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Photographer Thies Ratzke. PHOTO FROM GOETHE-INSTITUT

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MANILA - The Goethe-Institut, or the German Cultural Center in the Philippines, seeks to address the issue of disappearing public spaces in Metro Manila with a photography field work on April 12 to 18.

Facilitated by Filipino photojournalists Veejay Villafranca and Charlie Saceda together with German photographer Thies Rätzke, the field work 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 six photographer-participants from different parts of the Philippines will undergo the field work and will also be mentored by invited photographer-lecturer Andrew Esiebo, a renowned photographer from Lagos, Nigeria, a city which shares the problem of disappearing public spaces with Manila.

The week-long field work will conclude with a presentation of the photo stories on April 18, Saturday, at 7 p.m. 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.

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