



BAMBOO GLOCAL VILLAGE

Year 2 Report

Bamboo Module-making Towards Redefining
The Value of Traditional Lifestyles in Rural
Japan, Myanmar and the Philippines
Hriphi Village (Myanmar)
April 17-28, 2018

SHORT BACKGROUNDER:

EDAYA Cordillera, following the relative success the initial proposed project with Toyota Foundation entitled Bamboo Module-making Towards Redefining the Values of Traditional Lifestyles Between the Rural Japan and the Philippines, also dubbed as the Bamboo Glocal Village (BGV), again submitted a supplement proposal from which they the team received additional funding to assist the extension and “expansion” of the project in scope. Bamboo Glocal Village Year 2 sees the addition of Myanmar as another target area and the elaboration in the workshop outputs. So the team was no longer focused on developing the module alone but also prototyping in both in Japan and Myanmar. Note that prototyping in the Philippines was one of the goals of the Bamboo Glocal Village Part 1 (see next sections for brief description of the outputs of the first Bamboo Glocal Village). The team then came together again in Myanmar on April 17-18, 2018 (over a month after the Tosayama workshop) to conduct a similar workshop prototyping. This report aims to provide a chronology of the activities the BGV team did in Myanmar.

TEAM MEMBERS:

PHILIPPINES:	JAPAN:	MYANMAR:
Edgar Balansi Banasan Raffy Kapuno Wryneth Gay G. Mayapit Johnny Bassett*	Ayaka Yamashita Kan Yamamoto Wakana Fukuda Mika Mukai Miho Nishiyama**	Anna Biak Tha Mawi Salai Ngun Za Hmung Cracy Than

*Johnny is a film-maker from the US who is a volunteer of EDAYA and as tasked as the official videographer for the Tosayama and Myanmar prototyping.

**Miho is an official member of the team from year 1 but due to other circumstances beyond the team's control, she won't be joining everybody for the Myanmar leg. Mika took the place of Miho and will also be the one joining the September event in the Philippines.

RECAP:

Here's a roll of the outputs, according to year, the Bamboo Glocal Village team had produced so far.

BAMBOO GLOCAL VILLAGE YEAR 1 OUTPUTS:

1. Module

Because it is the primary goal of this workshop to produce a module that is adaptable to various communities in Southeast Asia, one of the major focus during the first part of the Bamboo Glocal Village was the crafting of a module based on community research conducted both in Tosayama and Magsilay, Kalinga Philippines. In a nutshell, the module aims to encourage the communities to create miniature houses (using bamboo as main material and other natural and found objects) which would mirror the marriage of traditional and modern designs/techniques. This does not only aim to provide an avenue by which the participants can learn about their local bamboo culture but it also supplied a challenge for creative and innovative creation. The module was still not considered final after the first Tosayama convergence but it served as the guidelines for the next step which was the prototyping in the Philippines. The module was then continuously developed according to results and observation during the prototyping stages and the outputs from the community people (especially the participants). *Note that the module has been re-developed in Myanmar as you will see in the sections that follow.*

**Copy of the latest version of the prototype will be made available in the Bamboo Glocal Village website.*

2. Prototyping in the Philippines

The first prototype of the project was conducted in Magsilay, Kalinga, a village found in the Cordillera region of Northern Philippines. It was a one-day activity attended by both local elders and young people who worked together in groups to produce their own version of bamboo miniature house.

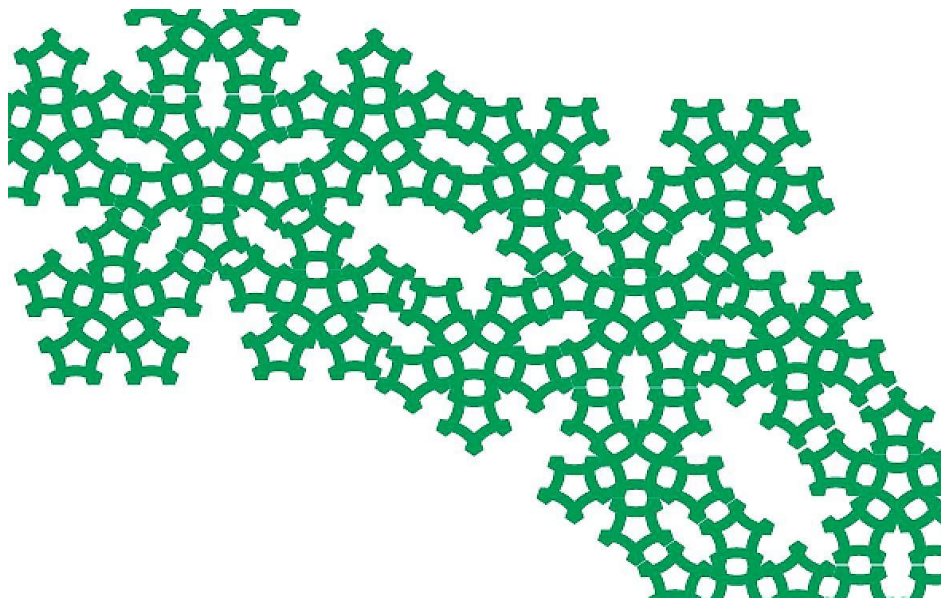
**Please check organizer's report for more details regarding the prototyping workshop. Organizer's report can also be found on the website.*

3. Logo



A logo representing all the values this project wants to implement has also been carefully thought of. The logo represents the characteristics of bamboo, bamboo houses, the Bamboo Glocal Village

and the members of the Bamboo Web (see below) which revolves around resiliency, vitality, strong foundation and structure, as well as flexibility. It also gives out a comfortable invitation that would remind one of home. Additionally, this also symbolizes the wider network or connections the team is trying to create (as depicted in the image below).



4. Website

One of the physical outputs of the Bamboo Glocal Village Year 1 is the creation and release of the website that provides easy access to all the information regarding the Bamboo Glocal Village as well as compiles photos and footage of the workshops conducted as part of the project. The website also aims to provide the mapping of various related workshops conducted in different communities which is now the first step to the creation of the Bamboo Web (a network of Bamboo Glocal Village “practitioners”) which will then also lead to the sparking up of international events bringing the members of the network together.

Follow this link to the Bamboo Glocal Village website:
<https://www.bambooglobalvillage.net/>.

5. Video

A video that shows snippets of the workshop in Magsilay, Kalinga as well as portions of the interview of the founders of EDAYA Cordillera explaining about their passion and stories which inspired the creation of this module is also released. This will also be available for viewing in the website later.

Meanwhile, please follow this link to see the video:
<https://vimeo.com/239298970/c44b0af1a3>.

BAMBOO GLOCAL VILLAGE YEAR II

Tosayama Workshop

Bambooo Glocal Village year 2 was kick started by a Bamboo Glocal Village workshop at Tosayama Academy with the theme creating a bamboo house “100 years from now”. Our team members from Japan are the fore runners of the workshop. We were joined by a few community members, 2 university students and kids. It was admittedly tough organizing the workshop in Tosayama as people are busy in their own respective routines as well as the fact that according to our members from Japan, there is not much bamboo culture existing in the community; so that motivating the people has been a

struggle. The team members from Philippines and Myanmar also joined as participants forming one group to give our members from Myanmar a hands-on experience since Tosayama workshop was the first one they attended (and they were the ones organizing the Myanmar leg). The outputs of the workshop all turned out to be interesting. *(Please find organizer's report for more details.)* Apart from conducting the workshop, we also got the chance to somehow finalize the module itself, and lay some of the ground works for the Myanmar workshop.



Highlights of the Bamboo Glocal Village workshop in Tosayama. Orientation, Planning and conceptualizing, collecting of materials, building, output presentations and of course, picture taking.

MYANMAR WORKSHOP LEG HIGHLIGHTS

Visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda

Our visit to Myanmar started with a bit of cultural exposure in Yangon so we could all get a sense of what the capital feels like. Except for Ayaka Yamashita and Edgar Banasan who spent a month in Myanmar doing research, it was everybody's first time to visit the country. On a hot Yangon day, we were treated to a walk around the Shwedagon Pagoda where we got the chance to hear interesting stories about what can be seen inside the Pagoda as well as it gave us an idea of the spiritual characteristic of the area. Along the way, we've seen a lot of other pagodas. The Myanmar team brought us to the biggest in the area. We got to experience ourselves a kind of culture that they offer which they believed to bring good luck. Scattered around the pagoda are various stations each symbolizing one day of the week. One gets to know which station he/she should go based on the day of the week he/she is born. Each station has religious and animal statues that correspond to different symbolisms. People go to their stations, and pour water over the statues while saying their prayers discreetly. This is something that many people regard sacred. Each of the team members tried their stations.



Left photo: the main pagoda. Locals say that a diamond the size of an egg is secured at the top-most part of the pagoda. Right photo: the Saturday corner. Pouring water over the golden statues for luck.

Consultation with Sunflower Studio's Phyu Ei Thein



Apart from the consultation, the male members of our team got a tutorial from Phyu Ei's father on the art of wearing longyi (lon-jee) which is a daily attire to the people of Myanmar

Phyu Ei Thein, founder of Sunflower's Studio (has been working with community people for a long time, doing traditional weaving and dying), is a consultant of the Bamboo Glocal Village project in Myanmar, and it was imperative that we visit her to ask about how we can better bring in the workshop to the community. After a brief individual introduction, Phyu Ei started by giving everybody a background of what she's doing, how she's doing it, why she's doing what she does and the impact she has created so far. Listening to the stories she shared has been interesting. More importantly, she asked us about the Bamboo Glocal Village

project. She asked about the community where we are doing the workshop. She said one very important thing to consider is how we get to approach the villagers and the kind of impression we wanted to create, or if they are interested in this kind of workshop. Our members from Myanmar explained the situation in our chosen community to Phyu Ei. She gave sensible ideas on how we can better approach the villagers and introduce the workshop. Considering that we are the first group of foreigners to visit the village and conduct this kind of activity, it was important to understand what the villagers are really expecting from the start.

Visit to Bago plus Team Catch-up, Planning and Finalization of Hriphi Village Workshop

Our next day was a visit to Bago, the site of NOOR, an educational organization founded by one of our members from Myanmar, which aims to teach kids English language. Before going to the school, we had the chance to visit a pagoda, the site of one of the huge reclining Buddhas in Bago. We also had an appointment to visit a local wood furniture manufacturing industry

that creates tables, stools, and other daily wares which are being sold in the local market and even abroad. We observed how they craft each item according to specific standards. The workers also enthusiastically told us how they manage to get those huge trees that they use in creating the products.



Left most photo: a type of wood that they use to craft, center: the supervisor explaining some process, right: the reclining Buddha

After lunch, we then proceeded to NOOR where we did our team meeting, planning and brushing up of the workshop to be conducted in Hriphi Village. The unbearable hot weather was draining everybody's energy but each of us tried to contribute as much as we did. We were able to talk about the video which will be produced, talk about a short website description for the Bamboo Glocal Village as well as consider the mission and vision statements of the workshop. By the end of the day, we were able to come up with draft statements basing from what we've already created in Japan. We also did a re-evaluation of the specifics of the workshop.



Team huddle at NOOR. Finalizing information for the workshop.

Hakha City immersion tour

The next day, we all embarked on a 26-hour bus ride to Hakha City in Chin State which is our entry point to Hriphi Village. It was a long, hot, tedious bus ride which made everybody thankful for the occasional short stops and the little treats they gave on the bus (there was even a raffle draw). We arrived morning of the next day and we all went to breakfast. Shortly after, a community guide, together with one of the members from our Myanmar team brought us to a tour around the city. We first went to a mini local community museum situated in what used to be a chieftain's house but which has been purchased and currently managed by the church. We were told about the practices during ritual performances, traditional marriages, and the likes in the community. We also got to see some artifacts which range from daily household items to hunting gears.



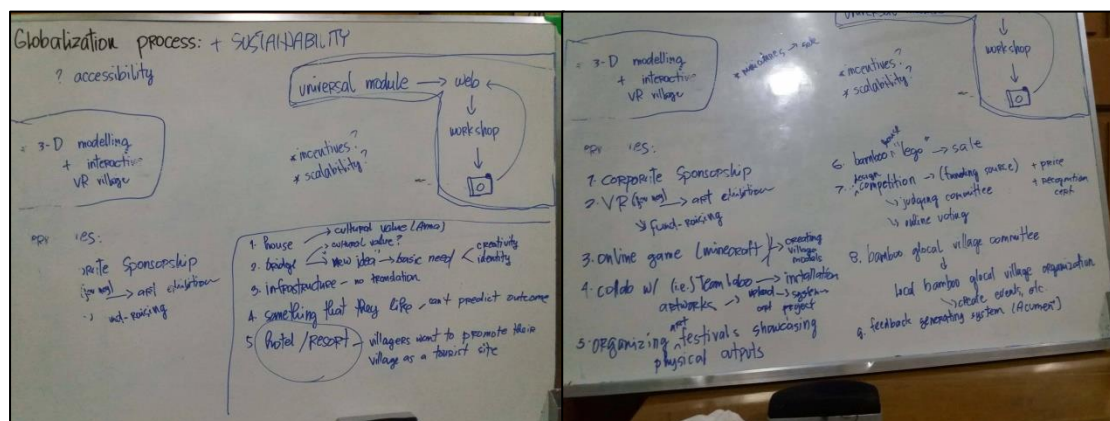
Highlights of Hakha City: Chieftain's house turned into a museum, the local market, the church museum and the panoramic view of the entire city.

We also visited the local market where the people buy their daily food. We learned that the supplies being sold in the local market are being sourced from other communities which are (in average) 6-7 hours away from Hakha.

Thus, it was understandable that fresh supplies don't come in every day. After we bought the needed supplies for our stay in the community, we went to the Baptist church and the church museum and where we heard stories of missionary adventures in the community and a bit of the history of missionary stay in the community (Hakha is a strongly religious community, together with Hriphi which we already know from orientation). Finally, the immersion/tour was concluded by visiting the highest point in the city, famous for the viewpoint gives offers a panoramic feast of the entire city.

Visit to Aidi Weaving plus Final team pre-workshop meeting

The team also visited the weaving house of one of our members from Myanmar who founded Aidi weaving, a producer of high-end woven traditional attires. After a short rest, the team launched to finalize what was left of the module (especially the scheme) and pattern it in such a way that it maximizes impact as well as offer a greater motivation for both the organizers and participants. So part of the discussion included re-evaluating the results of the workshops we conducted in both Magsilay, Kalinga (Philippines) and Tosayama (Japan). We talked about what brought the success of the workshop, or the struggles faced before, during and after workshop (which essentially includes what would motivate the participants to attend such workshop and what will happen to the physical outputs thereafter). We also talked about how to really globalize this project and get everyone interested to the Bamboo Glocal Village. That's when the team brainstormed various options for the overall scheme of the project. These included creating an



Some notes during the team pre-workshop meeting. Trying to decide how to globalize the project while keeping it sustainable.

interactive 3D/4D virtual reality community which anybody can play with; or creating a 3D model of the houses and putting them as items in a game patterned after minecraft where individuals can create their own online community (using the 3D models) and interact with their neighbors in the online community (kind of like sims). Various other exciting options were added and the discussion extended until the guesthouse, where we also talked about the incentives of the community or participants in the global context. There were suggestions like opening annual international Bamboo Glocal Village competitions or annual BGV fairs. (See notes of discussion in the photos). But more importantly, the team also decided, after careful consideration of the inputs from our members from Myanmar, to try out a new theme which is creating a hotel/resort because accordingly, it is something that the community will be excited upon. It was also during this meeting that we decided to first play with the series of ideas suggested then we will come back to them at after the workshop.

Consultation with the council of leaders at Hriphi Village

In an unfortunate turn of events, when we were packing up the van we rented in Hakha to take the 4/5-hour journey to Hriphi village, our team received a call that an important community elder who is the wife of a deceased and well-respected leader died just that morning. It was a sad news and we were worried we might be intruding. But the community assured us that they still will wait for us and that



Some community members during the consultation meeting.

they will do their best to keep things smooth. When we arrived in Hriphi, everybody met us with outstretched hand and greeted us with big smiles and warm handshakes. It was a very welcoming feeling. We were then led to one of the hosts where we held the consultations with the council of leaders from the community. During the consultation, we introduced about the workshop in detail asked for the council's advice considering what is going on in the community. They gave us an overview of the rituals or practices they needed

to perform surrounding the death of a community member. Starting that night, the community people would be spending every night in the house of the grieving family so it was important to consider that situation. It became clear then that the team is going to follow whatever the community decides. Our original plan was to start the workshop morning of the next day but the burial was scheduled at the same time so we had to adjust the schedule a bit.



A look at Hriphi Village and receiving a warm welcome from the community people accompanied by a community tour.

We have also been invited to show up at the house of the family of the deceased so we could also meet the community people and observe what is going on. The community people informed us that in the morning, the elder who died seemed so fine and she was one of those who are looking forward to meet us the most. Sadly, she was not able to talk to us. We spent about half an hour before we went back to our homestay and finalized the schedule.

Miepi Mountain hike

In lieu of the change of schedule, the community arranged young people to bring us to Miepi mountain, the local hiking site that they are promoting as a tourist attraction site. Since this has been pre-arranged and the community people were strongly encouraging us to go, we decided to divide the team. Those who will join the hike and those who will stay to do the final preparation



A view from the mountain, overlooking the Myanmar-India border.

(primarily, translating documents and making of small tokens) for the workshop which will start that afternoon. So the Meipi mountain team went on to the hike and came back in time for lunch. After lunch, we all convened to the venue of the workshop (which has also been changed from the community center to the house of the family of the deceased).

Glocal Bamboo Village workshop part 1: Orientation and consultation

The first part of the Bamboo Glocal Village in Hriphi Village consisted mainly of individual introduction from the team, explanation of the workshop, goals and objectives as well as brief special sharing from each country representative about the use of bamboo in the community. Volunteers from the community people were then asked to share their knowledge regarding the use of bamboo in the community. They also openly expressed their expectations. One said that with open honesty that initially, when they were informed that Japanese people were coming, he initially thought that the team was bringing financial aid to the community, but after hearing about the workshop, he realized that this it was a better option for them. Then, the Japan team talked about how bamboo is being utilized in their community from household items such as chopsticks and tea “stirrer” to celebratory decorations and soba noodle slider. A representative from the Philippines gave a demonstration on how bamboo can be made into musical instruments and how they are played. Then he also demonstrated how to make simple

bamboo chopsticks and how it is used. In the end, the participants were invited to experience bamboo cutting and instrument-playing.



Participants enjoyed sharing memories of their bamboo culture to everyone gathered during the workshop proper.

Welcome Party and Cultural Exchange

The night after the part 1 of the BGV workshop in Hriphi, the community did the welcome party and cultural exchange on the same venue as the workshop. Nobody wanted to cancel the activity so we decided to push through. However, we had to wait for the prayer service to finish. So we had a late start. It was a very simple party. We started with each country performance. The Japan team performed a traditional community dance and urged the community to dance with them. Johnny performed traditional Scottish bagpipe song and Amazing Grace and the people all stood up and sang the Chin version of the song while Johnny was playing the bagpipe. The Philippine team demonstrated musical instruments, sang a traditional song, and performed traditional courtship dance and invited the some young people to try afterwards. Finally, the community people had their own slot to perform a traditional song and dance number which we also participated as a team. It had been a great night.

Bamboo Glocal Village workshop part 2: Planning and Building

The second part of the BGV workshop started the next day. As we are supposed to leave the community afternoon of the same day, we have at most until 1 pm for the workshop. Participants (who came from all ages) were then divided into groups, instructions were given in the local language, workshop and presentation guides were provided, materials have already been prepared the day before, and everybody seems very much ready to start. All the groups chose their respective working areas and went on to conceptualize and plan their hotel/resort. Japan and Philippine members also came together to form one team with the idea that we can introduce new concepts to them. Thus, the building of the bamboo hotels/resorts started in full swing. Everybody was so engrossed in what they were, that everybody willingly sacrificed lunch time so they could all at least almost finish the outputs in time for the presentation. All the “hotels/resorts” turned out nicely. Each group were then given the chance to briefly explain the features of their outputs, including the inspiration behind these models. Of course, our team also had time to explain and introduce possibilities that could potentially improve their communities. What was heartwarming but also a bit worrisome is that the community members somehow implied that they wanted to depend on the team to help them develop their community. They even referred to the team as the “drivers for change”. It was an honor to be considered as such but we were careful to remind them that while want to be of help for them, it was important that they understand that they should be the fore runners of change and development in their own community. It is already enough for us to be instrumental in bringing the community together.



Community members and workshop participants bringing in bamboos for the workshop which has been prepared the day



Some serious discussion happening here during the planning and conceptualization.



Building of the miniature bamboo community hotels.



Presentation of outputs.

**Please see organizer's report for more information.*

Team Assessment and Bamboo Glocal Village Module finalization

After the workshop in Hriphi Village, we again took the van to Hakha and the next morning, boarded the bus for another 26-hour bus ride back to Yangon. After arriving in Yangon, we were given the time to freshen up a bit and then everybody went to the meeting venue. The assessment took us about 8 hours

discussing feedbacks for the workshop, both from the community and from the team. We also finalized two things about the module which has been a topic of our discussion for the longest time – the theme and the workshop purpose. And finally, we were also able to brush up on small matters. Below is a quick summary of what was discussed during the assessment.

Feedbacks:

FROM THE COMMUNITY

The feedbacks from the community as mentioned by the Myanmar team members was that, in general, they have thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. They were very adamant to express how sorry they are that a funeral had to happen the time we were there which made it much more hard to gather people to participate. But they said, it was a great workshop. At first, admittedly, what motivated the most was not the workshop itself but the prospect of having a group of foreigners from three countries in the community for the first time. That seemed so exciting for them. They wanted to see how different our group looked and when they realized we basically look like them, they settled down. Also, initially, it was hard for them to understand the goal of the workshop because it was also the first time something like this happened. They wondered why do they have to cut bamboo, and make the hotel. Throughout the course of the activity however, they started getting bits of ideas where this was going. And in the end, they were thankful that they joined the workshop.

FROM THE TEAM:

It was a little hard for the team to make constructive review of the workshop in Myanmar because except for the Myanmar team members, the others had not personally talked to the community people and the participants. We were all relying on the translation so while we're getting a sense of what's going on, it was for the most part hard to really understand what's in the minds of the participants. Each of us wanted to deeply know more about their motivations, the impact of the workshop, and the likes but because of language barrier, we couldn't do much. But the team got the sense that the participants had a great time taking part in the workshop. And also, they enjoyed going back to their memories of anything that included bamboo. And one thing that they did

want us to know is that the trying on the bamboo musical instruments made them remember their own instruments which have been forgotten.

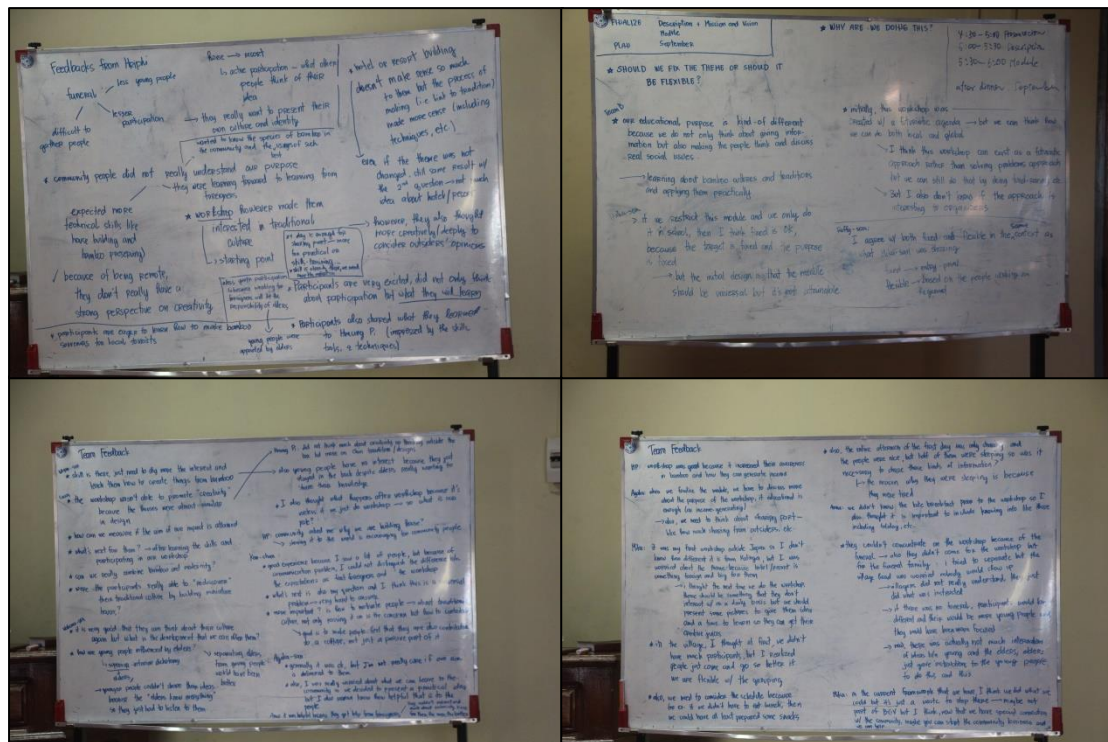
What the team wondered more however was if we were able to satisfy their expectations and how much impact we were able to deliver. That is something that each of us wish to see. But apart from all this, the workshop was a success.

From our discussion, we settled on identifying the final options for these two things:

Theme: we decided to stick with bamboo miniature houses despite suggestions of creating daily life items and other things out of bamboo (like miniature bicycles or cars and miniature bridge). This is because the house is something that is symbolic, cultural, personal and easily accessible for everybody.

Purpose of the workshop: because it came out during the discussion whether this workshop could turn out into something that is income-generating for the community, the team decided that on our part, this workshop module is designed for **educational purposes**. Localization process can give the leeway for the organizers to think beyond this.

We also decided that we would like to primarily focus on schools as our main target, although we maintain that this workshop is open. But we thought that for us to achieve our goals more efficiently, it is important to identify such target. This means then that schools will be the ones organizing BGV workshop for their students and then they can opt to invite the community people to take part in the activity. These are after careful consideration of matters like financial, time and effort spent by the organizer, organizing and bringing participants, venue concerns and the likes. We thought that it would be more convenient for schools to facilitate this. And we were inspired by one of the teachers we met in the village who said that one of his realizations is that the way they always teach in school is through lectures. If he could introduce an interactive activity like this, it would make learning much more fun and engaging.



Some notes during the assessment meeting with the team.

Glocal Bamboo Village II Additional Outputs

Workshop and Presentation Guide

The workshop and presentation guide is something that the team came up with during the workshop in Tosayama. This was meant to make the workshop more convenient and to provide a guide to the participants about the aspects that they should consider. This is easily adaptable, and can be translated, or reworded to best fit each community. The guide contains the major things deemed most important by the team.

Organizer's Report Format

It has also been decided that after each workshop, organizers are to submit completed report to the BGC website so it becomes available for everybody as benchmarks. The format for the report has also been created and simplified such that it is easy for the organizer to create the report..

**Please see attached file*

Glocal Bamboo Village Vision-Mission Statement

The team has also finalized the vision-mission statement of the Bamboo Glocal Village which will be posted on the website. The statement simplifies what this workshop aims to achieve, and the kind of impact we want to create.

“Bamboo Glocal Village is a workshop module that motivates participants to rediscover their culture and encourage innovation by creating miniature bamboo works for our virtual community that brings together different bamboo cultures from all over the world.”

WHAT'S NEXT?

Philippine September event! On the ropes.

