



The Crane Dog Presentation in Japan

By Maria Kanna Junio and Mary Joy E. Barcelona

For 18 years, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) utilizes theatre as a medium to reach out to people, especially the Japanese community, to communicate issues confronting the Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC). DAWN, through Teatro Akebono, has been presenting musical plays in the Philippines and in different prefectures in Japan every year for this purpose.

Theatre is a way of bridging cultural gaps between countries. It is a means of conveying messages of forging friendships and understanding. This 2015, DAWN is pleased to once again restage the musical play, *The Crane Dog*, by award-winning playwright Michiko Yamamoto, a Japanese-Filipino herself. The play is a story centered on the JFC, where a crane dog (a cross breed of a crane and a dog) searches for her estranged crane father, which she was able to unearth after her dog mother told her about her true identity. She left her family to look for her crane father, and encountered obstacles on the way to the land of her father. In the end, she was able to meet her father, and was accepted and loved.

The Crane Dog aims to open the eyes of the people, so they can fully understand the struggles and difficulties that the JFC have been facing. Most of the JFC grew up without having a father figure in their family, and this made them feel incomplete and miserable.

This is the foremost reason why they have wanted to meet their fathers, even if there are obstacles up front, just like Crane Dog.



DAWN team's arrival at Haneda Airport last 16 May 2015 (Upper row; from left to right) Maria Kanna Junio, Jemina Alnas' father, Jemina Alnas, Natsuyuki Imagawa, Carmelita Nuqui, Machida Miyuki, Akihiro Tamura, Mary Joy Barcelona and Mirriam Orig. (Lower row; from left to right) Keigo Mosatalla, Masako Ono, Yukie Ikeda, Yukune Imagawa and Sarara Imagawa.

The cast of Teatro Akebono 2015 include, Jemina Shilyn Alnas, Yukie Ikeda, Maria Kanna Junio, Keigo Mosatalla, and Masako Ono. There were acting workshops and rehearsals facilitated by the Collective Arts of Students and Thespians (CAST) of the University of Makati (UMak), spearheaded by Ronie Protacio, Artistic Director of CAST. Protacio is accompanied by David Mark Calma, Louie Miranda, and David John Reyes.

From May 16-31, 2015, the cast of *The Crane Dog*, was assisted by the DAWN Staff: Carmelita Nuqui, the Executive Director of DAWN; Mirriam Orig, Social Services Officer; and Mary Joy Barcelona, Alternative Livelihood Officer.

The DAWN group conducted a series of presentations, cultural exchanges, and discussions in universities and community centers in the different prefectures in Japan, namely: Aichi, Chiba, Kyoto, Osaka, Saitama, and Tokyo.

When the team arrived at the Haneda Airport in Tokyo on May 16, they were welcomed by the Japan team composed of: Natsuyuki Imagawa, the Director of YUMEUTA in Saitama, with his daughters Sarara and Yukune; Machida Miyuki; Akihiro Tamura, DAWN-Japan Coordinator; and Alnas' father.

For this year's tour, the team went to different prefectures by land.

After the arrival at the Haneda Airport, the group, except Alnas and Nuqui who went to Saitama with Alnas' Father, immediately headed to Kasugai. After a five-hour trip from Tokyo, the team arrived at the Kozoji Catholic Church in Aichi prefecture. They were welcomed by Fr. Tsutomu Hayakawa, a Catholic Priest, and Koushou Nakashima, who arranged the presentation and stay in Kasugai.

Teatro Akebono's first performance was at the Kozoji Catholic Church on May 17. Before the presentation, there was a mass held, which was followed by a welcome lunch for the group. Nuqui, Alnas, Imagawa, and his daughters arrived just in time for the lunch. Professor Seiko Hanochi, together with her students from Chubu University, and Filipinos with their Japanese husbands and children also gathered to watch the presentation.



At Kozoji Catholic Church, Aichi, Japan
(From left to right): Akihiro Tamura, Koushou Nakashima, Mary Joy Barcelona, Keigo Mosatalla, Kanna Junio, Prof. Seiko Hanochi, Masako Ono, Yukie Ikeda and Prof. Kinhide Mushakoji.

The audience enjoyed and were moved by the presentation. After the musical play, there were also dance performances and interaction with the people. Then, the students from Chubu University showed the team around the Rose Garden in Kasugai. Meanwhile, the team headed back to the Church to attend another mass. It was followed by a farewell dinner for the group, wherein different Japanese and Filipino dishes were served.



Farewell dinner at Kozoji Catholic Church. Japanese and Filipino dishes were prepared and served. Everyone enjoyed the sharing and the food.

On the morning of May 18, the group left for Kyoto. They were accompanied by Nakashima and Tamura. They headed to Kyoto Utano Youth Hostel, the place where they spent the night. Upon their arrival, Senna Nukata, a student of Prof. Asato Wako of the Kyoto University, welcomed them and showed them around Kyoto.

The group went to Kinkaku-ji Temple, the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto, which is one of the most famous temples in Japan. In the temple, they were also able to try different mochis, matcha tea, and rice cakes made from a sweet variety of rice. Through the exposure, the children discovered a lot about the culture and history of Kyoto. As they arrived back to the Youth Hostel, they had dinner and met Prof. Wako. He said that *The Crane Dog* performance for May 19 was published in the Kyoto newspaper, and it was the sixth most viewed.

After dinner at the Youth Hostel, they were able to watch the performance of a Maiko, an apprentice Geiko in Kyoto who does songs and dances. The group also had the chance to play the traditional Japanese darts.



DAWN team along with Akihiro Tamura, Senna Nukata and Koushou Nakashima in front of Kinkaku-ji Temple, the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto.

The following morning, the group prepared for their next performance at the Kyoto University. After some rehearsals, they had lunch with some of the students and volunteers at the university. First, there was a short discussion about DAWN, and some issues concerning JFC and Filipino workers.

This was followed by the presentation of *The Crane Dog*. There were also dance performances, and a question and answer portion where the children were asked questions about their feelings and emotions on their situation. Prof. Michiko Yoneno Reyes of the University of the Philippines (UP) Asian Center also came to see the group, watched the play and assisted in some translations. Then, the group had an early dinner at the university. They played a Filipino game called, Ice, ice water with Nukata, Tamura, and Prof. Wako. Moreover, they were also able to try double dutch, a game of two long jumping ropes.



The Crane Dog presentation at the Kyoto University with Prof. Asato Wako and his students.

Afterwards, the group left Kyoto and travelled to Osaka, where we stayed for five nights (May 19-24).

The following day, Katsumi Anno, together with the group, went to Nagayoshi High School in Osaka. The group attended a Filipino class, and met JFC studying in the school. Most of them had lived in Japan for two years or more. They narrated about their life in Japan, in comparison to their life in the Philippines. Most of them had a hard time adjusting in Japan, especially in terms of the language. Even until now, they tend to skip classes if they cannot understand the language that well. They also shared with the team their experiences of being bullied by some Japanese people because of their identity. Now, they can somehow cope with their situation. It was also a good thing that they have Japanese-Filipino friends, whom they can relate to. But at their young age, most of them are now working part-time to be able to provide for their needs



DAWN children interacted with JFC from Japan during their Filipino class in Nagayoshi High School in Osaka.

After a few hours of interaction with them, the group had to leave for a performance at the Higashi Osaka Community Center. The audience were inspired by the story, and they had fun watching it. There was even a Japanese-Chinese student who was able to relate to the story of the musical. She almost cried upon sharing her story with them; she told them how she and her mother experienced bullying by some Japanese people. Truly, the story of *The Crane Dog* is not just an issue of the JFC, but also of other dual nationalities.

The next day was a free day, and the group decided to go around Nagai. They went to a Botanical Garden, where there were several beautiful flowers and roses around. There was also a lake, which makes the place calm. They also went to Osaka Museum of National History, in which they discovered different species of different animals, plants, and other earthly things



DAWN children and staff strolling at Osaka Museum of Natural History during their free time.

On the seventh day in Japan, May 22, they had a performance at the Main Campus of the Kansai University. They were accompanied by Anno, and were welcomed by Eri Koyama and other members of the Yoshida Seminar, and Takuya Asakura, a writer at the Asahi Shinbun (newspaper).

The audience enjoyed the musical play, as they were touched by the plot. There was also a question and answer portion, followed by a song and dance performance.

After the program, the Kansai University students showed them around the campus, and later on exchanged Japanese and Filipino games.

The group witnessed rehearsals of songs and dances, and Japanese comedy in the school in preparation for the incoming college festival.



The Crane Dog presentation at the Kansai University with Kansai University-Yoshida students.

For the next morning, the group immediately prepared for the video-shoot of *The Crane Dog* at the Information Technology Department of Kansai University, Takatsuki Campus. They were welcomed by Prof. Mayumi Kubota and her students. After a few hours, they had to leave for Chiba which was about eight hours of travel. They had their stop-overs and dinner along the way. They finally arrived at the Hotel in Chiba, where they were welcomed by Naoto-san, a student at Kanda University of International Studies, Imagawa, Ayako, Sarara, and Yukune who came all the way from Saitama, and Nuqui, who took the shinkansen (bullet train) in going to Tokyo then to Chiba.



DAWN Team preparing for the video shoot by Prof. Mayumi Kubota and her students at the Information Technology Department of Kansai University.

The next day, they had a presentation at the Kanda University of International Studies. The audience were once again moved by the story of the musical play. Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Vice-President of the DAWN Board of Trustees, Prof. Chiho Ogaya, DAWN-Japan Coordinator, and Phillip Sasaki also came to meet the group and watched the play. Junio was able to meet her aunt from her mother's side, who also watched the play. The presentation was followed by a forum about the JFC in the Philippines and in Japan. This was done in partnership with DAWN, DAWN-Japan, and JFC Network in Japan. In the forum, several issues regarding the JFC were tackled. After this, DAWN-Kanda University of International Studies (DAWN-KUIS) members showed the group around the university, while having exchanges and interactions with them.



DAWN-KUIS volunteers with Phillip Sasaki, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Prof. Chiho Ogaya, Ms. Rieko Aoki, Director of JFC network, and DAWN children and staff during the forum about the JFC in the Philippines and in Japan held in Kanda University of International Studies.

A few hours later, the group left the university and travelled to Chichibu City in Saitama. They went to Saitama-ken Seishonen Sogo Yagai-katsudo Center, where they had camping with the YUMEUTA members. They also had bonfire while having cultural exchanges with the members, and lighted hanabi, Japanese fireworks.

The following morning, they went around the city of Chichibu for sight-seeing. They visited Hitsujiyama Park and Shibazakura Hill. They also went to the train station, which was one of the settings of Anohana, a Japanese anime. Moreover, while they were having lunch, they were able to experience an earthquake with a magnitude of 5. Afterwards, they headed to a historical cave nearby. It was steep, and the temperature was freezing.

For their eleventh day in Japan, the group stayed at the office of YUMEUTA. Masayo Fukuda, one of the members of YUMEUTA, brought the group to their farm. They harvested different kinds of vegetables like lettuce, onions, carrots, and radishes. They also planted crops and seedlings.



DAWN children exploring Masayo Fukuda's farm in Saitama.

On May 27 at 2 PM, the group was welcomed by Takaaki Wakui of the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union (JICHIRO-RENGO), a network and supporter of DAWN since 1996. The JFC then shared their dreams and aspirations, and expressed their gratitude for the continuing support of JICHIRO to the activities of DAWN. The JFC sang *Te No Hira*.



DAWN team with Mr. Takaaki Wakui, Chief, International Division of the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union (JICHIRO-RENGO)

After the JICHIRO meeting, the group immediately headed to the Peace Boat Office for a meeting about their 88th voyage, which will pass by Cebu this August. Some participants are coming to Manila and will have exchanges with NGOs, including DAWN. The Peace Boat is a global non-government organization in Japan that aims to raise awareness and build connections internationally. After some discussions, some of the Peace Boat staff gathered and held a party for the group. In this party, the group performed some songs and dances, which was liked by the Peace Boat members.

On the following morning of May 28, Machida Miyuki, one of the members of YUMEUTA, brought her kimonos and tried it on the group. It was their first time to wear a kimono. After fitting the kimonos, the group, together with Miyuki, attended a meeting at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo. They were welcomed by Consul-General Jocelyn Tirol-Ignacio, who had inspired the group by her words and messages. Moreover, Ono was also able to meet her mom and her stepsister at the embassy.



The DAWN Team with Consul-General Jocelyn Tirol-Ignacio of the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

On May 29, the group, together with Imagawa, Ayako Toguchi, and Koura, celebrated Mosatalla's birthday by surprising him with a birthday cake made by Koura. After which, everyone started preparing for the performance at the Yonohonmachi Center in Saitama. Volunteers cooked for the party.

The performance was a success, and everyone enjoyed the musical play. Kazuo Inoue, DAWN Advisory Council member, and Yuji Ito, DAWN volunteer also came to meet the group and watch the musical play.

Moreover, there was a gathering held after the presentation. There was a shadow play, where the children and the JFC participated in, and there were also performances of songs and dances from YUMEUTA members, and the group.



The Crane Dog presentation at the Yonohonmachi Center in Saitama. Natsuyuki Imagawa, Director of YUMEUTA, facilitates the open forum.

On the morning of May 30, Fukuda invited the group to a farm, where the children planted rice, together with her children, and Miyuki.

The group had lunch near the farm. It was like a picnic, and the food were specially made by the Japanese people who were with the children in the farm.

After a few hours, the group headed to Bao-bab, where the farewell dinner was held.

Once again, they experienced another earthquake with a magnitude of 6. It was quite alarming because it was a strong and longer one. Then, the YUMEUTA members sang a song for the group, and they also sang an English and a Japanese song for them.

Afterwards, they sent the group off to Haneda Airport, and bid their goodbyes.

The team safely arrived in Manila early morning of May 31. They were welcomed back by the DAWN staff, mothers and other relatives and had breakfast together

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The Cast of *The Crane Dog*

By Maria Kanna Junio and Mary Joy E. Barcelona



Yukie Ikeda

Yukie, 13, was born on November 16, 2001. She is an incoming Grade 9 student at the Manila Cathedral Catholic School. Her favorite subjects are English and Math. She likes to read manga during her leisure time. Kare-kare is her favorite Filipino food, while Tonkatsu and Tempura are her favorite Japanese food. She dreams to become a dentist someday so that she can follow the footsteps of her father.

This is her second time to join Teatro Akebono, and she will still be playing the role of Crane Dog. As for her role, she can truly relate with the Crane Dog because of the likeness of their stories. Now, she is so happy and excited because she will have the chance once again to visit the hometown of her father.



Keigo Mosatalla

Keigo, 16, was born on May 29, 1999. He is an incoming Grade 8 student in Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo High School. His favorite subjects are Math and Science. He likes to draw, and play computer games during his free time. Sinigang na Baboy is his favorite Filipino food, while Ramen is his favorite Japanese food. He dreams to be an engineer in the future so that he can build and design houses.

For the second time, he will join the theater group and will play the same role of Crane Father. When playing his role, he feels sad because the Crane Father abandoned his child. Now, he is happy because he will be able to visit Japan again. However, he also feels sad because he will miss his mother and brother.



Jemina Shilyn Alnas

Jemina Shilyn, 15, who was born on December 07, 1999, is an incoming Grade 10 student at San Francisco High School. Her favorite subjects are Filipino and Social Studies. She spends her leisure time by playing badminton and volleyball. Her favorite Filipino dish is fried chicken, and her favorite Japanese dish is Katsukare. It has been her dream to become a chef someday because it makes her happy.

This is her fifth time to be with the theater group, and her third time to play the role of Mother Dog. Whenever she plays the role of Mother Dog, she remembers her mother, and realizes how hard it is to become a solo parent. She feels excited and happy now that she will be able to go back to Japan and visit different places again. But what makes her happier is that she has a chance to meet her father again..



Maria Kanna Junio

Maria Kanna, 17, was born on January 18, 1998. She is now an incoming second year college student at Miriam College. Mathematics, Science, and English are her favorite subjects. She likes to spend her time reading, singing and dancing, and playing musical instruments. Sinigang na Baka is her favorite Filipino food, while Beef Teriyaki is her favorite Japanese food. Hopefully, she will become an accountant in a few years.

For the second time, she will be with the theater group. She will have the roles of Friendly Dog and Baby Crane. As for her role, she pities Crane Dog because everyone is bullying and discriminating her. She is very excited because she will be able to go back to Japan, where she will be able to meet new friends, and see different places. She also feels happy because she will experience Japanese culture once again.



Masako Ono

Masako, 18, was born on June 23, 1996 and is an incoming 2nd year B. S. English student at the Sta. Isabel College, Manila. She likes English and Statistics. She is fond of reading manga and novels with themes coming-of-age and she draws abstracts and Animes during her free time.

Her favorite Filipino dish is Sinigang na Hipon and she likes Sukiyaki. She wants to be a teacher because she likes meeting people, teaching, and also learning and sharing knowledge. She also wants to serve as an inspiration to others. This is her second time to join. She will play the role of a hunter, crane, and bully sister dog, but she was never a bully dog in real life. In fact, she experienced being bullied when she was younger.

Masako is grateful not only for the opportunity to go to Japan again, but also for the workshops and performances where she learned a lot. She is very excited to have a chance to go back to Japan and meet her mother, stepfather and step sister, and a chance to experience Japanese culture.

The Crane Dog Synopsis

By Michiko Yamamoto



The Crane Dog is a fable that tells of the story of many Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC).

The story starts with the fateful meeting of a female dog and a crane. Although they were two different creatures, they fell in love with each other.

However there came a time when the crane had to leave his dog and go back to his native land, which is very far.

After the separation, the female dog got pregnant. The female dog gave birth to a crane dog, a cross between her mother and father.

As crane dog was growing up, she was being bullied by other dogs because of her appearance. Even her step sister, Bully dog, teases her.

She confronted her mother about it and found out that her father is a crane. This made her think a lot about her own identity.

One day, she decided to leave their house and search for her real father. She travelled far and wide until she arrived in the land of the cranes. She questioned several cranes

if they know her father, but they could not understand her.

For them, she looked weird. She was like a crane, and yet she is also a dog.

Her search for her father was not futile. She eventually met her crane father. She learned that her crane father now has his own crane family.

But he also told her that he loved her and her mother dog.

Father crane accepted crane dog and taught her how to fly as cranes do and eventually, she was no longer alienated from the other cranes.

Having grown up in Dog land, crane dog returned to her family. But from time to time, she would fly to Crane land and meet her father.

DAWN Granted Special Consultative Status by the United Nations

By Arisa Junio

On 10 April 2015, the Development Action of Network (DAWN) was granted by the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with special consultative status. The ECOSOC is one of the six main organs of the United Nations which is delegated for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue, and recommendations regarding economic, social, and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

It is engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders which include policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, major groups, foundations, business sector representatives, and registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for a productive dialogue on sustainable development.

The consultative status of DAWN is accompanied with privileges and benefits which can be used by the organization.

Some of the privileges include the following: opportunities to participate in the work of the Council on issues and matters related to the scope of work the organization undertakes; participation in events, conferences, and activities of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna; submission of written statements and presentation of reports that are relevant to the thrust of the organization and the work of the Council; and utilization of United Nations facilities for ECOSOC-related assembly.

NGOs in consultative status are obliged to submit quadrennial reports which is given once every four years.

These reports are documentation of activities of the organization in support of the work of ECOSOC and the United Nations.

Failure to submit the reports may lead to suspension of consultative status by the organization.



SINAG (akebono or yoake in Japanese) means dawn or daybreak.

It is the quarterly publication of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), a non-government organization devoted to issues concerning migrant women and their Japanese-Filipino children.

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Children's Rights Camp

By Mirriam R. Orig



The DAWN Children's Rights Camp was conducted on April 11-12, 2015 (Saturday and Sunday) at Splash Mountain Resort, National Highway, Los Baños, Laguna. The opening Structure Learning Exercise "The Story of my Name" serves as a venue for personal respect and understanding between and among the participants in relation to their names. After the sharing the participants enjoyed the creation of their collage using their favorite childhood photo and art materials.

The second Structured Learning Exercise "Fear in an Envelope" serves as a way for the participants to develop empathy between and among the members of DAWN-JFC for Change. The participants were asked to write their personal fears with-out a name on a piece of paper. These were collected and put in an envelope. Then each participant randomly selects one paper and read someone else fear and explained how the person might have felt and how so they could handle the fear.

The sharing revolves around how the children/youth adapt to the present life situation in their own home and community.

In the workshop on "The Rights of Every Filipino Child", the participants were provided with the list of "The Rights of Every Filipino Child." They were then asked to share their views in writing on each right in Filipino or English and identify what right is very significant to them. The rights that were identified by the participants as significant to them are as follows:

- To be free to have a family to take care of me
- To have enough food and shelter to have a healthy body
- To learn good manners and right conduct
- To be given the opportunity to play and leisure
- To express my own views
- To live in a peaceful community
- To have a name and nationality

The participants realized that they should know their rights. However, they should always remember that every right has a corresponding responsibility. It is also important that discussion of children's rights be included in all activities relative to the Psycho-Social Intervention of DAWN gearing toward children's personal growth and development together with their mothers to be more effective.

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