

# ForUm

## NEWSLETTER

Forum for Urban Future in Southeast Asia  
Network of Southeast Asian and German experts

**Issue No.15 NETWORK ACTIVITIES AND NEWS**

**June 2014**



CONTENT	PAGE
<b>EDITORIAL</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SECTION 1: OUR EXPERT SEMINAR</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 2: EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>5</b>
Joint fieldwork among forum members	
<b>SECTION 3: MEMBERS' UPDATE</b>	<b>8</b>
Cambodia	9
The Philippines	10
Indonesia	22
Myanmar	25
Vietnam	26
Thailand	28
Germany	29
Malaysia	33



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear friends and colleagues of ForUm,

Oppsss... Greetings from Kuala Lumpur again! ☺ This is the Issue No. 15 of ForUm Newsletter 2014; exactly 6 months after the Issue No. 14 dated November 2013. Despite of the short time gap, we have as always, received strong supports from the members for the updates to be shared, which reflect not only the members' active involvement in the urban-related researches and activities but also our commitment and engagement in this ForUm network!

Here I would like to express my heartiest congratulation to two professors. Firstly, to Professor Lee Boon Thong who has been since 2013, appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of Nilai University in Malaysia. Professor Lee was the Director of Quality Division in the university before this new appointment. Secondly, to Professor Revilla Diez who has been appointed since April 2014 to hold a Chair in Human Geography at the Institute of Geography at the University of Cologne, Germany!

Highlighted in this issue, are the exchange activities involving our members from Thailand and Germany with Myanmar in Section 2, and the members' update from eight countries, including Cambodia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Germany and Malaysia in Section 3. At this point, I must thank all the members for the continuous support to make this newsletter a 'fat' one!

Section 1 of the Newsletter, is left blank since the last issue, yet we are hoping this page to be filled up (very) soon! Section 2 features our ForUm chairperson, Professor Kraas who is appointed as the visiting professor in the University of Yangon, initiated and has been actively involved in the long-term research throughout her stay in Myanmar. This research project involves 81 cities of Myanmar which is also a joint project of University of Cologne, Germany, Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Education of Myanmar, special thanks to Dr. Zin Nwe Myint for this coverage!

The fattest portion of this issue is Section 3. This section consists of a huge coverage of members' activities. Firstly, Ralf Symann, the Coordinator for Land Management, GIZ Land Rights Programme in Cambodia gives an insight on the 'Current urban issues related activities in Battambang, Takeo, Kampong Chhnang and Phnom Penh'. The section then highlights Dr. Boy's valuable sharing about the quality of city in 'A city of 'class' and substance' and the role of civil society in 'Civil society forms 'Nagkahiusa Kagay-Anon'. Ms. Lorna's write-up on 'Young Minds Academy' focusing on the youths in the metropolitan of Cebu is another highlight in this section, as well as Ms. Evelyn's experience sharing on governance through her article entitled 'Growing pains: Shepherding Mega Cebu through voluntary civil society-private sector- government arrangements'. Dr. Noel Cornel Alegre also updates us on his appointments and recent article entitled 'Changing Urban Landscapes: The Case of Cagayan de Oro Old City Core' from his award-winning doctoral thesis. Great job, Noel!!!

Apart from our friends from the Philippines, our Indonesian friends, also update us with Dr. Rini Rachmawati's activity report on the 12th Asian Urbanization Conference in Varanasi, India as well as her latest book publication relating urbanization with the advancement of information technology and communication today. Didit (Dr. Raditya Jati) also updated his recent activities upon his appointment as researcher in the Centre for Land Resources, Region and Disaster Mitigation. His research focus

is mainly on the disaster mitigation issues at regional and national level. Our urban planner from Myanmar, Dr Than Than Thwe, who is also holding a profile as the joint secretary at Thilawa SEZ Management Committed updates us on the development progress of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, which is located at the southern part of Yangon City. Her focus in this project is on the resettlement action plan concerning the social impacts of the project. Our colleague from Vietnam, Le Thi Thuy Ha informs us her recent scientific studies and urban-related activities, so does our colleague from Khon Kaen University, Thailand- Ajan Monsicha Bejrananda, Professor Kraas and Professor Revilla Diez from University of Cologne, Germany, as well as from Malaysia, Professor Lee Boon Long from Nilai University as well as me, the last but definitely not least (haha), from Universiti Malaya.

I hope you will find this issue an enjoyable one to read!

Meanwhile, let's hope that the political turmoil in Thailand would peacefully come to an end soon; and in memory of MH370.

Goh, Hong Ching  
Department of Urban and Regional Planning  
Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur  
June 2014

# **SECTION 1**

## **FORUM EXPERT SEMINAR**

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## **SECTION 2**

# **EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES**

## JOINT FIELDWORK AMONG FORUM MEMBERS



**Study visit to Mandalay Technological University (MTU) by lecturers and postgraduate students from Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University**

**Jan 14 to Jan 21, 2014:** A group of 8-10 lecturers and Ph.D. students from Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University visited Mandalay Technological University (MTU). Possible academic cooperation (e.g., student/lecturer exchanges, co-research, other academic-related activities) between the two institutes were discussed.

The visit consists of an architectural field trip at Mandalay and cities nearby as part of educational training and study programs.



*Group photo in front of Department of Architecture, Mandalay Technological University*

**Field trip to Chin State of Myanmar- jointly conducted by our members from University of Cologne and University of Yangon**

**Mar 27 to April 1, 2014:** The aim of the field work is to understand the socio-economic potentials of Chin State with focus on the towns of Hakha and Falam. Hakha is the capital city of Chin State where Chin State Government has seated. This is also part of the research project on 81 Cities of Myanmar. The 81 Cities research project is the joint work of University of Cologne, Germany, Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Education of Myanmar.



This field trip to Chin State was led by Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas, the visiting Professor, Department of Geography, University of Yangon. Team members include Daw Thawdar Htet Htet Paing and U Aung Hla Tun from Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, Daw Zin Mar Than, a PhD candidate of University of Cologne, Dr. Seng Aung from Myitkyina University and Dr. Zin Nwe Myint from University of Yangon.

*On the way to Falam from Kalay, 27-3-2014*



*Meeting with the Transport Minister of Chin State and Hakha City Development Committee on 29-3-2014 at the Meeting Hall of the Ministry of Construction in Hakha.*

# **SECTION 3**

## **MEMBERS' UPDATE:**

### **ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS**

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM CAMBODIA

### **GIZ LAND RIGHTS PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA - CURRENT URBAN ISSUES RELATED ACTIVITIES Battambang, Takeo, Kampong Chhnang and Phnom Penh**

Updated by Ralf Symann, Coordinator for Land Management  
GIZ Land Rights Programme



GIZ Land Rights Programme supports the Land Administration, Management and Distribution Programme (LAMDP) of the Royal Government of Cambodia that is implemented by the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. Spatial Planning and the urban issues related activities in Battambang, Takeo, Kampong Chhnang and Phnom Penh are integrated into the Land Management Sub Sector Programme of the LAMDP.

Currently, the technical assistance to Battambang Municipality focuses mainly on urban poor issues. Based on the “Circular 03 on temporary settlements”, Battambang Municipality works on tenure security and housing solutions for the urban poor. Meanwhile, a good cooperation between the Municipality of Battambang, civil society organizations working with informal settlers and the Battambang urban poor communities has been established. The Battambang urban heritage management, the monitoring of the implementation of the Battambang Master Plan, piloting detailed land use plans for specific areas and the establishment of institutions for development control are other key interventions supported by GIZ.

The Battambang experience is the blueprint for urban activities in other provinces of Cambodia. Today GIZ provides technical assistance to Kampong Chhnang and Takeo province on provincial and municipal land use planning and supports Kandal province and the Municipality of Thakmao in setting up a Municipal Master Plan. Additionally GIZ provides assistance to the “Circular 03 on temporary settlements” process in Phnom Penh through NGO partners. Currently 45 urban poor communities in Phnom Penh are covered through civil society organizations working on community development and housing solutions.

### A CITY OF “CLASS” AND SUBSTANCE

By Dr. Anselmo B. Mercado

Cagayan de Oro.

In his speech to inaugurate his “first 100 days” as Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City (Philippines), Mayor Oscar Moreno mentioned that one of the first things he and his “hapsay team” did was to “preview the problems” as well as to look into the “vast development potentials” of the City. The Mayor also re-pronounced his priorities to make Cagayan de Oro a better City, namely: 1) Good governance & team work, 2) Equitable and inclusive development, 3) Poverty alleviation, 4) Peace and order, 5) Revenue generation and resettlement, 6) Investments and infrastructure development, 7) Human capital (skilled work force), 8) Hospital and health care services, 9) Agricultural productivity, 10) Environment, 11: Education, 12) Traffic management, and 13) “Metropolitanisation”.



I must say he (and his team) started on the “right step” with the “right foot” (so to speak). This augurs well for the city, the citizenry and many others who are closely watching, following and monitoring their moves with high expectations. Let me open and offer a few thoughts and observations.

It was notable and praiseworthy for the Mayor and his team to waste no time to start cleaning up the public places (markets and sidewalks), bringing order and cleanliness to a once messy, disorderly, dirty environment that Cagayan de Oro was getting known for. He ordered the abolishment of the “Nite Café” at Divisoria bringing “hapsay” and cleanliness to that place, previously causing traffic congestion, stinky, dirty, noisy situation during week-ends right in the center of Cagayan de Oro for the past years. He started to beautify City Hall and its environs. If we see more of these actions (and sustain them) by the “hapsay team”, we will expect Cagayan de Oro to be cleaner, indeed more “hapsay” (orderly) and hopefully a more disciplined citizenry – all ingredients to proper urbanization of a city fast becoming a metropolis.

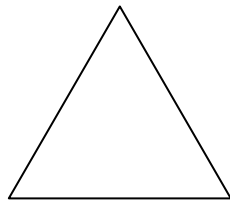
In a kitchen or restaurant, there are foods that one can prepare in “no time” (“fast foods”). Other foods will need more time to concoct, prepare and deliver. A good kitchen and restaurant has to plan well, well ahead of time, to prepare and deliver the variety of “foods” customers want. City Development is somewhat akin to this. Mayor Moreno and his team have already shown they can give us some good palatable “fast foods” from the City “kitchen”. They should continue to deliver the “fast foods” because the City and its citizenry need, expect and like these goods. The “hapsay team” can determine what these goods are from their list of priorities.

“Fast-foods” have their functions and they are good. However, there are restaurants that are distinguished, not only for their good “fast foods”, but for their “class” and substance. Similarly, some cities have “class” and substance. They are distinguished -- inviting, attractive, prosperous, peacefully livable for EVERYONE, PEOPLE OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE, to raise their families in, today and to the far distant future. If our vision of Cagayan de Oro is to be that kind of a city, then the more challenging planning to prepare and make our city a Distinguished City of “class” and substance, must be take place.

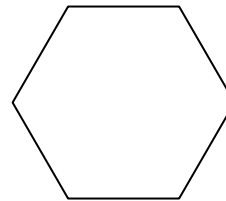
The “class” and substantial positive change that CDO needs to plan for, in the long term, is a change of its pyramidal social-economic structure (a very broad bottom of majority poor people, narrowing towards the middle consisting of middle income families, and a pointed top made up of a few wealthy families, sketch 1), a conspicuous indication of inequality. A pyramidal-structured society is vulnerable to many social unrest and maladies, a society with no social conscience, a social volcano.

Many progressive and prosperous countries have a trapezoidal socio-economic structure (with less inequality, many of the poor people moving up to the middle part, sketch 2), thus narrowing the gap between the “haves” and “have-nots”, a more healthy society. CDO should be changing towards becoming a trapezoidal-structured society.

Sketch 1: Pyramidal structure



Sketch 2: Trapezoidal structure



Pope Francis has emphatically and consistently urged all peoples around the world to pay particular attention to the poor.

*“There is a need for financial reform along ethical lines that would produce in its turn an economic reform to benefit everyone. This would nevertheless require a courageous change of attitude on the part of political leaders. I urge them to face this challenge with determination and farsightedness, taking account, naturally, of their particular situations. Money has to serve, not to rule! The Pope loves everyone, rich and poor alike, but the Pope has the duty, in Christ’s name, to remind the rich to help the poor, to respect them, to promote them. The Pope appeals for disinterested solidarity and for a return to person-cantered ethics in the world of finance and economics.”*

To me, this makes a lot of sense. At the personal level, we all belong to a family. We know and understand that if any member(s) of our family suffers from poverty or any form of it, we will do whatever possible to help restore him (them) to the level of human dignity.

This is the substantial change that must be planned for by Mayor Moreno and his team, a very challenging one, a long term one, the results of which may not be seen within their electoral term. But, the first steps must be taken. The list of priorities they have formulated during their electoral campaign carries the elements for the needed change: poverty alleviation, equitable and balanced development, attracting investments to establish job-creating industries, agricultural productivity, and along with all these the education and training to develop the human capital (skilled work force) for the various enterprises and industries. The basic infrastructures must be developed (good basic utilities for water and electricity, good roads to transport goods of our rural producers, etc.). Peace and order in our society is a must, because as one leader has put it, *“No peace, no development. No development, no peace.”*

What makes sense in development planning is a comprehensive balanced development strategy (for example, narrowing the urban and rural differentials, more emphasis on helping the poor, the rural poor, so they will find the rural areas more attractive for living and livelihood, and therefore less influx of people to the city that can create slums). Let me give an example of a rural village somewhere near Alae (border of Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon) on the way to Del Monte. There, a biscuit company has been established, an industry that has provided employment to hundreds of people, bringing some prosperity to the area. This is a good example of decongesting the city and dispersing development to the country side. Rural Cagayan de Oro can learn from this example.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME is the crucial element – an INCREASE OF IT, by making people more productive (by self-employment and/or jobs near where they are residing without moving into an already crowded

city). Thus, they create some wealth for themselves and society as a whole. Rural families, especially the farming families, must become productive to produce food for the city, making them more competitive with producers in other provinces, to make the city more food-secure.

The previous administration, in a sense, had a good understanding of what the people, especially the poor needed and wanted – an opportunity to earn a living. For that, they opened the sidewalks, road sides, other public places near the schools and business centres, etc. for vendors to do their livelihood activities – but all that at the expense of the City's well-being, traffic problems, pollution problems, stinky, dirty, unsanitary environment, a messy disorderly city. Some say, and perhaps rightly so, it was a clever strategy or a game of "politics" to appease the poor to get their votes.

The current administration of Mayor Moreno must not get into that pitfall, the "game of politics". Genuine planning to genuinely develop the City of Cagayan de Oro for the good of its citizenry, for this and future generations, with especial concern and care for the disadvantaged, is the real name of the game.

### CIVIL SOCIETY FORMS “NAGKAHIUSA KAGAY-ANON”

**By Dr. Anselmo B. Mercado**

Cagayan de Oro.

In a meeting on April 7, 2014, at the Cronin Hall, Catholic Cathedral Compound, was formed a group that might be appropriately named as “*Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon*”.



The identity and nature of the group is that of an *alliance* and a *forum* of individuals, groups, communities (inter-faith, inter-cultural, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, and multi-sector consisting of business people, professionals, the “grassroots” or “marginalized”, etc.) from civil society, taking unto themselves responsible citizenship, to engage in active non-violent advocacy on issues and concerns affecting Cagayan de Oro and the citizens, in pursuit of the common good, good governance and development of the City.

In the process of its formation, two meetings had taken place (on March 17 and March 19). The first meeting (convened by the Bishops-Businessmen’s Conference, BBC), representatives from 26 NGOs and various groups participated. The discussion focused on the “loaded” questions: “*Should civil society get actively involved, what and how can civil society do to help in the development of the Cagayan de Oro?*” The questions opened up a variety of concerns and issues about happenings in Cagayan de Oro (Examples: the “good things” that the “Hapsay Team” has been doing for the City, the “piso-piso program”, increased and new taxes imposed, how taxes are used and spent, transparency of governance, happenings at the City Council especially the conflict between the Mayor and some Kagawads, traffic management, information on city planning, urban and rural poverty in CDO, etc.). Some articulated their views and ideas about how the “voices of the people” could be listened and attended to by the City administration and officials. The group also mulled over the identity, nature and an appropriate name for group. The meeting concluded with an agreement to meet again to further discuss some organizational issues.

The second meeting on March 19 focused mainly on the organizational issues with the participants finally agreeing on 1) a tentative name most appropriate for the group, “*Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon*”, 2) the nature, purposes and objectives of the group (stated earlier). During this meeting, the group decided to pursue two immediate actions points: 1) to schedule a press conference on April 11, 2014 with the local media to present and make *Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon* known to the public. And 2) to arrange for an initial audience with the City Governance of Cagayan de Oro in order to present to them the “10-Point agenda”, a starting point for a continuing dialogue with the City Administration and officials. The 10-Point Agenda are as follows:

1. Improvement of the City’s water system.
2. Health program for the poor.
3. Increased budget allotment for the improvement of the City hospital.
4. Peace and order in the City.
5. Rehabilitation and preservation of the environment.
6. Traffic management: enforcement of rules and regulations of traffic.

7. Transparency of City Hall.
8. Balanced integrated urban-rural development.
9. Access to information on government transactions as a basic right of citizens.
10. Participation in the planning of the City's infrastructures (i.e., power, water, etc.)

And so on April 11, at 3:00 p.m. at the Cronin Hall, the press conference took place. Two members of the Steering/Coordinating Committee of *Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon* (Mitos P. Ortigas of BBC and Astrid Bana of the AGGAP Social Action Centre) opened the meeting to present the group's "Statement". This was followed by an open forum that elicited questions, comments and responses from the participants and media personnel. The reactions and impressions were mixed with some apprehensions and doubts -- observing the "smallness" of the group, its capability to unify and represent a very diverse civil society with various issues, and the group's preparedness to take on the challenging tasks. On the other hand, positive comments were also conveyed. *Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon* is a concrete first step and initiative by civil society for unity, diverse it may be. Mitos Pineda emphatically stated, "If we want good governance in the City, etc., we all have to work for it!". Other comments brought forth specific concerns and issues affecting CDO development (e.g., water services, illegal gambling, urban poverty, environment damage, illegal logging, etc.). It was felt by the group that an appropriate and effective strategy should be planned to proceed to the next courses of action.

In the internet, a cooperative leader stated: "*Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon hopes to take off well and fly high to help in the development of CDO and the people*". This elicited a response from an internet user saying: "*It will fly high if politics is not involved*". A reply came forth: "*Right! The divisive, destructive, corruptive and expensive politics will finish off any social movement intended to influence societal development. It is a rotten, stinky dangerous hole with a lot of snakes we must not get ourselves into. Quite a tall order for FILIPINO civil society groups to take. But the Filipino/a can if they stay focused and alert to avoid the traps that are there.*"

The next big step the *Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon* will be taking soon is to arrange for a meeting with Mayor Oscar Moreno of Cagayan de Oro. It will be a "take-off" to watch... and hopefully to fly high... and not to follow the demise of Flight 370.

Participating NGOs, groups, associations with *Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon* include: ISLA CUDA, FECUPO Inc, ZONACAR Association, Pagatpat Farmers' Association, KAHOA Kauswagan CDO, BOHAI, PYDP Out-of-School Youth, FICCO, MASS-SPECC, WATERCOOP, Managsilingan Ta, Konsumanteng Kagay-anon Inc, Rotary Club WEST-CDO, Social Action Center, Touch Foundation, Group Incorporated, Balay Mindanaw Peace Centre, Balay Mindanaw FI, Bishops-Businessmen's Conference BBC, Oro Chamber of Commerce, SAVE-CDO, KKP-Xavier University, Balaod Mindanaw, CAFESCA, KONECORD, A-4 Mindanao Alliance, Task Force Too-BIG, SULOG Environment-concerned group. A *Steering-Coordinating Committee* was appointed as follows: BBC-Managsilingan Ta (Mitos P. Ortigas), Media/Consumers (Mike Banos of Konsumanteng Kagay-anon), Social Action-AGGAP (Astrid Bana), COOP Groups (Boy MJercado), Urban Poor Sector (Erlinda Oras), Students Sector (XU-KKP), ACDO-VOICE (Myrna Siose), and Balay Mindanaw as the secretariate for *Nagkahiusa Kagay-anon* (Aili Gatuslao).

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

**By Lorna S. Manila**

Chief Economic Development Specialist  
National Economic Development Agency 7  
Cebu City.



### **YOUNG MINDS ACADEMY: “Nurturing Leadership Qualities among the Youth in Metro Cebu: Focusing on Urban Development Issues”**

The Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Incorporated (RAFI) started with the idea of gathering and nurturing the youth in the Province of Cebu with the vision of developing a pool of potential leaders that can effect change. This idea developed into what is now the Young Minds Academy (YMA) program, a youth leadership development program undertaken by the RAFI- Eduardo Aboitiz Development Study Center (RAFI-EADSC) to develop young emerging leaders aged 12 to 20 years old to become responsible citizens and accountable, pro-active leaders ready to serve the public interests.



*The YMA scholars in one of their learning visits.*

YMA's eight-month framework is anchored on three guiding principles of shaping character, building competence, and imbibing citizenship. These three principles are imparted through learning sessions on leadership, social development, creative thinking, research, and participatory project development. These learning sessions are further enhanced through learning visits and community immersion activities. The final output of the program is the preparation of a project proposal addressing specific problems or issues in their assigned communities.

The program started in 2006 and tackled problems and issues on environment, education, public health, governance, poverty, social welfare and urban development. The program is now on its 8<sup>th</sup> Season, has produced 652 graduates, shortlisted 61 project proposals and approved or pre-qualified 21 projects for funding. Some of the participating youth submitted 18 social marketing initiatives and 13 dream block exhibits.

Urban development was given more emphasis by the YMA program during its 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Seasons (CY 2012-2013) with the objective of engaging the youth in creating a smart, inclusive, and sustainable Metro Cebu. This is a conscious effort to align the YMA program with the Mega Cebu Initiative of RAFI-EADSC.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> YMA Sessions, the YMA Scholars were immersed in actual community situations and were encouraged to participate in open discourse on the dynamics and challenges facing

communities in the 13 cities and municipalities of Metro Cebu. The scholars' final output was to generate ideas and possible solutions through a team project that they could implement in partnership with the said local government units.

The YMA Season 6 batch of scholars were able to implement six community-based projects addressing issues and concerns on public safety and security, youth violence, transport and traffic management, flooding, and disaster risk reduction in the cities of Naga, Talisay, and Mandaue, and in the Municipality of Liloan. They were also able to gather more than 2,000 supporters for Mega Cebu through their social marketing initiatives, and designed seven dream block exhibits to promote smart growth and better block principles in existing urban communities.



*The YMA scholars presenting their project proposal to the panel of judges.*

For the 7<sup>th</sup> Season of YMA, six urban development projects submitted by the scholars were considered for funding and six new social marketing projects supporting the Mega Cebu Initiatives were undertaken by the scholars. Another 6 dream block exhibits were designed by some scholars to show how they want specific urban areas to be developed.

Now its 8<sup>th</sup> YMA Season, RAFI-EADSC hopes to get more innovative and creative ideas as it continues to advocate for a collaborative, integrated, and sustainable urban planning and development through the Mega Cebu Initiative.

*(Note: Since the start of the program until now, Ms. Evelyn Nacario-Castro, RAFI-EADSC Executive Director, has been spearheading the YMA program while Ms. Lorna S. Manila, Chief Economic Dev't. Specialist of NEDA 7 has been actively involved as mentor during the scholar's project proposal preparation phase.)*

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

### **GROWING PAINS: SHEPHERDING MEGA CEBU through Voluntary Civil Society - Private Sector - Government Arrangements**

**Evelyn Nacario – Castro**

Executive Director

Eduardo Aboitiz Development Studies Center  
Cebu City.



The development ‘turmoil’ in Cebu, Philippines is symptomatic and indicative of a larger deficiency. Attendant to metropolitan Cebu’s increasing population and urbanization are worsening problems related to pollution, water supply, flooding, traffic and transport, peace and order, informal settlements, health and security, and inadequacy of basic infrastructure - all affecting the productivity of the public and private sector, the welfare and prosperity of people and communities, and the sustainability of the environment. One of the main causes of inadequate and ineffective delivery of basic services is the **absence of an institutional mechanism: policy and structure** to drive, oversee, and coordinate **trans-boundary inter-local planning, implementation, and monitoring** of metro-wide programs and projects.

In 2011, local chief executives of local government units, directors of national government agencies, and leaders of civil society and private sector organizations have recognized the importance of inter-local cooperation and public and private sector collaboration - with the aim of jointly assessing and addressing common trans-boundary issues and challenges. Through a Memorandum of Agreement, they agreed to band together, cooperate and work with each other under a mutually agreed structure, the **Metro Cebu Development and Coordinating Board (MCDCB)** as the coordinating body for the development of the city-region.



*Presentation during the Provincial Board meeting*

Metropolitan Cebu covers 13 cities and municipalities located in eastern Cebu, Philippines namely: the cities of Cebu, Carcar, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, Naga, Talisay, Danao, and the municipalities of Compostela, Consolacion, Cordova, Minglanilla, Lilo-an, San Fernando. The MCDCB, while only, at present, a collegial and voluntary coordinating mechanism, acknowledges the value of a comprehensive and integrated metro-wide plan for a growing metropolis and thus intends to undertake urban development planning to address problems related to land use (structure and spatial) and urban development, transport and traffic, infrastructure and utilities, public safety and security, environment and health, and, subsequently facilitate smart, inclusive, and sustainable development.

To facilitate its work, ensure coordination, and synchronization of LGU plans and programs - the ownership of the city-region (metropolitan) concept, the active participation of all LGUs, the support from regional and national government, the cooperation of the private sector and civil society, and the establishment of a stronger **institutional and policy framework** are crucial. It would be worthwhile to note that, at this stage, full buy in and ownership, active engagement and leadership of this **Mega Cebu framework and process**, particularly from the local government units, continues to be sought – while the issues and challenges facing metropolitan Cebu has compounded with the mounting threats and increasing impacts of a changing climate.

Nevertheless, through the MCDCB and the Mega Cebu program, milestones have been reached, including the following:

1. Formulation of a Conceptual Framework of Issues and Challenges, Thrusts and Directions<sup>1(Fig.1)</sup>;

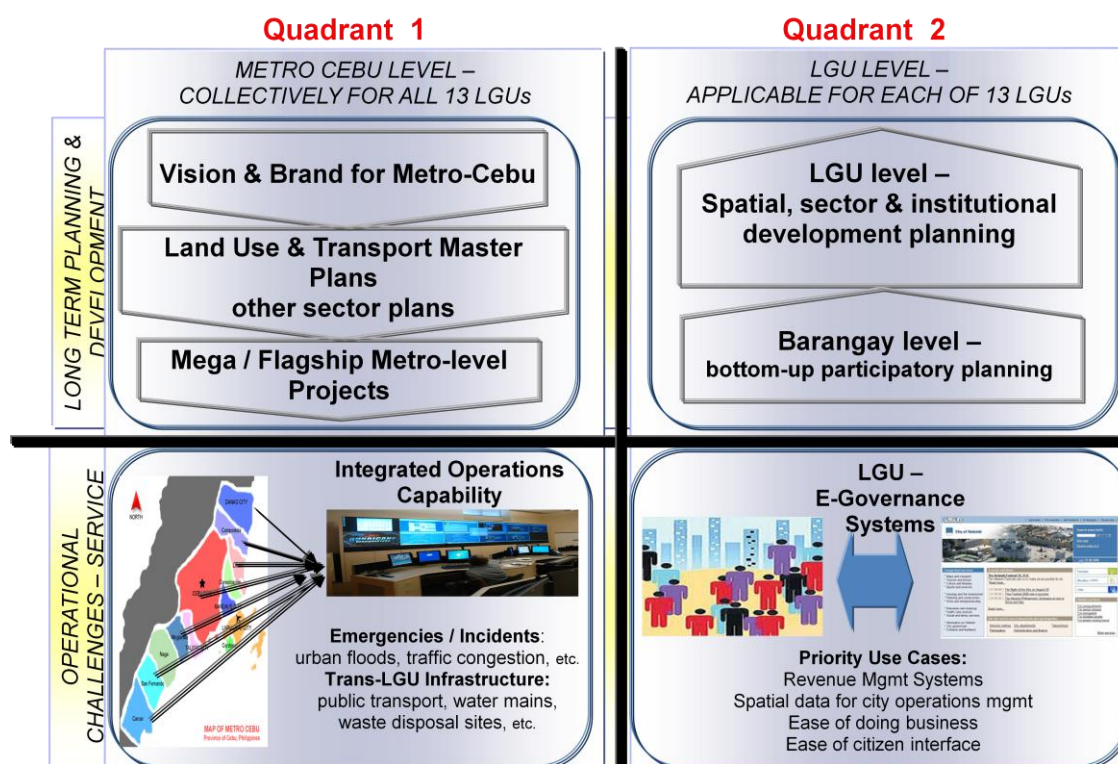
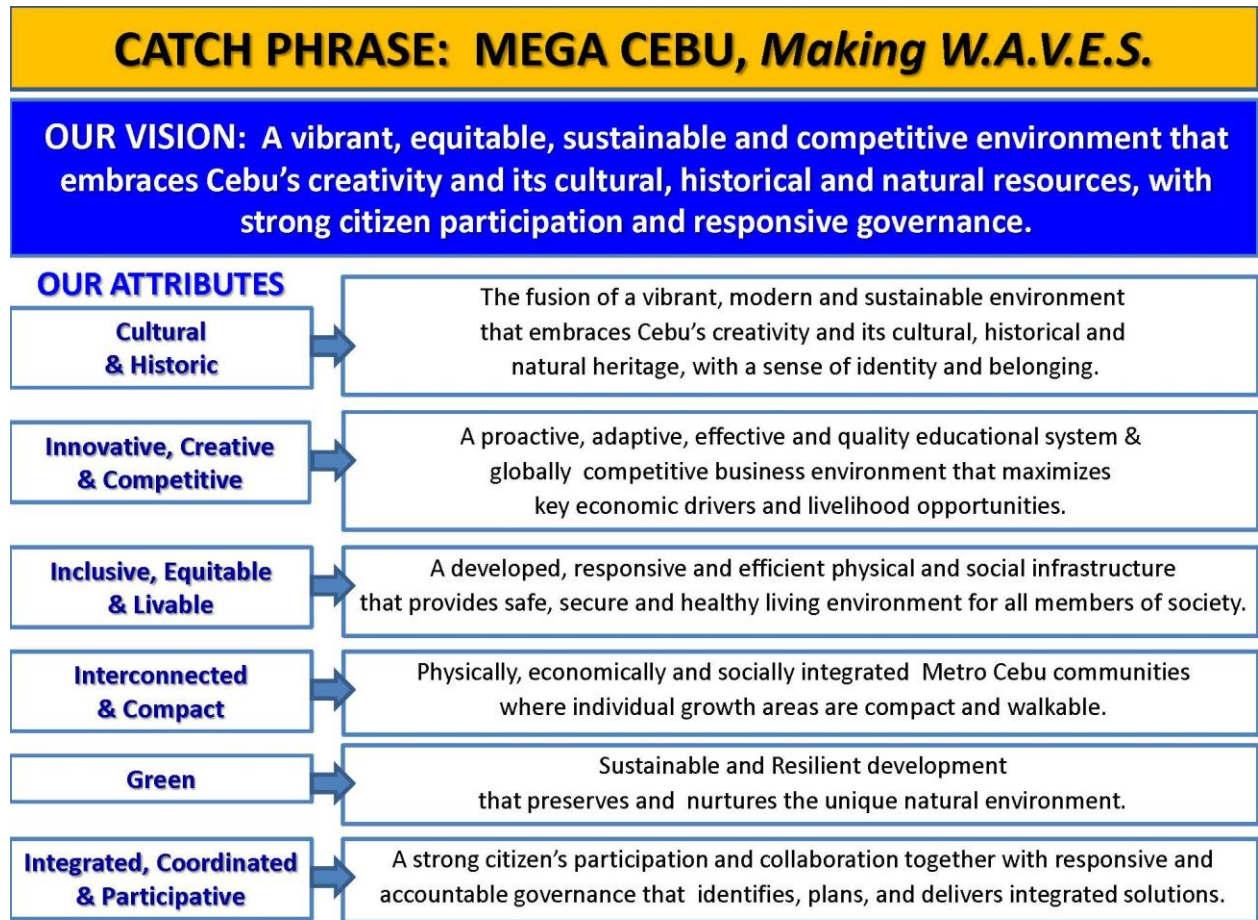


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Issues and Challenges, Thrusts, and Directions

2. Formulation and cascading of the Mega Cebu 2050 Vision and Brand of Mega Cebu: Making W.A.V.E.S. (Wholesome, Advanced, Vibrant, Equitable, and Sustainable)<sup>2</sup> (Fig.2);



*Figure 2: Mega Cebu 2050 Vision and Brand*

3. Formulation of the 3+1 Development Strategy of Competitiveness, Livability, and Mobility anchored on Metropolitan Management<sup>3</sup> (Fig.3);
4. On-going Development of the Roadmap and Master Planning Process for:
  - i. Metropolitan Development, including Competitiveness Enhancement; Urban Structure and Land Use;
  - ii. Roadmap Development for Urban Transport and Highway Network; Water Supply; Solid Waste Management; and Smart South Road Properties Development;
  - iii. Metropolitan Administration
  - iv. Short Term Priority Projects

5. Constituency Building and Stakeholder Engagement, among members, partners, youth, business and civil society;
6. Networking, Promotions, and Partnership Development, bringing the support of experts and other resources from IBM, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the City of Yokohama; Duany, Plater and Zyberk (DPZ), and various local and national organizations.



Figure 3: Mega Cebu 2050 3 + 1 Development Strategy

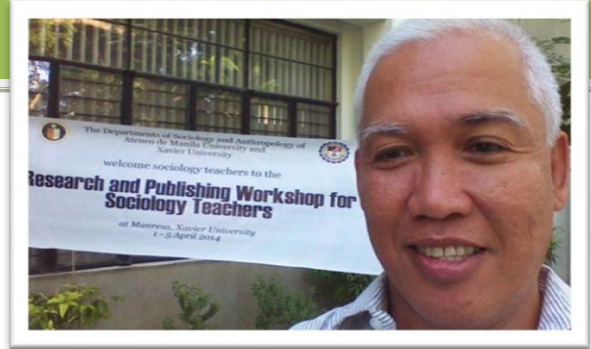
While some essential ground has been covered, much more remains to be done. The need to facilitate mind set change (i.e., recognition of the importance of planning and information / data / evidence, the role of local and foreign experts, the value of collaboration, the significance of city-region or metropolitan management, among others) continues.

The vision has been crafted, but the steps needed to reach the vision needs to be continued or needs to be taken. This is a long journey. One that involves the "outgoing" (60 years old and above); the "current" (40-59 years old); and the "emerging" (0-39 years old) generations. We have only just begun.

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

**By Dr. Noel Cornel Alegre**

Coordinator  
Research and Extension Office  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Camarines Norte State College.



### **Recent article and recognition:**

Dr. Noel has recently written a paper "Changing Urban Landscapes: The Case of Cagayan de Oro Old City Core", which is an article form of his thesis in 2011 at Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT). The thesis was adjudged best thesis in the Department of Sociology of the same year.

In 2013, the thesis won 3rd place (Graduate/Professional level) in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension's (OVCRE's) Annual In-House Review of Research and Development Projects of MSU-IIT (see link of the citation: <http://www.msuiit.edu.ph/news/news-detail.php?id=459>).

### **Appointments:**

He is now a faculty of College of Arts and Sciences, Camarines Norte State College and has been assigned as the college's coordinator for the Research and Extension Office and as adviser for the 3rd year undergraduates in Sociology.



## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM INDONESIA

**By Dr. Rini Rachmawati**

Head of Regional Development Study Program  
Faculty of Geography , Universitas Gadjah Mada  
Yogyakarta.

### **Activity Report 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Urbanization Conference in Varanasi, India, on 28-30 December 2013**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Urbanization Conference was held on 28-30 December 2013 in Varanasi, India by the Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University in collaboration with the Asian Urban Research Association (AURA). AURA was established in January 1986 at the University of Akron, Ohio, USA. The purpose of the establishment of this association is to promote the study of urbanization and urban growth as well as organizing the Asian Urbanization Conference.

At the inaugural session, Secretary of AURA, Professor George M. Pomeroy, Ph.D., AICP, introduced the board members who attended the international seminar, one of them is Dr. Rini Rachmawati, S.Si., M.T. In the session of panel discussion, Dr. Rini Rachmawati was a speaker and presented about "A New Concept of Sub Urbanization", along with Prof. Liliana Dumitrache (Head of Human and Economic Geography, Bucharest University, Romania), Prof. George Pomeroy (Director, Centre for Land Use, Shippensburg University, USA), Prof. Nurul Islam Nazem (Department of Geography and Environment, University of Daka, Bangladesh), and Prof. Prasad Poudel Krishna (Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal).



*Photo taken during the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Urbanization Conference was held on 28-30 December 2013 in Varanasi, India.*

The conference was attended by 467 speakers from various countries, including Nepal, Turkey, Indonesia, Canada, Bangladesh, France, USA, Iran, China, Germany, South Korea, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Romania, Nigeria, India and others. At the technical session Dr. Rini Rachmawati presented her paper titled "City, Society and Culture: Interacting, Integrating, and Developing Force" with her presentation titled "City, Society and Culture in the Era of Information Communication and Technology." This paper is part of the International cooperation research results funded by the Directorate General of Higher Education of the Republic Indonesia.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Urbanization Conference will be held in Indonesia, hosted by Regional Development Study Program, Faculty of Geography, Universitas Gadjah Mada in 2016.

## Book publication

1. Rini Rachmawati. 2014. Pengembangan Perkotaan dalam Era Teknologi Informasi dan Komunikasi. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.



## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM INDONESIA

### By Dr. Raditya Jati

Researcher

Centre for Land Resources, Region, and Disaster Mitigation  
Deputy of Technology for Natural Resources Development  
Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT)



### Activities participated

After the last ForUm meeting that was held in Myanmar, I moved to Jakarta in the beginning of 2013. From the Faculty of Geography Gadjah Mada University, until now I am a research scientist at BPPT. I am now dealing with regional and disaster mitigation issues at national level.

Some project that I am now working in my centre are; 1) Disaster Risk Reduction Concept for Industrial Area in Jawa and Sumatera; 2) Regional Development for National Strategic Region at Lampung; and 3) Developing Concept for Mining Safety Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction.

I am involved with the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB) for several activities which are related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). I am also a resource expert involved in the discussion with the Ministry of Public Works on Regional Planning and DRR related issues for Indonesia. In 2013, I was a member of a editor team for National Assessment Report on DRR which serves as a National Document for Global Platform held in Geneva. Further to this, I was in the committee for the DRR Month held in Lombok, in October of the same year.

My other activities include attending several meetings at the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. This platform consists of integrated stakeholders from the government, academicians, media-press, NGOs, and private sectors dealing with the issues of DRR.

With Gadjah Mada University, I am still involved in some activities such as being the Trainer for Disaster Management for Heritage Site, Trainer for Disaster Management Planning with collaboration of BAPPENAS, and as a team member for collaborative research between Ritsumeikan University and UGM on Developing Model University-Community Collaborative Information Management on Evacuation Preparedness in Tourism Destinations- Case Study Kyoto and Yogyakarta.

### Conferences attended

1. CNRD (Centre for Natural Resources Development) Cologne, Germany workshop on Setting up Regional Network for DRR in Southeast Asian Country
2. JSPS meeting at Ritsumeikan University Kyoto, collaboration of UGM and Ritsumeikan University, Japan
3. International Seminar on SUSTAIN 2013, Kyoto Japan

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM MYANMAR

**By Dr. Than Than Thwe**, Urban Planner

Joint secretary, Thilawa SEZ Management Committee

Thilawa Special Economic Zone, located the southern part of Yangon City will be jointly developed by Myanmar and Japan at the end of 2013. Currently, I am working with JICA study team for Resettlement Action Plan according to the World Bank Environment and Social Safeguard Policy and JICA guidelines on Project Affected Persons (PAPs)'assets, livelihood and social items for the compensation.



Now, 68 households are constructing their house in the newly relocated area, Myaing Tharyar Ward extension area, which has been equipped with physical infrastructure including concrete road, water supply, electricity and drainage. Fortunately, the relocation area has all the basic social infrastructures such as high school, kindergarten, administration office, clinic, library, play grounds and monasteries.



After settling, these people have opportunity to attend the training for their new livelihood which will be arranged by the income restoration committee. This international standard resettlement program is the first practice in Myanmar and have received very encouraging cooperation from the PAPs side. I am satisfied with not only for the first SEZ development but also for the careful consideration for the environmental and social impacts in this urban development project.

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM VIETNAM

**By Le Thi Thuy Ha**

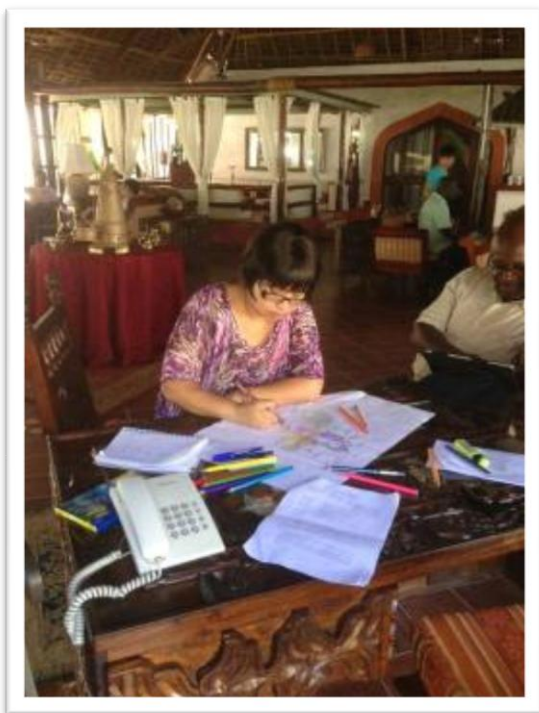
Deputy Manager  
Division of Urban Development Strategy  
and Policy Research  
Vietnam Institute of Urban and Rural Planning



1. Activities with ForUm:  
Attended "International Conference on Humanities and Social Issues in Urban and Regional Development, National Economics University, Vietnam and Khon Kaen University with paper titled "Human factor in the construction of new towns towards the sustainable development in Vietnam" (March 26 in Hanoi, Vietnam)
2. Urban - related activities:  
Attended SIDA course "Integrated Sustainable Coastal Areas" with 2 phases in Zanzibar, Tanzania (October 1-12, 2012) and in Gothenburg, Sweden (August 21–September 11, 2013).
3. Scientific Studies:  
Project "Survey and analyse of the implementation architectural management in Vietnam according to the Law on Urban Planning. Propose modification and supplement" - Ministerial Level Project - Position: Project Manager (October 2013-present).
4. Research Grant:  
"Planning models for residential areas in Ca Mau mangroves adapt to climate change and towards sustainable development" – IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Small Grant – 12 months with funding: 20.000 USD.



*MMF Workshop for kick-off IUCN Project 2014 in Vietnam (MMF - Mangroves for the Future - is a partnership-led initiative chaired by IUCN and UNDP to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development).*



*Proposed planning ideas for rehabilitation Zanzibar port and surrounding residential areas for Zanzibar Department of Planning (Integrated Sustainable Coastal Development SIDA course in Zanzibar, Tanzania, Dec 2013)*

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM THAILAND

**By Monsicha Bejrananda, Ph.D.**

Faculty of Architecture, Urban and Regional Program  
Khon Kaen University,  
Khon Kaen.

### **Urban-Related Activities**

1. Project Manager: Academic service project with National Housing Authority (NHA) of Thailand on Housing Development and Preventing Slum Plan of Bueng Karn Province, Thailand.
2. Guest Lecturer: Guest lecturer for a training program in urban development. A training program designed for local administrative officers from Loei Province held by the Institute for Human Resource Development, Khon Kaen University in March 2014.

### **Academic Activities**

1. Informal visit: A group of 8-10 lecturers and Ph.D. students from Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University visited Mandalay Technological University (MTU) on Jan 15, 2014. Possible academic cooperation (e.g., student/lecturer exchanges, co-research, other academic-related activities) between the two institutes were discussed. The visit is a part of a 8-day trip activities to Myanmar by the group.
2. Informal meeting with a Ph.D. student from University of Cologne. The discussion was on the subject of her research focusing on urban/peri-urban farming in Bangkok Metropolitan Region.

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM GERMANY

**By Prof. Dr. Frauke Kraas**

Institute of Geography  
University of Cologne  
Cologne.

### **Publications**

1. Kraas, F. (2014): Die Städte Südostasiens. In: Heineberg, H.: Allgemeine Stadtgeographie. Paderborn, 4. Aufl.: 348-361.
2. Kraas, F. (2014): Tachileik/Myanmar und Mae Sai/Thailand: Grenzstädte im Transformationsprozess. Thailand-Rundschau 27 (1): 18-23.
3. Kraas, F. (2014): Bevölkerungsentwicklung, Migrationsprozesse und Urbanisierungsdynamik in Myanmar. In: Köster, U., Ph. Le Trong, C. Grein (Hg.): Handbuch Myanmar. Gesellschaft, Politik, Wirtschaft, Kultur, Entwicklung. Berlin: 33-40.
4. Kraas, F. (2014): Naturraumpotentiale, Naturrisiken und Ressourcennutzung in Myanmar. In: Köster, U., Ph. Le Trong, C. Grein (Hg.): Handbuch Myanmar. Gesellschaft, Politik, Wirtschaft, Kultur, Entwicklung. Berlin: 60-67.
5. Kraas, F. (2014): Megastädte – Megachallenge. Transformation im „Globalen Süden“. Universitas 815: 4-21.
6. Schellnhuber, H.J. et al. (2014): Human Progress within Planetary Guard Rails. A Contribution to the SDG Debate. German Advisory Council on Global Change. Policy Paper 8. Berlin. 48 p.

### **International activities**

1. Official Opening of the Office of the “Myanmar German Research Collaboration on Urban and Regional Research” between the Ministry of Construction and the University of Cologne on 13 January 2014, in connection with an international symposium.
2. Member of Editorial Board, Khon Kaen University International Journal Editorial Board in the Field of Humanities and Social Sciences (since Jan 2014).

### **Research**

1. Field work in connection with the joint Myanmar German research project “The Urban Network System of Myanmar: 81+ cities” (BMZ/GIZ, DHSHD/Ministry of Construction, University of Yangon and further universities of Myanmar, Ministry of Education) in four regional cities, Chin State and Kachin State.
2. Field work in connection with the joint Myanmar German research project “Heritage Inventory” (BMZ/GIZ, DHSHD/Ministry of Construction, University of Yangon and further universities of Myanmar, Ministry of Education).



*Official Opening of the Myanmar German Research Collaboration on Urban and Regional Research, Yangon Jan 13, 2014*



*Some participants of the workshop in Mawlamyine, June 2014*

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM GERMANY

**By Prof. Dr. Javier Revilla Diez**

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Institute of Geography  
Albertus Magnus Platz  
50923 Cologne, Germany  
Phone: +49 221 470 7251  
Fax: +49 221 470 4971  
Email: [j.revilladiez@uni-koeln.de](mailto:j.revilladiez@uni-koeln.de)  
Homepage: <http://www.geographie.uni-koeln.de/index.1010.de.html>



Since April 2014, Revilla Diez holds a Chair in Human Geography at the Institute of Geography at the University of Cologne. He was appointed within the framework of the key profile area “Socio-economic, Cultural, and Political Transformations in the Global South” of the Global South Studies Center at the University of Cologne, supported by the German Excellence Initiative.

Before, Revilla Diez holds a Chair in Economic Geography at the Institute for Economic and Cultural Geography, University of Hannover. He is member of the advisory board of the Lower Saxonian Institute for Economic Research (Niedersächsisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung).

Revilla Diez is specialized on the economic and regional transformation processes in Vietnam, focusing on knowledge based regional development (especially regional innovation systems), and vulnerability research in Europe and Asia. Recently he worked on regional growth in the Greater Pearl River Delta (China), on economic restructuring and responses to crisis in rural Vietnam/Thailand, and Tsunami risks, vulnerability and resilience in the Phang-Nga Province, Thailand. At the moment he is undertaking a pilot study on Corporate Social Responsibility Activities of Multinational Enterprises and their regional impact in Vietnam.

### **Some selected recent publications:**

1. Meyer, S.; Revilla Diez, J (2014): One country, two systems: How regional institutions shape governance modes in the greater Pearl River Delta, China. In: Papers in Regional Science. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12099
2. Junge, V.; Revilla Diez, J.; Schätzl, L. (2014): Determinants and Consequences of Internal Return Migration in Thailand and Vietnam. In: World Development. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2013.11.007>.
3. Brünjes, J.; Revilla Diez, J. (2013): 'Recession push' and 'prosperity pull' entrepreneurship in a rural developing context. In: Entrepreneurship & Regional Development 25(3-4): 251-271.
4. Fu, W.; Revilla Diez, J.; Schiller, D. (2013): Interactive Learning, Informal Networks and Innovation: Evidence from Electronics Firm Survey in the Pearl River Delta, China. Research Policy. Volume 42, Issue 3, Pages 635-646.
5. Tamásy, C.; Revilla Diez, J. (Hrsg.) (2013): Regional Resilience, Economy and Society: Globalising Rural Places. Aldershot: Ashgate

6. Willroth, P.; Massmann, F.; Wehrhahn, R.; Revilla Diez, J. (2012): Socio-economic vulnerability of coastal communities in southern Thailand: the development of adaptation strategies. In: *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, 12, 2647-2658
7. Fu, W.; Revilla Diez, J.; Schiller, D. (2012): Regional innovation systems within a transitional context: evolutionary comparison of the electronics industry in Shenzhen and Dongguan since the opening of China. *Journal of Economic Surveys* 26(3): 534-550.
8. Garschagen, M.; Revilla Diez, J.; Nhan, D.K.; Kraas, F. (2012): Socio-Economic Development in the Mekong Delta: Between the Prospects for Progress and the Realms of Reality. In: Renaud, F.; Künzer, C. (Eds.): *The Mekong Delta System - Interdisciplinary Analyses of a River Delta*. Springer. 83-132.
9. Willroth, P.; Revilla Diez, J.; Arunotai, N. (2011): Modelling the economic vulnerability of households in the Phang-Nga Province (Thailand) to natural disasters. In: *Natural Hazards* 58 (2), S. 753–769.

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM MALAYSIA

**By Prof. Dr. Lee Boon Thong**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)  
Nilai University  
Nilai.

### **Research activities**

1. Awarded the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) research grant on "Revisitation of Urban & Regional Policies in Continental Southeast Asia"- A joint research with a Japanese Professor of Urban Geography, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto.

### **Information corner**

1. Nilai University is offering an approved PhD programme in Urban Studies by research and thesis. Anyone interested can contact Prof Lee.

## INDIVIDUAL UPDATES FROM MALAYSIA

### By Hong Ching Goh

Senior lecturer/Undergraduate Program Coordinator  
Department of Urban Planning  
Faculty of Built Environment  
Universiti Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur.

### Publications

1. Goh Hong Ching, Tan Wan Hin and Ching Fei Ern. 2014. Border town issues in tourism development: The case of Perlis, Malaysia. *GEOGRAFIA: Malaysian Journal of Society and Space*, 10(2): 68-79.
2. Ling Tek Soon, Danny Wong, Fan Fik Hua and Goh Hong Ching (2014). Abode of Dead, Depository of Knowledge and Contested Realm: A study of Chinese Cemeteries in Malaysia. Seminar proceedings of Chinese cemetery research trend, condition and findings. Pp. 10-15. Presented on 25 May 2014.

### Upcoming researches' themes

1. Squatters, affordable housing and the relationship in Klang Valley, Malaysia.
2. Mangrove management along the coastline development of Iskandar Region, state of Johor, Malaysia.

### International appointments

1. Member of Editorial Board, Khon Kaen University International Journal Editorial Board in the Field of Humanities and Social Sciences (Jan 2014- present).
2. MIT-UTM International Visiting Scholars Program on Malaysia Sustainable Cities, September 2014-May 2015 (upcoming).

### Workshops and activities

1. Stakeholder round table discussion- Social-wellbeing and community development in Pulau Pangkor organized by Universiti Malaya Spatial-Environmental Governance for Sustainability Research, February 27, The Orient Star Resort, Lumut, Perak.
2. Visit by the Department of Building and Real Estate, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University to Faculty of Built Environment, Universiti Malaya, presentation by the Urban and Regional Planning Department, May 21.
3. Visit by the Urban Planning Study Group from Hafen City University, Hamburg, Germany, presentation by the Urban and Regional Planning Department, June 12.



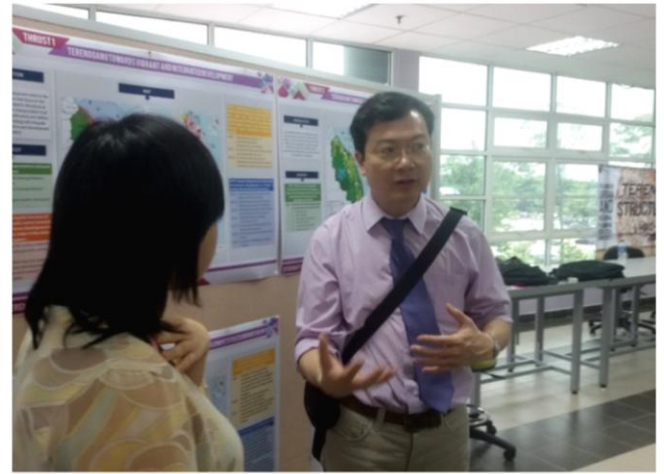
*Photo taken after the roundtable discussion with the officers from the Perak State Town and Country Planning officers, Department of Environment, Manjung Municipal Council, Manjung District Office etc, Feb 2014.*



*Land use survey in Pangkor Island. A field visit to the local food processing industry, Feb 2014.*



*Interactive session between students and lecturers from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Department of Urban and Regional Planning in Year II Planning Studio Mercu Alam Bina, Universiti Malaya, May 2014.*





*Group photo taken with urban planning students from Hafen City University, Hamburg led by Dr. Michael Bose, June 2014.*

### **Field works**

Feb 28- Mar 2: Fieldwork to Pangkor Island researching on land use governance in Pulau Pangkor- This project aims to study the land use changes due to competing demand which have led to conflicts in Pulau Pangkor and to determine the existing governance arrangement in regulating the conservation and development in Pulau Pangkor.



*Photo taken with research assistants during land use survey in Pangkor Island with the Dutch Fort, Teluk Gedong which is a historical monument, as background, Feb 2014.*

Mar 6-15: Studio field trip to the state of Terengganu for the preparation of State Structure Plan Review. During this exercise, the Year 2 Planning Studio was assigned with the project to prepare the review of State Structure Plan for Terengganu as per the provision of Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172). Briefings were attended and land use survey was conducted during the field trip.



*Mar 11, 2014: Photo taken after the briefing at KETENGAH during the fieldwork to Terengganu. Terengganu Tengah Development Authority (KETENGAH) is an agency under the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, which is responsible to carry out economic and social development in an area of 443.876ha covering the interior of Terengganu state.*



**ForUm**

**Forum for Urban Future in Southeast Asia  
Network of Southeast Asian and German Experts**

**Objectives of the Network**

- Platform for a North-South-South Dialogue
- Capacity Building by Knowledge and Expertise
- Sustainable Research and Development Cooperation

<http://forum-urban-futures.net/>

The program was sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) from 2005-2012.