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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:**

**Water and Sanitation**

## JFLFI/YP-PACSSI ICEB National Expansion Collaboration

The increasing climate change due to global warming necessitates a review of structural and technological designs utilized for housing construction. The current conventional materials use so much energy in the production which is more than one thousand kilowatts and thus adds to global warming and increased energy consumption.

being promoted which is more structurally stable due to its design - the Interlocking Compressed Earth Blocks (ICEB).

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As direct contribution to the mitigation of climate change, The JF Ledesma Foundation, Inc. and the Young Professionals Network is continually promoting the utilization of alternative construction technologies, particularly earth-based materials. While earth-based construction technology has been promoted for almost twenty years by JFLFI and the Young Professionals Association, a second generation technology is



(from page 1 on JFLFI/YP-PACSSII...)

As a thrust towards nationwide expansion of the technology, collaboration has been established between JFLFI/YP and the Philippine Action for Community-Led Shelter Initiatives, Inc. (PACSSI). PACSSI is assisting the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines (HPFP).

As a concrete measure for collaboration and ICEB expansion, the Officers of YP and JFLFI, namely Dr. Billy Tusalem and Dr. Nestor Abdon, conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop for the Officers of PACSSI for the utilization of ICEB on PACSSI's housing programs. The Planning Workshop was conducted at the ISO Complex of the Ateneo University last February 3, 2009.

Central to the workshop was an analysis of the organizational and operational structure of PASSI if it would be feasible within the current organizational structure or operational system appropriate to the current environment. Clear next steps for its utilization were identified in the workshop.

Primarily, decisions on key issues were made such as to professionalize procedures and policy implementation, up-scale the ICEB Production through increased volume of its application and utilization in all covered regions, and provide continuous skill updating on ICEB operation. ★



## News Feature:

### Meeting with LCEs/LGU Housing Representatives of Selected LGUs in Negros Island Conducted



The effort of the JFLedesma Foundation, Inc. and the Young Professionals Association for Sustainable Habitat to collaborate with Local Government Units for the localization of the MDG is continually done through the promotion of the Integrated Shelter Delivery Program (ISDP). To orient these LGUs on the ISDP and to establish collaboration with JFLFI/YP, a meeting with Local Chief Executives and Housing Officers was done last January 7-9, 2009.

The meeting was handled by three Officers of JFLFI/YP in a series of visits and scheduled meetings within the three-day period. The LGUs covered started with the City of Cadiz, and followed by Talisay. The meeting then proceeded to the Negros Oriental side of the island covering Bais City and Dumaguete City. The last leg of the trip was scheduled in the City of Bayawan.

A crucial result of the meeting is the confirmation by these LGUs/LCEs to address their social housing needs as well as send their representatives to attend the MDG Forum scheduled in the month of February.

The personal meetings or conferences made with the Local Chief Executives and Housing Officers of the LGUs is significant as it enabled for direct communication and further strengthened understanding on the need for LGUs to address their urbanization and homelessness. ★

## MDG Forum Held in San Carlos City

*Quote for this issue:*

*The quality of water and the quality of life in all its infinite forms are critical parts of the overall, ongoing health of this planet of ours, not just here in the Amazon, but everywhere... The hardest part of any big project is to begin. We have begun. We are underway. We have a passion. We want to make a difference.*

-Sir Peter Blake (1948-2001)



### 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:*

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A significant initiative of the JF Ledesma Foundation, Inc. and the Young Professionals Association for Sustainable Habitat is the strengthening of capacities of Local Government Units for the localization of the Millennium Development Goals. This program specifically focus on Goal number one (eradication of extreme poverty) and Goal number 7, target 11 (Environmental sustainability, improving the condition of informal settlers) of the MDG.

While the Program has a coverage on the Visayas and Mindanao Regions, a focus on the LGUs in the Negros island is targeted as this has one of the highest rate of urbanization nationwide as evidenced by the fact that it has the number of cities. Furthermore, it has also the highest magnitude of poor households nationwide. Such situation led to the conduct of an initiative that considers the capacity of these localities to prioritize poverty alleviation mechanisms.

Such strengthening mechanism is handled through the conduct of an MDG Forum which was held last February 5-6, 2009 in San Carlos City.

The holding of the Forum in San Carlos City is significant as the LGU has just received the Gawad Galing Pook Award for Best Local Governance Practice for its Sustainable City Project. As the Award recognized the effort of the city to balance social, economic and environmental concerns, the Forum sought to highlight this effort and provide a model for the Participants to consider for replication in their respective localities. Thus, the opening portion of the program started with the presentation of the various development initiatives being done in the city.

The Forum was attended by representatives from six highly-urbanized LGUs in the island of Negros with their HomeOwners Association Representatives (HOAs) with a total of 34 participants. The theme for the Forum is "MDG Update: Current Status and Negros Island-wide Localization Strategies."





Of particular concern is the resource or fiscal requirement for MDG realization. Thus, a significant input in this regard was provided by the main resource speaker, Dr. Jocelyn Cuaresma, A Professor in Public Finance of the National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

After the input, the participants were subdivided into two groups wherein the representatives from the LGUs who are in charge of their housing programs were given a Workshop by the main speaker on determining possible sources of financing. The HOA representatives also underwent a workshop which was moderated by Mr. Reynic Alo, the Executive Director of the Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development (MUAD-Negros). As a result, the HOA representatives were able to identify specific interventions that are needed in their respective areas and even organized themselves into an island-wide Association of HOAs. The LGU representatives also formed themselves as the Board of Advisors for the HOAs.

The last day of the Forum was utilized for the site exposure of the participants to the different development projects of the City of San Carlos. 🇵🇭



## 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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