

UAP EMERGENCY ARCHITECTS: Strengthening the Network towards Resiliency

A week after super-typhoon Yolanda had struck the Visayan Region on November 13, 2013, a group of architects gathered together to discuss measures of relief they could provide to the victims and survivors. While deliberating avenues of assistance and striking a partnership with the French group Architectes de l'Urgence, the UAP Emergency Architects was born.

Led by its founding Chairperson Archt. Rey Gabitan, a team of architect-volunteers was deployed to the cities in Iloilo and Roxas to conduct an initial post-damage assessment to affected areas as well as provide technical assistance to rebuild damaged properties.

With its set of Core Group members headed by Archt. Stephanie Gilles as Chairperson since 2015, the UAP Emergency Architects (UAP-EA) has been the socio-civic disaster-response arm of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP). Its main goal is to help rebuild lives and support local communities in the Philippines affected by disasters and calamities, by collaborating with allied professionals and industry partners in post-disaster damage assessment, reconstruction, or relocation and capacity-building for disaster preparedness.

Now in its 4th year, UAP-EA has remained true to its objectives and principles. To continually plan and implement its projects, it conducts annual Strategic Planning Workshops in addition to the monthly Core Group Meetings to map out programs for yearly, short-term, and medium-term periods.

UAP-EA also delivers lectures to raise awareness on the importance of Resilient Area Planning, Infrastructure Development, Disaster-Resilient Design, and Earthquake and Seismic Resiliency to various schools and professional organizations, within and outside of the UAP.

Moreover, UAP-EA arranges seminars and workshops nationwide through what they call the EA Caravan, attended by architects, engineers, and environmental planners.

UAP-EA has collaborated with LGUs and NGOs to provide technical assistance to disaster-stricken communities. They have partnered with the Environmental Science for Social Change, CARE Philippines, Action Against Hunger, European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid, PLAN International, among others. Currently, they are collaborating with GMA Kapuso Foundation for the rebuilding of DepEd schools in Marawi City.

In 2016, UAP-EA organized a seminar on Building for Resilience, well-attended by over 500 participants consisted of architects, engineers, contractors, as well as students.



On August 11, 2017, the UAP, UAP-EA, CARE, and ACCORD signed a MOA on a Php1-million funding from ECHO of the European Union to design and build prototype Alternative Temporary Shelters. This was for the MOVE-UP Project: Moving Urban Poor Communities Toward Resilience.

The UAP-EA, together with ACCORD, conducted workshops and presided over discussions on Alternative Temporary Shelters while furthering their studies on the project.

Shelter prototypes were examined according to the parameters of resilience, sturdiness, robustness, and deployability to post-disaster situations.

On August 29, 2017, the National Conference on Moving Urban Poor Communities Toward Resilience was held at SEAMEO Innotech in Quezon City. The event featured a guided exhibit of the Alternative Temporary Shelters with whole-day lectures.

UAP-EA is currently conducting special meetings on Marawi projects together with its program partners, such as CARE Philippines and GMA Kapuso Foundation.

Chairperson Archt. Stephanie Gilles and Field Assessment Head Archt. Eric Benitez on December 14, 2017 went to Marawi to meet with LGU officials and program partners from CARE Philippines. They presented the Alternative Temporary Shelters in Marawi and conducted a post-disaster damage assessment.



GMA Kapuso Foundation EVP/COO Rikki Escudero-Catibog met with the UAP-EA Core Group to seek technical assistance in the design and construction of DepEd schools in the war-torn areas.

Recently, the UAP-EA celebrated its 4th founding anniversary with the theme, "Strengthening the Network Towards Resiliency", which was a bold reminder that fruitful collaboration can happen, and that a greater sense of purpose shall be delivered in service to the people, particularly in disaster-stricken communities, by helping them reconstruct their lives and properties. This occasion was also a festive moment for the members to reminisce their group's beginnings and their journey in their advocacy of strengthening the network of resiliency. 