



Improving the Socio-Economic Well-Being of Women Migrants

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona and Gemma B. Comiso

Ms. Gennie Kim, together with the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), submitted a joint project to the IOM-Migrant Research and Training Center (IOM-MRTC) entitled, "Socio-Economic Cooperation for Returned Filipino Women Migrants and their Children at the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)."

The approved project aims to improve the socio-economic well-being of Filipino women migrant returnees to become financially independent to support their children and to provide assistance to the women migrants for their reintegration in the Philippines.

Ms. Gennie Kim is a marriage migrant, migrant counselor and an advocate for EPS workers in Korea. She is also actively involved in the media, multi-cultural families and other issues.

The experience and exposure in Korea will be a great chance to meet different Filipino communities and know their situation, meet various organizations assisting migrant workers and introduce DAWN and its programs/services and SIKHAY and the products being made by the DAWN women.

On the other hand, the visit to the Philippines and sharing of Ms. Gennie Kim will help the DAWN members understand the culture of Korea and the situation of our marriage migrants and their children and the migrant workers in Korea.

The first phase of the project aims to provide exposure of DAWN members with different NGOs, organizations, the situation of the migrant workers, marriage migrants and their children in Korea. DAWN's Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui, Alternative Livelihood Program Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona and DAWN volunteer Gemma Comiso left for Seoul Korea on August 26-31, 2016 for a series of meetings with NGOs and Filipino communities to understand the situation of migrant workers, the marriage migrants and the students. The work of DAWN for migrants and their children was shared.

The team arrived early morning on August 26. In the afternoon, together with Ms. Gennie Kim a meeting with Director Kim Dong Hoon and Assistant Manager Elena Dela Cruz of the Seoul Global Center, (a support center for foreign residents in Seoul operated by Seoul Metropolitan Government) was held.

The Center is looking at the possibility of connecting DAWN with the different NGOs, in helping the Korean-Filipino children and their mothers. Both organizations shared the same sentiments that in order to strengthen the advocacy for migrants, the migrants' cooperation and participation is needed.

A brief meeting with Mr. Kang Young-chul, Senior Manager, Global Future Financial Department of the KEB Hana Bank was held after the meeting with the Seoul Global Center.

In the late afternoon, a meeting with Ms. Katherine Ann Corteza, Director of the Itaewon Global Village Center was also held. The center is providing Korean and English classes for multi-cultural children. It also serves as the link in reaching out to the distressed migrants to support their psychological wellness and offer programs to facilitate cultural exchange and understanding between foreigners and Korean residents.



August 26, 2016 meeting (L-R) Gennie Kim; Ms. Elena Dela Cruz, Assistant Manager; Mr. Kim Dong Hoon, Director of Seoul Global Center and Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, DAWN Executive Director



(L-R) Ms. Gennie Kim, Ms. Katherine Ann Corteza, Director of the Itaewon Global Village Center, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui and Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona.

In the evening, the team had a dinner meeting with former National Assembly Representative, Ms. Jasmine Lee. It was a productive engagement of ideas, especially sharing her personal experiences, the knowledge and cultural understanding she gained during her stay in Korea and her tenure as first Filipino National Assembly Representative in South Korea. Ms. Jasmine Lee is interested to endorse DAWN to the different NGOs in Korea, advocating migrants rights and welfare and multi-culturalism. Ms. Ana Park, a marriage migrant and a blogger of Buhay Korea, also joined the dinner.



Ms. Carmelita Nuqui sharing DAWN's publications and Sikhay products to Ms. Jasmine Lee and Ms. Gennie Kim.

On August 27, the team had lunch with Ms. Fe Kim, Founder and President of the Filipino Korean Spouses Association (FKSA). After lunch a meeting with the Couples for Christ – South Korea with Ms. Fe Kim was held. In the afternoon, the team had an interview with the Philippine Madame Program, hosted by Hazel Cal and Rosevie Mojica produced and edited by Ms. Gennie Kim.



Radio interview at JAMF Radio Philippine Madame Programme last August 27, 2016. (From L-R) Ms. Gennie Kim, Ms. Gemma Comiso, Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Hosts Rosevie Mojica and Hazel Cal.

The team had a dinner meeting with Deputy Director Ms. Chae Won Eun (Jennifer) of the Woongjin Multicultural Family Music Broadcasting and Ms. Ana Park.



August 27, 2016 meeting with Ms. Chae Won Eun, Deputy Director of Woongjin Foundation Multicultural Family Music Broadcasting. (L-R) Ms. Ana Park, Ms. Gennie Kim, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Ms. Chae and Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona.

In the morning of August 28, the group met with Mr. Darine Froy Mabunga, Vice-President of Pinoy Iskolars sa Korea (PIKO) and the Filipino EPS Workers Association (FEWA) officers.



August 28, 2016 dialogue with Filipino community and FEWA officers

The team also attended the “2016 Foreign Workers Festival” held at Lake Park Gojan-dong, Dangwon-gu, Ansan, participated by different migrant workers in South Korea and met Mr. Archie Lee, Manager of the KEB Hana Bank.

The group also met the Hyewadong Filipino Community and had a dinner meeting with Fr. Alfie Africa of the Migrant Pastoral Commission of the Archdiocese of Seoul.

A meeting with the IOM-MRTC, who funded the project was held on August 29.

The IOM-MRTC explained their programs after which Ms. Nuqui made a presentation on DAWN, its programs and services for the women and children. Sikhay products were shown and sold after the meeting.



August 29, 2016 meeting with IOM-Migration Research Training Center (IOM-MRTC), the supporter of this project.

The team had dinner with Ms. Edina Yunson Dix, President of the Filipino-Korean American Spouses Association was held at the US Bases in Seoul.

On August 30 morning, the team met with Director Kang Seong Euy of the Seoul Counseling Center for Migrant Women, established to offer professional consultation services such as psychological, medical and legal counseling for residents of Seoul who are in crises, both for the female and multi-cultural families. Possible support with Korean-Filipino children was discussed.



August 30, 2016 meeting with Director Kang Seong Euy of the Seoul Counseling Center for Migrant Women. (L-R) Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Director Kang Seong Euy and Ms. Gennie Kim.

In the afternoon, Ms. Nuqui was also interviewed at the Woongjin Foundation (Kiss Radio) Multicultural Family Music Broadcasting Filipino Program hosted by Ms. Gennie Kim. The media exposure was an avenue to disseminate the work of DAWN to larger Filipino migrant communities in Korea and how DAWN can work together with the various groups in the future for the plight of our women and Korean-Filipino children living in Korea and the Philippines.



Ms. Carmelita Nuqui writing a message after her interview at the Woongjin Foundation (Kiss Radio) Multicultural Family Music Broadcasting Filipino Program hosted by Ms. Gennie Kim.

After the radio interview, the group had a courtesy call with Ambassador Raul S. Hernandez and Vice Consul Ella Karina Mitra at the Philippine Embassy in Seoul.



Courtesy call with Ambassador Raul Hernandez of the Philippine Embassy in Seoul last August 30, 2016. (L-R) Ms. Gennie Kim, Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Ambassador Raul Hernandez, Vice Consul Ella Karina Mitra and Ms. Gemma Comiso.

After the visit to the Embassy, the team had an opportunity to visit the Seoul Tower and took a glimpse of the beauty of Seoul.

On August 31 morning, the team met with Eun Mi Lee, a Korean student at the Yokohama National University and discussed about Korean-Filipino children and Japanese-Filipino children. In the afternoon, the team travelled to the Incheon Airport for their evening flight back to Manila.



August 31, 2016 meeting with Eun Mi Lee, a Korean student at the Yokohama National University (L-R) Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, Ms. Eun Mi Lee, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Ms. Gennie Kim and Ms. Gemma Comiso.

The possibility of replicating the work of DAWN with the Japanese-Filipino children and their mothers (returnees from Japan) with the Korean-Filipino children and their mothers (returnees from Korea) is being considered. The various groups in Korea will also help in the marketing of Sikhay products, made by the women members of DAWN during bazaars and flea markets.

The second phase aims to transfer skills and share the life in Korea of Gennie, a Filipino marriage migrant, to the DAWN women and children in the Philippines.

On September 3-8, 2016, Ms. Gennie Kim visited the Philippines for the 2nd phase of the project: “Socio-Economic Cooperation for Returned Filipino Women Migrants and their Children,” at the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN).

Upon her arrival, Ms. Gennie went straight to the DAWN office. She gave an orientation, shared her life story and experiences as a marriage migrant in Korea to the members of the DAWN family.



Ms. Gennie Kim giving orientation to DAWN members about Korean culture and the life of multi-cultural families in Korea, September 3, 2016.

On September 4, Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona gave Ms. Gennie Kim an orientation about DAWN’s activities and the Sikhay project - the benefits of the livelihood project to the women and how sewing and weaving helped them cope with the trauma of the past.

On September 6, Ms. Gennie taught the DAWN members how to make Kimchi and how to cook healthy Kimchi Chigae. On September 8, Ms Gennie taught the group how to cook Daenjiang Kkuk (Bean Soup).



Ms. Gennie Kim teaching Kimchi-making, September 6, 2016.



DAWN women cooking healthy Kimchi Chigae

Ms. Mary Jane Kuraoka taught Ms. Gennie on September 7 the different steps in weaving: warping, dressing, drawing, denting, weaving and finishing.

On September 8 afternoon, Ms. Gilda Motasalla taught Ms. Kim basic sewing technique, pattern-making, cutting, sewing and finishing.

Ms. Gennie Kim’s hands-on training in basic sewing and basic hand-loom weaving provided her further understanding and appreciation of what the DAWN women are doing to support their children’s basic needs.

This will also help her promote better the Sikhay products.



Ms. Gennie Kim doing the 3rd step (drawing) during her handloom-weaving hands-on training, assisted by Ms. Mary Jane Kuraoka. She is making coasters.



Ms. Gennie Kim making a hand-woven body bag during her hands-on training in basic sewing with Ms. Gilda Mosatalla.

During the meetings in both phases of the project, experiences and expertise were shared, commitments were made and future collaborations will be made.



Cooking Daenjiang Kkuk last September 8, 2016.



Best to eat Daenjiang Kkuk with Philippine delicacies like sticky rice (Farewell snacks with Gennie).

DREAMS COME TRUE! (cont'd)

Ana Liza Hamada has a son named Kouta, 15 years old senior high school. She is a sidewalk vendor, selling used clothing & bags and school supplies. But vendors like her were transferred to a public market which is costly for her. While trying to regain her selling activity, she attended training from August 1 to 26, 2016.

Because of her exposure to clothing, she is creative and stylish in making her projects for the training. She only had some struggles in the machine operation, but when she started to sew her projects like blouses, pants and skirts, her artistic side was shown. She shared that she is hoping to have a sewing machine at home so that she could have a source of income. She wants to make dresses for kids and sell it in the public market, and at the same time could accept alterations of clothes in the neighborhood and occasional made-to-order dresses/costumes. After a few weeks of her training, she bought a high-speed sewing machine for her home-based project. She said, "*Masaya ako at natutunan ko ang sewing, makakagawa na ako ng mga designs na gusto ko at yung mga tinda ko na ukay-ukay pwede ko rin tahiin ng bagong design. Naiiyak ako sa saya at hindi ko maipaliwag yung nararamdaman ko. Dati pangarap ko lang na magkaroon ng makina ngayon ay totoo na. Salamat po sa DAWN.*" (I'm happy, I learned the skills in sewing. I can now sew designs I like. I can also make new designs of used clothing I am selling. I am very happy that I couldn't explain my feelings.

It makes me feel like crying. My longtime dream of having a sewing machine now became a reality. Thank you to DAWN).

Rachel, Almisra and Ana Liza are mothers of Japanese- Filipino Children (JFC). They are also members of Maligaya House one of the NGO, providing legal assistance. Maligaya House and DAWN are working together in assisting women and JFC on legal and reintegration activities. The women's home-based sewing projects are part of the DSWD Livelihood Assistance for TIP facilitated by DAWN.



Ana Liza doing her blouse project

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Women and Youth Leadership Training

By *Miriam R. Orig*



Hula Hoop activity by DAWN's women and youth participants

The DAWN Women and Youth Leadership Training was conducted on August 6-7, 2016 at the Splash Mountain Resort, Los Banos, Laguna with 10 women and 7 youth participants, a facilitator, a documentor and a staff. Upon arrival the participants were billeted and provided with snacks and rested for a while. The facilitator welcomed the participants and setting/levelling of expectations followed. Topics for the training include 1) Define “teams” and “group” 2) List the main characteristics of teams 3) Know the differences between teams, group and individuals 4) Determine teams’ importance in present group 5) Define some impressive results of work teams in organization.

The introductory activity is the use of “Hula Hoop”. The participants were instructed to stay in their group. The objective of this exercise is to lower the hula hoop from their neck level to the ground. It sounds easy but this is a lot harder than it sounds because of the rules. They have to use their forefingers to touch the hoop and everyone’s forefingers (both of them) must be touching the hoop at all times. After the activity, the participants shared that 1) It is very difficult to do the activity when not everyone is focused on their task 2) Some keep on checking the others while letting go of their own fingers 3) The activity need the focus of everyone.

Lecture/discussion defined Team as two or more interdependent individuals who interact with and influence one another in order to accomplish a common purpose and its Characteristics & Steps are as follows: a) Always central part of the organization b) Important organizational asset c) Make real contributions to quality products and services that contain success of the total organization d) Tasks are being done which requires multiple skills, judgment & experience e) Restricted to compete more efficiently and effectively. In summary, A TEAM can involve as few as two people; A TEAM is not a mere aggregate of individuals; A TEAM success depends on the interdependent and collective efforts of various team members and TEAM members are likely to have significant impacts on one another as they work together.

When asked why people join the group, the women’s group shared 1) *Para magkaroon ng support at proteksyon* (To have support and protection) 2) *Para mas makilala ang sarili kompara sa iba* (To know oneself compared to others) 3) *Upang maging masaya kasi minsan hindi masaya ang pamilya*

(To be happy because sometimes it is not happy with the family) while the youth group shared 1) Looking for sense of belongingness 2) To meet new friends 3) To have support aside from the family. The participants agreed that people often join groups to satisfy their mutual interests and goals. They frequently form groups for purposes of seeking protection from other groups. They exist because they call to a basic psychological need to be social.

After lunch, the input was focused on the differences between: Teams, Groups & Individual.

A group is defined as two or more individuals, interacting and interdependent, who have come together to achieve particular objectives. A work group is a group that interacts primarily to share information and to make decisions to help one another perform within each member’s area of responsibility with a given work or organization. A work team generates positive synergy/ interaction at work through coordination of effort.

On the other hand, teams are particularly good at combining talents and providing innovative solutions to possible unfamiliar problems. Team can be seen as a self-managing unit because the range of skills provided by its members and the self-monitoring. In team decision making, the objectives and work practices are better to solve work-related predicaments. Sense of belongingness can add incentive to a team. After the day’s activity, the participants were given time to enjoy night swimming together and were reminded to sleep not later than 9:00 pm to be ready for the next day’s activity.

On the second day, the participants were ask to do a group activity. As a group, they will write down what they understand about the objectives, program and services of DAWN in relation to their roles as leaders. Both groups shared good review of the organization by sharing their own experiences while with DAWN. However, one of the significant sharing was from the youth group. They said, “*Ang DAWN ay nagbibigay suporta sa mga nabigo sa nakaraan upang magpatuloy sa buhay*” (Provides support system to overcome the past and move to the present). They said it’s the long and short explanation of what the organization does.

Recognizing team member’s potential and capability, sense of accountability and responsibility is also one aspect where the individual enhance & share its own capabilities. It is in this context that the facilitator gave emphasis on the mother & children/ youth teamwork as they face their daily activities. In closing, the participants were asked to discuss among themselves what they believe could improve their team inside and outside their home.

The mother/women’s group shared that they need to be more patient, more understanding, more responsible, improve communication with their children/immediate family members. On the other hand, the youth group shared that they should do their share in the household chores, be more responsible, patient and thrifty. Most of all, they should inspire their mothers and make them proud.

Dreams Come True!

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

"Twenty Years of empowering lives for a better tomorrow," is DAWN's advocacy to address the reintegration of the women migrant returnees from Japan and domestic workers from Singapore, Saudi, Bahrain and other countries. Aside from the skills training in sewing and handloom-weaving, DAWN also provides pattern-making, entrepreneurial seminars, Accounting for Non-accountants, and assistance for livelihood projects/home-based projects thru facilitation of DSWD assistance and other project proposals.

For the past months, three (3) women finished their training in basic machine operations, pattern-making, cutting and basic sewing:

Rachel Tubig, a mother of two Reiko, 14 years old junior high school student and Mika, 6 years old who is now in Kinder 2.

Rachel had her training in basic machine operations, pattern-making, cutting and basic sewing last May 2016. Even without any knowledge in sewing, she was very interested to put up her sewing project at home. She is happy and eager to learn all about sewing. She is creative and innovative in making her projects. A fast learner, she was able to make dresses, skirts and blouses. She was very proud of her accomplishments. She wants to have further training in pattern-making and learn more sewing techniques. She said, "In the near future I would like to make uniforms, pillow cases, bed sheets and curtains as my source of income."

After her training she bought a high speed sewing machine and some materials and she started making simple items like pillow cases and curtains. She is now practicing her sewing skills at home. From time to time she would call/video call for advises and consultations on machine trouble shooting and other things related to her sewing project. She is appreciative and proud that her dream came true. She also wishes to continue her college education. One of the options is to enrol in an Open University so that she can still have time to take care of her children and at the same time manage her sewing project.



Rachel during her training



Rachel wearing the blouse she made

Almisra Motoki has a daughter, Makiko 12 years old and a junior high school. She does buy & sell of biscuits, accessories of cell phones, and apparels/uniforms. She is a hardworking mother.

"Mira," as we fondly call her, attended sewing training last June 2016. Her desire to learn how to sew at first was to make uniforms for her daughter. But when she started to make skirts and blouses for her projects and was able to do them well, she became more interested to learn more including pattern-making and cutting and also to have a sewing project at home.

According to her, she wants to sew different items like uniforms, dresses and blouses. She wants to sell her items of uniforms in the market. Also to include the uniforms in her other buys& sells activities. When she received her certificate in the training she said, "*Ipapakita ko sa anakko ang certificate ko na ito para sumaya at maipagmalaki nya ako sa bago kong nakamit.*" (I will show my training certificate to my daughter so that she will be happy and proud of me with my new achievement) with a bright smile on her face. She is thankful for the opportunity to learn new skills.

After a month, she bought a high-speed sewing machine.

She is now practicing her sewing skills preparing for her new line of home-based project. With a big smile and teary eyed, she said, "*Dati tinitingnan ko lang ang mga sewing machines sa store na malapit sa amin at nangangarap na isang araw magkaroon akong sarili kong sewing machine, ngayon meron na ako. Salamat sa DAWN at tinupad nyo po ang pangarap ko.*" (I used to look at the sewing machines in the store near my home and wish that one day, I will own one. Today I have it! Thanks to DAWN for making my dream come true).

(to be continued on page 5)



Almisra happy with her own sewing machine



SINAG

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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People, Places, Events



Sr. Mary John Manazan, OSB, DAWN Advisory Council member at the Book Launching of "Shadows of Light" on July 23, 2016



Ms. Lualhati Marcelino, International Coordinator of the Ready for Manitoba Program (PMP), University of Manitoba, visits DAWN on July 26, 2016. She wants to help promote Sikhay products.



EIGA SAI 2016 by the Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation, Manila with Mr. Hiroaki Uesugi, Director of Japan Foundation, Manila on July 8, 2016 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.



Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona and Mr. Lance Velasco with Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto, ILO Assistant Director General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific; and Mr. Khalid Hassan, Country Director of ILO Philippines during the launch of ILO's FAIR Project on August 3, 2016 at the Astoria Plaza Hotel.

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