



# SINAG

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## DAWN Celebrates 17<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

*By Mary Joy E. Barcelona and Maricris S. Tenorio*



*The DAWN Family*

*"Building Capacities of Women and Children,"* is the theme of DAWN's 17th anniversary which was celebrated on February 9, 2013. DAWN is proud to celebrate its 17 years of journey among its women members, the Japanese- Filipino children (JFC), and its supportive partners and networks.

The program started with a prayer of commitment led by Masami Kuraoka for the JFC, Gilda Mosatalla for the women, Mary Joy Barcelona for the staff and Rumi Medoruma for the volunteers. This was followed by Tita Mel's welcome message to everyone including the guests, board and advisory council members.

The women presented a dance number with

the song "Moves Like Jagger" while the JFC sang "At the Beginning" with matching action. Rumi and her friend performed a special dance number.

The highlight of the celebration was a video presentation, "The Journey of Women, JFC and DAWN." It was a heart warming presentation. It showed the women, the JFC, volunteers, staff of DAWN growing together as a family.

Some advisory council members gave their inspirational messages. Prof. Aurora Javate-de Dios said "DAWN is one of the recognized organizations when it comes to the issue of JFC, that provides programs for women like Sikhay, DAWN's livelihood program." Coming all the way from

Tokyo, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi shared, "I am always looking forward to attend such activity of DAWN seeing closely the JFC and women and how the DAWN staff work hard for the organization."

Ms. Pearl Domingo-Flores, DAWN Board member also gave her message, "Looking back at the video, I realized how far we have been through as a DAWN family." As a final message, DAWN Chairperson Prof. Cora Arboleda congratulated and wished everyone a happy anniversary and more years to come!

The celebration was capped with the singing of "I Can," afterwards tokens were given to everyone and followed by sharing of lunch together.



# RIGHTS' CAMP FOR JFC

*By Prof. Zandro T. Estella*

*The DAWN-JFC during their Rights' Camp session with Prof. Estella*

The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), in partnership with the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) College of Social Sciences and Development - Department of Cooperatives and Social Development, held a Rights' Camp for Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) from March 23-24, 2013 at Splash Mountain Resort, Pansol, Laguna. The Rights' Camp was supported by Asian Community Trust (ACT).

The seminar was facilitated by Prof. Zandro T. Estella. DAWN Executive Director Ms. Carmelita Nuqui talked about the house rules upon arrival of the participants at the venue. The objectives of the two-day training program were also discussed with the group.

Activities include the reinforcement of knowledge and skills on Children's Rights of the JFC participants.

The children gamely participated in all the discussions by sharing their experiences to the group.

Activities of the two days include the discussion on the plans and programs of the DAWN-JFC for Change. The activity was also an opportunity for the children to have time for bonding and recreation.

The reaction of the JFCs during the training showed their strong desire and eagerness to learn more. It is hoped that the activity gave them more reasons to keep on moving and use those inspirations in shaping their lives for their future.

PUP and DAWN will continue to be strong partners and allies in setting-up recovery programs to help empower migrant women returnees and their children - and that's a COMMITMENT.

## More Anniversary Photos



*JFC Presentation*

*Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi delivering her anniversary message to the women, children, staff and Board of DAWN*



*DAWN Chairperson, Prof. Corazon Arboleda, congratulating the DAWN Family and wishing everyone a happy anniversary*



*Advisory Council member, Prof. Oyie de Dios, giving an inspirational message to the DAWN Family*





# YES to Change!

*By Arisa Junio\**

On March 23-24, 2013, the DAWN JFC (Development Action for Women Network – Japanese-Filipino Children) had a Rights Camp. Part of the program was the annual meeting to remind the members of the vision, mission, goals, and upcoming projects of the organization. Led by Jennifer Verano, President of DAWN-JFC for Change, the discussion focused on the programs of the DAWN-JFC for Change.

DAWN-JFC for Change is an organization that was established in August 2009, with the goal to unite and promote the welfare and rights of Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC). Some JFC are at a disadvantaged position in school and in the society because of their status of being Japanese-Filipino. They continue with their struggle to acquire legal recognition from their Japanese parent. The organization envisions a society wherein Japanese-Filipino children enjoy equality and freedom of expression. It is committed to raise awareness on JFC's conditions, inform the society of their experiences, and reach out to other JFC who are also in need of friends and companions who can help in the fight against discrimination and other social injustices.

To realize the vision, mission and goals of DAWN-JFC for Change, the organization has been doing team building and leadership trainings. Program committees that were agreed upon are the following: 1) Membership committee, which will be in charge of inviting and maintaining the members of the organization; 2) Resource Generation committee, which takes charge of the fund mobilization, in order to utilize the savings and create small businesses like handicrafts to earn money; 3) Capacity Building committee, tasked with promoting the well-being and welfare of the JFC through activities that would enhance the skills and talents of JFC; and 4) Networking and Advocacy committee, which aims to promote the organization through the website, SINAG newsletter, and Teatro Akebono.

*The DAWN-JFC bonding together during the Rights' Camp at the Splash Mountain Resort*



*Jennifer Verano, President of DAWN -JFC for Change, discusses programs with members*

With these programs of the DAWN-JFC for Change, Prof. Zandro Estella offered to promote the DAWN-JFC program in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), and Miriam College (as discussed by Arisa Junio), through the presentation of Teatro Akebono in the said schools.

The DAWN-JFC for Change calls for transformation by breaking the negative connotations ascribed to Japanese-Filipino children. Like any other kids they should be treated with respect, equality, and acceptance.

*\*Arisa Junio is an incoming 4th year student of Miriam College taking up AB International Studies major in Development Studies, Minor in Gender Studies. She is an intern of DAWN, a Japanese-Filipino Child (JFC)*



# Teatro Akebono 2013 Restages “The Crane Dog”

*By Arisa Junio*

Once again, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) stages its original musical play written by the award-winning screenplay writer, Michiko Yamamoto.

*The Crane Dog* is a story of a half-crane, half-dog who searches for her own identity. With her own desire to know who she really is, she leaves her family and look for her real father. The Crane Dog endured a lot of hardships in search for her father. Fortunately, she was able to meet and to reconcile with her father.

The story portray the struggles and experiences of Japanese-Filipino children (JFC), living with their Filipino parent, who do not have the capability to know and find their Japanese parent. The play captures the attention of its viewers as the play addresses the common dilemma of the JFC members of DAWN in search of their Japanese parent. Just like the lead character in the play, many JFC want to meet their real fathers.

The cast of this year’s musical play are the following: Masami Angel Kuraoka, who plays the role of Crane Dog; Jemina Shilyn Alnas, as the Crane Dog’s mother and the crane’s wife; Nobuyuki Paulo Mosatalla, takes the role of the Crane Dog’s crane father; Tsuyoshi Imai is the Crane Dog’s stepfather and also the grandfather crane; Yorgei Cerezo, plays the roles of Bully Dog and the Hunter; and lastly, Sora Sato as the friendly dog. Cerezo, Alnas, and Sato will also take the roles of cranes and dogs.

Prior to the selection of the cast, the children underwent workshops, after which six children were selected. The six children will undergo a series of workshops and rehearsals



for the play which will be presented in the Philippines and in Japan.

DAWN will have a back-to-back presentation of “The Crane Dog,” and “Iba’t-ibang Mukha ni Misty,” by the women members of DAWN on May 15, 2013, (Wednesday) at the Ninoy Aquino Learning and Library Resources Center (NALLRC), Bulwagang Balagtas of the PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The cast of “The Crane Dog” will then leave for Japan on May 18, 2013 for a series of presentations and interactions with university students and Japanese children in several prefectures in Japan such as Chiba, Tokyo, Yokohama, Saitama, Nagoya and Osaka. The group will be back to Manila on May 31, 2013.



*The Crane Dog Rehearsal*



*Father Crane courts Mother Dog*

# The Cast of "The Crane Dog"



**MASAMI ANGEL  
KURAOKA**

Masami is 10 years old. She is an incoming grade 5 student of Epifanio Delos Santos Elementary School. She plays with her friends and watches the television as her

hobby. She loves to eat Adobo, Sinigang, ice cream, and fruits such as mangoes and oranges. She wants to become a veterinarian and artist someday. When she was only 6 years old, she was able to participate and present in a play initiated by DAWN.



**NOBUYUKI PAULO  
MOSATALLA**

Nobuyuki Paulo is the newest member of the play. He is 12 years old, an incoming grade 6 student of Libis Elementary School.

His favorite subjects are Mathematics and Science. He likes to watch television and play computer games. He likes to play basketball. He wants to become an astronaut someday.



**YORGEI CEREZO**

Yorgei is 16 years old, incoming first year BS Tourism student at the Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP). He likes to text, read fictional books,

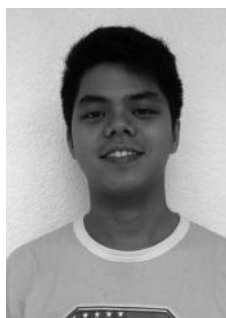
and play computer games during his free time. He also loves to swim. He prefers Japanese food and shrimps the most. His first appearance was in 2005, in DAWN's play entitled "*The Magic Ring*."



**JEMINA  
SHILYN ALNAS**

Jemina is 13 years old. She is an incoming grade 8 student at the San Francisco High School. She loves to surf the internet, watch

"Walking Dead", and sleep on her free time. She also likes to play badminton and swim. Sinigang, fried chicken, and adobo are her favorite food. She dreams of becoming a chef and an artist someday. In 2008, she took the role of Maria in one of DAWN's play entitled "*JFC World*."



**TSUYOSHI IMAI**

Tsuyoshi is 20 years old. He is currently on his second year in a medical school at University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERMM).

He loves to read books related to medicine. He likes to play basketball, and he is not choosy in food. He wants to become a successful doctor someday. In 1999, he took the lead role of a child in DAWN's play entitled "*Sana Isang Kuwento ng Pangarap*," when he was seven years old.



**SORA SATO**

Sora, the youngest in the cast, is only 7 years old. He is an incoming grade 2 student of San Jose Elementary School. He loves to play with his friends, watch

"Happy Tree Friends," and play computer games. He loves to eat fried chicken and mangoes. He wants to be a chef someday. In 2012, he also joined the play, "*The Crane Dog*."

## SUBSCRIPTION

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# PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS



*Rosalie Akase, a Sikhay member, explains the process of hand-weaving to Mr. Kentaro Yamane of the Economic Section of the Embassy of Japan during his visit last January 18, 2013, while DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui (middle) listens*



*Members of the Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Evaluation Team from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan Philippines Network (JPN) and Philippine Japan NGO Partnership (PJP) visit DAWN's projects last January 22, 2013*



*Together with DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui, Japanese volunteers Natsumi, Kazu, Ai and Mari pose for photo during the 17<sup>th</sup> DAWN Anniversary celebration held last February 9, 2013*



*Prof. Chiho Ogaya and her students from the Yokohama National University with the DAWN women, JFC, volunteers and staff taken last February 16, 2013*



*Rosalie Akase and Mary Jane Kuraoka (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seated from left) with participants from the DOST-NCR seminar on "Synthetic and Natural Dyeing Technology" last March 6 to 7*



*Teatro Akebono's performance of "Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty" in a joint celebration with the Philippine Normal University to commemorate International Women's Day last March 8, 2013*

# Memorable Experience at DAWN

*By Rumi Medoruma*

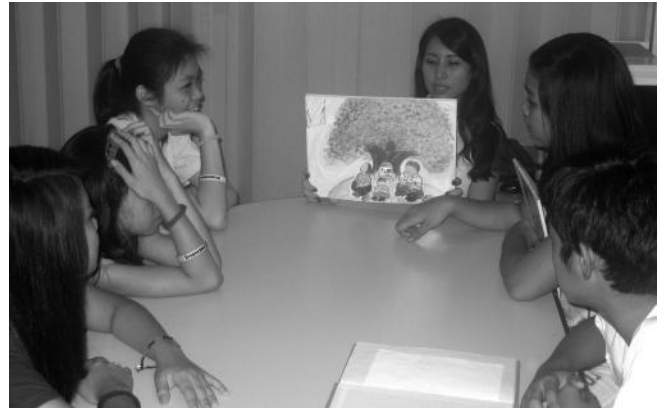
Last April 2012, I went to the Philippines to study for a year in Ateneo de Manila University as an exchange student. My stay in the Philippines was very memorable because I was able to spend my time at the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN). I became interested in DAWN when I found out that it supports Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) and their mothers. I am also a Japanese-Filipino and I was particularly interested on how it is different for JFC to grow up in the Philippines.

I volunteered every Tuesdays and Saturdays for four months. I was able to learn about the programs of DAWN and the different issues it address. It was my first time to learn about the experiences of Filipino women who used to work in Japan and I was shocked with the difficulties, struggles, and problems they had to face. I also observed Sikap-Buhay (SIKHAY), DAWN's livelihood program for women. I tried using the sewing machine and had a massage and haircut. I remember one of the women telling me that SIKHAY is helpful to her because it is therapeutic. Spending time with the JFC was so much fun and memorable for me. Every Saturday, I taught them Japanese language and culture and in return they taught me some Filipino

words and games. We also practiced songs and dances for the Christmas party and anniversary.

I got the impression that DAWN is like a big family support group. Even though every woman and JFC have different problems and experiences, they openly share their problems through activities; learn from each other; and provide support for those in need. They have gained more confidence by talking in front of a crowd and have more positive outlook in life.

One of the women told me "It's okay even though my child's father is not around, because I am doing my best and I will support my child." I am inspired by their dreams and hard work to have a better life. All of the women at DAWN always welcomed me with a big smile. As for the JFC, I was amazed by their enthusiasm, hard work and talents. Lastly, I would like to thank all of the staff and members of DAWN for allowing me to have this great



*Rumi sharing a Japanese story to the JFC*

experience. I learned so many things and was inspired by all of you.

Now that I am in Japan, I will always try to share my experience with my friends and hopefully, to the Filipino-Japanese communities here. I am still in a search of what I can do more for DAWN, but I believe sharing my experience is a big step. Also, I would like to visit DAWN whenever I go back to the Philippines.

*Maraming salamat po!*



*Sayonara party for Rumi*



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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**LAYOUT:** Lance A.S.Velasco



# DAWN-MPC HOLDS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*By Analisa Carimpong*

The DAWN-MPC held its 4th General Assembly and Election of Officers last March 23, 2013 at the Splash Mountain Resort in Laguna. It started with a roll call of the members and officers. Chairperson Analisa Carimpong did a power point presentation of the 2012 Report. She discussed the share capital of each member and a pie graph showing the cash loaned by the members. Also reported were purchases made by the coop and the individual patronage of members, as well as the total income of the cooperative for the year.

Ranking of members in terms of their contribution in the cooperative's earnings were also presented. The top five in sales were: Mary Joy Barcelona, Anna Liza Yambao, Evangeline Cerezo, Analisa Carimpong and Maricris Tenorio respectively. Analisa Carimpong was awarded as "Avon, Ever Bilena and Hangten Lady of the Year;" Evangeline Cerezo got the title of "Boardwalk, Natasha and Sundance Lady;" Anna Liza Yambao was given the award of "Commodity Lady;" Maricris Tenorio, the "Detergent Lady," while Mary Joy Barcelona was given the "Hanabishi Lady" award.

DAWN Executive Director, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, awarded each one of them certificates of appreciation. Cash dividends were also given to all the members.



It was the first time in the five-year operations of DAWN-MPC that cash dividends were distributed. All the members were happy upon receiving the fruits of their labor.

The election of members of the board and various committees for 2013 took place after having an appetizing lunch. Analisa Carimpong was elected Chairperson and Evangeline Cerezo as the Vice-Chairperson. The other Board members were Dolores Alnas, Concepcion Sato and Mary Joy Barcelona. Anna Liza Yambao remains as treasurer.

The following were also elected members of the various committees: Maricris Tenorio and Mary Jane Kuraoka - Audit Committee; Carmelita Nuqui and Gilda Mosatalla - Credit Committee; Rosie Verano, Fritzie Petisme and Aileen Mahayhay - Election Committee and Rosalie Akase, Luz Cecilia Ozawa and Zita Felarca - Conciliation Committee.

The Board Members and all the members of the committees took time in reviewing and improving the policies of the cooperative. They also discussed the Plan of Action for the year 2013. Regular schedule of meetings were also agreed upon.

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