

SINAG

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BUILDING CAPACITIES OF WOMEN & JFC

On June 4, 2010, the formal turn-over ceremony for the project "Building Capacities for Women and their Japanese-Filipino Children" by the Embassy of Japan to the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) took place. The project is part of the Japan government's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). Earlier in February, the Embassy of Japan and DAWN signed the grant contract for the said project amounting to over US\$78,000. The grant will fund livelihood and capacity building projects of DAWN for its women and children members.

During the turn-over ceremony, Ambassador Makoto Katsura commended DAWN for its work in assisting distressed women returnees and their children, particularly those who worked in Japan. He said that they are aware of the lack of opportunities for returned migrant workers. Through the machines purchased for the project, women will be assisted in gaining skills that can help them improve their lives. The Ambassador also expressed "hope for a promising future filled with opportunities for a better life" for the mothers and the Japanese-Filipino children.

Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director of DAWN, thanked the Japan government for the grant. She said that DAWN is able to provide continuing interventions to its women and children members because of the support of groups, including the Japan government. Ms. Nuqui also cited that the changes in the immigration policies of Japan have drastically reduced the number of Filipino women going to Japan to work as "entertainers" which have resulted in lesser problems of migrant women, though much still remain to be done.



DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui thanks the Japan Embassy for the GGP grant. Looking on are (from L to R) Ambassador Makoto Katsura, Labor Attache Haruhiro Jono, and Mr. Shigehiro Matsuda

The grant from the Japanese government is expected to further boost DAWN's programs in assisting women returnees from Japan and their Japanese-Filipino children. Aside from the purchase of machines for the training of women, capacity building activities such as entrepreneurial training for the mothers, leadership training and children's rights camps for the Japanese-Filipino children,

as well as the publication of a book on Japanese-Filipino children are also in the pipeline.

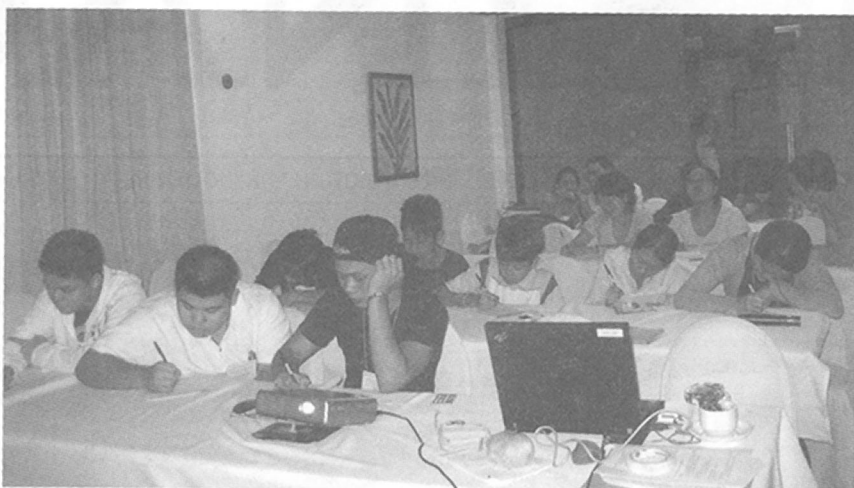
Ambassador Makoto Katsura was joined by Labor Attache Haruhiro Jono and Mr. Shigehiro Matsuda. Also in attendance during the turn-over ceremony were the women and Japanese-Filipino children members, volunteers and friends of DAWN. After the ceremony held at the Bayview Park Hotel Manila, the officers from the Japan Embassy visited DAWN to check on the project.

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LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND TEAM-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR JFC

Last June 26-27, several Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) members of DAWN participated in a Leadership Training and Teambuilding Workshop held at the Splash Mountain resort in Laguna. The training, which is the first of two parts, is part of the activities for JFC that is being funded through the Grassroots Assistance Fund of Japan (See related story on page 1).



focus, link with others and personal/professional balance. Each of the five blocks was looked into in relation to the different types of leadership that included the autocratic, democratic, free-rein, and the blended type.

The value of communication was emphasized through an exercise on effective communication and listening. The

The objectives of the training and workshop were to make the participants develop their leadership potentials, acquire leadership skills that can help them become responsible individuals and members of society, and become confident in fulfilling their tasks and in facing challenges as members of DAWN Japanese-Filipino Children for Change (DAWN-JFC).

DAWN tapped the services of Prof. Zandro Estella of the PUP College of Cooperatives, who likewise conducted a similar activity for the JFC last year, to conduct the training workshop. He was assisted by Ms. Mariel Parinas, President of the Junior Co-operators Association of PUP.

Prior to the actual discussion and training on leadership and team-building, there was an introduction of what the workshop is all about. There was a sharing of expectations and house rules or norms for the duration of the activity. Through a power point presentation of DAWN's work and programs, Tita Liza discussed where and how the JFC fit in the structure of DAWN and how they, as members of DAWN-JFC, can help DAWN by assuming leadership roles in their organization.

The first item on the menu of Prof. Estella or Tito Zandro to the JFC was all about the building blocks of effective leadership. These blocks include communication, succession, key issues

participants were divided into three groups and in each group, one JFC is selected to be the listener and executor of the project. This JFC is asked to leave the room while instructions are being given to each team. The Facilitator showed a drawing each to the teams for sixty seconds. Their goal is to remember the drawing and communicate it to the other JFC who is outside the room so that he can draw it. The JFC who is outside is blind-folded and asked to come into the room with his teammates telling him or her what to draw. The other two groups on the other hand make noise and communicate other things to the JFC as well, thereby sowing confusion. The blind-folded JFC should decide who to listen to and execute the drawing that was shown to his or her teammates.

Other issues related to leadership that were discussed on the first day included leadership qualities, the characteristics of a good leader, and improving leadership qualities. The reasons why leaders fail were also discussed.

Aside from giving examples, Tito Zandro shared with the group the video of the "Bridgekeeper." The video talked about learning to sacrifice. The story must have made an impact on the participants because they were still discussing it after the session (see story on opposite page).

After the group finished the session for day one of the activity, all the JFC participants, the volunteers, facilitators and staff who





accompanied them took time in the evening to get to know each other better. Group presentations and games were prepared, and there were also karaoke singing and swimming which were much enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

The discussions and activities for the second day focused on being part of a team, how to be a team leader, the advantages of working in a team and how to ensure a successful team environment. There were also plenty of sharing and activities conducted on the second day.

One of the activities was called the Problem Web. One participant will pass on the ball of yarn to another participant until everybody has taken a hold of the ball of yarn and a web has been formed. The object of the exercise was for the group to hold the web in such a way that when somebody tosses a ball, it does not fall in one of the holes. This was successfully achieved by the participants after three attempts. But aside from making a strong web, each JFC, before passing the ball of yarn to another, makes a commitment on how he or she can help the organization, DAWN-JFC. Most of the participants said they will commit their time to attend meetings of the organization while some said they will set good examples for the younger JFC. Risa Reyes, President of DAWN-JFC said she will "share her ideas so that the group can have a clear direction on what it wants to achieve." Nico Perez said he will be more active in the activities while Jennifer Verano said she is always there to help the organization and that anyone can approach her.

Before the two-day activity ended, a group evaluation was held. All the participants were asked what they learned from the training.

"I learned the value of self-confidence and how to make decisions, as a leader," said JM Miranda, currently the Vice President of DAWN JFC.

Jennifer Verano said she learned the importance of always thinking positive, while Yorgei Cerezo said he realized the value of listening.

With regards to the application of what they have learned, the participants said they will try their best to apply what they learned during the two-day training. It was suggested that they reflect on the learning and try practicing what they learned. If they make mistakes, there is always a second chance to do better.

Two of DAWN's Japanese volunteers namely Tomoko Kimura and Natsuki Nomoto participated in the said training. For them, the activity was a chance to know the JFC better and to understand their issues.

The Bridge Keeper

There was once a bridge which spanned a large river. During most of the day the bridge sat with its length running up and down the river paralleled with the banks, allowing ships to pass thru freely on both sides of the bridge. But at certain times each day, a train would come along and the bridge would be turned sideways across the river, allowing a train to cross it.

A switchman sat in a small shack on one side of the river where he operated the controls to turn the bridge and lock it into place as the train crossed. One evening as the switchman was waiting for the last train of the day to come, he looked off into the distance thru the dimming twilight and caught sight of the train lights. He stepped to the control and waited until the train was within a prescribed distance when he was to turn the bridge. He turned the bridge into position, but, to his horror, he found the locking control did not work. If the bridge was not securely in position it would wobble back and forth at the ends when the train came onto it, causing the train to jump the track and go crashing into the river. This would be a passenger train with many people aboard. He left the bridge turned across the river, and hurried across the bridge to the other side of the river where there was a lever switch he could hold to operate the lock manually. He would have to hold the lever back firmly as the train crossed. He could hear the rumble of the train now, and he took hold of the lever and leaned backward to apply his weight to it, locking the bridge. He kept applying the pressure to keep the mechanism locked. Many lives depended on this man's strength.

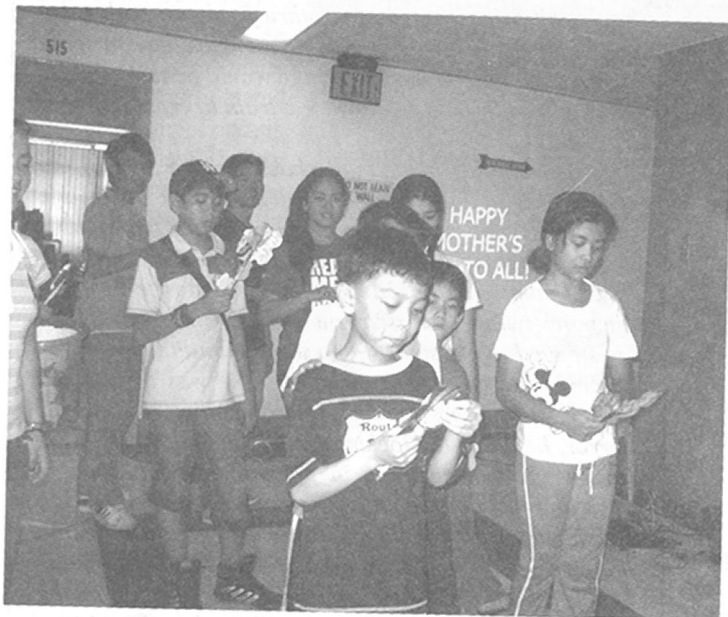
Then, coming across the bridge from the direction of his control shack, he heard a sound that made his blood run cold. "Daddy, where are you?" His four-year-old son was crossing the bridge to look for him. His first impulse was to cry out to the child, "Run! Run!" But the train was too close; the tiny legs would never make it across the bridge in time. The man almost left his lever to run and snatch up his son and carry him to safety. But he realized that he could not get back to the lever. Either the people on the train or his little son must die. He took a moment to make his decision.

The train sped safely and swiftly on its way, and no one aboard was even aware of the tiny broken body thrown mercilessly into the river by the onrushing train. Nor were they aware of the pitiful figure of the sobbing man, still clinging tightly to the locking lever long after the train had passed. They did not see him walking home more slowly than he had ever walked: to tell his wife how their son had brutally died.

(In <http://www.inspirationalarchive.com/texts/topics/love/bridgek.shtml>)

SSP Updates

By Christina Lopez



JFC members of DAWN pay tribute to their mothers

Most of the women members of DAWN are solo parents. Daily, they face many challenges as they juggle a career and act as parent to their children. DAWN assists its women members by providing various interventions, social activities and opportunities to help them have a better life.

One of the regular activities of the Social Services Program is to promote a healthy discussion of various issues relevant to its members. In one of the discussions, the issue of raising a child was brought up as they discussed the poem, "Children Learn What They Live."

The women said they cannot teach everything to their children but can help them discover positive things in them. As mothers, they expressed apprehensions as to the safety and welfare of their children, especially when they are not at home. They said that at a certain stage, children prefer the company of other people other than their family and they begin to explore their surroundings. Sometimes the children may make wrong decisions and it is up to the mother to guide her children as they grow and explore things around them.

The mothers said their children have their own uniqueness. It was suggested to the mothers that they should help their children discover their unique positive traits and talents and nurture them into skills. The women were also advised to treat their children with the same respect as they want to be given and mothers must be a role model to their children.

DAWN Fetes JFC Graduates and Achievers

Last April 10, DAWN recognized its 2010 graduates and achievers. Kenji Stephen Manguera, Anna Shimizu, Jennifer Verano, Aki Tano and Jay Reyes all graduated in high school. Kenji is now taking up Japanology at the University of Manila while Anna is a first year Bachelor of Science in Tourism student at the La Consolacion College, Manila. Jennifer is taking up Social Work at the Universidad de Manila.

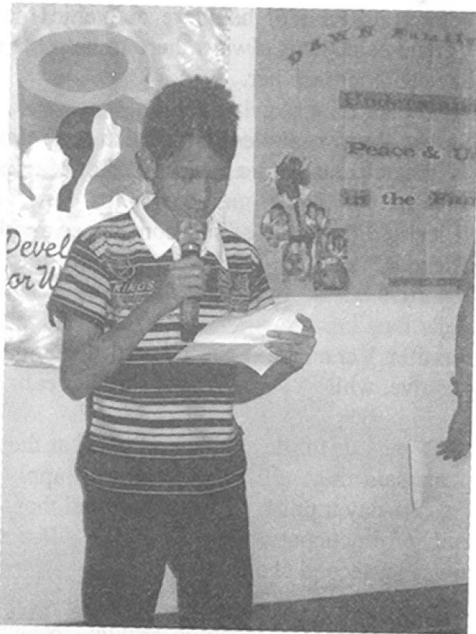
Aside from the graduates, the following were also recognized for their academic excellence and other achievements: Masami Angel Kuraoka (Most Honest), Ayami Mitsuoka (Top 4 in her class), Stefany Aina Marquese (Excellence Award for Sense of Responsibility), Kyla Liezet Horie (Top 5 in her class), Ryuji Ito (Top 4, Best in Oral Reading and Best in English), and Mitzie Petisme (Top 9 in her class, and Most Respectful Student).

Congratulations to all and keep up the good work!

Celebrating Mother's Day

Mother's Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, usually during the second Sunday of May. It is a day to honor mothers motherhood.

As has been its tradition, DAWN celebrates Mother's Day to recognize and celebrate the motherhood of its women members. To make the celebration more memorable, the staff of DAWN together with the Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) prepared a short program. The JFC were tasked to prepare a dance number to present during the program. They also agreed to make some tokens to give to their mothers for the occasion. Out of the available materials provided by the staff, the children made paper flowers and wrote on them personal-



John Nico Perez led the Opening Prayer during DAWN's Family Day celebration

ized messages for the mothers. Each of the mothers present was given a paper flower by her child. For those whose mothers were not around, they were also presented flowers by the JFC whose mothers were unable to come. All the staff of DAWN were also given paper flowers by the JFC because, according to them, the staff are like mothers to them.

After the short program, everyone partook of the chocolate cake and ice cream prepared by the staff.

DAWN Family Day

Our family provides one of the strongest influences in our lives. Filipino families from every walk of life have taught us time and again that children raised in loving and caring homes have the ability to reject negative behaviors and reach their highest potential, whether the children were raised by two parents or a single parent just like the women of DAWN.

In recognition of the role of our families in our lives, DAWN held a Family Day for all its members. On June 19, DAWN honored the dedication of the mothers and commended the achievements of their children with the theme "Understanding, Peace & Unity in the DAWN Family".

There were 18 women, 22 JFC, 6 DAWN staff/Board member and a Japanese volunteer who participated in the said celebration. The program started with a simple prayer led by Nico

Perez followed by the welcome remarks of our Executive Director, Tita Mel Nuqui. The inspirational message was delivered by Tito Ding Morada, one of the board members of DAWN, while the JFC prepared a short play that talked about the family. Risa Reyes, president of DAWN-JFC for Change wrote the skit, whose message is the importance of love and caring for each other in the family regardless of socio-economic status. After the presentation of the JFC, the DAWN women rendered a song entitled "Ingatan Ka." The women were teary-eyed while they were singing and their children hugged them to give them comfort and express their love for their mothers.



The JFC prepared a short skit about family life

Children Learn What They Live

by Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
 If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
 If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.
 If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself.
 If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
 If a child lives with jealousy, he learns what envy is.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to be guilty.
 If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.
 If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
 If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
 If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.
 If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
 If a child lives with recognition,
 he learns that it is good to have a goal.
 If a child lives with sharing, he learns about generosity.

If a child lives with honesty and fairness,
 he learns what truth and justice are.
 If a child lives with security,
 he learns to have faith in himself and in those around him.
 If a child lives with friendliness,
 he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.
 If you live with serenity, your child will live with peace of mind.
 With what is your child living?

TEATRO AKEBONO 2010

How fast time flies! It's been a year since the last Teatro Akebono theater tour in Japan and once again, DAWN has been very busy preparing for this year's theater tour. But with the hard work put in by the staff, volunteers and partners, as well as the dedication of the JFC participants and the support of their mothers, the 2010 theater tour was a success.

This year's participants – Ryuji Ito, Mitzie Petisme, Chikara Nakamura, Raquel Takashima, Shota Ito, Kyla Liezet Horie, JM Miranda and Risa Reyes, as well as DAWN staff Mel Nuqui, Liza Garcia, Mary Joy Barcelona and Christina Lopez – all enjoyed the tour and are grateful for all the assistance and support given by our partners and friends in Japan.

Farewell Presentation at St. Scholastica's College

Prior to the group's departure for Japan, the musical play "The CraneDog" had its farewell presentation at the Barion Hall of St. Scholastica's College on May 11. Together with the JFC, the women members of Teatro Akebono also presented their play "Misty" before an audience consisting of women and JFC members of DAWN, wives of the officers of the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Ben Suzuki of the Japan Foundation, friends and other guests.

This year's cast of Misty include Mary Jane Kuraoka, Emilie Ito, Lolita Nakamura, Rosalie Akase, Rosie Verano, Nerissa Manguera and Emma Perez. Masami Kuraoka was a guest performer in this year's play.

Having a farewell presentation is important because after the rehearsals, it is the first time they will do the actual play on stage. The presentation gave them a feel of how it is to act on stage and to see how they can improve on their acting. The JFC also said they were glad to have some Japanese in the audience who gave them encouragement.

Presentations in Japan

The first presentation of the group was at the Urawa Catholic church. Nakahira-san, a long-time friend of DAWN, arranged for the said presentation on May 14 followed by a get together with friends. From Urawa, the group proceeded to Nagano, which is about two hours by shinkansen (bullet train) from Tokyo. The first day in Nagano was spent sight-seeing and appreciating the beauty of the place. We also saw the sight of the 1998 Winter Olympics. On May 16, it was performance time for the JFC. But before the presentation, everyone heard Mass at the nearby Catholic church. From the church, the children walked to the Shinanoki, where they will be performing. They were thrilled to be performing at a large theater and anticipated the arrival of the Filipino community in the different parts of Nagano to watch them. With the good preparations of the many volunteers led by Sr. Celeste and Ms. Grace, around 300 people came. The following day, it was off to Numata in Gunma. A presentation was held immediately on the day of the group's arrival. The senior citizens of the community as well as some monks and sisters came to see the play. The children also sang Japanese songs with the audience after the play. After the presen-

tation, the group stayed at the Keifuku-ji Temple.

The next stop after Numata is Yokohama. Tita Chiho Ogaya, Coordinator of DAWN-Japan made arrangements for the showing of the play before her class at the Yokohama National University. The presentation was followed by a workshop with her students. After Yokohama, the group left for Tokyo. There were no presentations in Tokyo but in the morning the group made a courtesy call to Rep. Mari Kishibuchi. In the evening a forum on JFC issues was organized by Itojuku, a school in Japan that teaches students how to prepare for the Japanese bar examinations, law school entrance examinations, examination for civil servants and other law related national examinations.

Nagoya was the next stop. DAWN volunteers Yuji Ito of Nanzan University and Azusa Kemmochi of Nagoya University, and Kousho Nakasima of Chubu University arranged for the group's presentation at the Nagoya University. From Nagoya, the next presentation was at the Osaka University. Oue-sensei and his students who are into Philippine studies made the necessary arrangements for the group's presentation. Students and teachers from the university saw the performance. We also met at the Osaka University Prof. Leo Zafra, a visiting professor from the University of the Philippines, and other Filipino students.

The last presentation of the group was at the Kasuga-Higashi Elementary School in Fukuoka on May 28. Being the last presentation, the cast prepared well for the show. It helped that there were many school children in attendance. The home



stay families of the JFC were also present to morally support them. DAWN volunteer Akira Ohnishi from Kyushu University also drove his motorcycle from Hakata-ku to watch the children's performance.

The JFC participants said they enjoyed the presentations they had in all the prefectures. They enjoyed performing before a live audience and that it made them confident. They also realized the importance of staying focused because if they are not, they make mistakes during the play.

Savoring Japanese Hospitality

The JFC participants and staff experienced Japanese hospitality during their stay in Japan. In Urawa, Natsuyuki Imagawa kindly offered his place for the entire group to stay. Everyone enjoyed the place and was so enamored with the two daughters of Nat-chan, Yukune and Sara.

In Nagano, the staff, volunteers and JFC all experienced home stays. Sr. Celeste Yuzon and Grace Bermudez made sure that each of us stayed with a Japanese-Filipino family. Having a Filipino host made it easier for the members of the group to communicate with their host families.

In Nagoya, the staff stayed at the Kazoki Catholic Church. Last year, Fr. Michael Hirasawa Tadao also graciously accommodated the staff in his church. The JFC meanwhile were divided into four groups and each group had a student host who accommodated them. In Fukuoka, the JFC once again experienced home stay. This time around, they stayed with Japanese host families. These are families whose children study at the Kasuga Higa-



With friends at the Nagoya University

shi Elementary School.

The home stays with Japanese families afforded the participants the chance to learn more about Japanese way of life and culture. The JFC said they enjoyed the home stays and are grateful to the host families for accommodating them and treating them well.

Meeting with Fathers

Of the eight JFC who joined this year's tour, three children were fortunate enough to have the chance to meet their fathers in Japan. These are Chikara Nakamura, Kyla Horie and Shota Ito.

Chikara met his father in Nagano, the second prefecture visited by the group. It was an unexpected meeting for Chikara who could not believe he would see his father. According to him, he was still a baby when his father last saw him. It has been ten years since then. Chikara said he enjoyed the theater tour to Japan but the highlight of the trip was meeting his father. The Filipino community in Nagano, led by Sr. Celeste Yuzon and Ms. Grace Bermudez were the ones who contacted Chikara's father. Tita Grace also helped in translating for the two.

Kyla was the second JFC to see her fa-

ther. When the group was in Numata, Tita Mel, assisted by DAWN-Japan volunteer Shiho Nakai, called Kyla's father. They made arrangements for a meeting. Thus on May 26, when the group was en route to Fukuoka, Kyla, accompanied by Tita Mel and Tita Joy, got off at the Okayama station and headed for Shimane-ken. Kyla was so happy during the meeting with her father. She was introduced by her father to some of his friends who saw them together.

Last year, Shota's brother Hayato, was fortunate enough to have met their father. Tita Azusa Kawamura of DAWN-Japan contacted a sister of their father and was able to convince him to meet with Shota. DAWN's partner in Fukuoka, Tita Noriko Yamazaki of the Asian Women's Center, together with Prof. Rieko Ogawa of the Asia Center, Kyushu University accompanied Shota, Tita Mel and Tita Joy during the trip to Oita for the meeting. Shota appeared nervous and uneasy on the way to Oita. He said he had mixed emotions because it has been 13 years since he last saw his father. When he met with his father, they were able to talk and his father discussed some things with him.

For the rest who did not meet their fathers, they said they were happy for those who met theirs. Raquel said even if she did not meet her father this time, she knows that DAWN will continue to process their case. She does not lose hope that maybe someday she will also see her father again.

School Activities

The Teatro Akebono participants visited

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from p. 7, "TEATRO...")

two schools: the Shindo Elementary School in Osaka and the Kasuga Higashi Elementary School in Fukuoka.

The visit to the Shindo Elementary school was a brief one but the children said they enjoyed it. They were welcomed by the school Principal and had activities with the Grade II students. At the school gymnasium, they had songs, dances and games with the children. They also met two JFC who are studying in the same school. For seven of the eight JFC participants, it was their first time to mix with Japanese school children and partake lunch with them.

Every year, the Kasuga Higashi Elementary School welcomes the arrival of JFC from DAWN. For the past nine years, their school has played host to the JFC and has given them the opportunity to join classes. For two days, the eight JFC experienced attending a Japanese school. They joined the classes and had discussions with the students. JM and Ryuji as well as Raquel and Mitzie joined Grade II students; Shota and Chikara joined the Grade III students, while Risa and Kyla joined the Grade I students.

The teachers and students at the Kasuga Higashi Elementary School were all very gracious and helpful in making the JFC welcome. It was therefore difficult for the JFC to say goodbye to their Japanese classmates and friends.

Forums on JFC Issues

On May 19, a forum on JFC Issues was organized by Itojuku. The said forum which was held in Shibuya, Tokyo was well attended by students, members of the academe and lawyers. DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui introduced the

DAWN and the work it does for the women and JFC. This was followed by an open forum where the audience asked several questions that ranged from finding fathers, processing the cases of children, to the dreams and aspirations of the JFC. Ms. Nuqui and the JFC gladly replied to all these questions.

In Fukuoka, the Asian Women's Center (AWC) also arranged a forum for a discussion of JFC issues. This time around though, the JFC were not present in the forum. Tita Mel reported on the situation of DAWN's JFC members while Tita Rikako of AWC reported on the trafficking of some JFC in Kumamoto. Students and members of the academe from different universities in Kyushu attended the said forum which elicited a very lively discussion.

Other Activities

Aside from the presentations and other activities done in Japan, the participants of Teatro Akebono were also able to visit two aquariums. On May 21, the group went to the Tokyo Sea Life park. They were accompanied by Tita Sumire, Tita Akane, Tita Kao and Tita Reiko. The children were amazed at the different sea creatures they saw, especially the penguins. They also had the chance to touch the manta ray.

In Osaka, the group was treated by Anno-sensei to a tour of the Kaiyukan, one of the largest aquariums in the world. Obviously, everyone enjoyed the aquarium exhibits that included numerous living things such as fishes, plants, invertebrate animals, batrachians, reptiles, birds, and mammals that can be found in different parts of the world. Anno-sensei, Tita Yuki Nozaki, Daisuke and Osaka Univer-

sity students Kyoko and Yosuke joined the group in touring the Kaiyukan.

All in all, the JFC said they enjoyed the 17-day tour. They felt it was a successful trip because they were able to perform and share their stories and experiences with other people. They all said given the chance, they would like to join the theater tour again.

DAWN would like to thank all our friends, partners and networks in Japan who made the 17-day theater tour a success. This year's participants really enjoyed the stay and the hospitality afforded them. Thank you DAWN-Japan, especially Tita Chiho, Tita Azusa, Tita Shiho, Tita Yuki, Tita Sumire, Tita Yoko and of course Tamura-san who joined us for five days from Urawa to Yokohama. We would also like to thank Nakahira-san and Tito Nat-chan of Urawa; Sr. Celeste, Tita Grace and all our host families, friends, and the Filipino community in Nagano; Koan-sensei of Numata; Yuji Ito, Ken Kemmochi and Kousho Nakasima who arranged our presentation and stay in Nagoya; Prof. Horiuchi; Hara-sensei; Philip-sensei; DAWN volunteers Saori and Kei who took time to meet and assist us in Tokyo; Tita Carina Morita of IOM Tokyo; the staff of Itojuku; Oue-sensei and his students at the Osaka University; Prof. Leo Zafra; Anno-sensei and Fujimoto-san of Osaka; Kaori and Akane of DAWN-KUIS; Chili, Kao and Reiko; Tita Noriko, Tita Rikako, Tita Honda, Kaname-sensei and the rest of the staff of the Asian Women's Center; Dr. Shun Ohno and Prof. Reiko Ogawa of Kyushu University; Prof. Hayashizaki and his students at the Fukuoka University of Education. Special thanks to all who came to watch the musical plays. *Maraming salamat po!*



(Continued from p. 10, "ALP...")

Jane Kuraoka. Rosie who is new to weaving can now make scarves, shawls and runners. Ana Liza and Mary Jane meanwhile did the more advanced training in weaving.

All nine women finished their trainings and on June 19, they were given recognition for their achievement. Through a short program prepared by the staff, the women were each given a certificate of completion of training. They also presented and modeled the items that they themselves made. DAWN Board Secretary Ding Morada assisted Ms. Nuqui in awarding the certificates to the women.

Selling Sikhay products in Japan

I joined DAWN's Teatro Akebono tour in Japan from May 19– 29 of this year. It was a good opportunity for DAWN to promote and advertise its work and products. With the help of our volunteers and networks in Japan, we were able to achieve this task. One of our DAWN-Japan volunteers, Mr. Akihiro Tamura was very helpful in selling Sikhay products. He joined us in Urawa, Nagano, Numata and Yokohama to sell the bags, dresses, aprons and other products of Sikhay. The members of DAWN Kanda University of International Studies (DAWN-KUIS) have also been very helpful. They organize and join bazaars to sell Sikhay products throughout the year. Our networks in Urawa, Gunma,



Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka also assisted us in promoting our products. To our DAWN-Japan friends and volunteers, thank you very much for always supporting us in our endeavors!

Sikhay-Jean Pierre Couture Fashion Show collaboration

Last December, independent style-maker Jean-Pierre Pardo approached DAWN for a fashion show collaboration. Using hand-woven materials from the collection of Sikhay, Ms. Pardo turned the materials into creative wear which she presented in a fashion show.

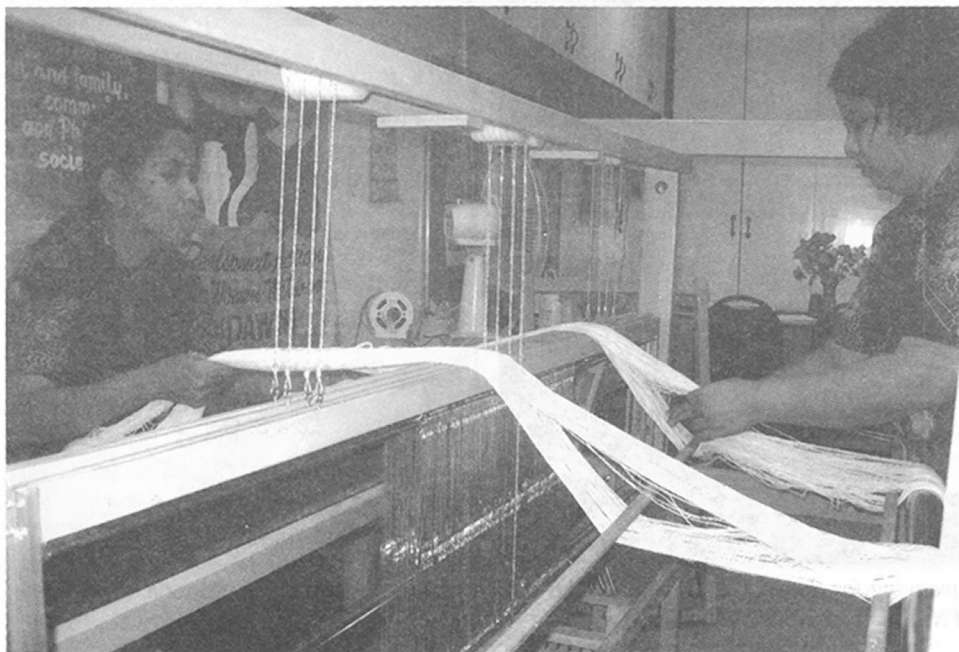
On April 29, the Jean Pierre Couture 2010 collection was launched by Fabric Philippines, together with creations of other designers. The said event was held at the Encore Fly Room in the Fort Strip of the Bonifacio Global City.

Together with DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui and Board Treasurer Pearl D. Flores, we attended the said event to see how Sikhay products have been transformed. It was also an opportunity for us to pick up new design ideas, and also meet potential buyers of our products. Thank you JP and more power to you!

Other Activities

Last April 12, 2010 Rosalie and I attended the Multi-Stakeholders' Orientation on the Salient Features of the Magna Carta for Women (R.A. 9710). Conducted by the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) of the Department of Labor and Employment, the said orientation aimed to secure the commitments of the participants in disseminating the salient points of the law to their members.

On May 1, we also attended the Labor Day celebration that was organized by DOLE-NCR with the theme "Mangagawang Pilipino Kaagapay sa Pagbabago." DAWN was one of the exhibitors during the jobs and livelihood fair held at the SMX at the SM Mall of Asia.



ALP CORNER

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

DAWN women members are being provided with different activities such as team building workshops and seminars in order to help them in their development as individuals. These activities are mostly those that impart values of self-worth and dignity. At the same time, skills training and entrepreneurial workshops are also provided to help those who need economic assistance/alternative livelihood.

This March, with support from the Grassroots Fund of the Embassy of Japan, DAWN was able to purchase a new set of high speed sewing machines, edging machine, button hole machine, and four units of jack type handloom weaving machines. With these new machines, DAWN is set to train several batches of women in sewing and weaving. The trainings started in March.

Sewing and Weaving Trainees

Six women joined the first batch of trainees in sewing. They are Emilie Marie Ito, Gloria Horiguchi, Melissa delos Santos, Josephine Takashima, Lolita Nakamura and Fritzie Petisme.

After attending a series of workshops and seminars, Emilie Marie Ito, the mother of seven-year old Ryuji, got interested to join the skills training in sewing. During her three months training, Emilie said she was happy to have joined. She was one of those trainees who made sure that she was able to make her project on time. After the training, Emilie is thinking of making her son's uniforms.

Gloria Horiguchi also trained in sewing. She is the most cheerful in her group. After training, Gloria says she wants to have her own shop. Gloria disclosed that she and her son Renzo, who is now twelve years old and a high school freshman, enjoy coming to DAWN to take part in its activities.

Both Emilie and Gloria did not work in Japan. They met their husbands here in the Philippines but just like the other women members of DAWN, they were abandoned by their Japanese husbands.

Melissa Delos Santos is a volunteer health worker in their community. She got interested to join the training in sewing

because she saw this as an opportunity to learn. Melissa, who has one daughter, said she enjoyed the camaraderie with the other women trainees while at the same time learning how to sew.

Josephine Takashima is the most quiet among the trainees. She said she would rather listen than talk. But whenever there are visitors at DAWN who would ask her questions, she says that she is no longer shy in replying to their questions. Josephine is the mother of two JFC, Raquel who is now 19 years old and Raphael who is 10 years old.

Lolita Nakamura and Fritzie Petisme started training earlier than the four other trainees. They were thus in the more advanced sewing. The additional time they spent allowed them to learn how to make patterns and sew items such as bags, skirts, blouses and shorts.

Three women initially trained using the new and wider jack-type handlooms purchased by DAWN. These are Rosie Verano, Ana Liza Yambao and Mary

(Continued on page 9)



The first batch of trainees in sewing and weaving for the year 2010 with DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui and DAWN Board Member Leonardo Morada



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

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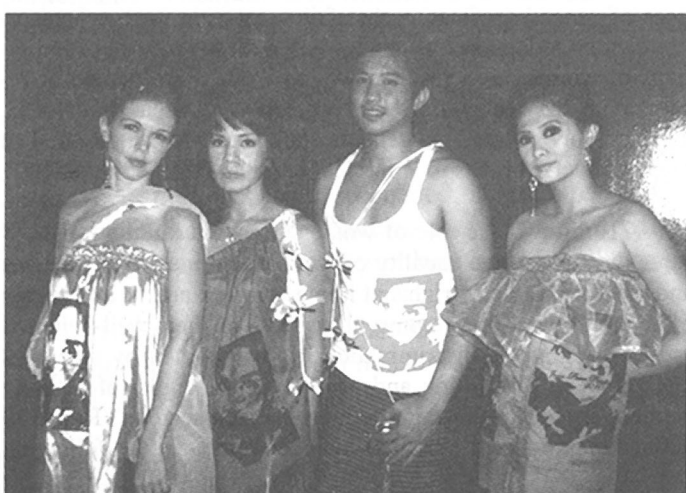
Members of the 2010 Teatro Akebono paid a courtesy visit to Japan Diet member Rep. Mari Kushibuchi



Exhibit of Sikhay products at the SMX Mall of Asia during the 2010 Labor Day celebration organized by DOLE-NCR



Guests attending the Transcode seminar learned about the work and program of DAWN during their visit on June 8



Independent stylemaker Jean Pierre Pardo (second from left) presented her 2010 collection using Sikhay hand-woven products at a fashion show held on April 29

SUBSCRIPTION

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Magna Carta of Women

(R.A. 9710)

*A*lmost a year after it was signed into law, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9710 otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women will soon be launched this coming July.

The passage of R.A. 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women into law in 2009 was hailed as a landmark law in Philippine history as it provides a framework for the rights of women based on international law. It adopts the definition of discrimination against women in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Discrimination against women include any act or omission that directly or indirectly excludes or restricts women in the recognition and promotion of their rights and their access to and enjoyment of opportunities, benefits, or privileges; measures or practices of general application that fail to provide for mechanisms to offset or address sex or gender-based disadvantages or limitations of women, as a result of which women are denied or restricted in the recognition and protection of their rights; and, measures or practices of general application which resulted to greater adverse effects to women, more than men.

RA 9710 affirms the role of women in nation building and ensures the substantive equality of women and men. It recognizes and protects women's rights at home, at work and in all spheres of society toward developing all aspects of their well-being. It "seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women, especially those in the marginalized sectors." RA 9710 defines marginalized sector to include women in the following

sectors and groups: small farmers and rural workers; fisherfolk; urban poor; workers in the formal economy; workers in the informal economy; migrant workers; indigenous peoples; Moro; children; senior citizens; persons with disabilities; and, solo parents.

Other salient features of the law include the following:

- Increase in the number of women personnel until they fill half of third-level positions in the government,
- Provision of incentives to parties with women's agenda and
- Barring derogatory portrayal of women in media and film.
- Establishment of Violence Against Women desks in every barangay to make sure violence against women cases are addressed in a gender-responsive manner.
- Women participation to the extent of at least 40 percent membership in the composition of development councils in regions, provinces, cities, municipalities and barangay.
- Women employed in the government and private sectors are given special leave of two months with full pay, based on their gross monthly salary, due to surgery caused by gynecological disorders.

The discriminatory treatment of women in educational institutions was given particular attention by the law. Female faculty members who get pregnant outside of marriage cannot be dismissed, separated from work, forced to go leave, re-assigned or transferred for that kind of pregnancy. Neither can they be made to suffer any diminution in rank, pay or status for making that reproductive choice. The same treatment holds true for female students. They cannot be expelled, dismissed, suspended, refused or denied admission, or forced to go on leave solely due to pregnancy outside of marriage during the school term.

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