

Possibilities and prospects

The housing industry in the Philippines collapsed when the currency crisis hit Asia in 1996, aggravated by various changes in the government's housing policies. The currency crisis is now over, but the Philippines is not recovering fast enough. The present government considers housing as a centerpiece programme, and although there is still a gap between policy and reality, things seem to be shaping up. In April of this year, the top government housing officials visited Buenavista Homes and they have agreed to scale up the project nationwide, thanks to a proposal submitted by a number of NGOs which are all members of the Network.

Now 17 social housing projects will build 3310 housing units throughout the country using sustainable building materials. Government financing institutions will provide homebuyers with financing worth around Php500 million (\$11.1 million), and the Home Guaranty Corporation will provide sovereign guarantees for Php200 million (\$4.4 million) worth of development financing.

Our Network is also organizing an Awareness Campaign, starting with a meeting in Manila to highlight the various activities of the Network to various government and donor agencies. We hope to encourage them to use these materials when they build school and other structures. This activity is part of our strategy to position our technologies in the poverty alleviation and economic pump-priming programmes of the present government in the Philippines.

The challenge

We realize that despite our successes we still have a long way to go. The users of sustainable building materials are not even a fraction of one per cent of the market.

Our Network believes that this does not have to be so. Sustainable building materials are superior to conventional materials: lower costs, more beautiful and durable, labour-intensive, and environment friendly. The problem is formidable, but certainly not impragnable.

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News from the Webmaster

GATE A.T.

We are glad to announce that we achieved nearly **16,000** visitors on our homepage during the first six months in the year 2000. When we started in 1998 with our Internet activities we were proud to welcome 4,900 visitors on our homepage during the year. In 1999 the number increased to 15,000. The most frequented pages were the **database** (26%) followed by the **news** (15%), where since this year also basinNews is available as pdf.file for download.

You also can find some of our **brochures** as html or pdf.file in the Internet under the following addresses:

Title	URL address	Size
Brick Clamps	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/brickclamps.htm	27 KB
Building with Interlocking Blocks	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/interlocking.htm	23 KB
Bulls Trench Brick Kiln	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/bull.htm	19 KB
Hoffmann Kiln	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/hoffmannkilns.htm	24 KB
The Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/vertical.htm	21 KB
The Basics of Solar Timber Drying (Spanish translation)	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/solartimberdrying.pdf	1518 KB
VSBK Newsletter 3	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/vsbk3/newsletter.zip	405 KB
Selected Bibliography on Brickmaking in Deve	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/biblio01/brickbiblio.zip	291 KB
Bibliography on Using Waste in Fired-Clay Brickmaking	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/biblio02/biblio02.zip	755 KB
Selected Bibliography on Stone as a Building Material in Developing Countries	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/biblio03/biblio03.zip	1.069 KB
Preparation of Clay for Brickmaking	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/tb11/clayprep.zip	384 KB
Drying of Clay Bricks and Tiles	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/tb12/claydrying.zip	691 KB
Firing of Clay Brick and Tiles	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/tb13/clayfiring.zip	683 KB
Using Stone for Building: Facts and Fads	http://www.gtz.de/basin/gate/tb14/stone.zip	1.047 KB
Alternatives to Portland Cement	http://www.gtz.de/basin/itdg/alternativespc.pdf	354 KB

Other interesting documents on our news page are the **seminar proceedings** of our Awareness Seminar in Jhansi; India, in November 1999 and of the Awareness Exposition on Sustainable Building Technologies in Delhi, India, at the same time.

If you have any problems with the download or it is not possible for you to access the Internet, please ask for the documents as an e-mail.

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