



Philippines
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 the 16th 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 Intramuros 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 in-

troductory 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 Muntinlupa 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

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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

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 Muntinlupa City, in particular the Office for Urban Planning and the Urban Poor Affairs 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

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.veronesi@gmail.com



Following the 3rd CAN regional workshop in Metro Manila, Core CAN team members 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 maintaining 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 Philippines

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 rehabilitation work post-earthquake in Nepal, a city-wide upgrading exchange between Thailand and Philippines, rural planning and ecological regeneration in Indonesia and a workshop on Bamboo architecture in Korea.

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



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are strong:
CAN Core Team
meeting