

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009

ypp e-newsletter

TAO-Pilipinas Young Professionals Program



A composite photo of the Pechayan community in North Fairview, Quezon City before and after typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana) struck Metro Manila on September 26, 2009. Ondoy brought the worst rainfall in Metro Manila, causing massive flooding and destruction of homes especially those built along rivers and waterways. (Photos by Ge Matabang)

The extent of devastation from recent flooding events has brought a new level of consciousness about urban development issues. (It has somehow even made people now aware of environmental planning as a profession.) After *Ondoy* which exposed our vulnerability to global warming, talks of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation have taken a more "real" meaning for people than being mere abstractions.

In the pages of this newsletter, we're bringing you news of the 2009 YP Workshop held last October --- how YPs got "real" and immersed in social housing and water and sanitation issues among the urban poor. A number of workshop participants also share with us their reflections from this experience (see pages 6 to 8). More of the workshop updates may be viewed online at www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org.

For making it possible to successfully mount this workshop for the fourth year, we would like to extend our gratitude to the sponsors, resource persons, community partners, mentors, and volunteer-organizers who were involved in the workshop. Thank you and may everyone have a peaceful and environmentally-sensitive holiday!

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quote this month

"Whenever we design water supply systems for the community, we should plan for a closed-loop cycle where wastewater management is given due consideration... As architects and engineers, when we design we always hope to make a difference in the communities we assist. But we also need to consider sustainability and environmental issues, not just temporary solutions but the long-term effects of our immediate actions."

- **Ma. Luisa Daya-Garcia** (principal architect of MLDDG & Associates and founding member of Green Architecture Advocacy Philippines), during the project proposal presentations of the 2009 YP Workshop on Social Housing

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

YPs undergo 6-day workshop on social housing

Young professionals and students from local and international academic institutions and representatives from urban poor community associations took part in the 2009 Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing on October 22 to 27, 2009. The workshop is an annual project of TAO-Pilipinas' YP Program which aims to orient young design professionals and students on social housing through training activities that will enable better appreciation of the concerns/issues affecting the urban poor. This year's workshop is already the fourth organized by TAO-Pilipinas.



1 - Lecture sessions at Villa Cristina; 2 - Small group activities; 3 - Field visit at an ecology center; 4 - Facilitation of community consultations; 5 - Creative group presentations; 6 - Mural painting exercise; 7 - Presentation of project proposals

The workshop was participated by local delegates from architecture and engineering departments of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM), Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP), and the University of the Philippines (UP), as well as foreign delegates from Harvard University, Politecnico de Torino in Italy, and Lund University in Sweden. They were joined by representatives from people's organizations in communities assisted by TAO-Pilipinas Inc. in Navotas and Quezon City. Community organizers from TAO-Pilipinas' partner organization, DAMPA (Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api, Inc.) also participated in the workshop. A total of 26 participants were gathered to undergo 6 days of programmed training activities.

The 2009 YP Workshop focused on the theme, *"WATSAN in Social Housing: Improving Access to Water Supply and Sanitation for Urban Poor Communities."* The workshop program was divided into two parts spread over six days. The first part of the workshop comprised of lecture sessions which were held on Days 1 to 2 at the Villa Cristina Hotel & Resort in Antipolo City. The lectures were divided into seven sessions with several small group activities conducted in between.

The second part of the workshop comprised of practicum activities wherein participants went through stay-in field immersion on Days 3 and 4 of the workshop. They were divided into three teams to be deployed to three communities along with TAO-Pilipinas staff and volunteers. They first visited social housing projects and models of community-based initiatives such as the SHEC Housing Project in Pasay City, GK Housing Project in BASECO, Manila, VASRA

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YPs undergo 6-day...

(from page 2)

Housing Project in Quezon City and the Barangay Holy Spirit Ecology Center in Quezon City. After completing their field visit itinerary, the teams proceeded to their assigned community immersion areas to conduct preliminary assessment activities in preparation to the whole-day community consultations on Day 4. Community assessment activities included an initial meeting of the YP teams with the community leaders and a transect walk (or observatory walk) within the community.

The main activity in the participants' community immersion work is the facilitation of a participatory workshop and action planning process in their assigned areas. This was accomplished during Day 4 of the workshop where three simultaneous community workshops were held in UNNAI, Brgy. Commonwealth, Quezon City; Bicol and Chungkang Area, Brgy. Tanza, Navotas City; and MASAGANA, Brgy. Tanza, Navotas City. A series of focus group discussions with community members were facilitated by the YP teams in order to find out the community's water and sanitation conditions, analyze problems and potentials of the community, and identify self-improvement projects that can be implemented in the community. From the results of the community action planning, the YP teams strategized to develop a community micro-project proposal. The three YP teams then reconvened at Villa Cristina, Antipolo on Day 5 of the workshop to report on the results of their community immersion activities.

Days 5 and 6 served as the synthesis of the practicum activities as the results of the 2-day community immersion were presented by each team in a plenary session with the TAO-Pilipinas staff serving as panel reactors together with Dr. Maria Antonia Tanchuling, a Board of Trustee of TAO. Recommendations from the panel were considered by the teams in preparing for the

(The 2009 YP Workshop on Social Housing was conducted with funding support from MISEREOR, Asian Coalition for Housing Rights, ACCA-Rockefeller, IEED, PHILSSA, and partly sponsored by Holcim Philippines, SLIPCON Services, Inc., and EARN Corporation.)



presentation of their community micro-project proposals for Day 6. After the plenary sessions, the participants were also given the opportunity to share their reflections from their experiences during the field immersion. Each team also conceptualized a mural painting design as a visual representation of lessons learned from the workshop.

The 6th and culminating day of the workshop saw the YP teams presenting their community micro-project proposals before a panel of invited guests who critiqued their plans. The YP teams presented three proposals: improvement of the drainage canals in UNNAI; cooperative water supply connection in Bicol Area, Tanza; and construction of elevated pathways in MASAGANA, Tanza. The three-member panel composed of Arch. Romeo Santos of UP-Diliman, Arch. Ma. Luisa Daya-Garcia of Green Advocates Philippines, and Engr/EnP. Aldrin Plaza, provided useful comments and advice to further develop the teams' proposed projects.

The project proposals are considered the major output of the YP Workshop and will be screened by TAO-Pilipinas for funding assistance and actual implementation after the workshop. The YP teams also committed to follow-up activities to finalize the project proposals and help implement the projects within a 6-month period.

The 2009 YP Workshop concluded with the presentation of the finished mural paintings and the awarding of certificates of participation. At the end of six days of gruelling training activities, the participants and organizers were welcomed to well-deserved rest and recreation facilities at the Villa Cristina Resort. *(Ge Matabang, with documentation notes by Aldrin Plaza)*

The 2009 YP Workshop participants and organizers:

Standing, (L-R): Arlene Lusterio, Jesmar Joseph Catuiran, Ma. Christina Fiel, Jayson Cruzat, Rowel Lucilo, Claudio Sopranzetti, Åsa Johansson, Louise Aurell, Leo De Castro, Emerson Roy Sario, Jose Larino Bengson, Jr., John Anthony Sayson, Enika Hernando, Lolita Ablinga, Carla Betancourt, Remy Habagat, Heny Reponte, Diana Antipuesto, Menelo Abueva, Sheryl Jed Biasong, Lydia Nilo, Patricia Herrera, Aldrin Plaza

Sitting, (L-R): Angel Sales, Jan Michael Lumbang, Razel Robines, Verna Lucia Sarraga, Cherry May Mateo, Lucy Amaro, Faith Varona, Osang Marcelo, Mai Ilagan, Gloryrose Dy, Angging Aban, Ge Matabang, Cora Altura, Ruben Peñamante

2009 YP Workshop Highlights



Sustainable development, social housing, and water and sanitation issues tackled in lecture sessions

The lecture sessions of the YP Workshop introduced participants to a comprehensive background on social housing and the different topics that are associated with it, from the broad context of sustainable human settlements development to the discussion of issues that urban poor communities face in their struggle for shelter security. Lecture topics were grouped into three sessions on the first day of the workshop: Design Professionals and Sustainable Human Settlements Development; Tools and Approaches to Social Housing; and Young Professionals and Communities as Collaborative Partners in Building Sustainable Communities.

Dr. Laura David provided a keynote presentation on "Climate, The Environment, and Our Future" while Architect Ning Encarnacion-Tan gave a lecture on "Sustainable Design and Sustainable Communities." The staff of TAO-Pilipinas served as resource persons for the various topics on social housing, including standards in social housing provision and design; participatory design approaches; and alternative building materials and technologies.

On the second day of lecture sessions, participants were exposed to different levels of discussion about Water and Sanitation (WATSAN), from a global perspective to the implementation of local projects for poor communities. Four sessions on WATSAN were held with various resource persons from government and non-government agencies. Session topics were categorized into: The Water and Sanitation Challenge for Young Professionals; Water Supply Availability, Management and Sustainability; Urban Sanitation Systems; and Water and Sanitation Options for Urban Poor Communities. Among the speakers who gave presentations were: Dr. Maria Antonia Tanchuling of UP-Diliman; Mr. Dave Robbins of Philippine Sanitation Alliance; Engr. Sonabel Anarna of DOH; Ms. Cherubim Ocampo of Maynilad Water Services; Dr. Guillermo Tabios III of National Hydraulic Research Center; Ms. Lyn Capistrano of the Philippine Center for Water and Sanitation; and Mr. Leo De Castro of the Center for Advanced Philippine Studies.

Community workshops on water and sanitation and community action planning process facilitated by YPs

The workshop participants who were grouped into three teams conducted participatory community consultations as part of the practicum training for the YP Workshop on Social Housing. Prior to commencing their community immersion work, the teams were given an orientation on facilitating the community consultations. Materials and visual aids to be used for the community workshops were also prepared beforehand. In coordination with DAMPA community organizers, consultations were mobilized in the three areas - UNNAI, in Brgy. Commonwealth, Quezon City; Bicol and Chungkang Area in Brgy. Tanza, Navotas City; and MASAGANA in Brgy. Tanza, Navotas City. Around 30 community members participated in the consultations in each of the areas.

In each of the community, YP teams were responsible for moderating a series of focus group discussions (FGD) among three community sectors represented --- women, men and youth groups. The consultations focused on the community's housing situation and access to basic services. The YP teams were able to facilitate the following FGD topics: Water Supply Assessment, Sanitation Management Assessment, Problem Tree Analysis, Resources Mapping, and Community Visioning. All these were done to draw out ideas for a community self-improvement project where the YPs may support the community's efforts in terms of technical assistance. The community consultations ended with identifying a community micro-project proposal and the detailing of a project activity plan with the community.

YP volunteer groups formed to help implement community micro-projects

The YP teams formed during the YP Workshop on Social Housing have mobilized themselves as volunteer groups to help implement the community micro-projects that were proposed in the workshop. The three groups are now working with their respective community partners to work out the details of the projects. TAO-Pilipinas has also set up project funds to provide assistance to carry out the proposed projects.

In the UNNAI project team are Jose Larino Bengson, Razel Robines, Jayson Cruzat, and John Anthony Sayson. In the Bicol-Chungkang project team are Gloryrose Dy, Cherry May Mateo, John Michael Lumbang, and Rowel Lucilo. In the MASAGANA project team are Christina Fiel, Verna Lucia Sarraga, and Jesmar Joseph Catuiran.

The community micro-projects are targeted to be completed by March 2010.

YPs present community micro-project proposals before panel of reactors

After carrying out their field work activities for the YP Workshop, the YP teams developed community micro-project proposals for the community areas they were assigned in. Three project proposals were developed by the YP teams: improvement of the drainage canals in UNNAI; cooperative water supply connection in Bicol Area, Tanza; and construction of elevated pathways in MASAGANA, Tanza. These were presented before a panel of reactors composed of Arch. Romeo Santos of UP-Diliman, Arch. Ma. Luisa Daya-Garcia of Green Advocates Philippines, and Engr/EnP. Aldrin Plaza.

The teams followed a template for presenting the proposals that included the discussion of Introduction and Background; Statement of the Problem; Preferred Solution; Goals, Objectives and Outcomes; Work Plan and Timetable; Project Management; and Proposed Budget. An open forum followed each presentation by the YP teams and the panel gave their critiques and recommendations on improving the project proposals.

On the proposal for drainage canal improvement, the panel recommended that the project design factor in sustainability and protection of water bodies by considering the final discharge of outflows from the canals. They also advised for a more thorough study of the site topography so that appropriate design schemes may be developed. For the proposal for a cooperative water supply connection, the panel suggested developing the database for targeting households without water connection and setting criteria for the selection of beneficiaries. In the proposal for the construction of elevated pathways, the panel advised to study the appropriate use of bamboo as pathwalk material especially in saline waters. They also recommended considering the provision of safe utility lines and setting the right height for the pathways.

TAO conducts Participatory GIS Training for Navotas youth

On October 30, 2009, 18 active youth members of Barangays Tanza, Tangos and North Bay Boulevard North in Navotas attended a training at the University of the Philippines College of Architecture in Diliman, Quezon City. The training was conducted by a geographer, Mr. Marc Delgado, a Filipino taking his doctorate in Vrije Universiteit of Belgium (VUB) who volunteered to teach Open Source Participatory GIS using MapWindow. His lecture covered concepts on participatory GIS, basic information on the use of handheld GPS (Global Positioning System) instrument particularly DNR Garmin, and the use of open source geographic information systems software.

A hands-on exercise on the use of GPS instrument was also conducted using the amazing race concept. Participants were divided into 3 groups and went out to take field coordinates using DNR Garmin handheld GPS equipment. The challenges were to take coordinates of points, a line and a region around the academic oval of the university campus. All the coordinates taken were downloaded into the computer to check whether points were taken correctly. Participants were also taught how to download and process the data from the GPS and convert them into maps. They also got a chance to print their maps and were given training certificates signed by TAO-Pilipinas Executive Director Arlene Lusterio and Mr. Marc Delgado. The training was carried out in support of the mapping component of the ACCA Navotas Project of TAO-Pilipinas. *(Roselyn Marcelo)* ~0~0~0~0~



The participants using the GPS equipment during a race around UP-Diliman.



Mr. Marc Delgado explaining MapWindow to the participants.



Updates on TAO's post-Ondoy relief activities

Due to the damage and destruction brought about by typhoon Ondoy (international code *Ketsana*), TAO-Pilipinas launched an appeal for help for affected families in our assisted communities. TAO conducted a post-disaster assessment of the communities and mobilized the distribution on relief food packs and medicine packages. Among the communities which received relief packages are SAMASAPE in North Fairview, Quezon City; UNNAI in Commonwealth, Quezon City; BAKAS in Bagong Silangan, Quezon City; SAMAGKADA in Daang-Tubo, Diliman; Sitio Ibayo in San Mateo, Rizal; Sitio Kislap in North Fairview, Quezon City; MASAGANA in Tanza, Navotas City; and Samahang Kababaihan and Chungkang Neighborhood Association in Tanza, Navotas City.

Donors and supporters who helped raise funds for the relief operations include Shiela Elardo, Ellaine Salvador, Kenichi Tonaue, Inamori Tomoaki, Yoko Ohnishi, Gregg Butensky, Ruth Mager, Maria Alma Johnson, Nila Swanson, Leny Galvez, Janet Tan, Zeny Manalo, Fred Shum, Rex Aguado, Hisashi & Midori Mitshuhashi, Koichi Takano, Zhara Lasarra, Tonet Tanchuling, John Ong, Genie Lorenzo, and Audrey Esteban. The Philippine Misereor Partnership also provided funds for the relief food packs extended to four communities assisted by TAO-Pilipinas. Starbucks-CSR likewise donated tarpaulin streamers to be used for house repairs.

Remaining funds for the continuing relief operations are currently earmarked for purchase of medicines for a medical mission in Barangay Tanza, Navotas tentatively scheduled early next year and the purchase of building materials for repair of damaged/destroyed houses in Barangays Tangos and Tanza also in Navotas.

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VSO organizes forum on Climate Change Adaptation

VSO-Bahaginan carried out the second of its Forum Series on Volunteering on December 3, 2009. The event tackled the convergence of climate change and volunteerism and was part of the celebration of the International Volunteer's Day and the Philippine National Volunteer Month. The forum entitled "Catalyzing Change through Volunteering: Building Communities for Climate Change Adaptation" was held at the Stephen Fuller Hall of the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City. Around 100 representatives from local and international NGOs including TAO-Pilipinas, volunteer organizations, private sector, academe, national government agencies, media and other institutions participated in this half-day forum.

Volunteerism programs of various organizations were presented during the forum. These included presentations by the Climate Change Attache of the British Embassy, Citizens Disaster Response Center, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, and the Community Relations of Globe Telecom. Breakout sessions were also held to discuss current practices, gaps and challenges in climate change adaptation programs and initiatives. A position paper on volunteerism will be developed by VSO-Bahaginan considering the results of the forum series discussions. *(Roselyn Marcelo)*

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YP Reflections



Gloryrose Dy, 23 years old, is a BS Architecture graduate from University of the Philippines – Mindanao. Lotlot graduated in 2009 with the Best Thesis Award for Architecture in UP Mindanao and was also given the Red Point National Best Architectural Thesis Award in the Philippines by Cirdia Foundation. Lotlot is a member of the UP Mindanao Dance Ensemble. She recently joined TAO-Pilipinas as a staff in its Human Settlement and Environment Program.

TAO-Pilipinas was timely for me. The day after I was hired to be a staff of the Human Settlements and Environment Program under TAO-Pilipinas was the day Typhoon Ondoy struck our nation killing almost a hundred and leaving thousands of our countrymen homeless. It seems as if a supreme being was telling me that I am in the right place which to help the urban poor in Metro Manila.

I had a fairytale concept on what my job would be because it seemed to be a very heroic occupation. I imagined being like Angelina Jolie helping the poor in Kenya or Oprah Winfrey talking to a marginalized citizen in the US. I looked at helping the urban poor as sort of a fancy thing like saving a damsel-in-distress Indian princess drowning because of Captain Hook. The YP workshop made me more excited to do my job. I thought that finally I could save the urban poor for real since I have already been stuck in the office for quite long. So I had a well organized bag with a lot of shirts and pants ready for the whole event.

The first two days of the workshop was quite technical. Having a technical background helped a lot. Although, I had to pat my intelligent persona which I wanted to leave behind after I graduated college so that I could understand the seminar. While sitting on the chair listening to the soporific talk of the lecturer, I daydreamed about the next day where we will have to go to the site for real.

But when we went to the site for the first day, I suddenly lost all the excitement I saved when I was still preparing for the event. As I saw the real situation of the community, I felt so hopeless for the Philippines. I knew that if only we had an incorrupt government, we could have easily made their lives wonderful. I saw the real poorest of the poor in the Philippines. It was inevitable to compare it to the rural poor areas where they could still see a large amount of land beside their houses. But then, I also realized that the community was so skeptical at times with the help that they are getting. Maybe it was because of the thousands of broken promises they encountered in their life. I could not blame them but I could not also blame myself for feeling less stimulated.

There are times during the workshop when I felt so uninspired as if Bic Runga's song was playing *"My head is battling with my heart, my logic has been torn apart..."* This was the moment when I tried to ask myself, "Is this really this difficult or was I just so naïve in thinking that helping the poor was as easy as helping save the Indian princess in Neverland?"

Indeed it is. It is difficult to help the poor. It is not a fancy thing. It is not the same as we see them in the movies. Helping the poor is just like marrying yourself to the poor people themselves and sometimes it is like marrying a person when you know that the end is still a divorce.

But as I looked at the eyes of the TAO-Pilipinas facilitators of the workshop; the eyes of the people that I am going to work with for years, I saw that they had hope in it. I saw their eagerness and enthusiasm to help whatever it takes.

TAO-Pilipinas was indeed timely for me. It made me realize the complexities of life during the point when I thought life was fancy. It also made me realize that life is full of synchronicities. If I choose to help the poor, the poor will choose to help themselves. It is that simple but then again that difficult. ~o~o~o~o~



Lotlot leads an icebreaker activity during the workshop sessions.



Transect walk activity in the Bicol and Chungkang areas of Tanza, Navotas, City.



Lotlot with children and community leaders in Tanza, Navotas.



Lotlot helps facilitate a community workshop with members of people's organizations in Tanza.

YP Reflections



John Michael Lumbang, 24 years old, is a 5th year BS Architecture student at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM). JM was a participant in the 2009 YP Workshop on Social Housing. He spent his community immersion work at Barangay Tanza, Navotas City.

Isn't it truly a blessing and privilege that most of us live in a community with proper drainage systems and far from severe flooding? ...with complete and sanitary toilets? ...and most importantly, with ample supply of safe water to drink? Have you ever thought that there are people who just dream of having this privilege we have? You may answer yes, but how aware are we about their situation? This is what I realized after I joined the Young Professionals' workshop organized by TAO-Pilipinas.

At first I thought that it was just the usual workshop wherein you sit and listen to the one sharing his/her expertise and then with a little audience participation, and that's it. But tables were turned and we, the YPs, will also have to facilitate a workshop with urban poor communities! Aside from that, we will also be handling an actual community project that could somehow improve their lives. I considered it a big change from the usual drafting table, solving a design problem given by our professors, submitting it to be checked and waiting for the score to be given.

Part of the workshop is the community immersion where we had to stay in the community for two days. The community of MASAGANA in Barangay Tanza, Navotas is not your usual community. We had to stay in a place where dry part of the land is a raft away. It has scarce water supply and no sanitary facilities.

From what I've seen in the community, the present generation is suffering the mistakes of previous ones in terms of environmental degradation. Air and water pollution, diseases, and global warming are some of the problems we are currently experiencing. It seems the more we progress with technological innovations, the more we are getting close to environmental destruction. The sophistication of our invention does not guarantee that we are living a better life. But in spite of the condition in the community, the people there always have a reason to smile. There, you can find comfort, hospitality and camaraderie.

I thank the organizers of TAO-Pilipinas for giving this kind of experience for YPs. There were new friendships reaped, much laughter recalled, and not to mention the yummy food they served! More importantly, I was enlightened that there are people who are willing to offer their talents for the benefit of less privileged communities. I think the experience gained from the workshop could change decisions one may take in the future.

Nothing is more rewarding than seeing a poor neighbourhood work together to create better homes. Their efforts and hope for a better life do not end at the neighborhood boundaries but also affect other residents around them. The community of MASAGANA in Navotas is still young but it is maturing rapidly because they are taking steps towards a more promising future.

I think the learning curve is steep but there is so much to learn. I end this reflection with the quote, "we do not own this world; we just borrowed it from our children." ~o~o~o~o~



JM and his teammates travel by banca to the MASAGANA community in Tanza, Navotas, City.



The YP team of JM during the community immersion in Tanza, Navotas.



The YP team wades through floodwaters to conduct the transect walk activity.



JM facilitates a focus group discussion activity during the community workshop on water and sanitation.

YP Reflections



Cherry May Mateo, 23 years old, is a BS Civil Engineering graduate of the University of the Philippines – Diliman. She graduated in 2008 with cum laude honors and garnered 6th-place in the Civil Engineering licensure exams. Cherry is currently taking up a graduate degree in MS Energy Engineering at UP-Diliman. She is also a member of the Department of Civil Engineering faculty and teaches Environmental Engineering and Engineering Economy.



The YP team of Cherry during the community immersion in Tanza.



Cherry facilitates a community workshop on water and sanitation.



Cherry with children in the community of Bicol and Chungkang areas in Tanza, Navotas City.

UP honor graduate + leadership capabilities + good values = high-paying job. Agree? I believe most people will agree with this. My parents and relatives would definitely agree. And so, it is quite hard for them to understand why I have chosen to teach in the university and reject my other higher-paying job offers.

It's quite a struggle. My mom often asks me why. Once, I have said my real reason: I feel that I need to serve my country; I feel the need to give back. She said: "*Anak, sa kahit ano'ng trabaho naman nakakatulong ka.*" Almost every other day, my mom would try to convince me to quit my job and work for the big companies. "*Bakit kelangan kong magsilbi sa malalaking kumpanya kung alam kong nag-aagawan ang nakararami para pagsilbihan sila, samantalang kokonti lang ang gustong magsilbi sa nakararami?*" Of course, I never got to ask this question out loud. =)

If teaching in the university is quite hard to accept for them, then working for a NGO is out of the picture. I've stayed quiet about my desire to work for small impoverished communities. So when I've learned about TAO's workshop for young professionals, I immediately grabbed the chance to experience working for the urban poor. Excellent opportunity – Destiny could have worked things out for me. This year's theme is water and sanitation, a field that I've worked on for my thesis and a topic that I teach in the university.

The discussions, lectures and workshops on water and sanitation were not entirely new to me. What was new to me, actually, was the genuine desire to re-learn all the topics. Maybe it was because I knew that this time, things are not going to be entirely theoretical – I am actually expected to apply what I've learned to the community.

Upon arriving at the community and settling in our host family's house, my team mates and I immediately tried to conceptualize the solutions that we could present to the community. We were overwhelmed by the situation – underneath the houses on stilts are

layers of trash; water lines run along the black drainage waters; septic tanks are non-existent. None of the wastewater treatment systems presented to us is actually applicable to the community. We were not able to come up with a definite solution. We just hoped that after the workshop with the community, we could analyze the problems better.

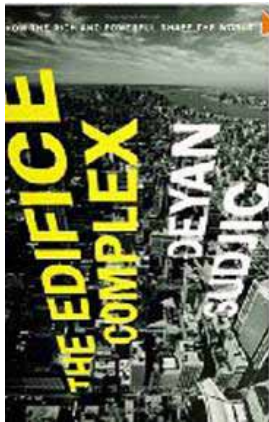
Holding the workshop opened our eyes to more problems. Apparently, the community wants to solve more problems other than their water and sanitation concerns. They mentioned the need for street lighting and livelihood programs. After several discussions, we finally concluded that we will start solving their water connection problems first.

Although I have been to several urban poor communities, I haven't actually mingled and lived with them. It was my first time and I must say that I was overwhelmed with the veracity of living among these people. However, amazingly, while strolling around the community after the workshop, I felt a surge of calmness within me. No matter how troubling and hopeless the community seems from afar, I am not troubled. Probably, it is because simply by choosing to go there to understand their situation and not just wonder from afar how it is to live there, I felt that I have begun to become part of the solution. I have gained a better perspective and I have found a new purpose in life.

Please turn to page 10.

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: **The Edifice Complex: How the Rich and Powerful Shape the World**
Author: **Deyan Sudjic**
Publisher: **Penguin Press (2005)**

About the author (from book jacket): Deyan Sudjic has been an architecture critic for the Observer newspaper in London since 2000. He was the editor of the Italian magazine Domus and director of the Venice Architecture Biennale and is the author of many previous books on architecture.

Content: Deyan Sudjic explores the *edifice complex* or the tendency of politicians to erect massive structures as a way to perpetuate their power and preserve their legacy. The author sets off by showing how architecture is used as a political tool and as an expression of power by twentieth-century autocrats such as Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Mao and Saddam Hussein. He gives a wide range of examples of grandiose buildings created to glorify a leader, to establish an identity for a nation, or as an attempt to make a mark for immortality. Some of these buildings effectively impressed while others were considered monumental failures.

Sudjic also gives us an inside look into the careers of some prominent architects who design these buildings and their relationship with rich and powerful clients. These architects include early modernists like Mies Van der Rohe and Phillip Johnson to contemporary architects like Frank Gehry, Rem Koolhaas and Renzo Piano. A short section on Imelda Marcos and Leandro Locsin is also included in the book.

Review: The book is an exploration of the relationship of architecture with power, politics, and money. It gives us a new perspective on the role of buildings in people's lives. It also provides us a rationale for the architectural design of contemporary buildings, with their instantly recognizable silhouettes. The author argues that today's proliferation of odd-shaped buildings is a result of following the design dictum "form follows image".

Readers who are familiar with the buildings and architects mentioned in the book will find the narrative engrossing, as some make up for gossipy accounts of how the buildings were designed and built. The unfamiliar might not fully understand the author's explications because this is an architecture book without pictures. *Googling* some of the buildings and architects while reading the book would certainly help in appreciating its content. *(Geraldine Matabang)*



Title: **Zoom**
Author: **Istvan Banyai**
Publisher: **Puffin Books (1995)**

This picture book done by Istvan Banyai will give its readers a visual treat. It is a mind stimulating book that will challenge the visual perception ability of readers. The book is wordless and the creator left it to the readers to interpret the message of the book. This book tickles the imagination of the readers and can be used for group activities such as storytelling exercises and other communication exercises. The book is entitled Zoom because the images are zoomed images and the story unfolds as you zoom out the images which happens page by page.

This book has been used by our organization for our small group activity in one of our workshops. It was a very effective tool for pointing out communication gaps and errors because in the activity the participants were each given the illustrations and were asked to describe the particular illustration given to them and communicate with other participants to be able to make a story and complete the whole book. The catch of the activity is that they were not allowed to show the illustrations given to them. The group took about an hour to finish the activity mainly because some of the participants were having difficulties in describing and communicating the illustrations. Overall, the book is not only limited to being just a picture book but it can be a powerful visual aid to be used for team building exercises, guessing games, and other group activities. *(Angel Sales)*

YP reflections...

(from page 8)

I may not be able to work full time for the community or for TAO or for any NGO. However, I have vowed to allot more time for community extension work and to do researches for better water and sanitation options for impoverished communities. Meanwhile, I am trying to incorporate discussions on realities in poor communities in my class lectures. Hopefully, in the future, my parents would understand this equation that I would like apply to my life:

UP honor graduate + leadership capabilities + good values + community service = successful, meaningful life ~o~o~o~o~

This is my favorite picture. I saw this innocent kid playing with mud near the bay walk. The picture reminds me that there is hope for the community no matter how difficult their situation can be.



Events & Announcements



NEW PUBLICATION: Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Site Planning and House Design in Resettlement Projects

TAO-Pilipinas has just published a research monograph entitled *Integrating Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Site Planning and House Design in Resettlement Projects*. The publication is a documentation of the action-research project funded through the Applied Research Grants for Disaster Reduction Programme by the ProVention Consortium and with support of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc. as host organization.

The monograph includes the following reports by the research team: "Good Practices and Gaps in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Education and Disaster Preparedness in Albay Province" by Rosalyn-Frances O. Marcelo; "Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Considerations in the Design of Shelter Units in Albay Resettlement Sites" by Geraldine R. Matabang; and "Enhancing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Awareness of Communities in Taysan and Anislag Resettlement Sites" by Beryl F. Baybay.

Copies of the publication may be obtained from TAO-Pilipinas at PhP140.00 per copy.

A poster for the National Architecture Student Symposium. The top part features the names of the guest speakers, Dr. Darko Radovic and Dr. Ken Yeang, with their titles and affiliations. Below this is a collage of architectural images, including a modern building, a cityscape, and a person's face. The bottom part of the poster has a green background with the text 'UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS ASIAN GREEN CITIES NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM' and the date '30 JANUARY 2010 | 8AM-5PM'. It also lists the venue as the Medicine Auditorium at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. Logos for 'colabo', 'archinet', and 'visitasipine' are at the bottom.

National Architecture Student Symposium
ASIAN GREEN CITIES: Visions of the Modern World
Guest Speakers: Dr. Ken Yeang & Dr. Darko Radovic
Date: 30 January 2010, Saturday | 8AM-5PM
Venue: Medicine Auditorium, UST
OPEN TO STUDENTS & PROFESSIONALS

The Asian Green Cities Symposium is a one-day architectural student convention bringing together two of the world's foremost authorities in environmental urban design, Dr. Ken Yeang, a distinguished practitioner, urban planner, and director of the London-based firm Llewelyn Davies Yeang a sister company of TR Hamzah & Yeang of Malaysia, and Dr. Darko Radovic, a leading academic scholar from Keio University and Tokyo University in Japan and University of Melbourne in Australia. Both will discuss global concerns and practices with regards to sustainability and eco-masterplanning and how they could be applied in the local context especially in Asian cities.

The symposium will also address issues and challenges that face a developing nation like the Philippines in light of the current state of the global environment; and how architects, designers and planners play crucial roles in offering solutions to these problems we face as a nation. As we start to get back on our feet in the aftermath of the recent typhoon disasters, the long debate and discussion on the need for sound urban planning and environmental architecture takes on a new spark.

For more information, visit www.ustarchinet.org