

# GREEN VILLAGE



## ACTIVITY REPORT

### Jump right in !

As the month draws to an end I know that the Youth of the Life Project Center at Calauan feel enormous pride at having faced and dealt with so many challenges. For the month of September we are not talking about one single large accomplishment, but instead a multitude of small successes which can ultimately mean so much more: the Green Garden team's first plumbing installation; the first and largest wooden structure ever made by the Eco-construction team; the first complex project requiring coordination between the teams of Green Garden and Eco-construction; the first pieces of bamboo furniture made by graduates of the Green Program; the first bamboo shoots growing in the Green Village; the first bamboo smoke-curing experiment; the first steps in the first Training Room. So turn the page and read on ...



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## SEPTEMBER 2016

## Still mobilizing

The Green Village continues to mobilize all those involved in the project.

This past month, we welcomed Alan Yong and Nelly Oquendo from REXEL South East Asia who visited the Life Project Center of Calauan and the Green Village construction site. They completely fell in love with the rice fields and the Training Room prototype made by the Youth of Eco-construction at the beginning of 2015, already over 1 and a half years ago now, and still proudly showing off its strong bamboo design.

And they were not alone in their admiration: we have received a request from the Ayala Foundation who are so impressed by the model that they would like to replicate the building to extend the existing cafeteria on Site 2. This is amazing news for the project and for the Youth involved, who are now inspiring others, acting as models for the community and at the same time promoting ecological construction. We are so happy for them!

Finally, at the end of September, we did our first meeting with a future promising partner, the *Philippine Center for Water and Sanitation (PCWS)* association promotes cost effective sustainable water and sanitation programs.

Congratulations Green Village!



Sir Alan Yong, HR Manager de Rexel SEA visiting the Youth of the Eco-construction program.



The innovative bamboo building model made by the Eco-construction Youth almost 2 years ago.



Sandra from the Green Garden program learning about the various ecological methods of filtering, treating and managing all kinds of water, thanks to the expertise shared by Eugenio from PCWS association.

45 meters of fence have already been completed, welcoming visitors at the entrance of the site.

Jimbo and Loudimer planting the stems of malunggay and kakawate to make the natural fence.



The magic of the nature after just 1 week!



## Already growing

On August, the Youth of the Green Garden team were planning and designing their collaborative, ecological and low cost fence.

After that, they collected stems from the neighborhood and they began to build ... No, to "plant" the fence. The heavy rain of the monsoon season acting : the stems are already growing and displaying tiny leaves.

But if you remember well their plans, it was also question of bamboo. So, we also collected bamboo culms (also for free!) to create kind of bamboo nursery. A second successful experience as many bamboo shoots are already pointing !

The right combination : imaginative Youth + magic nature !

Ramil, Marcelo, Peter and Benjie reusing the excavated soil to plant the bamboos.



The bamboo nursery at the Green Village.



First the team had to mark out the western boundary of the land with a rope. Then Jonalyn and Sandra, assisted by their coach, Alex, chose the precise location of the building, using a decameter.

## We've crossed that bridge

We haven't begun the real bamboo construction yet... but it won't be long now. The construction zone is spreading across the area, and the best indication of our progress is probably the developments on the "Learn" area, on the other side of the creek.

The Young Adults of Green Garden have already chosen a spot for the first Training Room (the same as building model on Site 2), and local workers have been employed to dig the foundations.



We invite you to imagine the first Training Room of the Green Village...

# Small scale

Since early September the scale model of the Green Village, built by our architecture student, Alice, has been on display for all to admire. All that's missing are the Gathering Hall and the Greenhouses, which are under review by our architect, but that still leaves enough to give a clear idea of what the finished Green Village will look like, and to elicit collective gasps of amazement from the Youth of all our programs.



Flying over the new Life Project Center at Calauan.



The Boys' Houses which will be built along the creek, with the Visitors' houses in the background. Now we can start to picture it!



The Youth can now image what their Green Village will look like after completion.

So, how did you picture the bamboo dryer?



Group picture of the current Green Program team, soon to be part of a brand new program in the Green Village; a perfect introduction.

New signs promoting respect on the land



The Green Village project explained, in Tagalog and English, for all to understand!

Grass cutting and land clearing with the Green Garden team



### Improvements on the land

We have learnt that communication is key, so now it's time to apply this lesson on Green Village land.

We have installed new signs on the property, so that members of the local community feel welcome, but at the same time are informed about the rules and dangers of the area (it is a construction zone).

Since the Blessing last month, information tarpaulins in English and Tagalog are clearly displayed for visitors at the entrance to the site.

The Green Garden team has been very active on this front, taking care of the land and ensuring the invading vegetation is kept at bay, managing the garbage and the dry toilets ... a combination of small responsibilities requiring highly developed organizational skills.

### “Smoked” bridge

As the rains have decreased over the past few weeks, the Eco-construction team has at last been able to experiment with a new ecological method of treating bamboo. By “smoking” the bridge which the scouts built in August, they hope to reduce the risk of insect infestation.

The Green Garden team generates large quantities of green waste, and this technique offers a positive and useful way of dealing with it.

It has also provided an opportunity for the two teams to work together and develop their coordination and communication skills.

Smoking the bridge to deter insects



It is also the right time to install netting to protect the nipa leaf roof from heavy winds.



The first plastic bottle layers have been completed; now on to the glass bottle layers.



Early September

The glass bottle layers have been completed; now it's alternating plastic / glass bottle layers!



Mid-September

The alternate plastic / glass bottle layers are progressing well; completion is in sight!



Late September

## Reaching 2.5

They've done it! The first bottle wall of the Storage facility reached its target height of 2.5m on September 22nd.

As the walls grew higher some Eco-construction team members learned how to make the complex finish between interlocking bottle necks and bottoms; a challenging technique requiring patience and attention to detail.





**Bottle building**  
 Alternating between plastic and glass bottles, the Youth of Eco-construction, including Grace and David shown here, are now real experts in leveling and bottle construction!



**Finishing**  
 Not the easiest activity as the different bottle shapes need to be given an aesthetic harmony, but the Youth approach this challenge with imagination. For example, they found an ecological way of protecting the bottle necks, stuffing them with banana leaves!





September 6, 2016.

The first 2 metal grids (made at the beginning of the year) are installed.  
15 posts have already been raised.  
The trenches are ready for the sewage pipes.

## Many challenges

As building progresses, new challenges arise.

First the Youth of Green Garden work on installing sewage pipes and water lines. The Youth from Eco-construction build the structure: wooden posts, metal grids and trusses. These are new activities requiring new skills and new adjustments, each activity providing great lessons and experiences. At our monthly Green Village meeting we discuss teamwork, organization, communication and conflict management.

The site provides a fabulous learning environment on all levels.



September 28, 2016.

A forest of scaffolding!  
All the structural posts are in.  
The metal grids also.  
The trusses of the lower roof are installed.

Yneth, Emerson and John Carlo protecting the wooden posts with a chemical solution. In due course we hope to treat in an ecological way (after completion of the treatment tank).



Rucelle and Emerson drill and cut the posts before fixing them in the concrete foundations with the help of their trainer, Abe.

Objectives : to select, purchase, protect, install and attach the vertical wooden structure of the building.

## Wooden posts

Team: Eco-construction



It is a complex structure using more than 4 different post sections, so Emerson marks each foundation with the size and length of the post to install. Then Rucelle fixes the post on the flat bars (having checked the level, as here we see Emerson and Yneth doing with trainer Adriano).



1 month, 42 wooden posts, 13 proud and satisfied Eco-construction Young Adults!

## Sewage pipes

**Objectives :** to select, purchase, plan, level, install and waterproof test the sewage pipes running from the treatment tank location to the first bamboo plantation (acting as a green filter) to remove and filter the treatment solution.

**Team:** Green Garden



Digging is adjusted to achieve the necessary incline for the effective evacuation of the treatment tank effluent.



After the digging, the rope can be positioned to trace the layout of the pipes. The girls manage this activity; Annie, Nica and Sandra have their patience tested!



Jerime, Peter, Benjie and their trainer cut the first pipe! The first one is always stressful... but they keep smiling. Angela from the Green Program is here to observe.



Marcelo (Green Garden) finalizes the plumbing installation prior to ... the waterproofing test!



Installing the blue net to indicate the presence of sewage pipes in case of future digging in the same area.

## Metal grids

Objectives : to install and level the 14 pre-built metal grids on the side of the building to make the walls.  
Team : Eco-construction

Installing the first metal grid for Jonathan and his Eco-construction team, following the instructions and advice of their Coach, Loïc.



The first test completed, time to do it themselves: here, Jonathan installs the grids, assisted by his trainer, Raymond.



Many level controls and numerous adjustments later, the 14 metal grids are fixed!



Time to mark the grids with lettering in black paint, and to prepare the installation of the next grids on the shorter sides. Jonathan is already on it!



Installing the coco lumber scaffolding necessary to make the trusses. The Youth are guided by their local trainers.



Cutting the wooden posts to fit them to the trusses and achieve reliable structural strength. David is learning from the carpentry experience of his trainer, Adriano.



Jonathan and David work side by side with trainers Dimitrio and Adriano to fix the trusses on the posts

## Roofing

**Objectives :** to cut, install and level the wooden structure (trusses, purlins, ...) on the vertical posts, according to the plans, resulting in a building capable of withstanding the heaviest typhoons of Philippines!

**Team :** Eco-construction



The trusses of the lower roof are done. Those for the 2 upper roofs are going on, as well as the first purlins (horizontal beams running the length of the roof).



## The LPC is moving

The Green Village offers endless learning opportunities... and of course we take advantage of every single one of them! Which is why, starting in September, the Youth of the ex-Green Program (who were previously managing the Healthy Corner activity twice a week in partner companies in Manila) are transitioning to become ... the third team of Youth 100% involved in the Green Village project! They will take responsibility for the interior of all the buildings: furniture, electrical installation and decoration.

But, that's not all. On September 10th we were delighted to introduce a "pinoy" touch to our Calauan Center, in the shape of Lanivie, our new Coach accompanying the 15 Youth of the Eco-construction program. Loïc, the former Eco-construction coach, has become the project's Technical Expert, thanks to his experience in bamboo construction acquired over the past 2 years.

Coach Lanivie giving guidance to her new team at Eco-construction.



David, (Eco-construction senior), shows Mary-Dhel and Mary-Ann (Green Program) how to make a hole in the bamboo using a wood chisel.



Joel, from Green Program, a fast learner!



Meanwhile, the senior Youth of Green Program and their coach, Theodora, are in the Entrepreneurs' House in Manila, training the new team.



Judith, on the rooftop of the Entrepreneurs' House in Manila, 18 years old and overjoyed to be a regular employee at MicroSourcing. Congrats!!

## It made our month !

Do you remember Judith and Nickson from the Green Program, who successfully applied for 3-month internships at MicroSourcing? And do you remember Brian's delight when he got his 3-week internship in the Gastropub Samuel's Plate in San Pablo? And Shera who was offered a 2-week internship in Saty Agraha in Los Baños as HR assistant?

Well, we are thrilled to announce that they have all found work! Nickson got an extension of 2 months, while Judith has already signed her regular contract at MicroSourcing, both of them having successfully demonstrated that out-of-school Youth can be professional, skilled and motivated despite not having a College degree! Brian had his first ever interview, applying to Sodexo for a position as an Assistant Cook in Manila, and is now just waiting to start! But that's not all, Shera from Green Garden persevered, and after 4 interviews has been offered a job at Sodexo's Head Office of Sodexo where she will be a receptionist.



Shera, Brian and Michael and other candidates during their first interview in Manila.



Waiting for their first day of work, Shera and Michael, the latest batch of entrepreneurs, come back to the center to teach the new managers of their Green Garden team how to create their professional email address.



Talking about Young Entrepreneurs: on September 25th Jomer (Treasurer of the Star Club Calauan), Charm (President of the Star Club Calauan) and Antonino (Vice-President of the Star Club Calauan) attended the Star Club meeting in the Entrepreneurs' House to define the objectives of the coming year.

# In short...

What has been completed? Everything in **green**.

What is on-going ? Look for the **orange** elements.

Which buildings are temporary or prototypes ? Check out the key.



# The Youth are our Future, Let's Work with Them !



[www.fb.com/lifeproject.foryouth](http://www.fb.com/lifeproject.foryouth)



[www.lp4y.org](http://www.lp4y.org)

The *Green Village* project is a unique project in LP4Y. It is especially supported by Coopération Humanitaire Luxembourg (CHL) providing financial support and an evaluation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Luxembourg (MAE) through a three-year partnership agreement raising 2/3 of the budget. Others numerous organizations and partner companies support us through financial or material donations as EDF Energies Nouvelles, Degroof Petercam Luxembourg, Philippines Luxembourg Society, Capgemini, Apprentis d'Auteuil, Bureau of Plants and Industry, Society for Conservation of Philippines Wetlands, Société Européenne de Satellite (SES) Luxembourg. This project counts also unvaluable local partners bringing technical consultancy and general punctual or continuous supports as the Municipality of Calauan, Aaron Lecciones Architects, Forest Products Research and Development Institute, Deutsche Bank Manila, University of Philippines in Los Banos through the Civil Engineering Department, Laguna Water District, Water Agroforestry Nutrition and Development Foundation, Balik Probinsiya, Solutions, Bambooroo, Habitat for Humanity Foundation Philippines.

**To make a difference with the Young Adults from LP4Y, please contact us at [info@lp4y.org](mailto:info@lp4y.org)**