



BAZAARS IN THE PHILIPPINES, JAPAN & OTHER COUNTRIES

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

On September 23-26, 2014, the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) and the Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) invited DAWN to join the Philippine Traditional and Neo-ethnic Weaves Exhibit/Bazaar with the theme: “Neo-ethnicism of Philippine Textiles: Weaving Tradition with Technology,” at the lobby of the DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City to exhibit and sell the various hand-woven products of Sikhay.

The Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations, Cultural Diplomacy Unit (OUIER-CDU) of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) forwarded copies of our Sikhay Catalogues to the different Philippine Embassies and Consulates.

The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Budapest, Hungary, Embassy of the Philippines in Damascus, Syria, Philippine Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil, Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, Beijing and the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles, California have so far contacted DAWN to inquire and or to order Sikhay products to be exhibited/sold in the various Diplomacy Bazaars during the year-end and early next year.



Courtesy visit with Amb. Manuel and Madame Maria Teresa Lopez, Congen Joy, Minister Angie, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi (VP, DAWN Board of Trustees), Mel Nuqui, Teatro Akebono Team (JFC and staff), Natsuyuki Imagawa of Yumeuta and Akihiro Tamura of DAWN- Japan at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, May 21, 2014



Mary Joy Barcelona and Anna Yambao during the Exhibit/Bazaar at the lobby of the DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard September 23-26, 2014

Meanwhile, the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, has been supporting DAWN since 2012, through the kindness of Ambassador Manuel and Madame Maria Teresa Lopez. The Embassy shared part of the proceeds from the Asia Pacific Ladies Friendship Society (ALFS) Charity Bazaars for DAWN’s activities for the Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) and the women. Sikhay products are also being sold during the various bazaars. The Embassy also invites our DAWN networks in Japan in the different bazaars they organize.

We are looking forward to continuing partnership with the different Embassies and Consulates.

Our advocacy together for the plight of our women will continue. We are encouraged knowing that more and more people are becoming aware of what survivors like us are doing after our experience in working overseas.

(Continued on page 8)

DAWN WELCOMES STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANTS

By Mirriam R. Orig

The DAWN women, children, staff and volunteers welcome study tour participants from the Hiroshima University, Kansai University, Bunkyo Gakuin University and Kyoto University.

Prof. Hideo Ikeda of the Graduate School of International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University together with 6 undergraduate students and 4 staff visited DAWN on August 22, 2014.

The DAWN staff and Sikhay members participated in the interaction with the students, staff and Prof. Ikeda. Ms. Mel Nuqui gave an orientation about DAWN and its programs and services for the women and JFC.

A discussion of various issues followed. The group then visited the Sikhay projects – weaving, sewing and the DAWN Wellness Center. The participants bought Sikhay products for their families and friends.

On September 3, 2014, the women and children participated in the interaction with Study Tour participants from the Kansai University. There were 16 students accompanied by their Professor Mayumi Kubota from the Faculty of Informatics focusing on Intercultural Communication. The focus of their tour is to know the differences of the living situation in Japan and Philippines.

They shared that few Japanese people are knowledgeable in women issues and they expressed that DAWN and the Teatro Akebono could help in raising their awareness.

The DAWN Orientation was conducted by Ms. Mel Nuqui, Executive Director assisted by Ms. Kana Yano, DAWN Intern from the Hiroshima University followed by the video showing of the Teatro Akebono Musicale, “The Crane Dog.”



Discussion of DAWN's programs with Prof. Ikeda and his students



Prof. Mayumi Kubota's students sharing the workshop output

A short question and answer was done to clarify some concerns of the students. In preparation for lunch, the students invited the women and children to join them in cooking Chirashi Sushi, a Japanese food consisting of cooked rice with vinegar combined with other ingredients, such as crab strips, shrimps, mushrooms, peas, carrots, eggs and nori. The students explained that Chirashi Sushi literally means “scattered sushi”. Additional Filipino food such as adobo and chopsuey were served for the fellowship lunch.

The group visited the SIKHAY project and the members of the DAWN-JFC for Change presented their loomband bracelets and key chains. The students bought some for themselves, their friends and family members.

In the afternoon, the women, children and the students were divided into four groups to discuss what the 13th Kubota Mayumi Seminar students could do to help DAWN and SIKHAY.

The outputs were shared to the groups and will be finalized by the students for implementation in Japan. The focus will be on promoting and selling the SIKHAY products in their university and nearby community.

They will also continue assisting Teatro Akebono's musicale for the coming years.

On September 6, 2014 Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, assisted by Ms. Sanae Nakajima of the Free the Children Japan, came with 8 students from the Bunkyo Gakuin University.

The program started with the DAWN Orientation conducted by Ms. Mel Nuqui, with Prof. Horiuchi as the interpreter/translator followed by the visit to SIKHAY. The students appreciated the different SIKHAY products and bought some for themselves and for their family members. The interaction revolves on the sharing of the life situation of the women and children.

SKILLS TRAINING IN HAND-LOOM WEAVING & SEWING

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

Gilda Mosatalla is now on her third year in Sikhay-DAWN. Right after her training in sewing, she became part of the Sikhay project. Her skills in pattern-making, cutting and sewing were developed. To reach her dream to level up her skills, DAWN assisted her in her review at the Sta. Isabel College for the Alternative Learning System (ALS) to be able to continue her studies. She passed the Diploma in Secondary Education through the Alternative Learning System and Accreditation Equivalency Test (ALS-A&E) which is now her diploma to continue her studies on Designs.



Gilda weaving a fabric for bags

While preparing for her formal studies on Designs, DAWN's in-house training in handloom-weaving is the first step to teach her on how designs are being done on the fabric and how the fabric or hand-woven materials are being made. She is now skilled in both the sewing and handloom-weaving and she is happy that finally she can now make fabric through the traditional way of weaving and also sewing it into new designs or items. "For every opportunity that DAWN has to offer, I take the challenge and I am willing to learn," Gilda said.

Juvy Sacabin is a returnee from Saudi Arabia. She was invited to train in sewing and during our interview, we learned that she also worked in Japan and that she has a Japanese-Filipino son who is now 23 years old.



Juvy sewing her skirt project

When she learned about the trainings that Sikhay-DAWN offers, she got interested so that she can sew in her place or if possible she can work using her skills in sewing. After her training in sewing, she's interested to continue her training in hand-loom weaving.

DAWN's trainings in handloom-weaving and sewing are made possible through the support of ACT-Japan.



Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi and her students buy Sikhay products for their friends and families

The children introduced themselves in Japanese while the Japanese students introduced themselves in English. They also exchanged sharing on the different culture of both countries and had lunch together with Filipino dishes.

Prof. Wako Asato from Kyoto University visited DAWN in the afternoon of September 27, 2014, together with three graduate students.

Ms. Nuqui gave the DAWN orientation and answered questions of the students while Prof. Wako shared his concern on the working conditions of the Filipino caregivers and their Japanese-Filipino children who are now in Japan. The group visited the Sikhay project.

Later in the afternoon they joined the "Sayonara Party" for Kana Yano, the DAWN Intern from Hiroshima University.

As always, the DAWN women & children welcome all the study tour groups with the action song "Kumusta Ka? O Genki Desu Ka?" and send them off with the song "Teno Hira wo Taiyo Ni."



Prof. Wako sharing his concern on the working conditions of Filipino caregivers and their Japanese-Filipino children in Japan

KANSAI UNIVERSITY-YOSHIDA SEMINAR STUDENTS & DAWN-KUIS VISIT DAWN & SIKHAY

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

“Every time we dance ‘Tenohira wo Taiyoni’ together, we feel our hearts become one,” said Kansai University –Yoshida Seminar students.

“It was a very good study tour, I’ll let more people know about DAWN and Sikhay through the video that we took during the interview. Nagpapasalamat ako sa DAWN,” Chiyoko of DAWN KUIS said.

Whenever we meet either in Japan during our Akebono Tour or in the Philippines, we feel that we are one family even in a short period of time. We continuously learn, accept and enjoy each other’s company. The students always say they learned a lot from us but actually, we also learn a lot from them. We appreciate their efforts, time, expertise and knowledge and most especially having the same advocacy as DAWN for the women and children. This two group of students believe that they are more effective in helping DAWN by selling Sikhay items and by accommodating the Akebono Tour in their universities to inform people especially the students about our advocacy.

We, as survivors of Japan’s entertainment migration are glad that the young generation of Japanese are becoming interested and aware of our plight.

The pioneers of these two groups of students whom we are thankful, are Ms. Kaori Yasui of DAWN-KUIS and Mr. Katsumi Anno of Osaka. Kaori’s passion to inform Japanese people about DAWN’s work started way back in 2007 during her volunteer work in DAWN, Manila. When she got back to Kanda University for International Studies (KUIS), she invited other students and started the DAWN-KUIS. They were promoting DAWN’s work and selling Sikhay products in bazaars in school and other places in Japan. When Kaori graduated, she passed on the tasks to other students and this went on and on up to the present. Kaori once in a while visits and joins the activities of DAWN-KUIS. Mr. Katsumi Anno of Osaka has been supporting DAWN since the beginning of Teatro Akebono in 1998. In May 2013, he introduced us to Yoshida-sensei of the Kansai University. Every year, Yoshida-sensei’s students take the Yoshida seminar for one year and engage in entrepreneurial activities/project. They chose Sikhay and DAWN as their project and the group help in the dissemination of information about the issue of the JFC and the DAWN women and market/sell Sikhay products.

They also prepare for the presentation of “The Crane Dog,” in cooperation with Anno-sensei.

Kansai University –Yoshida seminar students and DAWN-KUIS members through the years of promoting DAWN and Sikhay gave them the eagerness to know more and have a chance to meet with the DAWN family specially the members of Sikhay, the DAWN women and the JFC. Thus the exposure trip of both in DAWN and Manila.

The Kansai University students –Yoshida seminar came last August 30 and September 1, 2014 with twelve (12) members: Akane Sako, Atsuko Shimose, Chihiro Morioka, Ikuko Akimoto, Jumpei Terashima, Kanako Morikawa, Mai Futaoka, Mai Nagata, Natsuno Ito, Sayaka Ueda, Taichi Akamatsu and Wanaka Abe.

When asked about their exposure, they said that they learned a lot and felt very comfortable. They are glad with Mel-san’s orientation because it has a lot of information, the knowledge about DAWN which they used to get only through the website and communication through e-mails will definitely be helpful in selling more Sikhay products in Japan.

During exchanges with the women and children they were surprised by the stories of women during their work in Japan and were shocked but, at the same time,



Gilda teaching Wakana and Chihiro how to make an eyeglass holder



Anna teaching Akane and Mai drawing-in, the 3rd step in weaving.



Joy, Jane and Juvy discussing new designs with Akane



Yu-san warping a scarf, the 1st step in weaving

appreciated how the women were able to share their stories with their Japanese husbands/partners.

It is amazing to know that they still love Japanese people. The students were very happy to meet the JFC again. During their home visit, they are happy with the warm welcome and hospitality of the women and their family members. They were able to understand the real life situation of women and JFC. The students, one by one tried actual weaving and sewing.

Experiencing the actual weaving and sewing, they realized that very detailed work is needed to make the products, which made them more attached to them. We really appreciate and respect all the women who do such detailed work for the Sikhay products.

DAWN-KUIS - Chiyo Tamaoki, Yu Asakawa, Akari Kakizaki, Ayaka Akazawa and Naoto Kodama visited Manila



Chiyoko interviewing Gilda about the Sikhay items she makes

last September 8-11, 2014, mainly to have an exposure to DAWN and Sikhay.

Most of them are first timers abroad, but they took the chance to come and understand better what DAWN and Sikhay are doing.

They took video of the project and interviewed the staff and members of Sikhay. They experienced hands-on process of production in weaving and sewing. They discussed their proposed new items.

They shared that with their personal hands-on experience, they now understand and appreciate better the different items of Sikhay.

What inspired them most is when the women shared that with the support from DAWN and volunteers like them and being part of Sikhay, women were able to support their children improve their lives.



DAWN-KUIS members discussing the proposed Sikhay items with Joy

After the exchanges with the women, Kana Yano (DAWN's intern from Hiroshima University) and Joy Barcelona accompanied them around Manila and Makati. They tried to taste the Sinigang which they want to cook back to Japan whenever they have bazaars. Chiyoko, who just graduated from her English studies, is happy that she could communicate. They learned that more Filipinos can speak and understand English.

They are thankful of the DAWN's staff and Sikhay members' hospitality and in making sure that they are safe. They are sorry that they were not able to meet the JFC this time. Next time they will make sure that they will come on a Saturday to meet more women and children.

After their hands-on experience and meeting the Sikhay members and the DAWN staff, they promised to join more bazaars and sell more Sikhay products.

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MY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE IN DAWN

By Kana Yano

My name is Kana Yano. I am a fourth year student at the Hiroshima University. I've been an intern for one month. This is my memorable experience in DAWN.

In August 2013, I visited DAWN office for the first time as a member of study tour organized by our university. After the presentation about DAWN, I asked Tita Mel "What do you want us to do?" She said, "please share what you learned here with your family and friends." These words remained in my heart. So, I decided to write a thesis about women who worked in Japan and their JFC, and come here again as an intern to understand this issue deeply and share what I learn here with many Japanese.

First, I requested Prof. Chiho Ogaya to ask Tita Mel if I can attend the AKEBONO tour in May. Tita Mel accepted me kindly. I joined the presentations in Kyoto and three in Osaka in May 2014.

When I watched the presentation for the first time, I was surprised that the JFC's acting was like professional and was moved by its story very much.

I learned that JFC could understand their role's feeling by acting and that made them strong. So I got more interested in DAWN activities.

I also had fun with DAWN members.



Kana explains and cooks Chirashi Sushi with the JFC

For example, we went to Kyoto for sightseeing with Kyoto University students, and had Keigo's Birthday party with Kansai University students, Anno-sensei and Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto at the Nagai Youth Hostel. These are good memories for me.

On August 25, I arrived in Manila. This stay is the third time for me to be in the Philippines. I love this country, so I was so happy to be back here again. From the next day, my life as an intern began. I translated various documents. I made a poster to explain the process of Sewing and Weaving to Japanese visitors.

During my stay, we had many visitors from Japan, like Kansai University Yoshida seminar, Mayumi seminar, Bunkyo Gakuin University, Kyoto University, DAWN-KUIS and Kyoto University. Of course we explained the process of making SIKHAY products with the posters I made. I joined the activities, like dancing, singing, giving presentations, having lunch together, and also discussions. Everyone said that they wanted to do something for DAWN after going back to Japan. I was inspired by them. I'd like to keep in touch with them and do something for DAWN together in Japan. *(Continued on page 8)*



Kana with Chiho, Tita Mel, Joy, Cris, JFC and Sikhay members



The JFC, women, Wako-sensei, students and Kana during the Sayonara Party, September 27

THE DAWN-JFC FOR CHANGE

By Jennifer Verano



JFC making loombands and key chains

To enable the children to internalize what they learned from the different capability building /trainings conducted for them and with them, a series of meetings were conducted every Saturdays from April to June. The meetings were used to re-visit/ review the Vision, Mission and Goals of the DAWN-JFC for Change and proposed/ acted on some modifications.

The roles and functions of officers and committees were also reviewed and discussed with the members.

These activities were spearheaded by the older JFC namely: Arisa Junio, Kanna Junio, Jennifer Verano and Tsuyoshi Imai. On June 21, 2014 the group elected their new set of officers for July 2014 to June 2015 as follows: President- Maria Kanna Junio, Vice-President- Jennifer Verano, Secretary-Yorgie Cerezo, Treasurer-Keigo Mosatalla, Auditor-Ai Risa Akase, PRO-Yukie Ikeda and Adviser-Tsuyoshi Imai.

On the same date of election, the officers conducted a meeting for the planning of their weekly activities for the month of June-July. They decided to prepare a presentation for the Japanese visitors who will come to DAWN in August and September.

They also decided to have Japanese language and culture lessons to be led by Kanna Junio and Jennifer Verano.

The group believes that studying Nihongo will help them to communicate somehow with the visitors. They also planned to have projects for their resource generation.

The keychain-making will be a continuing project, as it was already implemented last year. The other project is the loom band making, because the younger JFC expressed that they are enjoying making them.

It was decided that each member will have a share of P2.00/loom band made and the said amount will go to the personalized piggy bank of each member.

Starting August 2014, the DAWN-JFC for Change was advised by the staff to meet twice a month, every first and last Saturdays, in consideration of the transportation expenses of the mother and JFC and their school assignments. The group scheduled their activities in relation to the visits of Japanese students and professors. On August 9, the JFC practiced the songs & dances - Te No Hira, Penguin dance and Chicken dance.

The students and professors from different universities in Japan visited DAWN from August 9-September 27, 2014.

We had fun in interacting with them as we were able to learn some part of their culture and their insights in visiting Philippines. We also learned their perspectives about Japanese-Filipino Children.

For us, their visit is an opportunity to tell them our stories and experiences as JFC and raise their awareness. We were happy that one of the universities expressed their desire to help in making other students in their campus to be aware of our existence and stories.

The DAWN-JFC for Change is looking forward to be an active youth organization. We are now focusing on strengthening our organization especially the commitment of everyone to the DAWN-JFC for Change.

We are lucky to have a supportive mother organization and friends who help us in strengthening our organization through various seminars and workshops, including leadership trainings.



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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BAZAARS IN THE PHILIPPINES (cont'd)



DAWN-KUIS at the Mitaka International Festival Bazaar on September 21, 2014

We are thankful to all our networks and friends in the Philippines, Japan and other countries who are willingly sharing their time and efforts to attend different bazaars and sell our Sikhay products despite their busy schedules.

We are also grateful whenever you share feedbacks, new designs, trends and suggestions on what we are doing. University students even conduct surveys that could help a lot in analyzing what and how we can improve our Sikhay products.

We are glad that more and more friends and networks are supporting the DAWN's Alternative Livelihood project, Sikhay which aims to empower the women and improve their economic situation to support their children. More power to all of us!

MY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE (cont'd)

On Saturday, I had a NIHONGO lesson with JFC and Sayapi from Kansai University. I taught the meaning of the song, "Tenohira o Taiyo ni" with some pictures of insects and birds which are in the lyrics. The meaning of this song is "all living things are equal with us human." Now I'm very glad that they can understand and feel the lyrics while singing and dancing. We also cooked Chirashi Sushi.

I interviewed some women who worked in Japan as entertainers for my thesis. I heard many stories before, during, and after working in Japan. I was moved by them because they had a strong will to help their family and seek their dreams at the same age with me. At the same time, I thought it was a big problem that women were always under control of Japanese and they were vulnerable. Now, Japan needs migrant workers because the working population in Japan is growing older/ageing. We must not make same mistake again with what happened to Filipino women. So I'd like to learn from the case of Filipino women and write a good thesis for our future. Fortunately, I could interview two women who were not involved in any NGOs, so now I can compare with them and understand how DAWN assists the women.

I experienced many things during this stay. On the first day in DAWN, Tita Mel said, "this stay should be a good opportunity for you to grow up." I think I made it. Every day was special for me. I met many people here, talked a lot, heard the stories, and write many papers. I appreciate Tita Mel, the DAWN staff, women, JFC, visitors, and all the people whom I met in Manila.

After going back to Japan, I'll keep in touch with them and help each other. First, I'd like to study hard again and write a good thesis!

Thank you for the memorable experience and the Sayonara Party with my DAWN Family! See you soon in Japan or in the Philippines. Salamat po!

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