



Community women leaders from NASMA measure the road width as part of their community mapping activity for the ACT funded project.
Photo source: NASMA leaders

TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

eNEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

TAO's work with urban poor recognized by PCUP

by Geraldine R. Matabang

TAO-PILIPINAS WAS selected as one of the awardees of the Natatanging Lingkod-Maralita 2022 conferred by the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP). TAO executive director Arlene

Lusterio received a plaque during the culmination event of PCUP's Urban Poor Solidarity Week celebration from December 2 to 8.

The Natatanging Lingkod-Maralita award is given to urban poor,

government, and non-government organizations that have: (1) engaged in activities related to human development, asset reform, livelihood and employment, and access to basic services for the urban poor; (2) supports PCUP in the implementation of its programs and services; (3) participates in advocacy of the pro-poor agenda; and (4) participates in local special bodies. For 2022, TAO-Pilipinas is the recipient of the award in the

NGO category for National Capital Region.

TAO was recognized for its "outstanding programs and services aimed at helping the underprivileged and homeless achieve security of tenure and promoting human development for cause". The awarding ceremony was held on December 7 at the gymnasium of New City College of Mandaluyong in Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City.



Architect Arlene Lusterio receives the plaque given by PCUP chairperson Usec. Elpidio Jordan Jr.

UP, FEU students and APOLA women leaders get involved in the Co-Design Project

by Angelus Maria P. Sales

OVER THE PAST FEW months, TAO implemented several activities under the Co-Design project funded by Asian Community Trust. Co-Design focuses on the participatory mapping of existing utilities in the

informal settlement community of APOLA (Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda) in Taytay, Rizal to generate site-specific design and upgrading solutions. Following the July 27 roundtable discussion that

[READ MORE: P2](#)

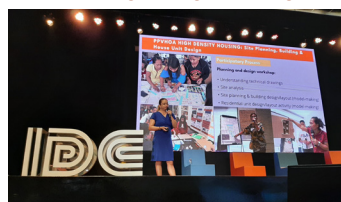
FEATURE ARTICLES



Third batch of ASMPH LEC students visit Lupang Arenda

P6

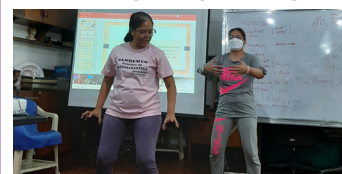
NETWORK ACTIVITIES



TAO invited to speak at DCP international design conference

P8

NETWORK ACTIVITIES



TAO staff carry on health and wellness activities thru INAM CCC program

P9

ANNOUNCEMENTS



P12

UP, FEU students... *(continued from page 1)*

introduced the project to academe partners (see [YP e-newsletter July-August 2022 issue](#)), a number of activities were conducted involving the women leaders of APOLA community and university students from UP and FEU. The activities comprised of site mapping, consultative meetings, mentoring sessions on site development design and on gender sensitivity, presentation of the students' proposed capstone projects, and initial site upgrading proposals.

Project orientation and mapping with women leaders

Starting on August 30, the project team leader, architect Angelus Sales, gave an online orientation to APOLA women leaders who committed to participate in the project. Forty (40) community leaders representing seven (7) homeowners association (HOAs) attended the orientation. Ar. Sales discussed the project objectives, the expected deliverables from the women leaders, and instructions on how to map the existing utility lines in their community.

The participating APOLA women leaders conducted the mapping of existing utility lines during the whole month of September. They measured the existing drainage in their area and used the data collection app Kobo Collect Toolbox to map electrical posts. The drawings produced by the women leaders were submitted to TAO and digitally scanned so the students can use it in coming up with their proposed site upgrading plans.

Consultations between women leaders and UP, FEU students

Community consultations conducted by the participating students were also done between September and October. Eighteen (18) students from University of the Philippines Institute of Civil Engineering (UP ICE) under the CE 196 class listened as the community women leaders narrated the conditions in their respective purok areas. Questions were later

asked by the students ranging from their flood experience to their garbage collection system through a plenary discussion. This consultation was held last September 24 via Zoom platform. The consultation was vital for the civil engineering students to determine their proposed capstone projects (ie, the students' final year assignment).

Another community consultation was organized by TAO for the architecture students of Far Eastern University Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts (FEU IARFA) last October 25. Once again, the consultation process was conducted online through Zoom. For this particular community consultation, there were 72 participating students. Prior to the consultation, they were already grouped by their instructor, architect Fritzie Amar and were instructed to prepare their questions in advance. Focus group discussions were facilitated in six breakout rooms, one for each represented purok.

The focus group discussions enabled the students to get to know the women leaders and their respective community situation much better. Afterwards, representatives of each group shared their key insights and takeaways from the focus group discussion with the rest of the groups.

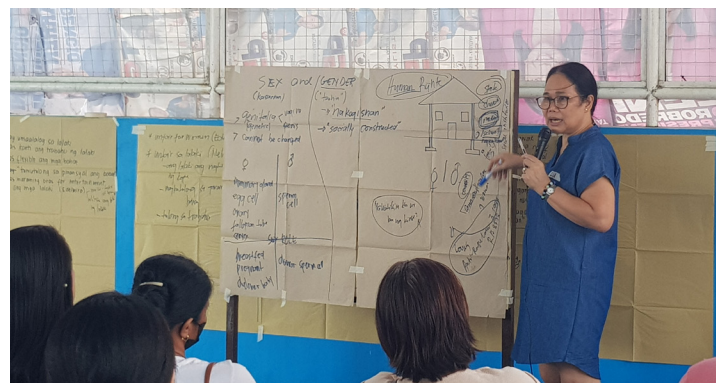
Mentoring sessions

Within November, TAO conducted mentoring sessions focusing on site development and gender sensitivity as important inputs to the project, with both the participating students and community women leaders. The first mentoring session was held on November 8 with invited resource speakers from the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH) Rizal district. DPWH engineers presented the typical road and drainage design which they have implemented in some of the road projects in Lupang Arenda. Engineers Nelia Mejia and Geffry Arellito showed

[READ MORE: P3](#)



Screenshots of different community consultations with participating students. Top photo: With UP ICE students and faculty of CE 196 class. Bottom photo: With FEU IARFA students together with their professor Ar. Fritzie Amar.



Top photo: Community women leaders of NADHOA measure the drainage depth in their community. Bottom photo: Gender sensitivity training with Ms. Lou Turiano for community women leaders under the ACT project.

TAO's book donations reach 21 libraries nationwide

by Geraldine R. Matabang

TAO-PILIPINAS CONCLUDED its 21st anniversary campaign with the completion of the 2022 TAO Book Giving Drive that was started last August. TAO publications were donated to a total of 21 local libraries across the Philippines. These book donations were made possible by the support of individuals who sponsored the purchase of TAO books. TAO sent the books to recipient-libraries in three batches, from September to November.

Book giving recipients and sponsors

TAO's book giving reached libraries in 14 provinces including Aklan, Albay, Bataan, Bulacan,

Camarines Norte, Capiz, Negros Occidental, Northern Samar, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Pangasinan, Samar, Zambales and Zamboanga del Sur. ([See location map of recipient-libraries.](#))

The recipients were mainly public libraries and state college libraries. They were the libraries that asked for TAO book donations by answering an online request form posted by TAO. A couple of libraries were also specifically nominated by some sponsors.

After receiving the TAO book donations, the libraries shared photos of the books in display or circulation in their respected libraries. TAO posted

these in the Instagram account [@architectsinthemargins](#) to acknowledge both recipients and donors.

There were 46 donors, either currently residing in the Philippines or overseas-based, who sponsored the book giving to libraries. Most traced a direct connection with TAO, among whom are NGO colleagues, YP alumni, and former TAO staff members continuing to support TAO initiatives with their sponsorship.

Fundraising for TSM20 printing

The money raised from the book giving sponsorships amounted to PHP 68,492.95. This fund has been allocated for the costs of shipping TAO books to recipient-libraries and the printing

of TAO Shelter Magazine 20th Anniversary Edition (TSM20). Initially, due to inadequate funding, TAO only released the magazine as an e-publication earlier in the year.

With additional funds mobilized through this anniversary campaign, TAO will be able to release the print edition of TSM20 before the end of the year. TSM20 focuses on the stories of change brought about by TAO's two decades of technical assistance work with communities. Complimentary copies of the magazine will be distributed to TAO's community partners, while a limited number of copies will be made available for sale.

[SEE INFOGRAPHICS NEXT PAGE](#)

UP, FEU students... *(continued from page 2)*

the road and drainage plans, sections, and photos of finished road concreting projects in Lupang Arenda.

Landscape architect Rosanne Aldeguer was also invited to share her expertise in streetscape design and street lighting. Architect Sales, on the other hand, shared her knowledge on community mapping and introduced the Kobo Collect Toolbox app to the students. The online mentoring session was attended by 104 students from FEU IARFA, 8 students from UP ICE, and 6 community leaders from APOLA.

Faculty representatives from both FEU IARFA and UP ICE were also present in the mentoring session.

Gender sensitivity sessions

On November 18, a mentoring session for community women leaders on gender and development (GAD) was organized by TAO. The activity was held in the covered court of Purok 6 in Lupang Arenda. The invited resource speaker, Ms. Lourdes Turiano, a registered social worker and GAD specialist, requested a face-to-face mentoring session. Attendees were 27 community women leaders, one (1) community male leader who is part of the APOLA council, and one (1) local community organizer.

Ms. Turiano focused on the basic concepts surrounding gender and development, tackling the difference between sex and gender. She asked the community women leaders to share their insights and experiences when it comes to gender norms and stereotypes. She also discussed important laws that protect the rights of women and children especially those who experienced gender-based violence.

Students' capstone projects centered on Lupang Arenda

The next set of activities is for the participating students to present their initial site upgrading plans to the women leaders. UP ICE students as part of their mid-term requirement already presented their inception report where they discussed their proposed capstone project for Lupang Arenda last November 12. Architect Sales attended the students' presentation. The presentation was recorded, with the recording made available to APOLA community leaders.

The CE 196 class committed four groups who have been working towards the site improvement of Lupang Arenda. Their proposed capstone projects are: 1) pumping station and conveyance system; 2) development of stormwater detention facility; 3) design of road and drainage upgrade for two HOAs (PACHOA and SAMTAHOA); and 4) solid waste management plan for Lupang Arenda.

Initial site upgrading proposal

On November 29, seventeen (17) architecture students from FEU IARFA logged on to Zoom to present their initial site upgrading

proposals to fourteen (14) APOLA women leaders. The presentations were both done live by some of the groups while others were pre-recorded. A total of 18 proposals were presented with 3 groups presenting for each of the six purok areas. Some common themes in the students' presentations were solar street lighting and container gardening. They also showed the proposed drainage layout of the areas and all of the site upgrading proposals had cost estimates. Some proposals exceeded the PHP50,000 budget limit, so the groups also proposed fund sourcing strategies to cover the cost.

Next steps

The Co-Design project will soon enter the last phase of implementation of its workplan, with remaining activities including carrying out the chosen site upgrading plan. The project is expected to end by March 2023. However, TAO intends to apply for a one-year project extension from ACT in order to replicate the site upgrading initiative to a new set of seven (7) HOAs.



Community women leaders of SAMTAHOA drawing the map of their existing drainage and utility lines.



BOOK GIVING DRIVE 2022

TAO 21st Anniversary Campaign - Summary Report

TAO BOOK-GIVING RECIPIENT-LIBRARIES (2020)

- 1 **BATANES PROVINCIAL LIBRARY**
Basco, Batanes
- 2 **UNIVERSITY OF THE CORDILLERAS**
Baguio City, Benguet
- 3 **DON MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY**
Agoo, La Union
- 4 **UP COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE**
Diliman, Quezon City
- 5 **PUP NINYO AQUINO LIBRARY & LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**
Sta. Mesa, Manila
- 6 **SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE**
Sorsogon City
- 7 **FOUNDATION UNIVERSITY**
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
- 8 **UNIVERSITY OF MINDANAO LEARNING & INFORMATION CENTER**
Davao City, Davao del Sur

TAO BOOK-GIVING RECIPIENT-LIBRARIES (2022)

- 1 **ZAMBOANGA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Del Sur
- 2 **SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
- 3 **BICOL UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE**
Legazpi City, Albay
- 4 **BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY-BALANGA CAMPUS**
Balanga City, Bataan
- 5 **HINIGARAN MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Hinigaran, Negros Occidental
- 6 **AKLAN STATE UNIVERSITY - BANGA CAMPUS**
Banga, Aklan
- 7 **BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY-DINALUPIHAN CAMPUS**
Dinalupihan, Bataan
- 8 **SAMAR PROVINCIAL LIBRARY**
Catbalogan City, Samar
- 9 **CAMARINES NORTE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY**
Daet, Camarines Norte
- 10 **PANGASINAN PROVINCIAL LIBRARY**
Lingayen, Pangasinan
- 11 **BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY-ORANI CAMPUS**
Orani, Bataan
- 12 **AKLAN STATE UNIVERSITY - CIT KALIBO**
Kalibo, Aklan
- 13 **BACOLOD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- 14 **CAPIZ PROVINCIAL LIBRARY**
Roxas City, Capiz
- 15 **BAGO CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Bago City, Negros Occidental
- 16 **LAOANG MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Laoang, Northern Samar
- 17 **SARONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**
Bataraza, Palawan
- 18 **COLUMBAN COLLEGE LIBRARY**
Olongapo City, Zambales



LOCATION MAP OF LIBRARIES WITH TAO PUBLICATIONS

Total number of recipient-libraries (2022): 21



- 19 **PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEPT OF ARCHITECTURE LIBRARY**
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
- 20 **TABACO CITY LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTER**
Tabaco City, Albay
- 21 **PINAMALAYAN MUNICIPAL LIBRARY**
Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro



BOOK GIVING DRIVE 2022

TAO 21st Anniversary Campaign - Summary Report

PHP 68,492.95

Total amount raised from book giving drive for printing of TSM20 issue

46

Number of donor-sponsors

PHP 100 - 5,196.95

Individual donation range

PHP 1,488.98

Mean donation amount

21

Number of recipient-libraries

171

Total number of donated TAO publications

PHP 3,757

Shipping expenses

PHP 57,500

Printing cost of TSM20

DONOR PROFILE

SEX

Female 28

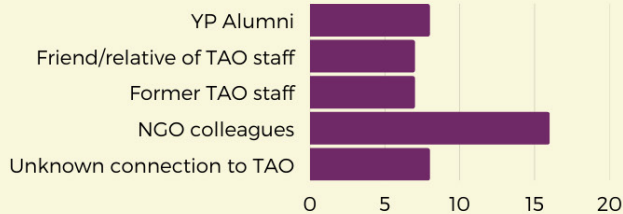
Male 18

RESIDENCE

Country-based 40

Overseas-based 6

CONNECTION TO TAO



TSM20 PRINTING

Amount raised for TSM20 printing: PHP 88,705.95

Sponsorships

Sales

Book giving sponsorships: 68,492.95

TAO book sales: 20,213.00

PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION



Third batch of ASMPH LEC students visit Lupang Arenda

by Angelus Maria P. Sales

A GROUP OF TEN THIRD YEAR students from Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) visited Lupang Arenda last September 2022. This was the first time the group visited the area as part of their project orientation for Learning Experience in Communities (LEC), a two-year course subject. ASMPH has partnered with TAO-Pilipinas since 2019 to facilitate the students' engagement with community partners.

Initial partnership with TAO

It is already the second time that ASMPH chose Lupang Arenda as their LEC community. In 2019, the first batch of students was led by Samantha Nicole Roque who is now a licensed physician. In their LEC course, the medical students get to know their assigned community in a span of a year and then proposes a small project to implement by the end of the year. The second year is allotted to the implementation of their proposed project as well as project evaluation.

ASMPH's engagement with TAO-Pilipinas began when their LEC field officer, Carmine Ganac,

invited TAO to become one of their LEC partners ([See YP ENewsletter July – September 2019](#)). Since then, ASMPH has fielded three LEC batches, with the second batch choosing Masagana in Angat as their community. The students however did not proceed with their second-year implementation because of logistical concerns on the part of ASMPH and Covid-19 related issues.

Site visits at Lupang Arenda

This third batch of ASMPH LEC students is being led by their batch representative, Nadine Lim. During their initial site visit last September 9, the students were accompanied by TAO staff, Angelus Sales and Dessica Salvador, and Alliance of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) leaders, Victoria Diamzon, Maria Fe Borja, and Edelyn Flores. Before the students went around the community, Ms. Sales gave a brief introduction of TAO while Ms. Borja introduced Lupang Arenda and APOLA to the students.

Following the hour-long orientation, the students paid



Top photo: ASMPH LEC students also made a courtesy call to barangay officials in the barangay extension office located at Lupang Arenda during their initial visit. **Bottom photo:** Students interviewed barangay health workers (BHW) on their second visit.

a courtesy call to the barangay satellite office in Lupang Arenda where they were met by the administrator Josephine Cordero. They also interviewed the staff they found in the TB DOTS center which is within the compound of the barangay satellite office. After chatting with the staff, they went around the perimeter and edges of Lupang Arenda to personally see the different conditions in the area.

Last December 9, the students visited the barangay satellite office again to interview the barangay health workers. Seven (7) barangay health workers (BHW) participated in the interview discussion conducted by the ASMPH LEC students. Most of the questions were about the needs and issues being experienced by the BHW such as the need for medical doctors and basic medical equipment. BHWs gave insightful narratives regarding their experience in dealing with the health issues of their assigned area. They also shared their experience during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Online LEC meetings

ASMPH LEC students are scheduled to meet at least once a month on a Friday to discuss the progress of their

community engagement. Last October 7, the students virtually met the representatives of each homeowners association (HOA) under APOLA through the Zoom platform, with 14 APOLA leaders attending the meeting.

During this Zoom meeting, the 10 students were divided into five breakout rooms and simultaneously interviewed the HOA representatives. The focus group discussions were part of their community needs assessment. Their questions ranged from the physical conditions in the area to the medical issues and problems being experienced by the community. Common responses from APOLA leaders included lack of access to medicines and physicians and difficulty accessing proper health care within the area especially for seniors and other vulnerable groups.

The upcoming activities of ASMPH LEC will focus on further data gathering to support the proposal that they will present by May 2023 which marks the end of the first year of their LEC course. The implementation of their approved project proposal will begin in the next school year.



ASMPH medical students visit Lupang Arenda as part of their Learning Experience in Communities (LEC) subject. **Top photo:** Ar. Sales gave an orientation during their first site visit. **Bottom photo:** Students got the chance to see Sitio Tapayan Elementary School on their initial site visit.

TAO releases the print edition of special magazine issue

by Geraldine Matabang

INITIALLY RELEASED IN digital form on Kindle last March, TAO Shelter Magazine 20th Anniversary Edition (TSM20): Stories of Change will now be available in its print version. In this special issue TAO-Pilipinas shares the evolution of its work (that embodies their motto: "It is time for us to go to the people rather than ask the people, especially the poor, to come to us"), the lessons and experiences with community partners, and its advocacy for architecture's social role.

TSM20 Stories of Change presents a collection of articles that highlight the impact of technical assistance on the ground by TAO-Pilipinas, an NGO of design professionals—architects, engineers and urban planners—practicing a participatory approach to planning and design. TSM20 celebrates TAO-Pilipinas' two decades of planning and designing with poor communities and acknowledges its pioneering work in bridging technical design professionals and the marginalized, underserved sectors.

TSM20 assembles a dozen articles (profiles, essays and interviews) and over 70 photographs which examine and document the people's planning and capacity-building processes and alternative solutions that enable urban poor communities to assert their housing rights. It also reflects on the lasting effects of TAO's post-disaster interventions from eight years ago, the fruitful collaborations built by TAO with stakeholders in the shelter and urban development sector, and the enduring influence created by its immersive training program for young

professionals. It features women community leaders and profiles TAO's women-led board of trustees. Lastly, it explores the concept of gendered spaces and the rights-of-nature framework as TAO, looking forward to the next decade, broadens its view of sustainable human settlements development.

Limited copies of the magazine will be sold by TAO at the price of PHP295/copy (excluding shipping fees). A box set of TAO Shelter Magazine, a collection that

includes TSM20 and nine back issues at PHP1000/set, will also be available as a fundraiser to support TAO operations. Fill-up the online form at <https://tinyurl.com/OrderTSM20> to pre-order and reserve your copy.

About TAO Shelter Magazine:

TAO-Pilipinas published TAO Shelter Magazine from 2006 to 2012, releasing 12 magazine issues in print. The magazine was a platform to communicate and give focus to sustainable human settlements issues, especially those that affect poor and marginalized communities.

Themes that were featured in the magazine included housing on water, disaster risk management, solid waste management, preparing for extreme hazards, climate change, water and sanitation, managing flood risks, living with earthquakes, and resettlement and housing.

In 2022, TAO revived the magazine to release a special 20th anniversary issue. Follow our Instagram account [@architectsinthemargins](https://www.instagram.com/architectsinthemargins) or email taopublications@gmail.com to get updates about TAO publications.



TAO invited to speak at DCP international design conference

TAO - PILIPINAS participated in the 6th International Design Conference organized by Design Center of the Philippines (DCP) and held on October 14, 2022 at the University of the Philippines Bonifacio Global City. As an organization practicing participatory planning and design, TAO was invited as one of the plenary session speakers for the hybrid conference with the theme “Shaping a Future for All”.

Architect Angelus Sales, head of external affairs of TAO, represented the organization and delivered a lecture on participatory design during the conference’s first session titled “Design and The Major Challenges of Our Time”. She introduced TAO’s technical assistance work with poor communities and its participatory approach in providing design services to address the shelter needs of informal settler communities.

Expounding on the co-design process of TAO, architect Sales talked about the community planning and design workshops that TAO conducted with PPVHOA community in Manila, for their high-density housing project. She talked about the skills and attitudes required of architects to facilitate a co-design process and shared the benefits, as well as the challenges, of

participatory planning and design.

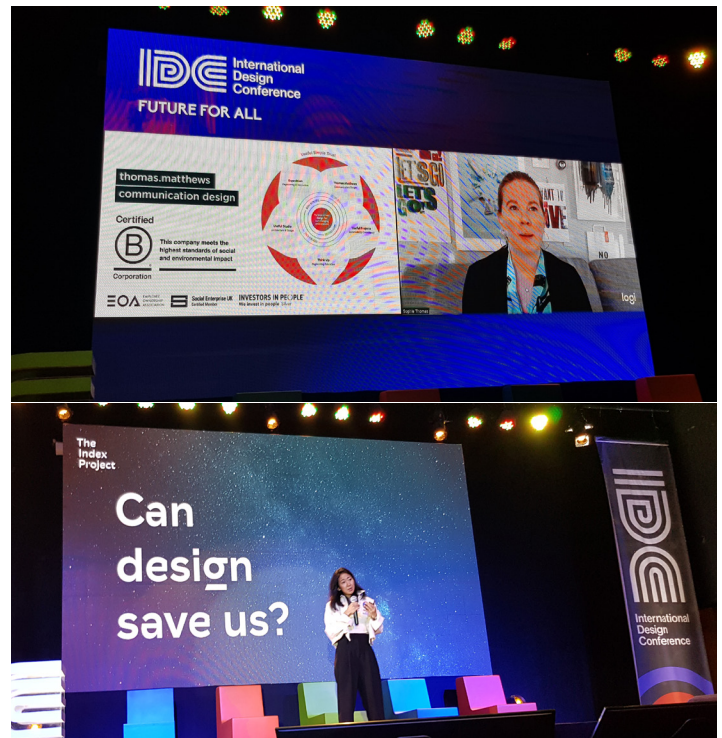
Three other female global innovators and designers presented lectures during the session, including Sophie Thomas of Urge Collective, Stephanie Sy of Thinking Machines Data Science, and Michelle Fisher of Boston Museum of Fine Arts. The session was followed by a fireside chat, a panel discussion and live Q&A with the speakers moderated by Pamela Cajilig of Curiosity Design Research. Architect Geraldine Matabang, head of internal affairs of TAO, joined the stage as a panelist during the fireside chat.

Breakout workshop sessions were held after the plenary session. In-person attendees were divided into breakout groups and participated in collaborative design exercises simultaneously facilitated by DCP’s conference partners. A second plenary session followed the workshops. It focused on “Designing Future Society” with speakers including Liza Chong of The Index Project and Bjorn Low of Edible Garden City. (GRMatabang)

Revisit the conference presentations and discussions online. A recording of the session on “Design and the The Major Challenges of Our Time” can be accessed at [Design Center of Philippines Facebook Page](#).



Top photo: TAO’s Angelus Sales onstage delivering a lecture for the international conference. Bottom photo: The conference host introducing the all-female panelists of the fireside chat.



The International Design Conference featured several powerhouse women speakers including Sophie Thomas of Urge Collective (top photo) and Liza Chong (bottom photo) of The Index Project.

TAO staff carry on health and wellness activities thru INAM CCC program

TAO CONTINUES TO participate in the Caring for the Community Carers (CCC) program of Integrative Medicine for Alternative Healthcare Systems (INAM) Philippines. INAM's CCC program, started in September 2021, aims to enable self-care practices and maintain healthy lifestyles among development workers. TAO-Pilipinas is one of the program beneficiaries. The program includes health education webinars, diagnostic testing and health profiling, integrative treatments, and group training sessions for holistic health care.

TAO has already completed the first stage of the program which included building the health profiles of the organization and its individual staff and crafting an integrated health plan for TAO (for the period July 2022 to March 2023). The self-care plan of TAO has two components: the organizational level self-care activities, and the personal self-care activities of each staff member.

Integrative treatments and healthcare education

INAM has also provided acupuncture treatment and regular massage sessions for TAO staff as part of the healthcare services under the CCC program. Each staff can avail of six sessions of acupuncture and monthly massage treatments at the INAM Center throughout the duration of the program.

TAO has joined several of the continuing health education sessions dubbed "Pagmalay" (consciousness) which tackles integrative medicine and self-help care. INAM has so far held 11 webinars with participating organizations since the online sessions began last year. The sessions have dealt with topics such as Filipino indigenous health systems, traditional Chinese medicine,

lifestyle diseases, prevention of communicable diseases, and acupuncture technique as a health modality for self-help care.

Self-care activities

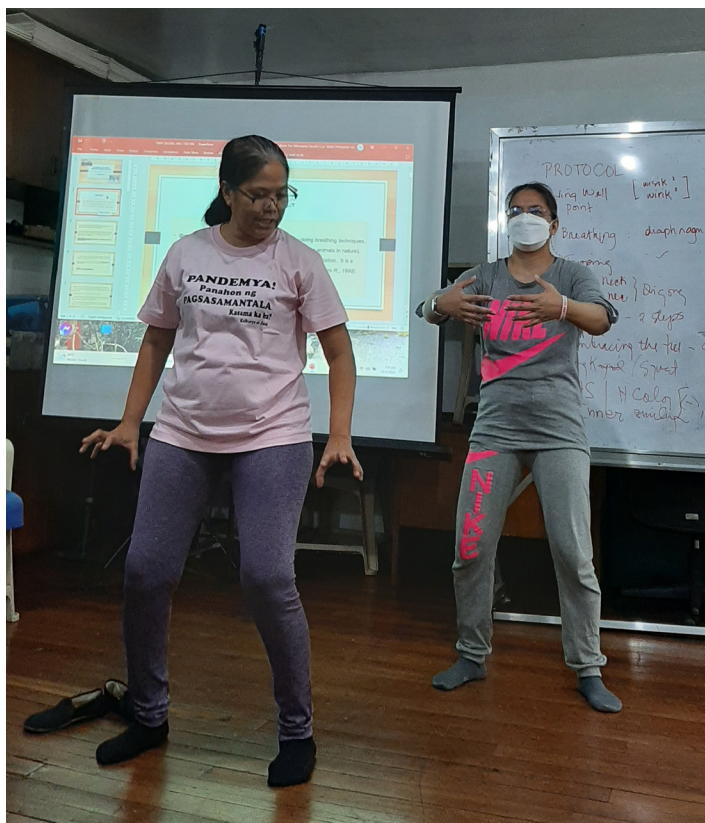
To implement TAO's integrated health plan, INAM conducted an orientation on qigong for TAO staff. Qigong is a system of "life-force energy cultivation" for improving health, maintaining wellbeing, and self-healing. It is a practice rooted in traditional Chinese medicine and involves coordinated body posture and movement, rhythmic breathing exercises, meditation, and visualization.

INAM's Annie Sollestre, certified acupuncturist and qigong instructor, facilitated the orientation for TAO staff last November 15. Ms. Sollestre discussed qigong's origin and theory and demonstrated qigong protocols. In their first session, the staff learned to practice nine forms of qigong exercises. Following the orientation, the staff intends to arrange group sessions to regularly practice the qigong exercises.

Under their individual self-care plans, each staff has identified various activities they would personally undertake. These activities comprise of self-treatments learned from the CCC program and healthy lifestyle practices (eg exercise, nutrition and water intake, sleeping schedule, active chores).

Next steps in the CCC program

TAO is currently undergoing a mid-evaluation of the health status of its individual staff. The staff is also set to go through two learning sessions on integration practices, one on the body-mind and spirit connection and another about the spirituality of healing. (GRMatabang)



Top photo: Ms. Annie Sollestre (front) demonstrates qigong body movements and breathing techniques. **Middle photo:** Lecture session to discuss theories on qigong were also provided by Ms. Annie. **Bottom photo:** TAO staff participants with INAM CCC organizers during the qigong orientation session.

PHILSSA echoes OD training to member orgs

COMING OFF ITS PARTICIPATION in a training course on organization development (OD) last July, PHILSSA has started to implement its OD intervention plan as part of the CSO2 Project. (See YP E-newsletter July-August 2022 issue.) PHILSSA echoed the basic OD topics of the July training by organizing its own “Training on OD for PHILSSA-member NGOs” on October 10 to 12.

The training was a hybrid activity, with a small group of PHILSSA NCR cluster members attending the sessions in-person at Joy-Nostalg Hotel in Pasig City, including representatives of FDUP, KDCI, MDF and SALIGAN. Online participants were representatives from BCCDI, BSBI, KAFCODE, JVOFI, and COM. As a member the OD resource pool, TAO-Pilipinas assisted the PHILSSA Secretariat in the facilitation of the sessions.

The program focused on the overview of the OD cycle and the different diagnostic tools and dialogic methods for diagnosing organizations. The main diagnostic tool identified by PHILSSA for the organizational health check of its member-orgs is the Organizational

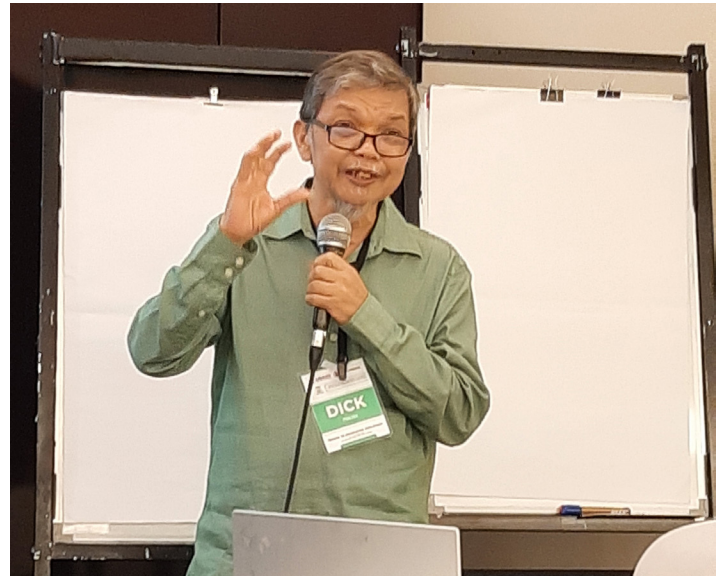
Capacity Assessment Tool or OCAT.

PHILSSA national coordinator Dick Balderrama discussed how OCAT can be used as a self-assessment tool for organizations to determine OD gaps and areas for improvement. He tackled each of the five capacity building areas for OD: (1) governance and leadership and strategic planning management; (2) program design implementation and management, and monitoring and evaluation; (3) resource mobilization and development; (4) financial management; and (5) administrative management and human resource development. Under these five areas, OCAT has a total of 63 indicators rated using a 6-point scale.

The training concluded with an OCAT simulation, with the participating organizations going through the different indicators and means of verification. PHILSSA is working towards having all its member-NGOs complete their OCAT self-assessment with their respective staff, board officers, and stakeholders. It has earmarked a small fund for OD assistance to member-NGOs, to be allocated based on the OCAT assessment results. (GR Matabang)



TAO executive director Arlene Lusterio discusses some of the tools for diagnosing organizations.



PHILSSA national coordinator Dick Balderrama explains using OCAT for organizational health check.



The in-person and online participants of the OD training activity.

TAO joins PHILSSA resource pool on DRRM in a series of training sessions

TO IMPROVE THE SERVICE it provides for its member-NGOs, the Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) created different thematic resource pools. The themes include organization development, financial management, resource mobilization, and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Representatives of PHILSSA member-NGOs also comprise the resource pools.

TAO-Pilipinas volunteered Angelus Sales to become part of the DRRM resource pool. She joins other members from PHILSSA NCR Cluster including John J Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJICSI), Urban Poor Associates (UPA), and Community Organizers Multiversity (COM). From the Luzon cluster, the members are People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network (PDRRN), Ateneo de Naga University – Center for Community Development (ADNU-CCD), and Bicol Center for Community Development, Inc. (BCCD). From the Visayas cluster, the members are Alternatives to Development (A2D) and Fellowship for Organizing Endeavors (FORGE); while from the Mindanao cluster, the member is Sentro para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya Inc. (SIKAT).

Levelling-off session

As capacity-building for the resource pool members, PHILSSA organized four sessions of DRRM training. The first two sessions were facilitated by

PDRRN with Esteban “Bong” Masagca and Ann Ria Barrera. The first session was held online last September 29, with the objective of levelling-off of DRRM framework, principles, and approaches specifically for emergency response.

PDRRN representatives discussed the key concepts in DRRM, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) framework plan, basic humanitarian guiding principles, and the core humanitarian standards (CHS). After the lecture session, the members shared their experiences and insights during the plenary discussion. They underscored the need to level-off the terminologies used by the different PHILSSA organizations conducting community trainings on DRRM.

Humanitarian response

The second online session was conducted last October 12 with the following objectives: 1) identify key elements of efficient and effective locally-led humanitarian response, 2) increase understanding and appreciation on the importance of quality assessment in designing a response plan, and 3) identify key issues commonly encountered and recommendations that PHILSSA can consider for future response.

The lecture session began with the discussion of the different assessment tools being used by national government during the different phases of disaster response. Contents of

assessment reports were also discussed and the steps taken to come up with an appropriate response plan. Afterwards, the members of the resource pool were asked to analyze an assessment report to simulate the steps of coming up with a response plan by using a flowchart provided by PDRRN. The members found the data provided in the assessment report was incomplete, making it difficult to formulate an appropriate response plan.

Cash transfer programs

The third online session of the DRRM training was given by Ivy Marian Panganiban as she shared her experience in providing cash grants as a post-disaster relief response during her time working with Oxfam Philippines. She discussed important considerations in cash transfer programming such as market conditions and local government acceptability. She also showed the response decision tree for cash grants that can help organizations decide whether or not to administer cash transfer programming.

Ms. Panganiban also delved into the issue of protection from sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) during disaster relief operations. PSEA is the measure taken by organizations to protect vulnerable people from sexual abuse and exploitation of their staff. She also differentiated key terms such as sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse in the context of humanitarian response. She then cited that humanitarian organizations doing disaster relief should give PSEA orientations not only to their staff but also

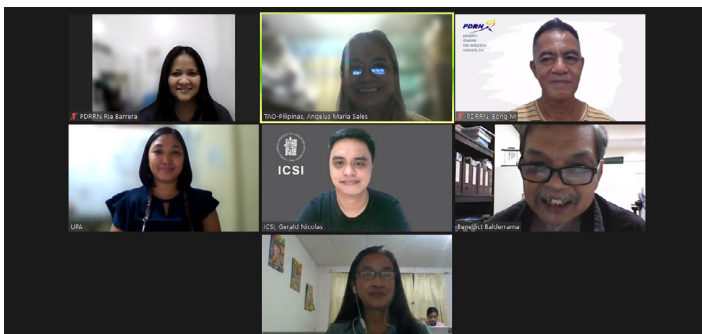
to the communities they are working with. She ended her lecture emphasizing the setting up of PSEA policies for all organizations especially those doing humanitarian response.

Planning session

The last meeting of the DRRM resource pool was a planning session held at Joy Nostalg Hotel last October 26. In this session, available members from the NCR cluster met face-to-face while those from the provinces like BCCD and SIKAT joined the discussion online.

The objective of the session was to establish the purpose of the DRRM resource pool and determine the next steps to be taken. They took into account not to simply replicate what PHILSSA member-NGOs have already been doing during disasters. They established that the resource pool can support the PHILSSA secretariat in DRRM information dissemination among PHILSSA members. They also clarified that the DRRM resource pool is not a quick response team. It can assist in capacity building and provide technical support to other PHILSSA members in terms of disaster response planning and assessment.

They recognized that funding may limit the activities of the DRRM resource pool as it remains unclear whether members will be compensated for their assistance. The session ended with a brainstorming on proposed actions to be made such as accessing quick relief fund (QRF), strengthening capacities on localization, advocacy work, and funding for response. (AMPSales)



Screenshot of the first online session facilitated by PDRRN with participants from UPA, JJICSI, TAO-Pilipinas, and BCCD.



PHILSSA secretariat facilitates a hybrid planning session of the DRRM Technical Resource Pool with some participants joining the discussion online.

Fundraisers in support of TAO 2023 operations

AS WE CAP A VERY difficult year for TAO-Pilipinas, a series of fundraising campaigns have been started to mobilize resources toward ensuring TAO's continued operations in 2023. TAO's work is largely funded by project grants but this does not sufficiently cover the administrative and operating costs to carry out its programs and services. Because of inadequate funds, TAO has been on reduced operations for the whole of 2022. While seeking fundraising opportunities, we will also move out of our current office by 2023 to find a more affordable home where we may continue our work with community partners.

For now, there are three fundraisers that supporters of TAO may participate in to help us generate funds

for the organization's sustainability: purchase the TAO book bundles; buy from our online auction of TAO office furniture and supplies; and join our year-end karaoke fundraiser.

Book Bundles and Book Giving Sponsorships

TAO is offering different bundled sets of TAO publications which are priced at PHP500, PHP1000, and PHP1700. With the book bundles, TAO books and magazines can be bought at discounted rates. TAO will also continue its book giving drive to public libraries in 2023. Sponsors may purchase the PHP500 TAO publications set to be donated to a local library. To purchase TAO books, go to <https://tinyurl.com/OrderTAObooks>

Online Silent Auction

TAO is selling its used office furniture and equipment as it downsizes its operation

and transfers to a smaller office space. Various items including chairs, desks and filing cabinets will be put in auction and sold to the highest bidder. Bidding participants must be in the exclusive list of TAO's network partners, alumni, volunteers and friends invited to post a bid. To view the auction items and participate in the bidding, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427171532839966/>

Karaoke Night with Friends of TAO

TAO will host a "Karaoke Night with Friends of TAO" which coincides with the Christmas and year-end party among TAO staff and colleagues. To raise funds, TAO will charge admission to the event. This admission charge will cover light refreshments for the evening and entitle the participant to sing one song on the karaoke

machine. A donation will be made for every additional song performed and the audience may donate a certain amount to nominate a person or group to sing. This is a by-invitation event for TAO's project partners, alumni, volunteers, network colleagues, and friends of TAO friends. To join the karaoke fundraiser on December 28, pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/sing4TAO>

If you wish to support us by spearheading your own fundraiser for TAO, kindly email info@tao-pilipinas.org or send us a message on FB @ [TAOPilipinasInc](https://www.facebook.com/TAOPilipinasInc) or IG @ [architectsinthemargins](https://www.instagram.com/architectsinthemargins) to coordinate with us before staging a fundraising campaign.



Bundled set A

- Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and Visual Design in Resettlement Projects
- Calbay Payas Reproductive Health and Family Planning
- Calbay Payas Reproductive Health and Family Planning
- One (1) back issue of TAO Shelter Magazine

PHP 500

Bundled set B

- Calbay Payas Reproductive Health and Family Planning
- Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and Visual Design in Resettlement Projects
- One (1) back issue of TAO Shelter Magazine

PHP 500

Bundled set C

- TAO Shelter Magazine 20th Anniversary Edition: Stories of Change 2022
- Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and Visual Design in Resettlement Projects
- Two (2) back issues of TAO Shelter Magazine

PHP 500

Bundled set D

- Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and Visual Design in Resettlement Projects
- One (1) back issue of TAO Shelter Magazine

PHP 500

Bundled set E

- TAO Shelter Magazine: Stories of Change 2022
- Two (2) back issues of TAO Shelter Magazine

PHP 1000

Bundled set F

- TAO Shelter Magazine: Stories of Change 2022
- Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and Visual Design in Resettlement Projects
- Two (2) back issues of TAO Shelter Magazine

PHP 1700

Bundled set G

- TAO Shelter Magazine: Stories of Change 2022
- TAO Shelter Magazine 20th Anniversary Edition: Stories of Change 2022
- One (1) back issue of TAO Shelter Magazine
- Free TAO tote bag

PHP 1700

Give the gift of reading >>>

<https://tinyurl.com/OrderTAObooks>

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Karaoke Night with Friends of TAO

A YEAREND FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF TAO-PILIPINAS

December 28, 2022 (8:00pm)
Music Match Tomas Morato

Pre-register at
<https://tinyurl.com/sing4TAO>



PUBLICATIONS

<https://tao-pilipinas.org>

@architectsinthemargins