

Newsletter

CAN - Community Architects Network

Issue 2, June 2012

Hello all CAN friends,

Wish you are doing well, wherever you have been doing with peoples in communities. This is the 2nd issue of our CAN newsletter-the young, fresh and new born newsletter- to keep the dynamic of CAN's activities to be hear and visible. Within these issues you will find many interesting stories and news in our region. "Listening to one another, working from and with the difference" is a core them for this issue, which we inserted to make our newsletter more creative, relax, and being fruitful for your works on the ground rather than updating the upcoming news.

This issue inspired by the book named "Turning to one another" of Margaret J. Wheatley. When you observe your works, your processes while working with people, do you used to ask yourself how things get starting? How you know, you should do this step before other those steps? Who design process, just only you as a facilitator or with the flow of critical mass of people? Whatever the processes and logical answer from yours, it would be good if we can re-look, re-feel it again and again to refine your experience and ask yourself what is the essence of your working process, your flowing with people?"

This issue we kindly to share you more on "the dialogue" -the basic and simple natural way to turn to one another, as extra article apart from our news. It is a tool and also being an aim in itself for our work as community architect to initiate the space for creativity to be emerged. The culture of creating space for community people to develops when they grow their own community. Actually we always do it instinctively in our work while designing and planning with people. This issue would like to encourage you to reflect it more deeply with delicately. Ok, let flip the next pages to meet and share with all our CAN friends via this newsletter.

CAN
June 2012



Listening to one another,
working from & with the difference

Issue 2, June 2012

What happened in last four months!

I. Community architect workshop at Tan An city, Vietnam (19th-23th March 2012)

This workshop organized and worked in the real ACCA project which aims boost an understanding of people-driven process in housing project with local officer, and community leader. Also working on the real project together between senior YPs and new comer is the good way to train the YPs group in Vietnam (CAN-Vietnam). This workshop has really made a kick start for the process in community. It is not only alley 115, Nguyen Thai Binh street, Binh Dong 1 Quarter, 3rd Ward where already have ACCA projects, but also other communities in Tan An city will be link with national network. After the workshop, the southern Vietnam YPs groups in Ho Chi Minh was set with new 6 members as volunteer to continue working with to Tan An city government to complete community detail plan. (More detail report and working diary, please contact Nga at ngacdf2810@gmail.com)

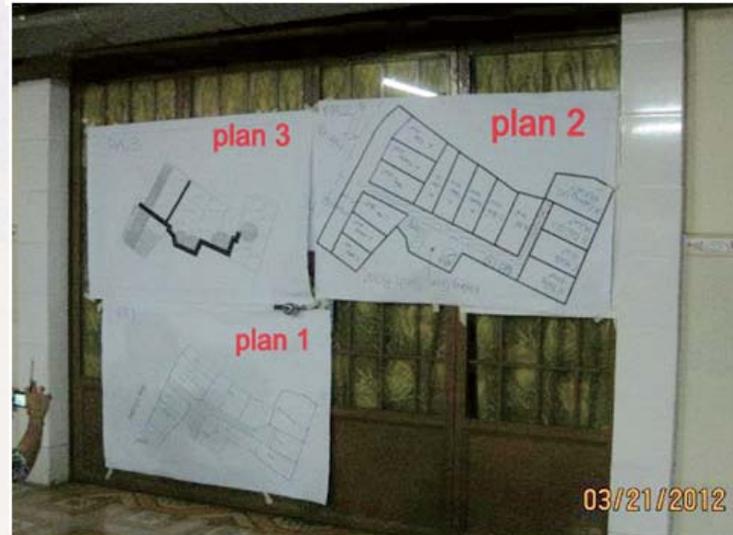


II. CAN and Rural planning; the new challenge of architects and planning roles

It is clear that solving urban problems such as growing of informal settlements and urban sprawl with related issues we have to see things holistically. For this reason, rural planning and community development's initiative is the other key in solving existing conditions and planning for future development. Take Thailand as the case of the land inequality, where 90% on land owning by 10% population, and 17% of Thai population are the landless, especially in the rural area.

Initiated by CODI and networks of communities in rural area, the "Rural Baan Mankong" projects have been proceeding in 566 Tambon (sub-district or township) which aims to solve the land rights problems and enhance the participatory planning issues. On 27th April 2012 there is the national conference in Thailand and showcase the 3 pilot projects where CAN-Thailand has been involving. It was interesting conference where combination between planning and design view collaborating with people movement. Also the conference co-hosted by The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA), which it create the mutual learning between role of architect in term of planning and the needed support from rural communities.

Our friends from CAN; Nepal, Vietnam, Philippine, Cambodia, Indonesia and Laos also participate in this conference and visit the annual exhibition of Thais architect and architectural universities.



What happened in last four months!

III. CAN meeting 28th-29th April 2012 at Bangkok

The day begin with initiating the CAN-Mandala (selected pictures of CAN activities from last 3 years laying on the floor as Mandala; the form of all creation), and be in silence for Andre and inner power to talk, share, and visualize of CAN in the future. This meeting aims to explore the creative direction that we will work together from now to April 2013. Here is the summarize plan and related budget to be managed.

	Task	Coordinator	Budget/USD	Time	Note
1	Seed funds for CA in each country @4,000 usd/country for 10 countries	Nad,tee	40,000	End of May 2012	
2	CAN website	Nad,Tee	10,000	July 2012	Collaborate with web designer
3	handbook	Tee/Hugo	32,000	Aug.2012	*before training
	• Re-edit mapping and survey by people	Hugo	2,000		
	• Upgrading community	Lumanti	2,000		
	• Bamboo for sustainable community/case study from Matina,PP	Cak,SABA	2,000		*already approved
	• People process+ community saving	May,Len	2,000		
	• Learning from disaster	Cak	2,000		
	• Introduction for CAN	Tee			
4	Documentary films	Nad,Sut,Tee	8,000	Dec.2012	
	• Bamboo technology series	Cak	1,500		
	• Low cost house, ICEB	May,TEMPIE	1,500		
	• Participatory design process series	Nad,Sut,Tee	1,500		
	• Introduction CAN	Nad,Sut,Tee	500		
	• YPs training in Vietnam	Nga,Linh	500		In Tan An city:03.2012
	• Yps+CA activities in CAM-CAN	Len,Sokly	500		CA in Cambodia
	• Other contents		2,000		Propose to coordinators
5	City-wide training course in Asia		60,000	Aug.2012	*include preparation
	*Develop concept, proposal, course/schedule/flow/preparation in 10days	May, Arlean	2,000		*for coordinator
6	*Can propose for other workshops		30,000		Work with communities



(For full report, please contact Chawanad "Nad" at chawanad@hotmail.com, or "Tee" at architect_once@hotmail.com)

What happened in last four months!

IV. YPs joining the housing at scale workshop with DPU students during 29th April to 11th May 2012

This year Development Planning Unit (DPU) from University College of London came to Thailand again for fieldtrip and small workshop with 6 communities in Thailand under the theme called "Housing at Scale: Collaborative People-Centred Partnerships for Slum Upgrading in Bangkok, Thailand". 9 YPs from CAN (Thailand, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam) also participate this workshop working and sharing with DPU student groups. It was a good chance for them to visit and see Baan Mankong project from CODI after they have been working support community in their home countries a couple years. Also being a good chance to exchange their experiences with friends from another context, hope this event will challenge and strengthen their skills.

Recently we, CAN-ACHR, are developing co-proposal with DPU to organize the serial workshop called 'Itinerant Labs' which will be conducted in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to condense the accumulated knowledge of participatory design. For further detail and update we will keep you inform through email's circle.

Some note from working diary from YPs during DPU workshop who working in Pataya group.

"Big learning - Not just the houses but growing together: We realized that planning and housing is not the final of our mission, and it is not enough for the future of community people mission too. How our learning process will be a little part of growing together. We started to talk again but now were taking in the same language. We analyzed and summarized all of document and created our mission by ourselves. We would like to help community leader communicate with their member by creating some tools to make people talk together about their life, not only present plan but also the secure life planning for future. We learned a lot from this workshop... for me I learned to enjoin group working... surely everyone were different... how will we find the way to balance... Make big communication, listening to friends and communities, sometime I don't know how to beyond obstacles, but we can pass them by learning and doing together. This is the big moment that I still have learning all time."

(For full working diary of 9 YPs, please contact Supawut "Tee" at architect_once@hotmail.com)

V. New CAN handbook on comprehensive site planning

CAN-ACHR lunched new handbook on comprehensive site planning. This book summarizes an experience of participatory site planning works in Thailand, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. You can download this book and previous handbooks in PDF file at <http://www.achr.net/achrdownloads.htm>



Comprehensive site planning
Transform community to better living place for all
Handbook series II

What happened in last four months!

Vi. Earth Brick in Mongolia – New invention of UDRC with saving group members for the alternative housing's material

“Mongolia has large territory Mongolian population lives dispersed everywhere. There is no substructure and Social Welfare is bad in the countryside have moved to city a lot for last years. These new settlers live in Ger districts of UB. The size of Ger districts is getting larger from day to day. According to the research of the World Bank, 93% of total area is in Ger districts and 7% of total area is in the center of the city in UB. The construction materials aren't made in the countryside and people who live there are very lacking in construction materials. So most of households live in the wooden house and in Mongolian felt Ger. But only 9% of the total area in Mongolia is the forest. Green forests are being cut down from year to year. It is very dangerous for environment” report from G.Batdorj /BAT

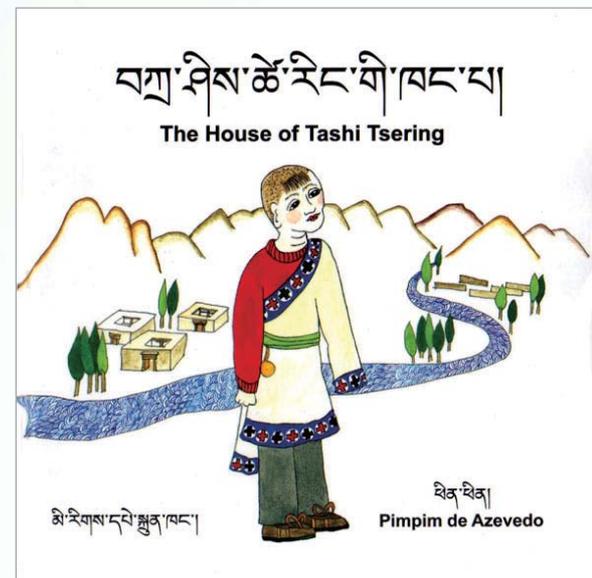
Starting from small workshop in October, 2010, when Nad introduce Earthen Cement Block to UDRC and people network in Bayanchandman sum of Tuv province. Now the process of developing an earthen brick to be construction material gone far and fast to meet with those challenges regarding alternative material for urban poor housing as mentioned above. Now Mongolia can produce the brick producing machine, with support from private company and Land Shaft Architectural Chair of Agriculture University and Technological College, instead of buying expensive machine from China. This new invention went to Mongolia Public Television twice in 2011-2012 to promote earth brick as the sustainable material since soil earth is abundant local resources in Mongolia region. So far there are 80 members from saving groups were trained. And next plan is the build the training center in 7 local regions with handbook supported by UDRC. (More detail, please contact Bat from UDRC at bat_ubf@yahoo.com)



VII. New book of Tibet Heritage Funds (THF)

Written and illustrated by Pimpim de Azevedo, about a young Tibetan boy who goes on pilgrimage through Tibet with his parents. He is impressed by the wide variety of different villages homes, town houses and monasteries he encounters, differing from place to place. His dream is to one day build a traditional Tibetan house for himself. Bi-lingual in Tibetan and English, distributed in schools across Tibet.

(More detail, please contact Pimpim at pemamarpo@yahoo.com.hk)



What happened in last four months!

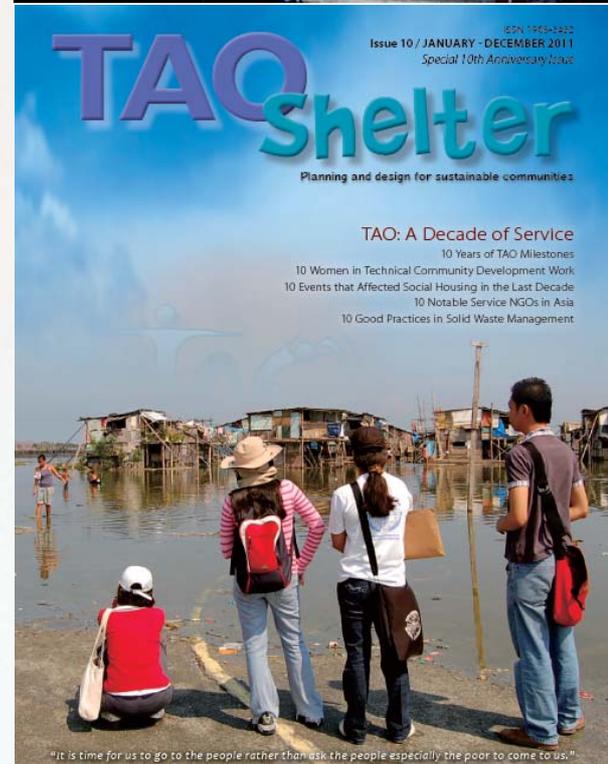
VIII. TAO: Celebration at the year number 10

TAO-Pilipinas is an NGO of Filipino women technical professionals founded in 2001. Currently, it is composed of 5 technical staff, 3 admin and finance staff and two mothers from our community partner in Navotas alternating each week to clean our office and cook our food. Reflecting on the path we have taken, TAO-Pilipinas is a creation of a rebellious mind that refused to be dictated, a cry for freedom and a search for meaning in life with a pound of ignorance concocted under a mango tree. We were born because we wanted to walk our walk. We started without big material dreams but with grand utopian vision of equality for all and happiness for the world, almost like Ms. Universe.

In our first 5 years, we leapfrog with humility willing to learn and share. Our first office is a mango tree, and our first equipment is our hands, eyes, paper, pencils and markers. Our school was the slums. Our mentors are the poor people and those who have worked longer with the poor people. We learned and sweat, we live a simple life. Each day is filled with energy, challenges and happiness... and happiness is most important both in our work and life. Young Professionals Workshop in 2006.

In those ten years, we stumbled, we argued with our mentors, we built relationships, we worry about finances and our lifespan, we ask ourselves many times, how long will we last? Credibility and respect is earned. Confidence is hewn from experiences. We are here because we are happy to be here and because the people we work with – those who need us and those who support us, both like us to stay. Now, we seldom have time to sit under a mango tree. And we don't count the leaves that fall; we count the fruit it bears. Spirituality Training in 2007.

For more info about the history of TAO-Pilipinas and download the 10th anniversary publication visit <http://www.tao-pilipinas.org/about/history/>



IX. Seed of community architect spreading in Latin America, Natalia sharing community architects work in Ecuador.

Our friend Natalia Dulcey, went to the International Conference "Alternative development" in Ecuador to present about Asian Community Architect's works on 1 June 2012. The working table on her presentation is all about Democracy and politic participation: critics and conception about the relationships between society and state (http://www.mmrree.gob.ec/efc/conf_agenda.asp). (More detail, please contact Natalia at nadulcey@yahoo.com)



Upcoming Events and Activities

X. Follow up Eviction along Bagmati River in Nepal

Following up the trip on May, 19th -22th by ACHR team with Arif Hassan from Pakistan, Jockin Arputham from SDI, Gordon Mcgranahan from IIED, and Nad from ACHR-CAN to visit the eviction in Katmandu and to discussed with relevant organizations for the solutions; recently Lumanti and Amit (community architects working at LUMANTI) starting workout the workshop program with evicted families, people federation, local universities. Tentatively workshop date will be on July or August 2012.

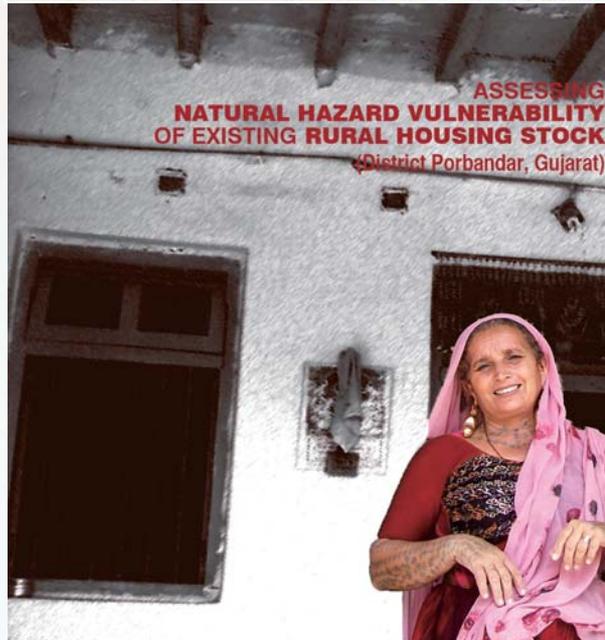
By this initiative on organizing workshop, it aims to explore alternative solutions by participatory design and planning supporting the struggle for rights, also boosting the community network in Kathmandu together with the movement of community architect in South Asian context by inviting our friend from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to participate. If the date and program fix, we will update through the email's circle. *(For more detail about workshop, please contact Lumanti at lumantijoshi@gmail.com)*



XI. Community architect meeting in INDIA, bonding CAN-ACHR with the richness of India.

On 23th-24th June, there will be informal community architect meeting in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. By Kirtee's initiative (our senior community architect from ASAG) which aim to link CAN-ACHR more closely to many groups in India, so this meeting has been discussing and planning to be happened with support from Hunnarshala in Bhuj and many friends in India. There will be 18-20 key participants from Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Bangalore, and Trivandrum participating and sharing their experiences in 2 days meeting. We fully hope the outcome of this meeting will lead CAN network to wider arena with new and creative collaboration.

And during 13th-29th June, CAN-ACHR (Nad, Tee and People Technical Assistance Group (PTAG) from Nepal) will visit CAN friends in Leh of Ladakh, Bhuj and Ahmedabad of Gujarat, and new friend (Ms.Renu Khosla) from Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) who actively working on informal housing and related matters in Delhi and Agra. The report on this trip will be share on the next issues.



Article: Turning to one another



“ I believe we can change the world if we start listening to one another again. Simple, honest, human conversation. Not mediation, negotiation, problem-solving, debate, or public meetings. Simple, truthful conversation where we each have a chance to speak, we each feel heard, and we each listen well. What would it feel like to be listening to each other again about what disturbs and troubles us? About what gives us energy and hope? About our yearnings, our fears, our prayers, our children?”

“ It's not easy to begin talking to one another again. We stay silent and apart for many reasons. Some of us never have been invited to share our ideas and opinions. From early school days and now as adults, we've been instructed to be quiet so others can tell us what to think. Others of us are accustomed to meetings to discuss ideas, but then these sessions degenerate into people shouting, or stomping out angrily, or taking over control of the agenda. These experiences have left us feeling hesitant to speak, and frightened of each other. But good conversation is very different from those bad meetings. It is a much older and more reliable way for humans to think together. Before there were meetings, planning processes, or any other techniques, there was conversation-people sitting around interested in each other, talking together. When we think about beginning a conversation, we can take courage from the fact that this is a process we all know how to do. We are reawakening an ancient practice, a way of being together that all humans remember. A colleague in Denmark stated it perfectly: “It remembers me what it is to be human” ”

written by Margaret Wheatley

For more reading source; <http://www.margaretwheatley.com/>



*Right action is a process of birthing
that cannot be forced
but only followed.*

by Margaret Wheatley

Next issue on September 2012 We kindly invite all friends in the network to suggest, comment, and share stories about your work and insights from your experiences in working with people. Please send us your short stories with some pictures. We at the Secretariat will help to edit and compile the next issue in April. We look forward to learn more from your experiences, thank you!!

Are you on our mailing list?

If you'd like to be on the mailing list for future newsletter and publication, please send your email address and contact details to us at architect_once@hotmail.com, chawanad@hotmail.com (temporary email using for coordinating CAN). It's also nice to hear a bit about what you are doing or your organization.

**Asian
Coalition
for Housing
Rights**

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