SINAG

Vol. 7 No.3 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACTION FOR WOMEN NETWORK (DAWN) JULY-SEPTEMBER 2002

TEATRO AKEBONO 2002

"Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty"

A remarkable success for DAWN women

Huge crowds. Friendly smiles. Warm applause.

Such overwhelming scenario was a sight to behold and to cherish for the eight women performers of Teatro Akebono who have captured different school communities with their musical presentation of *"Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty"* (The Different Faces of Misty) last August.

With Mary Joy Barcelona and Adelia Miranda as over-all director and musical director, respectively, fellow DAWN members, Rosalie Akase, Imelda Balayo, Corazon Garcia, Malou Nakajima, Jeanette Ventura, and Rose Verano gave outstanding performances with their different portrayals of the character, Misty. Proof of this were the crowd's cheers and applause in almost every scene during the play. The songs,

(To page 12)

Women and children

Back-to-back at St. Scholastica

Every time Teatro Akebono takes centerstage at St. Scholastica, the response from the administration, faculty and students, remains the same. Time and again, it is always overwhelming and sincere.

This year was no exception as Teatro Akebono performers once again touched the hearts of their audience

(To page 4)

"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"

JFCs' much-awaited Japan tour slated this October

While DAWN women made waves in their local tour, ten Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs) are set to conquer Japan anew with their presentation of *"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"* (The Dawning of a New Hope), Teatro Akebono JFCs' musical offering for the year 2002.

New Teatro Akebono JFC members, Ai Shaira Azusawa, Stephanie Ann Seki, Nikka Seki and Jyun Ventura are excited to take part in this year's tour and are hopeful as well of a possible meeting with their fathers. While Ai Risa Akase, Junko Fujiwara, Naoko Hiroha, Tsuyoshi Imai, Jennifer Muroi and Anna Shimizu are equally excited and

(To page 12)

WHAT'S INSIDE?

2 Theater production is more than an art

3 "Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty"

5 Peace Boat visits DAWN

Research conducted in the Philippines and in Japan for the Conference-Workshop on Filipina Entertainers

6 "Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"

8 Newsbriefs

EDITORIAL

Theater production is more than just an art

In Congressman Roseller L. Barinaga's speech delivered during Teatro Akebono's program at St. Scholastica's College, he congratulated DAWN for a "laudable endeavor of putting up Teatro Akebono" which, he said, does not merely tell the risks involved in working abroad but also opens our eyes to the realities confronting our women migrants and their children who are merely victims of the migration phenomenon and therefore deserve our empathy and not our false judgments." Thus, DAWN takes even greater pride in holding this annual activity that has been one of its major advocacy programs since 1997.

Teatro Akebono is DAWN's theater group of women and Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs). Through their theatrical presentation, DAWN members are able to express themselves, regain their self-confidence, and hone their acting and singing skills as part of their reintegration process. Most importantly, they are given the chance to share with the local and international audiences the social issues affecting them through which they are also able to advocate the rights they truly deserve.

And this is evident in this year's women presentation of *"Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty"* (The Different Faces of Misty) and JFCs' *"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"* (The Dawning of a New Hope). Both productions speak of hope, courage and optimism despite the social costs that migration entails.

For "Misty," who represents our Filipina entertainers in Japan, to rise after a fall is one courageous act that makes her a true survivor. While for the three JFC siblings in *"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa,"* they, just like other children, deserve to enjoy every right they are blessed with as they hold on to the promise of a better tomorrow despite the odds.

Teatro Akebono intends to impart important lessons in life and to motivate us to do concrete actions as our way of personal advocacy. These women and children are just like any of us. They too deserve to be accepted as members of the society.

What many of our Filipino women migrants and JFCs go through need our understanding and support. And we are all capable of giving them that whether we come from the government, from the civil society, from the media or from the private sector. More so, as we assume different roles in the society, we are also empowered, in one way or another, to initiate reforms for the protection of the rights of our migrants and their families.

Fully aware of that, DAWN also implements its other programs and services as its share in this endeavor. For this year, apart from the Teatro Akebono local and Japan tours, the Peace Boat visit and our ongoing research for the upcoming conference on Filipina entertainers in Japan are only some of the major efforts we undertake to help uplift the lives of women migrants and their children. We hope that through these selfless endeavors, we do not only benefit the people we serve but also set a good example to other groups and individuals who are also capable and willing to do their share.

THE STORY

The women themselves have conceptualized the story of *"Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty."* They wrote the script and changed the lyrics of familiar songs to very well fit the message they wish to express. And the result is a touching story of "Misty," a woman armed with lessons from the past and an optimistic view of the future.

"Misty" depicts the life and dreams of women entertainers in Japan and is a composite of the life stories of women being assisted by DAWN.

"Misty" represents the thousands of Filipino women who are forced to find their luck abroad to support their families back home. Faced with economic pressures from her family after losing her job, Misty finds a way out when she accidentally meets a former colleague who has just returned from a stint in Japan and is now being supported by her Japanese boyfriend.

Persuaded by her friend, Misty finds herself working in Japan. In what she thought was the land of opportunity, Misty is not only asked to sing and dance. Her job forces her to wear sexy and revealing clothes and to dine out and entertain male customers. One of them is Hideki who eventually becomes her boyfriend.

Hideki pays for the rest of her contract and they went back to the Philippines together. However, Hideki's promise of marriage never came true. His patience and generosity eventually gave out because of continuous economic demands from Misty's relatives. He abandons Misty, unaware that she is pregnant with their child. Her background as a former entertainer makes her illegitimate child the subject of taunts from neighbors and peers. Through the assistance of DAWN, Misty faces a renewed life and begins a journey towards regaining self-confidence and self-esteem. She does not only recover from her emotional pain but also realizes her inner power and strength as a woman notwithstanding the hardships of life.

"Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty"

(The Different Faces of Misty)

Teatro Akebono women at the Isabela State University in Angadanan, Isabela.

THE CAST

Adelia Miranda, the group's musical director, has joined the cast of Misty in year 2000. With her vocal prowess and keen sense to music, Adel now works behind the scene and shares her expertise with the rest of the group. She is also a member of the sewing project of Sikhay, DAWN's livelihood program.

For this year's presentation, Misty is portrayed by seven women members of DAWN who have managed to rise from the painful experiences as former entertainers in Japan.

Mary Joy Barcelona

Joining "Misty" for the third time, Mary Joy is the director of this year's batch of performers. Mary Joy went to Japan in 1995 to work as a dancer in a hotel but her fate turned otherwise. She was subjected to numerous contract violations and harassment. She was also forced to go out on dohan or afternoon date with her customers. After her six month-contract, Mary Joy vowed to herself never to go back to Japan and go through the same tragic experience again.

After attending various trainings, Mary Joy is now the coordinator in-charge of the three components of Sikhay, DAWN's alternative livelihood program: the sewing, handweaving and tie-dye projects. Mary Joy is also active in advocating the rights of Filipina entertainers in Japan. She attends conferences and fora here and outside the country where she shares her experiences in Japan and how she manages to renew her life through the opportunities she had in DAWN.

Rosalie Akase

Singing every lyric with depth and intensity is what Rosalie can do best. Not to mention her effective portrayal of "Misty" who falls in love with Hideki.

Women's recording at CFA Studio.

He saves her from further abuse as an entertainer caught in the flying booking practice and hostessing work, not knowing that her relationship with him will also cause her so much pain.

Coming from a simple family in Mindanao, Rosalie tried her luck as entertainer in Japan in May 1988. One of her regular customers courted her and they eventually got married in February 1990. They lived happily in Japan until some problems arose. Rosalie went back to the Philippines with her daughter Ai Risa.

At present, Rosalie is a member of Sikhay's weaving project housed at the DAWN Center where she and her daughter, now twelve years old, also stay.

Imelda Balayo

Imelda is Misty's JFC or Japanese-Filipino child. In real life, she too has a son from her relationship with her Japanese promoter. The short-lived romance left her a single parent to her son whom she named Noriel, now nine years old.

In year 2000, Imelda joined DAWN where she underwent training in Tie-Dyeing Technology and Handloom Weaving. She is now one of the weavers of Sikhay and also does tie-dyeing for the program. While her son also participates in various activities and workshops with his fellow JFCs.

This is Imelda's second year in the "Misty" musical play.

Corazon Garcia

Cora first went to Japan as a cultural dancer in 1978. A friend introduced her to a Japanese man who eventually became her boyfriend. Cora got pregnant and they made wedding plans. But he suddenly stopped communicating with her a few weeks after she went home to the Philippines when her work contract expired. That was a painful moment for Cora but she decided to keep her baby. She gave birth to their child, Hisaco, who is now 10 years old.

Cora plays the role of Hideki, Misty's Japanese partner who eventually left her when her family totally depended on him for their needs. This is Cora's second time to join the cast and is excited to share again the centerstage with her fellow women.

Malou Nakajima

One of the newest "Misty" is Malou Nakajima. Malou was a ramp model in the Philippines when a Japanese

(To page 4)

IBA'T-IBANG *(from page 3)*

promoter spotted her and invited her to work in Japan. She then left the country to work as a singer in a club in Tokyo in November 1994. Love blossomed between Malou and her promoter who later on became the father of her now six-year-old daughter, Minami. They began to lose touch in 1997 and from then on, Malou single-handedly supports her daughter's needs.

She is now a member of Sikhay where she is able to show off her creativity in weaving colorful shawls, scarves and table runners.

She now portrays the role of Misty as a mother to her JFC who longs for her father's love and is being teased by her peers for having a "Japayuki" mother.

Jeanette Ventura

Jeanette is a first timer in the field of stage acting being one of the newest members of Teatro Akebono. And her effort to be at par with the performance of the other cast members is truly commendable. Jeanette plays the role of the unemployed Misty who is encouraged by a friend to work in Japan.

Jeanette can bring the house down with her sense of humor. But behind her vibrant personality is a sad story of struggle as entertainer in Japan and as a single parent to a JFC, Jyun.

Jeanette was trained as cultural dancer prior to her deployment in 1992.

A scene from "Misty" at the Philippine Normal University in Isabela.

But upon arrival in Japan, she was subjected to numerous contract violations. Her job made her vulnerable to abuse and harassment which made her decide to run away from her employer. She eventually met her Japanese partner and gave birth to their son. But just like the other Filipina entertainers given false hopes and promises by their partners, Jeanette lost communication with Jyun's father.

At present, DAWN assists Jeanette through various programs and services for migrant returnees like her while Jyun is also an active member of Teatro Akebono.

Rose Verano

Rose is undoubtedly a doting mother to her nine-year-old JFC whom she fondly calls her "Angel."

She is now the newest member of Sikhay's sewing project while "Angel" or Jennifer to her peers, is an active member of Teatro Akebono like her.

Joining "Misty" for the second time, Rose plays the role of Misty who is trapped in a difficult life, unemployed, and with many mouths to feed as breadwinner of a poor family. This is one of the common reasons behind many Filipinos' decision to work abroad.

Rose's reason for going to Japan may also be traced to such economic problem. She left for Japan as entertainer in January 1990 to provide for the medical needs of her ailing mother. Things went out smoothly until she met and fell in love with her Japanese customer. She gave birth to their love child in the Philippines while he communicates with them from Japan. They only lost touch in 1996 because of some malicious rumors. Rose and Jennifer did not hear anything from him since then.

BACK TO BACK *(from page 1)*

during their back-to-back presentation last September 27 at the Kuniberta Hall of St. Scholastica's College.

Everybody was emotional as the women performers of *"Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty"* (The Different Faces of Misty) delivered their dramatic lines and songs as if reminiscing their personal experiences as former entertainers.

While the Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) performers of *"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"* (The Dawning of a New Hope) were with their usual charm and wit on stage. As expected, the high school students warmly hugged the JFCs and even stayed after the program to personally bond with the children.

The open forum was also equally touching as the presentations. The personal experiences and sentiments shared by the women and children drew emotional reactions from the crowd.

Ms. Marisil Pengson, head of the student affairs of the high school department, also noted the students' interest to the presentations as proven by the full attention they gave throughout the program. The impact to them of Teatro Akebono's annual presentation is always evident, Pengson said.

One student even openly shared her empathy to the performers, especially to the children, who, like her, have to endure having an absentee father.

The Benedictine sisters also expressed their understanding and support to the plight of DAWN women and children and affirmed that they are, indeed, survivors as proven by their presence that afternoon in pursuit of their advocacy.

The event concluded with a sharing participated in by DAWN staff and members and the Benedictine sisters of St. Scholastica.

DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui also took this chance to once again express the organization's gratitude for the continued support of the said institution which is now under the leadership of Sr. Josefina Nepomuceno, OSB. This is their fourth year of partnership as advocates of the rights of migrants and children.

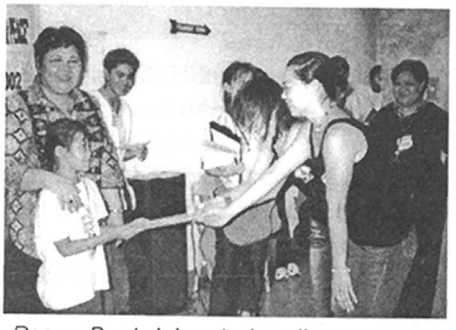
Peace Boat visits DAWN

Nuqui invited to join global voyage

The heavy rains were no match to the warmth of the DAWN staff, members and volunteers as they welcomed Peace Boat participants last September 7 at the Port Area in Manila.

Bad weather delayed the scheduled arrival of Peace Boat last September 6 but the DAWN family, nevertheless, managed to present a brief program for the participants. Over a hundred guests trooped to DAWN for their cultural exchange and interaction with the women and Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) members who were excited to take part in the activity. While about 500 other participants had an exchange with other NGOs such as those in Navotas, Payatas and the Malaya lolas.

The most touching of their visit to DAWN was the JFCs' presentation of excerpts from their latest musical play, *"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"* (The Dawning of a New Hope). Songs that convey their longing for their Japanese fathers, their faith and belief as children, and their care and support for their mothers and fellow JFCs moved many of the participants and even DAWN staff, volunteers and members, into tears. While DAWN women brought sheer delight to everyone with their presentation of excerpts from their musical play, *"Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty"* (The Different Faces of Misty).



Peace Boat delegate handing over their token of appreciation to DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui and JFC member Jennifer Muroi.

Peace Boat guests, on the other hand, presented their equally exciting rendition of song and dance numbers which made everyone groove to their feet. What followed then was the sharing of a hearty meal and lively interaction among DAWN and Peace Boat participants.

And when it was time for them to leave, the DAWN family warmly bid goodbye to the participants and DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui who was invited to join the global voyage from Manila to Singapore to Cochin, India. In line with the theme, "No Sustainability Without Peace," Nuqui talked about the plight of Filipino women migrants in Japan and their JFCs and DAWN's intervention programs and support services for them.

Peace Boat is a Japan-based NGO committed to the development of education and networking activities in the areas of peace, human rights, the environment and sustainable development. Around 600 participants joined this year's voyage to learn about global issues through direct contact with the people involved.

Research conducted in the Philippines and in Japan for the Conference-Workshop on Filipina Entertainers

As the conference-workshop on Filipina entertainers in Japan draws near, the valuable inputs from research findings by DAWN, Kaibigan and the Institute on Church and Social Issues (ICSI) already ensure an interesting event to look forward to.

One of the research highlights was the Japan visit last July 17-23 of DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui together with Congressman Roseller Barinaga, House Chair of the Committee on Labor and Employment, Kaibigan Executive Director Noel Josue, and DAWN's Board Chair and Research Consultant, Professor Corazon Arboleda.

The group met with four Japanese

Rep. Kazuo Inoue with Sen. Marutei Tsurunen and Sen. Masako Owaki, welcoming the Philippine delegation in Japan composed of Rep. Roseller Barinaga, DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui, Prof. Corazon Arboleda, Sr. Mary John Mananzan, Kaibigan Executive Director Noel Josue and Yolanda Tsuda last July 18, 2002. Also in photo is DAWN-Japan volunteer Junko Akao.

(To page 11)

Message from the Philippine Ambassador

I wish to extend warmest felicitations to the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) and the cast of Teatro Akebono for staging a musical entitled " Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa – Isang Kuwento ng JFC," that will tour Japan from 15 to 28 October 2002.

The musical, in a nutshell, conveys the proverbial Filipino resiliency amidst insurmountable odds. Despite daunting challenges that majority of the Filipinos have to face in their quest for a better life in distant foreign countries, they always manage to maintain a sunny disposition because they never lose hope for better times to come.

In the real world of geo-politics, the relations between nations are best strengthened by people-to-people linkages. The Japanese-Filipino children with their affinity to Japan and the Philippines will certainly contribute to better cultural exchanges and relations between Japan and the Philippines.

As a fellow overseas worker, I share the hope and optimism that the many problems facing the Filipino family especially children of mixed marriages as an offshoot of this "migration phenomenon," would be resolved in due time.

I wish you all a successful presentation and may its message serve as an inspiration to each and every one of us.

DOMINGO L. SIAZON, JR.
Ambassador of the Philippines to Japan

"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"

(The Dawning of a New Hope)

THE STORY

In the absence of their father, three JFC siblings grew up under the care of their mother, Tessa, who has to make both ends meet as a single parent. Tsuyoshi helps her, though, by doing part-time work as newspaper and shoe shine boy. While Risa, the eldest, performs well in school and vows to raise their family from poverty. Anna is the youngest, the usual sweet, caring and obedient daughter and sister.

Young as they are, the road which these children have to take is not easy. Despite the perseverance they have shown, there remains an ardent desire to meet their Japanese father. More so, the mere thought of being different from their peers, being Japanese-Filipino children, already leads them to an agonizing journey where one's strength and belief greatly matter. And as the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) joins in their journey, the more they see the coming of a new day that brings hope to their young minds and hearts.

In DAWN, they have found a family where there are JFCs like them with whom they share their common sentiments, their hopes and aspirations. They gain a feeling of acceptance and belongingness, seeing themselves in each and every Japanese-Filipino child who remain steadfast and hopeful to what lies ahead. And together these children face the dawning of a new day with a brighter perspective, more ready and willing to brave the odds, while they remain hopeful for that much-awaited moment to at least meet their Japanese fathers. Proving that, indeed, nothing still compares to having a complete family that they can proudly call their very own.

THE CAST

JUNKO FUJIWARA
(Auntie / JFC facilitator)

Junko is the group's *"ate"* and may be considered as the senior member of Teatro Akebono. She is the lead character in the first ever JFC presentation, "Fujiwara Junko: JFC" in 1997 and in *"Sana... Isang Kuwento ng Pangarap"* (Of Hopes and Dreams) in 1998. She was also part of last year's musical play, "The Ugly Duckling: A Journey of Hero, JFC."

Junko is now 14 years old and still actively participates in DAWN's various activities. In fact, this talented young girl also helps facilitate the re-hearsals for this year's theater presentation and is being trained as director. She openly shares her ideas with the group and gives suggestions to further support her fellow JFC participants. She is truly versatile and excels in singing, dancing, acting and drawing.

AI RISA AKASE
(Tessa's eldest JFC)

Risa is 12 yrs. old. Her artistic skills are best exemplified in her colorful drawings and illustrations as well as in the bead accessories she makes. Someday, this Grade 6 student hopes to put up her own gallery or museum where she can display all her art works that will make her famous and be remembered by.

A first honor student last school year, Risa prioritizes her studies especially now that she is graduating from elementary.

She was happy to have met her father during last year's theater presentation. She hopes that she can meet him again this year.

And when asked for her message to the Japanese people, Ai Risa openly remarked, "I just hope that the Japanese men will take their relationships with Filipino women seriously so that there will be no more JFCs who will suffer the same fate as ours."

AI SHAIRA AZUSAWA (Grandmother/ Lucy)

Shaira is undoubtedly a versatile girl gifted with charm and grace. Joining the theater group for the first time, she has already impressed everyone with her dual role portrayal in this year's musical play. She can effectively shift from being a grandmother to a role of a fine lady and can very well carry a tune on stage. Her versatility is no surprise, though, for this girl is truly blessed with singing and acting talents.

At the young age of 13, Shaira dreams of becoming a stewardess someday to be able to travel to different countries.

Now that she's part of DAWN and will be joining the theater tour for the first time, Shaira cannot contain her happiness for having the chance to visit Japan and see her father, whom she has only seen in pictures.

"Even just for awhile, I want to see and hug my father," she remarked.

NAOKO HIROHA (DAWN'S JFC member)

This pretty ten-year-old-girl is the eldest in a brood of four. She was born in the Philippines and is taken cared of by her maternal grandparents together with her youngest brother. While her two other siblings were sent to a children's center in Japan when her parents separated.

The dancer among the group, Naoko can easily memorize dance steps. She dreams of becoming a teacher someday to share her knowledge to other children. She was the fourth honor awardee of her class last school year.

It was a tearful reunion with her father and sisters in Japan when Naoko visited them during the 2001 tour of "The Ugly Duckling?: A Journey of Hero, JFC." This year, she looks forward to seeing them again as she joins the other JFCs in the musical tour.

TSUYOSHI IMAI (Tessa's second JFC)

Tsuyoshi last joined the theater tour in 1999 in the musical play, *"Sana.. Isang Kuwento ng Pangarap."* He is excited to join this year's presentation where he plays the major role of a hardworking JFC. And that description befits him well.

A model student and a fourth honor awardee last school year, Tsuyoshi is fond of studying his lessons even when at home. Mathematics and Science are his favorite subjects where he is really good at. Someday, he dreams of becoming a doctor.

It was during the 1999 tour that Tsuyoshi was able to reunite with his father whom he has not seen for a long time.

This year, another touching moment is also expected to happen as this ten-year-old boy goes back to his father's homeland to perform with the rest of the Teatro Akebono members.

JENNIFER MUROI (DAWN's JFC member)

Her mother's one and only "Angel," this nine-year-old girl has surprisingly shown her potential as a versatile artist in this year's musical play. Jenny gamely dances, sings and acts in front of other people without any hesitation. Not to mention her ability to impersonate other people armed with her childish charm and wit.

This girl dreams of becoming the future president of the country and a DAWN teacher.

Just like any hopeful child, she prays that in this year's theater tour, she will be able to meet her father.

"I'm not losing hope. I hope this year, I can see my daddy," she said.

During last year's presentation in Japan, Jenny failed to see her father but was strong enough to accept that. Jenny was only 3 when she last saw him who

(To page 10)

Message from the Japanese Ambassador

I would like to extend my best wishes to the leadership of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), and to the women and children of its Teatro Akebono, on the occasion of their musical offering for this year, "The Dawning of a New Hope." With its slated performances in seven cities in Japan, I expect that this musical production will enhance understanding and support for the significant activities being carried out by DAWN for the benefit of the Overseas Filipina Workers and their children.

I am pleased to note the DAWN's annual musical presentation has been an effective tool in advancing its distinct perspective on the situation, rights, and hopes of Japanese-Filipino children and Filipina migrants returning from Japan while also providing them opportunity to gain a sense of accomplishment and to rediscover their self-esteem.

It is indeed laudable that DAWN's theatrical productions have effectively delivered invaluable and enduring messages, such as this year's emphasis on the importance of a complete and united family, despite the challenges faced by people involved in interracial relationships, to their Japanese and Filipino audiences. This production will indeed give Japanese-Filipino Children chances to meet their fathers and relatives in Japan. I am sure that the children are very much looking forward to perform in Japan and will definitely appreciate it as another home country for them.

As I commend DAWN for its initiatives in empowering women and children who are experiencing difficulties, I express my trust that the grant assistance provided by the Government of Japan to its *Alternative Livelihood Project: Sikhay* will have a social and economic impact as vibrant and memorable as that of this remarkable musical production.

Mabuhay!

KOJIRO TAKANO
Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines

NEWSBRIEFS

Study tour groups learn about migration and women issues

Nine Japanese students from Tokyo participated in a study tour in different offices and institutions in Metro Manila last September 2-5. Led by DAWN-Japan volunteer Junko Akao, the group visited the DAWN office and DAWN Center, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), Bigay-Buhay Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BBMC), Kaibigan, U.P. Diliman campus, De La Salle University, Mabuhay Personnel and Management Services, Inc., Manila Bay and Rizal Park.

Participants were given an orientation about the different functions and services of these offices, particularly, concerning migration and women issues. Foremost of which was the discussion about DAWN's intervention programs for women migrants from Japan and their Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs). They also visited the Sikhay Sewing and Handweaving and Tie-dye projects at the DAWN Center where they also had the chance to meet DAWN women and JFC members. An exposure trip at the Payatas dumpsite also provided them with a better understanding on the plight of many Filipino families.

DAWN-Japan volunteer Junko Akao tries on one of Sikhay aprons made of batik cloth while another study tour participant, Nobuo Yamagishi and Sikhay member Tess Shimizu look on.

And so were the students' home visits to JFCs that have opened up their eyes to the problems faced by these children and their families.

Prior to this study tour, a group of Japanese guests also visited DAWN and Mabuhay last July 16 for an orientation of their respective functions and services particularly for Filipina entertainers in Japan.

In the future, DAWN hopes to share this kind of activity with more foreign guests to further promote awareness and understanding on the realities confronting migrants, women and children in Philippine society.

Liban assures TESDA's support to DAWN

Newly-appointed Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Director-General Dante Liban knows the challenge of his job as a public servant. After the 'vaginal economy' issue that revealed the alleged graft and corruption in the training and testing of applicants, Liban now faces the conflicts and issues left by his predecessor, Lucita Lazo.

TESDA Director-General Dante Liban visits Sikhay sewing project with Mel Nuqui.

This was discussed during his September 6 visit at the DAWN office where he freely expressed his stand on the issues concerning 'Overseas Performing Artists' in Japan. DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui pointed out during the said meeting the support that Liban can give DAWN and other fellow advocates in terms of initiating reforms in the present system on the deployment of Filipina entertainers to Japan. Being the head of the office that is at the helm of the training and testing of applicants, Liban, as Nuqui further noted, must also carefully review the kind of training that the applicants undergo and the actual job they would do in Japan.

Liban, on the other hand, assured the DAWN staff and DAWN-Japan volunteers of his support to the worthwhile endeavors of the organization, particularly, in its reintegration programs for DAWN women and children and the issues it advocates for the protection of Filipina entertainers in Japan. He admitted, though, that he can only do so much given his present position as TESDA head.

Liban also visited the sewing project of Sikhay, DAWN's livelihood program for women returnees. He likewise expressed TESDA's support to DAWN's future activities for Sikhay especially in terms of providing skills training for women who want to redirect their lives as former entertainers in Japan.

PTRI, proud of their Sikhay trainees

There's nothing more fulfilling than to reap the rewards of patience and hard work. This was proven by the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) in their visit at Sikhay's weaving project last August 7 at the DAWN Center.

Jovie Hayin of PTRI explains weaving techniques to Sikhay members while Cora Llorico also looks on.

Cora Llorico, Jovie Hayin and Emy Quiros of PTRI expressed gladness and pride in seeing DAWN Sikhay weavers apply the skills they taught them as evident in the handwoven products they made such as shawls, scarves, table runners, and place mats. For them, these are immaterial rewards from the trainings they previously conducted with these women who now know how to weave products with intricate and colorful designs. The PTRI staff also made some observations and suggestions on how to further improve Sikhay's production.

PTRI is one of DAWN's foremost partners in its skills training program for women members.

The success of Teatro Akebono's annual theater tour is greatly attributed to the constant support of the Office of Atty. Kenshi Nishida, Jichiro, the Rengo's Ai no Kanpa, DAWN-Japan and the following groups from different cities and prefectures in Japan. We wish to acknowledge and thank them for once again supporting this year's presentation.

Asian Women's Center (AWC) - FUKUOKA

AWC was established in November 1997 as the first NGO-based shelter for the women in Kyushu. It was the time when the consultation concerning domestic violence against Asian women living in Japan has started to increase.

Main activities of AWC are 1.) emergency support such as hotline and shelter services; 2.) regular support such as Japanese class for empowerment; and 3) networking and support for NGOs in Asian countries such as Thailand and Philippines.

AWC was awarded by Nishi-Nihon Bank International Foundation for its contribution to Asia in 2001. This year, AWC also received the Cultural Award by the Fukuoka Prefecture.

Osaka-fu Zainchi Gaikokujin Kyouiku Kenkyu Kyougikai (Fugai-kyo) (Association for Education for Foreign Student in OSAKA)

Fugaikyo is an association that works on the educational issues of foreign students in elementary, junior-high and high school in Osaka. To understand the home countries of these students and improve the education provided for them in Japan, they visited the Philippines and were exposed to the activities of DAWN as part of their study tour in 1998. Since that time, Fugaikyo has been hosting Teatro Akebono presentation and the cultural exchange between JFC and elementary students in Osaka, Japan.

Action is Key to Open (AKO) - KOBE

AKO is an organization of teenagers and young adults who support and participate in cultural exchange and development programs for the Philippines. AKO believes that it is important to make decisions and take action at a young age. Thus, they give their all out support to worthwhile activities like this year's theater tour in Kobe.

Asia no Bunka o Mamori Sodateru Kai (Association for Maintenance of Asian Culture) - SAITAMA

Asia no Bunka o Mamori Sodateru Kai was established in February 2000. The organization mainly supports Asian women and the development and education of children. Apart from Teatro Akebono's theater tour, the group also supports DAWN's Sikhay project and FFSC (Job training for Street Children in Vietnam). It also promotes cultural exchange for Asian children through the Kamishi-bai, a picture-story show.

Mr. Koan Hayashi from Keifuku-ji Temple, Senryu-ji Temple and their volunteer groups in Numata-city, GUNMA.

Introduced by Mrs. Yoriko Nakahira of Saitama, Mr. Hayashi, a Buddhist monk, hosted Teatro Akebono in 2001. His volunteer groups, including Filipina wives married to Japanese and living in Numata-city, supported him.

Last March, Mr. Hayashi joined the study tour in the Philippines which was organized by DAWN-JAPAN. He was invited to share his experiences in the Philippines with a volunteer group coordinated by Senryu-ji Temple.

This 2002 theater tour in Gunma will be hosted both by Senryu-ji Temple and Keifuku-ji Temple.

Executive committee on JFC musical in Joetsu - NIIGATA

The Executive committee was formed out of the members' strong will to host the JFC musical in Joetsu. Based on the experiences of each committee member in the area of international exchange, support for foreign residents and other various civil society activities, they are working hard to prepare for the musical presentation with the support of other groups.

All members of the Executive committee wish that a heart-to heart solidarity among DAWN staff, JFC and people in Joetsu will be developed through the Teatro Akebono's presentation.

Message from Jichiro

Congratulations on the 5th performance of the musical "Akebono."

We hope, through "Akebono" more people will be informed of the activities of DAWN, and your efforts to assist Filipino women migrants in Japan and their Japanese-Filipino children, to promote and protect their human rights and welfare.

This performance is a golden opportunity to deepen friendship and understanding between Japan and the Philippines. We appreciate and applaud the efforts of all your members involved with this musical performance and look forward to a long future of supporting you in your continued success.

Signed

NOBORU INOKUCHI
Director, International Department
JICHIRO

Message from Atty. Nishida

Congratulations to the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) for coming up with another touching presentation of Teatro Akebono for this year.

The children's musical play, "Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa" (The Dawning of a New Hope) which will tour different cities and prefectures in Japan from October 15-28, 2002, will surely serve as an eye-opener to its Filipino and Japanese audiences regarding the plight of women migrants and their Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs). The presentation itself will be an effective means for these children to develop not just their acting and singing skills but more importantly, their self-confidence and self-esteem and their appreciation of their paternal roots as JFCs.

To the DAWN family who painstakingly produced this play, my best wishes for another successful presentation. May you continue providing women and children with opportunities like this for their self-development and empowerment as worthy members of the society.

Rest assured that my support would always be with you and your laudable endeavors. Good luck!

西田研志

ATTY. KENSHI NISHIDA
Lawyer for Japanese-Filipino children

Message from the Executive Director

Teatro Akebono's annual theater tour is a much-awaited event for both the Filipino and Japanese audiences and for DAWN's Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs) participants. This may be attributed to the fact that the presentation is not merely meant to entertain but more importantly, to share the plight and the social issues affecting thousands of JFCs in the Philippines. The children themselves are given the chance to hone their acting and singing skills, develop their self-confidence and become advocates of their own rights as well.

This year, Teatro Akebono is pleased to present "Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa" (The Dawning of a New Hope). In the absence of their father, three JFCs grew up under the care of their mother, a former entertainer in Japan. The odds these children have to face as Japanese-Filipino children may not be easy but with their strength and perseverance and with the help of DAWN, their lives are set to change towards a brighter future. While they remain hopeful that like their fellow JFCs, they too will someday meet and be recognized by their Japanese fathers.

This production is a collaborative effort of the DAWN staff, volunteers, women and children, making this year's presentation even more special and memorable for the whole DAWN family. After months of preparation, we now reap the fruit of everybody's hard work and proudly share it with you.

May we then be inspired and enlightened by this musical play and together take steps in further advocating the rights of women migrants and their children.

In this regard, we at DAWN also wish to acknowledge the selfless efforts of our volunteers, networks, and supporters for helping ensure the success of this endeavor year after year. Our heartfelt thanks for your continued support!

Carmelita G. Nuqui

CARMELITA G. NUQUI
Executive Director
Development Action for Women Network

Message from Congressman Roseller L. Barinaga

My sincerest congratulations to the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) for their continuing advocacy on the rights of women and their Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs) through Teatro Akebono's latest musical play, *"Pagsilay ng Bagong Pag-asa"* (The Dawning of a New Hope).

Theater presentations such as this effectively brings to the audience the thoughts and sentiments of JFCs in our society and the rights they truly deserve. With the use of touching dialogues and heartwarming songs rendered by the children themselves, the message sent across also brings a strong impact to its local and Japanese audiences. It's truly a worthwhile activity relevant to our times when migration inevitably entails a number of social costs and threatens the welfare and rights of migrants and their families.

To DAWN, may you continue your good work and selfless service. Thank you for giving us this enriching activity from which we, at the government, can gather valuable inputs towards initiating legislative reforms.

Keep up the good work and good luck!

Roseller Barinaga

CONGRESSMAN ROSELLER L. BARINAGA
Chair
House Committee on Labor and Employment

PAGSILAY *(from page 7)*

has since stopped communicating with her and her mom.

STEPHANIE ANN SEKI (Tessa)

Joining the theater tour for the first time, Stephanie or Steph to her friends, is set to display her acting and singing talents in her role as mother to three JFCs in this year's musical play.

But Steph is not merely a performer. A salutatorian when she graduated from elementary last school year, Steph also excels in class especially in her favorite subjects like Mathematics, Biology, Home Economics and Social Studies.

In the future, this twelve-year-old girl hopes to become a lawyer and a journalist.

In this year's theater tour, Steph looks forward to meeting her father in Japan who's been supporting her and her younger sister Nikka.

"To be able to embrace my father and spend time with him are more than enough to make me happy" she said.

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 development organization devoted to issues concerning migrant women and their Japanese-Filipino children.

EDITORIAL TEAM
Prof. Corazon R. Arboleda
Carmelita G. Nuqui
Jannis T. Montañez

Contributors
Mirriam R. Orig
Marilyn B. Bo
Nancy F. Bondoc
Chiho Ogaya
Mary Joy E. Barcelona

NIKKA SEKI (Lucy's JFC)

Personality wise, Nikka is the exact opposite of her silent-type sister, Stephanie. Her sense of humor can easily break the ice in the midst of the group's rigid rehearsals. And at her young age of ten, Nikka aspires something different from her peers.

"I want to be a detective and be good at martial arts. For me, they are both challenging and exciting to do," the witty girl enthused.

A fifth-grader in elementary, Nikka's favorite subjects are Mathematics, Computer, Science, History and Physical Education.

Like her Ate Stephanie, this will be Nikka's first time to join DAWN's theater tour. And of course, she is equally excited to meet their father whom they have not seen for a long time.

ANNA SHIMIZU (Tessa's youngest JFC)

Anna is 9 years old and is now a third-grader. She is the silent-type and the most behaved among the group. No wonder, she was last school year's Best in Conduct and second honor awardee of her class.

During this year's theater workshop, she impressed everyone with her acting prowess especially during dramatic scenes. She can easily cry and can deliver her lines intensely.

Anna was born in Japan and stayed there until she was four. During the 2000 tour of *"Walang Iwanan"* (No Desertion), she was able to reunite with her father only to lose touch after a few months. This year, she looks forward to seeing him again.

JYUN VENTURA (DAWN's JFC member)

Joining Teatro Akebono for the first time, Jyun Ventura is already seen as a promising performer if only for his dedication and willingness to learn and hone his skills. During rehearsals for their musical play, Jyun would intently listen and follow instructions without any complaint. Given proper motivation, this nine-year-old boy is sure to stand out in whatever role he is given.

Just like the other JFCs, he is also excited to be part of this year's theater tour for the first time. He couldn't help but be thankful and happy that he is a member of the DAWN family through which he has regained hope of meeting his father in Japan.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED *(from page 5)*

Congressman Roseller Barinaga (fourth from right) and OWWA Administrator Wilhelm Soriano (center) with the organizing committee of the Conference-Workshop.

senators and seven other legislators from the Lower House and discussed with them various issues concerning our Filipina entertainers in Japan, among which were: the issuance of entertainer visas, the alarming figure of undocumented Filipino women in Japan, Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs) without paternal recognition, and the "trafficking" of Filipina entertainers. The research team also met with various non-government organizations and with the Filipino community in Tokyo. They also visited a bar in Chiba where contract violations were observed and noted by the group.

Back home, DAWN women and Filipina entertainer returnees and first-timers also took part in the research as respondents in the survey and focus group discussion (FGD) conducted by DAWN and Kaibigan.

The research team also conducted interviews with key informants from the government and with industry leaders.

Evaluation of research findings and writing of research report are ongoing in time for the conference which will be held before the year ends.

SUBSCRIPTION

Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)
Rm. 514 Don Santiago Bldg.
1344 Taft Avenue, Ermita
1000 Manila, Philippines
Tel. No.(632) 526-9098
Fax No. (632) 526-9101
E-mail: dawnphil@i-next.net
Website: www.dawnphil.org

YES, I would like to subscribe to SINAG. Enclosed is my check payment for:

☐ P150 (one year, local) ☐ US$15 (one year, international)

This entitles me to 4 issues of SINAG. (Please make check payments to the Development Action for Women Network)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No. _____ Fax: _____

A REMARKABLE *(from page 1)*

which were adapted from familiar tunes, were likewise a hit to the crowd.

First group to be captured by Teatro Akebono was the College of Communication Arts in Colegio de San Juan de Letran where they were warmly welcomed during their presentation last August 23 at the school's Mabini Hall.

Their interest in the play and in DAWN's advocacy work was truly evident not only during the performance itself but also during the open forum. The students, who are all under the Development Communication class of DAWN chair and Professor Corazon Arboleda, asked questions about the production and the personal experiences of the performers who openly shared their responses.

Another memorable experience for DAWN women was their four straight performances last August 29 in the province of Isabela. In coordination with Cornelio Salcedo of Takarang Dulaan ng Kamalayan (TADULKA), Teatro Akebono brought the house down in their well-attended presentations in La Salette High School (Santiago City), Isabela State University (Angadanan and Echague) and Philippine Normal University (Alicia).

In just one day, the DAWN women were able to share their advocacy work with high school and college students through their musical play. Teachers, students and administrators in the Isabela schools also lauded not only the group's artistic efforts but also their courage to share their personal views and experiences as former entertainers in Japan and as single parents to their Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs).

Indeed, after intensive rehearsals and recording, Teatro Akebono women were able to deliver well enough during their local tour and have made a mark as advocates of migrants' and womens' rights.

JFCs MUCH AWAITED *(from page 1)*

optimistic of another fruitful and rewarding experience in Japan.

The children will tour different cities and prefectures in Japan, particularly, Fukuoka, Osaka, Kobe, Saitama, Gunma, Niigata and Tokyo, from October 15 to 28.

The JFCs' effective performances as this year's members of Teatro Akebono will be an interesting treat to look forward to for their Japanese audiences. The touching scenes and their heartrending delivery of songs are expected to once again bring tears to the crowds who have consistently shown their empathy and support to the plight of the JFCs. Scripts and lyrics that were translated to Nihonggo will also help promote a better understanding of the messages which the entire play wishes to impart.

JFC recording at CFA Studio.

Apart from the much-awaited performances, the tour will also allow these children to share during the open forum their feelings and thoughts as JFCs and how they long to see their fathers. Their cultural exchange with the Japanese people and their sight-seeing activities are also expected to develop their pride and appreciation of their paternal roots.

Through these activities, DAWN intends to bring joy to these children and, as the play's title says, show the *dawning of a new hope* for them and their fellow JFCs despite the prevailing odds.

Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)
Room 514 Don Santiago Bldg.
1344 Taft Avenue, Ermita
1000 Manila, PHILIPPINES
Tel. No. (632) 526-9098 Fax (632) 526-9101
E-mail: dawnphil@i-next.net
Website: www.dawnphil.org

ENTERED AS THIRD CLASS MAIL
at the Manila central Post Office
under Permit No. 1041-97
dated March 18, 1997 Postage Paid