

SINAG

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October-December 2005

TEATRO AKEBONO Goes on Tour

Nine (9) Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) members of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), accompanied by DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui and staff, left Manila for Japan on October 4, 2005 for a two-week theater tour.

The itinerary of the group included performances in Fukuoka, Ehime, Saitama, Tokyo, and Yokohama.

The first stop of the group was in Fukuoka. On October 5, the children went to the Kasuga-Higashi Elementary School (KHES). A brief welcome ceremony was prepared by faculty and students, after which the 9 JFC were distributed to the different classes where they had a taste of what it is like to attend a Japanese school. They joined the students in their lessons, played with them, and made friends.

On October 6, Ai Risa Akase and Kana Nakaya, who joined the Grade IV students participated in the Asian Festival held at Tenjin. They watched a presentation of Thai dances and sampled Asian cuisine.

The first presentation of Teatro Akebono was held at the Kasuga City Hall on October 7. It was sponsored by the Asian Women Center (AWC) in Fukuoka. The performance, which was attended by the host families of the children, advocates, students, and teachers of the KHES was warmly appreciated. The Mayor of Kasuga graced the presentation and gave an



JFC participants to the Japan theater tour at the NAIA terminal 2

inspirational talk before the performance.

A forum-discussion on the issue of Filipino Overseas Performing Artists (OPAs) was also hosted by the Asian Women's Center on October 6 at the Clover Hall. The speakers in the forum included DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui, Sikhay Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona, and Ms. Chiho Ogaya of DAWN-Japan.

Before leaving Fukuoka, the children were treated to Space World, a theme park located in Kokura, Fukuoka.

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EDITORIAL

MIGRANTS AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

December 18 is International Migrants Day! It is the day when the United Nations General Assembly, in 1990, adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICMR).

We celebrate International Migrants' day in recognition of the enormous contributions made by millions of migrants to the economies, societies and cultural advancement of countries around the world, and to promote respect for their basic human rights.

The Philippines was one of the first countries to sign the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families in 1993. It ratified the said convention in 1995. But it was only 10 years after, in the year 2003, that the convention finally entered into force, with 20 countries having ratified it. To date, only 34 countries have ratified the convention, all of them sending countries. Not one of them is a receiving country. Of those who have ratified the convention, only three belong to the Asia Pacific region, which by the way accounts for 54.7 percent of the world's international migrant workers. These countries are the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Tajikistan.

Two years after the Convention entered into force, what have we done and achieved so far? How have migrants fared? The Convention's entry into force as part of international law is supposed to have strengthened fundamental human rights, norms and principles, including non-discrimination, in the treatment of migrants. It is supposed to set the framework for cooperation that States can use in dealing with international migration. But has this been the case?

Today, it is estimated that one in every 35 persons in the world is a migrant, living and working in a country other than his or her own. About 8 million Filipinos are scattered in over 190 countries in the world. No country remains untouched by international migration. All countries have migrants among their population. Even sending countries like the Philippines have migrants among our midst.


Migrants, because of their status as non-nationals, are excluded from certain rights and privileges accorded to nationals of the state. Moreover, in the case of undocumented migrants, the situation is worse because they are highly vulnerable to exploitation, oppressive conditions at work and without any social security.

Of the about 200 million international migrants worldwide, about half of them are women. Many of these female migrants are migrant domestic workers coming from the least developed and developing countries. And women migrant domestic workers, as well as entertainers, are highly vulnerable and are always in danger of exploitation and several forms of abuses by reason of their being women and migrants at the same time.

As such, there is a need for renewed efforts to promote and defend their human rights, irregardless of their migration status. There is a need for continuous dialogues with stakeholders, and for continuous work for a wider ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

We have to give migrant workers their due. It is not enough that we sing accolades of their contributions. We have to match their sacrifices with programs that would benefit them and their families.

One way or another, whether we have relatives working abroad or not, we all benefit from the sacrifices of migrant workers. In the case of the Philippines, the contributions of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), largely in the form of remittances, salvaged the Philippine economy, particularly during the last quarter of 2005. OFWs in 2004 contributed over US\$8 billion to the national coffers. According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), this figure may surpass the US\$10 billion mark by the end of 2005. It is because of the remittances of OFWs that the peso's worth increased and not because of any sound economic and political policies issued by the Administration.

The phenomenon of international migration will continue to rise, and with it will rise the issues and problems brought about by migration. Side by side with this should be the government's responsibility and commitment to protect its people, wherever they may be. Protection of an individual begins from the country of origin, and not after problems arise in the destination country. 

(TEATRO AKEBONO ... from p. 1)



At Space World in Fukuoka

They enjoyed the rides and sights that the park offered.

After Fukuoka, the group sailed to the island of Shikoku, in the beautiful, windy prefecture of Ehime. The visit to Ehime was arranged by Taijen Asano, a Buddhist monk.

In Ehime, the first stop of the group was at an *onsen* at Oku-dogo. An *onsen* is a Japanese public bath. It was followed by a hearty breakfast at a local hotel. The group then toured the Buddhist temples. At the temple compound, the children made their personal wishes. After the temple visit, the group attended mass at the Catholic Church. The Catholic community hosted the lunch of the group. They also prepared a short program consisting of songs and games. It was in here where the group met with some Filipinos who are

residing in Ehime. Most of these Filipinos are students of the Ehime University.

On October 10, the group performed at the Matsuyama Shimin Kaikan Hall in Ehime before a big crowd.

From Ehime, the group entrained for Saitama. A performance at the Kawayagi Cultural Center in Soka was held on October 12. Ms. Setsuko Muraki who was introduced by Ms. Yoriko Nakahira, a long-time friend and supporter of DAWN, arranged for this presentation.

The next stop was Gunma. No performance was scheduled in Gunma but the children had a wonderful time there. Mr. Kasuhiko Hayashi, fondly called Meme-san by the group, hosted our stay in Gunma. He accompanied the group on a sight-seeing tour. There was hiking in the morning, radio guesting in the afternoon, followed by another side trip to the *onsen*, and apple picking. The JFC also had a memorable interaction with the children of the community. We also met some Filipinos residing in Gunma. Meme-san's wife and mother also taught the children how to make *udon* or noodles. The *udon* made by the children was served for lunch.

The JFC had a chance to perform at the Giin-kai kan (House of Representatives) in Tokyo on October 14. This was arranged by Prof. Akihiko Morita of the Wesleyan University. Various students, NGO workers and representatives of media also met with DAWN. Ms. Ann Kambara, Counselor of



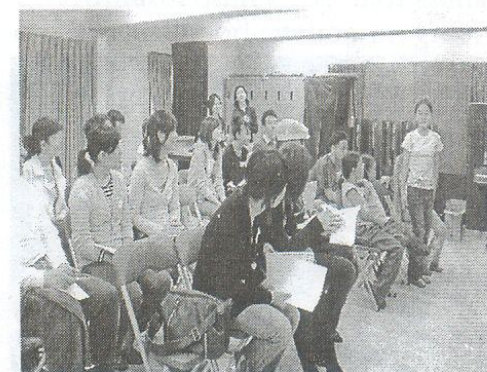
Learning calligraphy at the Kasuga-Higashi Elementary School



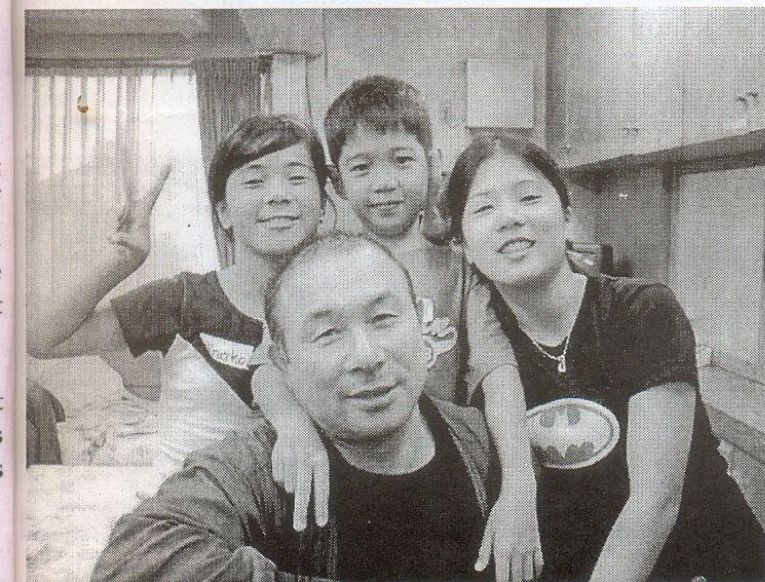
Presentation in Soka



Radio guesting in Gunma



Workshop at the Shiomi church in Tokyo



Kenken, Yorgei and Junko with Mr. Fujiwara

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Women and Development

GENDER and DEVELOPMENT

On November 18-20, DAWN held a seminar/workshop on Gender and Development for its women members and staff. The said seminar/workshop was held at the Splash Mountain Resort in Los Banos, Laguna.

The activity is part of the continuing series of seminars and workshops given to DAWN women members to help them better understand themselves as individuals, and to foster better understanding and awareness of issues that affect them and their families.

Gender, as explained in the seminar, does not only refer to an individual's sex and one's biological make up. It refers to the assessment and analysis of the social status of men and women and comprises socio-historical and ethno-cultural factors. It is a cultural concept that has an effect on all other societal roles and the social stratification of an individual.



Participants in the Gender and Development Seminar

The issue of development cannot be isolated from the issue of gender. Development starts from an individual. There is a need to understand the roles that men and women play in society, including each one's responsibilities and their relationships.

The development of a person should be holistic, i.e., of mind, body, and spirit. As such, the topics discussed in the said seminar/workshop were "Women and Spirituality," and "Women Empowerment through

Health/Self-Healing. Focused group discussions on individual lifelines were also held.

Rev. Leonardo Morad, who is also a member of the Board of Directors of DAWN, discussed the issue of spirituality with the women participants. He stressed on the important role of women in society throughout the ages, and how each individual's decision could affect other people.

Ms. Mel Cayabyab, who lectured on women's empowerment through health, talked about the

importance of health, the importance of balance in one's life, and the factors that cause diseases. She also shared with the women participants some alternative way of healing, like the use of herbs and acupressure. She and her daughter Sinag demonstrated pressure points in the body that can be pressed when in pain.

Throughout the 3-day activity, the women members and staff of DAWN were able to share and discuss issues related to a person's development. During the focused group discussions



Sharing of experiences



At the solidarity night



Ms. Mel Cayabyab demonstrating acupressure points

the women shared their stories and problems with each other. They gave advices and moral support to each other. This activity gave them a chance to better understand themselves and other women.

DAWN WOMEN MEMBERS AS ADVOCATES

On November 18, 2005 DAWN members Mary Joy Barcelona and Gina Andrade were guests at a forum-discussion on the issue of former women overseas performing artists (OPAs) in Japan held at the De La Salle University (DLSU) in Taft Avenue. The two women shared with the students the stories of their lives - what prompted them to go to Japan, the kind of work they did in Japan as OPAs, and their re-integration into Philippine society.

The testimonies of Mary Joy and Gina highlighted the fact that indeed violations of women's rights exist because of many reasons. Some of these reasons include the inability of the government to provide decent jobs and livelihood opportunities for women, and the lack of safety measures for our departing women OFWs.

DAWN staff Liza Garcia and Macoy Gomonan also joined Mary Joy and

Gina in the discussion. They shared with the students the work and programs of DAWN. They also discussed with them other issues related to OPAs, like trafficking, illegal recruitment, poverty, and initiatives to help women OPAs.

The discussion-forum at DLSU was a good venue to introduce the issue of OPAs to young people, especially to students. The students were exposed to real stories of real people that co-exist with them in society. The activity gave students a concrete example of the dynamics and interplay of society, politics, economics, culture and religion. It was also an opportunity to hone women members of DAWN as advocates of issues pertaining to women's rights.

Gina is in charge of quality control at Sikhay, while Mary Joy is DAWN's Sikhay coordinator.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

The number of women seeking assistance from DAWN continues to increase. Almost every day, DAWN receives phone calls and e-mails from women who are looking for solutions to their problems. Most of these calls are referrals from the Japanese Embassy.



Listening during the orientation



New members introducing themselves

Last November 26, twenty four (24) women and thirty-eight (38) Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) were formally welcomed as new members of DAWN through an orientation program held at the office of DAWN. The new members come from different parts of Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, Pampanga, and Nueva Ecija.

Social Services Coordinator Macoy Gomonan, Research and Advocacy Officer Liza Garcia, and Sikhay Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona conducted the orientation program. They explained to the new members the organization's work, its programs and services. They were also introduced to the staff and other women members of DAWN.

After a brief orientation on the programs and services of DAWN, there was a discussion on the procedure of handling cases. Ms. Gomonan also encouraged the women to actively participate in DAWN



The DLSU forum

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(TEATRO AKEBONO ... from p. 3)

Labor Affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Japan also watched the performance.

Immediately after the Tokyo presentation, the group left for Yokohama. The group visited the shop of WE21, a non-profit organization set up by local citizens of Japan that operates like Oxfam. The following day, on October 15, another performance was held at the Kanagawa Kenmin Center hall in Yokohama. It was the last presentation of the children. After the performance, they had an interaction with the children of Kalakasan, as well as with the students of the Ushioda Junior High School. In Yokohama, the JFC met many Japanese-Filipino children who are residing in Japan.

It was also in Yokohama, at the Kanagawa Kenmin Center hall, where Junko and Kenken had a reunion with their father. Mr. Fujiwara drove for 10 hours from Akita-ken to meet his children, whom he has not seen for a year. From Yokohama, he joined the group at the Shiomi church, where he stayed until October 16.

Shiomi was the final destination. The group stayed at Shiomi church, where a workshop was held on October 16. Several Japanese who are interested about the Philippines and the work of DAWN, including those who have participated in past study tours to the Philippines, enrolled in



Ms. Nuqui handing out certificates to workshop attendees in Shiomi

the said workshop. The enrollees got the chance to know more about DAWN and its programs. They also were given brief lessons in the Filipino language, and were taught how to cook chicken *adobo* and pork *sinigang*.

On October 17, the group left for Narita airport to return to the Philippines. Nobody among the children wanted to return yet to the Philippines because they really enjoyed their stay in Japan.

A Taste of Japanese Hospitality

Aside from the performances and some sight-seeing done, the Japanese-Filipino children members of DAWN, as well as



Kenken and Masami with their host family in Ehime

the staff, were also able to sample Japanese way of life. In Fukuoka, Ehime, Saitama, and Yokohama, the children stayed for a few days with Japanese families. The homestay program was made part of the two-week tour to encourage better interaction and understanding of cultures. The homestay participants experienced how it is to live in a Japanese house, eat, talk, play, and sleep with Japanese families.

Many of the JFC participants said they really enjoyed staying with Japanese families. They had a taste of Japanese life and sampled Japanese food. They also made new friends. Until now, the JFC are still in touch with their host Japanese families.

The two-week tour was also a chance to renew and strengthen ties with DAWN's networks and friends in Japan. 📷

(WOMEN ... from p. 5)

activities while their cases are being processed.

PARENTING SEMINAR, PART II

Module 2 of the effective Parenting Seminar was conducted by Social Services Coordinator Maco Gomonan on October 29, November 5 and 12.

The seminar focused on the dynamics of the Filipino family, as well as the uniqueness of each family.

Each participant defined what family meant to her. Each one also shared stories about her family and its members and saw how different one family is from others.

The facilitator also opened up the discussion on the threats and challenges confronting families today. As these were identified by the participants themselves, they were reminded of the need to strengthen family relationships, develop communication between members, encourage open and honest communication, not tolerate any form of abuse or domestic violence in the family, and to teach the children proper values and love of God.

Twelve (12) women members of DAWN participated in the seminar. 📷



Participants of the Effective Parenting Seminar

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY WORKSHOP

In celebration of International Human Rights day, DAWN conducted a workshop for its JFC members last December 10, 2005. Twenty JFC participated in the said workshop.

The activity had a two-pronged objective: to explain to the participants their rights as children, and to find out their perceptions about Japan.

The rights of children emphasized during the workshop were the right to live, the right to survive, the right to education, the right to protection, and the right to participate.

Mr. Ernie Cloma of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) facilitated the conduct of the workshop. Several activities were introduced by Tito Ernie, like role-playing, drawing, and discussions.

The last activity asked the participants to write down their wishes for themselves and their families, as well as what they wish DAWN could do for them. Among the things they wish DAWN could provide them were scholarships and more workshops for the JFC.

Four (4) new JFC members of DAWN participated in the said workshop. This gave them the chance to get acquainted with their fellow JFC.

The one-day workshop was a joint collaboration of DAWN, PETA and

Prof. Akihiko Morita of the Tokyo Institute of Technology.

The output of this workshop will eventually form part of a future research on JFC that DAWN will be conducting next year.

DAWN Christmas Party

"Kapayapaan at Pagkakaisa."

This was the theme of DAWN's Christmas party for this year. As explained by DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui, peace and unity are things that this country need at the moment. And we can start by propagating peace in our families and being united as a DAWN family.

The party, which was held at the 5th floor lobby of the Don Santiago building, was attended by more than 60 women and JFC members of DAWN.

DAWN Board members Ms. Pearl Domingo-Flores and Atty. Corazon Fabros were present during the event. Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, a member of DAWN's advisory council, led the invocation before the start of the celebration.

Songs and dance numbers were presented by the women and children members. Not to be outdone, the staff and volunteers also prepared song numbers. Games were also part of the program, and everyone joined in the fun. There was also an exchange gift among the JFC members that followed after the gift-giving ceremony.

Indeed, it was a fun day for all who attended the Christmas party!

DAWN to Hold 10th Year Anniversary in February Next Year

In February next year, DAWN will celebrate its 10th founding anniversary.

From an organization run mostly by volunteers, DAWN has now five regular staff members, including its Executive Director. It has provided various support and services to several hundreds of women migrant returnees from Japan, including their Japanese-Filipino children, through its various programs, volunteers, networks and partners.

To date, DAWN continues to be active in campaigning and promoting issues on women, migration and human rights. It has lobbied for the passage of bills supportive of women. Not only its staff, but its members too, have been active in advocating women's issues. DAWN's Teatro Akebono, composed of its women and Japanese Filipino children members, has promoted their issues through their various musical plays that were performed both in the Philippines and in Japan.

The past 10 years have indeed been memorable. Despite the many difficulties, DAWN has survived and continues to provide much needed programs and services to women migrant workers and their families. There are so many things to be thankful for. And DAWN would like to thank its members, friends, partners, supporters, staff, and volunteers for all their invaluable support through a series of activities in February next year, which include the holding of a conference, an exhibit, bazaar, get-together, and Akebono performances, just to name a few.



Tito Ernie of PETA with the JFC



The JFC performing a number during the Christmas party

CEDAW EXPERT GROUP MEETING IN MANILA

DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui participated in the two-day Expert Group Meeting organized by the CEDAW Committee and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, in cooperation with UNIFEM Bangkok from October 21-22, 2005 in Manila.

CEDAW is the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It is the sole international human rights treaty designed to promote and protect all rights of women. It addresses women's rights in both the public and private spheres and ensures both de jure and de facto equality between men and women, through legal guarantees. CEDAW has 30 Articles. It is both a bill of rights and a platform for action for women. But although the CEDAW convention can be invoked to address the concerns of women migrants, it does not have a specific Article on migration.

The objective of the expert group meeting held in Manila was to share relevant trends, concerns, and recommendations on women's migration from Western Europe, the Americas, Africa, and the Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States region, as well as to solicit inputs to the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 27 on Women Migrants.

Considering that in recent times, women are increasingly migrating both within national boundaries and overseas for a range of reasons, and that women constitute about 50% of the overseas migrant workforce in the Asian and other world regions, CEDAW deemed it fit to institutionalize the issue of migration within the CEDAW process through a CEDAW General Recommendation on Migration.

During the two-day meeting, women representing groups from all over the globe made presentations on the status of women migrant workers in Italy, South Africa and the CEE/CIS. Presentors of this topic were Ms. Esohe Aghatise, Ms. Mmabatho Ramagoshi, and Ms. Krisztina Morvai of CEDAW. There was also a presentation of papers on Women migrating for marriage presented by Ms. Dorchen Leidholdt, Ms.

Eleonore Kofman, and Ms. Andrea Maria Calazans Pacheco Pacifico.

Women leaders from the Philippines shared their expertise, knowledge and experience with regards to issues relating to women migrants.

Ms. Nuqui shared with the participants of the meeting the situation of women overseas performing artists (OPAs). In particular, she cited the traumatic experiences of Filipino OPAs in Japan and Korea.

Recommendations of the two-day meeting included the following:

1. consciousness of the use of the term 'gender-sensitivity' within the context of rights-based approach, normative standards of rights of women and migrant workers, and poverty of women as migrant workers
2. inclusion in discourses of the relationship between developed and developing countries focusing on macro-economic policies, social costs of migration, protection of women migrants' rights viz. equal opportunity to work
3. studies focusing on the contribution of women migrant workers in countries of destination to be used as advocacy tools
4. role of embassies and missions in providing assistance to migrant workers
5. provision of services of destination countries to women migrant workers, like information, health, housing, daycare centers, skills upgrading
6. engage civil society organizations to provide assistance and support to migrants in terms of training, counseling and monitoring
7. look into issues of unskilled migrant workers (how much they earn and their contribution in national accounts, channels of sending remittances, environment for investment of savings, skills to graduate from situations of poverty)
8. monitoring mechanisms as basis for providing services for migrant workers

December 2 is International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

(Following is the text of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's message on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, which was observed on 2 December)

"The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is a day on which we must acknowledge that despite centuries of struggle, slavery has not been completely eradicated from our world.

"Many forms of slavery persist, including forced and bonded labour, child labour and slavery for ritual or religious purposes. The world is also now wrestling with a new form of slavery — trafficking in human beings, in which many vulnerable people are virtually abandoned by legal and social systems into a sordid realm of exploitation and abuse.

"People who perpetrate, condone or facilitate slavery or slavery-like practices must be held accountable by national and, if necessary, international means. The international community must also do more to combat poverty, social exclusion, illiteracy, ignorance and discrimination, which increase vulnerability and are part of the underlying context for this scourge.

"I urge all States to ratify and implement existing instruments related to this effort, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

"I also call on States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons appointed last year by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and to make greater use of the "Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking" prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which provide practical tools for effective anti-trafficking strategies at the national, regional and international levels.

"I hope as well that States will contribute generously to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which provides assistance to victims.

"On this International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, let us reiterate our conviction that human dignity is at the heart of the work of the United Nations, and that ensuring full respect for the human being requires zero tolerance for slavery".

DAWN'S NEW VOLUNTEERS

The spirit of volunteerism lives in the Philippines. And DAWN is lucky to be one of the preferred organizations of several volunteers.

Hanako Okubo. Hana is an education student at the Soka University in Japan. She is currently an exchange student at the De La Salle University. She learned about DAWN from previous Soka University students who have been to the Philippines as exchange students.



Hana with JFCs

Hana comes to DAWN on Saturdays. She helped us during the rehearsals for the Akebono performance by teaching the JFC participants how to pronounce Japanese words and how to recite their lines in the musical play. Hana also does translation work for DAWN.

Remi Noaki. Remi learned of DAWN through another DAWN volunteer, Noriko Yokomizo. She e-mailed DAWN saying she wants to learn more about the organization and asked to be accepted in a one-month internship program.



Remi Noaki

Like Hana, Remi also helped during the Akebono rehearsals. She also did translation work for DAWN. While doing her internship at DAWN, Remi showed particular interest in the Sikhay program.




Akiko Hino

Akiko Hino. Akiko is a third year student at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. She is currently on a one-year exchange program at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, taking up some social work subjects. Akiko first learned about DAWN when she and a classmate in UP did their research on the issue of overseas performing artists (OPAs). Akiko speaks Tagalog.



Sr. Geothessa

Sr. Geothessa Atalli. Sr. Geothessa is a nun from the Scalabrinian order. She hails from Kalinga. She learned about DAWN from CBCP-ECMI and became interested to volunteer her time and her services to DAWN. She is particularly interested on issues about women and children.

Sr. Geothessa is good at baking. She is also adept at using the computer. 

Sikhay Corner

Promoting Sikhay Products During Theater Tour

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

Sikhay's products were promoted during the two-week theater tour of Teatro Akebono last October 4-17. Through the help of DAWN's networks in Japan, the various products of Sikhay such as scarves, batik dresses, blouses, hallow bags, backpacks, apron skirts, and wrap-around skirts, were put on display and sold at bazaars in Fukuoka, Ehime, Saitama, and Yokohama.

Aside from helping make arrangements for the theater presentation of the JFC in Soka, Saitama, Ms. Yoriko Nakahira of Children's Cultural Office also helped organize the bazaar in Soka. She introduced DAWN to Ms. Setsuko Muraki, who sponsored the theater presentation at the Kawayagi Cultural Center.

In Yokohama, it was the NGO People to People Aid (P2Aid) who helped organize the theater presentation and bazaar.

"It is heart-warming to know that the Japanese appreciate our products," said Nancy Bondoc, DAWN Administrative officer, who helped in promoting Sikhay products in Japan.



Mary Joy and Nancy with Rosario, a Filipina resident of Fukuoka, during a bazaar in Fukuoka



Ms. Nuqui and Nancy Bondoc promoting Sikhay products in Ehime

"The Japanese like our dresses so much that immediately after buying, they wear them," observed Nancy.

Aside from promoting and selling Sikhay products, we also gave an orientation of what Sikhay is all about to a group of Japanese individuals. These Japanese are part of the group who attended the workshop in Shiomi prepared by DAWN-Japan.

Through a power-point presentation, Sikhay Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona explained how Sikhay came about. She introduced to the workshop participants the women members of Sikhay and the products that they produce.



Bazaar in Yokohama

JFC Masami Cabugao and Kina Fujiwara helped in the promotion of Sikhay products during the Shio workshop.

Aside from Mary Joy and Nancy, DAWN-Japan volunteers like Chie Ogaya, Junichi Gidoh, Yuuki Nozaki, Ran Yagasa, Chikaoko Ishioka, Nobu Ashigaki, Takafumi Komatsubara, and others helped man the Sikhay booth and sell Sikhay products.

SINAG

SINAG ("akebono" or "yoake" Japanese) means dawn or daybreak. It is the quarterly publication of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), a non-governmental development organization devoted to issues concerning migrant women and their Japanese-Filipino children.

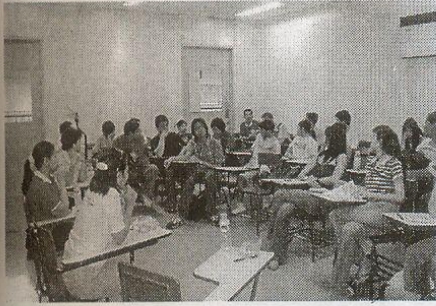
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NEWS BRIEFS



DAWN members Mary Joy Barcelona and Gina Andrade, together with DAWN staff Liza Garcia and Macoy Gomonan during the forum/discussion on former Overseas Performing Artists (OPAs) held at the De la Salle University on November 18, 2005.



Ms. Nuqui at a forum sponsored by the Communication Foundation for Asia during the celebration of the Feminist Centennial, held at the De La Salle University on November 25.



DAWN Executive Director and PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui with Dr. Federico Macaranas of the Asian Institute of Management, Atty. Edna May Lazaro of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bruce Reed of the International Labor Organization, Swedish Ambassador Annika Markovic, and Ms. Pia Bergman during the Forum on Migration and Development sponsored by the ILO and the Swedish Embassy in honor of the 100th birth anniversary of Dag Hammarskjold, past Secretary-General of the United Nations



DAWN participated in the PMRW Forum on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants held on December 14, 2005 at the Richmond Hotel. Speakers at the forum included Com. Wilhelm Soriano of the Commission on Human Rights, Atty. Milabel Cristobal of Kanlungan Center, Mr. Ferdinand Arbas of the Bureau of Immigration, Dr. Amelia Ancog, Fr. Fabio Baggio, and Fr. Savino Bernardi.



Twenty (20) Japanese participants to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) study tour visit the DAWN office on November 23. They had a briefing on the work and programs of DAWN and had an interaction with some of its women members and staff.



JFC members and volunteers of DAWN with NCCA Executive Director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and Ms. Kiyoe Fujinaka, more popularly known as Mama Rosa, of the Manjushaka Arts Group



SUBSCRIPTION

Development Action for Women Network

(DAWN)

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STRATEGIES TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Vital Voices Global Partnership co-organized a three-day international conference, *Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking from Southeast Asia to Taiwan*, from November 28-30, with Taiwan's Garden of Hope Foundation and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.

Taiwan vice president, Ms. Annette Lu, was the keynote speaker of the conference. In her keynote address, she committed to "stand behind anti human-trafficking efforts."

The other experts and advocates who attended the conference included, among others, Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley - Vital Voices Board member, former U.S. ambassador to Portugal and former senior advisor to former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; Mr. Brad Schlozman - Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice; Ms. Ann Kambara - Counselor of Labor Affairs, U.S. Embassy in Japan; Mr. Phil Robertson - former program manager of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region; Mr. Mark Taylor - Senior Coordinator of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. State Department; and Mr. Grant Edwards, Coordinator of the

Australian Federal Police, Transnational Crime Intelligence, Australia.

DAWN Executive Director and PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui was one of the speakers in the conference. She talked about trafficking of Filipino women within the context of labor migration. In such a context, trafficking, according to Ms. Nuqui, "has flourished through the internet, through mail-order brides, through illegal recruitment, and through the deployment of overseas performing artists (OPAs)."

"The economic situation, socio-cultural context and the political situation in the Philippines have increased the vulnerability to exploitation of women and children. Wanting to earn money to get out of poverty, many women and children fall prey to false promises of jobs abroad by unscrupulous illegal recruiters," said Nuqui.


She cited several cases of Filipino women victims of trafficking in



DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui and the other participants in the Taiwan conference, with Taiwan Vice President Annette Lu

Japan, Korea and Malaysia, as well as the abuses to Filipinos working in Taiwan factories. Ms. Nuqui also cited the efforts of Philippine NGO in the fight against human trafficking.

The three-day conference attracted a range of high-level officials and experts from the U.S. and around the region, as well as high-ranking Taiwan government officials, scholars, and NGO leaders.

"It's (the conference) a chance to draw on the wealth of knowledge and know-how from a wide range of international experts. We really hope the Taiwan government can do much more on this issue," said Ms. Wendy Yu Perkins, Director of Vital Voice Anti-Trafficking and Human Rights program. 

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