

JANUARY 2010

ypp e-newsletter

TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Program



Members of a community focus group discuss and draw their collective ideas of an ideal neighborhood in a community visioning exercise during the YP Workshop on Social Housing.

The start of 2010 saw the YP teams pursuing activities outlined in the action plans they formulated with the community during the YP Workshop on Water and Sanitation last October (see page 3). Seeds of interest have been sowed through the workshops and now with the challenges of project implementation, we hope to nurture a sustained commitment of the community and the YPs to the goals of the micro-projects.

We also began the year with a series of lectures on integrating disaster risk management in social housing design (see page 2). Highlighting the lessons learned from Albay post-disaster rebuilding efforts, the topic found more relevance in light of the recent Haiti earthquake where the collapse of weak structures caused massive number of deaths. We plan to disseminate the lecture to more architecture and engineering schools in February.

More projects are lined up in the coming months, including a new YP Design Challenge. Watch out for that in June.

IN THIS ISSUE

: YP Lecture Series at CCP, TIP-QC and UE-Manila

: YP Community Micro-project updates

: TAO carries out CB-SWM training program

: TAO conducts training on Land Research for community leaders

: YP Reflections by Verna Sarraga and Jayson Cruzat

: New batch of interns at TAO

: YP Reading List
Reviews of Rovers' *Sustainable Housing Projects*; and ACHR's *Learning From The South*

: Announcements

Call for Applications to the OIYP 2010-2013 Program;
TAO-Shelter Magazine Issue #7
Call for articles on *Flooding*

quotes this month

"There is a difference between interest and commitment. When you are interested in doing something, you do it only when it is convenient. When you are committed to something, you accept no excuses."

- **Ken Blanchard**, American author and management expert

"... cynicism doesn't lead anywhere. Nobody in life gets exactly what they thought they were going to get. But if you work really hard and you're kind, amazing things will happen."

- **Conan O'Brien**, American television host and comedian

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

YP Lecture Series at CCP, TIP-QC and UE-Manila

A series of lectures on "Integrating Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Social Housing" were held in different architecture and engineering schools in Metro Manila last December until January of this year. The Young Professionals Program of TAO-Pilipinas conducted the lectures in coordination with the faculty and student organizations at the Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP) College of Engineering, Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) Department of Architecture, and University of the East (UE) College of Engineering.

The YP Lecture Series is regularly organized by TAO-Pilipinas to provide young design professionals and students with a venue for the discussion of issues about social housing, shelter security and sustainable development. The lecture series this year aimed to disseminate the results of the action-research project entitled "Integrating DRM in Site Planning and House Design of Resettlement Projects in Albay" and completed by TAO-Pilipinas staff members Geraldine Matabang and Rosalyn Marcelo. The lectures are part of a small awareness-raising campaign to encourage a more conscious effort among technical design professionals to integrate DRM in building design and construction processes.

The research outputs were presented by Engr. Marcelo and Arch. Matabang at CCP on December 16 with the civil engineering class of Engr. Arnie Inocencio; at TIP-Quezon City on January 14 with members of the Junior-PIA student organization; and at UE-Manila on January 19 with the civil engineering classes of Dean Dominador Pagbilao and members of the ACES-PICE student organization. TAO-Pilipinas also handed over copies of the publication (monograph) of the action-research project for the schools' library collection. *(Ge Matabang)*



Top: the civil engineering class of Engr. Arnie Inocencio (CCP CE Department Chairman); Bottom left: Engr. Vinci Nicolas Villaseñor (CCP College Dean) gives a reaction/rejoinder to the presentation; Bottom right: the research team with Dean Villaseñor and Engr. Inocencio



Top: TIP faculty Arch. Popes giving the opening remarks; Ge Matabang presenting the research; Middle: architecture students listening to the lecture; Bottom: the research team with members of Junior PIA.



Top, L-R: Engr. Dominador Pagbilao (UE College Dean) giving the opening remarks; Rosalyn Marcelo presenting the results of the research; open forum after the presentations; Bottom: civil engineering students listening to the lecture.

YP Community Micro-Project Updates



Tanza (Bicol and Chungkang Areas) Micro-project: *Samahang Patubig ng Tanza*

Samahang Patubig ng Tanza is a micro-project that aims to facilitate potent water connections for the whole community. Its initial objective was to set off a batch of 10 households by applying for a clustered water meter connection originally instigated during the YP Workshop held last October 21 to 27. An underlying purpose of the project is to educate the community on proper water management. Assuring the sustainability of the project was also a sub-objective that was taken into consideration. The project is being facilitated by community leaders, DAMPA organizers and the YP team composed of Cherry Mateo, Gloryrose Dy, Jesmar Catuiran, and Rowel Lucilo.

After the presentation of the project proposal during the YP Workshop, the team immediately organized a meeting at the community on November 9, 2009. An agreement that meetings shall be held every Monday was made. Brain storming on policies, beneficiary criteria and payments to be made was also done. In follow-up meetings and consultations, the rules on membership fees, passbook and savings requirements were also resolved. The *Samahang Patubig* membership has also increased from 13 to 29 members.

By December, project cost estimates and Certificate of Inspection (CI) forms and policies were finalized with the members. Household visits were conducted and a dialogue with Maynilad Water Services was held to discuss application and connection fees. The initial target of 10 households was also increased to 25 households because it was deemed more economical.

The YP team is now completing the mapping of the community to produce a water supply plan and distribution layout which will be used as a reference for the installation of water connections. A community echo-workshop on water and sanitation is also scheduled to be held by February. *(From the progress report by Gloryrose Dy)*

MASAGANA Micro-project: *Community Pathway*

The identified micro-project for the MASAGANA (Mamamayang Sama-samang Gabay ng Naaapi) community during the YP Workshop in October was the construction of an elevated pathway within the inundated areas of the community. The community pathway, seen as an initial effort to finding solutions to their water and sanitation problems, will provide easier access to people when fetching potable water especially during high tides. Meetings at the community were conducted after the YP Workshop and a committee for the construction of the pathway was created. Also discussed were project cost estimates, permits for construction, and fund raising. The YP team came up with an estimated project cost of PhP 800T for a 153-meter long elevated pathway made of bamboo and concrete.

A fund-raising activity (raffle) was organized in December to augment the organization's funds for the community pathway project. However, the unresolved issue of security of land tenure will largely determine if the project can be successfully implemented. The organization is continuously negotiating with the landowner to resolve the issue and prioritizing projects to gain access to basic services such as supplying electricity to a number of households. A project on community-based solid waste management is also being implemented in MASAGANA. The YP team composed of Christina Fiel, Jan Michael Lumbang, and Verna Sarraga will also be providing technical support for these community projects. *(From the progress report by Christina Fiel)*

UNNAI Micro-project: *Drainage Improvement*

After the YP Workshop in October, the YP team assigned at UNNAI (Upper NAWASA Neighborhood Association, Inc.) met with the community leaders and considered two micro-project proposals for the community. The first micro-project is the improvement of the drainage lines in Purok 5, the area in the community with the lowest elevation and where flooding occurrence is most severe. The second micro-project option is the rehabilitation of an existing community deep well.

The YP team (composed of Jayson Cruzat, Razel Robines, Inno Bengson, and John Sayson) together with the community leaders have done ocular inspections to determine ground elevations and existing conditions of the drainage lines. They have also mapped the drainage lines, approximately 60 meters in length, which have been targeted for improvement. The team is currently facilitating consultations with engineering professionals to discuss their proposed schemes for the project. *(From the progress report by Jayson Cruzat)*



Top left: Facilitator Marginela Brucelo explains the focus group discussions; Top right: Participants draw an image of their vision for their community; Bottom: Participants of the CBSWM training

TAO carries out CB-SWM training program

On December 5-6, 2009, the Human Settlements and Environment Program of TAO-Pilipinas conducted training on Community-Based Solid Waste Management (CBSWM) for 40 youth members representing ten communities in Metro Manila. The objective of the training was to educate and motivate the youth to be more aware of their environment by taking care and giving importance to it. The training was held at the Balay Kalinaw, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City with the theme "Community-Based Solid Waste Management: Earning by Greening Poor Communities in Metro Manila".

The CBSWM training was facilitated by members of people's organizations practicing solid waste management. Training facilitators included Jocelyn Satajo, Nelyn Balbalosa and Mary Ann Merelos from SHACC Phase 2 in Malibay, Pasay and Marginela Brucelo from MASAGANA in Tanza, Navotas. The training

comprised of nine parts which tackled various aspects of CBSWM such as concepts, environmental situation, laws, and SWM best practices. The facilitators also shared their experiences in implementing CBSWM in their communities in Pasay and Navotas.

Lecture and focus group discussion topics introduced in the training included the following: Environmental Situation in Metro Manila; Metro Manila in the 21st Century; Effects of Garbage on People's Surroundings; Garbage and Global Warming; Web of Life: 8 Principles of Nature; Garbage Segregation; Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (RA9003); and Composting. The participants also created images of their community vision and inspirations for practicing CBSWM. They also formulated action plans to attain their vision and the participants are expected to carry out these plans within their communities during the weeks following this training. The 2-day program culminated with the awarding of completion certificates for all participants.

This training is the first part of TAO's project on community-based solid waste management which intends to expand the practice from an initial two to ten communities in four cities (Pasay, Navotas, Quezon City, and Manila). It targets youth members to become future environmentalists and SWM trainers in their communities. The next training activity is scheduled to be conducted by March 2010 and shall focus on urban gardening and composting. The CBSWM project is being implemented with support from the Youth Action Grants of Starbucks through Give2Asia Foundation. (*Gloryrose Dy*)

TAO conducts training on Land Research

Community leaders of TAO-assisted areas in Navotas City attended Land Research training on January 17, 2010. The training was carried out in support of the ACCA Navotas Project of TAO-Pilipinas. The morning sessions included concepts on land surveying, land research, as well as reading and interpreting land titles. After each community shared their

experiences on land research and acquisition, TAO volunteer Engr. Voltaire Tila presented the land surveying process. Ms. Estrella "Manay" Casin, President of Dumpsite View Neighborhood Association (DVNA), shared her organization's experience on purchasing their occupied lot in

Please turn to page 8.

YP Reflections



Verna Lucia Sarraga, 21 years old, is a BS Architecture graduate from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. She earned a slot as a participant in the YP Workshop by winning the logo design contest for the workshop. She was assigned in the MASAGANA community in Tanza, Navotas for the workshop's community immersion activities. She continues to do volunteer work for the community micro-project in MASAGANA.

"What if you did not win the YP Logo Contest, would you still pursue to be a part of the workshop?" This is the question that Ms. Geraldine asked me during my interview and briefing weeks before the YP Workshop for 2009. I would admit she caught me off-guard. I cannot clearly remember what my answer was (did I say no?) but it really made me think... "Oo nga' no, what if?"

The reason why I joined their contest was because I would like to attend the workshop for free. I have known TAO-Pilipinas for more than a year and I was impressed about their advocacy. Besides, I really admire girls taking the lead. Go ladies!

The lectures and discussions were very interesting for me. I've been trying to get a grip of all of the technical stuff because I know that we need to be equipped for the following days. At some point, I wondered what our site would look like. I've been to what they call "poor communities" every now and then. We have held feeding programs, outreaches, name it. It really feels great to help other people. One thing I learned from those experiences was that in order to make them hear our message, we should also meet their needs. So we give refreshment after giving them encouragement. But the workshop offered a different set of things. For two days, there was a constant question in my head: How?

I thought that I was ready for what was going to happen but I realized that I was not when we finally arrived at MASAGANA, our site. Although there were lots of problems to deal with in the area (like dry path walk for the people, lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation), it was not a depressing one. The people were wonderful and you can see that they have hope as a community. Rather than have pity on them, I was rather overwhelmed that they are always trying to see things positively. During our immersion, I remembered one of the speakers told us: "The poor know the problem and they know the solutions and can give the most difficult questions..." Surely, I cannot solve the problem alone! There are always people who know better than you do. *Hello?! Hindi lang ikaw ang bida!*

I will never forget those six days of my life. It made me ride on a roller coaster of emotions --- I was torn with my responsibility as a daughter and my responsibility as an individual; between your worth in the world and your real value as a human being. I got home with a broken heart but with a complete being. Really, what if I didn't have a chance to join the workshop? Then I would be missing waking up from that fancy dream of working your way just to be rich and famous. Then I would not dream that someday I will be able to serve these people completely.



Verna during the transect walk in MASAGANA...



...and visiting households to introduce the YP team to community members.



Verna presenting a satellite imagery of the community site...



... and facilitating a community workshop on water and sanitation.



Jayson Cruzat, 22 years old, is a senior student of BS Architecture at the Technological Institute of the Philippines in Quezon City. He spent his immersion work at UNNAI community in Bgy. Fairview, Quezon City and continues to do volunteer work for the community micro-project there.

Akala ko ang buhay namin ay mahirap na noong nasa probinsiya pa ako dahil sa naranasan kong buhay sa bundok na kung saan walang koryente, walang linya ng tubig, walang tv, at lalo nang walang signal ng cellphone. At ang tanging libangan ay makinig sa isang transistor radio.

Dahil sa narasan ko kung gaano kahirap ang kumita ng pera, kaya nagsikap akong makapag-aral para maiahon at magkaroon ng maayos na pamumuhay hindi lang ako kundi ang aking mga magulang. Ayoko na sa pagtanda nila ay hindi man lang nila naranasan ang kaginhawahan.

Ngunit nang mapasama ako sa isang *6-day workshop* na organize ng TAO-Pilipinas na kung saan ay dinala kami sa isang community at inalam namin ang kanilang kalagayan, marami akong nalaman hindi lang tungkol sa community kundi tungkol sa buhay. Nalaman ko na mapalad pa pala ako dahil nakakapag-aral pa ako kasi merong mga tao na hindi talaga makapag-aral. Kahit walang linya ng tubig sa amin, may bukal kaming pinagkukunan. Hindi katulad sa community na yung ibang pamilya ay walang makunan ng malinis na tubig at walang maayos na sanitasyon dahil sa kahirapan ng kanilang buhay. Nang matapos na ang workshop namulat ako na may mga taong mapalad na biniyayaan ng maayos na sanitasyon.

Tinatanong ko ang sarili ko kung ano ang pwede kong gawin para makatulong sa community. Nagpapasalamat ako sa TAO Pilipinas na binigyan ako ng pagkakataon para makatulong sa isang community hindi sa pinansyal na aspeto kundi sa nalalaman kong teknikal.

Ang TAO-Pilipinas at sa mga organisasyong katulad nito na tumutulong sa mga nangangailangan ay marami ang nagpapasalamat kahit hindi nila personal na naririnig. Isa ako sa mga taong nagpapasalamat sa pagmulat nila sa aking kaisipan tungkol sa maraming bagay na hindi matututunan sa loob ng iskwelahan. Sana ay dumami pa ang organisasyong katulad ng TAO-Pilipinas para mas marami pa ang taong matulungan. Maraming pong salamat sa inyo.

New batch of interns at TAO

TAO-Pilipinas welcomed a new batch of interns to work on its various programs and projects. Bringing their talents, energy and passion into the communities that TAO assists are Tracey Loontjens, Paul Brecht Van Acker, Ma. Christina Fiel, Hazel Joy Caisip, Rapunzel Narbonita, and Ermon Farrell Aguilar.

Tracey is an architect from Belgium who is completing a post-graduate degree in Urban Design and Country Planning. Her internship at TAO is part of a training exchange program for her postgraduate studies. Paul is also an architect from Belgium but is independently doing his volunteer work in Manila.

Christina is a senior architecture student from the Technological Institute of the



Jayson's YP team inspects water sources in UNNAI community.



Jayson consulting with TAO's Osang Marcelo before the community workshop...



...and facilitating a focus group discussion among women members of the community.



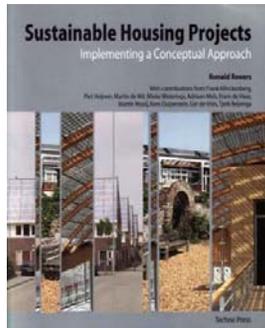
Community workshop on water and sanitation at UNNAI, Quezon City.

Philippines (TIP) who joined last year's YP Workshop on Social Housing. Hazel is an architecture student from the University of the Philippines (UP) while Rapunzel and Ermon are graduating architecture students from TIP who are completing their on-the-job requirements.

Tracey, Paul and Hazel are currently working on the design schemes for the SHEC Phase 3 Housing Project; Christina and Rapunzel are doing model house designs for the HSE program; Ermon is assigned on the SHEC Eco-Farm Design project. (*Ge Matabang*)

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: **Sustainable Housing Projects: Implementing a Conceptual Approach**
Editor: **Ronald Rovers**
Publisher: **Techne Press (2008)**

About the editor (from the back cover) :

Ronald Rovers is an Associate Professor at Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR) and a member of the Urban Environment Management Group, specializing in sustainable building.

Review:

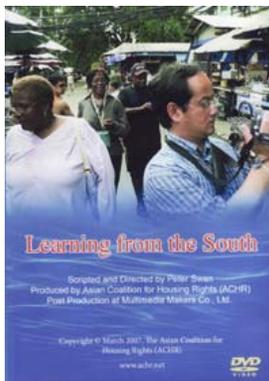
Sustainable building philosophy in the Netherlands is encapsulated in a three-step strategy called "Trias Ecologica." The first step calls for reducing the demand or need of use. Step two is the use of sustainable or renewable resources and step three requires that remaining needs be supplied in the most efficient way.

Sustainable Housing Projects shows the evolution of understanding and implementing sustainability in the Dutch housing industry.

The book gives an overview of the knowledge gained from housing projects that demonstrate sustainable building in the Netherlands over the last 15 years. These housing projects were designed and built based on sustainability concepts and a program of requirements developed through the DCBA method or classification system. The DCBA method guides housing design and construction to have the lowest possible impact on the environment. (For example, building design that targets the D-level is based on standard concepts or the normal selection of materials based on quality and cost. In a C-level building, selection of materials is based on avoiding the most serious environmental effects. B-level buildings have materials with minimizing environmental effects; A-level buildings are built with locally-sourced materials and can be re-used after demolition.)

The book also shows how the Dutch have managed to use a conceptual and integrated approach for sustainable building instead of implementing different and uncoordinated measures and technologies to improve the environmental performance of buildings. It also underscores that this approach is effective for housing developments at medium-scale or at the community level rather than in a single building.

Reading this book serves to highlight how far away our local practice (especially in housing design and provision) is from the Dutch experience where long-term sustainability is a clear target even at the very start of the design process and government policies support sustainable building. Many examples and lessons are presented in this book that local design professionals should study and consider in trying to mainstream green building practices. *(Ge Matabang)*



Title: **Learning from the South (DVD)**
Producer: **Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (March 2007)**
Director: **Peter Swan**

Learning from the South is a documentary film about survivors. In 2006, four survivors of hurricane Katrina visited communities in Thailand and Indonesia, which were devastated by the December 2004 tsunami. The visitors from New Orleans were moved at how the people maintained a sense of self-determination, rebuilt their homes, communities and lives without waiting on for the government to do it for them. They also learned about how Asians proved strength when they worked together. Such stories of recovery and hope have become Asia's gift to the Katrina survivors, which they will bring back home to their people in the United States.

What I like about documentaries is that apart from the lessons imparted, the viewers are able to feel the sentiments of the narrator. I think even young people would be able to appreciate the video however serious the topic is since they would relate to the feelings of the storytellers and truthfulness of their stories. The depth of the exchange of experiences is also evident. The film could especially inspire those in the developing countries, and communicate that they could also set good examples to the developed nations. As we are all potential victims of disasters, the film indeed is a good reference material for everyone. *(Rosalyn Marcelo)*

TAO conducts training...

(from page 4)

Payatas, Quezon City. DAMPA representative Ms. Josephine Castillo then provided inputs on land research and understanding land titles.

Land acquisition financing schemes covered the afternoon sessions of the training, which was facilitated by Ms. Josephine Castillo and Arch. Faith Varona. The training shall be replicated in other TAO-assisted areas in Manggahan Floodway Pasig at the end of the month. *(Rosalyn Marcelo)*



[L to R]: Resource persons Voltaire Tila, Manay Casin and Josephine Castillo

Announcements

Call for Applications to the OIYP 2010-2013 Program



**Oxfam International
Youth Partnerships**

Oxfam International Youth Partnerships (OIYP) is an Oxfam International initiative, managed by Oxfam Australia since 2000. OIYP strengthens young people's ability to effect change in their community, and provides a base from which they can influence broader changes through engagement in a global network of over 1,100 OIYP Action Partners. Through the next 3-year OIYP Program, OIYP 2010 - 2013, Oxfam Australia will provide opportunities and support for 300 new Action Partners so they may demonstrate leadership and expand the influence of youth for positive changes locally, nationally and globally.

Every 3 years OIYP goes through a rigorous process of recruiting and selecting a new group of 300 Action Partners. To be eligible to apply, applicants must be aged 18-25, able to speak English or Spanish conversationally and available to attend an 8 day event in November 2010, in New Delhi, India.

Application forms in word and PDF format are available by visiting www.oiyp.oxfam.org. Applications will be assessed against selection criteria by Oxfam Australia staff; staff from other Oxfam affiliates; youth partners and current OIYP Action Partners. Applications close on **12 February 2010**.



TAO Shelter Magazine Issue no.7: Call for Articles on *Flooding*

TAO-Pilipinas is publishing the 7th Issue of its bi-annual magazine, TAO Shelter in June 2010. We are looking for articles, papers, or studies related to flooding --- why it happens, who it affects, and how we can plan and prepare for it. If you are interested to have your article, paper, or study published in TAO Shelter, email info@tao-pilipinas.org no later than **28 February 2010**.

