



The nearly complete rice storage structure is elevated to protect the rice from pests, vermin, and humidity. Notice the rat guard incorporated in the concrete column. Photo from RWAN.

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

**YP**  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
**eNEWSLETTER**  
JULY - AUGUST 2022

## Roundtable discussion introduces ACT Co-Design project to academe partners

by Marianne C. Turiano

FOR MORE THAN A decade now, the Alliance of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) has been pushing for the formulation of a people's plan to address their goal of security of tenure. APOLA finds assistance from their NGO partners COM and

TAO-Pilipinas in drawing up their people's plan.

In support of the community's efforts, TAO has embarked on a project funded by the Asian Community Trust (ACT) to initiate participatory mapping activities. The project is called "Co-

[READ MORE: P2](#)

## TAO staff and partners undergo gender analysis training

by Therese R. Julia

FROM JULY 12 TO 14, TAO-Pilipinas continued its staff training on gender and development (GAD) together with representatives of TAO's partner communities. Lourdes Cresencio-Turiano, a GAD specialist certified by

the Philippine Commission on Women, facilitated the three-day training course on "Gender Analysis: Tools and Praxis & Gender-Responsive Proposal Development."

The activity was carried out on July 12 at the TAO-

[READ MORE: P3](#)

## TAO resumes book giving drive in 2022

Call for sponsors to donate TAO books to local libraries

by Geraldine R. Matabang

IN 2020, TAO-PILIPINAS started to donate its publications to a number of public and college libraries. The book giving drive was prompted by the organization's mission to promote the participatory approach among stakeholders in sustainable human settlements development. With TAO books in the library collection, students gain more access to resources and knowledge about current local practices on community planning, participatory design, social housing and humanitarian shelter. The book giving was however discontinued the following year due to the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in campuses.

With the gradual return of face-to-face attendance in campuses this year, TAO also resumes its book giving drive as it celebrates its 21st year. TAO aims to get TAO books into the collection of as many local libraries as we can. From previous efforts, TAO books are now available in libraries at the Batanes Provincial Library, University of the Cordilleras (Baguio City), Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (La Union), PUP Ninoy Aquino Library and Learning Resource Center, UP-Diliman College of Architecture, Sorsogon State College, Foundation University (Dumaguete City), and University of Mindanao Learning and Information Center (Davao City).

[READ MORE: P4](#)

### FEATURE ARTICLES



RWAN builds TAO-designed rice storage and seed bank prototype in Sorsogon

[P4](#)

### NETWORK ACTIVITIES



TAO joins the Boac celebration of National Disaster Resilience Month

[P5](#)

### YP REFLECTION



*Liwanag sa Mundo ng Kadiliman:* (Light amidst a World of Darkness)  
by KC Caraos

[P9](#)

### YP READING LIST



[P11](#)

## Roundtable discussion introduces...

(continued from page 1)

**Design:** Empowering Women and Students on Participatory Mapping and Design for Site Upgrading”.

To formally introduce Co-Design project to prospective academe partners, TAO-Pilipinas conducted a roundtable discussion (RTD) on July 27 via Zoom video conferencing.

### Co-design project brief

The Co-design project will focus on 1) participatory mapping to gather data about flooding, existing streetlights, drainage lines, and roads and; 2) design of site-specific design solutions based on the data gathered from mapping activities. A pilot upgrading activity will be implemented in 7 of APOLA’s homeowners associations (HOA) that can

be replicated and integrated into the APOLA people’s plan. TAO will facilitate the project in collaboration with APOLA (represented by 35 community women) and students and faculty members from academic partners.

The project aims to raise awareness on social and technical issues affecting informal settlements; enable students to learn about participatory research and apply their knowledge in site data gathering and assessment for upgrading; and involve community women in site investigation and assessment of their community.

### Online meeting with prospective partners

The roundtable discussion was attended by a total of 59 participants from

TAO-Pilipinas, APOLA, COM, and representatives of 7 academic colleges: University of the Philippines’ College of Architecture and Institute of Civil Engineering; University of Santo Tomas Department of Civil Engineering; Far Eastern University Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts; University of the East Manila Department of Engineering; University of the East Caloocan Department of Civil Engineering, and De La Salle University Department of Engineering.

TAO’s external relations head Angel Sales facilitated the online meeting while executive director Arlene Lusterio presented the project brief wherein she discussed the project objectives, scope of work, expected outputs and deliverables, and timeframe. To set the context of the project, APOLA president Vicente Barlos presented a background of Lupang Arenda and their community situation. He discussed the initiatives of APOLA on land proclamation, site development projects, and other activities towards security of tenure including structures mapping, planning and design, and formulating development guidelines.

### Raising concerns and firming up participation

After the presentations, an open forum was facilitated and participants discussed clarifications and recommendations about the project. One of the common concerns among the faculty members was the project timeframe. Scheduling conflicts arose given the preparation time needed by students and the varied academic calendar among universities. The possibility

of partial involvement of the students was raised due to concerns on schedule.

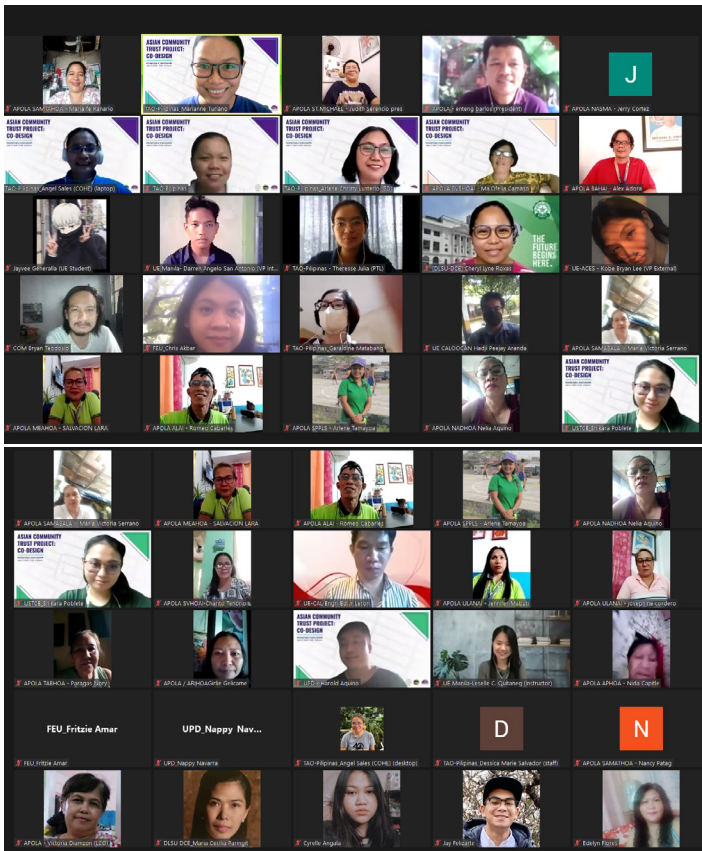
Some participants also noted that the project can be integrated into courses and classes in their curriculums—possibly in service learning, capstone projects, and on-the-job training. As per the modality, it is assumed that the participation of students will be limited to online meetings. Initial commitments were also made with the UP Institute of Engineering assigning 8 students who can participate in the project.

During the open forum, APOLA likewise raised the need for a master development plan for the entire Lupang Arenda site. They shared that flooding happens in low-lying areas due to fragmented site upgrading projects (eg road construction without drainage) in different areas.

### Next steps

Coordination is ongoing to firm up the engagement with project partners. As of writing, TAO has forwarded a template of the project memorandum of understanding (MOU) document to academic partners while APOLA has already selected the 7 participating HOAs for the project.

Site mapping activities and presentation of data gathered to the students are scheduled within August. Mentoring activities with the students and participating community women will also be conducted. The submission of a final design proposal is set by the end of the year as preparations for the actual upgrading will commence in January next year.



Screenshot of the participants who attended the online roundtable discussion for the Co-Design Project. Most of the participants were composed of academe representatives and HOA leaders from APOLA.



## TAO staff and partners... *(continued from page 1)*

Pilipinas office and on July 13 and 14 at the Commission on Human Rights in Quezon City. The staff development on gender analysis served as the next step in enhancing TAO's capacity to provide a more gender-responsive technical assistance. The event follows the gender sensitivity training (GST) also facilitated by Ms. Turiano last year (*See YP Enewsletter March – April 2021 Issue*).

A total of 11 participants attended the training: the eight all-women staff of TAO-Pilipinas, Juana Cavalida of Masagana of Angat HOA, and Victoria Diamzon and Nicanor Berdigay of Alliance of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda. The general objectives of the gender analysis training were: (a) to develop a basic understanding of gender analysis; and (b) to explore the use of gender analysis frameworks and tools in developing gender-responsive projects, programs, or interventions.

### **Session 1: Introductory session**

The introductory session revisited topics covered in last year's GST. These involved deepening the understanding of gender perspectives and gender mainstreaming as a strategy to implement the Magna Carta of Women.

In a group exercise serving as a follow-up to last year's gender action plan, the participants shared their gender advocacy and mainstreaming initiatives as individuals and as an organization. The discussion ranged from various efforts to promote women empowerment and gender equality; acts of being gender-sensitive in the household, work, or community; to personal changes regarding perspectives on gender roles, traits, and capacities. The session also recapped

GAD laws and policies and the Philippine gender mainstreaming strategy and processes.

Prefacing the next session, Ms. Turiano explained that GST focuses on the gender perspective while gender analysis focuses on the data-based summary of gender issues. GST is thus a prerequisite of gender analysis because the perspective—primarily on deconstructing gender roles—must be informed before conducting an empirical analysis of gender issues.

### **Session 2: Gender analysis concepts and tools**

The second session overviewed gender analysis and tackled its various concepts, elements, frameworks, and tools. Ms. Turiano emphasized the need for sex-disaggregated data and gender-related information to analyze gender issues. This entails identifying the gaps in gender, asking why the gaps exist and persist, and determining whether these gaps obstruct the achievement of particular goals.

According to global data, an example of these gaps is the disproportion between women and men shouldering unpaid care work. This gap was reflected during the 24-hour activity profile exercise of the participants, which revealed that women do more unpaid care work than their male counterparts in the household (Workshop 1). Ms. Turiano then facilitated a plenary discussion analyzing the gender issues of internal and external stakeholders (ie TAO and its partner communities) anchored on sex-disaggregated data (Workshop 2). Representatives from Masagana and Lupang Arenda also presented their resource and social maps, which provided the socio-spatial context of their

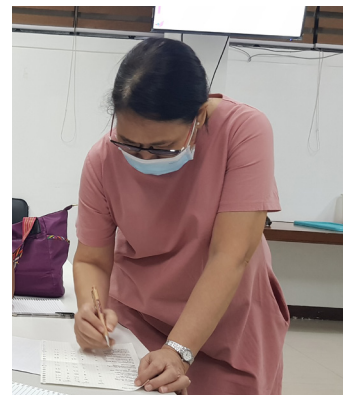
communities for discussion and analysis (Workshop 3).

Ms. Turiano proceeded to explain the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) and the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) as tools for gender analysis. The GMEF tool assesses the level of gender mainstreaming of an organization while the HGDG tool assesses the level of gender responsiveness of the organization's projects, programs, and activities.

### **Session 3: Gender-responsive proposal development/enhancement**

The final session focused on developing and enhancing project proposals to be gender-responsive. Ms. Turiano first discussed the elements of a gender-responsive proposal before facilitating a writeshop on proposal development (Workshop 4). The writeshop aimed to develop project proposals with an HGDG score of at least 4 (out of a perfect 20), which is the "conditional pass" in the HGDG tool and indicates promising GAD prospects.

The participants were divided into six teams to work on different project proposals—one new and five existing or completed TAO proposals. The groups first reviewed the existing proposals and gave a pre-gender analysis HGDG score before proceeding with the writeshop and integrating the lessons learned throughout the training. After a series of



*Ms. Lourdes Cresencio-Turiano shown here analyzing the gender data is the gender consultant for the 3-day GAD training of TAO staff.*

discussions, revisions, and presentations of proposals, the groups reviewed their outputs again and gave a post-gender analysis HGDG score. In the end, the groups saw a significant improvement in their HGDG scores and, consequently, in the level of gender responsiveness of their proposals.

### **Conclusion**

The gender analysis training allowed the participants to further recognize the importance of gathering sex-disaggregated data and gender-related information in surfacing gender issues and developing gender-responsive project proposals. As a women-led organization, recently recognized as a Gender Ombud Kakampi of CHR, TAO-Pilipinas continues to advocate for women empowerment and gender equality through building its capacity in gender-responsive technical assistance.



*TAO staff with selected community representatives during the second day of the GAD training.*

## TAO resumes book giving... *(continued from page 1)*

### Request for book giving sponsors

TAO-Pilipinas is looking for generous sponsors to give TAO books to local libraries in the Philippines. The book donation shall be in the sponsor's name and includes the shipping/delivery fees to any local school, community or public library of your preference (delivery within the Philippines only).

- For the amount of **PHP3000** (USD55), TAO will send a copy of TAO-Pilipinas architects in the margins and a copy of Battling Waves to your preferred local library.
- For the amount of **PHP5000** (USD90), TAO will send a copy of all available print books in our catalogue to your preferred local library.

Proceeds from the book giving will support TAO's publications work—primary target is the release of the print version of its most recent e-publication (TAO Shelter Magazine issue on Stories of Change).

### How to donate to the book giving drive

Would-be sponsors should email [taopublications@gmail.com](mailto:taopublications@gmail.com) to inform TAO which book set to send to their beneficiary library, along with the necessary shipping details.

Donations may be sent to any of the following accounts:

#### GCash

Angelus Maria Sales  
09063486335

#### Paypal

[payment@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:payment@tao-pilipinas.org)

#### Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)

Recipient/Account name:  
TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

Peso Current Account  
number: 4431-0074-31

Dollar Savings Account  
number: 4434-0201-53  
Swift Code: BOPI PHMM

Bank address: SM North  
EDSA, Quezon City

## RWAN builds TAO-designed rice storage and seed bank prototype in Sorsogon

by Arlene Christy D. Lusterio

THE RICE WATCH ACTION Network (RWAN) is set to complete the construction of two rice storage and seed bank structures in Irosin and Sta. Magdalena in the province of Sorsogon by the end of July 2022.

### Rice storage design

The prototype structure was built with elevated concrete slab floor, concrete walls and fixed concrete louver windows. The design will facilitate continuous airflow and regulate the ventilation in the storage area even when it is closed, through passive vent turbines installed at the apex of its roof. The roof is designed with angle bar framings, galvanized iron sheets and passive vent turbine.

The columns have a disc shape near the ground to prevent rats from entering the structure. These serve as rat traps that protect the rice storage from possible rodent attack. Considering that the

sites are within the typhoon belt, protection of the roof against strong winds is made possible with the concrete parapet at the left and right walls of the structure.

### Construction challenges

The building completion was threatened by the high cost of materials brought about by the global fuel crisis triggered by the Ukraine-Russia war. However, labor contributions by the farmers through bayanihan have reduced the project cost significantly making it possible to build the two structures in Sorsogon.

The project was made possible with a grant from the Department of Agriculture and the cooperation with the Municipal Agriculturist and Engineering Offices in Irosin and Sta. Magdalena. Another structure planned to be built in Ormoc, Leyte will not be realized due to limited funds.



Phases of construction of the rice storage. **Top photo:** The structure made use of wooden scaffolds to construct the columns and elevated concrete slab. **Bottom photo:** The structure also used concrete hollow blocks for its walls and rat guards have been integrated in the reinforced concrete columns. Photo from RWAN.

## 2022 TAO book-giving



### PHP 3000

TAO will send a copy of TAO-Pilipinas architects in the margins and a copy of Battling Waves to your preferred local library.

### PHP 5000

TAO will send a copy of all available print books in our catalogue to your preferred local library.

Send donations to TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. BPI account no. 4431-0074-31





# TAO joins the Boac celebration of National Disaster Resilience Month

ON JULY 29, 2022, THE municipality of Boac, Marinduque held a Climate Forum in celebration of the National Disaster Resilience Month with the theme: “Sambayanang Pilipino, Nagkakaisa Tungo sa Katatagan at Maunlad na Kinabukasan”. TAO executive director Arlene Lusterio was one of the forum speakers.

The activity was attended by 61 barangay councils of Boac, local government employees and officials, representatives of B-FARM-C's academe and business sector, and the League of Barangays. The forum was moderated by Mila Grace Gutierrez and coordinated by Lyra Magalang, planning staff of Boac LGU.

## Welcome messages and opening ceremony

The event started with welcome remarks from acting vice mayor Theresa Caballes and followed by the inspirational message from acting mayor and concurrent vice mayor Mark Anthony Seño. Vice mayor Caballes said that politics is a deterrent in responding to climate change in Marinduque. She referred to the documentary “Inconvenient Truth” by former US vice president Al Gore who accurately told about the climate crisis we are experiencing now.

According to Mayor Seño, climate change is an environmental and a social issue as well. It affects different sectors—women, farmers, among others; it affects life, livelihood and food security. He also recognized the GO-NGO cooperation in climate change response with the conduct of capacity-building activities under the Climate Resilient Farm Productivity Support Program. To emphasize the importance of the climate forum, he ends with a quote from South African bishop Desmond Tutu: “Twenty-five years ago people could be excused for not knowing much, or doing much about climate change, today, we have no excuse.”

A traditional welcoming ceremony, known as Pagpuputong, then followed to officially welcome guests to Boac, Marinduque. A group of performers called

Magpuputong, danced and chanted and a Marinduque-style putong was crowned on each guest.

## Marinduque climate situation

The formal session started with a virtual presentation by Analisa Solis, Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section (CLIMPS) chief of PAGASA, on the “Climate Outlook in MIMAROPA and Marinduque”. Her presentation highlighted the rainfall data experienced by MIMAROPA and Marinduque. As per the Corona Climate Classification, Marinduque Island is divided into two climate zones: Type I and Type III. It experiences more rain in summer brought by the southwest monsoon (habagat) during April to September and in the rainy season brought by the northeast monsoon (amihan) during October to March).

Ms. Solis mentioned the absence of a weather station in Marinduque and hence, data projection is based on data from Mindoro which is in the same region. She also mentioned that 30% to 40% of rainfall during the months of June to August is due to typhoons while 40% to 50% of rainfall from September to November is due to monsoons. During El Niño, less tropical cyclones enter the country while during La Niña, more tropical cyclone landfalls are experienced. She also explained the recently revised typhoon category classification which ranges from tropical depression at 62 kph to super typhoon at 185 kph and above.

## Presentations on DRR and CCA

The second presentation was on “Understanding Hazards and the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System” by Nieves Bonifacio, assistant regional director of the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) for MIMAROPA. Bonifacio discussed DRRM terminologies and she emphasized saving lives over property. She warned participants not to return to get their precious belongings in case of an earthquake and a tsunami warning, but to run to the highest location in the island; lest they receive a “prize” of PhP 20,000 funeral assistance from OCD. She



Guests were welcomed to a cultural show before the beginning of the program.



Participants of the forum were mostly composed of LGU officials from Boac, Marinduque.

also mentioned the availability of a PhP 38M grant for the construction of an evacuation center which the local government can access as long as they have a site.

The third presentation was about “Climate Smart Rice Varieties and Seedling Bank” presented by Mark Talavera, senior science research specialist of Philippine Rice Research Institute. Talavera presented the various rice varieties they have developed which are resistant to drought called Sahod Ulan varieties; and salt water referred to as Submarino varieties. Sahod Ulan varieties yielded up to 3671 kilograms per hectare against the normal yield of 1000 kilograms per hectare. Submarino varieties have yielded up to 3500 kilograms per hectare. To date, there are 52 Sahod Ulan varieties and 41 Submarino varieties developed.

The fourth presentation was about “Climate Resilient Housing” by architect Arlene Christy Lusterio, executive director TAO-Pilipinas. Lusterio presented design considerations due to extreme weather events brought about by climate change, particularly rain induced flooding and debris flow, strong winds and drought and heat

wave. She reminded participants about proper construction systems, connections and the value of proper reinforcements. She also gave advice on types of roofs best suited to typhoons. Adjustments in anticipation of flooding should take into consideration location of power outlets—to ensure the water and power lines are functional during flooding with the option to elevate the habitable space in the house.

Lusterio warned about glass covered openings shattering due to very strong winds or flying debris and suggested the use of wood for window glazing or the provision of window shutters for protection. She also recommended elevating houses on stilts in known flood prone areas versus filling the land to raise its elevation, as this will still disrupt the flow of water and direct all the flood waters to those whose houses are not filled up. She shared about TAO-Pilipinas' process of evolving a climate-resilient house design through participatory process in PMPI Project Pagbangon, a post-Yolanda response in Homonhon and Manicani islands. Active engagement of end users results in a very strong ownership and high social acceptability of the design solution, according to Lusterio.

[READ MORE: P7](#)

## TAO participates in advocacy planning activity by FDUP

TAO-PILIPINAS JOINED other Quezon City-based civil society organizations (CSOs) in the “Multi-stakeholder Participatory Recovery Planning Workshop” organized by the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP). The workshop was held on June 24, 2022 at the Sanggumay Room of Microtel UP Technohub in Diliman, Quezon City. It was attended by representatives from PHILSSA NCR Cluster; Zero Extreme Poverty (ZEP) Quezon City Cluster; people’s organizations based in Quezon City; and the Quezon City Planning and Development Office.

The activity is part of the UNDP and PHILDHRA

project called Participatory and Multi-stakeholder Engagement in Covid-19 Recovery and Devolution Transition Planning, Implementation and Monitoring. FDUP executive director Maricel Genzola facilitated the discussion of the poverty incidence, Covid-19 situation, and the devolution transition plan (DTP) of Quezon City. She also gave an overview of the devolved functions of local government due to the Mandanas-Garcia ruling of the Supreme Court.

Representatives of the Quezon City planning office clarified some of the sectoral targets of the city’s DTP. They emphasized that Quezon City already provides most of the



*CSO representatives present their group outputs during the planning activity.*

devolved services and hence, the city’s higher income from the Mandanas ruling will go towards expansion and upgrading of existing services such as digitalization and capacity-building projects.

The workshop participants identified several issues in social services and Covid-19 recovery, urban poor

housing, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The participants prepared a multi-stakeholder network plan for recovery and advocacy to address some of the prioritized issues. The proposed actions by the CSOs are intended areas of engagement with the Quezon City local government. (GRMatabang)

## PHILSSA holds its 32nd GA online

FROM JUNE 14 TO 17, THE Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), of which TAO-Pilipinas is a member, held its 32nd general assembly (GA). The four half-day event was held online through the Zoom platform. The first day was held in the morning while succeeding days were held in the afternoon. The agenda of the GA included a learning session, strategic planning discussions, and business meeting with election of new board members.

The opening day was the learning session on “Solar Energy Applications for Small Communities” that was livestreamed in the PHILSSA Facebook Page. This was moderated by Sarah Redoblado, executive director of Alternative Planning Initiatives (ALTERPLAN). Three speakers were invited to impart their experience on applications of solar energy. The first speaker was engineer

Reynaldo Reynaldo who discussed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and was followed by Melvin Purzuelo who talked about the productive use of renewable energy for coastal communities. The last speaker in the line up was Ricardo Torres who focused on financing access to renewable energy. This learning session was opened to the public and was attended by community partners of PHILSSA member-organizations.

The remaining days of the GA was for PHILSSA member-organizations and focused on strategic planning discussions. The July 15 meeting was a looking back session with guest speakers sharing PHILSSA milestones and contributions from different points in time. MC Valte from Kasagana Ka gave an overview of PHILSSA history and milestones. Maria Anna de Rosas Ignacio and Annie de Leon-Yuson who were both former national coordinators of PHILSSA and

former FDA executive directors also shared the significant contributions of PHILSSA during their tenure. Jun Olarte of Katotohanan, Pagkakaisa at Serbisyo – Small Enterprise and Economic Development (KPS-SEED) and Ping Fampulme of Urban Poor Alliance (UPALL) gave their insights on the milestones achieved by PHILSSA for the past thirty years. Other speakers who shared their insights were Angelus Sales of TAO-Pilipinas, Bing Solamo of PILIPINA Legal Resources Center (PLRC), and Luz Malibiran of Community Organizers Multiversity (COM).

The July 16 session began with a welcome remark by TAO-Pilipinas executive director Arlene Lusterio who is the outgoing PHILSSA chairperson. This was followed by a synthesis of the previous session by PHILSSA’s current national coordinator, Benedict Balderrama. A recorded video presentation of Allan Vera discussing his assessment of PHILSSA as an organization was played afterwards. The draft

vision, mission, and goals of PHILSSA were presented by the chairperson. All these inputs were then discussed during the regional caucus meeting in breakout rooms.

The last day of the GA was for the business meeting where the respective reports of the chairperson and treasurer were presented to the plenary. Initially, the business meeting had difficulty reaching quorum but this was eventually reached midway through the meeting, with 30 member-organizations in attendance. They voted a new set of Board of Trustees. The newly elected board members were representatives from Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal (SALIGAN), COM, and KPS-SEED.

The general assembly ended with recognition rites for outgoing PHILSSA board members. Service awards were also given to resigned staff, Rhea Kristine Aguilar and Jennifer Cruz, both of whom put in more than a decade of service. (AMPSales)



## TAO staff join PHILSSA in Organization Development training

IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD THE organization development (OD) skills of civil society organizations (CSOs), Save the Children and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) opened scholarship slots to the Certificate Course on Organization Development for Civil Society Organizations. The course is part of the project called Capacitating Strategic Organizations to Strengthen the Civil Society Organization Sector, shortened to CSO2 Project.

The five-day training was held on July 4-8 at Novotel Hotel. This capacity-building for CSO managers and staff is aimed towards enhancing the effectiveness and health of their organizations.

PHILSSA, as a local resource organization in the CSO2 Project, was offered five slots in the OD training course. The slots were filled by three members of the PHILSSA Secretariat and two staff members from TAO-Pilipinas that volunteered to be part of PHILSSA's OD technical resource pool. Participants representing other CSOs who attended the course were from the legal services group IDEALS, the education reform advocacy network E-Net Philippines, and the rural women's coalition PKKK.

The training's main instructors were OD specialists from Ateneo CORD, Mendiola Teng-Calleja and Emerald Jay Ilac, who are faculty members at the Psychology Department of Ateneo de Manila



TAO executive director Arlene Lusterio hosts a World Café table.

University as well. They facilitated five modules that introduced the fundamentals of OD, explained the core theoretical bases of OD practice, and discussed the use of various analytic models and tools. Participants learned of different levels of OD interventions and how to formulate change management plans.

Mental health was also given focus in the training through the discussion of organization-based psychological first aid intervention. Participants learned to administer the CARES first aid protocol during a simulation session.

At the end of the training, the participants applied the thoroughness of OD frameworks and methods and created OD and change management plans for their

respective organizations. The PHILSSA team presented an OD intervention plan that sought to build up 'organizationally healthy' network members and thereby re-energize their participation in PHILSSA. The formation of an OD resource pool within the PHILSSA network is projected to facilitate OD learning and practice among its members.

The course introduced participating CSO staff to the rigor of organization development that is rooted in behavioral science knowledge. Participants were also given copies of the Ateneo-published book "Organization Development Practice in the Philippines" as reference in further developing their OD skills. (GRMatabang)



The PHILSSA team working on their OD intervention plan (from left to right: Arlene Lusterio, Geraldine Matabang, Dick Balderrama, Lorna Inductivo and Annie Gonzales)

## TAO joins the Boac celebration... [\(continued from page 5\)](#)

The fifth presentation was about "Liter of Light" as an alternative renewable energy solution by Karen Anne Capiz, deputy director of Liter of Light Philippines. Capiz presented videos about their initiatives to bring light to many areas not only as a post-disaster response but as a response to climate change by reducing dependence to fossil fuel. She showed videos of various campaigns and Liter of Light also distributed free liter of light components to barangays in Boac a day before the forum.

The sixth presentation was about "Project MENCHIE (Mandaluyong Enhanced Monitoring of Natural Hazards and Climate for Household Information and Education)" by Ehmir Cristobal of the CDRRMO of Mandaluyong City. Cristobal

presented the use of an application with access to weather data from PAGASA and how the city localized the weather data for use of local stakeholders in decision making. Highlighted in his presentation was the hourly release of weather data on thunderstorm to inform decision makers.

The seventh presentation was on "Communication as an important lifeline: the PLDT/SMART Experience" by Stephaine Orlino, head of stakeholders management team, corporate communications of SMART/PLDT. Orlino presented their efforts to provide communication as aid after a disaster, giving the affected population the facility to make a call to loved ones through their free call stations. They have the emergency cell broadcast

system (ECBS) which sends alerts through mobile warning systems; the Batingaw mobile app where LGUs can broadcast through the telephone company announcements such as cancellation of classes, traffic and public health information; Project Hotline with just one number to call for various concerns; and Ligas Kit for quick emergency communication during disasters. In areas not serviced by SMART, Signal Connect provides internet connection.

The last presentation was on "Comprehensive School Safety Ecosystems and Quality Assurance System"—the 2022 United Nations SASAKAWA Awardee for DRR—by Pepito Romero, training coordinator of Save The Children. Romero presented Operation LISTO, a quality assurance system (QAS) tool, and how this is applied to ensure

child safety in all places at all times. He also emphasized the value of integrating child safety in barangay DRRM plans and the inclusion of QAS considerations in the selection of the BDRRM committee.

Finally, the forum ended with a closing message from Luisito Majaba, committee chair on Environment, Natural Resources Management, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development. He stressed the value of all the learning gained from the forum and the need to review and update their plans and regroup to move forward with projects. Apparently a lot needs to be done and with the commitment of all the local officials and stakeholders, response to climate emergency in the municipality of Boac is promising. (ACDLusterio)

## TAO staff take part in MedNet's online conference on mediation

AMID THE POLARIZED political climate and enduring conflicts in the Philippines, the Mediators Network for Sustainable Peace (MedNet) carried out the “National Conference on Mediation: Mediation in these Critically Challenging Times” last August 3 and 4 via Zoom. During the two-day online conference, esteemed speakers from the field of mediation and conflict resolution shared their knowledge and experiences with participants from various public, private, and civil society organizations. Three members of TAO’s project staff, Therese Julia, Dessica Salvador and Marianne Turiano, attended the conference.

The conference featured keynote presentations, plenary discussions, and thematic parallel sessions aiming to promote and mainstream the discourse of mediation and conflict resolution across the sectors—from government and private institutions to courts and communities.

### Day 1 parallel sessions

On the first day, David Fairman of Consensus Building Institute set the tone for the two-day conference by giving the first keynote presentation on approaching mediation in polarized contexts. After this, the conference held three parallel sessions on thematic cases of dispute resolution wherein the participants were assigned to breakout rooms.

In Session A, Vicky Delgado and Floro Astillo of MedNet discussed two

cases of agrarian dispute resolution. Session B tackled ancestral domain dispute resolution with a presentation by Timothy Salomon of Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. In Session C, Mary Lord Symphonette and Noel Cabangin of Alliance of People’s Organizations Along Manggahan Floodway shared their experience in estate management dispute resolution.

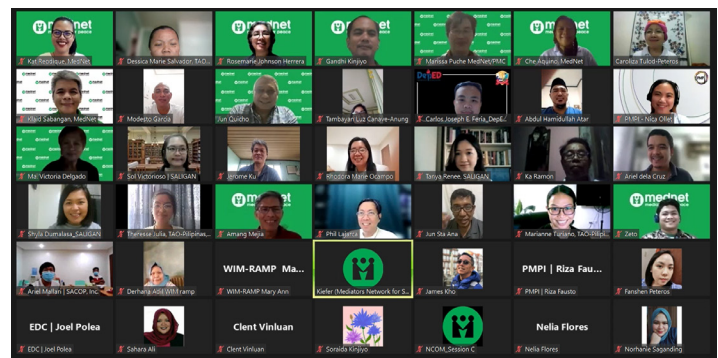
### Day 2 parallel sessions

Following the parallel sessions, Atty. Dana Batnag of the Commission on Human Rights talked about disinformation and reality in today’s context. Afterward, another set of parallel sessions was held. In Session D, Atty. Marlou Pelayo-Alutaya of Land Management Bureau discussed best practices in institutionalizing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in DENR. Concurrently, Abdul Hamidullah Atar of Reconciliatory Initiatives for Development Opportunities shared about rido (clan conflict) resolution in Muslim Mindanao in Session E.

On the second day, Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, a professor from UP Department of Political Science, gave the second keynote presentation on the philosophical aspects of ADR. This was followed by a series of plenary sessions tackling intraorganizational disputes. Different cases of internal conflict resolution were discussed by Ramon Sangcap and Carol Peteros of MedNet,



Poster used for the MedNet webinar showing the invited speakers for the 2-day conference.



Screenshot of the online participants during the second day of the conference.

Norhanie Saganding of Balay Rehabilitation Center, and Nobaisah Sunggod of AMWA. For the third keynote presentation, Che Aquino of MedNet talked about mediating political differences in an organization. Lastly, a final set of parallel sessions took place. In Session F, Jun Sta. Ana of the Diocese of Novaliches shared the case of a housing dispute due to the NLEX Segment 8.2 Project. On the other hand, Atty. James Kho of MedNet presented about science-informed consensus-building in environmental policy in Session G.

In addition to mainstreaming the discourse on ADR, the conference also equipped the participants with creative ways of dealing with conflicts as mediators in their respective communities and organizations. Following the 2022 national elections, disinformation and other pressing issues continue to drive polarization in the country. Conflicts continue to afflict marginalized communities. Amid these critically challenging times, mediation and conflict resolution continue to be imperative in achieving a peaceful nation. (TRJulia)



## Liwanag sa Mundo ng Kadiliman: Experiences and insights on working with the urban poor and their struggle for adequate housing

by KC Caraos

*Maria Kristiana “KC” Caraos is a recent graduate of the University of the Philippines-Diliman (Batch 2022) under the BS Social Work program. For her field instruction in the course subject SW 151, she was assigned to the urban poor community of Samahang Masigasig ng Tapayan Homeowners Association (SAMATHOA) in Lupang Arenda, Taytay, Rizal from February to June 2022. The focus of her field instruction was on the issues concerning the reblocking of the community.*

WORKING WITH TAO-PILIPINAS and the community of SAMATHOA for my internship in my senior year of college has helped me develop skills in community organizing and gain awareness of the social realities of the urban poor, specifically in advocating for their right to adequate housing. This internship has taught me different features of socialized housing—how the government has programs focused on socialized housing, the design standards that socialized housing must abide by, and the numerous documents that the urban poor have to possess in order to qualify for their own land titles. It has already been 27 years since former president Fidel Ramos proclaimed Lupang Arenda as a site for socialized housing in 1995, and yet the community just started seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

It was on March 9 when I was first introduced to the leaders of SAMATHOA. They gave a brief introduction of the struggles that they faced over the years to legitimize their residency on their occupied land. During that time, only 41 residents out of more or less 2,000 households in SAMATHOA have been officially awarded land titles. It

is already a huge achievement for the community, but there is still a long process to go.

Going into the internship, the ultimate goal was the social preparation of the community for the upcoming reblocking activity in their area. SAMATHOA was the first area planned to undergo this activity since they were the first homeowners association to be [approved to apply for land titles](#) by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA). However, only households living on land elevation above the lake level requirement of LLDA are qualified to apply for land titles. SAMATHOA needs to undergo reblocking because based on the zoning regulation of the municipal government of Taytay, lands that are purposed for socialized housing must follow the minimum design standards stated in Batas Pambansa 220.

At the beginning of the community organizing process, I was tasked to communicate with the 41 awardees. However, I have only spoken to 28 of them. In those interactions, the aim was to integrate with the community with the hopes of creating a community profile. In addition, in those interactions, I learned

about their way of life and the physical characteristics of their community. It was difficult to imagine their stories, specifically the features of their area since the original mode of delivery of the internship was online—although, there were times when we went down to SAMATHOA to have a focus group discussion and a validation workshop with them. Limited online interaction also made it difficult to build a deep relationship with the community. However, we managed to pull through. We created a community profile and community maps for the residents’ perusal.

After the university-required midterm sharing by students, the original plans were to have an issue analysis workshop with the block leaders, a training needs assessment, and a leaders’ training on reblocking. However, the week after the midterm sharing was already the last week before the national and local elections. Hence, the leaders were very busy campaigning for local leaders who acknowledge their plight and their claim to adequate housing. Then, the day of the elections came.

Almost every SAMATHOA leader was in a state of grief after the election loss that we experienced. Not all Filipinos understand the gravity of electing a government official, more so, the advocacies that they forward. The local and national leaders that the community leaders campaigned for lost. It felt as if the light at the end of the tunnel was taken from everyone. Thus, the original plan was put on hold. I once asked their local community organizer what will happen now. She mentioned that the fight for their rights still continues and they must hold these elected politicians accountable as it is the public officials’ duty to serve their constituents. If the officials do not listen, there is power in numbers to bring things to light. What she said imprinted on me since it shows the strength of the urban poor—that their fight goes on even if there are obstacles along the way. The community believes in their power to mobilize to claim their rights.

I ended my internship last June by creating a training needs assessment and a training module on reblocking. Although I worked with them for just a few months, I learned a lot from the things that transpired. The organizing process on reblocking with them just began, but I hope that they will eventually reach their end goal. The fight must not stop until the urban poor finally attain their right to adequate housing.



KC shown here facilitating the validation workshop visited the community of SAMATHOA twice where she was accompanied by her faculty supervisor, Prof. Glennie Marie Sina-on, on both occasions.



Validation workshop with some of the land title awardees of SAMATHOA held on April 24, 2022.

## Solar Energy Applications for Small Communities

PHILSSA | ALTERPLAN  
June 14, 2022 | 9:00am

This webinar was organized as part of the PHILSSA 32nd general assembly. The learning session was created to discover the benefits and applications of renewable energy (RE), especially since the Philippines is prone to natural disasters and some parts of the country still have little or no access to electricity. Experts from the UNDP Development for Renewable Energy Applications Mainstreaming and Market Sustainability (DREAMS) were tapped to share their expertise in the field.

Engineer Reynaldo Reynaldo's presentation on solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and applications provided a general introduction on PV technology and its components. The discussion tackled the types of solar cells, PV connections, applications, and providers. Contrary to the misconception that solar energy generates electricity from heat, PV devices actually generate electricity when exposed to light. He also gladly shared tips on purchasing PV systems.

On a presentation about PURE or the productive use of renewable energy, speaker Melvin Puerzo



shared existing community initiatives. He emphasized that RE is not limited to solar and that RE could help communities to have a better source of electricity, potable water, and livelihood.

A presentation on financing access to renewable energy by Ricardo Torres provided an overview of existing renewable energy sources in the country known as "BIGSHOW" (the short term for biomass, geothermal, solar, hydropower and ocean, and wind), with hydropower as a major RE resource. His point of discussion was the rural electrification context, history, and trend. (DMPSalvador)

## Walking the Talk: Building Feminist Organizations

United Edge | June 20, 2022 | 7:00pm-8:30pm



Speakers from three feminist organizations shared their passion and wisdom in this panel discussion, pushing for a more feminist lens to development. Monika Niroula of FRIDA and Young Feminist Fund, Nancy Kachingwe from South Feminist Futures, and Memory Kachambwa from FEMNET tackled feminism as a tool and approach and the feminist movement that challenges patriarchal systems and unjust power dynamics.

The panelists started off with defining what makes a feminist organization, both in label and in practice. They emphasized the organization's theory of change and its feminist objectives. Differentiating feminism from the goals of gender equality,

they asserted feminism to be a more radical political movement that looks beyond inclusivity and legal rights. Feminism calls for transformative macro-level policies (eg women's economic empowerment and just economic rights) to dismantle structures of oppression.

After the short but rich discussion, the panelists offered several useful tips and strategies on how to build more feminist organizations. Among these included non-hierarchical and diverse participation, commitment to collective care, equitable and transparent human resource policies, and constant questioning of the power dynamics and knowledge ecology of organizations. (GRMatabang)

## Urban Planning: A Perspective from the Implementing Agency, DHSUD and DILG

Philippine Women's University  
June 18, 2022 | 9:00am



This webinar featured discussions on urban and regional planning by environmental planners from the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

EnP. Ibani Padoa of DHSUD presented a primer on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and discussed its legal basis and the planning process involved in CLUP formulation. With the need to promote sustainable development, the CLUP process was enhanced

to consider other elements such as forestlands, coastal areas, biodiversity, ancestral domain, green growth, and heritage conservation. He also provided a comprehensive review of the planning cycle and 12-step CLUP process, as well as the significance of urban design as translated into programs and projects of the local government unit (LGU).

EnP. Arce P. Fajardo of DILG, on the other hand, gave a presentation on Comprehensive Development Planning (CDP). He explained the principles of rationalized planning and how it will enhance the LGU's capability

to manage its geographical territory and promote the general welfare of its populace. He also discussed the authority levers for implementing the CLUP and CDP, as well as the process of formulating the CDP.

The lectures were followed by an open forum wherein the participants inquired about related concerns such as sanctions, conduct of public hearings, and the role of other stakeholders such as civil society organizations in the planning process. (MCTuriano)



## Power of Visuals in Learning

Philippine Society for Talent Development Inc.  
June 21, 2022 | 1:00pm-4:00pm

This webinar was organized by the Philippine Society for Talent Development, Inc. (PSTD) to help NGO staff, without a background in graphic designing, learn the basics of visual communication and make infographics using Microsoft Powerpoint. The trainor was Sarena Nicole Arokiasamy from PSTD.

The key takeaways from this webinar were what studies have revealed about learning today. Learners only have an eight-second attention span and can retain only about 10% to 20% of written information compared to a 65% retention rate if the information was visually shown. To capture learners' attention, the Mayer's

12 principles of multimedia is a useful guide when producing visual materials to communicate information. The webinar also focused on cohesive graphic themes that enhance the visual learning experience.

The speaker also showed the participants how to efficiently use Microsoft Powerpoint in preparing infographics and creating visually pleasing presentations. She mentioned

websites where participants can get royalty-free stock photos, icons, and images. Overall, the webinar was quite helpful especially for NGO staff not familiar with the different graphics software used to make infographics and other visual aids. The concepts were explained clearly and were accompanied by appropriate visuals to make learning even more interesting. (AMPSales)

## YP READING LIST

\*Books and other materials featured in this section are available at the TAO Resource Center & Library. Library use is by appointment only. You may call Therese Julia at 8287-6446 to schedule your visit.

**Title: Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know**  
**Author: Adam Grant**  
**Publisher: Viking (2021)**



*Think Again* probes the cognitive skill of rethinking our own beliefs and opinions. As we are vulnerable to identifying ourselves

with our ideologies, the author—organizational psychologist Adam Grant—challenges us to define ourselves by our values to allow us the flexibility to rethink our convictions.

In the first part of the book, the Grant posits that in an argument, we take on the identity and mindset of the preacher, prosecutor, or politician. We go into preacher mode when we speak our ideals as the absolute truth; prosecutor when we attack other people's arguments to reinforce our own; and politician when our aim is only to win the approval of other people when we convey our message. To put into action the skill of rethinking, Grant encourages us to put ourselves into scientist mode: seek the truth with an open mind by allowing ourselves to change our minds in the face of new evidence. He also teaches how

to open other people's minds in an argument by exercising the Socratic Method (although the term is not specifically identified in the book). He makes a case that facilitating an argument by asking questions will enable other people to challenge their views and think for themselves. The author concludes the book with a chapter on applying the skill of rethinking in reassessing our careers and life plans. The action points in the last part of the book also offer practical tips on working on one's rethinking skills.

Overall, *Think Again* is an enjoyable and recommended read. Even though it is a psychology book, it is easily readable and very understandable for the layman. I appreciated how the author presented his ideas through captivating storytelling and well-written arguments backed by research. I can imagine that some people might disagree with some of Grant's views. Nevertheless, I still think the book offers valuable lessons on challenging our opinions and prejudices, being better communicators to people whom we disagree with, and encouraging young people to think and keep learning. (MCTuriano)

**Title: Fascism: A Warning**  
**Author: Madeleine Albright**  
**Publisher: Harper Collins (2018)**



who spent her childhood in war-torn Europe during the mid-20th century. She gathers from these experiences to provide an essential warning to contemporary societies about the many faces of *Fascism*.


Each chapter narrates the rise and fall, burgeoning careers, or enduring regimes of categorical fascists and other contemporary leaders who employ tactics reminiscent of Mussolini and Hitler, among others. The history lessons are interspersed with Albright's account of encounters with said leaders (or rulers, rather) during her established career as a diplomat. The author also prefaces various chapters with insightful discussions with her graduate students about what *Fascism* is, what it looks like, what gives rise to it, and what it entails.

Albright provides an essential wake-up call to contemporary societies of the looming threats to democracy. The book provokes a sense of urgency as state leaders from across the globe take pages from the fascist playbook and get elected. Following the recent national elections in the Philippines—characterized by spreading disinformation, reinforcing echo chambers, and growing antagonism between “us and them”—the book imparts lessons and questions that have never been more relevant.

Overall, the book implores us to learn from history so we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Albright urges us to think critically, move past smoke and mirrors, and ask the right questions concerning our prospective leaders. These are the kind of questions that allow us to discern whether the direction they are heading is a reassurance or a warning. At the same time, the book reminds us to proceed with care in defending our democratic values so as not to become the very ‘monsters’ we fight. (TRJulia)

# BOOK GIVING UPDATES

We have now raised **Php16,418.95** from our target of Php63,000.00. We also have **4** library recipients already out of the 21 targetted libraries. If you wish to be one of our library recipients, please answer this [form](#). First batch of TAO books will be shipped to receiving libraries by September.

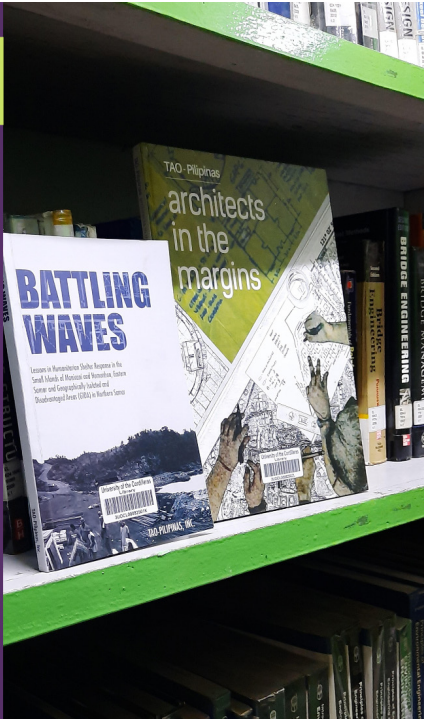

**BOOK GIVING 2022**

### HOW TO BE A LIBRARY RECIPIENT

If your library or learning center would like to be a recipient of TAO's book giving, kindly fill-up the REQUEST FORM at

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TAO-Pilipinas will prioritize public libraries (barangay, city/municipal or provincial), state college libraries, and learning centers with very limited book budgets.




**BOOK GIVING 2022**

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We will donate TAO books on community planning, participatory design, social housing, and humanitarian shelter to add to local library collections.

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