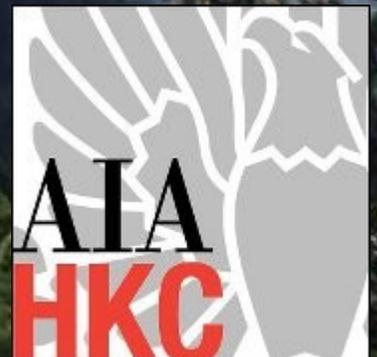


LEAPFROG FROM DISASTER SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANT REPORT

November 1 – 8, 2014 Philippines

Submitted by R. Denise Everson

Submitted to the Housing Knowledge Community Advisory Committee



Leapfrog From Disaster Symposium

Manila, Philippines

Overview

Sponsors: AIA International, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA-USA), United Architects of the Philippines (UAP)

Goal: Connecting Natural Disaster to Leapfrog Opportunities and Technologies, coinciding with the one year anniversary of typhoon Haiyan's (Yolanda's) landfall

When: November 1-8, 2014

Where: Manila, Philippines

Focus: Resiliency, Sustainability, and Flourishing within the built environment



Colon, Philippines—Nov. 3-5, 2014



City Tour

Prior to the kick-off of the Symposium, a few of the speakers including Lira Luis, the event organizer, flew from Manila to Colon. Once in Colon, the small group walked through the city to gain a sense of the built environment, people, culture and food.

EcoTour

Early on the morning of November 4th, the group traveled over two hours over rough roads to the edge of Palawan, voted 'top island in the world' in Conde Nast Traveler awards. Along the way, we observed homes and businesses which were destroyed by Typhoon Yolanda. The group then took a small boat to Busanga, Palawan where we visited the Calauit Safari Park. In the late 1970s, Kenya gave the Philippines several native African animals including zebras, giraffes and crocodiles. We toured the park and witnessed Typhoon Yolanda's devastation firsthand.



Kick-Off—Manila, Philippines—Nov.5, 2014

Press Conference & Film Screening

Once back in Manila, the group traveled to the Cultural Center of the Philippines to kick-off the Symposium. The room was full of local and international press. Lira Luis opened up the evening with a background of the Symposium and took questions from the press.

A film screening of a Biodiversity in Architecture Film, “Brilliant Darkness: Hotaru in the Night.” Following the press conference, attendees walked to a local eatery for a light reception.



Symposium—Manila, Philippines—Nov. 6, 2014

On Thursday, I presented an overview of the May China Trip in which 21 AIA delegates traveled to the Yunan Providence. I discussed the fire in Shagri-La and offered strategies to the attendees (local architects and students) which will assist in rebuilding efforts post natural disasters.

The head of the Philippine Housing Authority was present and spoke briefly to the audience. The President of the International Chapter of AIA, Dr. Dr. Christine E. Bruckner, FAIA also addressed the audience and brought greetings on behalf of the AIA.

The entire group walked to a local eatery where we dined together and discussed issues of architecture, resiliency and ecology. Day 1 presenters followed up with questions regarding their presentations over local cuisine.



Symposium—Manila, Philippines — Nov. 7, 2014

The second day of the Symposium was held in a light-filled room where students, government officials and local architects filled tables. Maria Benita Ochoa-Regala, National President of the UAB brought greetings. Several presentations were made including one from the U.S. Embassy. The Embassy official discussed the U.S.'s role in disaster recovery efforts in the Philippines and offered supportive services to attendees. Dr. James Karl Fisher, RIBA-USA President, presented several presentations during the course of the symposium.

Several non profits and community organizations presented strategies to organize, fund, and implement natural disaster recovery efforts. I presented strategies to achieve sustainable affordable housing and highlighted efforts by the DC Housing Authority.



Constructing the Living Ball—Nov. 8, 2014

The culmination of the Symposium was the construction of a “Living Ball” in Palawan. The Living Ball aims to light Filipino communities destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan using bioluminescent plankton lamps.



Next Steps

- Coordination with housing agencies, local architects, developers, Embassies and schools of architecture should be explored by the HKC.
- Define future contributions for HKC
- Identify and announce job/work/design opportunities in the Philippines and pass along to HKC members