

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

# ypp e-newsletter

TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Program



2009 YP Workshop official logo designed by contest winner Verna Sarraga.

The last two months that we have owed you this e-newsletter issue has actually brought us into the thick of preparations for the 2009 YP Workshop on October. Program details are steadily taking shape as resource persons confirm their availability to give lecture presentations, sponsors are committing to support participants, immersion sites have been selected with the help of DAMPA, Inc., and we have also chosen a new logo design for the workshop. (More of the workshop updates may be viewed at [www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org).)

The application period has ended but **we continue to accept late submissions** for the 2009 YP Workshop since remaining slots has yet to be filled up. Currently, there are more applications from those with engineering backgrounds so a bit more nudging for architecture people is in order. All we can say is they shouldn't miss this opportunity to learn from the communities. (Applications are still welcome and so are sponsors!)

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## quotes this month

"For every 100 pounds of product that's made, 3200 pounds of waste are generated."  
- Paul Hawken in his book "Natural Capitalism"

"What most people see in their garbage cans is just the tip of a material iceberg. The product itself contains in average only 5 percent of the raw materials involved in the process of making and delivering it."  
- William McDonough and Michael Braungart in the book "Cradle to Cradle"

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

## Three sites chosen as immersion areas for the 2009 YP Workshop

Three urban poor communities affiliated with DAMPA (Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api) were identified as immersion areas for the YP Workshop 2009. Prior to the selection of these immersion sites, a set of general criteria was established by TAO to ensure that the workshop objectives will be met and relevance to the theme sustained. Two of these areas are located in Quezon City while the other one is in Navotas City. The workshop participants shall undergo a 2-day stay-in immersion in these areas to facilitate community consultations concerning their water supply and sanitation conditions. Expected outputs of the workshop include proposals for community self-improvement projects that shall be implemented within a period of 2 to 4 months in each of these areas. These projects shall be based on the prioritized needs of the community and is expected to be completed by March 2010.

The three workshop immersion areas are SAMASAPE (Samahang Magkakapitbahay sa Pechayan), UNNAI (Upper Nawasa Neighborhood Association, Inc.), and BAHAI (Bicol Area Homeowners Association, Inc.). Initial community profiling have been conducted by the workshop organizers in coordination with DAMPA. *(Rosalyn Marcelo)*

### Community Profiles:



SAMASAPE is a People's Organization registered since 1991, with 300 members. They occupy an approximate land area of 1.1 hectares in North Fairview, Quezon City. The community resides near Tullahan River and a bridge along Commonwealth Avenue, making them susceptible to flooding and landslide.

Most of the residents in SAMASAPE compound have household piped water connections from Maynilad. Those without connection buy from their neighbors and spend around 800 pesos per month. Drinking water come from either distilled water in containers or the faucets as is (although no water testing has been conducted yet in the area). Few harvest rainwater as their water source for laundry and bathroom cleaning.

Several households use the pour-flush toilet type. These households have septic tanks but there are also residents whose sewage effluent and wastewater go straight into the drainage canals and river. Those without toilets throw their wastes in canals and river as well. In effect, children are affected by different types of illnesses such as diarrhea, stomach ache, intestinal parasitism, dengue and typhoid fever every time it floods.



UNNAI is a People's Organization that had just been reactivated but was already registered since 1995. The organization covers all five puroks of Upper NAWASA in Commonwealth, Quezon City with an estimated number of 2,000 families. The community is situated near a creek, and often experiences flooding.

The households in the community generally have piped water connections from Maynilad and pay around 270 pesos a month. Others with sub-meter connections pay 60 pesos per cubic meter. Those without connection at all buy from their neighbors at 3 pesos per pail. Water tests carried out by the Health Center (sometime 2005 or 2006) in Purok 2 showed that water from the wells and faucets is unfit for drinking. Still, approximately 90% of the community members drink water from the faucets and the rest buy distilled water in containers.

The most common toilet system is the pour-flush type. Some toilets have septic tanks but others direct their wastes into nearby canals and creek. Other residents simply throw their wastes in the canals, creek and pathways. Given such water supply and sanitation conditions, there have been instances of water-borne diseases in both children and adults.



BAHAI is an active People's Organization in Tanza, Navotas City registered since 1987. The first settlers of the area were mostly Bicolanos, thus giving rise to the name of the organization. The community of around 2,000 families is now permanently submerged in water, compelling them to build houses on stilts.

The community's main source of potable water is NAWASA, and their monthly bill is 200 pesos on the average. Those without water connection buy from their neighbors at 2.50 - 3 pesos per pail. Some households with children purchase distilled water at 25 pesos per container. A few practice rainwater harvesting which they use for bathroom cleaning. No water testing has ever been conducted in the area. In spite of this, the families seldom boil their water for drinking because of the required kerosene consumption.

Very few of the households in the area use the pour-flush toilet type. What they normally have is a hole where human waste goes directly into the water underneath their houses. Consequently, children experience cases of diarrhea, dengue, amoebiasis, stomachache and most frequently, skin disease.

## Roundtable discussion held with academic reps

Representatives of various architecture and engineering schools in Metro Manila participated in TAO-Pilipinas' Roundtable Discussion in preparation for the 2009 Young Professionals Workshop. The discussion, which provided inputs and feedback into the proposed YP Workshop agenda and program, took place at the UP – College of Architecture Boardroom on August 7, 2009. Among those present

Please turn to page 4.



*Community leader Margie Brucelo explaining the community plan before the mapping*



*Volunteer students before taking off in groups to map out the area in Pantalan Uno, Tangos*



*Volunteer students writing data in their mapping forms*



*Students, community youth and teachers together on their way to two areas in Oliveros, Tangos*

## TAO facilitates ACCA activities in Navotas City

Asian Coalition for Community Action is a project of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) covering 17 countries in the Asian region supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. ACCA aims to realize the improvement of poor people's lives by strengthening community organizations through small community-led initiatives such as small upgrading projects that could eventually lead to bigger steps of addressing the problem of security of tenure. ACCA emphasizes on the capacity of the poor to make plans, decisions and actions to improve their lives. It also encourages exchanges between poor organizations for them to learn from each others' successes and failures and in the process bolster their morale and their capacity to implement change in their own community. ACCA also aims to bring the scale of change to the city level and engage other actors in human settlements development most especially the local government.

TAO-Pilipinas, as a network of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, serves as a conduit and links the communities to the resources available. TAO-Pilipinas is also responsible of facilitating a truly community-led process of initiating change at the community level that is hoped, through the strengthening of communities, will be elevated to the scale of the city.

ACCA supports projects in nine (9) cities in the Philippines. In Navotas, ACCA supports a network of community-based organizations in 4 barangays: Tanza, Tangos, North Bay Boulevard North and North Bay Boulevard South. The ACCA Navotas Network (ANN) is composed of 3 community-based organizations and 2 federations. Last June 20, 2009, ANN member organizations nominated their official representatives to the project management committee which serves as the steering committee of the project.

With the objective to initiate its own savings and credit program, ANN conducted a seminar workshop on Savings and Credit on July 11 to 12, 2009. Resource persons from community-based organizations such as Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA) and Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI) were invited to share their experience especially on policies, approaches and problems encountered. A sharing on savings and loans program, CARITAS Salve, was also made by Samahang Kababaihan, a community organization who is a beneficiary of the program.

The network recently completed its settlements mapping in 4 barangays which started on August 17. The mapping activity was participated by 32 community youths, 15 community leaders and 40 architecture students from the University of the Philippines College of Architecture. The settlements mapping will help the organizations know better the physical situation in their communities which will guide them in making their plans for the development of their place.

Upcoming activities include a socio-economic survey of all ANN member organizations from September to October and a training activity for the youth on Participatory GIS (Geographic Information System) on Sept 26-27 to enable them to process and use the data gathered during the settlements mapping activity. (Arlene Lusterio)

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## TAO receives Youth Action Grant from Starbucks Foundation

TAO-Pilipinas is one of the recipients for this year's Youth Action Grants from Starbucks Foundation. The Youth Action Grant (formerly known as Social Entrepreneur's Fund) is a Starbucks Global Responsibility program that supports youth leadership and organizations with youth-led projects that positively impact the community.

The grant will fund the TAO project named "Community-Based Solid Waste Management: Earning by Greening Poor Communities in Metro Manila" which aims to generate livelihood opportunities through community-based solid waste management or CB-SWM. The project targets the youth leaders in poor communities in Metro Manila who will undergo training on CB-SWM to help create a cleaner and healthier environment in their communities. Project activities will promote the 3 R's (reduce-reuse-recycle) of waste management and integrate composting and urban gardening. The Education and Training Program of TAO-Pilipinas has developed a training module on CB-SWM and has already conducted trainings with communities in Tanza, Navotas and Malibay, Pasay.

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## YP Design Challenge featured at MANILACON 09 "Green Path" Gallery

TAO-Pilipinas' YP Design Challenge was one of the projects featured in the "The Green Path" Gallery of the Construction Show Manila 2009 (MANILACON 09) at the SMX Convention Center. The exhibit, which ran from September 3 to 6, 2009, showcased projects that execute principles in green architecture and sustainability.

The YP Design Challenge was a design competition conducted by TAO-Pilipinas in 2008 and participated by various architecture and engineering schools in Metro Manila. It comprised of two design challenge categories, Sustainable Shelter and Portable Playground.

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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](mailto:lib@tao-pilipinas.org) to schedule your visit.



Title: **Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things** (Audio-CD)

Authors: **William McDonough** and **Michael Braungart**; with **Stephen Hoye** (reader)

Publisher: **Tantor Media (2008)**

*About the authors: (from the audio-book jacket)*

William McDonough is the founding principal of William McDonough & Partners, Architecture and Community Design, based in Charlottesville, Virginia. Michael Braungart is the founder of the Environmental Protection Encouragement Agency in Hamburg, Germany. In 1995, they created McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry, a product and systems development firm assisting client companies in implementing their unique sustaining design protocol.

**Content:**

Cradle to Cradle is a manifesto of environmentalism that goes beyond the *reduce-reuse-recycle* credo. McDonough and Braungart argue that the traditional recycling and eco-efficiency approach does not actually prevent ecosystem damage but merely delays them because wastes will eventually be landfilled along with the toxic substances (described as a "cradle to

## Roundtable discussion...

(from page 3)

were Dr. Romeo Santos (UP-CA), Dr. Rhodora Gonzalez (UP GE Dept), Arch. Jocelyn Lutap (PUP-CAFA), Arch. Lemuel Alvaro (TIP); Arch. Albert Zambrano (Mapua-ARIDBE); Arch. Vicente Daulong (TUP-CAFA); Arch. Karmela Bayot (PLM); Engr. Anthony Mendoza (UE-CE); Dr. Delia Senoro and Engr. Fibor Tan (Mapua-SCEESE), Engrs. Guillermo Bernabe and Elaine Rodriguez (PUP-CE), and Mr. Mark Morales (UP-SURP).

Issues discussed during the forum included ensuring sustainability of the project, implementation of community self-improvement projects, and the viability of executing projects in informal areas without secure tenure. Overall, the invited guests expressed their appreciation of the workshop theme and program as well as its relevance to the current housing and urban development situation. (Rosalyn Marcelo)

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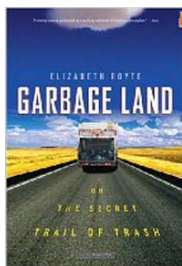
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grave" scenario). They contend that the end of a product's usefulness should provide nourishment for something new; thus, their design philosophy is based on the principle of "waste equals food." It takes nature as the model (e.g. animals die and their carcasses feed fungi and microbes) for developing sustainable products and systems and "eco-effectiveness" of materials and material flows becomes the new standard. Some of the examples they give of actual products created using the Cradle to Cradle design principles include biodegradable rubber soles for shoes, non-toxic fabric and dyes, packaging, and green roofs (rooftops covered with vegetation that serve as natural insulation).

**Review:**

This book is a call for a new level of eco-consciousness that is directed towards product designers, architects and corporations. Their philosophy can inspire innovation in the manufacture of products and design of the built environment. They prescribe strategies that give importance to design and planning as solutions to protect the environment. Their arguments however, do not go much into issues such as urging action to change consumer habits or curb population growth. Because of this focus on design as the solution, some of their envisioned scenarios may seem too good to be true. Nevertheless, the book provides a hopeful vision especially for product designers and architects to create things that are not just "less bad" but that are 100% recyclable, toxin-free, and therefore positively good for the environment. (Ge Matabang)



Title: **Garbage Land: On the Secret Trail of Trash**  
Editors: **Elizabeth Royte**  
Publisher: **Little, Brown and Company (2005)**

*About the author (from back cover):* Elizabeth Royte is the author of The Tapir's Morning Bath; Solving the Mysteries of the Tropical Rain Forest and has written for the New York Times Magazine, Harper's, National Geographic, and other national magazines.

**Content:**

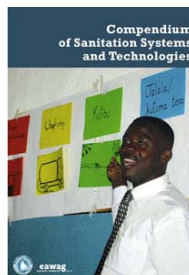
Elizabeth Royte, a journalist who lives in New York City, tracks down where the solid and liquid wastes generated in her household goes to. She starts by carefully quantifying the things that end up in their trash and this investigation leads her on a garbage route leading to the landfill. Along the way she encounters sanitation workers and men and women in facilities where wastes are diverted from the landfill — composting farm, paper recycling center, scrap metal yard, (hazardous) metals reclamation center, electronic waste transfer station, plastic recycling plant, and sewage treatment plant.

Royte shows how sludge (processed as "biosolid" pellets) is used as fertilizer for farms, underscores the toxins that are added to the environment with the manufacture and disposal of plastic products, and explains how effective recycling is largely determined by economies of scale and state regulations. She also comments on how the market and landfilling make it too easy for people to get rid of things without thinking about the amount of non-renewable material and energy the goes into its production and delivery.

**Review:**

The book is a very enlightening look at the propensity of people to discard because of upwardly mobile lifestyles, the continuously growing waste stream, technological fixes, and how the waste that we generate can circle back to bite us (i.e. groundwater contamination, air pollution, high toxicity levels of farm produce). The author's exploration into her own trash trail is interestingly written. She also provides the reader with comprehensive references and notes to related books, reports and articles that were used in her account.

The information in this book encourages one to look out for environmental benefits in purchasing a product, like being conscious of toxic ingredients as well as the percentage of recycled content in the packaging. Ultimately, it reminds us that both environmentally-responsible producers and consumers are needed so that our garbage trail may lead us to sustainability. (Ge Matabang)



Title: **Compendium of Sanitation Systems and Technologies**  
Publisher: **Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) (2008)**

*About the author (from [www.eawag.ch](http://www.eawag.ch)):* The Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag) is a world-leading aquatic research institute based in Dübendorf, Switzerland. Their research activities provide the basis for innovative approaches and technologies in the water sector and are carried out in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

**Content:**

Compendium of Sanitation Systems and Technologies is an extensive compilation of abundant information on sanitation systems and innovative technologies that exists in several books, reports and journals. Apart from pulling the main information all together in one volume, the Compendium also aims to promote a systems approach, where sanitation devices and technologies are regarded as elements of an entire system. It is divided into two parts, the (1) System Templates and (2) Technology Information Sheets. Part 1 provides a description of how to use the System Templates by familiarizing the users with terminologies as well as the templates' structure and components. Part 2 is comprised of various Technology Information Sheets that details how the system works, its main advantages, disadvantages and the appropriateness of each technology in the construction of a complete sanitation system.

**Review:**

Considering all the reference materials I have read on water and sanitation, I can say that much of the information that was retained in my memory came from this sourcebook. Although primarily intended for professionals already familiar with sanitation infrastructure delivery, this Compendium was thoroughly structured in such a way that non-experts like me would understand the broad range of sanitation technologies and processes. Each technology description page has a distinctive color (coded according to its function), and number code for cross-referencing. They are also complemented with light yet interesting illustrations, which is definitely not the usual impression of diagrams associated with human waste.

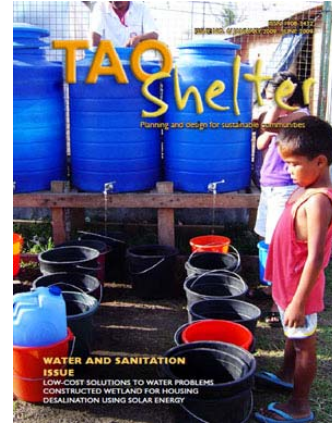
What I appreciate most is the manner in which the options are presented. The Compendium has actually highlighted the need to consult the community and other stakeholders in the planning, design and selection of the most appropriate sanitation system. Since information on the technology's adequacy, health aspects/acceptance, maintenance, pros and cons are all provided, the readers will be able to choose based on the users' local environment, culture and available resources. This Compendium is a fascinating read to both skilled and amateur individuals who find happiness in promoting people-centered solutions to real sanitation problems. (Rosalyn Marcelo)

## Announcements

### TAO Shelter Magazine Issue no.6

TAO Shelter magazine's 6<sup>th</sup> issue will be available by October 2009. The new issue focuses on **Water and Sanitation**, with feature articles on:

- *Scrapbook*: A timeline of the evolution of the toilet
- *4 simple design innovations*: Low-tech toilets and water filters for developing countries
- *On our bookshelf*: Books on architectural activism
- *What you should know about the Clean Water Act*: Basics of the water pollution control law
- *Desalination through solar energy*: How to extract potable water from the sea
- *The Bayawan constructed wetland*: Alternative wastewater management in Negros
- *Water and sanitation basics*: A rundown of the systems, regulations, and technologies
- *Across continents*: Foreign architecture students reflect on their lessons from the Philippines
- *TAO News*: Conferences, forums, and exhibits organized by TAO
- *Directory*: Information and technical assistance related to water and sanitation



TAO Shelter is sold at PhP125.00 per copy (exclusive of delivery charges). For orders (current and past issues), please call (632)441-0998 or email your request to [info@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:info@tao-pilipinas.org).



### TAO Resource Center now online

You may now access the TAO Resource Center online at [www.resourcecenter.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.resourcecenter.tao-pilipinas.org). TAO RC is a project of the Research and Publications Program of TAO-Pilipinas and has three major components: Library; TAO Shelter Magazine and other Publications; and Research Hosting and Fellowships.



### New members of TAO Board of Directors

We would like to welcome the new members of the TAO Board of Directors, Tonet Tanchuling and Ning Encarnacion-Tan!

Dr. Maria Antonia N. Tanchuling teaches Environmental Engineering at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She is an associate professor at the UP Institute of Civil Engineering and also serves as the Associate Dean for Student and Industry Linkage.

Architect Rosario Encarnacion-Tan is a known proponent of green architecture, extensively using bamboo as structural element in her architectural designs. She also writes and lectures on Philippine art and architecture. Among the publications she was involved in are "Folk Architecture" and "Philippine Ancestral Houses."



### Winner of the YP Workshop Logo Design Contest

Congratulations to **Verna Lucia Sarraga** for winning the Logo Design Contest for the 2009 YP Workshop. Verna's design will be used in the workshop streamers, shirts and kits. She will also attend the 6-day training program as a sponsored participant. You may view her winning entry at [www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org](http://www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org).



## New Sponsors for the 2009 YP Workshop



**OMNIBOARD**  
Manufactured by:  
EARN Corporation



We would like to thank our new sponsors for the 2009 YP Workshop! EARN Corporation and Slipcon Services, Inc. are sponsoring a number of students to join the 6-day workshop without having to pay the registration fee. We are much grateful for the support as this allows students to participate in the workshop and do volunteer work for TAO.



TAO-Pilipinas is still soliciting support for the 2009 YP Workshop on Social Housing which is scheduled to be held on October 22-27, 2009 in Metro Manila. You may choose to support the project through any the following manners:

**Sponsorship of Workshop Participants at Php6,000/participant**

**Luncheon or Dinner Sponsorship for 40 pax at Php12,000**

**Major Sponsorship at Php50,000**

**In-kind Sponsorship of Workshop Materials, Supplies or Equipment**

Details of the sponsorship packages may be viewed at <http://ypws.tao-pilipinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/sponsorship%20packages09.pdf>. For more information, please contact Mai Ilagan at 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email [yp@tao-pilipinas.org](mailto:yp@tao-pilipinas.org).

