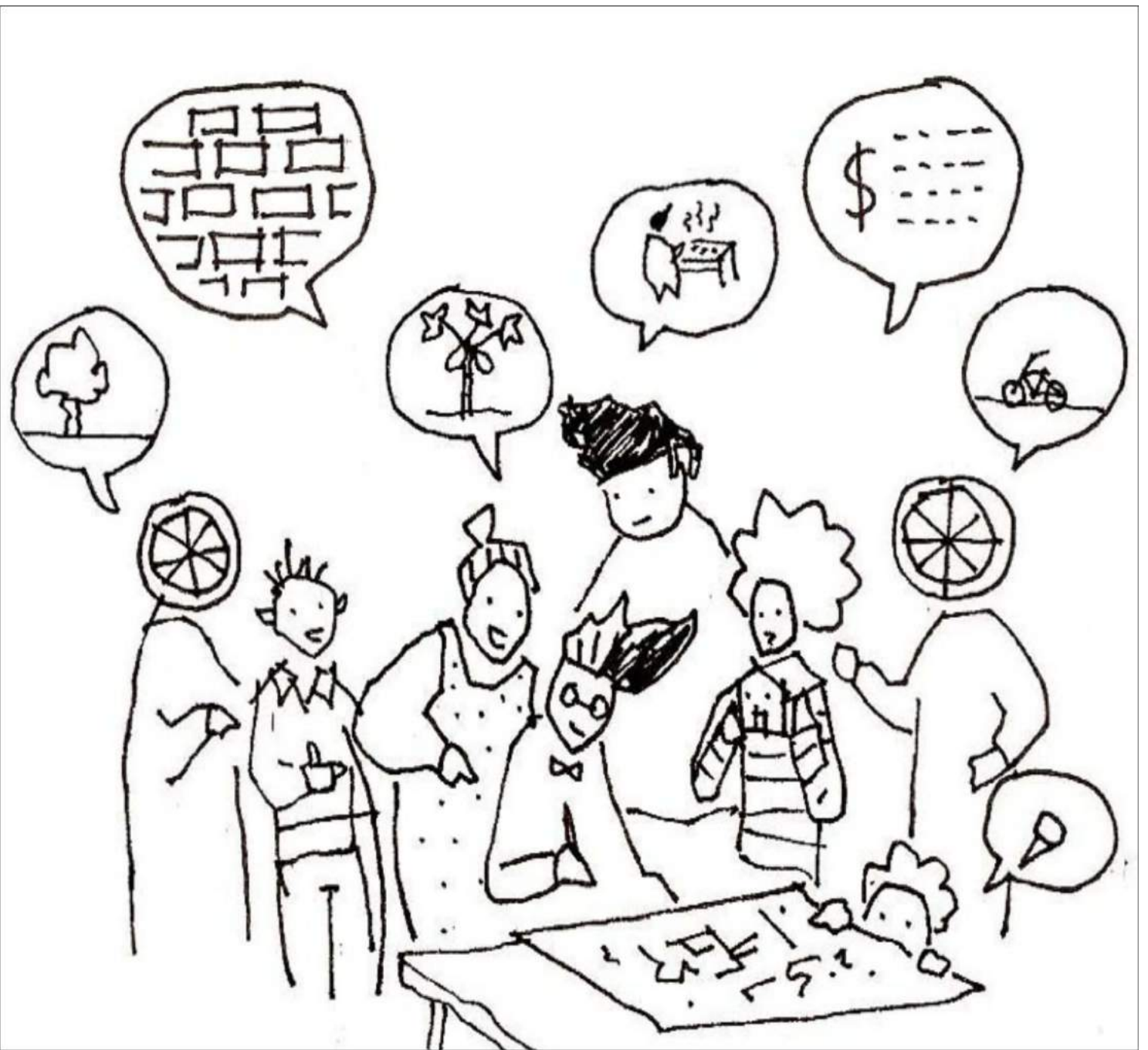


# CAN Workshop in Manila

A report on the regional workshop of the Community Architects Network Asia, held in Manila, the Philippines, 20 - 29 May, 2013



PEOPLE  CAN make change!



*adopted from CAN Presentation by Australia*

Proceedings from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Workshop in Manila, Philippines 20-28<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Organized by :

- PACSII
- HPFPI
- CAN
- TAMPEI
- In collaboration with partners

Acknowledgements

Background –ACHR/CAN

## **CAN 2nd Regional Workshop**

Citywide Perspective  
Our role as CAN

## **Philippines Context**

Cities background  
Community background

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Part 1: Sharing and knowledge gathering  
Part 2: Understanding context, community workshops and homestays  
Part 3: Multi-stakeholder forum on people-driven citywide upgrading

## **Impact, Achievements and the Way Forward**

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- Working hand-in-hand: UPCA-Phils and CAN-Phils

## **Appendix**

## Acknowledgements

The Community Architects Network would like to send a word of appreciation to all the delegates who participated in this workshop, who shared lessons and experiences from various countries. Your attendance and participation is always highly appreciated.

We would like to thank the local teams in the Philippines for their tireless efforts to make the workshop happen.

We would like to thank our partners: PACSII, Homeless Peoples Federation Philippines (HPFPI), Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment Inc. (TAMPEI), Philippine Action for Slum Upgrading Facility Inc. (PASUFI), University of Philippines (UP), FDUP, TAO, the Philippine Alliance and all other partners for both their material and non-material support.

Further, we acknowledge the input of Somsook Boonyabancha, ACHR for her vital and continuous support in this workshop and its aim for a citywide approach to planning.

We further acknowledge all those who helped in the organization and coordination of the workshop.

## ACHR

The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights is a network focused on urban poor development. The network consists of various members, mostly grassroots organizations as well as professionals such as architects, engineers and urban planners. ACHR firmly people in people as the solution and build on this motto when conducting participatory methods in their processes. ACHR cover many countries in South-East Asia and have multiple programs under them directed to various issues the poor communities face such as:

ACCA (Asian Coalitions for Community Action) focused on supporting citywide processes of slum upgrading in 150 countries. This program was built on community organizations and their supporting groups. Lessons from their mistakes and lessons learnt are the a continuous part of the program.

CAN (Community Architects Network is network consisting of architects, engineers, urban planners, professionals, lecturers and academic institutions. CAN promotes learning by doing, sharing of experiences and involving all professions and expertise in their processes.

UPCA (Urban Poor Coalition Asia) is a platform to share, link, learn and support the diverse urban poor communities in Asia. Given the involvement of professionals, it is important that the voice of the poor continues to be heard and given its due importance, and UPCA is a space for the communities to gather, support, brainstorm and strengthen themselves.

## CAN Network and the process

The Community Architects Network [CAN] is a program under ACHR, which was started in 2009. The mission of CAN is to create a platform to link architects, engineers, planners, universities and community artisans in Asia, who work with communities and believe that poor communities should play a central role in planning their communities, and in finding solutions to build better settlements and more inclusive cities. CAN initiates activities for the different groups to support each others' work and to share and exchange experience knowledge amongst network members.



Workshop Participants  
Photo@BarbaraDovarch

## Recap on 1st meeting

The first CAN Regional meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Bangkok during 12-16 May 2010. This was the first time the members gathered with 125 people attending. Community leaders from across Asia, professionals, and community architects as well as a team from the Chang Chumchon (Community Builders) made up the 125 attendees. The workshop brought participants together to visit communities in Bangkok, and to share and learn from each others experiences. The 4-day meeting discussions were around participatory planning and urban regeneration, community upgrading, rebuilding after disasters and the poor in historic urban neighbourhoods. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together the “lone rangers” conducting the same work, to give each other a sense of belonging to their purpose and this movement. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was aimed at replicating this and furthering it by initiating the workshop phase where we actively used each other’s experiences to share, work together and help the communities around the Philippines.

## The goal of the Workshop



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*“Let the people stand up and be active- so change can be done at scale from the start”*. Somsook Boonyabanha

The 2nd CAN Regional Workshop in Manila was focused on a more citywide perspective. CAN and its partners have been working in numerous countries with various dispersed communities. Most upgrading in general has been project based. Our focus was to being the scale up to city level away from a fragmented process.

The workshop aimed to linking communities together via our community based participatory process, where all relevant stakeholders are aware and linked together from the start to end of the process. By taking on a citywide perspective, this process is not fragmented system of change and by being citywide; change is at a bigger scale. All relevant parties are informed, active and aware from the beginning of the process. This is essential in knowing what elements are needed and what support is needed to bring about change at a greater scale.

## New meaning of “Architect and Architecture”

CAN is not only made up of architects, other professions are necessary and together they are the development of knowledge. Anyone can be a changemaker and the greater the integration the larger the scale of solutions will be. CAN emphasis on the people process, so even as the scale increases, knowledge still comes from the people.

Architects must have different caps, whether as counselors, mentors and other advisors. We all must be sensitive and flexible with the different hats, given the various situations we are dropped in.

As the Mayor of Valenzuela city stated: “knowledge comes from people-vertical needs to be more

horizontal". It is important to for the national stakeholders to appreciate this statement and implement it citywide using architects of all professions in a team together with the urban poor in order to provide for inclusive and sustainable solutions.

***" We have to show government that we are not a problem, but a solution. When we build a people's process in a city, we do this not just by strengthening poor people and poor communities but by building alliances with local supporters so we can go together in that city.***

***All this means is that poor people can't be sleeping, we have to work hard, we have to make ourselves busy, because nothing comes for free and we are not asking for someone to give us our rights without preparing ourselves, saving our money, developing our solutions, organizing ourselves. "***

***- Ruby Haddad***

***HPFPI NCR Coordinator, ACHR and SDI rep***



Mayor of Valenzuela  
Photo@BarbaraDovarch

## CAN 2nd Regional Workshop

### Agenda and Goal of workshop

1. To bring together (for the second time) groups of community architects, planners, engineers, etc. in Asia and local groups in the Philippines, in order to share learnings and experiences in working and supporting communities in their upgrading and housing initiatives.
2. To be able to share and apply planning and design skills of participants in finding solutions to actual local initiatives, particularly in Barangay 177 (Caloocan City), Valenzuela City and in the town of Bocaue (Bulacan Province) through: (a) local CAN involvement in and support to ongoing planning and organizing processes; and (b) participation of both local and international CAN participants during the actual workshop.
3. For participants to deepen understanding and experience in the citywide or area wide approach to finding community-driven solutions to shelter- and built environment-related issues.
4. To use the opportunity to promote community-driven and participatory planning and design approaches and processes to local universities and to groups of technical professionals, with the view of expanding the local CAN network to better able cater to the technical support needs of urban poor communities.
5. To promote community-driven processes in housing and upgrading, particularly in the areas of participatory planning and community-managed implementation to key government shelter agencies, with a longer term view of influencing government shelter programs to adopt, institutionalize and make resources available for such processes.

#### **Participants included:**

- Approximately 40 local participants (including community representatives)
- Approximately 40 international participants
- Approximately 20 local organizing team & secretariat



## Philippines Context



Photos@Chak

Day 1 of the workshop started with some contextualization for the participants. The participants were familiarized with the Philippine context, the various initiatives and shelter programs and the Metro Manila context.

The Philippines is one of the largest island groups in the world comprising of 7,107 islands of which 4000 are named. The total land area is approx 343,448.32 sq. km and is filled with an array of mountains, volcanoes and rivers and lakes. There are over 94 million people as of 2010.

HPFPI have spread its work over the Philippines covering Visayas, Luzon and Mindanao. The Philippine Alliance was created to target various parts of the community-led projects. The alliance is made up of HPFPI, PACSII, TAMPEI and PASUFI and their roles are outlined below:





## PHILIPPINE ALLIANCE:



The Philippine Alliance is partnered with Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI) and the Asian Coalition of Housing Rights (ACHR) collaborated with the Community-Led Infrastructure Finance Facility (CLIFF) and Homeless International (HI), Urban Poor Fund International (UPFI) of SDI as well as the Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA) from ACHR. Together they undertake community driven activities including Community Organizing, Capacity building and Mobilization, Community Surveys and mapping, Community Finance (UPDF and City Funds), Land Acquisition and Community Improvement, Learning Exchanges, Community led Upgrading and Housing, Community managed disaster Interventions, Social Enterprise Development, Urban Poor and Urban Professionals, Academe Network Formation, and Engaging government and private sector.

The Alliance has had vast experiences especially with asset and social formation, on community-driven action for land tenure and housing as well as inclusivity and alternative subsidies.

***“ Urban land has a social dimension that ideally should not be subject to the whims of the market that commodifies it.... We translate the idea of a social good into alternative subsidies – and we extract from government and other stakeholders their counterpart as practical affirmation that land is a social good and that everyone including the poor have right to space in their cities. “***

***- HPFPI and Philippine Alliance***

Together with the people, they find solutions to slum dwelling and on citizenship in local urban governance as well as scaling up interventions.

*“ People are part of government in Iloilo. It's not separate! We don't just "participate," we sit as equals with city officials in the planning process and we take part in setting plans which affect our communities. It's a big change of relationship. The level of participation and decision-making on urban poor related agenda is much different when communities have their own resources to share with the city. We are much involved, not only as partners but stakeholders.”*

- Sonia Cadornigara, HPFPI Western Visayas coordinator, SDI council member

The Alliance, through their work have come up with 10 key ideas for upgrading, these are ideas developed from their experiences and ones they people should be carried forward in all people led projects:

1. Communities are the prime movers and solutions makers
2. Emphasis should be on action on the ground
3. City-wide in thinking, action and learning
4. Strategic use of resources
5. Cities can solve their problems, together with the people
6. The goal is structural change
7. Building on what is already there
8. Spreading out rather than focused pilots
9. The principle of scarcity in mind
10. Peoples' needs are the driving force.

## Information on the Valenzuela City, Caloocan City and Bocaue

### Valenzuela City



Map of Valenzuela City  
Photo@googlemaps

Valenzuela City is the 101st largest city of the Philippines located about 14 km (7.9 miles) north of Manila. Owing to the cross migration of people across the country and its location as the northern most point of Metro Manila, Valenzuela has developed into a well-mixed, multicultural metropolis. A former agricultural rural area, Valenzuela has grown into a major economic and industrial center of the Philippines when a large number of industries relocated to the central parts of the city. Valenzuela is composed of 32 barangays, the smallest administrative unit in the city. The incumbent mayor of the city is Sherwin T. Gatchalian, first elected in 2004 and is now on his third and last term. Within the Valenzuela City Local Government Unit (LGU), the main office that is in charge of matters relating to housing, relocation and resettlement is the Housing and Resettlement Office (HRO). HRO regularly conducts site inspections and investigations; the Office also supervises in the demolition and identification of relocated groups. According HRO records as of December 2012, there are around 31,273 informal settler families or ISFs in the City. This number includes only families that have organized themselves into various community associations (and does not include unorganized communities). The other thing to note is that although the general term being used to refer to them is ISFs, many of these community organizations have already either acquired their land, or is in the process of doing so. Many of them are recipients or target recipients of various social housing finance programs of the government, such as CMP (Community Mortgage Program), CLASP (Community Land Acquisition Support Program), GLAD (Group Land Acquisition Development Program).



## Barangway 177, Caloocan City



Map of Caloocan City  
Photo@googlemaps



Map of the 3 communities chosen for this workshop in Barangay 177.  
Photo@googlemaps

The City of Caloocan is one of the cities that constitute the Metro Manila in the Philippines. It is a major residential area in the metropolis. Located north of the City of Manila, Caloocan is the country's third most populous city (after Quezon City and City of Manila) with a population of 1,489,040 as of the 2010 census. Caloocan City is divided into 188 barangays. The city uses a hybrid system for its barangays, all barangays have their corresponding numbers but only a few - mostly in the northern part - have corresponding names. Barangays in southern Caloocan City are smaller compared to their



northern counterparts. There are 164 barangays in southern Caloocan and 24 in northern Caloocan. Barangay 177 is one of the 24 barangays of Northern Caloocan and is part of Zone 15, which is the biggest zone. As of 2010, it has a total population of 75,548. Barangay 177 is further divided into clusters: Maligaya , Zabarte and Camarin. It is mostly residential area, with several private residential subdivisions.

The number of urban poor in Barangay 177 in 2007 was 45,294 (which was around 68% of total population then). The local government of Barangay 177 is said to be the only barangay in Metro Manila with a Local Housing Office and a Barangay Shelter Plan, which are usually done at the city or municipal level. Its Barangay Shelter Plan aims to provide housing for 2,587 ISFs (Informal Settler Families).

At present, 700 ISFs living in Danger Zones are being prioritized. There are now five planned in-barangay relocation sites for 700 ISFs in Danger Zones, which can accommodate only 114 families so far. The Barangay is currently searching for more lands for relocation and negotiating with landowners for the land prices. As part of implementing the Shelter Plan, certain community organizations in Barangay 177 have availed of ACCA funds for land acquisition, house improvements and site development.



Photo@ZahraKassam

## **Bocae, Bulacan**



Map of Bulacan  
Photo@googlemaps

Bocaue is a first class urban municipality in the province of Bulacan, Philippines. It lies 24.5 kilometres (15.2 mi) northeast of Manila and is located at the mid-southwestern portion of Bulacan. The town is composed of 19 barangays and it has a population of 106,407 people based on the 2010 census. With the continuous expansion of Metro Manila, the town is now part of the metropolis' built-up area, which reaches San Ildefonso at its northernmost part. There are three road crossings in town that are heavily congested during the rush hours: Lolomboy, Wakas and Bocaue road crossings. The Bocaue River runs through most of the town, where many man-made fishponds used for raising and farming fish like milkfish and childfish can be found.



Homestay Orientation  
Photo@ZahraKassam

More information on the cities can be found in Appendix 3.

### Information on the communities chosen for the workshop

## Bocaue, Bulacan



Photo@JohannaBrugman

Sitio Kakulisan is a small settlement along Kakulisan Road in Barangay Bambang, Bocaue, Bulacan. Most of the families living in this area have already stayed on the site for around 20 years where in the early days, the site used to be agricultural land with crops such as rice, corn, sugarcane and watermelon. It gradually turned into wasteland when flooding started to occur and due to the infiltration of saltwater into the ground, the land became unsuitable for farming. Because of this, the primary source of livelihood shifted from farming to fishing. The community requested that the CAN Workshop assist them in looking at their development needs and in helping them to prioritize and act on these needs. They have also requested the HPFPI leaders to provide training and assist in organizational development.

## Valenzuela City



Photo@Vhal

1. Pinagbuklod ng Tadhana Homeowners' Association (PITAHOA)

This community is in Barangay Dalandanan, Valenzuela City. The community association acquired the land in the late 1990s, by availing of a loan through a government housing finance program called the Community Mortgage Program or CMP. Through the CMP loan, they were able to buy the land collectively from the landowner.

The site is mainly on water – low lying and marshy. About 80% of the plots are already occupied [there are about 54 houses on the site]. The 20% vacant plot owners have no money to fill their plot

and therefore are not still able to live there, so they rent elsewhere.

The Association needed assistance from CAN to come up with an Alternative Reblocking Plan proposal that the government will accept, but that will not affect existing houses and existing plot sizes too much. As the alternative plan may not entirely conform to the planning standards being enforced by the local government, they need CAN's assistance in coming up with reasonable justifications for their alternative plan, and for coming up with non-physical solutions for government concerns like fire safety, density and habitable living standards.

#### 2. Bagong Nayon Neighborhood Association (BNNAI)

The Bagong Nayon Neighbourhood Association or BNNAI community is a very dense community in Valenzuela City. The land they are occupying is in the heart of Valenzuela's industrial zone, and is surrounded by factories. The community only has one entry and exit, and a central main road which is at one section quite narrow, and which makes access of fire truck into the community difficult. The community already had two episodes of fire in the past, both of which were minor and involved only a few houses. The Association needs assistance from CAN to come up with an Alternative Reblocking Plan proposal that the government will accept, but that will not affect existing houses and existing plot sizes too much.

#### 3. Samahang Magkapitbahay ng Sapa Area (SAMASA)

In 2003, a demolition order was issued to the community for two reasons: first, because they are in a high-risk area especially during the rainy season; and second, because they are obstructing the flow of water in the creek, as their structures are built on top of the creek. The community, after the scare of getting trapped in rising floodwaters during typhoons, took the initiative to find a piece of land where they could move. At present, they have found a piece of land for sale within the same Barangay and are now planning to buy the land. The total land area of the land is 3,086 sq.m.

Living in a danger zone and with threat of demolition, the community's dream is to move to a safer place. In order to strengthen their planned loan proposals for land and housing, the community wants to prepare a "people's shelter plan" for on the site they plan to buy. They were hoping for CAN to be able to assist in this.

#### 4. Del Rosario Compound Neighbourhood Association

The community is built entirely on water with a main concrete pathway provided by the Barangay and local government. The rest of the community is accessed through makeshift footbridges, usually made of salvaged timber or bamboo. The community has been wanting to buy the land from the owner, but for the past many years could not locate her, until recently when she turned up at the community to express her intention to sell the land for P1 million.

The community is very keen to buy the land and is hoping that with their savings, they could leverage funds externally even as loans. They have also started researching the validity of the land title shown by the owner, who hired a surveyor to define the boundaries of the site and install monuments. There is, however, the challenge of how to raise money for them to afford it, especially, which, not all of them can afford to buy the land.

They are also having issues on drainage and sanitation, and potential for water borne diseases. Their community, aside from being on water, is at risk of severe flooding. The community is hoping that CAN could assist them in comprehensive site planning, including exploring alternatives on living on water (including ideas and solutions on sanitation, drainage and housing), as filling the site, although an option, will be too expensive and unaffordable to them.

## **Baranguay 177, Caloocan City**



Photo@Chak

1. Little Town Neighborhood Association

Informal settler families living in this area have had threats of eviction in the past (1983), which triggered them to organize themselves for the purpose of resisting demolitions, which they have succeeded in doing so far. The community would like to seek technical assistance in the following: Creekside protection or riprap as a way to address the hazards that the body of water within their property will pose.

A review of their subdivision (site layout) plan should also be made since due to the lack of banks protection, what used to be a narrow “canal” is now a wider creek that continues to expand due to soil erosion. What used to be 10 plots on their site layout plan, are now part of the creek. The community asked for assistance on how to address this problem.

2. Lower Calamansian C

In 2010, the Lower Calamansian C, with 41 members decided to work on issues specific to their own community, and started with searching for the legal owner of the property they informally occupy.

The association learned that the landowner is willing to sell the property to them; and in 2011 they were able to reach an agreement on selling price at P2,600.00/sq.m. The community wanted assistance in protection of their creekside, as the creek that is within the property (that they want to buy) does not have any form of protection. The creek has been prone to soil erosion and overflowing, and as a consequence, has been flooding the community during rainy seasons. As part of their intention to buy the land, the community thinks that it is important to develop affordable creekside protection in order to keep the creek from widening and eroding, and thus, from unnecessarily taking up valuable and expensive land.

### 3. Santo Niño – SAMACAMI

Land acquisition (buying the land) and community upgrading are the two major projects that the community intends to undertake. The organization expressed that because of the bad experience that they had with a previous organization, they find it hard to achieve unity inside their organization. At present, only the core officers and some members are active in pursuing land acquisition. The community seeks assistance in the protection of their creekside, the creek that is within their property and which does not have any form of protection or riprap. The community needed assistance from CAN for the improvement of their existing site layout plan and road network.

### 4. Donnaville Homeowners' Association

Many of the Donnaville community members are living along a creek within Maria Luisa Subdivision, Zabarte cluster of the barangay (village), or on areas designated for roads. The Association is planning to buy the 350 sq.m. property that they have identified for inbarangay relocation. The land price is P3500/square meter or around \$87.5 per square meter.

They plan to take out a loan from a government housing finance program called the Community Mortgage Program or CMP being implemented by the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). Through this program, the Association can take out a loan from SHFC to be able to pay the landowner quickly for the land, then they have to pay SHFC back collectively over a 25 year period.

An alternative plan that will accommodate 12 units or lots at a low cost is important. The community would like to explore alternative materials for housing construction that can lower the cost and would make it more affordable for them. Through CAN workshop, hopefully the community will be able to agree upon their community scheme and be able to choose the alternative materials that can be used to build their houses in consideration to the affordability of the members.

More information on this can be found in Appendix 4.

## Activities of the 2nd Regional Workshop

### Agenda

#### Part 1: Sharing and knowledge gathering- presentations of partners

Community Site Visits May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013

Day 1 continued with some community site visits. The sites identified were in various cities namely Manila, Navotas and Malabon, Quezon city and Valenzuela City.

The participants were divided into 5 groups with each group visiting approximately 3 sites each. The groups were divided strategically to ensure exposure to various country participants as well as allow for significant local participants to accompany them in order to develop alternative insights to the communities and also to make sure we all had translators if need be!



Presentations at Site Visits

Photos@ZahraKassam

Local participants included communities' members that were part of the homestays to show them other communities in neighbouring areas that have similar challenges and the ways they are dealing with it. This was extremely valuable to them as they could connect to other people contributing to the citywide perspective purpose of this workshop.

The 5 groups covered the following communities and had discussions with stakeholders such as the National Housing Authority, the local alliances and the community members:

GROUP	AREA	COMMUNITY/ PROJECT NAME & LOCATION
1	MANILA	1. Parola: PACOMNA
		2. Baseco: Kabalikat
		3. Smokey Mountain Housing (MRB)
2	NAVOTAS (TANZA) & MALABON	1. Bicol Area
		2. LGU Housing
		3. Pulo
		4. Marangal Village
3	QUEZON CITY	1. NGC-Bgy. Commonwealth
		2. Payatas-Goldenshower
		3. Molave/Bistikville
4	QUEZON CITY	1. Gulod
		2. Nagkaisang Nayon- Kasamapo
5	VALENZUELA	1. Disiplina Village



		2. Manolo Compound Assoc. (MACODA)
		3. Makpulang, Lupa

The community profiles can be found in Appendix 1.

Below are some reflections from participants who took part in these community visits.





Photo@Vhal

This trip has given to me a deep impression. We visited 2 places on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. First is a slum near estuary, I had never been to a big slum like this before, thousands of people living below the poverty line have to face risks of flooding, saltwater intrusion, pollution, all the while having very low in-come, etc. Second were the social housing projects in Smoking Mountain. I saw many apartments, which are nice

looking form outside (they are old, but nice looking). But when I came inside, I realized that they made another kind of slum here. There are many families living in a same floor (maybe 20 families per floor), their flats are too small so they used all the area of corridors, open spaces. Their living conditions are low: dark, stuffy air, high humidity, etc. However, their habitat is better than the slum that I had visited before. It seems that Manila had developed exceeds a certain level and what I saw is a part of this unbalanced developement. Dtrung Pham, Vietnam



Photo@Chak

To end the first day of the workshop, the Valenzuela Urban Poor Alliance hosted a welcome dinner at a Valenzuela community ULHOA (United Libis Homeowners Association) Covered Court.

ULHOA is part of the Valenzuela Urban Poor Alliance. They, like many communities face many challenges, one being that their site development plan did not abide to the BP220 and so was repeatedly rejected by the Government. This community showed determination and perseverance and re-produced their adjusted plan a total of 7 times before it was approved. The community were organized and mobilized and managed to do this on their own, their site plans are not in complete adherence to the BP220 but they showed alternatives to the reasoning behind the stringent BP220 rules proving to be successful. Throughout the preparation of the Workshop and during the workshop, this community helped to convince community members that this process works. The story of ULHOA is very inspiring and so to have them host a dinner for the participants acted as an incentive to the community members participating as well as allowed them a chance to connect to their so called “precedent-setter”.

Below are some pictures and reflections from the dinner:



Photo@Chak



Photos@ZahraKassam



That kind of “welcome dinner” is what foreigners could expect whenever there is a special event. The specialty of this event ranges from an informal visit to one’s home to something as grand as a meeting with a respected delegate. It is common for Filipinos to provide as much as they can for celebrations. As what we would say most of the time: “Kahit walang-wala na, magagawan ng paraan.” [Even if we are short of resources, we will always find a way.] I was happy to see that everyone, be it a foreign delegate or a person from the community of Valenzuela itself, took part in the celebration and felt the warm welcome and gratitude of the communities.” Rafael Paragas., UP, Philippines.





Performances by Community Children  
Photos@Chak

Day 2 saw the workshop take a more learning approach. The CAN network partners all had a chance to present the work from their country with open discussions from other participants. The presentations can be found in Appendix 2, however here are some short passages on the work of the CAN Network partners in supporting urban poor communities:



## East Asia:

### Korea

CAN in Korea <https://sites.google.com/site/caninkorea/>: The CAN in Korea work with different groups and individuals, namely Salim (Earth Architect for future research centre), Tod Housing (Social enterprise) and Future of city. Their areas of focus thus far have been on the built environment looking at vernacular architecture and community based urban regeneration.

Issues for squatters lie with land and accessing land titles, as most land is privately owned. CAN Korea have been working towards changing people's perspectives from the conventional top-down approach to a more community upgrading approach to new town planning. CAN Korea are trying to be an open network, inviting more informal settlers and young professionals into their process.



**Mapping  
community  
people's history,  
story and life  
in/around  
settlement**

Changed  
people's  
perspective:  
from  
conventional  
new town  
development  
→  
community  
based  
upgrading



#### Japan

Machidukuri is looking at community development and its contribution to “whereabouts” i.e.: the feeling of home and comfort. The focus is towards renovation and innovation, combining them to bring out the value in social capital in resilient communities and in turn empower the communities. They hope to use “re-in-inovation” as a community movement to “get over the difference”.

Never Give Up “MACHIDUKURI”

Image



Re-settlement

Renovation

Corrective Town

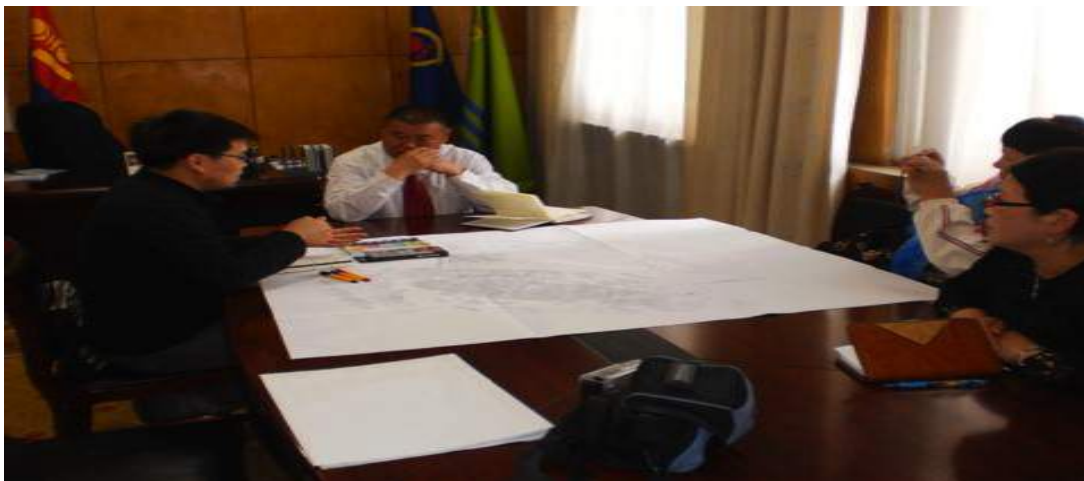
Communities face many social problems such as poverty, drugs, aging and tuberculosis and our partners in Japan are making efforts to understand what “the resident” is and how this contributes to restructuring their community. Connections and partnerships are being built with like-minded people and organizations working together to make lives better. As we can see below, many connections exist and are possible:

Organization	2010										2011										2012										2013										2014										2015									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
N-Association																																																												
NPOs																																																												
Local Gov.																																																												

Mongolia

The Mongolian representatives face multiple challenges when conducting the participatory processes to community upgrading, however they have worked tirelessly to building relationships between communities and local governments. They have managed to raise the awareness of community members and the city they occupy. During one of the projects carried out, the local government promised to supply pavements, flood drainage and street lighting – a total of \$40,000 in the next years budget.

The team in Mongolia has stressed the importance of sharing knowledge and learning from experience and so will produce a handbook for community mapping to be used and dispersed amongst partners and potential connections.





## South East Asia:

### Myanmar

SFPR (Standing for Poor Rights) was established in 2010, with a focus on upgrading the lives of the poor, partnering with youth groups and together create financial empowerment for the poor. One of the biggest challenges in Myanmar is the lack of knowledge and acceptance of the savings and participatory process. However, they have teamed up with UN-Habitat and WFW (Women for the World) to understand more and accomplish more with the communities and to take advantage of the youth capacity through a youth fund and a youth network.



### Cambodia

CAN-CAM brought a simple but much needed reminder whereby small funds can be stretched and accomplish incremental change that adds to the bigger scale. They also stressed how crucial it is that people are involved at all steps.



Construction ceremony



Construction with community builders from all over Cambodia



Building with academicians



Planting trees with local authorities

#### Vietnam

V-can, The Vietnam Community Architects Network is compiled of young professionals, 1+1>2 architecture group and ACCD action centre for community development. They are currently working together with Hanoi University to produce a handbook on designing and building low cost housing. There is currently a lack of green spaces and although the Government has supplied community centres, they are not being used.



A playground the community architects built with bamboo.

#### Thailand

Openpace Bangkok on their task of space transformation found that collaboration starts when doing starts, and that in order to scale up, all generations need to be involved and this can be done using

architecture as a platform. As discussed earlier on, architecture means more than just buildings, it creates relationships and knowledge, creates room for horizontal communication and empowerment through the sharing of technical knowledge. We can see this through the new avenue explored by Openspace, DAA (Differently Abled Architecture) where architects wore the hat of a doctor.



### Indonesia

Jakarta has gotten new leadership, which has chosen to emphasis on dialogue with communities more. They are now in the process of finding a pilot program for community upgrading in order to start engagements with the Governor.



### Philippines

The Philippine team, as seen by the workshop partner with many organizations. This workshop introduced the Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment Inc. (TAMPEI), a crucial entities working with PACSII and HPFPI to conduct participatory processes towards upgrading. TAMPEI promotes community led processes and provides technical assistance to community development initiatives. TAMPEI is made up of young architect students currently in or just finished university, they are motivated youth who are aware of up to date technologies and thinking and have the energy to think of alternatives. They assist PACSII and HPFPI at all levels for planning and implementation. TAMPEI encourages learning via exposure and exchanges as well as training and workshops. The team in the Philippines have partnered up with multiple universities to facilitate the experiential learning for students





I enjoyed it so much that I wish more, if not all, of my friends from our student organization (University of the Philippines Task Force Arki) would have been able to join and enjoy the entire experience as much as I did. Hands-on work on things more relevant is what we aim to achieve whenever we have some projects.

On a personal note, the manner by which Community Architecture as a discipline is taught is what I appreciate the most. What I like the most about it is the fact that involves the community itself in its entire process. At school, we usually do not equalize ourselves with non-architects when it comes to technical design and planning. We are “programmed” to place ourselves as the superior ones as we are “learned” and “more experienced” than them. What this fails to accomplish is that we, the architects, can never be omniscient. It would be too foolish to believe that we fully understand the current situation and the people experiencing it by simply conducting site visits, analyzing data on graphs and interpreting images.

Aside from that, such a method fails to acknowledge the nature of humans. Humans are gifted with creativity while machines only do as they are told or as they are programmed to do. The aforementioned method regards humans as mere machines; “users” as they are commonly referred to. With a participatory process, introduced during the recent workshop, it treats humans as humans. It accepts the natural ingenuity that the people have and which they can harness to provide solutions to problems they best understand. It is open to change and intervention as what our environment, built or unbuilt, has always been and should always be.  
Rafael Paragas, Philippines.

“Bamboo is the green steel” Vhal, TAMPEI

“It is time for us to go to the people, rather than as the people especially the poor to come to us”  
TAO- Technical Assistance Organization, Philippines.

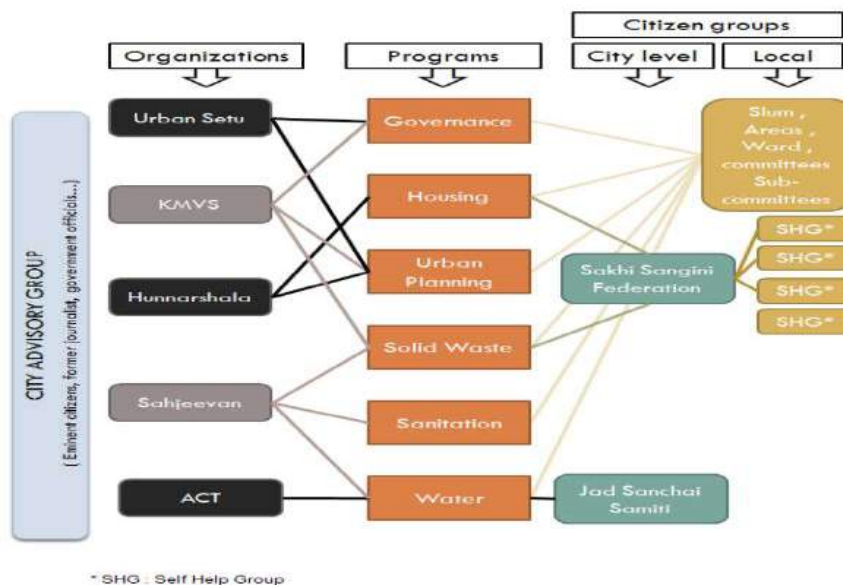
## South Asia:

### India

The Hunnarshala Foundation in Bhuj have developed a Homes in the City concept, whereby they are addressing the post-Earthquake of 2011 issues. They are focusing on “courtyard planning” and have a community builders network which they are utilizing to work on community solutions.

The foundation work in housing, water, sanitation, solid waste, livelihoods, governance, people’s organization and information collection and dissemination, and are part of a bigger city scale.

The city level involvement:



The Shiromani Rai temple sanctuary witnessed considerable d



**Sardar Nagar township, Bhuj**  
1200 poor families are being resettled in this *green* township



Nepal

The LUMANTI support group for shelter has been working towards alleviating urban poverty by improving shelter conditions in various regions such as Dharan, Kalaiya, Kohalpur, Lekhnath, Pokhara, Tansen and Biratnagar. They are working on earthquake resistant wall systems that also adhere to their local building codes. Along with PTAG (Pro-poor technical assistance group), they use participatory design, planning and construction as well as using the participatory process for land selection and buying process.





Their presentation left us with a haunting what if quote that emphasizes the value of the participatory approach for the urban poor:

*“ For the last 19 years, I have been living in rented rooms. In the beginning, I used to pay Rs. 600 for 2 rooms and now I am paying Rs. 8000. Till date I have paid more than Rs. 900,000. If I had got this scheme 19 years earlier, I would already have become a house owner ....!!!”*

Sita Devi Giri, Nagdhunga, Pokhara.

#### Bangladesh

BRAC is one of the largest development NGO's in the world, conducting action research across Bangladesh. Partners here re-enforced the concept of trust and how this has a ripple effect on the work we all do:

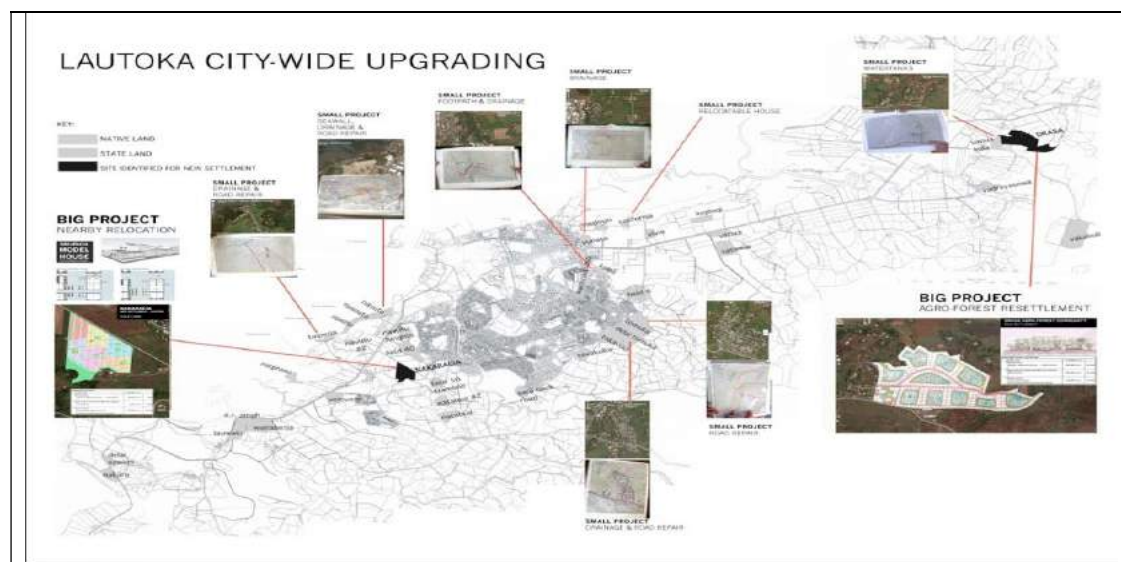


This was taken from the presentation by BRAC representatives who also stressed that we as practitioners should remember to respect local needs as well as aspirations and that stories are important, whether happy or not.

## Pacific Islands:

### Fiji

The Lautoka citywide upgrading involved the upgrading of several small and big projects around the city, involving collaboration between the various ministries and peoples community network.



### Australia

The Lot is working on transformation of spaces into self-build, democratic spaces. They work with informal settlements, on housing affordability, improving infrastructure as well as public spaces. They value community consultation in their process as it cuts out the high costs and unrealistic expectations. Here is some feedback they get when considering spaces:

# WHAT SHOULD THIS NEW SPACE DO?

The people we spoke to outlined a number of important aspirations for the space:

**BE A POSITIVE SHOWCASE FOR THE CULTURE OF SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY**

"Should be a great opportunity to positively showcase the North Sydney Council's Office of South-West Sydney."

"So much great art is produced through local workshops & programs it would be amazing to have somewhere to show it."

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS POSITION WITHIN THE CENTRE.**

"Stouly's is a meeting point for the community."

"The advantage is working within the centre - everyone is already here."

**IT SHOULD HAVE A VERY CLEAR PURPOSE, YET CONNECT WITH A DIVERSITY OF USERS THROUGH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, PROVIDING A SPACE OF CROSS-OVER BETWEEN ART FORMS, COMMUNITIES AND GENERATIONS.**

"They'd create about people and things."

"It was incredible connected to the space to be North Sydney's leading creative space, providing what's been using the space as a catalyst for future shows and programs."

"Would be great to have a mix of use of art forms and age groups."

**PROVIDE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WHILE ALSO PROVIDING A BRIDGE BETWEEN GENERATIONS**

"The space could provide opportunities for young people to showcase their skills, get involved with fundraising, community development etc."

"The Arts Centre has been about wanting a job."

**CREATE ACTIVITY**

"There is only one thing young people truly love, we need to connect them with meaning & values in the community."

"It needs to be seen as a place of choice and change in their lives and careers."

"There is now a form of self-expression (like learning, dance, theatre) missing deep from communities born here in our country, creative need."

**CONNECT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES BIG & SMALL**

"It should promote symbiotic relationships with the local businesses"

"It would be perfect for small enterprises, for growing from incubation to independence."

**NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING SERVICES AND SPACES**

"Why replicate what already happens? Instead, this space should offer something new"

**KEEP LOCAL CULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE AREA.**

"If young local artists had a place to perform then they wouldn't need to leave the area."

**BE MODERN AND VIBRANT: ESCAPING THE STIGMA OF TYPICAL COMMUNITY SPACES OR YOUTH CENTRE**

"Would be great to have a positive outlet/venue for local community organisations and their creative output. There are big benefits to having a separate venue. To escape stigma and negative associations of 'community' venues."

"Youth centres do not work for young people anymore, we need a new model, more simple and modern, more active, not just there because you are in trouble."

Tuesday, 21 May 13

## Community Architect Groups:

### Tibet Heritage Fund

THF places necessary importance on the training of artisans, as they are the future, whereby they represent vernacular architecture and traditional construction. Preservation of history, culture and tradition should be preserved, not only for attachment sake but for the value in traditions, for pride and interest of locals as well. The THF places importance on using the participatory approach to involve multiple stakeholders through many discussions and "cups of tea", in heritage and conservation through talks and tours for students and the importance of storytelling to the children of the communities.



*“The planet does not need more successful people. The planet desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers and lovers of all kinds.” Dalai Lama.*

#### UCL, Development Planning Unit

Giorgio from DPU, introduced the university and the six courses offered at DPU. He touched on various urban issues to do with planning and design and the importance of fieldwork when learning. The courses all have essential field options integrated in the curriculum, both local (UK) and International.

The DPU have partnered with CAN and ACHR (further from the field options) to develop a Junior Professional Program, whereby recently graduated students are placed in various CAN countries to work with the local partners. This pilot year brought 5 alumni to 4 countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.

The 5 junior professional presented their experiences and stressed on the importance of on the ground training to complement the classroom studying.





The 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the workshop was focused on open discussions around specific themes. To start, all participants broke out into 8 groups, where each group discussed their inspirations to work with communities, the challenges they face with their work, ie: their doubts and worries and importantly, given these challenges, what makes one stay or not stay. To close the group breakout session, the question of future aspirations given such challenges and pressures was discussed.



Photo@ZahraKassam

-words flying around during those discussions-maybe we can have a picture of these words

Tangible/visible impact

Reality

Participatory

Culture of volunteering

Touches emotions

Use our skills as a platform to help the less fortunate

Gives perspective

Learn new ways and cultures

Constant learning

Creativeness

Serving

Building relationships

Fill a hole

Spiritual work

Fun

Meaningful work

Satisfaction

Make a difference

Look back and say you made a change

Responsibility

Friendly people

Kind and honest people

Open school

New challenge everyday

Wider perspective

Inspired by seeing outcomes

See changes

feel like you belong  
Like-minded people connecting  
Been through the experience and so believe in it  
Karma  
Live in the moment  
Calmness  
Comes from the inside  
Empowerment  
Trust in others  
Retirement plan  
Do better than the last generation  
More community architects

“It puts a face to architecture-it’s a reflection to us.” Risal,Bangladesh.

Following that, all participants took part in a panel discussion on New Education: Towards Designing with and for the other 90%. The panel consisted of various lecturers of the CAN Network. The fruitful discussion encompassed issues of knowledge transfer, looked at the benefits of education and learning by experience. *“We are not here to make money, we are here to make our life beautiful”*  
Mahmuda Alam, Bangladesh

By grounding education, issues are more real and closer. There is a greater understanding and due to relationships built, people feel inspired and connected. Commonalities are found and knowledge is shared. Community architects are acting as catalysts just by being there. It is not best to always connect architect students; all professions are needed. Zahra, Kenya.

The teacher is the curriculum, teachers are always learning, and therefore anyone is a teacher. Learning by experience creates compassion. Kabir, Bangladesh.

“Community architect is a lifestyle” Maurice, ACHR.

The next panel discussion focused on The Role of Community Artisans and Builders in Sustainable Community Building whereby artisans were named the keepers of traditional knowledge and their importance was stressed upon.

By networking, isolation is broken down and scale can be achieved.



Group Reflections from the meeting  
Photo@ZahraKassam

Day 4 of the workshop called for some R&R! A visit to Old Manila and lunch at China Town was organized for all the participants.



Photos@ZahraKassam





## Part 2: Understanding context and homestays- the challenges of the workshop, the process and outcomes

An afternoon was spent in-group clusters for the upcoming 4 day homestays. The homestay part of the workshop was designed to engage the local communities in the CAN activities. This was believed to leave them with a longer-term benefit as they took part in the surveying, mapping, planning and solutions making it a mutually beneficial experience. The participating communities belonged to 3 different cities: 4 in Valenzuela city, 4 in Baranguay 177, Caloocan and 1 in Bocaue.

During the 4-day homestay, CAN participants and the communities conducted an intense process of surveying, mapping, planning, thinking of alternative solutions and understanding the citywide context to their local problems and together produced solutions to their issues.

The 9 communities were:

GROUP	CITY	COMMUNITY/ PROJECT NAME & LOCATION
1	BOCAUE	1 Bgy. Kakulisan
2	BGY. 177, CALOOCAN CITY	1. Lower Calamansian C, Barangay 177, Caloocan City
		2. Little Town, Lower Calamansian A, Barangay 177, Caloocan City
		3. Samahang Magkakapitbahay ng Camarin, Inc. (SAMAMCAMI), Barangay 177, Caloocan City
		4. Donnaville, Barangay 177, Caloocan City
3	VALENZUELA	1. Bagong Nayon
		2. Pinagbuklod Ng Tadhana (PITAHOA)
		3. Del Rosario Compound, Caloocan
		4. Samasa, Parada

### Cross-cutting issues:

#### Land

Majority of the communities we were dealing with have an issue with the land they occupy. Some have successfully managed to acquire the land or are in the process of doing so. In some cases, such as Samasa, there is no option to purchase and are in the process of a participatory relocation plan.

#### BP 220 and the subdivision plans

The communities mostly in Valenzuela city faced the issue of the BP 220 imposition on their subdivision plans whereby the Government were enforcing certain measurements and rules for the subdivisions to be improved. The reasons behind these impositions are valid and justified.

#### Natural disasters

The Philippines is a disaster prone country, with communities exposed to typhoons, floods and overpopulation. Most communities we dealt with had a history of dealing with a flood, typhoon or fire. As many communities chose to occupy land near/on water due to livelihood or place attachment, their vulnerability to flooding is greatly increased. Learning to live with water and to raise their already high resilient levels against these risks is a continuous challenge.

### Citywide perspective

As with other poor communities worldwide, projects are more community focused. This leads the upgrading process to be project based and not citywide. All the communities chosen were not exposed to other communities with similar threats and challenges, and therefore were not aware of alternative approaches as a city.

### Some reflections on the process in each city:

Valenzuela:

Zahra Kassam, Junior Professional, Kenya

Approaching the citywide perspective was the toughest part. We had to start with personal and emotional efforts. We began from that we were able to raise some awareness with regards to the city and its placement in the Greater Manila Metropolitan Area, and how they are connected to, whether it be work, family or friends. We also asked them to place the other communities we are working with. Below is that city map:



Photo@ZahraKassam

This exercise was crucial for the starting parts and during the course of the 3.5 days members understood what was meant mapping regarding their drainage system, members showed their newfound awareness by stating that by land-filling being friends and family in other communities and vice versa and therefore, they should learn to live with water as an alternative

One member went to far to demonstrate this to the other members and further to the other communities during out Valenzuela demonstration whereby she filled a glass full of water, threw a handful of stones in it and described that by this landfill, the water goes, whom it affects and if neighbouring communities are land-filling too then are they in turn affected by the water





A community member showing the side effects of land-filling  
 Photos@ZahraKassam

This showed great insight by people and their thinking flow has now changed its route.

Scenarios were used to promote alternative thinking, for example, when discussing the BP220, members were exposed to t such as fires and floods. The underlying reasons for BP220 regulations were conveyed this way and the members understood of alternatives that comply with the BP220 reasoning.



Scenarios conducted to understand the reasoning behind BP220  
 Photos@ZahraKassam

This encouraged members to go out and physically measure the alleys and roads and found that what they assumed was w roads and alleys and came up with an alternative subdivision plan considering the BP220.



Community members measuring their paths and mapping it  
 Photos@ZahraKassam

The people are always fighting with water, building walls and changing its natural flow. Instead they should learn to live with

Francesco Pasta, Italy.

Samasa is a small community (24 families in 8 structures) living on a creek in Parada district, in Valenzuela city. The settlement is only accessible via a very precarious wooden walkway and is subject to flooding every year in the rainy season. Therefore the community is willing to relocate to a nearby plot, already individuated. However, the land is too expensive for them, so they are planning to involve more families from neighbouring communities living alongside the creek that will soon be relocated. This way, they could share the cost of the land.

Three days is a very short time to come up with a proper resettlement layout. Furthermore, the case was conditioned by many uncertain factors. Therefore instead of producing any definite proposal, we thought it would be more fruitful to try to develop collectively an understanding of how such variables would shape the new neighbourhood, the financial aspect, and the way of living of the people.

These variables, in short, are:

- the number of people, still to be defined – from 24 families to more than 100
- the cost of the land per household (and the threshold of affordability)
- the space per flat
- the density per lot

Also, an important constraint was the standard dictated by the local authorities. It mandates a minimum lot of 28sqm, setbacks, and road width. Together with the community, we tried to make a possible layout following these rules and we came to the conclusion that, if every family was to have its own lot, not more than 75 families could be accommodated. The land would still have been unaffordable. If the community wants to move to that land, it is therefore unavoidable to bring in more families, either by reducing the lot size, or building up vertically.

The first option was widely accepted by the people in the community: they were pushing for a 20sqm plot solution. We tried to visualize it in reality, showing that it was extremely small. Anyway, the representative from the local authority declared that such a plan would never be accepted by the government. The second option could have been a viable solution, but it was strongly resisted by the people. They explained us that it was very important for them to own the lot individually, and even the idea of two families sharing a two-storey building was not very welcome.

In the end we drafted four possible layouts. One, demanded by the community, with 20sqm plots; one with a slightly reduced plot size in comparison to the standard dispositions; one with two-storey houses accommodating two families each; and one which is a combination of one-floor single houses and two-storey houses.

LOT SIZE	TOTAL N <sup>o</sup> OF UNITS	LAND COST PER UNIT	EQUITY FOR LAND	LOANABLE AMOUNT FOR LAND DEV'T AND CONSTRUCTION	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT TO PAY PER MONTH
20 <sub>SQ.M</sub>	100	₱108,000	₱18,000	₱75,000	₱183,000+	₱915+
25 <sub>SQ.M</sub>	81	₱133,000	₱43,000	₱75,000	₱208,000+	₱1042+
36 <sub>SQ.M</sub>	106	₱102,000	₱12,000	₱75,000	₱176,000+	₱880+
28+36 <sub>SQ.M</sub>	95	₱132,000 ₱97,000	₱42,000 ₱7,000	₱75,000 ₱75,000	₱207,000+ ₱172,000+	₱1036+ ₱860+

We briefly summarized the main points of each option in two tables showing how the size of flats, the number of families, the price per household and the size of open spaces and common facilities vary in each option. We also tried to do, together with the people, an estimate of the total costs, in order to plan how much should be saved per month.



At the end we drafted together a timeline, considering both the history of the community and most importantly the strategy for the future.  
 Photos@FrancescoPasta

Barbara, Italy

Before going to the field we had some discussion among us, the international team, about the work we were going to do with the community and I was quite worried as the situation seemed very complicated to me and almost impossible to be solved. My opinion changed completely as soon as we started working with the community as through their analysis, awareness and knowledge everything appeared not easy but definitely solvable and with

possible alternative ways that I couldn't imagine before. The way the community worked during the four days was extremely inspiring to me, as I could see their energy and strong will in wanting to understand, to take action and to be main actors in the planning process. Even if they kept thanking us all the time, I honestly think we did very little as we just gave them some inputs, practical tools and a bit of support and then they truly did the entire job by themselves.

Certainly, I can say that in Philippines putting people on the centre of the process is not longer just a matter of theory but it is becoming real step by step and a very important role is also played by the organizations which are supporting the urban poor in this important path.

Finally, I had the confirmation about the power of mapping as a tool for understanding, learning, building awareness and planning together as well as a tangible tool for communication and negotiation in the dialogue with the government.

#### Dinner hosted by Mayor of Valenzuela

During the first night of the homestays, the Mayor of Valenzuela generously hosted a dinner for the participants of the workshop in the 4 communities of Valenzuela. This was an opportunity for the participants to meet the Mayor and other members of the government, to speak informally and as well as familiarize the 4 communities with each other too.

The night was indeed splendid with plenty of food and entertainment.



Photo@Vhal

Meeting of all Valenzuela communities



Photo@BarbaraDovarch

All 4 communities of Valenzuela met on the last day of the workshop to share the experience and decide on the forward plan. This was a good space for the communities to share and learn from each other and collectively plan their approach in the final stakeholders meeting, as well as to touch base with each other again and visually see the mapping and results of their neighbouring communities.



Photo@Vhal

Baranguay 177 Caloocan City:

**Hanisetoka Manueli, Fiji**

To begin with, the Lower Calamansian C community was a very interesting community, as a participant I w

about their culture, majority of the community that took part in the workshop were females thus the man v trying to earn a living for the family.

As the team arrived at the community we sat with the community members, we introduce ourselves, get to know the community better and listen to their problems they face and how they have been going about those problem trying to acquire land tenure, abiding by building regulations of local authorities and presenting to us what they want. The community was not all interested with our visit, as many previous groups had visit them in the past try to solve their problem but did not continuously. There have been some doubts of the community members, but the team tends to do the work. After the introductions, we walked around with the community trying to familiarize ourselves with the layout of the community, the issues they face and try to gather the peoples design inputs and ideas. The main problems the community faced was:

- The flooding of houses nears to the small creek side (retention area) – some solutions that we took were the use of gabions, clearance of creek by 3m (relocation), and rip-rap and the use of coconut fiber for stabilization one of our team mate Correena.
- The piggeries in the community that pollutes the creek, and air that should be removed for the health of the community.

On the second day we gathered with the community at 9am, it was a slow start but we managed to carry on slowly due to family chores. The team prepared base maps for the four groups of the community, with this team was divided into the various community groups and toured around the community marking the boundaries and problems in the community. After lunch Carlo and Isaac explained about the minimum standards of BP (Building Regulations) that need to be required. We also discussed about the solutions to the problems and how to go



On the third day of the community workshop, the community came together once again, continuation of the community mapping (scheme plan). The groups were the same as the second day, the community did not have their ideas of a scheme plan, as they had their ideas, aspirations of what they want their community to be like on that day indeed as everyone was into the scheme planning. At the end of the scheme planning each group had to present their plan as the rest of the groups try to criticize as it went for the rest of the groups. at the end of the day all the groups presented their plan but it still came down to BP 220 and its standards. A particular group came up with having to follow the BP 220 standards at the end majority had agreed with accepting the plan as others was still unsure and quite hesitant to agree but everyone was willing to try out new things that would benefit the community of Lower Calamansian C.





Ariel Shepherd, Canada

The Donnaville community has only 12 families, this gave us the advantage of almost full participation, at an intimate scale with people who already knew and trusted each other. Our task, outlined by Donnaville Community themselves, was to make their proposed site plan cheaper. In addition to making the housing construction process cheaper, using intimate 1:1 scale exercises we were able to redesign the site and house plans for a more user friendly, flexible and efficient use of space at the scale of the site, and within the house.

In one activity, we marked out the proposed new site layout together to scale, and asked people to perform their day-to-day activities to feel in actual space. The challenges of having such a small access road emerged, triggering a desire to reevaluate the site plan, and as a group the community chose to give up 1/2 m of their homes for greater access and more communal space.

Pictures@ArielShepherd

#### Icha, Indonesia

It was a cloudy afternoon when our group arrived in the community center of Donnaville Homeowner's Association, which became the part of Barangay 177 Area. The land belonged to a private owner with the price of 87.5 dollars per square meter. In order to buy the land, they should require some help through Community Mortgage Program of the government for a longer paying period. To do so, the community should be required some site plan layouts where, we as technical assistants will help the community to make it through participatory method.

The first afternoon in the community we spend to observe the existing condition of the houses, infrastructures, and its surroundings including gathering some data about existing materials that they still can use for the new house. The next day, we facilitated the community to measure the new land and to put where the roads are going to be and how wide it would be. We used strings to mark the roads and found out that the previous measurement of the road with only 2 meters wide was not enough because one of the community members have a tricycle that would not fit. By doing this, we expected each member of the community to have a spatial experience of the site so they can think more precisely about what they can put within the site due to its limited size.

On the third day, we facilitated the community to do site community planning workshop. We divided the group into two sub groups so they could have two different design alternatives to be discussed in the end of the workshop. We used mostly colorful cardboards that were cut in scaled measurement of the lot size and have the groups to move them around to form a reasonable site plan. In the end we came up with two design alternatives made by the two groups, which quite different with one another. After that, we have each group to presenting their work. At first they were shy, but with a little encouragement finally they brave enough to tell us their ideas behind. It was surprising to see that they came up with a different ideas and layouts from what we thought of the best for them. After that, we discussed about their presentation, and have another group to give comments. We also give some inputs about the building codes that they have to apply, and some advantages about having more communal spaces outside of the house. Some inputs they got from yesterday's road measuring were also become a huge consideration in deciding the size of the road.

The next day we had a community-planning workshop for the houses. To facilitate the community, we

divided them also in two groups, so they can come up with at least 2 alternatives for room layouts. Using scaled cardboards, they arranged the rooms based on their needs of spaces for everyday activities. Different colors were to mark which room separated by walls, related to the issue of 'reducing unnecessary walls to press the construction money', so they tried to have room with mixed of uses. For example, living room, dining room, and kitchen became one. After that, we discussed again about both of the alternatives and have the groups giving comments and inputs to each other. We 'edited' the plan by moving the pieces of the cardboard around until they feel satisfied with the arrangement. In the evening, we drew the final output of the plan with details such as doors and furniture so the community can see clearly and comment more. After that, we discussed again until the design is good for everybody, and then we make points of agreement, such as not building unnecessary walls for mix use rooms, or spare some space for open space, etc. Finally, we drew the final drawings of house floor plans within the site so the community can get the whole to more detail picture of their future homes.

Through this workshop we also came up with a handbook of partial budgeting for the houses, where we estimated the cost of the house partially, from foundation, firewalls, roofing, and the possibility of using infill (re-used) material as the replacement of the more expensive conventional hollow blocks. We also helped to estimating the size of the communal septic tank that they decided to have, and designed a rainwater collection system that can be used in every house to reduce the use of public waters, to press their everyday household expenses, because most of the housewives have a small laundry business in their houses.

Bocause:

Emz



Photo@JohannaBrugman

### Part 3: Multi-stakeholder forum on people-driven citywide upgrading

The multistakeholder forum brought together various stakeholders from government to community members. It allowed the partners to talk openly about their issues, as well as present all the hardwork that had been done over the past few days. During the meeting, representatives from the government had the chance to meet and discuss the work, requests and promises made by community members.



Presentation by Community Leaders  
Photo@BarbaraDovarch

## Exhibitions

## Impact, Achievements and the Way Forward

### Impact of the workshop

The citywide approach:

The CAN workshop undertook this new element to upgrading through mapping exercises. The workshop worked with 3 cities in the Greater Metropolitan Manila area; Bulacan, Valenzuela and Caloocan.

The communities within Valenzuela and Caloocan are connected via the Urban Poor Alliances within their city. Apart from that there is not much connection. The workshop aided the citywide process by linking the communities together.

For example within Valenzuela city, the communities; Del Rosario, PITAHOA, Bagon Nayon and Parada were introduced to each other. This ignited the awareness of each other's existence and put faces and emotional ties to the names. Through interaction, attachments were created as well as empathy for each other as they learnt they were facing similar if not the same challenges.

Throughout the workshop the people did various mapping to identify issues and potential solutions. In regards to the citywide challenge, mapping was used to introduce the notion of citywide planning to various communities.

For example in PITAHOA, Valenzuela City, mapping was done to identify exactly where PITAHOA is in Valenzuela City.

The community members then identified personal links to the city such as family and friends, they identified areas they have travelled to for work or other purposes and also identified transport links within the city. This was the start of understanding what we meant by citywide. By the end of the workshop community members identified where the other communities in this workshop were i.e.: Bagon Nayon, Del Rosario and Parada.

Furthermore, the members were able to use this map to visually see how their upgrading affected their new friends, as there was now a deeper understanding of location, distance and consequences of the upgrading.

As all the communities gain this awareness, their plans change and consider their neighbours to begin with. This grows to consider the city, and as all communities work simultaneous, change becomes simultaneous. The citywide approach is therefore a more integrated and holistic approach, which is creating new platforms of social change, partnerships and collaborations.

Consequently, the citywide approach forces all partners to be aware of the process from the start, to be aware of the scale of change from the beginning as Somsook articulated "it is a joint mechanism between the government, city groups and community" during the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on People-Driven Citywide Upgrading meeting on 28th May 2013. She continued to promote more such meetings whereby all the partners come together physically to share, learn and act together, to "learn by doing, [and] by doing we learn and compare things" Somsook Boonyabanha.

This approach has additional benefits namely that it can be done at a low cost and can and should make use of alliances, such as in Philippines where there are in bulk there is much potential that can be tapped into if they are linked together.

Such a large-scale endeavour needs to be complemented with the support of finance and City Levels Funds come in play here. They are important to the all parties involved, as much needed support. Again through mapping and orientations, communities are exposed to city level funds. CDF's are empowering for the communities and with the support of Government and other parties, this can become a process that is institutionalized and supports the action of simultaneous change at a city level.

## Way forward-For the Philippines

In the Philippines, SHFC has been committed to the people-driven citywide approach to upgrading and we hope that this partnership will continue to grow and provide the much-needed support to the communities in the Philippines. A discussion with SHFC and the participating communities along with the organizing committees in Manila is scheduled for July 1st. The 3 universities that took part in this workshop are interested in becoming more actively involved.

An MOU has been signed between relevant stakeholders in this people process towards a citywide upgrading plan. The Mayor of Valenzuela, HPFPI, PACSII and community leaders can be seen signing this in the pictures below.



Photos@BarbaraDovarch

CAN workshop is so great experience! It's like I'm new now. I'm more open and more flexible because of the workshop not only on the workshop days but also the involvement of the process in preparation for that big event. It's help me a lot not just in studying but also with my personality...so CHALLENGING! FULL OF EXCITEMENT AND ENJOYMENT!  
Hazelyn, Philippines.

## Appendix

### 1. Program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional CAN Workshop 20-28<sup>th</sup> May 2013

DATE		
19 May, Sun	Arrival of participants Early registration of international and regional participants <i>(Online registration to be set up also)</i>	
<b>PART 1</b>	<b>OPENING</b>	
20 May, Mon	0800 – 0830	Registration of Manila-based and other participants
	0830 – 0900	Preliminaries: a. Prayer b. Welcome remarks c. Introduction of participants and guests d. Workshop objectives and program e. Instructions for community visits
<b>PART 2</b>	<b>PHILIPPINES OVERVIEW AND COMMUNITY VISITS</b>	
20 May, Mon	0900 – 1000	Overview of Philippine urban development and urban poor situation: Philippines context and Metro Manila Context <i>Dr. Anna Karaos (ICSI) and Mr. Jose Morales (Urban Poor Alliance)</i>
	1000 - 1100	Travel to Community Visits Per Group  Visits to different urban poor communities in Metro Manila to provide participants with an overall picture of the city and the shelter situation of the poor and solutions.  <i>Participants to be divided into 6 groups, with each group visiting different cities, i.e., Manila, Navotas, Quezon City, Valenzuela and Malabon.)</i>  <i>Each group to visit and discuss with around three organized communities in each city, as follows:</i> a. <i>Informal settlement (high-risk, with eviction threat, roadside, coastal, riverside, etc.)</i> b. <i>With community-initiated project (upgrading, housing, others)</i> c. <i>With community-government partnered project; or government-initiated project</i>
	1100 – 1330	Community 1: Visit and lunch discussion at community
	1330 – 1530	Community 2: Visit and brief discussion
	1530 - 1730	Community 3: Visit and brief discussion
	1730 – 1900	Travel to Dinner venue
	1900 – 2100	Welcome Dinner (with short program) at ULHOA, Valenzuela
	21 May, Tues	0830 - 0930

<b>PART 3 CAN COUNTRY SHARING</b>		
21 May, Tues	1030 – 1100	Coffee Break
	1030 – 1230	Sharing of community architect groups (per country) – 3 countries – <i>East Asia (Korea, Japan, Mongolia)</i>
	1230 – 1330	Lunch
	1330 – 1530	Sharing of community architect groups (per country) – 8 countries – <i>Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam)</i>
	1530 - 1600	Coffee Break
	1600 - 1730	Sharing of community architect groups (per country) – 8 countries – <i>Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia)</i>
	Evening	Free
22 May, Wed	0830 - 0945	Sharing of community architect groups (per country) – 8 countries – <i>Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Philippines)</i>
	0945 - 1000	Coffee Break
	1000 – 1230	Sharing of community architect groups (per country) – 7 countries – <i>South Asia (India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)</i>
	12:30 – 1330	Lunch
	1330 – 1500	Sharing of community architect groups (per country) – 7 countries – <i>South Asia (Bangladesh, THF) and Pacific (Fiji)</i>
	1500 - 1530	Coffee Break
	1530 - 1700	Sharing of community architect groups (per country) – 2 countries – <i>DPU &amp; SDI</i>
<b>PART 4 HISTORICAL TOUR</b>		
23 May, Thurs	0700 - 0800	Travel to Old Manila
	0800 - 1100	Historical Tour/Walk of Old Manila
	1100 - 1200	Lunch in Old Manila
	1200 - 1300	Travel to venue
	1300 - 1700	Preparation and briefing for community workshops
<b>PART 5 WORK AND HOME-STAY WITH COMMUNITIES (Bocae, Valenzuela &amp; Bgy. 177-Caloocan)</b>		
24 May, Friday	0800	Departure for Community workshops
24-26 May, Fri - Sun	All day	Detailed program to follow (participatory activities towards finding shelter solutions – e.g., mapping, site planning, housing design, etc.)
27 May, Mon	0800 - 1200	Finalization of Community Workshop
<b>PART 6 COMMUNITY PRESENTATION OF WORKSHOP RESULTS TO LGUs, NATIONAL SHELTER AGENCIES, PARTNERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS</b>		
27 May, Mon	0100 – 1700	Return to main conference venue Prepare For Group Presentations / Set Up Exhibit Panels
28 May, Tues	0830 -1200	Big Presentation (of workshop process and outputs, and community proposals to local government and national shelter agencies and other stakeholders): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City presentations</li> <li>▪ Response of LGUs and national shelter agencies, etc.</li> </ul>
	1200 - 1300	Lunch
<b>PART 7 CAN COUNTRY REFLECTION AND CLOSING</b>		
28 May, Tues	1300 - 1600	CAN country reflection and direction-setting
	1600 - 1700	Wrapping up / Closing Activities
	1830 – 2230	Mini-concert / socials
29 May, Wed	Departure of international and non-Manila based participants / CAN Core Team Meeting (To be confirmed)	

- 2. Community Site Visit Profiles for 20th May 2013**
- 3. Homestay City Information**
- 4. CAN Community Homestays Information and Grouping**
- 5. CAN Network Partners Presentations**
- 6. CAN Workshop Handbook**