



DAWN'S TEATRO AKEBONO 2016

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona, Tsuyoshi Imai and Gemma Comiso

The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) had its annual Teatro Akebono Japan Tour to disseminate the plight of the Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) living in the Philippines to the Japanese community through the play "The Crane Dog".

The Theater Tour took place from May 14 – 31, 2016 in seven prefectures, namely: Aichi, Kyoto, Osaka, Saitama, Yokohama, Tokyo, and Chiba.

The team included six Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) (Tsuyoshi Imai, 24; Jemina Shilyn Alnas, 16; Mitzie Petisme, 16; Nobuyuki Paulo Mosatalla, 15; Yukie Ikeda, 14; and Masami Angel Kuraoka, 13), who were accompanied by: Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, DAWN Executive Director; Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, DAWN Alternative Livelihood Program Coordinator; and Ms. Gemma Comiso, volunteer.

This year, the Team was able to present in different universities with the continuous support from Non-Profit Organization (NPO) partners, academe, volunteers, and friends.

The Team arrived on May 14 at Chubu Centrair International Airport, Nagoya and was welcomed by DAWN-Japan Volunteer Akihiro Tamura, Aichi prefecture coordinator Koushou Nakasima, YUMEUTA Director Natsuyuki Imagawa and his family, and students from Saitama University. They stayed at the Kozouji Catholic Church, Aichi.

On May 15, the team started the day by attending a mass presided by Fr. Shiio Masafumi of the Kozouji Catholic Church.



DAWN Teatro Akebono performing "The Crane Dog" at Saitama University on May 26, 2016

It was followed by The Crane Dog presentation as part of the "Chubu Daigaku Nagoya Senior Daigaku + Kasugai Dai Suki Shimin Fiesta in Kozouji" organized by Chubu University at the Apita Mall in Kozouji.

This was led by Prof. Seiko Hanochi of Chubu University.

The following day, the team went to Kyoto and stayed there until May 18.

On the 17th May, the Akebono Team had their second presentation at Kyoto University, organized by Prof. Asato Wako.

Before the presentation, Ms. Nuqui and Mr. Tamura discussed the work of DAWN in the Philippines and DAWN in Japan, respectively.



Teatro Akebono team at Kozouji Catholic Church after the get-together dinner with Prof. Seiko Hanochi, Prof. Kinhide Mushakoji, Koushou Nakasima, Natsuyuki Imagawa, Akihiro Tamura, some Filipinos and other friends.

Prof. Wako facilitated the forum part wherein the cast were asked about their personal reflections on the play. Afterwards, Prof. Wako, together with his students, brought the team to the school cafeteria for dinner. He dropped them to their hotel to prepare for their early travel to Osaka the following day.



Prof. Asato Wako of Kyoto University (second to the right) welcomes DAWN Teatro Akebono for the presentation in the campus.

On May 18, the team went to Shin-Osaka via shinkansen, Japanese bullet train, and was welcomed by Mr. Katsumi Anno, and two students from Kansai University – Yoshida Seminar.

After lunch, Mr. Anno left the group for his class; Ms. Nuqui, Ms. Comiso, and Masami Kuraoka headed to Kumamoto prefecture to meet Masami’s father for the third time since her participation in the Teatro Akebono. The rest of the team were accompanied by the students at the Nagai Youth Hostel and strolled around the Nagai Park.

Masami shared that meeting with her father was the best thing that had happened during the theater tour. She said that she felt very happy and she didn’t expect that she would see her father again. During this encounter, she learned to lower one’s expectations to avoid disappointments in life.

The following day, the team presented at Kansai University organized by Kansai University – Shinsuke Yoshida Seminar. Prof. Mayumi Kubota, Prof. Shinsuke Yoshida, and former members of the Seminar watched the play. After the presentation, the students took their SIKHAY product orders which were sold on May 29 in a bazaar .

Anno-sensei organized the fourth Akebono presentation at Yutorito Higashi Center in Osaka on May 20. He invited J:Com, a local television network, which covered the back-to-back presentation of Teatro Akebono and JFC residing in Osaka, Japan. The presentation was attended by Nobuki Fujimoto of HURIGHTS Osaka, Fiona Seiger and former DAWN members, and Anno-sensei’s colleagues.

On May 21, the Team had a meeting and interaction with Kansai University – Mayumi Kubota Seminar. Prof. Kubota introduced the Team to the junior students and had an interaction activity with them.

The DAWN staff, together with Prof. Kubota and Prof. Megumi Hara, had a meeting. Prof. Kubota treated the group to a good lunch. After lunch, Katsumi Anno-sensei arranged a visit at Tennoji Zoo. He was assisted by Yoshida Seminar students. They went straight to a temple being managed by Anno-sensei’s friend and learned about the religion Tenri. This was followed by a farewell dinner with his colleagues and the students.



Kansai University- Mayumi Kubota Seminar interaction with DAWN Teatro Akebono team. Prof. Mayumi Kubota (extreme left) and Prof. Megumi Hara (second to the left) had a meeting with Ms. Carmelita Nuqui (extreme right) and Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona (second to the right) while the students interact with the JFC.

The following day, the team went to Saitama prefecture by shinkansen. YUMEUTA, a NPO partner of DAWN, welcomed the Team at the station. They proceeded to the Rose Garden to join the Rose Festival celebration. That night, Yukie Ikeda was able to talk with her father on the phone for quite some time.

On the ninth day in Japan, the team stayed at YUMEUTA’s office. Mr. Imagawa informed them that he bought a small farm and named a portion of the farm, “Akebono Farm” where the team will plant strawberries and green pepper to be harvested the following year. Tsuyoshi and Nobuyuki would go to water the plants every morning during their stay in Saitama.

In preparation of their fifth presentation, the team was brought at Saitama University for their rehearsal.

(to be continued on page 4)



(From left to right) Jemina Alnas, Masami Kuraoka, Nobuyuki Mosatalla and Yukie Ikeda planting strawberries and green pepper at the YUMEUTA’s Akebono Farm, Saitama.

DAWN Activities and Events



Women participants discussing the services offered by the Philippine government to migrant workers. The Seminar is part of the project "Strengthening of Women Migrant Workers (WMW) Organizations and/or their Support Groups and Networks to Effectively Promote and Protect WMW rights," held on April 9-10, 2016 at Splash Mountain Resort, Los Baños, Laguna.



Ms. Mirriam Orig, DAWN Social Services Coordinator (middle) and Ms. Marilen Soliman of UN Women (right) facilitating the question and answer portion of the Organizational Development Seminar organized by DAWN. The project was funded by UN Women Philippines, with support from the European Union.



DAWN women and staff during the final leg of the project of UN Women. The activity entitled, "Capacity Building Training on Women Migrants Rights and Migrant Advocacy," was facilitated by the Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA.)



CMA staff and DAWN staff and members wrapping up the final training component of UN Women's project from April 22-24, 2016 at Altaroca Mountain Resort, Antipolo City, Rizal.



On May 7, 2016, DAWN 2016 Teatro Akebono group had their Farewell Presentation at the DAWN office before the series of presentation in Japan. (from left to right: Nobuyuki Mosatalla, Jemina Shilyn Alnas, Yukie Ikeda, Masami Angel Kuraoka and Mitzie Petisme)



JFC surprised their mothers and DAWN staff in celebration of Mother's Day. They made graham balls and distributed them to everyone. The celebration was joined by Prof. Cora Arboleda, member, DAWN's Board of Trustees, on May 7, 2016.

TEATRO AKEBONO 2016 (cont'd)

The team is scheduled to present at Ferris University on May 24 organized by Prof. Chiho Ogaya, DAWN-Japan Coordinator. Prof. Ogaya, along with her students from Ferris University, brought the team to the world's largest China Town which is located in Yokohama prefecture, and had lunch. They also visited the Marine Yokohama Tower and had a decent view of the Yokohama prefecture.



DAWN Teatro Akebono team with students from Ferris University in Yokohama, Japan, facilitated by Prof. Chiho Ogaya, DAWN-Japan Coordinator.

Right after the short tour in Yokohama, Prof. Ogaya led the team to Ferris University, an exclusive university for girls, to present *The Crane Dog*. The audience, mainly students, appreciated the play and engaged with the team through enriched interactions. In the evening, Prof. Ogaya and her students led them to their accommodation.

On May 25, the team, including Prof. Ogaya, visited the All Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union, Japan (JICHIRO) based in Tokyo. Prof. Ogaya and Ms. Nuqui shared the Team's schedule and activities with Ms. Setsuko Kubota, Assistant Chief of International Division of All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union (JICHIRO). The JFC rendered two songs. Ms. Kubota gave everyone souvenirs from the organization. After the meeting with JICHIRO, the team met with Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Vice-President, DAWN Board of Trustees, who treated the team to a sumptuous lunch.



The DAWN Teatro Akebono team, with Prof. Chiho Ogaya and Ms. Miyuki Machida at the JICHIRO Office in Tokyo for a meeting with Ms. Setsuko Kubota, Assistant Chief of International Division of JICHIRO.

After lunch the team had a courtesy visit with Ambassador Manuel Lopez and Consul-General Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio. Ambassador Lopez gladly relayed to the group, Madame Lopez's message that the Embassy with the proceeds from the Asia Pacific Ladies Friendship Society (ALFS) Charity Bazaar 2016 will be giving donation to DAWN again. She also invited DAWN and its network in Japan to attend the Philippine Festival on June 18 – 19, 2016 at the Hibiya Park, Tokyo. YUMEUTA, DAWN-KUIS, and DAWN-Japan will showcase SIKHAY products during the Festival.



The DAWN Teatro Akebono team had its Courtesy Visit at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo. They were entertained by His Excellency Manuel Lopez and Consul-General Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio.

The team also visited Peace Boat, an international NGO based in Japan. They were welcomed by Executive Committee Member Nohira Shinsaku, who gave a tour around the office and introduced them to new volunteers. The JFC sang and danced and had an interaction with the staff and had snacks together.



DAWN Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) members dancing with Mr. Nohira Shinsaku, Executive Committee Member of Peace Boat, and other staff during the visit on May 25, 2016 in Tokyo, Japan.

The following day, the team presented twice at the Saitama University, organized by YUMEUTA and Saitama University students. After the two presentations, everyone had a dinner party.

On May 27, the team presented at Chiba University, organized by Prof. Ayako Sasaki and Rika Kawata, Miki Watanabe, and Tomoko Uehara, who had their Global University Program at DAWN Philippines in March 2016. The team was accompanied by Mr. Imagawa and Mr. Tamura.



With professors, students and guests from Chiba University.



DAWN meeting with long-time partners, supporters and volunteers. (From left to right: [upper row, standing] Philip Sasaki, Fumiko Kuramochi, Kyutoku Hisae, Ai Fujiwara, Carmelita Nuqui, Chiho Ogaya, Tsuyoshi Imai, Natsuyuki Imagawa [lower row, kneeling] Sumire Usui, Mary Joy Barcelona, Gemma Comiso and Miki Kuroyanagi.

The program has two parts: the first part is an exposure of DAWN’s advocacy, while the second part is The Crane Dog presentation. Tsuyoshi Imai’s father arrived at the University, watched the presentation, and gave him his graduation gift. According to Tsuyoshi, his father’s presence has made him felt that he gained a connection with his father even for a short time. The program was followed by an interaction with teachers, students, and guests. The students gave the Team souvenirs from their university.

The following day, Mitzie Petisme met her father for the first time. It was definitely an unforgettable moment of her life when she unexpectedly met her father for the first time after 16 years. She didn’t expect that she would see him ever. She also realized during the trip not to expect to avoid frustrations in life. Her unexpected meeting with her father brought a pleasant feeling in her life right now. They may be together even for only a short time, the time that they had spent together has already left a huge impact on the life of Mitzie.

After meeting with Mitzie’s father, the JFC were left with Ms. Ayako Toguchi and Saitama University students in Inagekaigan Koen, the park near their accommodation. Mr. Imagawa, Ms. Nuqui, Ms. Barcelona, Ms. Comiso, and Tsuyoshi attended a meeting organized with Japanese partners and volunteers. The meeting was attended by: Kazuo Inoue, Philip Sasaki, Chiho Ogaya, Miki Kuroyanagi, Ai Fujiwara, Sumire Usui, Momoka Osakabe, Fumiko Kuramochi, and Kyotoku Hisae.

The meeting tackled various issues DAWN members in the Philippines and in Japan are concerned.

May 29 was the last Teatro Akebono presentation, which was held at Kanda University for International Studies (KUIS) in Chiba, organized by DAWN-KUIS. After the presentation, the team went directly to Saitama and had a barbeque party.

Two days before the team departs Japan, the team had the chance to buy their pasalubong in a souvenir shop in Saitama.

Moreover, Ms. Barcelona was able to discuss with Ms. Ayako Toguchi and Ms. Miyuki Machida of Yumeuta of the SIKHAY items to be left for their stocks. They also gave suggestions on new designs to make.

On the day of the team’s departure, May 31, YUMEUTA members sent the team off at the Narita airport. Masami was able to talk with her father on the phone, and Mitzie’s father arrived while the group was checking in.

DAWN’s Teatro Akebono was a success. The group felt satisfied and fulfilled about what they were able to accomplish during the tour.

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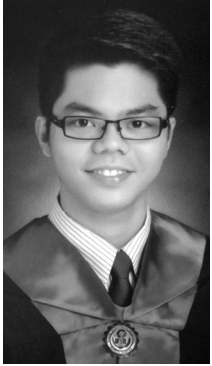
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DAWN Japanese-Filipino Achievers

The Development Action of Women Network is proud to continuously support and empower Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) into the different facets of their educational lives. The organization aims to prove that despite the limitations and struggles the JFC have in their own lives, they are capable to pursue their goals in life with the unending guidance from their mothers, loved ones, and by the support of DAWN.

Here are the JFC Achievers of DAWN who continuously excel in their chosen educational path:



Tsuyoshi Y. Imai, 24

Tsuyoshi graduated as Doctor of Medicine with distinctions (Cum Laude) at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Inc. (UERMMMCI). Aside from graduating Cum Laude, he was also awarded 3rd Place in the Overall Ranking of the College of Medicine in the School. He will start his internship this July 2016 for a year and is now preparing for his Medical Doctor Board Exam in September 2017.

In 2012, he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology at the University of the Philippines Manila with honors (Cum Laude).



Arisa Junio, 22

Arisa will pursue her Master's Degree in Development Studies with specialization in Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Studies: Social Justice Perspectives at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands this school year 2016 – 2017 with a scholarship from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NEP). She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in International Studies at Miriam College in 2014.

She is currently working as Research and Advocacy Officer at the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN).



Masako Ono, 20

Masako is currently a 3rd Year student with Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in English at Sta. Isabel College, Manila. While doing her work as a Marilac Grantee, she is a consistent Dean's Lister.



Maria Kanna Junio, 18

Kanna is a 3rd Year Bachelor of Science in Accountancy student at Miriam College. She is a consistent Dean's Lister and scholar at Miriam. She is currently the Internal Vice-President – College of Business, Entrepreneurship, and Accountancy of the

Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng Miriam, and also represents her department in inter-school competitions on Accountancy.



Keigo Mosatalla, 17

Keigo is a Grade 9 student at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo High School. He was given recognition for being the 17th in his batch during his 8th Grade at the same school.



Mitzie Petisme, 16

Mitzie is a Senior High School, Grade 11 student with a program on Accounting and Business Management at the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta in Laguna. She graduated as Second Honor and recipient of Best in Math and Leadership Award on her 10th Grade at Mary Belle Montessori School.



Jemina Shilyn Alnas, 16

Jemina is a Senior High School, Grade 11 student with a program on Tourism Operation at the STI College, Cubao, Quezon City. She finished her junior high at San Francisco High School and was awarded as top 7 of her class.



Nobuyuki Mosatalla, 15

Nobuyuki is an incoming Grade 9 junior high student at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo High School. This school year, he was elected as Vice-President of their class.



Yukie L. Ikeda, 14

Yukie is a Grade 10 student at the Manila Cathedral School. She is a consistent scholar.



Masami G. Kuraoka, 13

Masami is a Grade 8 student at Araullo High School. She was awarded as Top 1 in her class during her 7th Grade in the same school.

DAWN Partners with Belle de Jour's "Women Helping Women" Summit



DAWN staff and women members participate during BDJ's 10th Anniversary entitled "Women Helping Women" on April 16, 2016 at Samsung Hall, SM Aura.

On April 16, 2016, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) was invited as partner organization of Belle de Jour, a power planner which aims to empower women through its mantra, "live life to the fullest". The "BDJ Women's Summit: Women Helping Women" was held at the Samsung Hall, SM Aura Premier.

The event is jam-packed with renowned personalities in the field of politics, development work, media, fashion, and finance.

Some of the speakers during the Summit include the following: 1) Ms. Ana Santos, a multi-awarded sex journalist and founder of SexandSensibilities.com, who talked about her struggle being slut shamed by people while advocating for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

of Filipinos; 2) Ms. Myrna Padilla, OFW turned Entrepreneur – CEO and Founder of Mynd Dynamic Team, Inc., who shared her humble beginnings and her start as one of the "poorest of the poor" who advocates in providing more jobs to encourage Filipinos not leave the country to work abroad; 3) Ms. Myrza Sison, Summit Media's Editorial Director, who shared her own experience on how she pushed herself to the limits in achieving one's dreams; and 4) Ms. Jen Santos, General Manager



Ms. Anna Yambao (left), DAWN Sikhay weaver, and Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona (right), DAWN Alternative Livelihood Program Coordinator, during the exhibit at BDJ Women's Summit.

of G-Stuff, who narrated stories from their partner communities and on how they combat poverty while promoting sustainable development in their localities.

Other than the meaningful talks during the plenary sessions, the Summit paved the way to showcase


the products and services of their partner organizations.

DAWN had its own booth displaying its products made by the women members. These include hand-woven scarves, shawls, aprons, backpacks, bags, book covers, passport holders, pencil cases, placemats, coasters and pot holders.

The display also includes DAWN's publication materials and newsletter to inform guests on the advocacy and work of the organization.



Ms. Susan Afan, Managing Director of ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc., highlighted the importance of helping in making a difference on the lives of people during the plenary session.



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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DAWN Joins 2016 Philippine Festival at the Hibiya Park, Tokyo, Japan



The Embassy of the Philippines in Tokyo once again invited DAWN in the celebration of the 2016 Philippine Festival, the most awaited Filipino event in Japan, last June 18-19, 2016 at the Hibiya Park, Tokyo, Japan.

The event showcase Filipino culture through its crafts and other products.

Part of the event is the exhibit of DAWN's Sikhay products, made possible through our partnership with the Association of Filipino Students in Japan (AFSJ).



Aside from AFSJ, DAWN's participation at the event is facilitated by YUMEUTA-Natsuyuki Imagawa and Miyuki Machida; together with DAWN-Japan-Miki Kuroyanagi and Sumire Usui; Saitama University- Erika Ochiba; and DAWN-KUIS-Nana Arakawa and Ayuka Akazawa. These volunteers from nearby prefectures made DAWN's presence at the festival successful.

AFSJ and the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo have been DAWN's partner in promoting Sikhay crafts and products in Japan, along with our Japanese partner-organizations and university students.'



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