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# JF & YP Exchange

An Official Newsletter Publication of the Young Professionals' Program in the Philippines – Visayas & Mindanao Chapter

**Theme For This Issue:**

**Rural Housing**

## YP Initiative for Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

A crucial concern of the Young Professionals Network is its advocacy for strengthening communities and localities to contribute to the effort to address climate change. Nowhere is this issue more pronounced than in the rural areas where natural resources are gradually being depleted due to various factors such as upland poverty which forces the poor to utilize unsustainable economic activities just to eke out a living as well as economic exploitation of natural resources.

Such contribution could only be made possible by allowing upland communities to take the lead in rehabilitation process. One of the most concrete steps that the local community could initiate is still reforestation efforts as this could be participated by almost all members of such community as well as allow

different social or community sectors to be involved. The impact of such effort is also immediately visible as micro-climate establishments could be gained by as short as three years.

A significant initiative of the Young Professionals Network was the tree-planting activity done last July 4, 2009 at the Agricultural Productivity Training-2 Facility in Brgy. Prosperidad, San Carlos City. Such facility is situated eight hundred meters above sea level and is situated in one of the Rural Growth Centers of the City. The date also coincided with the Charter Day celebration of the City in which the date is institutionally dedicated for a city-wide tree-planting activity.

*(Continued on page 2)*



(from page 1 on YP Initiative for Climate Change...)

It is for this reason that the initiative gained corporate support and involvement through a joint effort with the San Carlos Development Board, Inc. Such corporate involvement is through the invitation made to the Banks situated in the city. Thus, the management and staff of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), MetroBank, and Banco de Oro (BDO) were present during the half-day affair. These corporate partners pledged to maintain the site to ensure that this will be sustained.

The tree-planting activity is an attempt for micro-climate modeling and will hopefully be a strategy for the same community-wide collaboration and engagement to allow localities to be at the forefront in the battle against global warming. ✪



## Editorial

### Rural Housing

Rural housing concerns are usually overshadowed by big city concerns and left out of the regional development strategy. Rural housing has been marginalized both within the debate on general rural issues and because rural housing need is often perceived as a lower priority when compared to urban housing need. Rural families due to lack of resources often struggle to access safe and affordable housing. Institutional barriers can greatly impede the development of community capacity necessary for addressing rural low-income housing needs. Affordable housing helps to create balanced and sustainable rural communities and regional development.

#### The Problem

Local people on modest incomes cannot afford a standard home in their village for many reasons, including:

- lower average rural incomes,
- restricted supply of suitable land sites,
- migration of wealthier people from urban areas to the countryside resulting in an increase in house prices, and;

- strict planning controls and building codes restricting the supply of new acceptable houses.

The shortage of affordable homes strikes at the very heart of what is required to sustain the social and economic well-being of small and large rural communities. However, simply deciding to build more houses will not necessarily be the answer. We need to ensure that all new housing is affordable and built in the right areas where there is housing need and help protect the future balance of the whole countryside. The consequences of not providing safe and affordable houses are:

- Those unable to find homes in their villages swell the lists of those seeking affordable housing in urban areas.
- The break-up of family and social networks when young people are forced to move away to urban areas leaves older

people increasingly dependent on services provided by the public sector.

- Efforts to diversify being made by the agricultural industry will be pointless if farmers and local labor are less served where low and seasonal incomes prevail.

#### The Challenge

We need a concerted effort to help find solutions in developing affordable homes in rural areas. Solutions are expected to differ from what is offered for an urban setting. More widespread infrastructures like roads, electricity and safe drinking water are needed. Building codes for rural housing should allow use of indigenous building materials that could be covered by financial institutions. ✪

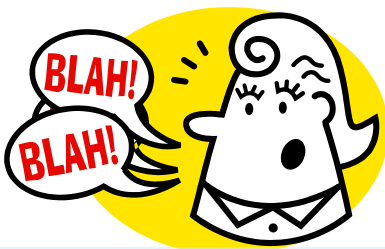


## The YP Challenge Call for Social Housing Designs

### Quote for this issue:

*“Conservation and rural-life policies are really two sides of the same policy; and down at bottom this policy rests upon the fundamental law that neither man nor nation can prosper unless, in dealing with the present, thought is steadily taken forth”*

- Theodore Roosevelt



### Got Something To Say?

We're always searching for passionate and dedicated writers to contribute news of events, resources, articles and stories relevant to Young Professionals who are creating a better world for current and future generations.

### Send your contents to:

#### JF Ledesma Foundation, Inc.

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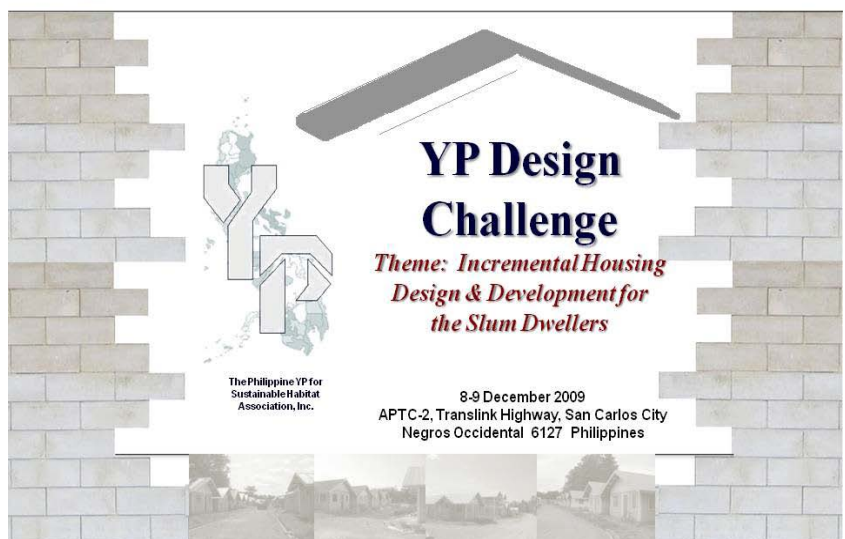
The YP Association initiated a call for Social Housing Design during the last issue of the Newsletter under the YP Design Challenge. The Challenge with a theme: **"Incremental Housing Design & Development For The Slum Dwellers: The YP-VISMIN MDG Challenge"** invites submissions from young professionals covering the Visayas and Mindanao regions in the field of architecture and engineering, as well as other interested parties, to apply their creative abilities and design skills to incremental housing projects addressing real community needs particularly the urban-poor sectors. The challenge is to design a social housing on a US\$1,000 budget with 54 square meter area utilizing the IHUD design framework.

To date, several schools in the Visayas and Mindanao area have responded to the call for Designs. The deadline for the submission is on October 15 and entries will be considered for judging by selected international Jurors at the end of the month.

The winning entries will be showcased during the YP Camp in December and winning participants will be awarded free transportation and accommodation during the said Camp. The goal of the YP Design Challenge is to generate ideas and design solutions for sustainable community development in urban poor settlements. The competition provides an opportunity for young design professionals to put forward innovative, environmentally-sound, appropriate and affordable design solutions that can benefit poor and informal communities and improve the livability of social housing sites. ☆



## MISEREOR



**YP Partnership for Urban  
Poor Engagement for  
Social Housing**



A strengthening process to catalyze and empower informal settlers to address homelessness is being pursued by the Young Professionals Association. A key program in this regard is the Federative Network formation of the urban poor of the seventeen urbanized LGUs in the island of Negros. Such thrust is to ensure the participatory nature of social housing delivery by involving directly the beneficiaries or the Urban Poor HomeOwners Associations.

A continuing process of meetings and strategic planning sessions have been conducted for the past eight months starting from the island-wide consultative visits to local governments made by the YP representatives. With the institutionalization of the Urban Poor Federative Network through its registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the YP Association proceeded to process the concrete steps that would be taken by the Urban Poor network to engage the local governments and come up with specific programs and activities to address their conditions. A key planning session was held in Kabankalan City last August 27 in which the Network came up with strategies to be undertaken with specific timeframe and responsibilities. The session was attended by the Officers of the Network and representatives of the local governments. The group decided to pursue further strategies and activities on the scheduled follow-up session during the YP Camp in December. 🌟



**Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Current Job/Work \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Numbers/E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly indicate your priorities among the listed alternative construction materials by ranking them (1 – highest priority; 2 – second priority, etc.):

- compressed earth blocks                       micro-concrete roof tiles
- interlocking compressed earth blocks       ferrocement
- others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

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