

# 2011 Young Professionals Workshop on Social Housing

## Project Description

The Young Professionals (YP) Workshop on Social Housing is a capability-building activity organized annually by TAO-Pilipinas to orient young design professionals about social housing, with different thematic focus every year. It targets young design professionals/students who are interested in working on issues that affect poor communities, particularly their shelter needs. It aims to develop social commitment and promote YP involvement in participatory processes with poor communities in need of technical professional services. Done in coordination with TAO's partner NGOs and people's organizations, the program provides venues for direct community-professional interaction. TAO has organized four cycles of the Young Professionals Workshop in Social Housing with the following themes and immersion areas: participatory community planning (Metro Manila) in 2005; community-based disaster risk management (Infanta, Quezon Province) in 2006; building sustainable communities in resettlement sites (Albay Province) in 2008; and water supply and sanitation (Metro Manila) in 2009. For the 2011 YP Workshop on Social Housing, the program shall focus on **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**.



*"The topics discussed in the workshop are not entirely new to me but the experience of going to the community is very enlightening. 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."*

**Cherry Mae Mateo**, civil engineer, UP graduate and 2009 YP workshop participant

*"By facilitating workshops, the people listened and cooperated with us. A meeting of minds happened so that we can all come up with solutions to the problems they presented. Not everything can be learned in class, there is much more to learn from interacting with people."*

**Rex Atienza**, geodetic engineer, UP graduate and 2006 YP workshop participant



## Target Participants

- Young professionals, 21 to 40 years old, and practicing Architecture, Engineering (Civil, Geodetic, Sanitary, Mechanical, Electrical), or Environmental Planning;
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> year undergrad students and graduate students (in disciplines mentioned above);
- Young Professionals in LGUs, NGOs, and Private Architectural, Engineering and Planning Firms;

We will select up to forty (40) participants, a mix of young design professionals, students and community leaders. As much as possible, an equal number of male and female applicants will be selected as workshop participants.

Criteria for selection of participants:

Level A: willingness to work with urban poor communities; strong inclination to go into community development work; and openness to learn and practice alternative development approaches in housing

Level B: high level of consciousness about housing issues; experience in working with urban poor communities; and experience in working with socialized housing projects

Level C: commitment to go into community development work

# About the Workshop Theme

## Workshop Fee

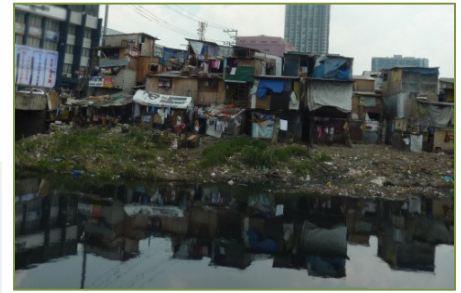
Workshop registration fee is **Php 7,500**. It covers training materials, food and accommodation during the training, and group transportation for community visits. Participants will be responsible for their other personal expenses.

A limited number of applicants (especially students) will be considered for sponsorship covering workshop registration fees. In exchange for participation in the 7-day training program without payment of fees, **each sponsored participant is required to render 160 hours of volunteer work or OJT work** (without allowance) for TAO projects within the period November 2011 to May 2012.

Disasters cause significant physical damage, drastic change to the environment, and loss of peoples' lives. Poor families in informal settlements are usually the victims and first responders in a disaster. Even small hazard events can devastate the few assets of the poor.

Recognizing that poor families are the most vulnerable sector, they are also at a higher risk because most of them reside in hazard-prone areas. The development of sustainable housing solutions is a challenge that government has not fully addressed so the poor continue to live in high-risk areas, occupying the embankments of waterways, roads, bridges and public easements.

To reduce disaster risk, building safer and more resilient communities is critical. These families have to be informed of the amount of risks posed by the hazards, the possible options for mitigation, and how to strengthen their capacity to cope. These would lead to creating better-planned communities, a major strategy to reduce the risk and impact of disaster.



This is where design professionals come in to play an important role in enhancing the capabilities of the communities exposed to hazards. Design professionals possess the technical skills in shaping built environments that may lessen the vulnerabilities of at-risk communities. But these knowledge and information have to be shared with the communities who need it most. It is for this reason that this year's theme for the annual YP workshop is focused on – **Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Community Planning and Development** – a timely and relevant topic as we live in one of the world's most disaster prone regions and the devastation brought by Typhoon Ondoy only showed us that we still have a long way to go to overcome disasters.

## Workshop Schedule

October 19-25, 2011

*"My experience during the YP Workshop further enlightened me that as an Interior Designer or any other profession you have chosen, you can help the less fortunate to uplift their lives and move towards a society that will recognize the needs of this sector."*

**Ma. Veronica Hernando**, interior designer, Assumption College graduate, 2005 YP Workshop participant

## Registration

Application forms may be downloaded online at <http://www.ypws.tao-pilipinas.org>

Complete application requirements may be submitted to TAO-Pilipinas through email, fax or postal mail. Deadline for receipt of applications are as follows:

**Sponsored** participants:  
August 31, 2011

**Non-sponsored** participants:  
September 16, 2011

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## Objectives and Method

The overall objective of the 2011 YP Workshop is to build the capacity of YPs in providing technical design support to poor communities working towards shelter security and sustainable settlements. Specifically, it aims to:

1. 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;
2. Provide a venue for discussion among experts, young design professionals and urban poor community representatives on disaster risk reduction as they relate to social housing;
3. Encourage the involvement of young design professionals/students in community development work through immersion and direct interaction; and
4. Facilitate transfer of technical knowledge on building disaster-resilient communities to partner people's organizations.

The YP Workshop is a venue for young design professionals to work directly with poor communities in planning and developing design solutions for the improvement of their settlements through participatory techniques and bottom-up approaches. The main activity of the project is the 7-day workshop program that combines two levels of training --- theory and practicum. The workshop is composed of four modules:

- Module 1 – Lecture Sessions on Social Housing**
- Module 2 – Lecture Sessions on Disaster Risk Reduction**
- Module 3 – Community Immersion**
- Module 4 – Community Action Planning**

For the first two modules, resource persons from the government, academe, non-government institutions and people's organizations will be invited to give presentations. The last two modules involve undergoing field visits, a 3-day stay-in immersion, and facilitating community consultations. After fieldwork activities, the participants are expected to report back to give a presentation of their immersion outputs and develop ways to realize formulated community action plans.

The methods used in the workshop are **highly participatory** (e.g. focus group discussion, simulation exercises, role play, games, field workshops, etc.) and participants are both learners and facilitators. Apart from primarily being a capability-building training for the participants, the workshop may also serve as a transitional support towards implementing small-scale community self-improvement/upgrading projects. The workshop is basically the first step in the process of identifying and defining solutions to the social housing problems that the participants will encounter in their community immersion activities.