



PROGRESS REPORT

January 28, 2014

Part 1:

REHABILITATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS

Unfortunately, the recently restored internet access in Samar is very weak and does not allow the transmission of weekly reports with graphs and photos. My short stay in Cebu is a good opportunity to send updates on our latest activities.

Out of the 20 school complexes that we chose for rehabilitation we have started 10! We are working in two teams:



Engr. Glenn

and



Engr. Ruel

are in charge of the central schools of Mercedes and Guiuan, whereas



Engr. Boy

and



Engr. Carlo

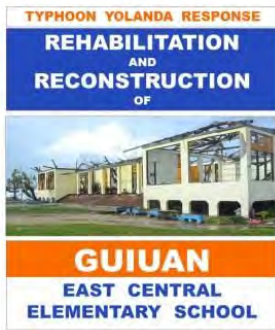
and



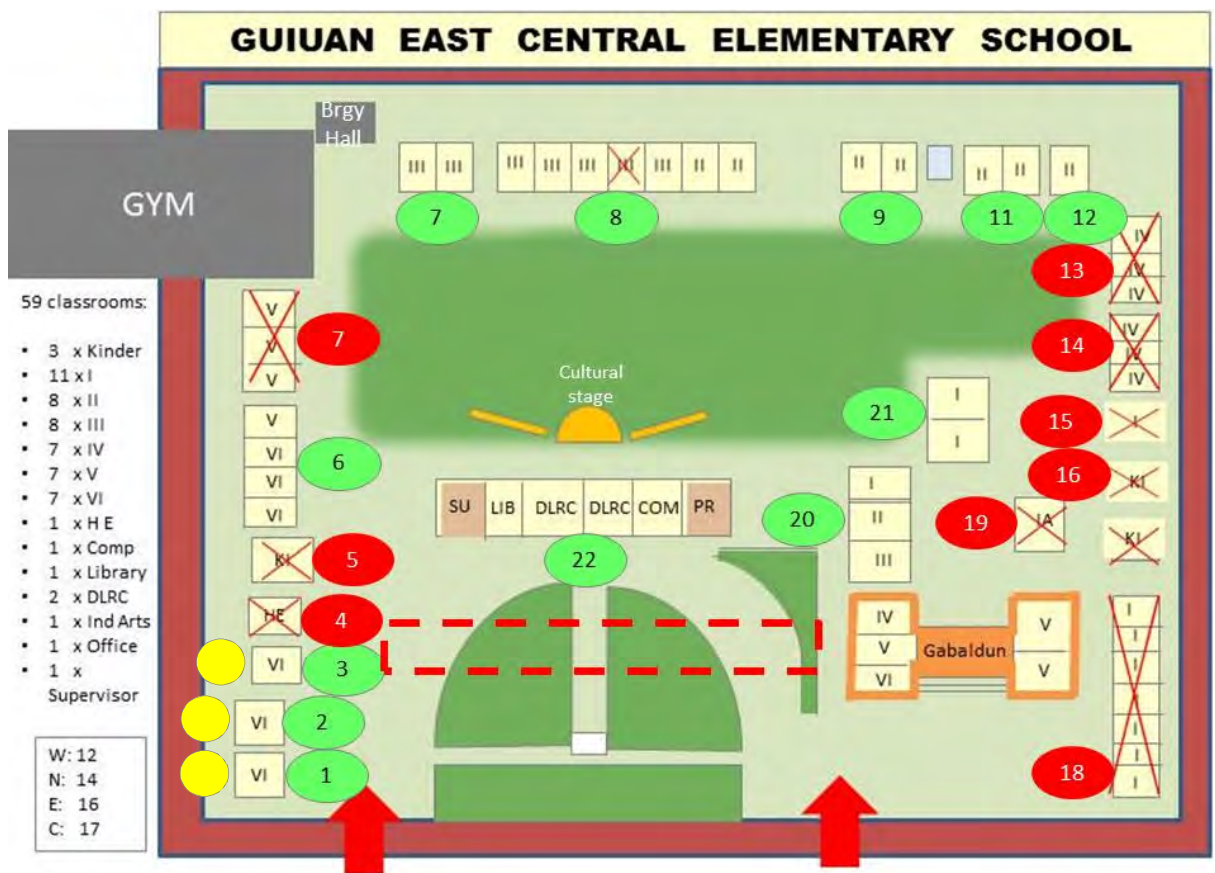
Engr. Niño

take care of the 18 schools in Salcedo Municipality.

1) GUIUAN EAST CENTRAL SCHOOL



All 12 buildings to be repaired are old and of poor standard. The DepED (Department of Education) in Borongan, the capital of East Samar, therefore raised the point of allocating the repair fund for the construction of new buildings instead. AMURT discussed this view with the principal and the district supervisor who pleaded for sticking to the original plan as the budget for 30 repaired classrooms (green circles) would only accommodate 9 new classrooms (in addition to the 21 to be rebuilt classrooms! (red circles))!



For the last 10 days we have resumed the repair of roof trusses on buildings number 1, 2 and 3. (yellow circles). The workers are up on the roof despite torrential rains which have continued for the last 3 weeks! Buildings 20 and 21 have already been prepared to receive a new roof!

AMURT decided to hire local artisans and unskilled laborers and provide the necessary tools instead of handing the project over to a contractor. The benefits are twofold: Education project plus Livelihood at the same time!

On January 17, 2014 the Minister of Education of the Republic of the Philippines, Armin Luistro, visited the disaster area. KNH / AMURT was the only organization that was introduced to him. It is worth mentioning that KNH / AMURT is the only player in the Education Cluster providing permanent repair and permanent new structures. This unique contribution was the more appreciated as by the time of his visit, the mounted tarpaulin sheets and temporary tent structures provided by other INGOs were mostly torn or had collapsed due to the extreme weather conditions! After visiting the 3 central AMURT schools in Guian, Mercedes and Salcedo, the minister returned to Manila. Our AMURT staff was very proud how much attention they got from him. The Minister told them during a 1 hours' stay in Mercedes and a 45 minutes stay in Salcedo that he was impressed with their speed, their careful planning and their implementation. Upon his return to Manila, Mr. Luistro intervened at the DNR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to help AMURT source good timber and issue a nation-wide transport allowance.



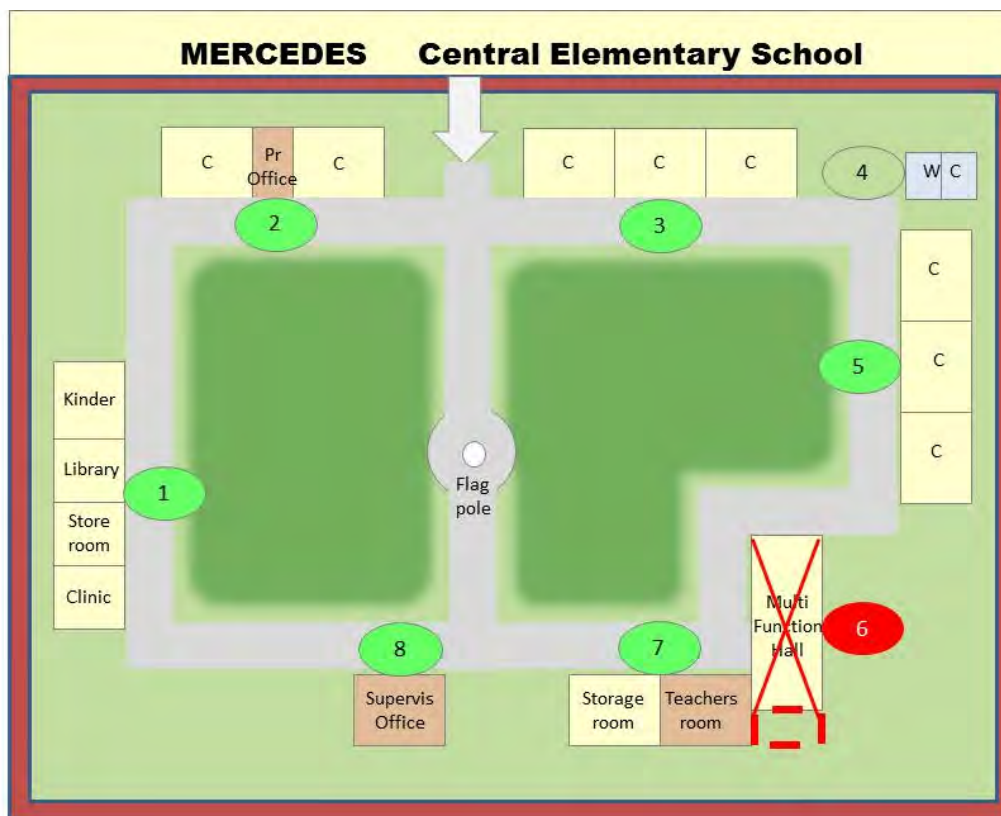
We have started the planning of the location and the type of new structure. We are thinking of a modern 3-storey building which would be appropriate for a big city.



2) MERCEDES CENTRAL SCHOOL



The repair work which started back in December 2013 is ongoing. We have finished a completely new roof construction, ceiling and windows in building 5. Since last Monday, the 3 classrooms are being used again for classes.





(building 5)

With respect to the destroyed Multifunctional hall (building 6) a new, very economical solution was found! Instead of pulling down the entire building, we replace only the front and the back wall, extend the building to make it large enough for 2 classrooms and shift the Multifunctions to building 1 where the partitioning walls had crumbled down.



Construction work in building 6

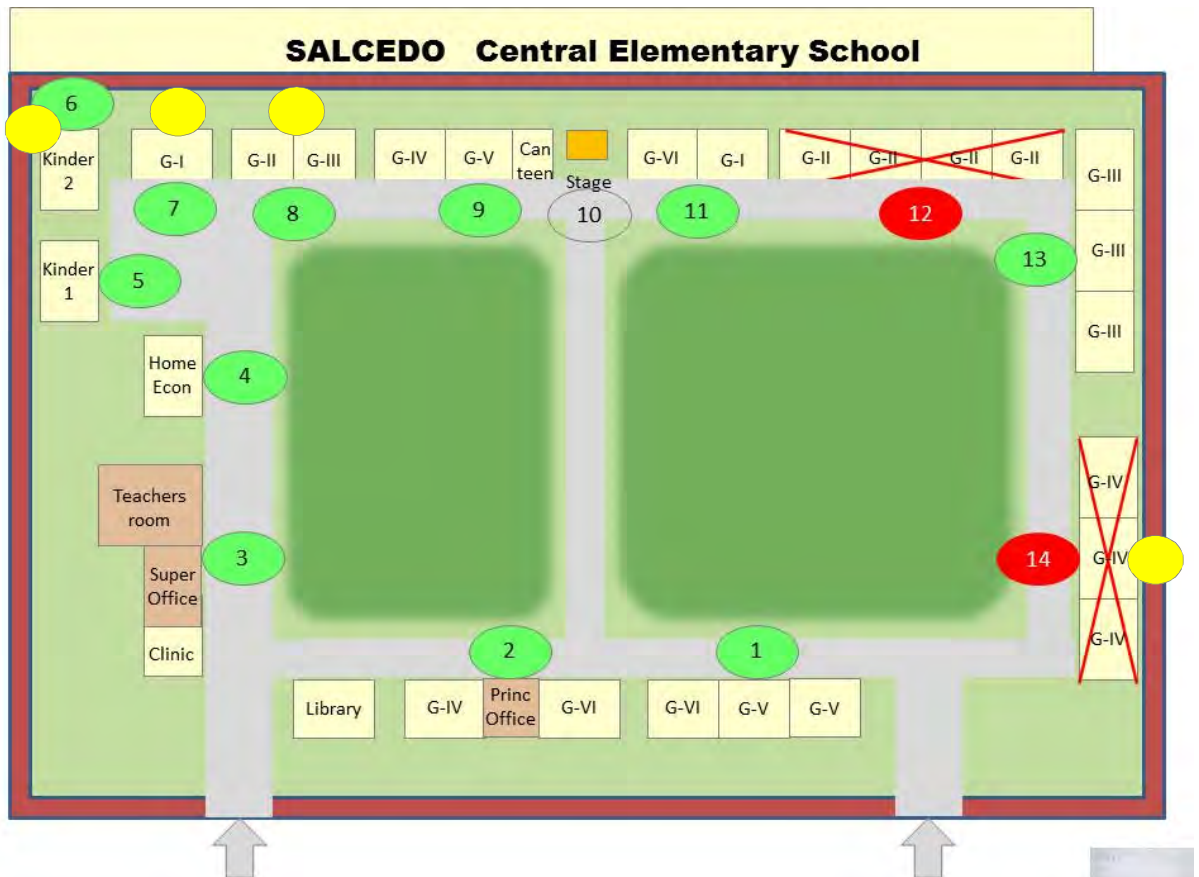
We have now 6 own production sites for CHB (concrete hollow blocks) which our masonry construction costs by 35%! The admixture of fine gravel instead of sand makes our blocks much stronger than the commercial ones.

3) SALCEDO CENTRAL SCHOOL



During the last weekend, we had to dig drainages as classrooms were flooded after torrential rains.

Building 6 received a new roof



We put up scaffolds in building 7 and in building 8 to mount the timber trusses. If the timber order is delivered in time, the 3 classrooms should be ready within 7 days.



Building 14 could not withstand the typhoon despite its steel frame. It had to be pulled down. To dismantle the steel trusses was a time-consuming undertaking! The destroyed 3 classrooms will be rebuilt along with the totally damaged 4 classrooms of building 12.

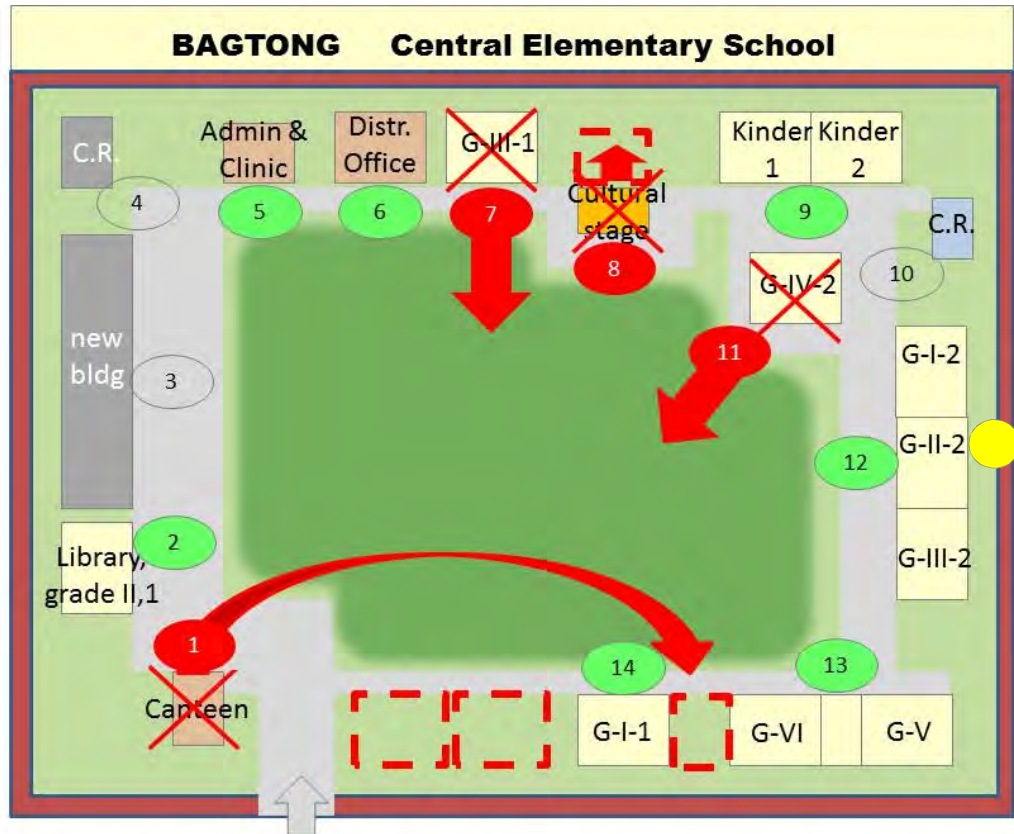
We are going to provide a new 2-storey building with the following perspective in the location of building 12:



4) BAGTONG CENTRAL SCHOOL



The Bagtong school is difficult to handle! All the temporarily repaired classrooms are needed for classes! We cannot just evacuate buildings for the final repair. The temporary tarpaulin sheets are mounted on coconut lumber which needs to be replaced by good timber.



Artisans mounting purlins on the roof of building 12. In 4 days, classes can resume in the 3 classrooms once the GI sheets and ceiling panels are done.

We will have to rebuild the classrooms of grade 3 and grade 6 (buildings 7 and 11). The design of the new structure will follow the blueprint recommended by the DepED and be located right next to the entrance gate:

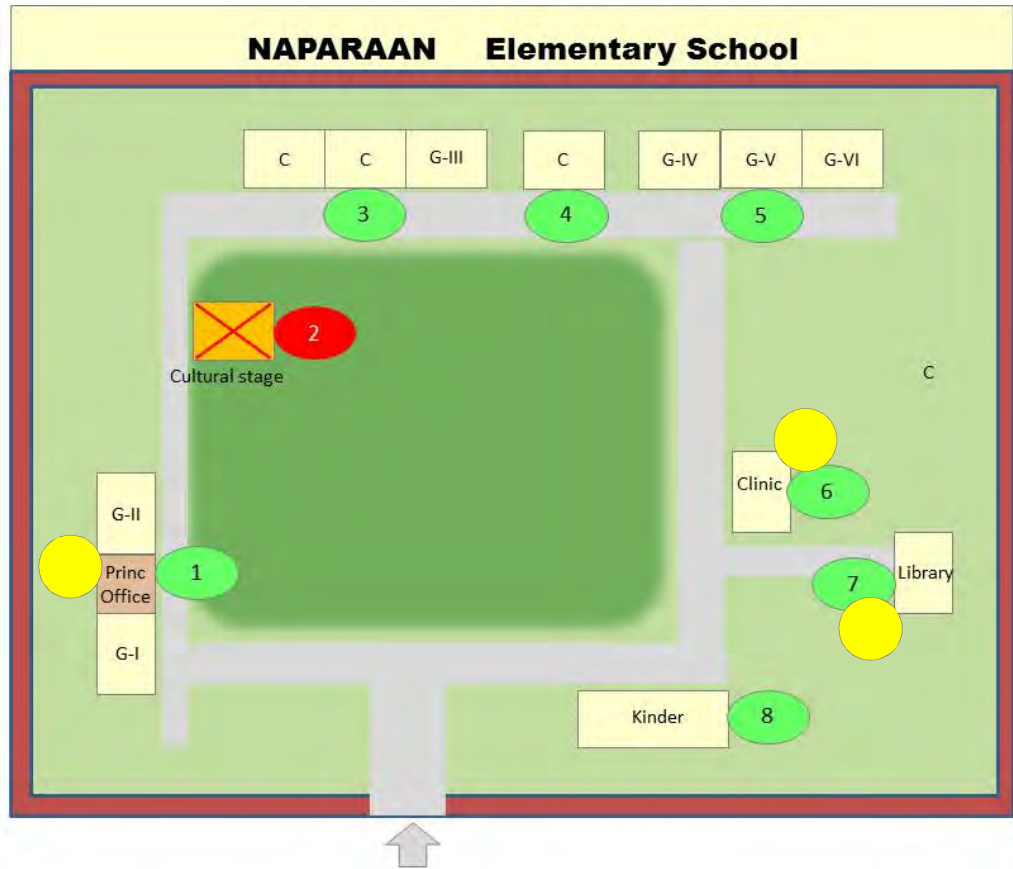


5) NAPARAAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Building 1 has been cleared and the trusses have been made ready for the roofing sheets.





The repair of the Clinic (building 6) has been completed. The building serves for the time being as classroom. We just need to fix the attached toilet cubicle which is not functional.



The roof of the Library (building 7) has been repaired . Classes have resumed.

- 6) BUABUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL started
- 7) MATARINAO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL started
- 8) COLLEGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL started

We have designed a reporting form where the progress in all school complexes and buildings is documented in percentage, but I cannot update it alone without my engineers.

Hopefully we soon have a stable internet connection that allows me to send regular narrative reports with pictures.

With best regards

Kurt

AMURT