The Filipino Architect:
Filipino Architects in Diversified Practice
It has been 8 months since we assumed office and with the support of the members of the National Board of Directors, including our chairs and members of various UAP standing commissions, committees, special committees and the general membership, we have, working as a team, been able to achieve most of the objectives that the current UAP Administration has set out to do.

1. Coordination/Collaboration with National Government Units (with the personal attendance of the National President)
   a. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Courtesy call at the Office of the Secretary, Hon. Victor Domingo last December 15, 2009 and submitted the position paper of the UAP and the status of the architecture profession.
   b. Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Courtesy call at the Office of the Chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Angeles on several dates regarding the following: (a) request to accredit UAP as learning center for architects, architecture students and graduates, allied professionals (i.e. engineers, environmental planners, interior designers, etc.); (b) forge a partnership with CHED in an effort to address and preserve “green spaces” on state university campuses and to enhance their respective environments towards building design and sustainability by providing a professional view of campus planning and architectural consistency.
   c. Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). Courtesy call with the Hon. Nicolas P. Lapeña (PRC Chairman) and Hon. Ruth Rana Padilla (PRC Commissioner) to discuss matters pertaining to the status of the architecture profession at several dates. Last January 26, 2010 UAP attended the PRC Consultative Meeting with the Accredited Professional Organizations to discuss matters pertaining to (1) requirements for CPE accreditation; (2) nomination to Professional Regulatory Boards; (3) nomination to PRC Most Outstanding Professionals.
   d. Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBoA). Initiated dialogues with the PRBoA together with CODHASP to discuss: (1) updates on architectural education; (2) on matters pertaining to Logbook on Diversified Experience for applicants to the Government Board Examinations; (3) on matters pertaining to the Resolutions passed by the PRBoA, on two successive dates – January 29 and February 8, 2010, in addition to last year’s dialogues, at the UAP Headquarters.
   e. Professional Regulatory Boards (PRBs). PRC Forum initiated by the PRBs (association of all PRC-board examiners) was held last December 17, 2009 at Teatro Arkitekto hosted by UAP through its National Board.
   f. Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). Courtesy call at the Office of the Chief, Bureau of Fire Protection regarding the important role of Filipino Architects under the New Fire Code of the Philippines. BFP to prepare modules to be offered for seminars/workshop at UAP Teatro Arkitekto. The officers returned this courtesy when they came over to the UAP Headquarters last January 29, 2010.
   g. Department of Education (DepEd). Speaking engagement made last December 8, 2009 with the DepEd officials during the 5th National Convention of Physical Facilities Coordinators and DepEd Engineers in Bacolod City.

2. Coordination/Collaboration with various Local Government Units with personal attendance of the National President with UAP personalities.
   a. Coordination/Courtesy call with the following:
      i. Province of Cavite through Hon. Governor Ernieo Saquilayan Maliksi
      ii. Province of Pangasinan through Hon. Amado Espino
      iii. Dasmarinas City through Hon. Jennifer A. Barzaga
      iv. Dagupan City through Hon. Alpio F. Fernandez, Jr.
      v. Municipality of Lingayen through Hon. Ernesto “Jonas” C. Castañeda, Jr.
      vi. Municipality of Daet, Camarines Norte through Tito Sarte Sarion

3. Coordination/Collaboration with Allied Professions
   a. Council of Architectural Researchers and Educators (ARCHCARE). Attended the 9th Annual Conference on Architectural Research and Education (ACARE 9) on October 16-17, 2008 at the University of San Carlos, Cebu City. ACARE is formed through the initiative of the UAP which aims to develop a Filipino knowledge base in architectural education and the consequent viability assessment of the establishment of the ARCHCARE.
b. **Council of Deans and Heads of Architectural Schools in the Philippines (CODHASP).** Held several dialogues with the officers and members of CODHASP on the following: (1) current concerns regarding the state of architecture profession; (2) amendments/revision on logbook on diversified training; (3) recently-passed PRBoA resolutions.

c. **Philippine Technological Council and Council for the Built and Natural Environments (PTC and CBNE).** Initiated the formation of PTC and CBNE Ad-Hoc Committee which is tasked to review, study and recommend amendments on Professional Consultancy Services. UAP serves as the Ad-Hoc working secretariat while UAP Charter President Nuke was appointed as Chair of the Ad-Hoc committee.

d. **Philippine Federation of Professional Associations (PFPA).** Submitted nominations to PFPA Excellence Awards.

4. **Coordination/Collaboration with Other Institutions**


b. **Green Building Initiative** re: collaborative agreement between UAP-GAM and allied professional organizations related to green building and sustainability.

c. **Manila Water** re: A Proposal of a Memorandum of Agreement to work hand in hand for the beautification, refurbishment, and keeping environmental awareness in the facilities of Manila Water in conjunction with the Green Architecture thrust of UAP.

5. **Successful celebration/holding of the following activities:**

a. Nationwide Architecture Week with Community Outreach (medical and dental mission), cultural exhibits, seminars and lectures centered on the various thrusts of this UAP Administrative Year, i.e. Environmental concern and Green Architecture, Architectural Education and Conservation, held at the UAP Headquarters and duplicated nationwide.

b. **Environmental Planning Capability Seminar.** The Professional Development Commission (PDC) of the United Architects of the Philippines under the executive directorship of Dr. Gerard Lico, conducted a five and a half day capability seminar on environmental planning last February 1-6, 2010 at the newly-opened Budgetel in the City of Golden Friendship, Cagayan de Oro City.

6. **Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding with various institutions**

a. UAP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission on Higher Education last February 4, 2010 on the collaborative project for Continuing Professional Training for Architecture and Related Disciplines and to enhance State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) Campus Planning and Development.

b. UAP entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the VINX Philippines duly endorsed by Graphisoft to collaboratively promote the usage of legal software for Computer Aided Design Program.

c. UAP is set to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Fire Protection to provide training programs which cater to the need of the qualified fire volunteers, members of fire brigades and fire safety practitioners to be educated and oriented with the basic principles of fire prevention and suppression pursuant to Section 6.03.2 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9514. The signing will be held on March 1, 2010.

d. UAP is set to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Barangay Laging Handa Council for the services to be extended by UAP particularly on the review of architectural plans prior to Barangay endorsement for building permits, technical recommendations and other related services.

7. **Coordination with the International Organizations**

a. UAP will host several international meetings on April 21, 2010 during the 36th UAP National Convention of Architects as part of the current administration’s thrust under International Link program, to wit:

   i. **Arcasia Office Bearers’ Meeting**

   ii. **Arcasia Committee on Architectural Education (ACAE) Meeting**

   iii. **Arcasia Committee for Green and Sustainable Architecture Meeting**

   iv. **Arcasia Committee on Professional Practice meeting** (to be president by our Past President, Arch. Edric Marco C. Florentino)

b. UAP is invited to attend the First APEC Human Resource Development – Inter Agency Working Group Meeting which will be held today, February 12, 2010 re: Philippines’ participation in and preparations for the APEC 32nd Human Resource Development Working Group (HRDWG) Meeting in Hiroshima, Japan.

c. UAP is set to host the proposed exhibit of the DEDALO MINOSSE INTERNATIONAL PRIZE ENTRIES AND WINNERS from Italy. The DEDALO MINOSSE touring exhibit features selected entries and winners of the prestigious competition. Among those who participated are renowned architects such as Mario Botta, Richard Meier, Zaha Hadid, Manfredi Nicoletti as well as exemplary works from new architects. Works featured include the Archdiocese of Turin, Sanctuary of Fatima, Emergency, WWF, SMEG, BMW, Citroën, Porsche, Pirelli, Benetton, Ferrari and Nestlé buildings.

d. UAP is set to sign a Memorandum of Agreement on Sustainable Built Environment with the Asian Accord as agreed during the Asia Roundtable on Sustainable Approach to Design and Construction at BCA Academy in Singapore.
Birds of a Feather Flock Together
Richard Tuason-Sanchez Bautista, uap

A Parrot is a Bird; A Pigeon is a Bird; A Peacock is a Bird; An Ostrich is a Bird; Dodo is a Bird; Canary is a Bird; Rooster is a Bird; A Penguin is a Bird; Maya is a Bird; An Eagle is a Bird; etc.........

A bird can fly, but not all that flies are birds: A Butterfly is not a Bird, A Bat is not a Bird, A Beetle is not a Bird, A Dragonfly is not a Bird, A Plane is not a Bird.

Not all with wings are birds: Buffalo wings came from birds but it is not a bird; Whisper with wings is not a Bird.

Not all associated to birds are birds: It’s a Bird? it’s a Plane? It’s Superman! A Bird’s nest is built by Birds, the nests are not birds.

Not all with feathers and wings are birds: A Feather Boa is not a bird; A Quill is not a Bird; Angels are not Birds; Sphinx are not Birds; Unicorns are not Birds.

A Bird can be literal or figurative. Larry Bird is a Bird, but not a Bird. Birds lay eggs, turtles lay eggs, yet it is not a Bird, even if there is such a thing as Turtle doves.

How a single syllable four letter name have so much possibility. Liken Architects to Birds, we can be.

Architecture is a very diverse discipline if only one can see themselves opening to other possibilities. Liken to Physicians who are doing specializations, where in back then, a Physician is a Physician. They can check on every illness their patients have. But now, most Medical Doctors are specializing on areas of further discipline.

Like the bird series, there are numerous types of birds. Also, those that are not birds with similar traits need not mean they are encroaching to the family or discipline. Like a writer or a scholar who writes about architecture and may be familiar with the architectural nature, and yet they are not claiming themselves as Architects, so as to an architect who can also write and venture to the world of writing.

An Architects’ training can be used for other discipline beside the usual architectural practice. One can do Visual arts, writing, music, fashion, etc.. with the usual practice, one can specialize with the allied arts, and open new forms of allied services.

Architecture as the Mother of all Arts simply states that an Architectural product creates an effect to the physical and the psyche. Architecture is everywhere; Visual arts, Theatre, Literature, Music, Dance and Cinema. Architecture as the mother of the arts, it guides its children as they grow up. At the same time, must learn from her children in order to improve themselves.

Have you noticed that the usual discussion in most architects’ gathering is, the immediate circle, the works of who was published in the magazine, the latest clothes line that the whole world will wear, intrigues about other people they know, and of the course, the usual boasting of I’m doing this project now. And notice how the pattern the discussion goes, rarely would you hear them go beyond this pattern.

No one hinders us to grow and learn more than what we are. No one is deprived of their rights to grow. One’s interest can lead to one’s growth. One’s growth can lead to a group’s growth. A group’s growth can be everybody’s growth. Like the birds with a diverse family group. Still are birds, but diverse.
we also delegate the construction and project management to our compatriot, especially the young ones? In this case, we are also training them until they become skill in the practice of construction by Administration, Design-Build, Cost-Plus, Project Management or even contracting the project package-deal or what we call “Arch-preneurship”. Let us not push architecture mainly to design alone.

Whether you concur with me or not in this manuscript is not my point. My main focus is to give architectural and constructional technology equal grip with design. As architects and civil engineers have equal legal rights to construct buildings, we could do better because we are the designers. The civil engineers cannot complain and grumble if we starve them in the practice of construction.

“And is it not inspiring to see the building which was once on a paper grows and materialized before your eyes, fellow architects?”

A REMINDER FROM THE ARCHIVES

The first Gold Medal of Merit Award and Certificate was bestowed by the Philippine Institute of Architects to Arch. Andres Luna de San Pedro in 1950 not only for design, service and loyalty to the institute and public service, but also to the science of construction.

Aside from many distinctions given to him in 1990, one of these is Arch. Leandro V. Locsin’s precision in engineering technology.

One of Arch. Juan F. Napil’s outstanding talents is also the execution of his created edifices. This only discloses that our ancestral architects, distinguished or not, are also in the field of exercising their profession in architectural engineering, technology and construction; and they are having grand times on it.

A MASTER BUILDER (AN ARCHITECT) BUILDS BUILDINGS. **********END
The revival of the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has elicited a lot of reactions, both positive and negative. Many are starting to worry about the number of points that each professional has to earn in order to be able to continue to practice. In the process, the real intent of the CPE program becomes lost in translation.

What is CPE?

What really is CPE? As defined by the PRC, CPE is “the inculcation, assimilation and acquisition of knowledge, skills, proficiency, and ethical and moral values, after the initial registration of a professional, that raise and enhance the professional’s technical skills and competence”. The prime objective is to ensure the continuous education of a registered professional with the latest trends in the profession brought about by modernization, scientific and technological advancement in order to attain the highest standards and quality in the practice of his/her profession and be globally competitive.

Compliance with the CPE programs is deemed a moral obligation of each professional and within the context of the concerned profession’s code of ethics and is considered necessary, effective and credible means of ensuring competence, integrity and global competitiveness. Article 1 section 5.3 of the newly amended UAP bylaws states that among the basic duties and responsibilities of a regular member is to continually develop himself/herself professionally through compliance with prescribed continuing professional education requirements of the PRC.

Why is there a need for CPE?

Knowledge obsolescence, continuing legitimation of the license to practice and professionalism have influenced the growth of CPE, as have economic, social, legal and political concerns in the country. Common features of CPE are the degree of latitude in what can be classified as CPE. The current direction of the PRC encourages specialization of practices. However, it also states that coverage of the CPE Program is not limited to the practice of the profession. It can transcend towards a more comprehensive and meaningful practice.

Who are in charge of the delivery of CPE?

Though the CPE was a mandate by the Commission to all professional regulatory boards, the bigger responsibility in the delivery of the program falls on the lap of the professional organization. In compliance with this, the UAP has created the counterpart APO - CPEC council. UAP as the Integrated and accredited professional organization of Architects must make sure that continuing professional education/development program is available to all its members. The UAP-CPEC must work closely with its monitoring and approving counterpart in the PRC which is the PRC – CPEC for architecture compose of the heads/members of the Board of Architecture, UAP and the Council of Deans and Heads of Architectural Schools in the Philippines or his/her official designate.

Current state of CPE in UAP.

Since last quarter of 2010, the UAP-CPEC has already mobilized and started to develop and fine tune the CPE program in preparation for its eventual mandatory implementation on July 2010 as approved by the UAP National Board.

So far, five specialization modules have been developed and approved by the PRC-CPEC and have already been offered and delivered to its general membership. The course include: Lighting Design 18 CUs), Environmental Planning Capability (40CUs), Hospital Planning and design (32 CUs), Green Architecture (32 CUs), and Fire and Life Safety Practice for Architects (32 CUs). As of March, 2010, after four months of experimental implementation, the UAP-CPEC has successfully provided the modules to 594 members.

The current direction of the UAP CPEC is to assist and encourage chapters to be accredited as CPE providers. Among its targets is to developed more modules, at least ten (10) more specialization modules be developed with the following possible topics: architectural conservation, institutional planning, sacred arts and architecture, construction management, architectural education, and tall building designs, pollution control assessment in buildings, and many more. The council is also working on the possible accreditation of the CPE courses of UAP as post graduate course units by academic institution offering post graduate courses in architecture.

More than the CPE Units to be earned from the CPE activities, the architect must looked into the more significant aspect of the CPE, that is the opportunity to develop one’s professional competence and skills in order to expand the realm of his/her practice and in the process opening doors towards a more comprehensive and meaningful practice.

Updates from the Office of the NEVP:

(1) SINUPAN –ARCHIVE OF ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IMAGES: a collection of thousands of photographs of architectural heritage structures launched last February 2010 at the PDC Center.
(2) UAP JOURNAL-reformatted as a Journal of refereed architectural researches. Ist issue entitled RE-VISIONING SPACE published.
(3) UAP MENTORSHIP GUIDELINES completed.
(4) NATIONWIDE ARCHITECTURE WEEK institutionalized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.
(5) SIX NEW CHAPTERS CHARTERED: KSA RIYADH, KSA EASTERN PROVINCE, KSA NORTHERN PROVINCE, UAE-ABU DHABI, UAE-DUBAI, and CEBU-LEON KILAT Chapters.
(6) Draft of IRR of AMENDED UAP By laws completed.
We are so engrossed trying to foil the civil engineers’ invasion into signing architectural documents which do not belong to them; we forget and ignore that construction, the other half of architecture very much also belongs to us. It is a misconception that when we say construction and structural design of buildings, it is civil engineering.

Architectural design is our legacy and nobody and no profession should mess practicing it. We should not concentrate on design alone griping that we are invaded by aliens. There is not so much money in design anyway. It is in construction of buildings where we could rake big money. We have to put more emphasis in construction. In fact, an architect who only knows how to design and totally ignores its construction is only an artist or a paper architect. There are many prominent architects who affirm that construction belong to the civil engineers and not architectural in nature. It is a misconception that when we think architecture, it is drawing of buildings only. That is why the civil engineers said that architects are “drawing lang ng drawing”.

Civil engineers have no expertise unlike the electrical, mechanical, chemical, sanitary and mining engineers and architects who are proficient in the design and execution of their callings. If there is, it has nothing to do with architecture for they do not have a single architectural subject in their course.

The course of civil engineering in college is a preparation for them to work in the government after the board examination. The government is their domain. There are 90% civil engineers in the Dept. of Public Works and Highways nationwide, while the expert engineers and the architects comprise only 10%. They even hold the lowest position. Even in the most remote and undeveloped municipality, with a BPWH branch, is headed by a civil engineer. All government agencies like the DENR, DOH and the like has at least one civil engineer employed to them. When I, with Ar. Tante Agbayani and the late Ar. Fred Tungpalan, were negotiating the design and construction of the 5th to 8th floor of the main building of DENR, we were met by 6 civil engineers who were employed there. Marikina Fire Dept. has 3 civil engineers when I consulted them about fire safety. Therefore, the CE’s acquire their expertise only when they are hired by the government.

In RA 544 (Civil Engineering Law), a civil engineer cannot be punished for incompetence; but in RA 545 (former Architecture Law), an architect can be suspended or his licensed revoke if he is found incompetent. Unfair? Yes, but government engineers do not necessarily be competent. Please see it for yourself.

It is a wrong notion to link construction and structural design to civil engineers. Architects are better constructor and structural designers of building. In my 4 decades as a construction man (construction draftsman and inspector, supervisor, project manager and area manager), I observe that in proportion, there are more constructing architects than the civil engineers especially in big construction companies. With 24,000 architects and 125,000 civil engineers or a 1 to 5 ratio, there are at least 3 architects to 5 civil engineers in the field of construction.

During my professional time, I worked with three U.S. agencies for a total of 9½ years, namely Getty Oil (6 years), USAID in the Kingdom of Laos (2½ years), and Clark Air Base (1 year). My designation in Getty Oil is Supervising Architect; in USAID, Construction Architect. In both, our Operations Manager is a civil engineer. It is sad that there is no such calling in our country, because even those who are mandating our architectural documents do not care and/or do not believe in it.

A building (vertical structure) is a delicate and more complicated to construct than the infrastructures (horizontal structure). An ordinary 6-storey building has an average of 50 items to work on, compared to a road or a bridge with the same amount which has not more than 8 items. The same building is 30 to 35% structural, 55 to 60% architectural/or finishing, and 10% electrical and plumbing combined.

In the road or bridge, about 90% is structural and more or less 10% finishing. Plumbing and electrical is optional. The building employs more manpower and tool power and less equipment. The road or the bridge employs much less manpower but more heavy equipment.

If there is one architect and one civil engineer who passed the board examination yesterday, and you want your ordinary two storey building constructed by picking only one of them, whom would you trust the construction, the architect, who could fully interpret your architectural design and who have already a two years experience as an architect, or the civil engineer, who could barely read architectural drawings and have no experience at all? Common sense dictates whom to give the work. How much more if the structure is a delicate mansion or a compound building like a big mall?

We should reinforce the knowledge and skill in the building construction technology and project management through seminars, workshops, forums, or even integrating it as one of the subjects in school. I took up a 36-hour course of Building Technology and Project Management at USAID in the Kingdom of Laos under the tuturship of the U.S. Marine Engineering Corps. In addition is a 3-time visit and lecture to the construction site. Each site visit is not less than 3 hours.

According to BoA Chair Armando Alli, there are only about 5,000 architects and about 70,000 civil engineers who are practicing architecture, and at the moment, we are still helpless to stop the civil engineers. They are even bold in taking out structural design from us which is ours not only in RA 545, but since time immemorial. Civil Engineering came forth to structurally design and construct buildings in the world, in USA, only in 1864. Before that, they are only doing government projects.

If they challenge us in design, we should strongly counter by giving the construction of our designs to our co-architects. If we could delegate drafting, specification writing and estimates to other architects, why couldn’t
Luis “Onib” Olmedo took up BS Architecture at the Mapua Institute of Technology and graduated in 1959. In the 1960’s he began painting simultaneous with his architectural practice. He held his first one man show at the Solidaridad Galleries in 1971.

Expanded Horizons: Architects Followed their Hearts

Onib became a leading figure in Philippine expressionism. There is hardly any information about his architectural works, but his art works are sought after by many collectors.

(Just imagine what Visual Tech class can lead us to if we take time to develop further ourselves.)
Honrado Ramosa Fernandez began the Formal and Spatial Pattern series in painting, sculpture, and architecture through which he worked on the various theories, principles and methods involved in the organization of forms and spaces.

He finished his undergraduate degree in Architecture at UP in 1971, his Master of Engineering (Architectural Design) at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan in 1975; and his Ph.D. in Science of Arts and Design at the University of Tsukuba, Japan in 1988.

His first solo show of sculpture and paintings was at the Asian Institute of Tourism in 1983. He served as director of the Coordinating center for Visual Arts of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Apolonio “Pol” Medina Jr., author of the comic strip Pugad Baboy is an architecture graduate at the University of Santo Tomas in 1983. His comic strip strongly reflected his architectural training, plus his sensitivity to his surroundings. His satire about his neighbourhood and the Philippine current events touched the lives of people, and inspired a number of colleagues when Pugad Baboy first went out in the early 1990’s.

Pugad Baboy is an offspring of Medina’s boredom while he was working in the Middle East in the . An architect will definitely relate to his drawings. The language of the lines he executed is very architectural, plus remind us of entourage drawings.

Roberto Chabet is a pioneering Filipino conceptual artist whose works are a result of the process of unravelling fixed notions about art and meaning. His drawings, collages, sculptures and installations, questioning modernity, are highly allegorical. They are meditations on space, the transitory nature of commonplace objects and the collisions that occur with their displacement.

Chabet studied Architecture at the University of Santo Tomas where he graduated in 1961. He had his first solo exhibition at the Luz Gallery in the same year. He was the founding Museum Director of the CCP from 1967-1970 where he initiated the first Thirteen Artists Awards, giving recognition to young artists whose works ‘show a recentness, a turning away from the past and familiar modes of art-making’. He led the 1970s conceptual art group Shop 6 and taught for over thirty years at the UP College of Fine Arts, where he espoused a kind of practice that gave precedence to idea over form. Since the 1970s, he has also been organizing landmark exhibitions featuring vanguard works by young artists, many of whom are among the most active and innovative artists in Manila today. He is the recipient of the 1972 Republic Cultural Heritage Award, the 1972 Araw ng Maynila Award for the Visual Arts and the 1998 Centennial Honor for the Arts.

Famed fashion designers, Giorgio Armani and Yves San Laurent are architects. In the Philippine setting, Christian Espiritu graduated in the University of Sto Tomas in 1959, and Francis Libiran graduated from University of Sto Tomas in 1997.

Imelda, designated Espiritu as her official fashion designer. This came after the former First Lady wore his Filipiniana collection at the celebration of the Peacock Throne of Iran. Espiritu was then commissioned to produce original ternos and gowns, especially for important government and private functions.

Libiran who is now a famed fashion designer, designs for Philippine celebrities and Show Biz personalities, especially during grand occasions. During a casual conversation, he made mention that he want to have his licence to practice architecture. And the clothes he designs are very architecturally inclined. The lines and shapes are so reflective of his architectural background. When he does office uniforms, especially for hotel staff, he would ask his client for the architectural plan in order for him to make his design compliment the architecture of the place.

Though not yet a licensed architect with full intentions of having the architect’s license are graduates of Architecture.
UAP BULACAN pushes CLIMATE CHANGE ACT 2009

UAP Bulacan responds to the national call for participation on climate change as Arch. Ana Luzzette L. Lareza of UAP Bulacan joins the pool of speakers in the 5th National Convention of Physical Facilities Coordinator and Department of Education (DepEd) Engineers at the Bacolod Pavilion Resort Hotel, Burgos St., Reclamation Area, Bacolod City on December 7-9, 2009.

Arch. Lareza discussed “Integrating Climate Change Adaptation in School Development Planning & Decision Making Processes”. She stressed on possible ways on how to comply to the newly passed law RA 9729 – Climate Change Act of 2009.

The talk is a concrete alliance of local architects with government affairs. UAP Bulacan holds the post for the Infrastructure Section as Private Sector Representative for Region Development Council Region 3, the highest policy-making body on socioeconomic development in the region. Arch. Lareza’s discussion was also in participation for UAP’s National Architecture Week Celebration.

Among the rest of speakers were Engr. Adam C. Abinales (President, Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines) – on Design Consideration for Structure of School Building in Accordance with the National Structural Code of the Philippines; Arch. Ana Mangalino Ling (National President, United Architects of the Philippines) – on Building Automation; Arch. Lareza discussed “Integrating Climate Change Adaptation in School Development Planning & Decision Making Processes”.

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• Research the use of bio-diesels. Would you believe that your used cooking oil can be used as diesel? It’s clean and it can clean your engine better.

The Supot Mentality

• People in the Philippines buy “tingi”. Oftentimes, when you buy at the sari-sari store, they wrap your stuff in a clear plastic bag. If you can hold the items in your hand, you don’t need the bag. If you can put the items in your pockets, you don’t need the bag. If you can drink the softdrink at the store, you don’t need the bag.

• When you buy at the grocery, try bringing your own bag. Shopwise sells reusable bags. MAKRO doesn’t have bags at all. Once again, if you don’t need it, tell the kahera not to put your stuff in plastic bags.

Buy Fluorescents

• Though fluorescent bulbs are more expensive, they have better consumption and have a longer life span. Better yet, go LED. They’re much brighter and use much less. You can buy LED bulbs at Home Depot’s Suppliers (the shops outside of the main shopping area).

Commute or carpool

• Not only is it cheaper, but it’s healthier both mentally and physically. You get to see so many things, you get to clear your head while you walk, and yes, you get to WALK! It’s electric and you’re not a bike to work if you can.

• If you can, convert your car to LPG powered. All the myths you hear from the taxi drivers are false. Make sure though that you get the good conversion and not the cheap or Frankensteined ones.

• Research the use of bio-diesels. Would you believe that your used cooking oil can be used as diesel? It’s clean and it can clean your engine better.

Buy things with less packaging

• Buy things with less packaging. Less packaging means less production. Less production means less consumption. Go figure but it makes sense.

The Supot Mentality

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• When you buy at the grocery, try bringing your own bag. Shopwise sells reusable bags. MAKRO doesn’t have bags at all. Once again, if you don’t need it, tell the kahera not to put your stuff in plastic bags.

• Many people often think that when the item you purchased is not in the bag, it doesn’t look like you bought it. So make sure you have your receipts. If the security dude stops you, show him that you bought it.

Use rechargeable batteries

• Since we don’t really have battery disposal places here like in the US, this is a good way to use less batteries. Cheaper too. If you have no choice, make sure you wrap you collect your used batteries, then dispose them by placing them in a plastic bag. Why collect before throwing, just to use less plastic.

Filter your water

• Check you water bill. If it says that your water is potable, then it probably is. If not 100%, you should be able to filter it enough to be potable. We have many brands that are available here like Breta ad others. Filtered water means less plastic for water.

Buy recycled

• Our homeless people actually are environmentalists. They are the best recyclers around. Ever notice why they collect plastic bottles? Because they can be sold again for recycling. So when you buy, make sure they’re recyclable.

Conserve Energy

• Turn off your TV when you aren’t using it. Make sure that you turn it off directly from the unit and not just the remote. Make sure that the idle light (the red light on your TV) is off.

• Use extension cords with switches. This way, you’re sure that your appliances are not using any energy. Once it’s off, whatever is plugged-in will be really off.

• Turn off your lights when not in use.

• Use the timer of your aircon. Use your aircon in combination with your electric fan. Though there are more energy efficient ways of cooling your home, this at least is what you already have and can do.

• Dispose of your old Aircons. Not only are they headaches, they are also loud and consume so much energy. It’s time to replace them. And when you replace them, make sure that the new one you’re buying is energy efficient. Try the newer ones that do not use freons. You simply add iced water and you get super cool air.

• Don’t use your electric stove. These consume so much energy. LPG is so much cheaper and use zero electricity.
Once your laptop has a full-charged, unplug the damn thing. Plug in again when you have to.

Buy used furniture
• Not only will you have antique looking furniture, but you will use less trees in building them. There are many thrift stores out there. all it takes is some creativity. If you want some, I have a good supplier.

Pick-up a new hobby...grow your own
• PLANTS ARE GOOD! Not only will they look nice, they will help filter the air. If you can, plant vegetables. That way, you don’t have to buy. If you’re interested in hydroponic plants, I can help you build a system that will work. I get free veggies during harvest time.

Don’t be so clean
• If you’re the type who washed all of your clothes every day, then you’re a problem. Some people are probably thinking, “iw and yuck!” but fact is, if you’re just going to work, then I’m sure your jeans or pants have not picked up much dirt. Use it maybe twice or thrice depending on how dirty it gets. But if you’ve only used it for 2 hours in a clean airconditioned place, then there’s no need.

E-living
• Send e-cards instead of real ones. More and more, people are touched by e-cards instead of real ones.

• Email! Email! Email! Many of the older folks feel that you’re not as personal if you send something via email. If you have clients, ask them if they can be contacted through email. If you have proposals or whatever, ask your clients if digital copies would do and send it by email. Emailing makes you use less transportation. Go figure!

• Digital living. Do you really need to print that document? Think twice. If you don’t, then don’t. people often say that it’s hard to read from the screen. Try it once, try it twice, later on, you’ll be used to it.

• Buy online. We as Filipinos have very little faith on each other. Many forums are starting to do commerce through the internet. All it takes if trust. If you’re a buyer, make sure you double check the person you’re buying from. If you’re a seller, don’t cheat your buyers. Promote LBC and other courier services more cause it’s simply so efficient and convenient.

Buy in bulk
• Buying in bulk means lesser trips to the grocery or the palengke.

• There are many more ways of being green that would fit your everyday lives. Keep in mind that whatever you do, you leave something behind. So the key is living with as little waste as possible. Plastics won’t disintegrate for another 500 years. Throw your garbage properly. Don’t expect someone to pick up after you. Recycle if you can and try to segregate your garbage. Feel free to add any more suggestions.
Cebu Activities
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