



Photo for the Month

A view of the Metro Manila skyline at sunset. Photo was taken from Villa Cristina Resort, Antipolo City, venue of the 2006 YP Workshop on Social Housing.

Quote for the Month

*"Our focus here is the development of the human being as the target of all interventions. We should go back to the basics of the **human being**... We are beings **with** others --- equal among equals. And we are beings **for** others. We do not need to be rich to give to others. Give what another is due and that is valuable because the basic minimum of love is **justice**."*

"When we talk of poverty, what is visible is the material poverty. But we have to include the exclusions as dimensions of poverty --- people's capacities to decide and speak up for themselves."

- **Teresa B. Fernandez**, community organizer and Executive Director of Lihok Filipina Foundation, during her keynote address at the 2007 YP Regional Camp

Every time the YP advocacy is introduced in various fora or symposia, we are almost always met with feedback that encourages us to do more about getting young professionals to serve the traditionally underserved and marginalized sectors of society. (For those new to our mailing list, check out our January e-newsletter to know what YP is all about, go to www.tao-pilipinas.org/ypp.htm.)

In the recent YP Regional Camp organized by JF Ledesma Foundation in Negros Occidental (more of this event on pages 2-3), an engineering student commented on how issues about social housing and shelter security are hardly talked about in their classes. In another instance, one Metro Manila-based architecture professor invited us to speak as resource persons because apparently, the students "*did not know how to design for the poor*" after a design competition for low-cost housing was held.

With approximately 90% of our country's population considered poor, it is frustrating that our academic institutions continue to train us to provide design services for only the 10%. This need to **re-think** the design education of students and would-be professionals in the architecture and engineering fields motivate us in the YP network to promote **designing for inclusion** into the mainstream of design education. And as we continue to make the rounds of lectures and conferences, we do find support in deans and department heads who recognize this ethical dimension of design and that design professionals have a social responsibility to reach out to the underserved ninety-percent.

In this month's e-newsletter, we feature some of these efforts in promoting the YP advocacy:

- **TAO's YP Interns for Summer 2006**
- **JFLFI holds YP Regional Camp in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental**
- **IN PICS: YP Immersion on the ICEB Technology**

"It's time for us to go to the people rather than ask the people, especially the poor, to come to us."

TAO's YP Interns for Summer 2007

Seven YP interns were selected to work on various TAO projects this summer months of April and May. The student internships are part of the Young Professionals Orientation and Training Program organized by TAO-Pilipinas and supported by SELAVIP (Latin American, African and Asian Social Housing Service). The focus of the internship is community-based technical assistance and fieldwork activities in TAO-assisted urban poor communities in Metro Manila. The YP interns shall be exposed to alternative approaches in housing poor communities through community workshop facilitations, research activities, and development of training tools in land research, participatory planning, solid waste management and disaster-resistant housing.



This summer's intern pool includes four BS Architecture students from Polytechnic University of the Philippines and Mapua Institute of Technology: Rose Anne A. Evangelista, Paulo Nico S. Noble, Jasmine M. Soriano, and Ownery Rose DC. Diala; a BS Civil Engineering student from University of Sto. Tomas: Michelle G. Galarion; and two BS Geodetic Engineering students from University of the Philippines: Mark Anthony I. Lopez and Aaron Andro V. Ching. Their internship works also form part of the OJT (on the job training) requirements in their respective universities.

JFLFI holds YP Regional Camp in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental

JF Ledesma Foundation, Inc., TAO-Pilipinas' YP network partner, organized the 2007 YP Regional Camp in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental last April 27-29, 2007. Twelve universities and colleges in the Visayas and Mindanao regions sent representatives to participate in the YP camp activities. A professor-student tandem each represented the architecture or engineering departments of the following institutions: Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan; Mindanao Polytechnic State College; Silliman University; University of Cebu; Lyceo de Cagayan; MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology; Central Philippines University; Colegio de San Agustin; Ateneo de Davao University; Southwestern University; Holy Name University; and University of Bohol.



The highlights of the YP Camp included a series of lectures on the theme, **"Network Strengthening and Disaster Risk Management in Social Housing: A YP Challenge for 2007 and Beyond,"** and an immersion on the Interlocking Compressed Earth Block (ICEB) technology. Mr. Geoffrey Wheeler, Executive Director of the Center for Vocational Building Technology in Thailand, and Prof. Daniel Mostrales of MSU-IIT facilitated the technological immersion. The YP camp participants were

oriented in the actual production process and quality control of ICE Blocks as an innovative building material for low-cost housing projects. Examples of its use in the post-tsunami reconstruction efforts in southern Thailand were also presented.

Several resource speakers were at hand to share their presentations on diverse topics, including urban design and development, disaster risk management in flooding-affected areas, and communication advocacy tools. Social housing policies and the Community Mortgage Program were also extensively discussed, particularly the functions of institutions like the Philippine Undertaking for Social Housing (PUSH) and the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). The YP Regional Camp is held annually as a venue for young professionals to explore their role in issues of poverty, homelessness and sustainable development.

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IN PICS: YP Regional Camp

**Young Professionals
Regional Camp, Negros Occ.
April 27-29, 2007**

YP Camp speakers, from left: San Carlos City Mayor Eugenio V. Lacson, Teresa Fernandez of Lihok Filipina, Geoffrey Wheeler of Center for Vocational Building Technology, and Dam Vertido of Mindanao Land Foundation



Workshop on Interlocking Compressed Earth Block (ICEB) Technology: (top) YP participants move across station points that highlight the production process involved in making ICEB. (below) Sample blocks are measured with a caliper and miniature versions of the block are laid out to show stacking patterns for wall construction.

Top: YP camp participants engage the panel of speakers in an open forum on housing policy advocacy and policies. Below: Arlene Lusterio answers questions posed by YP participants



Announcements

TAO-Pilipinas, in cooperation with Mapua's School of Architecture, Industrial Design and the Built Environment, will hold a **YP Lecture** on **May 8, 2007** (1:30-5:00pm) at the Seminar Room of Mapua Institute of Technology, Intramuros, Manila. Resource speakers from SELAVIP (Latin American, African and Asian Social Housing Service), Lund University, Sweden and BORDA will present topics on *Experiences in Sheltering the Poor, Disaster-Resistant Construction System for Low-Income Households, and Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems*. All YPs are invited to attend the lecture.



Congratulations to Edra Belga, our program staff for HS&E, for having been selected as an Action Partner in the **Oxfam International Youth Partnerships** (OIYP) program. Edra joins a global network of young people working for social change and will attend the OIYP events in Australia.



Orders can now be placed for the 3rd issue of **TAO-Shelter Magazine** (theme: *waste management*). Previous issues (themes on *water, disaster risk management*) are still available; call 926-9504 or email info@tao-pilipinas.org

