Title of the Campus: Asia-Pacific Housing Forum 6: Philippines' Program "Housing at the Center"
Organizer(s) Names: Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation.
Partner Organization(s): Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG), Senate Committee on Housing and Urban Development, House Committee on Housing and Urban Development.
Date and Location: Tuesday, 25 July 2017 to Wednesday, 26 July 2017 / Novotel Hotels and Resorts, Quezon City, Manila / Philippines
Urban Thinkers Campus in figures:

- 7 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
- 312 PARTICIPANTS
- 79 ORGANIZATIONS
- 16 PARTNERS GROUPS REPRESENTED
Executive summary:

➢ The Asia-Pacific Housing Forum (APHF6) preliminary event in Manila was held on 25-26 July 2017. Organized by Habitat for Humanity Philippines, it gathered about 320 experts and stakeholders in housing and urban development from government, academe, private sector and grassroots organization.

➢ Accepted as an Urban Thinkers Campus for the second time, the Housing Forum in Manila continued gathering inputs on how to implement the New Urban Agenda, encouraging discussions around ‘housing as the key to meeting today’s challenges for better health, education and increased employment opportunities.’

➢ In the keynote representing the Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Secretary-General Atty. John Titus Vistal shared the developments that the Philippines—led by the national government and partnering with Habitat and the local government units and supported by the private sector—has undertaken since the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum in 2015; shortly after the National Housing Summit, which played a big role in consultative discussions and continuing consultations with local government units in the development of the National Urban Development and Housing Framework (2017-2022).

➢ The Comprehensive Masterplan and Policy Framework will address the growing housing problem in the Philippines, which is estimated to reach 6.5 million units in 2030, based on the most recent estimates of the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI).

➢ “We are frequent partners of Habitat for Humanity Philippines. We know fully well that the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum is the leading platform for
advocating affordable housing solutions and decent shelter for low-income families in the Asia-Pacific region.”

➢ Senior legislators Senator Joseph Victor Gomez Ejercito and Negros Occidental Representative Alfredo Benitez, the respective heads of the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement and the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development, jointly led presented the government’s concrete actions on addressing the housing backlog in the country and developing its cities.

➢ Among Sen. Ejercito and Rep. Benitez’s recommendations for the government, which they are advocating in Congress and the Senate, are:
  o Housing and Urban Planning Legislative Agenda
    Development of an efficient network for infrastructure, including transportation (nation-wide railway system) and water and sanitation that will decongest current urban areas and stimulate the growth nodes across the country;
    • Developing in-city slum upgrading programs, so low-income families don’t need to move out of cities;
    • Developing rental housing systems that de-emphasizes the focus on home ownership but strengthens secure tenure; and
    • Creation of a Department of Human Settlements in the government, a full-blown agency that will unify the government’s housing programs, and handle and facilitate housing demands and urban concerns.

➢ Among the recurring themes and recommendations in the Housing Forum are:
  • Reconciliation of regulatory and legislative conflicts on housing, land tenure, and related issues. Habitat Philippines’ Solid Ground, which was actively promoted at the Housing Forum, provided a consolidating program, through a web-based crowdsourcing platform that tracks all laws, bills, and regulations on land, housing, and urban development, a handy resource for other advocates.
  • Strengthening of partnerships between government, the private sector, and civil society. The youth sector too must be actively engaged in addressing the housing problem.
- Incorporating climate change adaption, disaster risk reduction, and mitigation, inexpensive but smart technological innovations into housing policy and design.
- Holistically addressing the housing gap by also addressing problems in infrastructure, livelihood, fair and equal application of rules and community-building.
- In particular, communities are seen as partners in addressing the housing backlog, and government, INGOs, and private sector must take their input and participation in developing game-changing solutions, inclusive approach, that fit their own local contexts.
- Lack of financing, limited options for land available to housing, and governance must be addressed.

Home partner testimonials:

➢ The Housing Forum in Manila ended with encouraging testimonies from representatives of communities in which Habitat has worked, reinforcing the hopeful message of the impact that decent homes have made on their families and communities.

- Annabelle Elmido, a housewife who runs a rag-making business in Bistekville, Quezon City: “Thanks to Habitat Philippines. They did not just provide housing, they have a holistic approach because they taught us (housewives) how to be empowered individuals of society…. Housing provides a stable home and a stable livelihood for the future.”
- Christian Seso, son of Habitat homeowners: “Before I became a civil engineer, a housing advocate and entrepreneur, I was a slum dweller. When I was nine years old, Habitat helped us by providing a land and helping us build our home…. Today, I am a contractor. We’re not rich but I’m thankful that my life is better now. When I look back, I know that there were selfless people and organizations who helped us. I cannot pay them back, so I will pay it forward.” Christian now runs a free review program to help about 150 students per year prepare for college admission tests, with about 25 scholars already graduated and some more already getting scholarships into top Philippine universities. “The aid extended by Habitat created a ripple in my community. You said yes [to us]. The house Habitat built became a home. The village Habitat built with us became a community.”
Maximo Dimag, who leads a cooperative for blind massage therapists: “With Habitat’s help, although we don’t have sight, we can see our dreams of having our own land and house becoming a reality.”

During the APHF6, Habitat Philippines was able to engage key stakeholders and participants in the “Solid Ground” advocacy campaign; Among the outputs are:

1. High-level commitment from lawmakers, various government agencies, and developers to push for the adoption and approval of the following measures:
2. Amend the Local Government Code to require the creation of Local Housing Boards, Local Housing Offices, and Local Shelter Plans, and the inventory of lands for socialized housing by LGUs
3. Institutionalize a participatory and inclusive process that shall ensure greater involvement of communities, POs, NGOs, and CSOs in policies and projects on access to land for shelter
4. Streamline government procedures to expedite acquisition of security of tenure for the homeless, informal settler families, and qualified beneficiaries
5. Appropriate the necessary funds and resources to achieve pro-poor and genuine urban development

- More than 150 signatures, including those of Senator JV Ejercito and Representative Albee Benitez, and commitment from different advocates to gather more to support Solid Ground Advocacy Campaign. The signatures indicate solidarity to the call for the adoption and approval of the measures.
- Stakeholder engagement and policy development initiatives and corresponding outputs presented to the members of the press, and the public in a track session for peer questioning and review.
- Strengthened formal partnerships that started with the implementation of the Solid Ground Advocacy Campaign in the Philippines with non-traditional partners like the Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Potential Impact of the Advocacy:
At present, there are more than 100 Presidential Proclamations (PPs) that are either pending application or implementation. Improved policies and processes on the use of PPs as a modality to secure tenure for informal settler families and qualified beneficiaries would potentially benefit more than 271,505 families and would cover more than 27,000,000 hectares of land.

- 100 signatures gathered in support of Habitat Philippines’ Solid Ground advocacy campaign.

Some notable signatures were of Senator Joseph Victor-Gomez Ejercito (Chairman of the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement), Negros Occidental Representative Alfredo “Albee” Benitez (Chairman of the House Committee on Housing and Urban Development) and Secretary-General- Atty. John Titus Vistal of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), among others.

Introduction to the Campus:

The Asia-Pacific Housing Forum 6 (APHF6) Philippine program was held on July 25-26, 2017 at Novotel Hotel, Araneta Complex, Quezon City. The APHF6 with the theme “Housing at the Center” served as an Urban Thinkers Campus 2.0 under the UN Habitat’s World Urban Campaign. The two (2) days program with 320 multi-sector thought leaders and stakeholders in housing focused on four themes/tracks: Technology and Affordable Housing, Innovative Partnerships, Resilience and Social Development and Sustainable Urbanization and Housing.

Technology and affordable housing

- Featuring cutting-edge technologies that have been, or could be, used to increase access to decent and affordable housing.

Innovative partnerships
• Highlighting the potential of multi-level partnerships in achieving goals related to poverty alleviation and the provision of affordable housing in the country.

Resilience and Social Development
• Inviting practitioners to discuss how decent and affordable housing can lift communities out of poverty, protect people from disasters and generate economic livelihoods.

Sustainable urbanization and housing
• Showcasing the implementation of the new urban agenda and the role of housing as a key element in the urbanization process.

Through the partnership with the Housing and Urban Development Council (HUDCC), it is hoped that the New Urban Agenda will result in the unbundling of the land and housing issues, socialized housing finance, participatory governance and urban development.

Habitat’s role is to be an enabling advocacy partner, to further engage government, stakeholders and private sector through the community revitalization and urban development initiatives.

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**Key outcomes:**

On Sustainable Urban Development and Social Inclusion (Bringing together governments, non-governmental organizations and the business sector to support housing policy change);

➢ The Philippines' National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), emphasized that government recognizes the need for an inclusive solution to solve the housing problems.

• With “Ambisyon 2040”, the government will engage all sectors of society, whether public or private, utilizing tools of fiscal, monetary and regulatory policies to steer the development towards creating opportunities, where Filipinos will thrive in vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities.
The private sector represented by The Subdivision and Housing Developers Association articulated the sector’s commitment to four (4) key strategies;

- With full government support, the housing industry’ envision to eliminate the housing backlog by the year 2030.

1. Increase housing production (sustaining 12% production of volume annually) by forging alliances among housing developers and industry partners to attain the following targeted number of homes in specific periods;
   - 1 million homes for 2012-2016
   - 2 million homes for 2017-2022
   - 7 million homes for 2023-2030

2. Implement a comprehensive government housing subsidy program to target segments to enhance affordability.
3. Generate and mobilize funds for end-user financing.
4. Improve the housing regulatory environment by reducing the processing time in securing permits and licenses.

Conclusion & Way Forward:

Habitat for Humanity will continue to engage all stakeholders- both from government and private sector- in providing solutions to poverty to housing.

Recommendation:

Habitat for Humanity will continue to support and work with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)- being the lead agency in rolling out the New Urban Agenda to the local government units.
Monitoring:

Project and/or program management will be delegated yet by Management Committee.

UTC key speakers:

1. Erlynn Campos, Trustee, Habitat for Humanity Philippines
2. Rick Hathaway, Area Vice President-Asia Pacific, Habitat for Humanity International
3. Mike Meaney, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity Philippines
4. Sapna Sood, CEO, Holcim-LaFarge
5. Michael Saalfeld, Founder and CEO, Lichtblick Germany
6. John Alster Soriano, Coordinator, ZEP (Zero Extreme Poverty)
7. Brian Poe Llamanzares, Youth Ambassador, Habitat for Humanity Philippines
8. Atty. John Titus Vistal, Secretary-General, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
11. Sree Kumar Kumasawamy, Managing Associate, WRI India Sustainable Cities
12. Director Myrna Clara B. Asuncion, National Economic Development Authority
13. Christopher G. Narciso, President, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA)
14. Atty. Oscar P. Palabyab, Secretary General, Philippine Red Cross
15. David Gazashvili, Country Director, Care Philippines
List of Participants:

- List of Participants

List of Organisations Represented:

- List of Organizations

List of partner groups represented:

1. Local and Subnational Authorities
2. Research and Academia
3. Civil Society Organizations
4. Grass-root Organizations
5. Women
6. Parliamentarians
7. Children and Youth
8. Business and Industries
9. Foundations and Philanthropies
10. Professionals
11. Trade Unions and Workers
12. Farmers
13. Indigenous People
14. Media
15. Older persons
16. Persons with Disabilities
List of countries represented:

1. Philippines.
2. United States of America.
3. India.
4. France.
5. Germany.
6. Australia.
7. China

Weblink to key Social media posts:

- https://twitter.com/i/web/status/890119507833958401
- https://twitter.com/i/web/status/890104406070505473
- https://www.instagram.com/p/BYvhH01n8Lf/?taken-by=heyitsbrianpoe
- https://www.instagram.com/p/BW9yh06ldsV/?taken-by=habitatphins
- https://www.instagram.com/p/BW9ymWnlRTS/?taken-by=habitatphins
- https://www.instagram.com/p/BXACpSdle78/?taken-by=habitatphins
- https://www.instagram.com/p/BXAJdAjlh2n/?taken-by=habitatphins
- https://www.instagram.com/p/BXAQTqxlLrl/?taken-by=habitatphins
- https://twitter.com/i/web/status/890089303833010177
- https://twitter.com/HabitatPhils/status/889696714214457344/photo/1
- https://twitter.com/i/web/status/889787311155691522
- https://www.facebook.com/habitatphilippines/photos/a.151342628218613.27366.149792695040273/1664072066945654/?type=3&theater
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- https://www.facebook.com/habitatphilippines/photos/a.151342628218613.27366.149792695040273/1664073600278834/?type=3&theater
UTC Videos:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sYJof7cYpU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sYJof7cYpU)

UTC Photos: