



# SINAG

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## DAWN 2011 Year-End Report

The year 2011 was another challenging year for DAWN for its continued provision of assistance and support to returned women migrants and their children. Below are the various activities of DAWN, as well as the different assistance it provided to its members.

### SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM (SSP)

The Social Services Program is the entry point of women and children members of DAWN. Through the pre-orientation and intake interviews, prospective members learn about the work, the programs, and services of the organization.

The program handled a case load of 86 women and 105 JFC for the year 2011. This does not include yet the number of inquiries from walk-in clients, from the internet, and those referred by the Japan Embassy and other government and media organizations.

For the year 2011, there were a total of 95 individuals who inquired and were given free consultation and advice.

### The profile of women members

The youngest woman member of DAWN is 27 years old while the oldest among the mothers is 56 years old. Nine have college degrees; 30 reached college level; 27 graduated from high school; 13 reached high school; 5 finished vocational/associate courses; and 2 finished elementary.

Thirty three are currently employed, 24 are self-employed, and 29 are being supported by family members.

Of the 86 women, 26 are married to Japanese nationals, while 2 were divorced.

### Profile of JFC Members

53 per cent of DAWN's JFC members are males while the rest are females. The youngest JFC is 3 years old while the oldest

is 24 years old. Ninety-four are Filipino nationals, nine hold dual citizenships, and two are Japanese nationals. Sixteen of these children are registered in the koseki or Japanese family registry. In 2011, only 10 of these children have had contact or communication with their Japanese fathers.

### Programs and Activities

Regular counseling and life coaching activities were provided to both the women and JFC members, in partnership with some experts such as Dr. Nonie Gagui and Prof. Zandro Estella of the PUP. Group work sessions with the women were also conducted which focused on different issues on women. Seminars on Self-Awareness, Value Clarification, Parenting and Family Dynamics were also held.

Regular DAWN activities such as the holding of DAWN anniversary, Family day, Mother's day, and Christmas get-together were held. The women also participated during the World Women's March on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of International Women's Day. In April, some women and children joined the activities with Peace Boat participants who visited the Philippines. Other activities where the women and children joined were the International celebration to End Violence against Women in November, International Migrants day in December, and the Fun Run organized by Philhealth, Pag-Ibig and the Social Security System.

The women and JFC were also assisted in the translation of their documents (from Japanese to



DAWN staff, members and volunteers with Prof. Horiuchi and students from the Bunkyo Gakuin University

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English and vice versa), and in securing necessary documents, such as koseki, passports, birth certificates, etc.

In coordination with the other programs of DAWN, the DAWN Japanese Filipino Children for Change (DAWN-JFC) was further strengthened. Some activities were undertaken by the children.

In partnership with the other programs, several women and children became active advocates of DAWN. They were also tapped to help facilitate some activities and provide other forms of assistance during activities. Educational assistance was provided to the children. Health care assistance was also provided to the women and children.

In coordination with DAWN's Alternative Livelihood Program, six women were assisted in getting fund assistance from the DSWD-NCR for their TIP project.

Coordination with organizations such as ASSIST, WCC, Visayan Forum, CATWAP, DSWD-NCR Crisis Intervention unit, Bureau of Immigration, the Japan Embassy, the Manila, Quezon City and Paranaque Social Welfare offices were made in relation to the cases of DAWN members.

The social case study reports were

completed and updated. Home and school visits were also conducted.

### RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM (REAP)

Four quarterly issues of DAWN's official newsletter "SINAG" were published for the year 2011. These have been distributed and sent electronically through e-mail and by snail mail to various individuals, organizations and networks of DAWN. The staff, women and JFC members contributed articles and photos for the various issues. The articles were also sent to DAWN-Japan for translation and publication into Japanese version of the newsletter. Each issue of the newsletter is uploaded in DAWN's website [www.dawnphil.org](http://www.dawnphil.org).

The English and Japanese versions of the book, "We are your Children, Too: Creative Journeys of DAWN's Japanese-Filipino Children members" saw print in February and July, respectively. The book highlights and summarizes the different creative workshops and activities conducted by DAWN for its JFC members as a response to some of the identified needs of the JFC.

Theater workshops were conducted for both the women and children members of DAWN. The women members of Teatro Akebono had three performances during

the year – in March at the Museo Pambata, on May 31 at the Asian Social Institute, and in December during an activity of the Pag-Ibig Fund.

There was no theater tour to Japan due to the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan during the early part of the year. The children had their presentations though at the Asian Social Institute on May 31 and at the Pope Pius Center on October 22.

To show its solidarity with the peoples of Japan during the time of tragedy, the women and children members of DAWN created art works of solidarity which were sent to Japan, through the Japan Embassy and Peace Boat. Some financial donation was also given by DAWN through its networks in Japan.

DAWN accommodated and hosted several individual and group study tours from various local and Japanese universities, as well as organizations from other countries. Visits from the following institutions and groups were welcomed: Yokohama National University, Peace Boat, JICA, College of St. Benilde, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Bunkyo Gakuin University, Loyola School of Theology, Mirai ni Kibou; Tokyo Metropolitan College, Waseda University, Miriam College, and ACT. Officials from the government agencies like the Philippine Commission on Women and other groups came to visit DAWN.

In 2011, DAWN had four foreign interns – Seiji Ishihara from Japan, Wen Biyu from China, Lauren Brand from Australia and Miriam Thieme from Germany. They all participated in the various programs and activities of DAWN during the time they were in the Philippines.

DAWN remains a member of various networks and alliances that advocate issues on migration, women and children. It is a member of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch, with DAWN Executive Director serving as its President for the past several years; the OFW Journalism Consortium; Philippines-Japan NGO Partnership; the Coalition against Trafficking in Women in Asia and the Pacific; and, CARAM-Asia. DAWN's Executive Director is one of the global advisers of Vital Voices. Aside from the membership in these networks, DAWN maintains active partnership





*Tamura-san of DAWN- Japan took part in the bazaar organized during the August meeting of Jichiro*

and collaboration with other local and international organizations.

DAWN participated in various local and international meetings, conferences and forums in order to share and learn, and to advocate its issues. These included attendance in the World Justice project meeting, the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labor, Colombo Process meeting, Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers, CARAM-Asia General Assembly, Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Geneva in November, and International Migrants Day in December, to name a few.

DAWN likewise actively engaged government officials and agencies, as well as Congress, in advancing issues pertaining to the rights and welfare of women migrants and their children.

The Officer in charge of the program continuously updated the data and information regarding Filipino OFWs, especially women migrants. DAWN also actively participated in various discussions and forums in relation to its work.

### **ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (ALP)**

Eight women are part of the continuous skills upgrading program of the ALP. They are with the sewing, weaving, and wellness projects. Mary Jane Kuraoka and Dolores Alnas also trained in beads and accessories making. Sikhay products are available in the

Philippines and in Japan. In the Philippines, they are sold at the Echo Store, Gifts and Graces, and La Monja Loca. DAWN also attended bazaars sponsored by the SALT Foundation. In Japan, DAWN's networks also helped boost the sales of the products. These are the Peace Boat, Global Narunia in Niigata, Patchwork, DAWN-KUIS, and the shop of Ms. Yoriko Nakahira in Urawa.

In August, DAWN collaborated with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for the creation of packaging materials for Sikhay products. To date, it is still in process.

Six of the women members of DAWN qualified as beneficiaries to the DSWD assistance project for trafficked women. They underwent a series of interviews and seminar at the DSWD-NCR office and in December started their individual projects. These six women are being assisted by DAWN through its ALP in the management of their projects.

The DAWN Wellness Center continues to provide services in hair coloring, hair cutting, manicure, pedicure, foot spa, and massage.

The Coordinator of ALP is also in charge of the theater workshops, as well as in directing the musical plays of the women which saw presentations at Museo Pambata in March, Asian Social Institute in May, and during the event of PAG-IBIG Fund in December.

The ALP program of DAWN continues to assist and guide the Board, officers and members of the DAWN Multi-Purpose Cooperative in running and developing the organization.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE**

The Administrative and Finance section implemented the standard systems and procedures necessary for the smooth functioning of the organization. These included the timely processing of business permits, submission of contribution reports to the SSS, Philhealth, PAG-IBIG, and the BIR, as well as facilitating the preparation of the Financial Statement and ITR of DAWN, and managing the funds raised for the organization.

Support was given to the staff for the continuous upgrading of their knowledge and skills through participation and attendance in various conferences and forums.

Capacity-building workshops and trainings were availed of by the staff. These included the following: JICA-sponsored Fund Raising and Marketing and Communications Seminars, Seminar on Packaging with DOST, and Gender Mainstreaming in Migration seminar organized by the PMRW.

The Administrative and Finance officer helped in the submission of proposals to selected funding partners. Grants and donations were received from JICHIRO and RENGO in Japan, as well as from individual donors.



*DAWN Christmas Party 2011*

(Continued from p. 8, *At Home...*)

art manager as well as my collaborator in the House of Comfort who was here for a Japanese Government Study Grant for Artists from October 1 to December 19, 2011; Yuria Furusawa, an Asian Public Intellectual Fellow for 2011-2012, a Ph.D. student of the School of Cultural and Social Studies at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies and a Visiting Research Associate of the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) at the Ateneo de Manila University; and Ryoko Yamagata who used to be an art coordinator in Japan but is currently living in the Philippines with her husband. They observed as well as participated in the creative writing and storytelling workshop. They also attended the creative intervention training workshop that the House of Comfort Art Network, Inc. (ARTHOC) organized on November 18-19, 2011 with funding support from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). In the afternoon, they helped me facilitate my workshop on soft toy sculpture, each one of them in charge of a group of JFC to assist them in creating 3-D works based on the stories they wrote during their creative writing session with Noreen Parafina, teacher, storyteller and Programs Director of Museo Pambata Foundation, Inc.

In the creative writing workshop, the dream of Yorgei C. Cerezo, now in 3<sup>rd</sup> year high school, struck me as reflective of his strong desire to reunite with his father and to bring him to the Philippines once he gets rich, becomes a boss and owns a big house - *"yayakapin ko ang aking ama ng sobrang*

*mahigpit na parang wala nang bukas"* (I will embrace my father so tight as if there is no tomorrow) - so they can live happily together. I first met Yorgei in 2006 as a participant in my visual art workshop at the DAWN office. After six years, he is taller than me and can confidently articulate his ideas.

Another objective of the workshop is to encourage dialogue between and among local and Japanese artist/cultural workers and Japanese Filipino children from DAWN for the sharing of contexts, concerns, issues and experiences to promote cultural exchange, understanding and collaboration.

For Miho, her interaction with the JFC during the workshop gave her this insight: "JFC is a community between the Philippines and Japan. They have rich cultural resources from both their parents but they are discriminated against by people who cannot tolerate difference, like a different face, a different name and a different family model. Usually, small children do not have their own words to express their feelings. They use the words of people who are close to them. If these people don't understand them, children express themselves in the negative. What can we do? I think we can use 'Art'. 'Art' can see and destroy the negative, 'Art' can create and give positive experience. JFC can use 'Art' as a language for them to express. And their expression becomes their resource, too."

I agree with Yuria on the role of the arts

in empowering vulnerable children: "I think the JFC discovered their own skill and ability in creating things through the workshop. I imagine that Japanese-Filipino children are likely to be considered as children who are marginalized and in need of help. Though it is true that they need support in their actual life, I think it is also important to them, just like any other children, to have some occasion where they can free themselves in the world of imagination and creativity, feeling freed from how others would categorize them. I think the workshop would be one of such opportunity."

And finally, Ryoko described her experience with the JFC as: "Although having lived in the Philippines for more than ten years, I have never had an opportunity to meet or interact with Japanese-Filipino children and their family. Of course, I heard about them and was aware of the difficulties and challenges they face, but I've never really given deep thought on them. The issue sounded socially complicated and privately sensitive for me as a Japanese to be involved, even though I felt bad for the children who had to separate from their fathers and unavoidably were hurt deeply inside. Another reason was that I simply did not have the chance to meet them. Alma's workshop was truly a good introduction and opportunity for me to know them.

"I realized in the workshop how important for all of us to be open, creative and work together. If I, in fact, developed understandings and trusts with them during the workshop, I would say it was because we worked together on arts. I do not doubt that they all had experienced hardships and pains, but I am sure the workshop will help them heal themselves," continued Ryoko.

*About the artist:*

*Alma Quinto has worked with many affected communities in the Philippines, Japan and South Korea through her House of Comfort Art Project which started as a humble dream to build a tactile soft sculpture house out of the stories and dreams of marginalized people using mostly fabric scraps. She presented this project in the Art Activism Conference at the National Museum of Singapore as a collateral event of the Singapore Biennale organized by the National University of Singapore Museum on March 12, 2011, one day after Japan was hit by a strong earthquake. Her advocacy is to use the arts to foster resilience and to empower those affected by man-made and natural disasters.*



# SSP Updates

By Christina A. Lopez

Orientation was conducted by the SSP staff to four new members of DAWN. The women were referred by the Japan Embassy in Manila. They sought the assistance of DAWN for possible intervention in locating the whereabouts of the Japanese fathers, financial assistance for their children, and for the acquisition of Japanese nationality.

The new members were acquainted with the various programs and services of the organization. Some issues and concerns were addressed during the orientation such as securing Japanese documents of the Japanese father, like the family register or koseki, and dealing with the fathers for financial support and recognition.

To further understand the situation of its new members, on November 19, 2011 a self-awareness seminar was conducted. This activity helps the women to discover themselves, and have a clear perception about their personality including strengths,



*The new women and JFC members of DAWN. From Left to Right: Annabelle and Jasmiko Farcon; Nobuyuki, Gilda, and Keigo Mosatalla; Cristina Virtudes, Iona Aya and Ivan Asato; Maricel Satuito and Hiroyuki Kubo*

weaknesses, thoughts, beliefs, motivation and emotions.

Through the activity, the women realized that they are different from one another yet they have similarities in terms of experiences, opinions, ideas, dreams and interest. For example, the reason for coming together as members of DAWN is because they have the same needs to be addressed. They were also able to articulate their likes, dislikes, needs and wants.

The members were also provided with

an activity on Value Clarification as Individuals and as Solo Parents. The objective of this activity is to provide each member with an avenue for awareness and discovery of oneself as individual and the importance of their existence in relation to their roles as solo parent. This activity was conducted in December 2011.

The women shared their strengths and weaknesses as individuals and solo parents, expressed acceptance of their feelings towards their children. The importance of providing a good future to their children, especially through education, is an aspiration of all the participants.

At the end of each activity, the participants expressed appreciation because they were able to re-discover themselves. They also said that little by little they are able to gain their self-esteem. They also met new friends at DAWN.

## SUBSCRIPTION

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# People, Places, Events



*Mel Nuqui with Miho Nakanishi, Alma Quinto, Mrs. Takatori and Mr. Shuji Takatori, Director of the Japan Foundation*



*Ms. Megumi Nishijima of Asian Community Trust during her visit to DAWN in December*



*DAWN Executive Director and PMRW President Mel Nuqui with CFO Chairperson Mely Nicolas and the Migration and Advocacy in Media awardees*



*DAWN staff participated in the Capacity-Building seminar organized by the PMRW in November*



**THE 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN FORUM ON MIGRANT LABOUR**  
Bali, Indonesia, 24 - 25 October 2011

*Mel Nuqui was one of the participants to the 4th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labor held in Indonesia in October*



*Mel Nuqui at the CARAM-Asia General Assembly held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November*

# ALP CORNER

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

## DAWN-MPC

For the last quarter of 2011, the DAWN MPC ventured into buy and sell of Hanabishi, Promac and other appliances. The cooperative was able to serve more customers in the building and nearby offices, especially during the holiday season. We were able to serve more people and this also helped the women members augment their incomes. Aside from the appliances, the cooperative is also into direct selling of Avon, Natasha, Boardwalk, Marikina Shoe Expo(MSE), Sundance, Ever Bilena products, detergents and other items.

## Personality Development Seminar

The PUP College of Cooperatives has been helpful in the many activities of the DAWN-MPC. On November 19, 2012 Professor Zandro of PUP conducted a Personality Development Seminar for the members. Titled “Attitude Change for Better Functioning,” the seminar provided the women an understanding of their individual attitudes. It highlighted the importance of being flexible or being able to adjust in any given situation. Leaders and members should learn to become more objective in handling situations and attitudes of others. Mothers are also experiencing some difficulty in handling their children. According to the women who took part in the seminar, this will help them function better in their tasks of running the cooperative.

## Misty

Last December 12, 2011 the Teatro Akebono women group presented their musical play *Iba'ri- ibang Mukha ni Misty*. This is our way of sharing our experiences and learnings as former OFWs and advocates. Rosalie Akase, Dolores Alnas, Evangeline Cerezo, Rose Verano, Mary Jane Kuraoka, Analisa Carimpong, and Anna Liza Yambao performed during an event of the Pag IBIG Fund with the theme “*Araw-araw pasko para sa OFW*”.



Personality Development Seminar with Prof. Zandro Estella of PUP



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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# At Home with ART

*By Alma Quinto*

The workshop area is friendly and intimate and a bit secluded. But I was worried that the “winter” temperature in the museum would make the children uncomfortable. Two of the participants came early without any warm clothes and after a while, they started to feel cold. But as they started to walk around and looked at the collection of paintings and sculptures and the photos of Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco taken with cultural and political icons such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama and Yasser Arafat, they felt better.

The day when the workshop was conducted is significant: December 10 is International Human Rights Day. It was a Saturday, a time when children do not go to school, which gives them the chance to explore another place to enrich themselves and exercise their rights to participation and development. The workshop complements the House of Comfort exhibition, both supported by the Japan Foundation Manila Office, including the printing of catalogue to create awareness on the role of arts in healing and in reflecting conflict and in promoting peace. It aims to provide creative and child-friendly activities relevant to the context of the participants to surface their issues and to foster resilience. It also encourages interaction and dialogue to promote sharing of contexts and experiences as a way of building trust and friendship

among and between the participants and artists, workshop facilitators and museum staff.

The House of Comfort is a collaborative and cumulative art project which started in 2006 as a creative response to the need to connect and work with communities considered as peripheral to society, mostly affected by natural and human-made disasters. This was done through workshops that engaged the participants to tell their stories through textile cut-outs and running stitches creating small panels of colorful works of their dreams with their issues and problems embedded in their narratives. The project went to Bicol at the evacuation centers in Albay and other affected communities in the Visayas and Mindanao. It has also involved different communities in Japan (artists, feminists, writers and NGO workers in Osaka, undocumented Filipino children, migrant workers and Japanese families in Nagoya, high school students in Kobe and graduate students in Kyoto) in 2008 and NGOs helping Asian migrant brides and young Korean women survivors of sexual violence in South Korea in September 2011.

With my House of Comfort Art Project finally on exhibit in a beautiful art space which is the Yuchengco Museum at RCBC Plaza in Makati City, right on the ground

floor near the main entrance of the museum, I am glad that the Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) from DAWN (Development Action for Women Network) who are my collaborators in the project in 2006 can see and experience it. It is part of the Nothing to Declare international exhibition organized by Dr. Flaudette May Datuin, Josephine Turalba and Precious Leaño and curated by Claro “Chitz” Ramirez. With the colorful works already hanging at different levels, I could not help but think how big the difference is between the museum condition and the environment where the textile works were created. From the crowded evacuation centers and basic shelters for survivors, school buildings with no running water and other venues that fall short of what we know as comfortable and convenient, the project travels to museum and gallery spaces in urban areas to engage the viewers on how art can be used for advocacy to create awareness among the people living in better condition and to inspire them to take action.

There were eleven JFC who attended the workshop and one Filipino, the sister of one of the participating JFC, two mothers who accompanied their children and two DAWN staff. Three Japanese women came – Miho Nakanishi, a visual artist and

*(Continued on page 4)*

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