

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2009

ypp e-newsletter

TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Program



A little more than two years after typhoon *Reming* struck in 2006, displaced families have since been relocated to various resettlement areas in Albay, Bicol. In this picture, a view from a van dashboard shows rows of multi-colored houses provided by housing donor groups in Camalig, Albay.

Over the past two months TAO welcomed three groups of international delegates participating in various training courses under Lund University's Housing and Development Management (HDM) Department. This has been the second year that TAO served as local coordinator, facilitating participants' field visits to housing development sites in Metro Manila to experience what they refer to as "architecture in extreme environments." (See page 4.)

In the coming months, TAO will start organizing its own annual training program, the YP Workshop on Social Housing, for local participants. The thematic program for this year's YP Workshop, set for October 2009, will focus on water and sanitation issues with immersion activities in urban poor communities in Metro Manila. At the end of the project, we hope to form a new batch of committed young professionals to undertake small community projects that will embody the collaborative partnership between the young professionals and communities in need. As we mobilize the resources required for this activity, we'll also need extra hands to do research work, community technical needs assessments, and sponsorship solicitations. Volunteers are very much welcome to work with us, just email us at yp@tao-pilipinas.org.

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quote this month

"Time loves to be wasted. From that waste there can be no salvage. It is the hardest of all waste to correct because it does not litter the floor."

- Henry Ford (1863-1947), American industrialist, founder of the Ford Motor Company, and considered the father of modern assembly lines used in mass production.

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

ProVention grantees from TAO-Pilipinas hold stakeholders forum on DRR at Legaspi City

ProVention Consortium Research Grant recipients from TAO-Pilipinas presented their project findings in a forum at the Ocean Villa Restaurant in Legaspi City on January 29, 2009. The forum entitled, "Stakeholders Forum on Rehabilitation After Disasters," was jointly organized by Amillah Rodil, editor of TAO-Shelter magazine, and a research team led by Geraldine Matabang, YP program



Participants in the Stakeholders Forum included representatives from Albay Mabuhay Task Force, National Housing Authority Region V, Albay Planning and Development Office, Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, Legaspi City Disaster Coordinating Council, COPE Foundation, Daughters of Charity, Compassion International, Aquinas University, Bicol University, and community representatives from Daraga and Legaspi.

coordinator. The presentation to Albay stakeholders that include local government officials, representatives of housing donor groups and housing beneficiaries in the resettlement sites, and

representatives from the academe, forms part of the two action-research projects on disaster risk reduction (DRR) that focused on the recovery efforts in Albay province after typhoon *Reming* struck in 2006.

Amillah Rodil presented the results of her research project, "*Client Needs Assessment for Post-Disaster Shelter Planning in Albay*," which aims to develop a client needs assessment method to shape policy options for shelter or housing assistance after a disaster. The study examined the processes that happened in Albay after typhoon *Reming* displaced thousands of families and mapped communities in critical areas in Barangays Bañag, Binitayan, and Tagas in Daraga, Albay.

Ge Matabang, together with research team members Rosalyn Marcelo and Beryl Baybay, presented the results of their research project entitled, "*Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and House Design of Resettlement Projects in Albay*." The study documented the design and construction of various housing units that have been built in Taysan, Legaspi and Anislag-Phase 2, Daraga resettlement sites and analyzed them based on disaster-resilient design guidelines/principles categorized into: location of sites for housing; site preparation; building configuration; foundation type; posts and columns; floor design; exterior wall construction; doors and windows; roof design and materials; and roof connections. The study also looked into how resettled families have coped with the conditions in the resettlement sites and recommended some steps towards greater public awareness on safe building design and construction practices.



Housing units in the NHA-developed resettlement area in Camalig, Albay

The objectives of the forum were to solicit feedback from stakeholders to validate research results as well as recommendations for further improvement of the studies and to explore ways on how the research projects may be used by policy and decision makers in local government. At the end of the forum, participants were given copies of the research projects' communication pieces including a manual on client needs assessment after disasters and a pamphlet-handout on disaster-resilient shelter design and construction.

(You may email Ge Matabang at grmatabang@gmail.com and Amillah Rodil at asrodil@gmail.com for inquiries about their researches or for requests for copies of the research publications. For more information about the ProVention Action and Research Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction, please visit <http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=4>.)

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TAO mounts travelling exhibit of YP Design Challenge entries

Since January 2009, the winning and notable entries from the 2008 YP Design Challenge: Ideas for Sustainable Communities have now been exhibited in different venues, starting at the St. Hannibal Empowerment Center (SHEC) Phase 2 Housing Project in Malibay, Pasay City. On February 4, it was exhibited as part of the Wednesdays Open Platform (WOP) activities at Green Papaya Art Projects gallery in Quezon City. Participants of the Shelter Design and Development (SDD) International Training Course were also able to view the YP Design Challenge entries on February 9 when they were exhibited at the Imperial Hotel.

The exhibit features the presentation boards of the winning entries in the Sustainable Shelter and Portable Playground categories, along with the entries' scaled models done by architects/model-makers Edra Belga and Ave Casono. Most recently, the exhibit was mounted at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Architecture and Fine Arts (PUP-CAFA) in Sta. Mesa, Manila on February 24 to 27, 2009 as part of the celebration of PUP-CAFA's 8th Foundation Anniversary.

The YP Design Challenge, launched in June 2008, is a design ideas competition for students and young professionals that asked for design solutions for sustainable community development in urban poor settlements. More than 70 design entries were received from competitors that represented eleven (11) Metro Manila-based architecture and engineering colleges. The winners and finalists were selected by a jury panel that included Arlene Lusterio, Dinky von Einsiedel, and Ramby Nolido for Sustainable Shelter; and Faith Varona, Robert Alejandro, and Ellen Ramos for Portable Playground.

The exhibit will run until May 2009. Requests for the exhibit to be presented in other venues are still open and interested groups may contact yp@tao-pilipinas.org to arrange an exhibit schedule. The winning and notable entries are also featured in issue number 5 of TAO Shelter magazine and may be viewed online at www.yppdesignchallenge.tao-pilipinas.org.



Pictures of the YPDC exhibit at the Green Papaya Art Projects, PUP-CAFA, and during the SDD Course in Imperial Hotel.

Shelter Design and Development Course organized in Manila

Twenty-seven (27) international delegates participated in the 4th phase of the Shelter Design and Development (SDD) International Training Course that was held in Manila on February 9 to 20, 2009. The SDD Course is a 6-month, 5-phase training program for professionals working on shelter issues and administered by the Housing Development and Management (HDM) Department of Lund University, Sweden. *(For more information, please visit http://www.hdm.lth.se/education/international_training_programmes/shelter_design_development/)*

TAO-Pilipinas is the local organizer for the two-week program of activities that included lectures and presentations on local housing policies and programs and site visits to housing development projects in Manila, Taguig, Muntinlupa, Pasay, Quezon City, and Tagaytay City. This is the second consecutive year that TAO-Pilipinas has been coordinating the SDD Phase 4 activities under the guidance of HDM Director Johnny Astrand and Rachele Navarro-Astrand.

Participants in the SDD course included delegates from Botswana, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. At the end of the course, each participant presented project proposals that will be implemented in their home organizations.

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YPs in Cambodia hold workshop with communities under threat of eviction

Sahmakum Teang Tnaut (STT) in Cambodia organized workshops with young professionals and communities under threat of eviction. According to Hallam Goad of STT, the workshops were held March 3-5, 2009 to give YPs an insight into the situation of urban poor communities in Cambodia. He adds:

Despite the recent world economic problems Cambodia continues to attract investment particularly in economic land concessions (ELCs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZ). While development is to be welcomed in Cambodia, the use of forced eviction to remove families from their homes without reasonable compensation is causing widespread problems. How then does the designer/planner respond to this? Avoiding the issue by saying it is not 'design' related is clearly not an option but then how to approach it? The answers are far from simple and in many cases unanswered. This workshop will begin to look at some of the issues and see what Cambodia's urban communities and concerned organisations are doing to confront this endemic problem.

This is the second year of a collaborative workshop with students from various Cambodian Universities and the University of Helsinki who spent three days looking at the current challenges for design students working in cities affected by forced eviction. (For more information about STT projects, please visit <http://www.teangtnaut.org/>)

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Architecture students from Sweden in Manila for fieldwork on Urban Shelter Course

Undergraduate students of architecture from the Housing Development and Management (HDM) Department of Lund University, Sweden spent four weeks in Manila as part of fieldwork activities for their Urban Shelter Course. The class, under HDM Director Johnny Astrand, is composed of sixteen Swedish and exchange students from Austria, Chile, France, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, and UK. The studio course is entitled "Architecture in Extreme Environments" with focus on middle-income housing development.

Starting February 16, 2009, the class was able to conduct research and data gathering for neighborhood and housing design proposals in three sites in Metro Manila --- a government property in Luzon Avenue, Quezon City; a site within the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa; and a site within the proposed business district in North Triangle, Quezon City. On March 12, 2009, the class presented their initial design concepts at the National Housing Authority (NHA) Boardroom before a panel of invited guests including NHA officials and members of United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) Quezon City-Elliptical Chapter. Final design proposals will be submitted by the students by the end of their coursework in Lund University, Sweden.

TAO-Pilipinas coordinators Beryl Baybay and Faith Varona facilitated the students' lecture sessions and field visits to middle and low-income housing sites. While in Manila, they stayed at the University Hotel in UP Campus, Diliman. They also visited Barangay Holy Spirit, Payatas, Smokey Mountain, Baseco, St. Hannibal Empowerment Center in Pasay, and Intramuros.

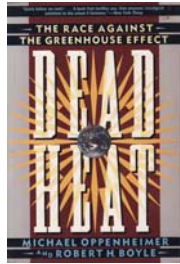


Architecture students from Lund University, Sweden present their design concepts and proposals for housing development in Manila. Upper pictures show presentations by Lisa Sykes, Annsofi Ottoson, and Ilyas Awadh. Lower picture shows the class with TAO, NHA, and UAP representatives.



YP Reading List

Every month, 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.



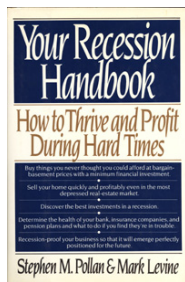
Title: **Dead Heat: The Race Against the Greenhouse Effect**
Authors: **Michael Oppenheimer and Robert H. Boyle**
Publisher: **New Republic/Basic Books (1990)**

Dr. Michael Oppenheimer is a Princeton University professor and a leading scholar on global warming. He was also the lead author of the *Fourth Assessment Report* by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which won the Nobel Prize in 2007. Robert H. Boyle is the founder of Riverkeeper and Water Keeper Alliance and author of *The Hudson River* and *Acid Rain*.

This book was published almost 20 years ago when it was still being debated upon within the scientific community whether global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions is a problem that really exists. With today's acceptance of global warming as a pressing issue (and with melting ice caps and rising sea levels as decisive proofs), this book provides the reader with a hindsight of what some scientists already forewarned in the 1990s if emission of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel combustion is allowed to continue. Grim scenarios of extreme weather conditions and global warming refugees and wastelands are presented, but much of the book outlines a detailed plan of action to move away from fossil fuel dependence and switch to solar energy.

Dead Heat provides an enlightening discussion on the science and politics of global warming. Oppenheimer and Boyle acknowledge that the transition to a new energy scenario will not happen overnight and that the bridge to a sustainable future should be built on energy efficiency improvements in industry, transportation, and habitation. Of interest to urban planners are solutions the authors propose including redesigning cities to accommodate mass transit and make people less dependent on cars and restructuring metropolitan areas through land-use and zoning controls. They argue for a more diversified or balanced transportation system that can be greenhouse-benign.

A precursor to more recent works like Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, the solutions offered by the authors 20 years ago in this book remain relevant and make the readers of today evaluate how far we have gone since to reduce carbon emissions and significantly slow global warming. (*Ge Matabang*)

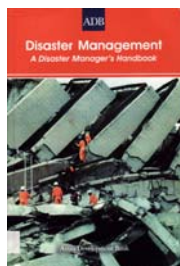


Title: **Your Recession Handbook: How to Thrive and Profit During Hard Times**
Author: **Stephen M. Pollan and Mark Levine**
Publisher: **William Morrow and Company (1991)**

The author, Stephen M. Pollan, is a consultant on personal finance, small business and real estate. He is a financial and business correspondent for the Consumer News and Business Channel. His co-author Mark Levine also writes about business living.

Your Recession Handbook discusses how to stop worrying during hard times and start taking charge of one's financial matters instead. Basically, the different chapters of the book talk about ensuring a stream of income, making sure that one's assets are safe, and taking advantage of opportunities even during a financial crisis such as the current global economic slow down we face. It provides strategies on how to keep your job, get a new one if you're laid off, ensuring that your assets in the bank or insurance company is not in trouble, handling debts, building a cash reserve, how to benefit from the ups and downs of the real estate business and how to take advantage of this opportunity to put up your own business even during tough economic times.

This is a good reference for anyone in the work force, free lancers, entrepreneurs, and those who are planning to enter the market including those who just graduated. (*Gwen Lucero*)



Title: **Disaster Management: A Disaster Manager's Handbook**
Author: **W. Nick Carter**
Publisher: **Asian Development Bank (1991)**

The author, W. Nick Carter, provides consultancy services to numerous governments and UN agencies specializing in disaster analysis and counter-disaster planning, organizations, training and response operations, specifically in the Pacific Region.

The book is intended to serve as a practical reference for all officials, whether within or outside government, who may hold key responsibilities for managing disaster situations. It focuses on the disaster management activities of countries in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region, covering calamities such as earthquake, volcanic eruption, tsunami, cyclone, flood, and landslides. It outlines the characteristics and general effects of disasters; then discusses thoroughly the major requirements for coping with disaster in terms of policies & legislation, organization, leadership, planning and utilization of resources. The book also talks about the major factors to consider before, during and after disaster impact and the importance of taking into account other support requirements such as public awareness, training and research.

The format of this handbook, presented in a ready-reference style, is simple and very easy to use. The terms are clear and comprehensible not only to disaster managers but to students and researchers as well. The main considerations necessary to the activities in the disaster management cycle (such as problem areas, major requirements and available resources) are presented in a logical manner. There are case examples and scenarios that make the concepts much clearer, and which readers could relate to in analyzing their local conditions. This book has been used as reference in several publications relating to disaster management. (*Osang Marcelo*)

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TAO Shelter Magazine now PhP125.00 each



Starting with its 5th issue, TAO Shelter Magazine will now be sold at PhP125.00 each.

Issue nos. 1 to 4 is still sold at PhP100.00 per copy.

The latest issue focuses on **Climate Change**, with feature articles on:

- 6 Climate Change Impacts:** The local effects of global warming
- Measure your Eco-footprint:** Websites that make it quick and easy
- DRM Bill Primer:** A proposed new law on disaster risk management
- Water World:** The role of water in settlements development
- Hope for the Future:** Adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change
- YP Design Challenge:** Winners of the sustainable shelter and mobile playground design competition
- Reflections:** Views on development work and volunteering in the Philippines

For orders (current and back issues), please call (63-2) 441-0998 / 436-7301 or email your request to info@tao-pilipinas.org.



Join us @ TAO

Staff positions are open for committed individuals with technical background and willing to immerse in community development work. Interested applicants may visit <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/> and read the TOR for the job openings.

TAO is also already accepting applications for the **YP summer internship positions**. To know more about the YP internships, please visit http://ypws.tao-pilipinas.org/?page_id=2.



WANTED:

Used tarpaulin streamers

We are asking for donations of used tarpaulin streamers/posters for the repair of temporary houses in TAO-assisted communities. Please call TAO office at (63-2) 441-0998 or 436-7301 if you'd like to donate.



Schedule of YP Design Challenge Exhibits:

- March 12, 2009:** NHA Boardroom, Diliman, Quezon City
- March 30-31, 2009:** UP-ALL Anniversary, ISO-Ateneo Campus, Quezon City
- April 21, 2009:** PHILSSA's DFID Project Launch, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
- April 22-23, 2009:** PHILSSA Anniversary, ISO-Ateneo Campus, Quezon City

