



March 16, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

## **The Goethe-Institut uses photography to tackle the issue of disappearing public spaces in Manila**

The Goethe-Institut – the German Cultural Center in the Philippines – sets out to address the issue of disappearing public spaces in Metro Manila with a photography fieldwork on April 12 to 18, 2015.

Facilitated by Filipino photojournalists [Veejay Villafranca](#) and [Charlie Saceda](#) together with German photographer [Thies Rätzke](#), the fieldwork aims to come up with photo stories exploring the issue of disappearing public spaces in Metro Manila due to the increasing privatization of urban places. A group of 6 photographer-participants from different parts of the Philippines will undergo the fieldwork and will also be mentored by invited photographer-lecturer [Andrew Esiebo](#) on the side. Esiebo is a renowned photographer from Lagos, Nigeria – a city which shares the problem of disappearing public spaces with Manila.

The week-long fieldwork will conclude with a presentation of the photo stories on **April 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM** in [Le Café Curieux](#), **Polaris corner Badajos St., Bel-Air Soho, Makati City**.

This project is initiated by the Goethe-Institut in the cities of Manila, Lagos and Bogotá (Columbia), where the expansion of gated communities and disappearing public spaces are a prevalent issue. Lagos and Bogotá are the next stops of Thies Rätzke who would also be doing photography fieldworks there after his stay in Manila.

The field work participants are composed of hobbyists from different fields, students, and semi-professional photographers who were part of [Goethe-Institut's climate change photography project in Tacloban](#) last year.

*Page 2: Thies Rätzke*

*Page 3: Digital Poster for April 18 event*

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A presentation of photo stories on **GATED COMMUNITIES** and **PUBLIC SPACE**



# WHAT'S PUBLIC SPACE TO YOU?

Facilitated & Curated By: **Veejay Villafranca** **Charlie Saceda** **Thies Rätze** with **Andrew Esiebo**  
Works By: **Roy Lagarde** **Eden Jhan Licayan** **Jeoffrey Maitem** **Allan Jay Quesada** **Miguel Sy MMYu**

**APRIL 18 | 7:00 PM**

**LE CAFÉ CURIEUX**

**POLARIS CORNER BADAJOS ST. BEL-AIR SOHO, MAKATI**



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