

AUGUST-OCTOBER 2010

ypp e-newsletter

TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Program



A scaled model of floating urban gardens proposed by landscape architecture students for poor communities living in permanently flooded areas in Navotas. (photo by Verna Sarraga)

You didn't hear from us in a long while so we packed this issue with updates from activities in the last 2-1/2 months. And speaking of delays, it seems our 2010 YP Design Challenge has hit a snag and will not take off until next year or when additional funding materializes. (Our apologies to those who have been waiting for the competition updates.) Focus of our efforts right now is going to community trainings on disaster risk reduction for sites and buildings, given the scale and impact of disaster events that happened last year.

On a lighter note, you can now find TAO Young Professionals on Facebook! Get to see who made up our YP trainees, volunteers, mentors and community partners in the last five years. (So far we have uploaded photos from YP activities 2005 up to 2010. Plus, a shout out to all YPs! We'd love to hear from you, whether you're still locally-based or overseas, and get everyone signed up for the planned YP Reunion in 2011.) Continue to visit the YP webpage www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org for more updates about the program.

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quotes this month

"There are two ways of carrying out ideas and dreams. One is to really go after making a lot of money and then carry out your ideas. But for me, by the time you have made a lot of money you have forgotten about your ideas. The second is to reduce your need and want -- the mortgage, the cars, the other things we want. And that is a powerful way of going after ideas. When you are dealing with housing for the poor and dealing with poor people directly, you have to be part of it."

- **Nader Khalili** (1936-2008), Iranian-born architect, author, innovator of the Superadobe construction system, and founder of the California Institute of Earth Art and Architecture (Cal-Earth).

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

Barangay Gulod Leaders Undergo CBDRM Training

A Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training was carried out for community and barangay leaders of Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City last September 2 to 5, 2010. Barangay Gulod, situated along Tullahan River, was one of the areas severely affected by last year's massive flooding due to Tropical Storm Ondoy (*Ketsana*). The training was initiated by the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP) with the assistance of TAO-Pilipinas' Education and Training (ET) Program. It was held to increase the participants' awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concepts and gain understanding on the impacts of hazards on their settlement areas. It also aimed to enable them to formulate community action plans to address their vulnerabilities.

The first 2 days of the training which involved lecture sessions and workshop activities were held at the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) Training Center in Project 4, Quezon City. Resource speakers from the academe, scientific, national and local government offices, and non-government organizations were invited to provide inputs on CBDRM-related topics. These included *Implications of Climate Change to Human Settlements Development* by Dr. Laura David of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI); *Key Concepts on CBDRM* by EnP. Rosalyn Veneracion of TAO-Pilipinas; *Impact and Lessons from Tropical Storm Ondoy* by Dr. Rosa Perez from

Please turn to page 3.



The CBDRM training participants from Barangay Gulod with organizers from FDUP.



Participants complete the hazards and resources mapping exercise and identify evacuation routes in their community.

UP Architecture students immerse in Navotas communities for CWTS

The first semester SY 2010-2011 at the UP College of Architecture in Diliman brought 65 junior and senior architecture students to the poor communities in Navotas to assist in making community maps to exemplify the current housing situation in the area and also support the urban garden/SWM project of TAO-Pilipinas in Navotas. Architecture and interior design students did the mapping, while the landscape architecture students supported urban gardening.



UP architecture and interior design students consult with community leaders

The maps will help the people in planning for future community development projects and programs. The students mapped three areas in Barangay Tanza (Masagana, Bicol and Chungkang) and three areas in Barangay Tangos (R. Domingo, Dulong Tangos and Pantalan Uno). Community leaders hosted the students during the mapping conducted on September 11 and 25, 2010. The students' mapping outputs were presented to the community on October 1, 2010 during the First General Assembly of the ACCA Navotas Network (see related article on page 6).

Please turn to page 3.

TAO creates blog site for GSDI project

TAO-Pilipinas is conducting a research in partnership with the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association on Assessing the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) Needs of Non-Government Organizations and Local Government Units in the Philippines, to be able to recommend steps for the development and use of Geographic Information Technologies (GIT) and SDI-based services.

The GSDI Association is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world with the purpose to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. The project aims to promote the cooperation and sustain the GIT activities of Philippine-based NGOs and LGUs through the development of a spatial data infrastructure, which is at present inadequate. It requires the conduct of a needs assessment survey on the SDI requirements of the NGO sector and LGUs in the country that will hopefully lead to a more efficient means of data sharing/use for the improvement of NGO- and LGU-led initiatives in the Philippines. Sixty NGOs and LGUs were asked to participate in the survey and currently, data/survey form retrieval is ongoing. The project is expected to be completed by November.

To promote awareness, a blog site was also developed containing news and stories on global initiatives regarding geospatial data infrastructure and geographic information system and updates about the project in the Philippines. Please visit the blogsite at <http://sdi4philippines.blogspot.com> (Bey de Castro)

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Barangay Gulod... (from page 2)

The Manila Observatory (MO); *Participatory Research and Mapping in Barangay Gulod QC* by Ms. Teresa Antonio of Gulod Urban Poor Alliance (GUPA); *Hydro-Meteorological Hazards in Metro Manila* by Ms. Sharon Arruejo of Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA); *Geological Hazards in Metro Manila* by Dr. Jane Punongbayan of Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS); *Q.C. Disaster Level of Response* by Dr. Noel Lansang of the Quezon City Department of Public Order and Safety; and *Typhoon and Earthquake-Resilient Shelter Design and Construction* by EnP. Geraldine Matabang of TAO-Pilipinas.

Ample time for open forum allowed the audience to ask questions from the speakers and workshop activities were also integrated between the lecture sessions, ensuring that the participants were able to grasp the inputs provided by the resource persons. Among the training exercises were Hazards Identification and Assessment; Historical Timeline; Problem Tree Analysis; Hazards and Resources Mapping; and Identification of Evacuation Routes. (Rosalyn Veneracion)

UP Architecture...

(from page 2)

Assistance for the urban gardening project in Masagana Area, Tanza was in the form of a floating garden scale model and inputs on the care and propagation of plants. Students visited the Masagana community on September 13 and presented their design proposal on September 19 during the Solid Waste Management workshop in Tangos (see related article on page 4).



UP landscape architecture students look at existing urban gardening efforts of the flooded community



Mapping outputs presented at a general assembly in Tangos

The students are undertaking the activities for the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS-1) course under the guidance of Arch. Arlene Christy Lusterio and Arch. Faith Varona, TAO staff and senior lecturers at the UPCA. (Faith Varona)

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TAO's Rosalyn Veneracion explains the topographic map of Barangay Gulod

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Tangos youth group conduct SWM echo-workshop

The youth group of Tangos, Navotas who participated in TAO's Community-Based Solid Waste Management (CBSWM) Workshops last year conducted an echo-workshop for other youths in their community. Organized as part of the ACCA Navotas Network activities, the CBSWM echo-workshop was held on September 18-19, 2010 at the Multipurpose Hall of Tangos, Navotas. The youth group, composed of Pilar Lee, Donalyn dela Cruz, Daryll Calaoagan, Apple Calaoagan and Jimmy Hersano, facilitated the activity with the help of the Project Management Committee (PMC) leaders and TAO representatives. About 45 participants from 5 communities in the ACCA Navotas Network, mostly young people, attended the workshop.

The echo-workshop focused on waste segregation, composting, and recycling and participants joined in various group activities, discussions and ice breakers. On the workshop's second day, an urban gardening proposal for the MASAGANA area in Navotas was presented by a group of UP Landscape Architecture students that included Jose Antonio Bimbao, Marc Davis Caveria, Maria Vio Bianca Fernandez, Maria Ana Victoria Soriano and Yves Bacabac. They proposed garden blocks (approximately 2x2 meters) that float with the rise and fall of the tide/flood constantly present in the area.

The workshop was also attended by Tanza barangay captain Gil Acupang who helped in giving



(L-R) CBSWM training participants and facilitators; scaled model of the floating garden proposal presented at the workshop

out certificates to participants. In the end, every community laid-out their action plan for their own solid waste management. The three communities in Barangay Tangos plan to re-echo the workshop to their community, make garbage cans and implement waste segregation. For MASAGANA, the plans include implementing urban gardening and setting up a materials recovery facility. The Bicol Area also plans to implement urban gardening in their community. (Verna Sarraga)

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TAO gears for 10th anniversary in 2011

TAO-Pilipinas will celebrate its 10th year on 2011 and a number of events have been lined up to mark the organization's decade-long experience in providing technical assistance to the marginalized sectors. In a simple celebration of TAO's 9th anniversary last August 21 at Pansol, Laguna, its staff members conceptualized and planned the activities that will run from August to December 2011. Events that TAO shall be holding include a Partners Forum, Photo-Exhibit, YPs' Reunion, and a Community Products Fair/Exhibit. A special anniversary issue of TAO Shelter Magazine will also be released.



TAO-Pilipinas staff during their 9th anniversary celebration.

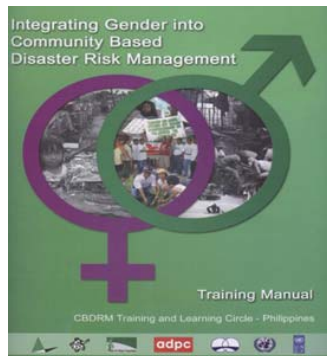
As part of the preparations for the 2011 events, a series of fund raising activities and sponsorship solicitation will be started in December this year. The first of these fund raisers will be a Pre-Christmas Rummage Sale at the TAO office in Diliman, Quezon City on December 3-4, 2010. Currently, TAO is requesting donations of children's clothes and toys that can be sold at urban poor-friendly prices for the Rummage Sale. (Geraldine Matabang)

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YP Reading List

Every issue, the YP e-newsletter features a selection of TAO Resource Center & Library materials as reviewed by TAO staff and volunteers. The TAO Resource Center & Library is now open for students and researchers' use. Library use is by appointment and guidelines may be viewed at <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/resources/library>. You may call Angel Sales at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email lib@tao-pilipinas.org to schedule your visit.



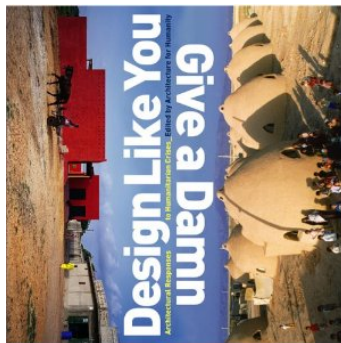
Title: **Integrating Gender into Community Based Disaster Risk Management: Training Manual**
Author: **CBDRM Training and Learning Circle – Philippines**
Publisher: **Center for Disaster Preparedness (2010)**

Integrating Gender into Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) is a training manual for DRM practitioners advocating the use of the strengths of a community in facing disaster risks. Included are the strengths of women, youth and children – typically called the vulnerable sector and oftentimes considered as merely recipients of aid. It highlights the modern approach in handling disaster risks, laying emphasis on proactive pre-disaster activities of prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Publication of this book is really timely since DRM and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), together with Climate Change Adaptation, are current popular issues. This will be very valuable to those groups, both Local Government and Non-Government organizations, which have now recognized the importance of gender-sensitive CBDRM and are just starting to incorporate such process into their usual activities and services provided for the community. The steps in the manual are easy to follow, as the writers made sure that the layout is organized by listing important items in bullets and providing useful tips to the facilitator. I was pleased that the manual has found methods of helping the community understand abstract or indefinable concepts in DRM. I myself was able to use the “Shaking Table Demonstration” to illustrate hazard, vulnerability, risk and risk management in a recently conducted CBDRM training for an urban poor community. It has also incorporated case studies, CBDRM good practices as well as fun workshop exercises that could be modified and applied in other workshops aside from CBDRM.

The book is both a training manual and a reference material. And as a reference material, I would suggest for it to have a 2nd volume that would share the experiences or modifications carried out by groups who have actually used the manual. There could also be updates on its statistical tables and improvement on some typographical errors. *(Rosalyn Veneracion)*

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Title: **Design Like You Give A Damn (Architectural Responses to Humanitarian Crises)**
Editor: **Architecture for Humanity**
Publisher: **Metropolis Books (2006)**

Design Like You Give A Damn showcases 80 different ways that architecture can be employed to address humanitarian issues such as homelessness, access to clean water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, displacement in conflict areas, and emergency shelter. The book is divided into four sections (Housing; Community; Water, Energy and Sanitation; and Politics, Policy and Planning) and each of the 80 projects featured are not only well-illustrated but presented with explanatory text. The introductory section on 100 Years of Humanitarian Design (by Kate Stohr) is an excellent and well-researched overview on the history of social housing and socially-conscious design movement, even providing a timeline of the most significant responses to disaster events since the 1900s.

The book presents to its readers a wealth of architectural design ideas and innovations that target the most marginalized sectors of society, bringing to light the potential for design professionals to lead in providing solutions to humanitarian crises. For architects who are looking towards a more socially-responsive career direction, this book provides ample inspiration. This book is useful not only for architects but for those who are working in the fields of post-disaster rebuilding and sustainable community development. Each project is described in the context of its location and the challenges that the proponents experienced to bring their design ideas to reality. Lessons on which designs worked and what still needed to be refined are explored. Collaboration and participatory design processes are also given emphasis in most of the featured projects.

I recommend Design Like You Give A Damn as essential reading for design students as it provides a strong introduction into the role of designers in improving quality of life, especially of those who are living in the direst conditions. (A second edition is set to be published by Architecture for Humanity.) *(Geraldine Matabang)*

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First General Assembly of the ACCA Navotas Network



Five community organizations from two barangays in Navotas held its first general assembly last October 1, 2010 in M/S Noah Training Center, Barangay Tanza, Navotas. Some guests were present including Bishop Deogracias Iniguez from the Diocese of Kalookan, Emma Manjares and company of Damayan ng Mamamayang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA), Ms. Leonora Acosta of M/S Noah Training Center, the Barangay Secretary of Tanza, and Jayne Banayad, a representative from the Office of Congressman Tobias Tiangco.

Presented in the event were the ACCA Navotas Network projects and some of the issues, problems and plans from each of the 5 member-organizations --- Masagana of Navotas Neighborhood Association; Samahang Pantalan Uno; Samahan ng Kababaihan sa Dulong Tangos; and Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangangalakal sa R. Domingo. The network's annual report was also presented by Arlene Christy D. Lusterio of TAO-Pilipinas, the NGO proponent of the ACCA project in Navotas City. Bishop Iniguez, Ms. Manjares of Dampa and Ms. Leonora Acosta of M/S Noah Training Center shared their praises and support to the efforts of the communities in Navotas. Bishop Deo pointed out that good and successful community initiatives are good models that should be shared and replicated in other poor communities especially in Navotas. *(Arlene Lusterio)*

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Christian Aid organizes Urban DRR Training for Partners



Christian Aid initiated a series of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) workshops for its partners in the Typhoon Ketsana Rehabilitation Program. The first, entitled "Urban DRR Workshop", aimed to provide a venue for learning and sharing of experiences on community-based urban DRR. It was held on August 9-12, 2010 at the Institute of Social Order (ISO), Ateneo de Manila University Campus in Quezon City. Participants to the workshop are expected to conduct local DRR trainings and Participatory Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment (PCVA) in partner communities.

The 4-day workshop focused on Basic DRR Concepts, Urban Hazards, Urban Vulnerabilities, DRR Strategies and PCVA facilitated by Toning Balang of Fellowship for Organizing Endeavors, Inc. (FORGE), Raymund Daen of Community Organization of the Philippines Enterprise (COPE) Foundation, Inc. and Allan Vera of Christian Aid. It was attended by Christian Aid partner organizations including TAO-Pilipinas, Inc., along with seven (7) other organizations namely, Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP); Community Organizers Multiversity (COM); Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA); Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal (SALIGAN); Socio-Pastoral Institute (SPI); Unlad-Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation Inc.; and Urban Poor Associates (UPA).

The next workshop, called Christian Aid Rapid Response and Assessment Team or CARRAT Training is scheduled on October 19-20, 2010 and shall discuss Basic Humanitarian Action Concepts, International Standards, Emergency Assessment, and Emergency Response Contingency Planning. *(Rosalyn Veneracion)*

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Holcim Philippines launches Awards for Sustainable Construction



Holcim Philippines recently launched the Awards for Sustainable Construction at The Grove in Pasig on August 10, 2010. The event was attended by its partners in media, the academe, building industry, and civil society. Holcim launched both the Foundation Award for Sustainable Construction (a global competition already in its third cycle) and the Journalism Award for Sustainable Construction which is a local initiative that will reward articles relating to sustainable construction.

During the event, key personalities who gave short talks included landscape architect Paulo Alcazaren of Blueprint Magazine, architect Edgardo Reformado of Green Architects Advocates of the Philippines, and social entrepreneur Illac Diaz of My Shelter Foundation. Popular alternative-folk singer Noel Cabangon also performed songs at the launch.

The Foundation Award, set to run until March 2011, has a Main Category (open to architects, planners, engineers, project owners, construction firms and builders) and a Next Generation Category (for student projects). The Journalism Award, on the other hand, will run from August until October 2010 and also has a Media Category and a Student Category. More information on the competitions is available online at www.holcimfoundation.org and www.holcimjournalismawards.ph. (*Geraldine Matabang*)

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PIEP & US Embassy Manila sponsor seminar on Designing Disaster Resilient Communities



The Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) and the US Embassy in Manila co-sponsored a seminar entitled "Designing Disaster Resilient Communities: Bridging the Hazards Management-Climate Change Adaptation Divide" last September 14, 2010 at the Sulo Riviera Hotel in Quezon City. It was attended by around 90 participants, most of them environmental planners, as well as representatives from national government agencies, local

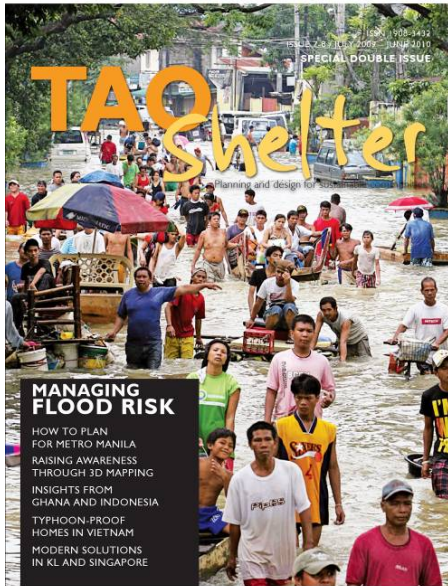
government units, the academe, and non-government organizations.

Dr. Gavin Smith, Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was the event's guest speaker. He emphasized the role of planning to bridge hazards management and climate change adaptation and presented various examples of mitigation, recovery and reconstruction strategies following different disasters in the United States, including Hurricane Katrina. He also commended the Philippines for its national policies on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), namely RA 10121 and RA 9729 respectively. From time to time, participants were given opportunities to ask questions, provide comments or share their experiences relevant to DRR and CCA. After the seminar, the speaker travelled to Cebu City to impart the same presentation on September 15 as well as in Davao City on September 17, 2010. (*Rosalyn Veneracion, with photo by Albert Zambrano*)

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Announcements

TAO Shelter Magazine No.7-8 (Double Issue) is now available for sale at PhP125 (USD3) each copy. The issue focuses on **Managing Flood Risk** and features the following sections:



Scrapbook: *Top flooding events in the Philippines and how Brad Pitt is helping build better homes in New Orleans*

Book Review: *Books on sustainable waste management and eco-friendly housing*

Involving Children: *Young people participate in raising awareness on hazards in their community*

What Went Wrong: *Analysis of the floods during Typhoon Ondoy and what we can do about it*

Participatory 3D Mapping: *Building a relief model helps a sitio in Pampanga understand flooding in their area*

The Slow Erosion of Ayigya: *A community's struggle to deal with the impact of floods in Kumasi, Ghana*

Rising Tides: *Research on a community's capacity to deal with coastal flooding in Semarang, Indonesia*

Preventing Typhoon Damage to Housing: *A program in Central Vietnam educates people how to typhoon-proof their houses*

Smart Solutions: *Infra projects in KL and Singapore reduce flooding and enhance urban quality of life*

A Holy Design: *A priest's motivation for living and working with the poor*

Design Cooperation: *A Belgian architect works with the future tenants of a future low-cost housing project in Pasay*

TAO News: *The 2009 YP Workshop, international shelter course, and urban gardening workshop*

For orders, please call (632) 441-0998 or email your request to info@tao-pilipinas.org. The online version (with limited content) of the magazine may be viewed at www.taoshelter.tao-pilipinas.org.

