CAN

COMMUNITY
ARCHITECTS
NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

July 2015

When the communities are strong, the houses are strong!

In June the Phillipines hosted the 3rd CAN Regional workshop for the second edition in a row. Thank-you to all the Philippines Alliance for taking on the task of organizing it and doing it so well! This year, beyond participants from the CAN network in Asian countries, for the first time the workshop was open to "outsiders", as a way to broaden the network. Participants from Nepal unfortunately weren't present, as they are still very busy responding to the earthquake - covered in this issue - but we were lucky, our friend-network Slum Dwellers International were able to attend all the way from South Africa. In May, CAN-CAM in Cambodia organized another international workshop together with the Development Planning Unit from London, demonstrating an incredible growth in terms of capacity.

CAN is growing, evolving and maturing. At the latest Core Team meeting in the Phillippines following the regional workshop, we talked a lot about how to restructure the network for the future to achieve more decentralization and self-sustainability. In parallel, CAN is being recognized more and more as an international platform with a unique approach providing a much needed contribution to development work. The Buckminster Fuller Institute selected CAN as one of the 14 finalists among more than 400 applicants to their annual award based on such criteria as "Visionary, Comprehensive, Anticipatory, Ecologically Responsible, Verifiable, Feasible, and Replicable".

INDEX

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ASIA:

Thailand
Maetha Tambon people receive 30-year land lease *p15*

Cambodia
Citywide upgrading transformation: 2nd CAN-DPU Workshop *p7*

Nepal
After the earthquake: CAN visit to Kathmandu valley *p9*
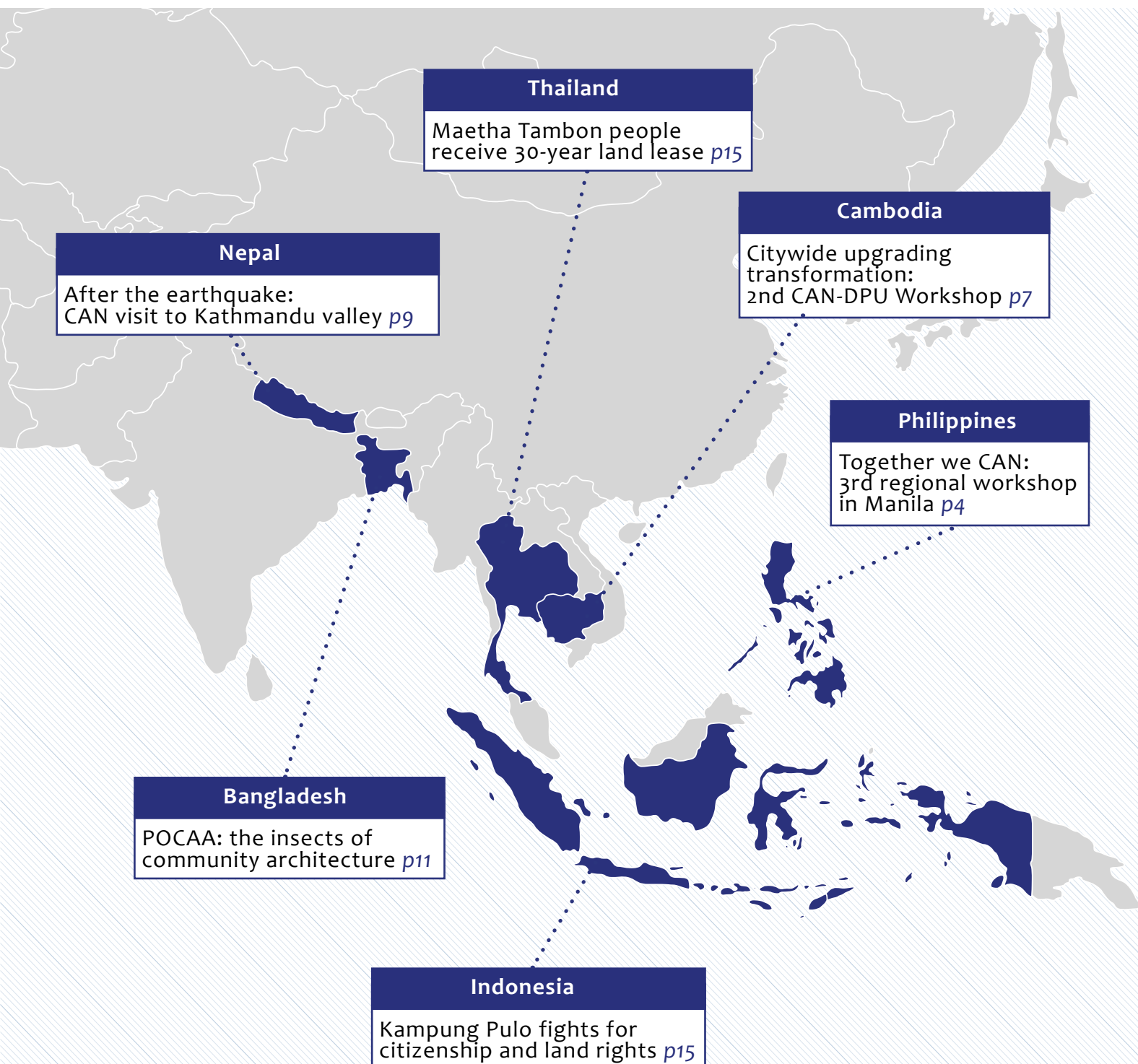
Philippines
Together we CAN: 3rd regional workshop in Manila *p4*

Bangladesh
POCAA: the insects of community architecture *p11*

Indonesia
Kampung Pulo fights for citizenship and land rights *p15*

Together we CAN!
3rd CAN regional workshop

The third CAN Regional Workshop and Meeting; **Together We CAN! People planning for future inclusive cities** took place in June in Metro Manila, Philippines. It focused on two areas, Muntinlupa City (barangays: Sucat, Buli, Alabang) and Intramuros (Manila), with which the Philippine Alliance had been actively working.

Intramuros is the historic core of Manila, the seat of the Spanish administration in the16th century and was declared a National Historical Monument in the 1950's. The Intramuros Administration (IA) is interested in addressing housing issues of informal settlers within the area, as part of its ongoing work towards restoration and conservation. For the workshop the IA welcomed the support of community architects to find inclusive and appropriate solutions for all, building on the community mapping activities that the Philippine Alliance had been undertaking to inform the revitalization plan of Intramurous area.

Muntinlupa City is situated along the Laguna de Bay lake, South of Metro Manila. The area itself is prone to flooding and vulnerable to typhoons and earthquakes, while the informal settlements suffer from a lack of secure tenure. HPFPI and TAMPEI, in partnership with local stakeholders and with technical support from the World Bank, have been mapping and surveying the existing settlements since January 2015 in order to inform planning as part of the **City-wide Development Approach** (CDA) for Muntinlupa. The workshop developed on community mapping and planning processes already underway in three of the four targeted barangays.

The workshop was broken into three parts. In the introductory part countries representatives updated each other on progress made since the last workshop, and attendees were introduced to the context of the workshop. Presentations were made by Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea as well as special guests from South Africa. For the working part of the workshop, attendees were split into 8 groups across the two main sites. And for the concluding part, groups presented their ideas for a people-centred heritage planning in Intramuros and City-wide development in Muntinlupa at public forums in both Muntilupa and Intramuros. Long term the goal of the workshop was to continue a relationship with the local universities and build links with various local stakeholders including citywide community networks and local government to enable long term change and collaboration.

In Intramuros, one group focused on formulating a series of detailed housing options with the communities of Banana Island and Solana, finally producing three proposals that were presented at the public forum. While the other group

The workshop's long term goal was to build links with various local stakeholders to enable long term change and collaboration

Pacific Ocean

Luzon

● Metro Manila

PHILIPPINES

developed the idea of a 'living heritage' within the context of heritage planning for Intramuros by documenting the experiences and life stories of the communities currently living there, presented in the form of a map

The workshop offered a space for several communities to come together and set an agenda for the steps to come

and mini guided tour at the public forum. The aim was to validate the importance and contribution of informal settlers in the Walled City to IA and the landowners, showing that facilitating the development of the settlements can lead to mutual gains for all involved parties, making Intramuros a more inclusive, livable and lively place. The communities also had the chance to present their current situation and issues to IA, national authorities (Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor and Social Housing Finance Corporation), a World Bank representative, as well as all CAN workshop participants. The various agencies had the chance to then comment and provide advice or help identify how they could support the communities e.g. through financial mechanisms.

Attending the public forum, was representatives from Muntilupa City, in particular the Office for Urban Planning and the Urban Poor Affaires Office, and the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor. Each of the groups had the chance to present to the audience the fieldwork topic, issues experienced by the communities, and the proposed solutions. It was an opportunity for the communities to speak directly to the local government unit, and to present their perspective which might not have previously been known to the authorities.

In Intramuros, the interaction between different community leaders and community architects working on similar issues from other countries helped generate enthusiasm and willingness to find solutions, and gather momentum around community organizing, savings and mapping in what were previously hesitant settlements prior to the workshop. "At

first when community mapping was offered, we rejected it because we are afraid that the mapping will be an instrument for demolition" said a resident from Solana. The community of Banana Island held its elections to form a community association during the workshop, and Solana will soon follow.

The workshop, particularly the public forum helped the communities gain larger visibility by the IA, and realize that it was serious about integrating them within their revitalization plans. In addition, it offered a space for several communities to come together and set an agenda for the steps to come in terms of community organizing, tapping into financial opportunities, start saving, etc.

In Muntinlupa, the fieldwork was an opportunity to expand the work on the CDA, share the process with others and gain new insights. In the follow up meeting held after the workshop, The CDA team and TAMPEI highlighted important insights from the workshop such as : how to ensure the process remains participatory, deal with authorities, keep effective time management, enthusiasm, and hard work, and the value of putting time into proper socialization with communities and the local government to avoid misunderstandings. The workshop triggered adjustments to the CDA mapping process, as well as motivation to continue the process. Additionally it was a change to pilot new participatory processes, such as the barangay planning in Buli, which will then be repeated in the following months. **| Mariangela Veronesi**

You can find a day-by-day photo coverage of the workshop **here**. For more information, contact **Mariangela** at **mv.mveronesi@gmail.com**

Following the 3rd CAN regional workshop in Metro Manila, Core CAN team members met to discuss met to discuss future aspirations, goals and opportunities. CAN can confidently say it has achieved an influential position as a cross-borders international network, coordinating big and small workshops and exchange visits, providing much needed seed funding for upcoming young professionals and producing handbooks and newsletters.

However it's recognized we can, and are currently doing a lot more than this, it just needs organization. CAN is continually maturing as an organization, so when we start to talk about funding opportunities, following the close of Misereor funding in 2016, and we start to imagine a more "self-sustainable" CAN, what does this mean? It entails greater economic self-sufficiency, but hopefully also a growth spurt in self-awareness and confidence (and packaging maybe) on what CAN can offer as a service?

CAN's work can be divided into 3 main areas: city-upgrading, living heritage and disaster response. What is unique about CAN, and what CAN provides is the support and recognition of a people's process. "When communities are strong, the houses are strong too" Conventional funding tends to look for solutions at the household level, but CAN is developing what could be called a "people's technology" involving training, workshops, and capacity building that seeks solutions at the community level.

For CAN to continue in the future in a less centralized manner requires developing on the following points:

-Maintaining the key activities which keep the CAN spirit alive, while finding more financial support and contributions at the local level.

-Distributing the secretariat work within the network, either as a core team across countries, or rotated between countries.

-A funding team who is responsible for finding future funding, and maintaing relationships with current funders

- Lastly : Should CAN register as a legal entity?

5 Handbooks are to be produced by the end of 2016 :

1. **City-wide Upgrading Handbook**, written by TAMPEI, with case examples from the Phillippines

2. **CAN profiles handbook**, written by Ariel and Francesco

3. **Participatory Rural Planning**, written by Tee, with case examples from Thailand

4. **People-led Disaster** response written jointly by Mahavir, Nad, Kabir, Cak and Yuli with examples from Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia

5. **Heritage for People** written by Mayang and Pimpim, with case examples from Indonesia and Nepal.

Small workshops to take place in the next year are as follows: a follow-up on rehabiliation work post-earthquake in Nepal, a city-wide upgrading exchange between Thailand and Phillippines, rural planning and ecological regeneration in Indonesia and a workshop on Bamboo architecture in Korea.

Phillippines was happy to pass the baton onto Bangladesh to host the following CAN Regional workshop in 2016.

When communities are strong, the houses are strong:
CAN Core Team meeting

Citywide upgrading transformation
2nd DPU-CAN Workshop

This was the second workshop jointly organized by London's **Development Planning Unit** and Cambodia's **Community Development Foundation.** International students and local students worked together with young professionals to get first-hand experience on community work and encounter people-driven development processes. Working together with communities and local authorities, the students produced concrete proposals for upgrading at community level and proposed city-wide strategies for development, presenting the proposals at an international forum.

Following introductory talks and field visits in Phnom Penh, the students were divided into three groups : Boeung Veng Rek Cham Roeng, a canal settlement in the centre of Steung Sen city, in Kompong Thom province, Boeung Choeuk, a community located in Chbar Ampov district outside Greater Pnom Penh, and Anlong Kngan a relocation site for an eviction out of Phnom Penh 15 years ago.

In **Boeung Veng Rek Cham Roeng** settlement, the authorities have already selected and approved a new relocation site for the families. However, as it's more than

40km out of the city the community has voiced they would prefer to upgrade their houses on the canal edge even if they have to purchase the land themselves. The local CDF has identified an alternative affordable plot of land only 30 minutes walk away. The students surveyed the existing settlement and produced informational diagrams to simplify and clarify the different pieces of information as well as developing two upgrading proposals: one for on-site upgrading and one for resettlement to the nearby land. The community members themselves presented both proposals to the Municipality at the closing forum.

Boeung Choeuk is a flood prone settlement of 40 families, the housing is unstable, and due to an increase in neighbouring landfills, the flooding is getting worse. The students conducted a detailed household by household survey, producing a rich community profile, with details down to the household level. They then designed various reblocking strategies responding to different scenarios and individual household limitations, and together with the community team visualized the story of the community development

The workshop involved students and young professionals to get first-hand experience of community work, in order to shape the next generation of planners and designers

in parallel with the district development, highlighting district-wide urban and environmental issues impacting the community such as flooding, water flow, landfill, land speculation, etc. – finally suggesting the critical need for a district-wide people-driven upgrading process, where the authorities work in partnership with the people.

Anlong Kngan is a gigantic relocation outside of Pnom Penh, accommodating 3000 households evicted from inner Phnom Penh following a fire in 2001. At the time the site was isolated, but as Pnom Penh has expanded Anlong Kngan is quickly becoming consolidated. As it often happens, many people sold their individual land titles and started squatting around a pond in the middle of the relocation site. Nowadays, in the face of increasing land pressure, Anlong Kngang community suffers from a lack of land tenure, and the communities lack cohesion and organization. Sadly students couldn't work closely with the community people so instead proposed a series of activities and initiatives to activate the sense of community in Anlong Kngan, followed by possible re-blocking schemes, and a suggestion for collective land tenure. In the final presentation, the team highlighted how people's initiatives have contributed to turning Anlong Kngan into a part of Pnom Penh city, and explicitly requested that the authorities at the city and national level provide collective soft loans to these communities for upgrading.

Overall the workshop was considered very successful by all parties involved. Some closing remarks were made :

1. The organizational capacity of the local organizations improved greatly from the year before. Furthermore, in preparation for the workshop CDF and CAN-CAM considerably developed their budget management skills, limiting expenses to stay within the budget constraints and doing proper accounting.

2. The selection and orientation process for the local university students was very thorough. The Khmer students were proactive, spoke good English, and had an understanding of community and upgrading, allowing international and Khmer students to develop an effective working relationship in the field. The international students said they could experience community work directly thanks to the support of their Khmer counterparts.

3. The selection of working sites was optimal: a manageable scale, but at the same time were problematic enough to challenge the students.

4. The involvement of young officers from the newly setup Housing Department under the Ministry of Land posed a counter perspective for the students, with expertise on laws and regulations; they also provided a useful link with local authorities and administration offices when needed. Sending people from the Ministry into the field together with communities and local authorities, in professor Kimseng's words, is also a way to tell the local authorities: "Look, people up there at the Ministry of Land understand all of this already; why you don't get it yet?"

5. The partnership with an international institution such as DPU can considerably strengthen the few voices advocating for curriculum change in Cambodia. The idea for next year is to invite lecturers from many different universities to take part in a parallel workshop/seminar with DPU staff, discussing about pedagogical approaches, the role of education and universities in urban development, etc., while again taking part in the work on the ground with students and communities.

The closing event was an international forum which brought well deserved visibility and recognition to the communities, the Community Development Foundation and the community-driven development approach at institutional level - both in the government and in academia, pushing forward policy change and curriculum reform. 2016 will most likely see another collaborative workshop between DPU students and CAN-CAM. | **Francesco Pasta**

The students's reports are available for **download**.

Nepal
After
the earthquake

The earthquake which hit Nepal in April destroyed century old buildings in Kathmandu Valley, and more than 500,000 houses collapsed across 14 districts. It was the biggest earthquake in Nepal since 1934. Following the catastrophic event, Mahavir, Nad and Net - representing the **Community Architect Network** and **Hunnarshala Foundation** - went to Nepal to identify possible areas of intervention with the local organization **Lumanti. Misereor** funded the assessment trip and emergency relief efforts, and have shown interest in supporting a long term people-led process for recovery.

For the last 10 years, Lumanti has been facilitating a network of women savings credit cooperatives across 11 cities, while developing the villages as living heritage villages. Lumanti had already started mapping the settlements under the ACCA program.

Lumanti team are working to set up a community-

relief and disaster mitigation program in 10 old towns in the Kathmandu valley through community-led finance mechanisms. The women's cooperatives play an important role in managing the villages' own funds, donations, relief materials as well as temporary shelters to ensure that that the most needed support comes at the right times, and the members most in need benefit first.

From the survey conducted, Lumanti and communities calculated the demand for temporary shelters to be around 800 units across the 10 old towns. Lumanti and **PTAG** (Pro-poor Technical Assistance Group) developed a temporary shelter design which people can build by themselves to fit with their particular lifestyle, reusing their old materials. Lumanti has already channeled funding and facilitated the construction of 300 temporary shelters.

We visited the women's cooperatives in three old towns in Kathmandu valley (Mechchagaon, Thecho, and Siddhipur), and one rural area Dhading in Jeevanpur village, to assess the current situation, and identify possible types of intervention.

In **Tauchel** and **Mechchagaon**, 70% of houses collapsed. We visited old houses and analyzed the structures to try to find low-cost housing solutions using local materials and local artisans to enrich the heritage settlement. We found that old Nevari architecture, known for its interconnected courtyards, can be rebuilt and retrofitted to improve

Lumanti team are working to set up a community-relief and disaster mitigation program in 10 towns in Kathmandu valley through community-led finance

ventilation and bring more nature light to house.

We used existing community maps to organize where construction was needed in the village to preserve their cultural heritage, and started to re-plan the settlements around the existing courtyards and houses. Lumanti will continue the community planning process in these two towns.

In **Siddhipur** and **Thecho** villages, 60% of their housing stock collapsed. They are very old heritage settlements of carpet weavers, with a few heritage buildings which survived the earthquake of 1934. We found many old houses could be retrofitted, however most of the owners had lost confidence in the old way and wanted to build a concrete replacement. We organized meetings and workshops with local artisans to build awareness on the importance of heritage conservation, encouraging people to retrofit the old houses, and save money. Using mapping prepared prior to the earthquake, a mapping workshop is scheduled to start planning rebuilding possibilities, and rehabilitation options.

In **Chhatra Devrali** 80-85% houses have collapsed or are seriously damaged. Most houses are built with local stone and mud mortar, and their livelihoods are linked to agriculture practices. The local people have already started sorting through the debris for material which can be reused again in the rehabilitation phase. Misereor identified Chhatra Devrali as a potential 'model' village for people-led rehabilitation, due to their strong sense of community cohesiveness, the existing potential to use local materials, and desire of people to be trained to build their houses themselves.

Lumanti team will facilitate the production of more temporary shelters, as well as community recovery mapping in 8 old towns, exploring finance models and various mechanisms for community recovery. Community mapping is an important tool to organize the community rehabilitation process, because it helps the people make strategic decisions in planning their built environment, as well as encouraging them to think as a whole, rather than individually.

Housing

Most damaged buildings were built of low-strength, locally produced masonry (stone, brick, sun-dried brick) bonded with mud mortar, with significantly high seismic vulnerability. According to Misereor's survey there is a general lack of awareness of seismic risk, coupled with lack of dissemination of improved construction practices - particularly in rural areas. We found an opportunity to mobilize and build awareness around the various benefits of retrofitting individual houses to be more earthquake proof, as well as an opportunity to develop self-build housing methods which reuse and recycle debris, helping the villagers build their own permanent shelters more cheaply and efficiently.

Our long term objectives is to rehabilitate 2000-2500 houses, within 2-3 years. Lumanti, Hunnarshala and CAN will assemble a socio-technical working group to provide technical and architectural support to the whole program, as well as developing a participative program between the housing cluster and village scale, alongside village committees and leaders and trained masons and carpenters.
| Chawanad Luansang

Watch our **documentary film** about our field visit to Nepal!

△ *In the previous page, an image of the open-air activities for replanning the community in Tauchel,Mechchagaon.*

▽ *A render of how the village could look like after the reconstruction, based on the existing traditional Nevari courtyards.*

Bangladesh
POCAA:
the insects
of community
architecture

In Bengali, "Pocaa" means insect. We are a group people from different backgrounds and skill sets (professional, academic and vernacular) with the interest of sharing knowledge and contributing to self-help community upgrading in Bangladesh. The extraordinary rise of informal settlements in the developing economy of Bangladesh calls for the need of formulating innovative approaches to planning, affordable housing and overall community upgrading. The **Platform of Community Architects and Artisans** (POCAA), founded in 2013, is a platform to bring together all the insects who are active in community architecture, and connect them citywide, nationwide and worldwide to networks engaged in self-initiated community architecture.

We empower communities through knowledge production and action, and facilitate them to initiate their self-help community development using their available resources. We use mapping as a tool to generate and

In Bengali, *pocaa* means insect. POCAA is a platform to bring together all the insects who are active in community architecture, and connect them citywide, nationwide and worldwide

exchange knowledge between the living local wisdom and academic knowledge. Community participation and community action are integral parts of the self-help development process.

POCAA has no formal structure; everyone is free to join or leave the platform at any time. The energetic members of our platform are working on 6 projects across 3 cities in Bangladesh. Jhenidah city, Gazipur, and Dhaka. Here we'd like to share about two ongoing projects.

Wari Robidash Community: Robidash are a Dalit (low caste) community, who mostly work as shoe cobblers. Wari Robidash is one of 13 Robidash community settlements in Dhaka. In spite of living there for generations, Wari Robidash community has yet to get any land title. Initially Wari Robidash was settled next to canal, but later the canal was converted to a covered drain, and is now used as a street. Wari Robidash, a dense neighborhood, is an amalgamation of tiny blocks of land for each family. So expanding vertically is the only option for many of them. Though they live directly on the ground, the community

desires to live in multi-story buildings as that symbolizes good social status. Unplanned extensions, both vertically and horizontally, have resulted in a haphazard layout, with dark, narrow, puzzle like corridors which have become a fire hazard. The POCAA Team with the help of Shelter for the Poor (SFP) worked with the northern portion of the community to prepare a master plan proposal. As part of the mapping preparations, community youths from the area mapped their neighbourhood, supported by a youth team from Laxmibazar Robidash community.

Following community mapping, many problems started to become visible, and we collected some design principles for upgrading such as :

-Design a few housing options for the existing plots.

-Keep shared facilities like toilets, kitchens and staircases to maximize the use of space.

-Relatives can build together to reduce construction cost. For example, if two brothers decide to combine their plot and build the house together, then their cost would be reduced for the foundation and they would get bigger space as compared to individual houses.

POCAA chose not to go into any details with the design options before beginning community participation.

Mohishukundu Shordarpara Community: Jhenidah city, located in the southwest of Bangladesh, has received ACCA funds for both a big and small upgrading projects. The upgrading process also intends to build a citywide network among the 50 low-income communities within the urban area. Savings groups have already begun in a small network across six communities.

Mohishakundu Shordarpara, a community of 52 households, is one of the most socially disadvantaged communities of Jhenidah, but also the most prepared to start the big project. Mohishakundu Shordarpara is accessed by a secondary road which was a grant from the Mayor. The internal pathways can be accessed by foot, but not by rickshaw vans. Most of the houses are made of mud, CI Sheet or bamboo mat. The people earn money from farming, driving vans, daily labor and various small businesses. Most of them contribute to the savings group weekly, and the savings group is fully managed by them.

The community has decided to build 20 houses with a loan of BDT 100,000 (USD 1282) per household. They will repay BDT 120,000 over 8.3 years (BDT 1200 per month). The

revolving fund will be used to build any remaining houses of the community and other communities in the citywide network.

So far the community has done a community mapping (mental map, measured plot boundary, existing resources, individual house documentation), a dream house and aspiration workshop, house design within the budget. The construction of 2 houses, to verify costs and technologies, is ongoing.

The upgrading process of the community is supported by ALIVE, a local NGO, Jhenidah Pouroshobha, and POCAA together with the Architecture Department, **BRAC University**.

For more information, contact **Suhailey** at **suhailey.farzana@gmail.com**

△ *Young Robidash people mapping the community in Wari Robidash.*

▽ *In Mohishakundu Shordarpara, women with their dream houses and reading about other communities in Asia.*

Perween Rahman Fellowship 2015: results

For the second year in a row, CAN has been able to support young professionals all over Asia in working on the ground with communities through the Perween Rahman Fellowship. The fellowship, named to honour the memory of Perween Rahman, architect and social activist murdered in Karachi in 2013, consists of 2000$ per project. It's a very small contribution, but the fellowship is intended as a way to encourage willful, passionate young people to start doing projects, build partnerships, unlock resources, achieve more with less, and build up learning and knowledge with people. Here are the brief descriptions of the selected projects for this round of applications. We wish good luck to all the Perween Rahman Fellows!

1. Sirajganj, Bangladesh / Housing security in 3 communities: Mr Abdullah Lizu, working with the Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) and the Community Housing Development Fund (CHDF) in Sirajganj, will be working with 3 communities. Five young people from each community will be trained to survey their settlements. The data will be digitalized with the help of volunteer architecture students. Courtyard workshop meetings will be conducted to present the data to community people and enable them to understand the information. The outcome of the process will be the setting up of a saving scheme and the preparation of a Settlement Improvement Plan (SIP), to apply for funds.
Applicant: Kh. M. Abdullah Lizu (UPPR), abdullahlizu@gmail.com

2. Jhenidah, Bangladesh / Upgrading and Reviving positive coexistence with canal in the city: Ms. Suhailey Farzana will work on organizing people and resources on a canal-side community, towards a citywide mapping and network of canal-side poor communities. The process will include understanding the possibilities of savings for housing, identifying basic problems and make an upgrading plan, to start solving the common problems through community action. The project aims to be an example for appropriate waste management system and canal-side community landscaping, which can be applied throughout Jhenidah city.
Applicant: Suhailey Farzana (POCAA - Platform of Community Architect and Artisans), suhailey.farzana@gmail.com

3. Dhaka, Bangladesh / Small upgrading in underprivileged community: Ms. Sumaiya Rufida Isalm will work with Robidash communities in Dhaka, inhabited by dalit (low caste) people. The project focuses on community mobilization and participatory design of communal amenities spaces in a few communities, to set a precedent for Robidash communities self-managed upgrading and to create a citywide network linking such settlements.

Applicant: Sumaiya Rufida Islam (POCAA - Platform of Community Architect and Artisans), sumaiyarufida@gmail.com

4. Bandung, Indonesia / Community mapping and savings initiatives in Pasirluyu: working with the newly established platform of Architects for Self-help and Facilitation (ASF), Ms Fransiska Damarratri will engage two communities along Cikapundung river in Bandung, raise awareness of the settlers in the area about their ability to prioritize, organize, and solve immediate environmental and housing problems, concerning their informal living.
Applicant: Fransiska Mutiara Damarratri, ASF (Architects for Self-help and Facilitation), m.damarratri@gmail.com

5. Yogyakarta, Indonesia / Workshop of eco friendly brick by young community builder: this project links to an ACCA big housing project and aims at developing an eco-friendly brick wall material, made with clay and cement combined with limestone soil and litter without combustion.
Applicant: Ms. Lintang Rembulan (ARKOM Jogja), langiteduh@gmail.com

6. Lodhran, Pakistan / Community Mapping for Housing - Youth Training on Mapping and Assistance for advocacy: this project aims at involving the youth in the development of the community, through a comprehensive, hands-on training on manual and digitized mapping, design, cost estimation, low-cost construction techniques for housing and housing plan submission.
Applicant: Rao Muzaffar Iqbal, raomuzafarldr@gmail.com

7. Karachi, Pakistan / Technical support in Cooperative Housing, Saving and Loan: architects at Tameer Technical Centre (TTC) are working on housing improvement in Karachi's low-income settlements and have recently initiated training on housing to students in Gulshan-e-Saifal Maree goth (urban village) on request of Caritas, a new step towards the expansion of the program in to the goths of Karachi. In particular, ventilation improvement is part of the design that these community architects propose so that light and wind are obtainable through natural, free resources rather than depending upon electricity.
Applicant: Mr. Hafiz Mohammad Danish and Abid-ur-Rahman, asra.mohammad@gmail.com

8. Davao, Philippines / Community Mapping and Enumeration in Barangay Ilang: The Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment (TAMPEI) is creating a comprehensive map and survey of barangay Ilang's informal settlements as basis for community planning, to achieve security of housing and tenure and consolidate the training of local community leaders and members, barangay officials and university students. A workshop is being organized where the data and map will be presented, providing a platform for initial discussions for comprehensive site planning. The whole mapping process will be documented so that it can act as a precedent for other barangays in Davao City for community planning.
Applicant: Mr. Nassrodin O. Sapto (TAMPEI), nass.sapto@gmail.com

9. Mandaue, Philippines / Community mapping: Carlo Bongcac from TAMPEI is working on mapping and planning upgrading in 3 communities, already organized as Housing Association, in the Central Cluster of Mandaue City. Each community will then produce a Community Action Plan. A "core team" of community experts trained in GPS and spot mapping will be formed to assist in further mapping. In the process, students from the Institute for Planning and Design (IPD) at the University of San Carlos will be exposed to working with urban poor communities close to home, in the hope of shaping future community architects and planners.
Applicant: Mr. Carlo Bongcac (TAMPEI), carlobongcac@gmail.com

10. Negombo, Sri Lanka / Improve the housing quality of the fishing communities of Negombo: Mr. Asiri Pradeep Dissanayake is overseeing a project in the fishing community of Negombo, in collaboration with Sarvodaya, a social service NGO. The community agreed to take up as a pilot project and they are willing to corporate. The project is parallel to a collaborative project by the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and the University of Leuven, Belgium. The Belgian students arrive in July for a 2-3 month workshop to study about local construction methods and to build a product (possibly an adaptable, replicable housing extension) using community knowledge. Local students attend the activity as part of their Masters in Urban Design.
Applicant: Mr. Asiri Pradeep Dissanayake, asiridi@gmail.com

11. Chiangmai, Thailand / Comprehensive site planning for reviving the sacred site and historic structures of U-Mong temple and Suthep Mountain: Jai Baan studio is developing an existing map of U-Mong Temple as a base for understanding the value and meaning of the site from past to the present and for developing a participatory planning process for reviving the complex's spiritual and physical values. The project aims as well to solve land conflicts between the temple and the National Park where it is located, and hopefully will set a precedent for other 759 temples around Thailand that are having conflict with the National Park regarding land ownership.
Applicant: Mr Thanawin Wijitporn (Jai Baan studio), thanawin.net@gmail.com

12. Rattanakiri, Cambodia / Citywide Upgrading project of Banlung city: Ms Ran Chenda will assist communities in the remote, hilly province of Rattanakiri, to carry out mapping, design of low-cost housing and layout, financial planning and construction together with local students and community builders and in partnership with the local authorities.
Applicant: Ran Chenda (CAN-Cam), ran.chenda94@yahoo.com

13. Koh Kong, Cambodia / Housing Pilot Project in Khemara Phumin Municipality: Mr You Sokseang, volunteering with CAN-Cam, is supporting communities in the seaside province of Koh Kong on mapping and environmental planning. One of the main issues is waste management and water pollution that flow direct into the river. The planning also aims at enhancing the community marine production in order to increase their living standard, improving the environmental and economic condition. For the construction, they will select local materials which can be found nearby. This process will also create a local network of community architects, students, community builders, community members, and authorities to share experience and knowledge.
Applicant: You Sokseang (CAN-Cam), u_nick101@yahoo.com

14. Nepal/Post-earthquake community-driven rehabilitation: this year, following the catastrophic earthquake which hit Nepal in April, one Perween Rahman Fellowship has been awarded to PTAG, working in collaboration with Lumanti NGO on community-led reconstruction in rural areas.
Applicant: PTAG group

15. Hanoi, Vietnam / Upgrading of infrastructure and housing for the floating communities of Bai Giua: this project seeks to mobilise the inhabitants of the precarious floating houses on the Red River in Hanoi, to devise their own solutions for issues such as clear water, electricity and housing and to support them in connect and work with the authorities to find out a sustainable solution, also for an official recognition. Within six months, it is hoped to start community savings, build a common cistern and a pilot-board-house and potentially share the experiences with other floating communities particularly, and other communes of Hanoi, or other cities generally.
Applicant: Ms Pham Thi Thanh Huong phamhuong.du@gmail.com

Thailand
Maetha Tambon people receive 30-year land lease following participatory rural planning

The Prime Minister of Thailand, General Prayuth Chan-o-cha, and head of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), visited Maetha Tambon in March to authorize the long term land lease (30 years) under the forest department to the people of Maetha for livelihood use.

The **Rural Baan Mankong** Program of **CODI** is facilitating the participatory planning process. The program directs attention to conflicted land titles, areas of land being used by communities for farming, but owned by the government.

The method is named "Pung Chivit - Pung Tambon", and the approach can be summarised into 7 key steps ;

i. Land use Mapping/Focused group interviewing

ii. Identifying the challenges/opportunities related to existing land usage in the future

iii. Collecting relevant planning information

iv. Producing a model of the watershed to scale for participatory planning

v. Developing a concept vision for land utilization 10 years into the future

vi. Drafting the local ordinance for a public hearing

vii. Dialogue with the Royal Forest Department, the Department of National Parks Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Ministry of Interior

Because of the success in Maetha, the participatory rural planning method is on the way to becoming the alternative model in other Tambons (districts). **| Tee Boonmahathanakorn**

Indonesia
Kampung Pulo fights for citizenship and land rights

Ciliwung Merdeka is facilitating the community of Kampung Pulo through a process of violent evictions. This sad news follows many years of working with the women and children on community mapping, composting and educational-empowerment activities using theatre and music. Since the first warning of eviction two months ago, Ciliwung Merdeka has been proactive in pushing for an alternative on-site vertical kampung design, discussed together with architects, lawyers and anthropologists, and presented to the govenor at city hall. CM has also been working together with social-justice lawyers, and the department of human resources to pressure for fair compensation and land titlement process, as well as holding press conferences with the local news stations.

The Government is clearing all the waterways in Jakarta before the flood season, relocating people who live on the riveredge. Initially the governor promised compensation of 1.5X land value to people who own their land, but now that the relocation process has begun, and the residents are being refered to as illegal, this promise seems unlikely to materialize. People are organising and demanding to be recognized as legal citizens as well as compensation before eviction. You can find some coverage on Kampung Pulo oin the **Jakarta Post**. **| Ariel Shepherd**

Venezuela
Spaces of peace

Spaces of Peace (Espacios de Paz) is an urban intervention project using participatory methods to activate void spaces within conflictive neighbourhoods of Venezuelan cities. As the name suggests, different cultural and recreational activities are practiced to create spaces of truce. The local community is invited and encouraged to participate at all stages of the project, from the design to the construction and management of the new spaces. This initiative was lead by the Presidential Commission of the Movement for Peace and Life (Comisión Presidencial del Movimiento por la Paz y la Vida) and coordinated by the architecture firm **PICO Estudio**. Eleven social architecture collectives – both national and international – were invited to participate in the 6 weeks long participatory design workshops, happening in five parallel sites.

The result may sound simple, but managing and delivering urban proposals in low-income communities in South America is not easy, in my experience it can take about 6 weeks just to have the permissions ready. To achieve five good-quality projects, with mostly likely sustainable results in six weeks is an outstanding accomplishment. There are certain local factors and strategic decisions critical to the success of these projects.

The first is local management and participation. Local women managed the logistical details, preparations and implementation of workshops, (including transportation, hosting, food, hiring and delivering of construction materials) as well as resources for each project, including financing of construction materia. Besides a small quota of voluntary students and some specialised craftsmen, the majority of hired labour was men and women from the communities.

Spaces of Peace seeks to create places of truce in conflictive neighbourhoods through the transformation of empty buildings and urban voids into communal spaces

Caracas

VENEZUELA

COLOMBIA

BRASIL

Basically all over the process there were people from the community giving their ideas and then, later, giving their time an energy to build the project, with the local team involved so heavily in the process, the architect's ideas were easily made feasible. To facilitate the dialogue and arrive at a final design the architects used various different techniques to compile the communities primary needs in terms of common spaces, while being realistic with the assigned budget. During the design sessions and the beginning of the construction, architects had a few days to define the final project with the community, finish the final drawings and prepare a list of materials. During the building process the community also assisted in various tasks, from buying and carrying materials and tools, to preparing dimensions and placing materials in the right place, to even preparing food and drinks for everybody (this task was usually the women).

The second factor is the integration of cultural and social activities. With the support of local and national networks of foundations, artists and collectives with a social focus, many different activities were planned and realised in the communities in parallel with the design

Many different activities were planned and realised in the communities in parallel with the design and construction phases, rather than waiting for the construction to finish

and construction phases, rather than waiting for the construction to finish. Of course it makes the building process more complicated because it means you have art workshops or cooking classes, or even dancing lessons for children on a construction site, but they managed to find safe areas and temporary sites in the surrounding areas to begin the cultural and recreation activities. Having such activities happening in parallel gave a chance for even more people to participate, and brought neighbourhood interest in the new project, it also helped secure a public audience and demand for cultural and social activities to take place in the future.

I had the chance to visit one of the projects in Caracas, in which a two-storey building in a traditionally conflictive and poor neighborhood was renovated into a studio space providing facilities for dancing and yoga, music-recording, and a computer lab. The roof terrace was reinforced and properly adapted to support a basketball court with audience stands and plants. All these spaces were used regularly by local people, and activities were still being run by some of the art and cultural collectives who participated during the design workshop.

Political will, a good level of coordination among institutions, strong funding management, management capacity from the project leaders, and community cooperation and involvement led to the success of this space. Today Spaces of Peace 2015 is being implemented in more neighbourhood in Venezuela, and also in Mexico at a smaller scale on a project-by-project basis by the organization Habitat sin Fronteras. **| Laura Pinzòn**

Media

Who was afraid of Perween Rahman?
As the case of Parween Rahman is now in the Supreme Court and investigations are underway, Pakistani online newspaper **Newsline** published an article investigating the case. Why don't the police want the OPP team to continue work at their offices in Orangi Town? Who was behind the attack on **OPP-RTI** director Saleem Aleemuddin last year? Why has the OPP-RTI acting director, Anwar Rashid, been threatened and asked to leave the country? Who sent armed militants to Parween Rahman's home to threaten her mother and sister? What part of the OPP work is a matter of concern for those who don't want to keep it going?

In **Seven lessons from a successful slum upgrading project**, newly graduate Shruti Shiva reflects on the reblocking of Yerwada community in Pune, India, carried out by **SPARC** together with Prasanna Desai Architects.

Events

The **Asia Shelter Forum** is organizing the first **Asia Shelter Meet-Up** on Wednesday 23 September 2015 in Bangkok. All who are involved and interested in realm of preparedness, emergency response, and recovery within the humanitarian shelter and settlement sector are invited to join. This event is open to all including the private sector, government representatives/donors, regional institutes, international and national organizations, academics independents, etc.
Please register for free before 15th September.

Amara Bangkok Hotel
1.30 to 4.30pm., 23.09.15

The **10th World Bamboo Congress** will be held between September 17-22 in Damyang, South Korea. It is organized byy the **World Bamboo Organization**, whose mission is to promote and support the use of bamboo as a sustainable and alternative natural resource through the development of partnerships and alliances, and the creation of mechanisms for global communication, information exchange, and technology transfer. This congress will coincide as part of the World Bamboo Fair 2015, beginning September 17 until October 21, 2015. This exposition will show ways to improve the value of bamboo on an international level under the slogan "Bamboo for a Greener Future". It will consist of a variety of bamboo exhibition halls featuring ecology, history, science, construction and Green Development, with an anticipated audience of over 90,000 visitors! Registration is open until September 11th, however the registration fee is $350!

"[w]hen dwellers control the
major decisions and are free to
make their own contributions
in the design, construction,
or management of their
housing, both this process and
the environmental produced
stimulate individual and social
well-being."
John F. C. Turner

9