



Photo for the Month

Mural painting by the Taysan immersion group presented during the YP Workshop in Bicol. Upper portion shows their journey to the resettlement site while lower part illustrates the people's vision of a sustainable community.

Quote for the Month

"I do believe that each of you can do something, and there is something you can do in our efforts to build sustainable communities in Albay's resettlement sites. And this, you must not refuse to do. For no matter who you are or what you have become, you can do something to make a difference in our own community."

- **Noel E. Rosal**, Mayor of Legaspi City, in his address before the 2008 YP Workshop in Albay, Bicol.

After being moved to later dates twice last year, the YP Workshop in Bicol was finally held last January 21 to 25. Young professionals and students joined community representatives in lecture presentations and immersion activities at the resettlement sites in Anislag, Daraga and Taysan, Legaspi. (More of this on page 2.) The YPs' field exposure and interaction with people in the resettlement sites are just a small part in the task of helping **build sustainable communities** as manifested in the issues which arose during the workshop plenary. The 5-day workshop serves an initial step for the Bicol YPs to get involved and committed in the recovery work among the resettled families in Albay.

It has been a very busy January so we apologize for the delay in getting this newsletter emailed to you. We are also preparing for having another batch of YP interns join us this summer (see *call for applications*) and doing the rounds of universities for more YP lectures. Towards the middle of the year we also plan to launch a design competition for architecture and engineering students. (We need more sponsors for this project!) As we forge ahead with YPs activities here in Manila and Bicol, we look back at what we've accomplished so far, in numbers.

YP Stats:

- 3 YP orientation workshops (since 2005)
- 43 Number of YPs completing YP-OTP Stage I
- 9 YP immersion communities
- 9 YP interns
- 2 YP volunteer student org groups
- 43 YP lecture presentations
- 493 YP e-newsletter mailing list members
- 19 YP e-newsletter issues (including this one)
- 30 Number of remaining vintage YP shirts still for sale (from the 1996 YP Summer Camp in Cebu)

Featured in this month's e-newsletter:

- [TAO-Pilipinas and COPE Foundation hold YP Workshop in Bicol](#)
- [IN PICS: YP Workshop in Bicol](#)
- [TAO at PUP-CAFA Anniversary Lecture](#)
- [TAO at Climate Change Lecture](#)
- [YP 2008 Summer Internship: Call for Applications](#)

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



TAO-Pilipinas and COPE Foundation hold YP Workshop in Albay, Bicol

Together with COPE Foundation in Bicol, TAO-Pilipinas conducted the Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing in Legaspi City last

January 21-25, 2008 with the theme, **"Building Sustainable Communities in the Resettlement Sites of Albay, Bicol."** About 25 participants joined the five-day workshop whose main objective is to bring together technical professionals, affected communities in Albay, the government and NGOs in one forum to discuss resettlement planning and design issues and needs. It also aimed to revive the Bicol Young Professionals as a volunteer technical assistance group for poor communities.

Workshop participants included graduates and students from Bicol University Department of Architecture and Aquinas University Polytechnic Institute. They were joined by representatives from Bicol Urban Poor Coordinating Council (BUPCC) and community associations in the COPE-sponsored housing areas in Anislag Phase 2 and Taysan resettlement sites.

Workshop Program

Like in previous YP workshops, the program was divided into two levels (theoretical and practicum) which allowed the participants to learn from academic and technical experts and gain practical knowledge from community people. Lecture topics were grouped into four sessions: (1) the role of YPs in human settlements development; (2) disasters and sustainable development; (3) resettlement sites in Albay province; and (4) planning for sustainable communities. A field visit to PHIVOLCS' Mayon Volcano Observatory in Lignon Hill was also made.



Albay Governor Joey Salceda(left) and Legaspi City Mayor Noel Rosal (right) gave the keynote addresses for the workshop.



Four training sessions were held at the Multipurpose Hall of DENR Regional Center in Rawis, Legaspi on January 21 and 22.

Professor Ernesto Serote of UP-School of Urban and Regional Planning, Tanya Guarano of Institute on Church and Social Issues (ICSI), and Eddie Balunso of Bicol University Sociology Department were lecturers during the training sessions held at the DENR Regional Center. Presentations were also made by local officials in Albay like Cedric Daep of the Public Safety and Emergency Management Office, Ed Laguerta of PHIVOLCS, Albert Perfecto of NHA Region 5, and Yolanda Guanzon of PSWDO.

Community Immersion

COPE and the community associations in Anislag Phase 2 Resettlement Site in Daraga and Taysan Resettlement Site in Legaspi facilitated the participants' 2-day immersion in the resettlement areas. Together with community leaders and residents, the workshop participants conducted resource and hazards mapping activities, focus group discussions and action planning for community improvement. After the community consultations, the YP groups prepared technical recommendations on community space planning and home design improvements. These immersion outputs were also presented before a plenary at the last day of the workshop.

Please turn to page 3.

From page 2... YP Workshop in Albay, Bicol

Plenary Presentations

The issues raised in the community consultations underscored the struggles that relocated families have to contend with living in resettlement sites --- the lack of site development, basic utilities and community facilities and limited livelihood opportunities for economic sustainability. These physical and economic needs were tackled by the participants during the workshop's plenary presentations as they proposed actions that would address some of the immediate problems in the community. Mac Pavia of Albay Provincial Planning and Development Office and Dean Virgilio Perdigon of Aquinas served as panel reactors.



Community consultations were facilitated by the YP workshop participants in Anislag and Taysan.

Individual reflection sharing by the workshop participants summed up their learnings and impacts of the 5-day activity. Each of the immersion groups also completed a mural painting to illustrate their workshop experience. The YP workshop ended with suggestions for echoing the activities with more young professional-participants and in communities not only in Albay but in other Bicol provinces as well. It was also resolved that the outputs of the workshop serve as an initial technical needs assessment for the Bicol Young Professionals group to formulate its follow-up activities.

(This year's YP Workshop was conducted with funding support from SELAVIP, Misereor, PHILSSA, Christian Aid and partly sponsored by Holcim Philippines, Compucare, Contrade and Tradelifters. The YP Workshop in Bicol documentation will be made available in www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org.)

~o~o~o~o~

IN PICS: YP Workshop in Bicol



Left to right: (1) YP workshop participants in front of DENR Multipurpose Hall; (2) Trek to Lignon Hill; (3) Participants check out PHIVOLCS monitoring equipment at Mayon Volcano Observatory; (4) Immersion team proceeds to Taysan resettlement site;



Left to right: (5) Immersion team at Anislag with host family; (6)(7) YPs fetch water from the communal deepwell in Taysan; (8) Residents draw the community resource and hazard map; (9) YP participant Ai Divinaflor with the Bacudio family in Taysan;



Left to right: (10) A creative presentation (shadow puppetry) by the immersion group; (11) Panelists Mac Pavia and Jo Angeles react to the immersion groups' output presentations; (12) YP participant Awe Granadillos shares his reflection drawing; (13) The Anislag immersion team doing their mural painting; (14) Thanksgiving mass celebrated at the end of the 5-day workshop.

TAO at PUP-CAFA Lecture Series

The Polytechnic University of the Philippines – College of Architecture and Fine Arts (PUP-CAFA) celebrated its



8th Foundation Anniversary last February 5 with a lecture series on "**Stronger CAFA Linkages: Contributing Towards a Total University.**" Faith Varona, TAO's Research and Publications head, gave the first lecture on the university's partnering with an NGO, particularly the research project undertaken by PUP-CAFA and TAO-Pilipinas last year. The collaboration produced the first draft of the Sourcebook of Alternative Building Materials and Technologies (SABMAT) for social housing projects. (See March 2007 e-newsletter for article on the SABMAT project.)

~o~o~o~o~o~

TAO at Climate Change Lecture

TAO attended a lecture by Dr. Kelvin S. Rodolfo on "**Climate and Weather-Induced GeoHazards**"



last February 8 at the Klima Conference Room, Manila Observatory, Ateneo de Manila University. Geologist Kelvin Rodolfo presented the impacts of global warming, land subsidence, and sea-level rise that threaten the Philippines (where two-thirds of the population live in coastal plains). Dr. Rodolfo is a professor emeritus of University of Illinois and an adjunct professor at the National Institute of Geological Sciences, UP-Diliman. He is also one of the recipients of this year's Balik-Scientist Award given by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

~o~o~o~o~o~

Announcements

Call for Applications – YP 2008 Summer Internship

Six internship positions at TAO will be available this summer for new graduates and senior students of architecture and interior design, civil and geodetic engineering, and planning. The summer interns will work on TAO projects from April to May 2008. The internship will focus on community-based technical assistance, fieldwork activities and housing-related research works. We are looking for YP interns who have strong commitment to social housing and community development issues and a desire to develop their skills and experience.

Application requirements include submission of completed application form, resume with 2x2 ID picture and referee report (or referral letter). Submission deadline is on **March 15, 2008** and short-listed applicants will be contacted for interview. Interested graduates/students may visit www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org to download the application forms and for more information about the summer internship, contact Geraldine Matabang / Rosalyn Marcelo at 926-9504 or email yp@tao-pilipinas.org.

~o~o~o~o~o~