



# SINAG

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACTION FOR WOMEN NETWORK (DAWN)

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## DAWN Celebrates its 10th Year Anniversary

### *Conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons Held*

**D**AWN is 10! February 6, 2006 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year founding anniversary of DAWN.

It seems like only yesterday, when a group of concerned individuals thought of forming an organization that will help women migrants, particularly those from Japan. This idea of theirs gave birth to the formation of the Development Action for Women Network or DAWN. And DAWN gave a glimmer of hope to the situations of many distressed women migrant returnees from Japan and their families.

Looking back, the last ten years have been full of challenges and hopes for DAWN. Having started with 30 women and 42 Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) members, DAWN, to date, has handled about 293 women and 372 JFC cases. We have seen our women and children members grow

and develop. We would like to think that our programs, including the workshops and activities that we offered, which they availed of, have in some ways helped them become stronger, and whole individuals.

DAWN has been active in issues pertaining to women, migration and trafficking in persons. The DAWN staff, together with its members, have lobbied for the passage of bills that would provide better protection for our women, children and migrants. We have participated and worked hard for the passage of three major laws - the overseas absentee voting act, the dual citizenship act, and the anti-trafficking in persons act. But our work does not stop at the passage of bills into laws. We continue to lobby

for the proper implementation of these laws.

During the past years, DAWN has expanded its networks and linkages, not only in the Philippines, but also abroad. It has likewise been active in participating in workshops, conferences, meetings, discussions and other fora on women and migration issues. At least once a year, DAWN organizes a conference in relation to the work it does. For the year 2006, it organized a conference on the issue of migration and trafficking in persons.

### **Conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons**

In celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, DAWN held a

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DAWN Board members, women and JFC members, volunteers and conference speakers pose for a souvenir picture on the occasion of DAWN's 10th year founding anniversary celebration held at the Bayview Park Hotel on February 10, 2006

**EDITORIAL****MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

Globalization and the continuous movement of people from country to country in search of better life have exposed people to various forms of exploitation. The most conspicuous form of this kind of exploitative migration is human trafficking.


Trafficking in persons has been a major international issue this past decade. It is estimated that 600,000 to 800,000 people are being trafficked across international borders every year. This does not yet take into account those trafficked within the borders of countries. This modern-day form of slavery is accompanied by serious human rights violations: The most common form of trafficking involves women and children who are trafficked to work in the sex industry or those engaged in forced labor. These victims are often scarred, physically and psychologically, from their experiences.

The exploitation of people and trafficking's link to crime organizations have prompted governments to take measures to counter it. Some countries like the Philippines have adopted anti-trafficking legislation. The US State Department comes up every year with a trafficking in persons report that classifies countries into tiers, depending on their compliance with standards. Japan has adopted policies to curb trafficking in their country.

Other sectors, including non-government organizations (NGOs) have taken action to inform people about this issue, and to take care of and help victims. Several conferences and discussions have been organized internationally and locally in some countries to raise people's awareness and come up with possible solutions to curb trafficking.

DAWN has been helping women victims recover from their trauma and become survivors and advocates. Recently, on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, DAWN organized a conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons with the theme "Recognizing the Dignity and Rights of Women." This conference brought together various personalities from the government, media, church and civil society who shared their experiences, ideas and expertise on how best to combat human trafficking.

A lot has been accomplished to curb trafficking. And yet, a lot still remains to be done in terms of prevention, protection and prosecution. The issue of human trafficking is common to all nations. Since it is transnational in nature, no one country alone can solve it. It requires the collective efforts of all nations and all sectors.

Let us therefore unite as one and fight the trafficking menace that has emotionally and psychologically scarred its victims. Let us wage war on the trafficking network that has shattered the dreams and lives of many women and children. 

(DAWN... Continued from p. 1)

conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons on February 10, 2006 at the Bayview Park Hotel. The theme of the conference was "Recognizing the Dignity and Rights of Women."

The topic of the conference was timely and relevant because trafficking in persons has been a major international issue this past decade. The Trafficking in Persons Report of the U.S. State Department estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are being trafficked across international borders every year. This does not yet take into account those trafficked within the borders of countries.

This form of modern-day slavery is accompanied by human rights violation. Most of its victims are women and children who are trafficked in the sex industry or engaged in forced labor.

Because of the exploitation of people and trafficking's link to crime organizations, governments have taken measures to counter it. The Philippines for one has adopted Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking Act of 2003.

Topics for discussion in the conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons included the efforts of the Philippine and Japanese governments to combat trafficking in persons, the role of NGOs, media and

church in combating human trafficking, and global initiatives to curb trafficking.

Conference speakers were Hon. Pedro Chan, Executive Director of the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA) of the Department of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kazuo Inoue, former member of the Parliament of Japan; Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen; Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director of DAWN and President of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW); Atty. Rowena Guanzon, lawyer, writer and columnist; Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto of Hurights Osaka; Mr. Tomoaki Noguchi, Labor Attache of the Japan Embassy; and, Ms. Wenchi Yu-Perkins of Vital Voices Global Partnership.

The one-day conference was organized by DAWN, in cooperation with Vital Voices Global Partnership. Vital Voices is a US-based international NGO with former U.S. First Lady and now Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton as one of its Honorary Co-Chairs.

#### DAWN Exhibit

To highlight the ten years of DAWN, an exhibit of photos, publications and Sikhay products was mounted at the Bayview Park Hotel. The exhibit was formally opened before the start of the conference proper. Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, Ms. Peta Dunn of the Australian Embassy, Director Keiko Niimi of ILO, Mr. Bruce Reed of the IOM, Mr. Timothy Cipullo of the US

Embassy and Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano of the Commission on Human Rights opened the exhibit.

The photo exhibit showed the history, programs, and activities of DAWN, as well as showed photos of its members, board, staff and volunteers in action. DAWN publications like the Sinag newsletters, the CD *Where Do I Belong*, and the books *R.A. 8042, Pains and Gains*, and *Moving On* were exhibited. Samples of Sikhay products such as shawls, dresses, bags, and table runners were also showcased.

#### Congratulatory Messages from Friends and Partners

It was heartwarming that a lot of DAWN's friends, partners and networks have expressed their appreciation of DAWN and its work for the past ten years. Congratulatory messages received by DAWN were published in the Special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of Sinag. Most of these congratulatory messages were read before the conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons started.

International Labor Organization (ILO) Deputy Director Keiko Niimi noted the "gathering of champions working together in pursuit of the dignity and human rights of Filipino women" during the conference. She congratulated DAWN for including the ILO in its work "to chip away the human rights abuses against women."

Mr. Bruce Reed, regional representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) congratulated and lauded DAWN for being a consistent advocate of best practices and a partner in numerous migration initiatives. He said that further progress can be made in combating trafficking by viewing the issue holistically. According to Mr. Reed, "a holistic approach focused on raising awareness to the issue of trafficking at all levels of society will gradually change people's perceptions, improve the status of victims and undermine the image of the traffickers". He did suggest that such an approach requires supportive government policies and well-planned projects.



DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui with guests (From Left to Right) Mr. Timothy Cipullo, Ms. Cheryl Morton, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr., Ms. Wenchi Yu-Perkins of Vital Voices, Com. Wilhelm Soriano of CHR, Ms. Keiko Niimi of ILO and Mr. Bruce Reed of IOM

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## The Year That Was

# DAWN 2005 Year-End Report

The year 2005 has been a busy one for DAWN. Albeit some changes in the composition of its staff during the first quarter of the year, the delivery of effective and quality service to its clientele continued. In fact, more activities are in the pipeline for the next years to come.

DAWN is thankful to the volunteers of DAWN-Japan for their valuable time and support. DAWN also wishes to thank its Manila volunteers who can always be counted on - Akiko Hino, Yuuki Nozaki, Hanako Okubo, Sr. Geothessa Atalli, Sr. Milagros Goyena, Marjorie Vidal, and Ms. Agnes Mineko Hara. We had two Japanese interns in 2005 - Ran Yagasa of the International Christian University in Tokyo and Remi Noaki. Ran is now a full-pledged member of DAWN-Japan.

### **Social Services**

Actual case load for 2005 was 117 women and 148 Japanese-Filipino children (JFC). The nature of the cases referred to and handled by DAWN included abandonment by Japanese husband or partner, annulment of marriage, JFC recognition and support, and re-direction for a better life, among others.

152 phone inquiries were received in 2005, 5 inquiries through e-mail, and 4 walk-in clients. Most of these women were referred by various

agencies and institutions, foremost of which is the Japanese Embassy.

Two (2) orientation seminars were held during the year - in January and in November. This resulted in an additional membership of 47 women and 57 JFC for 2005.

Nine (9) home visits were conducted during the year. All the cases are being reviewed and so far, 63 cases have been reviewed. There is also continuous counseling for women members, as well as some JFC members. Phone consultations and counseling were also done, as the need arose.

The volunteers were active in providing support to the social services program of DAWN. The Japanese volunteers translated documents for the clients and joined home visits. Sr. Mila and Sr. Geothessa helped in the counseling of some women members.

Even with the very limited resources of the organization, educational assistance was provided to seven (7) JFC, not to mention the health care assistance.

Workshops and seminars for women members were also conducted, which included a retreat in March, a creative workshop in May, parenting seminar in several modules held on July 9, 16, 23, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12; and Gender and Development Seminar on November 18-20 in Laguna, which was also participated in by the staff and some Board members.

### **Research and Advocacy**

To further promote the work and advocacy of DAWN, the Research and Advocacy program conducted several activities in support of the other programs of the organization, and in



*2005 JFC theater workshop*

consultation and cooperation with them.

An Echo training on human rights and migration for the staff of DAWN was conducted on April 1 and 2.

As part of its advocacy work, Teatro Akebono members performed in several venues. The women members were invited to perform a portion of their play *Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty* by the Manila NGO Forum on March 31. From April 25 to May 13, a theater workshop was conducted for JFC. Eighteen (18) children participated in the theater workshop held at the St. Scholastica's College. On May 13, they presented the output of their workshop at the Battig Hall of the St. Scholastica's College.

Of the 18 children who joined the summer workshop, nine (9) were chosen to join the theater tour in Japan. Before they left for Japan on October 4, they held a farewell presentation at the Philippine Normal University on September 30.

The Japan theater tour was held from October 4 to 17. The group performed in Fukuoka, Ehime, Saitama, Tokyo, and Yokohama. Aside from the performances, the children also interacted with Japanese school children at the Kasuga-Higashi Elementary School in Fukuoka. They experienced living with Japanese families in Fukuoka, in Ehime, Saitama and Yokohama. They visited Gunma,



*Participants in the Gender and Development workshop held in November at the Splash Mountain resort in Laguna*



had an interaction with the children of the community, and experienced apple-picking and noodle-making. DAWN-Japan prepared activities in Tokyo, where several university students and young professionals participated in a lecture-forum about DAWN and the Philippines.

On human rights day, a workshop for the JFC was conducted by DAWN, together with Mr. Ernie Cloma of PETA and Professor Akihiko Morita.

There were four (4) study tours hosted by DAWN in 2005. The first was in May in partnership with the Philippine Global Exchange. On August 6, twelve (12) students and teachers from the Japan Lutheran College visited DAWN. This was followed by an orientation for young Filipino-Americans through the Tagalog-On-Site program on August 15. From August 25-29, Japanese students and professors from various universities in Japan were in town for a study tour organized by DAWN-Japan.

Other than the study tour, several visitors came to DAWN. These visitors included Mssrs. Mark Taylor and Anthony Eterno of the U.S. State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; Mssrs. Noboru Inokuchi and Koichi Ito of Jichiro-Rengo; Prof. Akihiko Morita of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, as well as some members of foreign embassies in the Philippines.

DAWN opened its doors to researchers from Korea, Japan and Indonesia, as well as to students from U.P., De La Salle, Ateneo, St. Scholastica's College, and the Asian Social Institute.

DAWN attended and participated in several committee hearings and meetings called by the House of Representatives, the Senate of the Philippines, and other government agencies. The organization likewise actively participated in various conferences and workshops not only in the Philippines, but also abroad.

DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui, as well as some members of the organization gave interviews to media. The women members also participated in outside seminars and fora. DAWN was likewise active in attending other meetings and discussions with other organizations, institutions and networks. Towards the end of the year, preparations were started for the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration of DAWN.

### **Alternative Livelihood**

Sikhay, the alternative livelihood project of DAWN, continues to provide assistance to some women members of DAWN who are interested in sewing, weaving and tie-dye.

In 2005, the following women were part of Sikhay – Mary Joy Barcelona, Gina Andrade, Rosie Verano, Cecilia Luz Ozawa, Josephine

Avelino, Maribeth Cruz, Rosalie Akase, Imelda Balayo, Juanita Contreras, Glenda Ayaton, Retchel Bitas, Emerald del Prado and Teodora Flores. Susan Adachi, a JFC, is also part of Sikhay.

Trainings in sewing and hand-weaving were also provided to some members.

Sikhay products were showcased and sold in local and international bazaars, with the help of friends. The Salt Payatas Foundation invited DAWN to three bazaars in Metro Manila on March 9, July 7, and October 22. On July 12, DAWN was invited by the newly formed Gifts and Graces Fair Trade Foundation, Inc. (GGFTFI) for a mini-bazaar at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office. This led to a partnership with the GGFTFI. At the same time, Sikhay products continue to be sold at every voyage of Peace Boat and at Narunia in Niigata. Other Japanese organizations, the latest of which is the group called Empowerment For All (EFA), help promote and sell Sikhay products. It is also worth noting that Filipinos residing in other countries have taken notice of Sikhay products and are promoting them abroad.

DAWN would like to thank all our volunteers, friends and partners, who have helped and inspired us in our endeavors. We hope to continue a fruitful relationship with you in 2006 and in the succeeding years to come. 🌸



*Participants of the study tour organized by DAWN-Japan in August 2005*



*Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) President, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, admiring Sikhay products during a bazaar held at the PDI office in July 2005*

(DAWN.. Continued from p. 3)

Mr. Timothy Cipullo, political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, read the message sent by Ambassador John Miller, Director of the Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons of the U.S. State Department. Ambassador Miller's message highlighted the need to form a strong coalition of diverse players ranging from non-governmental organizations to first responders including police officers to social workers who can aid victims, in order to successfully eradicate human trafficking.

"Since trafficking in persons is a global problem, it requires the close cooperation between governments and citizens around the world," said Mr. Miller. "The United States and the American people look forward to the day when all people may be free from all forms of human servitude and exploitation".

Ms. Cheryl Morton of the Australian Embassy in Bangkok, flew all the way to Manila to take part in the conference. She read the congratulatory message of Ambassador Tony Hely of the Australian Embassy, and emphasized the Australian government's commitment for the prevention and protection, investigation, criminal prosecution and support and rehabilitation for victims of trafficking.

Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) cited the partnership of DAWN and the CHR in the promotion and protection of human rights,

especially with regards to migrants' rights and expressed hope for many more years of continuous partnership.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. congratulated DAWN on its anniversary. He said that the conference is timely and critical because "there is an alarming tendency among certain sectors in poor countries to view women as commodities that may be traded to earn dollars".

As to the method on how to fight trafficking, Senator Pimentel said that, "It will take the collective genius of the well-meaning peoples of the world to combat this menace that threatens the moral fabric of all societies of the world."

He also cited the efforts of the legislative department for the passage of the bill on anti-trafficking into a law, but at the same time stressed the importance of the implementation of the law.

"Laws and international agreements," according to Senator Pimentel, "are only effective if the countries get down from their rarified legal norms to address the problems and get to the tough battle for the equality of the sexes, which is in the realm of social and economic lives of our peoples. To get that done successfully, we must not only have to get the government of the less affluent parts of the world, where the supply of trafficked women comes from to legally interdict it. We must also get the more affluent world where the demand for trafficked women is greatest to help the less affluent nations to eradicate the basic cause of women trafficking".

Aside from those present during the conference, congratulatory

messages from other individuals and organizations also poured in.

U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton sent her best wishes and hopes for the success in the work that DAWN and Vital Voices do.

Secretary Alberto G. Romulo of the Department of Foreign Affairs

commended DAWN for "its tireless and selfless dedication in assisting and promoting the welfare of Filipino women migrants and returnees from Japan, as well as Japanese-Filipino children."

The Embassies of Japan and Sweden likewise wished DAWN continued success in its work for the promotion and protection of Filipino overseas workers, particularly in its work to effectively address trafficking in persons.

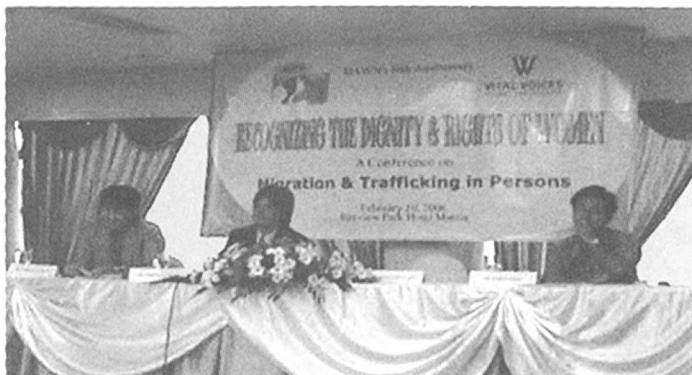
The Philippine Migrants Rights Watch noted that DAWN "has been and will always be in the front line of advocacy and concrete action to provide an effective response" to the challenges brought about by globalization and neo-liberalistic economies.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas through its Executive Director, Jose Z. Molano, Jr., as well as Rep. Edcel Lagman and Rep. Roseller Barinaga, congratulated DAWN on its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. DAWN's partners, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific, Sr. Mary John Mananzan, Prioress of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters, the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA), and Japanese organizations such as the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union (Jichiro), Peace Boat, and DAWN-Japan likewise sent congratulatory messages to DAWN.

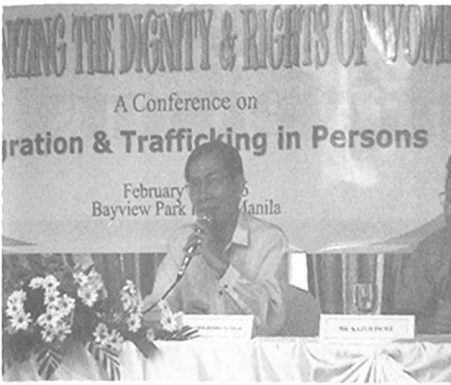
#### **Efforts of the Japanese Government in Combating Trafficking in Persons: Current Laws and Policies**

Mr. Tomoaki Noguchi, Labor Attache of the Japanese Embassy in Manila, presented a paper on the efforts of the Japanese government to combat trafficking in persons. He cited changes in the current laws and policies of Japan to address the issue of trafficking.

Mr. Noguchi acknowledged that trafficking happens in Japan. Some foreign women are lured to Japan with a promise of well-paid work, then they are forced into prostitution or made to perform other forms of sexual services, often with



Speakers during the morning session. From Left to Right: Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto of HURIGHTS Osaka & JNATIP, Mr. Tomoaki Noguchi of the Japan Embassy, & Mr. Kazuo Inoue



*Amb. Pedro Chan of the DFA-OUMWA presented a paper on Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons*

threat of violence in order to repay debts which can amount to as much as 4-5 million yen. Many who come to Japan seem to be unaware of the conditions of their work and if they refuse to follow orders, they are beaten and financially penalized, adding to their physical and psychological trauma.

Given the gravity of the situation in Japan, the Japanese government accelerated counter measures to combat trafficking in persons. They set up an inter-ministerial meeting, also called a task force, under the prime minister's office in April 2004 and adopted a comprehensive plan of action, which underlined the Japanese' firm commitment to fight human trafficking by focusing on preventive measures, law enforcement and victim protection in areas of policies.

The Japanese government has likewise made several amendments in its laws. Last year for instance, the Diet approved the conclusion of the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons in June 2005. It also changed the penal code, and established a new crime for human trafficking. The immigration act of Japan was also amended, as well as the law on control and improvement of amusement businesses.

Mr. Noguchi reiterated the position of the Japanese government with regards to entertainers. "We welcome the legitimate and genuine entertainers from the Philippines to Japan, he said".

He added that Japan is committed to work hard to combat trafficking in persons and likewise

stressed the need for closer and more effective collaboration among countries, NGOs and international organizations in the fight against trafficking in persons. **Legislative Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Person**

Mr. Kazuo Inoue, former member of parliament of Japan from 2000 to 2005, said he felt a little bit uneasy to talk on the issue of trafficking in Japan since he was the one who pushed the Japanese government to initiate or to start the new policy on human trafficking, and may be viewed as some to be the one responsible for depriving many economic opportunities for Filipino women, who want to work in Japan.

Mr. Inoue clarified that the problem of entertainment visas is related to the hostessing in the nightclubs. Entertaining and hostessing are two different things. While Japan accepts entertainers who are very talented, some night club owners want to use the Filipinos as hostesses because they want to attract more customers. Young girls, in particular, are vulnerable to exploitation. Some are even forced to enter prostitution, because perhaps they can make money from the customers.

At the same time, Mr. Inoue mentioned the concern of many Diet members who feel that Japanese society is getting very old. He cited the shortage of human resources in Japan and said that Japan has no option but to depend on migrant workers in the future. In particular, he cited the need for nurses, care givers for the elderly and the children, as well as teachers in Japan.

#### **The Situation of Filipino Entertainers and Role of Japanese NGOs to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto is a researcher of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center, or HURIGHTS OSAKA, based in Osaka Japan, and an individual member of the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons. (JNATIP). He presented a paper on the situation of trafficking and anti- trafficking initiatives of NGOs in Japan.

JNATIP is one of the more active Japanese NGOs involved in the issue of

trafficking. As a network of NGOs, JNATIP has undertaken several initiatives such as conducting a survey on the facts of trafficking victims in Japan (which was conducted in collaboration with Ochanomizu University, Tokyo); lobbying and consultation activities with Parliamentarians and concerned government agencies; conducting awareness raising campaign.

Mr. Fujimoto said that as early as the late 1980's, Japanese non-government organizations have been involved with the issue of trafficking. Most of the women victimized came from the Philippines and Thailand at the earlier stage. While the term of trafficking was not yet commonly used during that time, several NGOs like HELP and SAALAA have already been involved in assisting victims of trafficking, by providing shelters for them. However, the Japanese government, according to Mr. Fujimoto, did not take effective and comprehensive measures to penalize traffickers such as brokers, or to make efforts to protect victims of trafficking. Instead, the victims had been usually treated as 'criminals' for violating the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (overstaying) and/or the Anti-Prostitution Law (solicitation). They were deported to their own countries without having been provided an opportunity to seek justice and rehabilitation.

With regards to the situation of Filipino entertainers in Japan, he cited contract violations, and the work conditions that they have to endure. He said that most entertainers receive low wages, and are obliged to do *Dohan* (date with customers in the daytime). Penalties are also imposed on them by the owners of night clubs if they fail to meet the target of sales. There are even cases that they are made to prostitute themselves.

Under Japan's Immigration Act, foreign entertainers are not allowed to work as bar girls. However, such illegal activities by the employers or night club owners had

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# 10th Anniversary



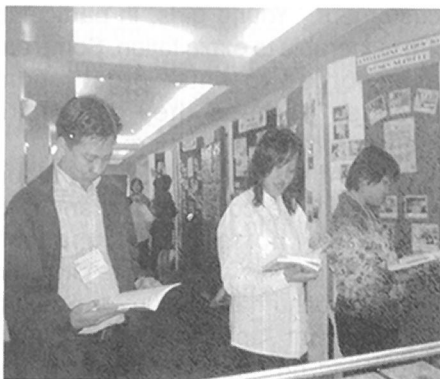
*Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen cuts the ribbon to formally open the DAWN exhibit. He is flanked by Ms. Peta Dunn of the Australian Embassy and Sen. Pimentel*



*Ms. Nuqui shows ILO Deputy Director Keiko Niimi and Mr. Timothy Cipullo of the U.S. Embassy the books and other materials produced by DAWN*



*DAWN women members promoting Sikhay products*



*Conference guests view the exhibit*



*Mr. Bruce Reed of IOM with Ms. Nuqui*



*Japan Labor Attache Tomoaki Noguchi, Ms. Nuqui and Wenchi Yu-Perkins of Vital Voices*



*Fr. Edwin Corros of CBCP-ECMI with Justice Florida Ruth Romero*



*Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. and Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen*

# Photo Gallery



*DAWN women members did a presentation on DAWN Milestones*



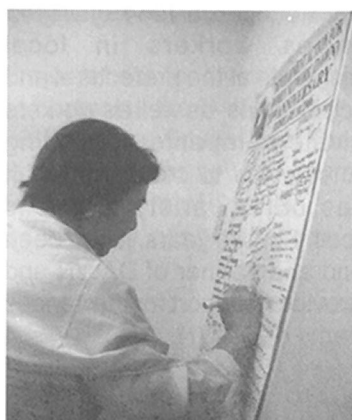
*Open forum*



*DAWN Treasurer Pearl Domingo-Flores with Ms. Agnes Mineko Hara*



*Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano and DAWN Chairperson Cora Arboleda*



*CATW-AP Executive Director and DAWN Advisory Council member Aurora Javate-De Dios*



*10th Anniversary gift from DAWN-Japan*



*Former member of Japan's Diet, Kazuo Inoue and Ms. Wenchi Perkins of Vital Voices join DAWN members and staff during the anniversary celebration held at the DAWN office on February 11*



*The Japanese-Filipino children members of DAWN performing during the Conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons*

# 10/10

## DAWN Awards Ten Individuals and Groups on its Tenth Anniversary

In appreciation of their valuable support and contribution to the development and growth of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), the following individuals and groups were awarded plaques of recognition by DAWN during its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration held on February 10, 2006:

### Ms. Agnes Mineko Hara

Ms. Hara is fondly called Sensei by the DAWN staff and members. She is DAWN's first Japanese volunteer, who for years has continuously and unconditionally given her time and talent. Every Saturday, she gives Nihongo lessons to DAWN staff and JFC members. She also actively participates in the activities of the organization.

### Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona

Mary Joy started out as a client of DAWN in 1998. She later joined Sikhay in 1999 and is now DAWN's Sikhay Coordinator. Mary Joy is an example to all women migrants who experienced exploitation in their work. She has risen above all her problems and shortcomings, has moved on, and is a source of hope and inspiration for others. She is now pursuing a degree in B.S. Entrepreneurial Management at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and hopefully, will graduate this March.

### Mr. Kazuo Inoue

A member of the Japanese Diet from 2000-2005, Mr. Inoue, helped DAWN to lobby for changes in the Japanese policies with regards to women migrants. Mr. Inoue pushed the Japanese government to initiate or to start the new policy on human trafficking.

### Atty. Kenshi Nishida

A long time friend of DAWN, Atty. Nishida has helped, and continues to help DAWN in many

ways. He has provided pro-bono legal assistance to DAWN clients as well as provided help in securing documents. Atty. Nishida is a practicing international human rights lawyer. He has been a member of DAWN's Advisory Council since 1997. It was Atty. Nishida who facilitated DAWN's meeting with members of the Japanese Diet and some Japanese government officials.

### All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union (JICHIRO)

Founded in 1954, JICHIRO organizes workers in local governments at the prefectural and municipal levels, as well as workers in private companies providing public services to communities. It carries out a variety of public services. For ten years, it has been a friend and partner of DAWN and has provided support for the various programs of DAWN.

### CORDAID

CORDAID was then known as BILANCE. It was the first international funding organization to trust DAWN and provide the necessary funding for six years of operation. Cordaid continues to build on people's own strength and has provided assistance in many areas, in many countries, to improve lives and human conditions.

### DAWN-Japan

Formally launched in August 1998 at the Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, DAWN-Japan was formed to assist DAWN in its many activities in Japan. DAWN-Japan helps DAWN in the translation of documents, assists in locating fathers of JFC members, and coordinates DAWN activities



*Mr. Kazuo Inoue receives his plaque of recognition from DAWN for all the support in lobbying for changes in policies of the Japanese government*



*Ms. Agnes Mineko Hara receives from DAWN Executive Director Camelita Nuqui a plaque of recognition for ten years of unwavering support to DAWN*



*Ms. Nuqui presented the plaque of recognition to Mr. Tsutomu Arai, Executive Director of the Department of International Affairs of JTUC-RENGO, during her trip to Japan in February*



## DAWN Elects New Board

At the annual Board of Directors meeting of DAWN held on February 3, 2006, the following were elected to the Board of DAWN:

Chairperson	Prof. Corazon R. Arboleda
Vice Chairperson	Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, OCD
Secretary	Rev. Leonardo R. Morada
Treasurer	Ms. Pearl Domingo-Flores
Auditor	Atty. Danilo C. Cunanan
Members	Atty. Corazon Valdez-Fabros
	Mr. Ernesto Cloma
Executive Director	Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui

For years, Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen has been a member of DAWN's Advisory Council. This year, he joins the Board as its Vice Chairperson.

Bishop Labayen is a retired Bishop of the Prelature of Infanta. Born in Talisay, Negros Occidental, Bishop Labayen was ordained as a priest in 1955. He is a member of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites. He was a recipient of the Gawad Kagitingan Award given during the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Philippine Independence.

Mr. Ernesto Cloma, or Tito Ernie as he is fondly called, joins DAWN as member of the Board. He replaces Sr. Catherine Serafica, who now joins the DAWN Advisory Council.

Tito Ernie is the Director of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) for Curriculum Development. He has been a friend of DAWN for several years, having helped in conducting theater workshops for the women and children members of DAWN.

To the newly elected Board, we say congratulations and we look forward to working and collaborating with you! 🎉



DAWN's newly-elected Board members. From Left to Right: Ms. Pearl Domingo-Flores, Prof. Cora Arboleda, Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, Rev. Leonardo Morada, and Ms. Carmelita Nuqui

(DAWN... Continued from p. 7)

long been overlooked without seriously being monitored by the Japanese government.

While Mr. Fujimoto appreciates the recent efforts on anti-trafficking taken by the Japanese Government, he said that there are still other issues which remain to be addressed. These issues include stabilizing the legal status of victims, establishing a specialized facility for victims of trafficking, and enacting a law for the protection and support of trafficking victims. He also cited the need to address the issue of the demand side, considering that Japan's sex industry is a 10 trillion Japanese Yen industry (US\$ 85 billion).

#### **Efforts of the Philippine Government to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

Ambassador Pedro O. Chan, Executive Director of the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA) of the Department of Foreign Affairs presented what the Philippine government has done with regards to the issue of trafficking in persons.

Ambassador Chan highlighted the passage of Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003. This law defines trafficking in persons, penalizes acts of trafficking in persons and acts that promote trafficking, institutes policies to eliminate trafficking in persons, and

establishes institutional mechanisms for the protection and support of trafficked persons. The law likewise created the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), to monitor and oversee the implementation of the law. IACAT is composed of the heads of the following departments/agencies: Justice, Social Welfare and Development, Foreign Affairs, Labor and Employment, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Immigration, Police, National Commission on the Role of Filipino women and three (3) representatives from non-government organizations.

According to Mr. Chan, as of February 2006, there have been 7 convictions under R.A. 9208.

Ambassador Chan said that prevention is still the best antidote for trafficking in persons. "It should be at the heart of any action plan to combat trafficking in persons. He also cited the need for coordination between and among different agencies of the government and non-government organizations for a more focused and streamlined approach".

#### **Role of NGOs in Combating Trafficking in Persons**

For a long time, non-government organizations have been concerned and working on the issue of trafficking in persons. As early as the 1980s, NGOs in the Philippines and in Japan have been reporting on the increasing cases of trafficking of

Filipino, Thai, East European and Latin American women in Japan.

Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director of DAWN spoke on the role that non-government organizations (NGOs) like DAWN play in combating trafficking in persons. These include awareness-raising, consciousness-building, information dissemination, education and training, providing data and information, providing direct services to victims, as well as lobbying for the passage of laws. She also cited NGOs as critical allies and partners of government in the fight against this modern day form of slavery. Ms. Nuqui stressed on the need for cooperation and collaboration in the local, regional and international arena among all sectors in order to win the war against traffickers.

Ms. Nuqui, in particular, cited the work of DAWN in assisting trafficked Filipino women from Japan.

#### **Role of the Church in Combating Trafficking in Persons**

Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, Vice Chairperson of DAWN, shared his experience in visiting a nightclub in Tokyo upon the invitation of DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui.

According to Bishop Labayen, his visit to the club may have been providential. His conversations with the women entertainers made him see how exploited they were. He learned that they were not getting the salaries that they were promised and that they were not given enough time to rest in order to continue their work. He also learned about the system called *dohan* where women are given a quota. The women told him of how they were asked to contact their clients to visit them at the club and how much a client has to pay to take out a woman from the nightclub. Listening to all those stories, Bishop Labayen could only say, "My God! What exploitation!"

The funny thing about Bishop's club visit was that when the women found out that he was a Bishop, the women could not figure out what he was doing in a nightclub. After all, why would a Bishop visit a club? They asked him why he visited the club, to which Bishop Labayen replied, "I came here personally to make you



Speakers in the afternoon session included Ms. Wenchi Yu-Perkins, Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, and Atty. Rowena Guezon. Dr. Fabio Baggio of the Scalabrini Migration Center was the emcee during the conference.

feel that you have dignity and that you have human rights, and that you are precious in God's sight."

Bishop Labayen stressed the importance of prevention in the fight against human trafficking. The implementation of the new Japanese immigration policy is a first step towards prevention. The visa requirements for the women entertainers became stricter. They must be of age, must have at least 2 years of college education, and they must have the proper training for their line of performance. Protection, says Bishop Labayen, is equally important. Women should be instructed where they could go in case they have a problem during their stay in Japan. And of course, there is rehabilitation. The Japanese government should send home the victims and see to it that they get home safe and sound. Rehabilitation includes psycho-social intervention, social relationships, re-entry into one's own social surroundings, and psychological rehabilitation.

Bishop Labayen also cited his dismay over the President's request for a moratorium on the Japanese immigration policy. "She is a woman. She should be happy that we are really promoting the dignity of the women and their rights and now she wants a postponement of the implementation."

He questioned government's priority – whether it is in the economics or our own dignity and rights.

### **Role of Media in Combating Trafficking in Persons**

Atty. Rowena "Bing" Guanzon, practicing lawyer and a columnist for the INQ7 and Visayan Daily Star, talked about what she thinks the role of the media should be in order to help combat trafficking in persons.

Atty. Guanzon cited the need to have a gender perspective when reporting. This, according to the feisty lawyer, should also be looked into with a class perspective because most trafficked women are poor women. They should find out why trafficking exists, why women risk their lives, knowing that they might be prostituted in the kind of work that they do.

The media as the balancer, as the fourth estate in a democratic state,

should be aggressive in protecting trafficked and prostituted women. When they are reporting, they should use gender-sensitive language and respect the confidentiality of the names of victims and their families.

Another role of media, said Atty. Guanzon, is to educate the public. They should tell the public when a law is good or not, if it works or not.

Reporters must keep all the files. They should not just tell the report but should also investigate. They can investigate how syndicates work in small communities, because trafficking, happens in small, poor, and far away communities.

The media could also volunteer as witnesses. Of course, this is quite risky, considering that trafficking syndicates are dangerous because they will protect their business. As Atty. Guanzon said, "If one cannot be bought, one will be threatened. If one cannot be threatened, one will be killed."

Media can also push government officials to do their work. Atty. Guanzon said that media should give credit to public officials who do their work and at the same time hit those who do not do their work, those who accept bribes, and those who are part of syndicates.

### **Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

Ms. Wenchi Yu-Perkins of Vital Voices Global Partnership did a presentation on global efforts to combat trafficking in persons. She said that it was only in the year 2000 that an international legal framework to seriously address human trafficking from a more comprehensive perspective was created. In the mid-1990's the United States did not even have a law to protect victims of human trafficking. Victims were still treated as criminals.

But while legislations and policies are now in place in many countries like the Philippines, the United States, as well as in Europe, implementation remains a challenge.

A lot of key players in the world today address human trafficking. They

(10/10... Continued from p. 10)

in Japan, particularly the theater tours and study tours of Sikhay members. It also conducts other activities such as the publication of Sinag newsletter in Japanese, the translation of DAWN books into Japanese, organizes discussions and forums on issues relating to women and migration, as well as conducts study tours for Japanese to the Philippines and in Japan. DAWN-Japan is made up of young Japanese volunteers, mostly students and young professionals.


### **Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO)**

JTUC-RENGO has been a friend and supporter for six years. It is the largest trade union organization in Japan that actively works for the welfare of workers. It takes interest in important issues that affect all peoples and takes a stand on them. JTUC-RENGO supports DAWN's activities, particularly the annual theater tour to Japan.

### **Peace Boat**

Peace Boat is a Japanese NGO that promotes peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. For many years now, it has been a friend of DAWN. During their visits to the ports of Manila or Subic, Peace Boat organizes exchange programs between its participants and DAWN members, staff and volunteers. DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui has delivered several lectures on board Peace Boat. Peace Boat likewise helps market Sikhay products. Sikhay products are on display and on sale in every Peace Boat voyage.

### **Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA)**

PETA assisted in conducting the first theater workshop organized by DAWN for its Japanese-Filipino children members. Since then, it has helped DAWN in the mounting and staging of musical plays. PETA has encouraged DAWN to develop its Teatro Akebono, which likewise serves as an advocacy tool for DAWN. 

(Continued on p. 14)

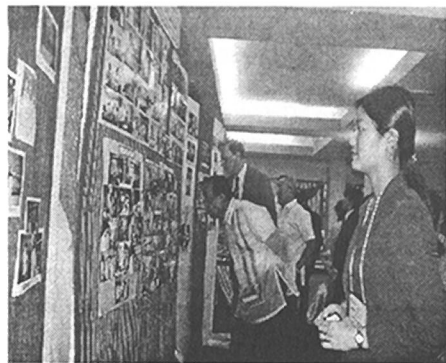


(DAWN... Continued from p. 13)

include international global organizations, the national labor organizations, the UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration, UNAIDS, NGOs at the national and local level, like DAWN, who provide direct services to victims or survivors of human trafficking. There are also international NGOs like Vital Voices who do primarily international advocacy work. Governments, obviously, are the more important players and stakeholders in addressing this issue.

Ms. Perkins stressed that these key stakeholders must work together because the problem of trafficking is a complex one. It can be approached as a prosecution issue, as a migration issue, as a labor issue, as a public health issue, as illegal immigration issue, or child exploitation, child labor and so many other perspectives. Human trafficking is an issue that cannot be addressed alone, utilizing a single approach. It requires comprehensive approaches. Ms. Perkins encouraged governments not to be short-sighted and to adopt a comprehensive strategy. This is not an easy task though. It requires collaboration and consultation with different non-governmental organizations to have a more balanced and comprehensive perspective.

She ended her presentation by saying that all stakeholders must work hard, be organized and fight trafficking in a united manner, as trafficking syndicates are united and organized. 📷



Ms. Perkins viewing the DAWN photo exhibit

## Sikhay Corner

The first quarter of 2006 has been quite a busy time for Sikhay members. Aside from the usual production of Sikhay quality products, the members participated in several activities.

At the beginning of February 2006, the hand-weaving and tie-dye projects of Sikhay, which used to be housed at the DAWN Center in Singalong, Manila transferred to the Don Santiago Building. This move puts together in one roof all Sikhay projects for better accessibility.

Sikhay members took active part during the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration of DAWN. The women joined the children members in staging a presentation of DAWN's history and milestones during the conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons held on February 10, 2006 at the Bayview Park Hotel Manila. Part of the said presentation was the modeling of Sikhay products by DAWN women and JFC members. At the same time, Sikhay products were put on display as part of the exhibit mounted by



Imelda Balayo demonstrates warping technique to ILO Deputy Director Keiko Niimi and daughter



Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. appreciating Sikhay products during the exhibit held at the Bayview Park Hotel Manila on February 10

DAWN for its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

On March 1, 2006, Sikhay participated in a bazaar held at the Manila Shimbun office, which was organized by the SALT Payatas foundation.

Several friends and guests also paid visit to the projects of Sikhay. These included the delegates from P2Aid of Japan, former member of the Japanese Parliament Mr. Kazuo Inoue, Ms. Wenchi Perkins of Vital Voices Global Partnership, Director Keiko Niimi of the International Labor Organization, Dr. Nobue Suzuki of the Nagasaki Wesleyan University, Dr. Yoshiko Nagano of the Kanagawa University, and some members of the National Women's Education Center (NWECC) of Japan. 📷



Dr. Nobue Suzuki tries on Sikhay dress and shawl

## 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.

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## People, Places, Events



*People to People Aid (P2Aid) delegates visited the DAWN office in February 2006*



*Ms. Mel Nuqui presents a plaque of recognition to Atty. Kenshi Nishida, Advisory Council Member of DAWN, at his office in Tokyo*



*ILO Director Linda Wirth (center) with Ms. Nuqui, Dr. Benjie Teodosio, and the other members of the Women in Philippine Industrial Relations during a forum held in UP on March 4*



*Ms. Mel Nuqui with Mr. Kazuo Inoue and Rep. Yoko Kamikawa, member of Parliament of Japan during a courtesy call on February 27 in Tokyo*



*DAWN Exec. Director Mel Nuqui with Japanese Ambassador Ryu Yamazaki during the Symposium on Philippines-Japan Relations held at the De La Salle University in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Philippines-Japan relations*



*International Labor Organization (ILO) Deputy Director Keiko Niimi visited the DAWN office on March 4*

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## **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

On February 25, 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the National Women's Education Center (NWECC), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons (JNATIP), organized an international symposium to tackle the issue of trafficking in persons. Speakers from various fields from different countries were invited to share their ideas to foster a better understanding of the issue by the general public. The program was held at the U Thant Conference Hall of the United Nations University in Tokyo.

Mr. Richard Danzinger, Head of Counter Trafficking Division of the International Organization for Migration based in Switzerland; Ms. Keiko Otsu, Director of HELP Asian Women's Center of Japan; and Mr. Toru Ogino of the Cabinet Secretariat spoke on the current situation and measures to combat trafficking in persons. It was followed by panel discussions on International Cooperation to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons and Establishing Bases for Women's Empowerment and Building a Global Network.

DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui was invited as a panelist for the session on Establishing Bases for Women's Empowerment and Building a Global Network.

Ms. Nuqui talked on the role of NGOs like DAWN in helping women who have been victims of trafficking. She also cited the work of NGOs in helping prevent trafficking of persons. She likewise

stressed the need for cooperation and collaboration between and among governments, agencies, institutions and NGOs in the fight against trafficking.

Other panelists in the one-day symposium included Ms. Kristiina Kangaspunta of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Ms. Sumarni Dawan Rahardjo, Deputy Minister for Child Protection of the Ministry of Women Empowerment of Indonesia;

Ms. Yoko Kamikawa, a member of the House of Representatives of Japan; Atty. Yoko Yoshida, co-chair of the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons (JNATIP); Pol. Col. Apichat Suriboonya of the Royal Thai Police; Professor Kimio Ito of the Kyoto University; Ms. Lina Maria Arbelaez, former Adviser of the Minister of Interior and Justice of Colombia; and, Mr. Tsuyoshi Iguchi of the National Police Agency of Japan.

The first session was facilitated by Dr. Takahiro Shinyo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the facilitator for the second session was Prof. Mariko Bando of the Showa Women's University.



*Panelists in the session on Establishing Bases for Women's Empowerment and Building a Global Network included (from L to R) Ms. Sumarni Dawan Rahardjo of Indonesia, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui of DAWN, and Rep. Yoko Kamikawa of the House of Representatives of Japan*

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