virtually via Zoom with live streaming on TAO's Facebook account.

Lastly, TAO will mark the 20-year milestone by reviving [TAO Shelter Magazine](#). The magazine was last published in 2012 and, as a reflective account of TAO's work, a special online edition is set to be

For its 20th anniversary celebration, TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. brings you

TAO FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Theme:
"Renewable Energy (RE) Solutions for Urban Poor Communities"

via Zoom & TAO-Pilipinas Facebook page livestream
20 August 2021
1:00 pm (Philippine Standard Time)

YP Alumni meet in virtual reunion

by Min-Roselle Malunhao

LAST JULY 31, TAO-PILIPINAS ORGANIZED a simple virtual reunion for its previous interns, volunteers and workshop participants of the Young Professionals Program (now called Young Professionals Formation). The YP program began in 2005 to provide venues for students and young professionals (YPs) to engage in community development work and participatory process while imbuing a sense of social responsibility. The program includes three main activities: Internship,

Workshops, and Volunteers Pool. There were 33 YP alumni present during the virtual reunion, including current TAO staff who have been part of the program.

Gathering after 10 years

While waiting for the official start of the program, photographs of past YP activities were shown. Glee and nostalgia filled the virtual room as YP alumni watch their younger selves conducting community



FEATURE ARTICLES

TAO begins celebration of 20-year anniversary
YP Alumni meet in virtual reunion
TAO-Pilipinas partner communities share project updates



NETWORK ARTICLES

TAO staff attend TAMPEI and Kyushu University participatory planning workshop
PMPI NCR-Urban Cluster meeting
PHILSSA conducts its 31st general assembly online



YP READING LIST & WEBINAR TAKEAWAYS

Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design
Low Carbon Cities Webinar Series #1
Freedom of Information Receiving Officers (FROs)
A Practical Guide to Climate-resilient Buildings and Communities



YP PULSE

On licensure examinations



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraising appeal
TAO welcomes Atty. Nuñez to the Board of Trustees
TAO ED is PHILSSA Board chairperson

released by the last quarter of the year. This 20th anniversary edition will revisit TAO's interventions with partners, capture stories of change brought about by technical assistance, and explore the next chapters of TAO's work.

Fundraising appeal

TAO also launched a fundraising appeal to support the publication of TAO Shelter Magazine. TAO offers custom mugs printed with the anniversary logo and personalized with the donor's name for PHP695 (clear glass mug) and PHP750 (stainless-steel mug). Fundraising supporters will be

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work with TAO-Pilipinas. The positive energy kept on with TAO's Angelus Sales and Rosalyn Marcelo-Veneracion as the event's moderators. Rosalyn, more fondly known as Osang, was once the deputy director of the YP program. The program officially began with a prayer from Verna Sarraga, a former TAO staff and previous YP workshop participant, and a welcoming remark from Architect Maria Faith Varona, secretary of TAO's Board of Trustees.

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TAO begins celebration... CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 1

given a complimentary e-copy of the magazine on its release. The fundraising is still on-going, with orders accepted through the TAO-Pilipinas Publications Instagram account [@architectsinthemargins](https://www.instagram.com/architectsinthemargins).

YP Impact Assessment Survey

As TAO moves forward following a two-decade journey, the organization looks to obtain a richer view of the impacts produced by its YP Program on direct participants. The program was established with the long-term goal of honing the next generation of socially-aware technical professionals to be more involved in community development work. Sixteen years of program implementation have produced 79 workshop attendees, 93 interns (local and foreign), and various community extension work by 12 student-volunteer groups. TAO is conducting an impact assessment survey among those who have been involved in YP Program activities with strong community immersion component: YP Workshop on Social Housing, YP Internship, and YP Volunteers Pool.

The purpose of the survey is for TAO to update the YP alumni database and to know how the YPs' involvement in the program influenced their career direction and professional work. Data from this survey is intended to inform TAO on the effectiveness of the YP advocacy and interventions, and help set the program's future direction. YP alumni may answer the survey by accessing <https://tinyurl.com/YPsurvey2021>. Survey responses will be accepted until **August 15**.

TAO Coffee mugs for fundraising



TAO 20th anniversary special edition clear glass coffee mug for PHP695



TAO 20th anniversary special edition stainless steel coffee mug for PHP750

YP Impact Assessment Survey

ATTENTION TO ALL TAO YP ALUMNI

KINDLY ANSWER THE:

YP Impact Assessment Survey

Your survey responses would allow TAO to determine the effectiveness of its YP advocacy and interventions and help set its future direction.

You may answer the YP Impact Assessment Survey at:
<https://tinyurl.com/YPsurvey2021>

DON'T FORGET!
YP Virtual Reunion
via Zoom
July 31, 2021
2:00-5:00pm PST
Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/YPReunion>

YP Alumni meet... CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 1

One by one, the participants introduced themselves. The room was once again filled with jokes and laughter after seeing each other after quite some time. The fun continued as YP alumni shared how they were feeling and why they chose to attend the reunion through an interactive poll via Mentimeter. Some jokingly answered "peer pressure" or "raffle" as their reasons for participation. A special message was then given by Dr. Laura T. David, a board member of TAO, sharing words of wisdom in achieving one's goal in life. She also reminded everyone to know and dedicate one's work to those whom we want to serve.

Sharing from two YP alumnae

Architect Gloryrose Dy-Metilla began the learning sessions part of the program. She shared her experience establishing and working at her own Davao City-based architectural firm, Swito Designs Architects. Ar. Dy-Metilla was a 2009 YP Workshop participant and briefly joined TAO as program staff. She noted that it was through the words of TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio that had encouraged her to establish her own professional practice. Through Swito Designs,

Ar. Dy-Metilla is able to forward her advocacy of uplifting Philippine Architecture—specifically Mindanao Architecture—by creating design that honors the cultural heritage, identity, and the multi-dimensional context of the region. A key element of SwitoDesigns is participatory architecture and Ar. Dy-Metilla paid homage to TAO for instilling its importance to her. Aside from design and planning services, SwitoDesigns also conducts workshops and other learning services to better equip people with the knowledge and tools for building their own spaces. Even young children are taught architecture appreciation through a workshop called "Architecture for Kids".

Architect Shareen Elnaschie gave the second part of the learning sessions. She completed an internship at TAO in 2013 as part of her master's degree in International Cooperation-Sustainable Emergency Architecture from the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya in Barcelona. Ar. Elnaschie shared her experiences co-founding Office of Displaced Designers, a non-government organization she established in Lesvos, Greece. The Mediterranean refugee crisis had driven Shereen to create venues for different designers and communities to collaborate in addressing various

ATTENTION TO ALL TAO YP ALUMNI

TAO-PILIPINAS IS INVITING YOU TO:

Virtual YP Reunion

via Zoom
July 31, 2021
2:00-5:00pm PST

Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/YPReunion>

Read caption for more details.

First 20 registered participants will have a chance to win awesome raffle prizes from TAO's collection of publications and merchandise.

HURRY AND REGISTER NOW!

needs from their displacement. The Office of Displaced Designers is engaged in different projects such as workshops on filmmaking and photography, mentorship program, and design and constructions. Similar to SwitoDesigns, Ar. Elnaschie's work in Office of Displaced Designers highlights a strong

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YP Alumni meet... CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 2

participatory component. She mentioned her efforts to emulate TAO efforts to emulate TAO values and approach in her professional practice.

After hearing from the two inspiring YP alumnae, a forum was opened for comments and questions about their work. They were asked about the challenges or issues they faced. Ar. Dy-Metilla remarked that it is common knowledge that the political environment in Mindanao is unstable with the region being a target of extremist groups, terrorists and bandits. Nevertheless, it is the architect's goal to highlight the beauty of the region through architecture. Ar. Elnaschie shared the same sentiment as she has been working with refugees coming from poor and politically unstable societies. She shared that imbuing a sense of community to people of diverse background living in a transient state is more challenging for her. She emphasized the need to provide avenues for the people to participate in order to know their capabilities and work together. Ar. Elnaschie then commented how she tries her best to apply all she learned from TAO in her own work.

YP alumni network initiatives

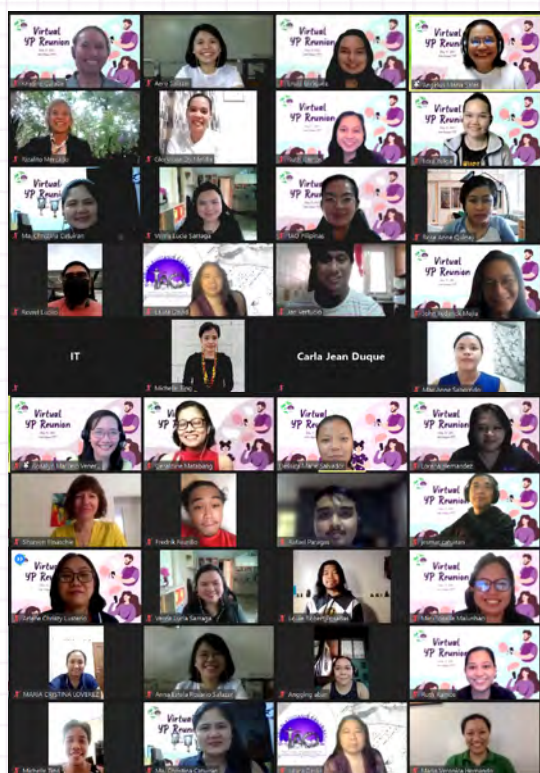
The learning sessions were followed by a blitz activity or focus group discussion (FGD) to plan for a renewed engagement between TAO and the YP Alumni network. Participants were grouped according to their batch and assigned to breakout rooms. During the FGD, YP alumni discussed various ways in which the network could maintain its connection with the organization and have more active role in TAO projects. The three groups presented the results of their FGD in a plenary. The first group, with members from YP batch 2005 to 2010, shared that they could promote TAO activities in social media. Some members of the group who are currently affiliated with different academic institutions also remarked that they could connect the organization with the academe. The second group, with members from YP batch 2011 to 2014, shared that they too could help broaden TAO's network with the private sector. Most members of the group are working in private firms or companies. They suggested to connect TAO with the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of different private companies. The last group to present was from YP

batch 2015-2020. Since most of the members are involved with the academe, the group suggests to implement activities that would increase youth participants in TAO activities.

Keeping the YP spirit

The YP virtual reunion ended with closing remark from TAO Executive Director Arlene Lusterio. She expressed her gratitude to all the YP alumni who took time to participate in the event. She shared about the challenges the organization is currently facing and hearing the impact stories of YP alumni provided a sense of relief and encouragement for TAO. As her parting words, she reminded everyone to keep the fire burning in helping the most vulnerable sectors of our society.

As ways forward, TAO-Pilipinas will first establish a platform and means of communication with the YP alumni to regularly update them of TAO projects and to further explore the suggestions from the group discussions.



Screenshot of YP Virtual Reunion participants and guest speakers



(From left to right) Photos of Dr. Laura T. David, Ar. Gloryrose Dy-Metilla and Ar. Shareen Elnaschie —YP Reunion guest speakers

Watch the special message of Dr. David at: <https://youtu.be/1ghER788b70> and Ar. Dy-Metilla and Ar. Elnaschie learning sessions at: <https://youtu.be/EjpXSWUpkQ>

Team	Team 2 (2010-2014)		
Members	Rafael Paragas (moderator), Louise Pinedas (presenter), Fred Fausillo, Tina Lourenz, Therese Julia (documenter)		
Activity list:	Regular zoom meet-ups with YPs Partnership with private companies via CSR activities (e.g., networking) Database of YP alumni (identify affiliations)		
Priority Activity	Partnership with private companies via CSR activities (e.g., networking)		
Expected Outcome	Database of YP alumni (identify affiliations, possible roles, point person, partnership opportunities)		
Timeframe	Anytime soon Align with timeframe of YP programs and CSR programs		
No.	Actions/Steps	Person's in charge	Items to prepare, resources needed
1)	Conduct of regular zoom meet-ups with YPs (by batch)	TAO-YPF, YP alumni	Zoom meetings
2)	Preparation of YP database	TAO-YPF, YP alumni	Database accessible to YP alumni
			Data: point persons, company position, contact details, possible roles, partnership opportunities, CSR arm of company
3a)	Connecting TAO with affiliations	YP alumni	TAO brochure, exploratory meeting
3b)	Connecting affiliations with TAO	TAO-YPF	Database accessible to YP alumni

In what ways can the YP Alumni (as a group) re-establish their link with TAO or advocate for TAO and its community partners? What can be a meaningful and active role for the YP Alumni in TAO programs and projects?

Screenshot of action plan as a result of the Blitz activity by Group 2

TAO-Pilipinas partner communities share project updates

by Ma. Lorena Hernandez

A PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PMC) meeting was conducted by TAO-Pilipinas last May 29. It was attended by representatives from TAO-Pilipinas, Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association (Masagana), Association of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA), and People's Plan Ville Homeowners Association (PPVHOA). Each community presented updates according to their respective action plans. They reported on the results of project activities conducted, the problems they encountered and how they dealt with them, and their planned activities.

Masagana updates

Juana Cavalida was the first one to present the community's progress report. She mentioned that the land title that she had been processing was scheduled to be released in June. Congratulatory greetings were offered by the other communities and she proceeded to enumerate the institutions that she had to visit and the documents that she submitted. Ms. Cavalida also shared that Masagana incurred penalties from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) due to non-filing of tax documents. Hence, the community raised funds to pay their dues. She also mentioned their experiences during the first online community assessment, updates on maintaining their solar streetlights and water purification system, remaining works from the Direct Aid Program (DAP) project, the chapel design workshop conducted on March 21, 2021, and their bayanihan activities. The consultations with the Foundation of the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) regarding the relocation requirements for an on-site community mortgage program (CMP) was also included in her presentation. She also informed the group that Masagana had recently conducted their election and she was no longer the president of the community. The elected leader, Norvie Armeza, was also present in the meeting to observe.

APOLA President Vicente Barlos offered information about the suspension of HOA elections based on a Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) memo. He also acknowledged the progress made in Masagana during Juana Cavalida's leadership. APOLA's Victoria Diamzon also advised Masagana to verify their BIR classification and stressed that HOAs should be exempted from tax obligations.

PPVHOA updates

The presenter for PPVHOA was Clair Fajardo. She began by providing an update on their meeting with Atty. Joel Chua, the majority floor leader of the City Council of Manila, who pledged support for the community's CMP project once a contractor had been identified. She explained issues with the contractor they had initially selected. The contractor did not meet a certain requirement of the Social Housing and Finance Corporation (SHFC) for CMP project contractors. Hence, the community will have

to search for a new contractor. Ms. Fajardo also shared that they have updated PPVHOA's masterlist and has successfully conducted a socio-economic survey. She also mentioned the savings scheme they have established to support community members amidst the pandemic. Ms. Fajardo is hoping to make the savings scheme sustainable.

With limitations on face-to-face meetings, Victoria Diamzon urged PPVHOA to consider other means of communication and welcome any opportunities to meet with the LGU of Manila. Luz Malibiran from COM further noted that PPVHOA must insist to meet with the LGU and record the meetings. With regards to the savings scheme of the community, Ms. Malibiran advised that PPVHOA should reinforce the scheme through their by-laws.

APOLA updates

The last to present was Edelyn Flores from APOLA. She reported that APOLA submitted a position paper to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and DHSUD concerning their land proclamation. She shared that the community continues to communicate with different government agencies despite the challenges they experienced due to the pandemic. Ms. Flores also reported that APOLA continues to implement and disseminate information on BP 220 and the building height restrictions through IEC materials and other media. Additionally, they were also validating the proposed guidelines for building construction in the community. Other updates reported were the LGU's expression of support for their people's planning preparations and the existing low-carbon initiatives in APOLA like the use of solar streetlights and LED bulbs.

Architect Angel Sales mentioned that TAO-Pilipinas was present in two of the stakeholders' meeting of APOLA with their LGU which included the discussion of the people's planning activities. She also lauded the community for conducting house-to-house validation of their structures mapping. Architect Sales mentioned that plans for re-blocking are underway.

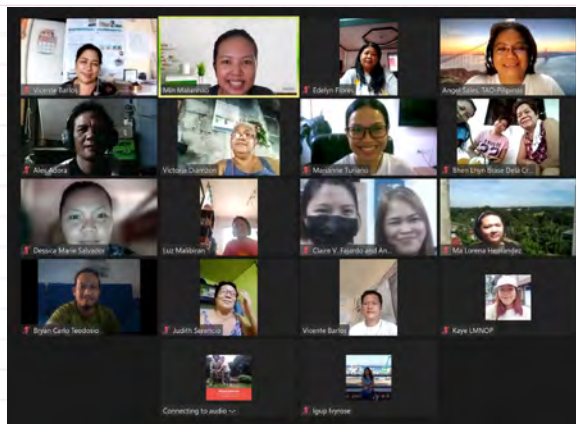
PMC Meeting

Since 2019, the PMC meetings were conducted to gather and connect partner organizations and communities of TAO-Pilipinas as part of its monitoring activities. The meetings are usually attended by community leaders and organizers to share the situation of each partner community and report on activities conducted. It has become a venue for communities to interact and relate with one another. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the first online PMC meeting was successfully held on December 5, 2020 through video conferencing.

Introduction of the LCCII to the partner communities

After the community updates, Min-Roselle Malunhao—project staff of TAO Young Professionals Formation—introduced the "Low-Carbon Community Innovation Initiative (LCCII)" project. The LCCII aims to engage the academe to work with the communities and promote low-carbon development. In response, Ms. Malibiran emphasized the need to localize the intervention. She also said that everyone should contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions—especially since low-carbon development could possibly take several years to achieve. Architect Sales added that the LCCII would enable youth leaders to become more involved. Comments and feedback from the communities followed. Eric Sauza and Ms. Cavalida mentioned about the need to include the LGUs in the process. Architect Sales mentioned that respective LGUs of the communities were already invited to the roundtable discussion. Finally, Eric Sauza and Clair Fajardo from PPVHOA and Vicente Barlos from APOLA expressed that they expect their community members to support LCCII.

The next PMC meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday of September 2021.



Screenshot of PMC meeting attendees via Zoom

TAO staff attend TAMPEI and Kyushu University participatory planning workshop

by Marianne Turiano



LAST JUNE 2021, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Movement for People and Environment Inc. (TAMPEI), in partnership with Tanoue Laboratory of Kyushu University, facilitated a participatory planning workshop entitled “Co-Creation: People’s Planning and Technical Support on Housing Design for Urban Poor Communities”. It was a four-day CPD program held on June 4, 11, 18, and 25 and conducted through a series of interactive online lectures and workshop. Technical professionals and participants from selected partner universities, civil society organizations (CSOs), and people’s organizations (POs) attended the program.

The objectives of the workshop were 1) to reinforce to the participants their social responsibility in co-creating inclusive spaces especially with the urban poor sector; 2) to emphasize and acknowledge the role of community members in planning for their development; and 3) to provide a first-hand experience in participatory site planning and housing design with community members.

The first session offered an introduction to community architecture and participatory design processes. Dr. Melissa Navarra gave a presentation on the Philippine urban poverty and housing situation and the government response to informal settlers. With off-site relocation as the primary response, resettled informal settler communities were worse off having experienced economic dislocation and inadequate access to basic and social services. This has raised the need for a paradigm shift in housing the poor. The next speaker Ar. Ma. Lourdes Domingo-Price gave a presentation on participatory housing, community planning, and re-blocking processes. She posited that the most sustainable solutions are co-created with communities, with options coming from the end-users themselves. This was followed by Dr. Kenichi Tanoue’s presentation on case studies of participatory projects in Japan. Lastly, Ar. Emelyn Bermudo discussed community architecture as a process-based method in planning and design, as opposed to conventional architecture that is more expert-centered. She also presented the role of technical professionals in providing solutions to the needs and issues of the community.

For the second session, the speakers discussed the processes involved in inclusive housing development from social preparation to project implementation. Ms. Luz Malibiran of Community Organizers Multiversity outlined the processes involved in people’s planning that give people opportunities to discuss community issues. Her presentation offered a detailed narrative of the people’s planning process, from community profiling to estate management. Afterwards, Dr. Melissa Navarra discussed socio-economic profiling as part of participatory research. She also presented a case study of the paperless socio-economic profiling conducted in Calauan, Laguna which was used to identify appropriate social enterprises for the community. This was followed by a presentation given by Ms. Ruby Haddad on the first land acquisition experience of Homeless Peoples’ Federation Philippines Inc. in

partnership with Payatas Scavengers Homeowners Association Inc. Ms. Haddad recounted project lapses and mistakes committed which resulted in setbacks as well as lessons for other communities intending to buy land.

The next speaker Ar. Christopher Ebreo’s talked about the collaboration between the community and technical professionals in architectural design and planning. In his lecture, Ar. Ebreo discussed site planning and design workshops conducted with the community wherein participants share their visions for the houses and community they will live in. The last presentation by Ar. Villa Mae Libutague-Ebreo brought into focus community participation in project implementation. She discussed the highly participatory (through creation of different community teams) and hybrid (a combination of project teams and community teams) approaches for community-managed implementation. Her presentation also emphasized the need for community capacity building and the importance of including the community in decision-making processes.

The third and last lecture session before the workshop proper featured speakers who shared their experiences on participatory housing processes and sustainable community strategies in Japan and the Philippines. Dr. Shunsuke Yokoyama discussed the reconstruction project of Nishikatamachi Public Housing Complex in Yatsushiro City, emphasizing the significance of the resident’s participation in the planning process. Afterwards, Dr. Rei Shiraishi gave a presentation on people’s planning for high-density housing (HDH) in the Philippines. She first examined the social housing policy before discussing the PHP 50B in-city housing allocation

during the Aquino administration and sample HDH projects under the funding. Project gaps were identified including lengthy project duration and lack of local government support—particularly with regards to land unavailability and complex permits issuance. To significantly shorten the time needed for several workshops in a housing project, Dr. Shiraishi recommends to navigate and plan around the social themes (eg gender, culture, environment, disaster) identified by the community.

A presentation was given by Dr. Kazuo Asahiro focusing on community greening projects in Japan and the Philippines. Dr. Asahiro shared greening activities and leadership training in Japan as part of their initiative to promote environmental education in the community. Lastly, Mr. Vincent Eugenio presented the problem on jobs and livelihoods post-resettlement. In his talk, Mr. Eugenio raised the need for a comprehensive and sustainable approach in cooperative and social enterprise development.

A whole-day workshop proper comprised the fourth and fifth sessions. For the morning session, preliminary research findings on partner communities were presented to participants. Participants were then grouped and distributed into 5 breakout rooms. During the focus group discussion, the community leaders and participants discussed and addressed specific concerns and issues in each community. Participants drafted action plans based on the discussion and consultation with the community leaders and proposed scheduling of activities for the year. The results of the FGDs were presented by each group’s representative during the plenary in the afternoon session where other groups commented and shared their inputs regarding the FGD results.



PMPI NCR-Urban Cluster meeting

by Arlene Christy Lusterio

LAST JULY 12, THE PHILIPPINE MISEREOR Partnership Inc. (PMPI) NCR-Urban Cluster held its monthly meeting via Zoom. The meeting was attended by representatives from different partner non-government organizations including cluster point persons from Community Organizers Multiversity (COM) and John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCICSI), Urban Poor Associates (UPA), TAO-Pilipinas, Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP), Medical Action Group (MAG), and INAM Philippines, Inc. Present in the meeting as well were member people's organizations (POs) including Northville and Southville Homeowners Federation (NSHF), Nagkakaisang Lakas ng Maralitang Navoteno (NALAMANA) and Ugnayang Lakas ng mga Mamamayan sa Ilog Pasig (ULAP). Ms. Candy Hidalgo and Ms. Yoly Esguerra of PMPI were also present.

The alternate cluster point person, Gerald Nicolas, gave an update report on implemented activities since the cluster's last meeting. The activities are in accordance with the thematic concerns of PMPI and issues that member organizations are actively involved in. These include: Laudato Si action plan, COVID-19 response, Kaliwa dam, anti-mining campaign (AMC), climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), and good governance. Under AMC, two webinars were conducted on E-convene and E-waste. For CCA-DRRM, post-typhoon Ulysses relief operations accompanied with COVID-19 awareness-building were conducted by cluster members led by COM in Quezon City, Taguig City, Rodriguez and Taytay in Rizal, Laguna, and Calumpit in Bulacan last January until March. The relief operations distributed 16,931 food packs with

hygiene and COVID kits. Support was also given to community pantries of members POs in Rodriguez, Rizal and Navotas City. Two position papers on the plight of people in resettlement sites were also released calling on the shortcomings of the National Housing Authority (NHA) and other concerned national government agencies.

Moreover, health missions were conducted by MAG and INAM which involved distribution of medicine. The health mission was still on-going as of date of the cluster meeting. On COVID response, MAG and INAM conducted webinars on COVID. INAM also opened E-consult, an online health consultation platform which has served 431 patients as of March 2021. For good governance, PMPI led activities on voter's registration and human rights issues. Many members also participated in "PALOS Caucus", a webinar on harnessing the power of social media hosted by PMPI with LAPIS, a PMPI member organization.

Following the project updates, Ms. Yoly Esguerra presented the strategic plan of PMPI according to the five (5) approved priority thematic concerns. Resources available to support cluster activities were also presented with the new information about local counterpart as required by Misereor. A lengthy discussion was facilitated on how the required local counterpart can be provided by the cluster. In the end, it was agreed that PMPI will furnish a copy of the strategic plan to the cluster; after which, the cluster will discuss and decide on how it will raise the local counterpart.

A representative from INAM discussed about the Laudato Si Action Plan. INAM was asked to

disseminate the essence of Laudato Si relating to care for the health at home.

The organization was also invited to join a committee formed by Vatican on the health sector. During the discussion, INAM proposed that the cluster could also share efforts connected to Laudato Si as it concerns all sectors of society. The representative also shared that INAM is still waiting to get a copy of the action plan from Vatican.

Another agenda brought up in the meeting was the selection of a new Bishop Convenor for the cluster. Bishop Pabillo—who was the long-serving Bishop Convenor of NCR-Urban cluster—is re-assigned in Taytay, Palawan. A short list of bishops in NCR was made and research assignments on the profile of the bishops were shared by member organizations.

COM also shared its youth voters' registration campaign with PMPI in its partner communities in Taytay, Rizal. The campaign is in partnership with COMELEC. A dry run was conducted in July for its implementation in August and September. September 30 is the deadline of registration set by the COMELEC. Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials will be provided by PMPI for distribution to the communities.

PMPI also extended an invitation to an upcoming webinar on populist politics organized by Maryhill School of Theology. Speakers include Bishop Ambo, Jayelle Cornelio of the Ateneo Sociology Department, and Fr. Edu Gariguez who was the former secretary general of CBCP NASSA.

PHILSSA conducts its 31st general assembly online

by Angelus Maria Sales

THE PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT Service Agencies (PHILSSA) held its 31st general assembly from June 15 to 18, 2021 via Zoom. The first three days were allotted for the learning sessions of PHILSSA members while the last day was for the business meeting. The topics of the learning sessions were quite diverse ranging from mental health and wellness to financial sustainability of non-profits and the upcoming elections. The online meetings were only limited to half day assemblies.

The invited speakers for the first learning session (June 15) were Leni Laborte, executive director of Central Visayas Network of NGOs, and Kirk Patrick Castro, executive director of Gestalt Wellness Institute Southeast Asia. The first topic focused on mental health and was shared by Mr. Laborte. He discussed the concept of haruhay, a Bisaya term which is closest to the definition of well-being. Mr. Laborte is part of the Wellbeing Cluster PH, a group of NGOs that promotes the overall health and well-

being of humanitarian workers. He facilitated some meditation exercise that would help clear the mind of anxiety. The next speaker was Mr. Castro who explained the eight dimensions of wellness. He discussed the three ways to improve one's well-being which are key to mental health. Mr. Castro shared the three truths that one should recognize and respect and three timelines that one lives in. The three truths are the unbiased truth, your truth, and the other person's truth while the three timelines are the past, the present, and the future. He also mentioned the value of judgement versus non-judgement to improve one's well-being. Lastly, he pointed out the importance of kindness and how this should be applied in everyday life to help improve well-being.

The second learning session (June 16) focused on financial sustainability amidst the pandemic. The invited speakers were Pinky Medina, executive director of Venture for Fund Raising, and Mean

Ignacio of Kasagana-Ka Credit and Savings Cooperative. The first speaker was Ms. Medina and she discussed the fundraising trend during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Fundraising Philanthropic Climate Survey released in January 2021, globally, non-profits report a 44% decline in fundraising outcomes while the primary sources of current support were still their existing donors. She also shared their own survey which they conducted for Philippine non-profit sector last December 2020. According to the survey, most non-profits still rely on grant proposal writing as their main source of funds. Ms. Medina then proceeded to discuss the emerging strategies in resource mobilization during this pandemic. Most common is the volunteer-led social media campaigns and crowdfunding. The new trend is through virtual events and livestreams that raise funds for certain causes. Aside from the discussing emerging trends in resource mobilization, she also gave tips to non-profits like maximizing their online

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PHILSSA conducts its 31st ... CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 6



presence and continued collaboration with other non-profit for mutual support.

The second speaker for the day was Ms. Ignacio who discussed the micro financing strategies done by Kasagana-Ka during the pandemic. She shared about their "Project Karinderya" which is both a livelihood and a feeding program. They selected 10 members who can put-up their karinderya to feed 200 families for 30 days and provided training and capacity building for the members, focusing on proper food handling, food nutrition, customer service, and project monitoring and evaluation. Based on their report as of June 2021, they operated 430 member karinderyas feeding 8,600 families for 30 days.

The third learning session (June 17) was about gearing up for the upcoming 2022 elections. The invited resource speaker were Ces Oreña-Drilon, president of The Outstanding Women in the Nations Service (TOWNS), and Maria Fe del Mundo of Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO). The first speaker was Ces Oreña-Drilon who talked about the voters' registration campaigns being done by TOWNS. She introduced their "Bagong Botante" campaign aimed at first time voters to get them to register and vote wisely. They also launched their voters' mobilization program in the Kumu app during Philippine Independence Day. Ms. Oreña-Drilon ended her brief talk with a video of Hidilyn Diaz, 2016 TOWNS Awardee, encouraging the youth to register and vote wisely.

The last speaker of the learning sessions was Maria Fe del Mundo. She discussed the experience of CODE-NGO in engaging citizens for electoral reforms. She mentioned that, in 2010, CSOs crafted a development reform agenda (DRA) with four basic pillars namely ensuring empowerment, democratization, and good governance; reducing poverty and inequality; building peace; and promoting sustainable economic development and environmental protection. A candidate's profile was created by CODE-NGO comparing their achievements vis-à-vis the four basic pillars of DRA. They also partnered with different NGOs to strengthen political participation in the Philippines during the last presidential election. Ms. Del Mundo also shared CODE-NGO's call to action for a safe, free, and fair 2022 elections. She ended her discussion with some insights on electoral reform engagement such as the importance of CSOs in election monitoring and a multi-stakeholder approach in the election process to ensure transparency and accountability.

The last day of the general assembly was for the business meeting of PHILSSA members. Maricel Genzola presented the chairperson's report for 2020 while Doris Melgar gave the treasurer's report. Arlene Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas presented the ratification of the 2020 board resolution. Deliberation of resolutions proposed for the 31st general assembly took a bit longer with discussions about waiving of the annual membership dues. Nevertheless, the matter was eventually resolved. The meeting ended with an election for the new board members. Representatives from Kasagana-Ka

Development Center, Inc. (KDCI), A2D Project – Research Group for Alternatives to Development, Inc., and Center for Community Development – Ateneo de Naga University (CCD-ADNU) were elected as board members. A final group photo was taken before the meeting adjourned.



Title: **Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design**

Author: **Charles Montgomery**

Publisher: **Farrar, Straus and Giroux (2013)**

Happy City tackles the influences of urban design on the psychological well-being of humans. The book shares a wide array of people's perspectives, stories, and studies in search of the true meaning of happiness.

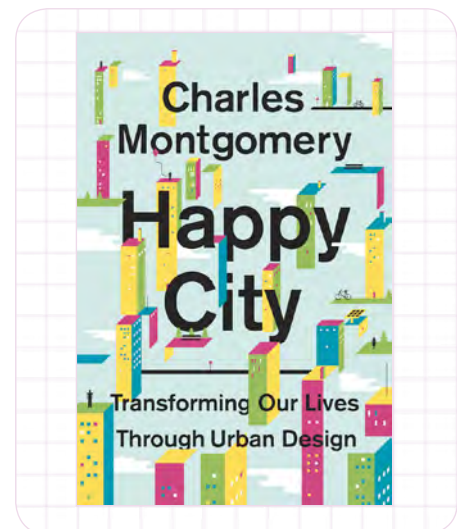
In the book, Charles Montgomery emphasizes the disadvantage of urban sprawl for residents and the environment. He said the long commute contributes to people's dissatisfaction and exhaustion. It also lessens the time people could spend socializing. Moreover, the dependency on cars causes traffic congestion and environment and health risks.



Montgomery's ideology of a happy city promotes complexity and good relationship among people. He discussed three main aspects of complexity in the form of demography, function, and structure. When intermixed properly, it increases productivity and efficiency. It also influences the mental and emotional state of a person. The complexity of the city provides more ways for people to connect with nature and each other. In the end, Montgomery reminds us that "cities also reflect our cognitive frailties, and the systematic errors every one of us tends to make when deciding what will make us happy in the long run." He challenges us to be victors—to stand up and find the happiness we deserve. The city is us, and it talks about us.

Overall, Happy City was a great read that provided a thorough look at the aspect of happiness through urban design. The only drawback of the book was

the lack of an Asian perspective. Although people of eastern and western backgrounds have similarities, there are differences in topography, culture and lifestyle. It would be interesting to know how an Asian would describe a happy city in contrast with the western point of view. (Dessica Marie Salvador)



Low Carbon Cities Webinar Series #1: Is Circular Economy a Dream?

UNDP Malaysia | May 27, 2021

This session is the first of a five-part webinar series on low-carbon cities. Guest speakers from different Asian countries gathered and shared their own programs and initiatives that promote a circular economy (CE). The first speaker from India discussed enabling enterprises that close material loops specifically on plastic waste management. The speaker shared about the concept of extended producer responsibility or EPR as a mechanism to promote circular economy in India. Through EPR, producers are accountable for the waste generated from their products. One of the highlighted initiatives is the establishment of a consortium of 30+ leading companies in India that creates

waste collection infrastructures and technological innovation to increase the awareness on waste segregation and recycling.

The second speaker is an owner of a concrete manufacturing company that use waste materials as additives. He presented data showing the average use of concrete in different regions in Asia and then proceeded to discuss various environmental impacts of traditional concrete production. He shared his company's initiative to explore alternative means of concrete production and its advantages such as reducing GHG emission, closing the loop on valuable waste materials, and providing jobs.



Is Circular Economy a Dream?

27th May 2021 | 2:30 - 4:00pm GMT+8

The last speaker from Malaysia posited that circular economy is no longer a dream but a reality especially in her country. She shared initiatives in different levels of society such as the Kuala Lumpur low-carbon society blueprint, and CE innovation by local companies like the use of biodegradable packaging among others. (*Min-Roselle Malunhao*)

Freedom of Information Receiving Officers (FROs) Webinars: An Open Dialogue with CSOs on DRRM-CCA and Housing and Urban Development

Partnership for Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA) | Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) | July 22 and 27, 2021

A two-part webinar for civil society organization (CSO) partners of the Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA) was conducted by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) to share data references that CSOs can use for activities related to DRRM-CCA and housing and urban development.

The first webinar about DRRM-CCA was conducted on July 22 with resource speakers from the Office of Civil Defense, Climate Change Commission, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Mines and Geoscience Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. They discussed various government programs including the Rapid Damage Assessment

and Needs Analysis (RDANA); Nationally Determined Contribution of the Philippines, National Framework Strategy on Climate Change, and National Climate Change Adaptation Plan; People's Survival Fund; and Risk Resilience Program.

Meanwhile, the webinar on housing and urban development conducted on July 27 included resource speakers from the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, National Housing Authority, Social Housing Finance Corporation, Client Home Development Mutual Fund (PagIBIG), and the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA). They introduced their respective agencies, programs and implemented projects. It was the first time for



PagIBIG and NAMRIA to engage with the CSOs, as told by the representatives, and they were optimistic on the possibilities of future involvement.

More participants joined the discussion in the session on housing, with many people's organizations looking for the agencies to address their housing situation. Overall, the initiative fosters data sharing among stakeholders and bridges gaps and misinformation by enabling venues for collaboration. (*Ma. Lorena Hernandez*)

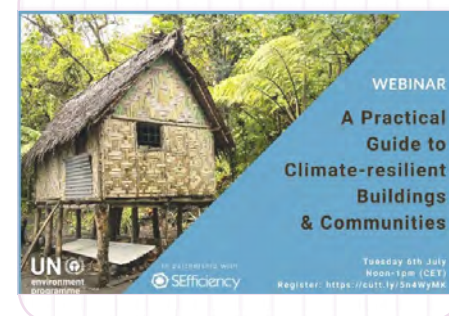
A Practical Guide to Climate-resilient Buildings and Communities

United Nations Environment Programme | July 6, 2021

This webinar served as a launch presentation of the new publication "A Practical Guide to Climate-resilient Building and Communities", a UNEP-commissioned report to support climate change adaptation measures in the building and construction sector. The webinar gives an overview of the publication together with case studies presented by the lead authors of the report. UNEP coordinators emphasized the publication's structure, content and target audience, and gave a summary of the recommendations of the report. The two lead authors, Dr. Mittul Vahanvati and Dr. Rajat Gupta, talked about their case studies on multi-hazard housing reconstruction in India, nature-based strategies to urban space resilience in Solomon

Islands, climate-resilient vernacular architecture in Bangladesh, and building climate resilience to heat in India.

The presentations highlighted the need for guidance and practical solutions to integrate climate change adaptation in construction especially in the context of developing countries where buildings are largely self-constructed. It also introduced new concepts like frangible architecture or "planning for damage" approach (ie designing building components to minimize potential damage to the whole structure) and the use of nature-based solutions as a multi-scale approach to hazard mitigation with broader co-benefits such as



improved biodiversity and air quality. Overall, this webinar is just a preview and encourages us to look further into the publication which is made available by UNEP as an online resource. (*Geraldine Matabang*)



The DOLE secretary recently floated the idea of scrapping the bar and board exams for professionals since they have already undergone school tests and assessments. Do you think there is still a need for professional licensure examinations? Why or why not? Share your thoughts with us!

"Having a standardized exam like the Architecture Licensure Examination (ALE), ensures a certain level of expertise before the graduate students enter the field. Graduates are coming from various universities and colleges with varying curriculums and standards. Sadly not all graduates exude a certain caliber asked for a professional. Professional licensure examinations, no matter how old-fashioned, still allows checking of minimum knowledge required for a professional."

Christian Eroid Enriquez, 24, Male, Architect-in-training

"Licensure exams define the benchmark for the quality of professionals our society needs. There are definitely room for improvements in the process but the thought of removing licensure exams only creates more problems."

Carlos Borromeo, 31, Male, Architect

"Any license is not a privilege; it is a responsibility. Licenses are made to protect both parties, their life and property, which is mandated by the law. Without license, there is no protection and no one will be held liable or accountable if anything happens"

Cristina Belen-Loverez, 31, Female, Architect

"Yes, licensure examinations should continue to exist because it allows institutions in professional fields (not just limited to academic institutions) to have a systematic assessment of an individual's knowledge and ability in solving problems relevant in the industries of their field of profession. Passing marks on that assessment allows a governing body/institution to record definite results which signifies that an individual can be expected to have already acquired a minimum level of problem-solving skills in their field before being part of the workforce."

Wotly John Julia, 26, Male, Registered electrical engineer

Disclaimer: The views and opinions presented do not necessarily reflect the views of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

Fundraising for TAO Shelter Magazine: Now accepting third batch orders of custom mugs.

All orders must be completed by **August 20.**



ANNOUNCEMENT



The custom mug may be personalized with your name. You will receive a complimentary e-copy of the magazine on its release.

How to Order TAO custom mugs

DM or email us at
taopublications@gmail.com
with the following information:

- ☐ Full name
- ☐ Complete delivery address:
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Street
Barangay
City
Province
Zip Code
- ☐ Mobile number
- ☐ Email address
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- ☐ Name to appear on mug

We will then let you know of the amount to be paid with shipping/delivery costs.

PAYMENT: Bank deposit/transfer or GCash to
TAO-Pilipinas BPI Account no. 4431-0074-31
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TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.



TAO ED to serve as PHILSSA Board chairperson



Architect Arlene Christy Lusterio, executive director of TAO-Pilipinas, will serve as the chairperson of the Partnership for Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) Board of Trustees for the period July 2021 to June 2022. PHILSSA is a non-stock service network comprising over 60 partner NGOs engaged in various fields of development service in urban centers from all over the Philippines. The partnership network advocates and works towards an inclusive and sustainable urbanization and empowerment of urban sectors, such as informal settler families (ISFs), labor force, youth, women, children, and development workers themselves. TAO has been a part of PHILSSA since 2006.

TAO welcomes Atty. Ma. Aleta C. Nuñez to its Board of Trustees



Atty. Nuñez is an environmental lawyer with more than two decades of experience in environmental and natural resource policy and governance, and program management. She has served as an advisor and specialist to numerous local and international government agencies providing policy and legal support in the effective implementation of ecological resources management—fisheries management, water quality management, transparency and accountability in the mining, oil and gas industries. Among the organizations she had worked with are: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), World Wildlife Fund Inc. (WWF), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, and many more.

ELEKSYON 2022:
KABATAAN
MAGPAREHISTRO!
BOTO MO, BOSES MO, PARA SA KINABUKASAN MO

50

ARAW

NA LANG

bago ang huling araw ng

PAGPAPAREHISTRO

#HALALAN2022
#TAYONAMAN

#REGISTERTOVOTE
#MAGPAREHISTRO2022

#COMELECREGISTRATION
#BAGONGBOTANTE2022

Reminder to all YPs that the deadline for voter's registration according to the Commission on Elections is on **September 30**.

Hurry and register now! Follow PMPI Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/philmisereor> and know more about the upcoming 2022 elections and processes for voter's registration.



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PO FEDERATIONS ATTEND SESSIONS ON SOIL ANALYSIS, BP 220

AFRICA, THE EMBLEMATIC representative of the 100-year-old organization of the Federation of the Philippines, is holding its 10th anniversary celebration in the Philippines. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



March - May 2018



TAO-PILIPINAS JOINS EXHIBITS IN THE 16TH VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that it has been selected to participate in the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale. The organization is excited to represent the Philippines and its architectural community on the international stage. The event is being held in Venice, Italy, and will showcase the best of contemporary architecture from around the world.



June - July 2018



TAO MARKS 17 YEARS WITH BOOK RELEASE AND NEW PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is celebrating its 17th anniversary with a book release and new project partnerships. The organization is proud to have grown over the years and to have established strong relationships with its partners. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



August - September 2018



TAO LECTURE SERIES LAUNCHED AS ACCREDITED CPD PROGRAM

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is launching a new lecture series as an accredited CPD program. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



October - December 2018



TECHNICAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS VISIT LUPANG ARENA FOR CO-DESIGN PROJECT

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that a group of technical student volunteers visited the Lupang Arena for a co-design project. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



January - March 2019



PPHQA lives up to its name, creates 'People's Plan'

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that the PPHQA has created a 'People's Plan'. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



April - June 2019



TAO partners with the Commission on Human Rights in its 18th Anniversary Forum

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that it has partnered with the Commission on Human Rights for its 18th Anniversary Forum. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



July - September 2019



Work on DAP projects continues amid COVID-19 pandemic

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that work on DAP projects continues amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



February - September 2020



Ecotronics in Masagana small community infrastructure exploring the viability of an alternative building material

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that Ecotronics in Masagana is exploring the viability of an alternative building material. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



October - December 2020



Rights of Nature PH movements gains traction as network holds general assembly

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that the Rights of Nature PH movements have gained traction as the network holds a general assembly. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.

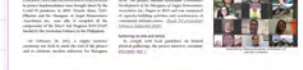


January - February 2021



TAO and community partners gather online for project assessment

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that TAO and community partners gathered online for a project assessment. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



March - April 2021



Community-led high-density housing: the case of People's Plan Villa HGA

TAO-PILIPINAS, INC. is proud to announce that the People's Plan Villa HGA is a community-led high-density housing project. The organization is excited to provide its members and the public with high-quality educational content. The event is being held in the Philippines, the country of its origin, to mark the centennial of its founding.



May - June 2021