



SINAG

Vol. 22, No. 2 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACTION FOR WOMEN NETWORK (DAWN) April - June 2017

DAWN'S TEATRO AKEBONO 2017

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona and Masako Ono

The Development Action for Women Network had its annual Teatro Akebono Japan Tour to inform of the plight of the Japanese Filipino Children living in the Philippines to the Japanese, Filipino communities and other people through the play, "The Crane Dog."

The Theater Tour took place from May 13 – 31, 2017 in the following prefectures: Aichi, Kyoto, Osaka, Saitama, Kawasaki, Tokyo, and Chiba.

The team included six Japanese-Filipino Children (Takashi Kimura, 9; Juliana Reiko Tubig, 15; Eien Antonio, 15; Mitzie Petisme, 17; Keigo Mosatalla, 17; and Masako Ono, 20), and were accompanied by Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui, DAWN Executive Director and Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, DAWN Alternative Livelihood Program Coordinator and Director of the play.



DAWN Teatro Akebono performing "The Crane Dog" at the Kozoji Catholic Church on May 14, 2017.

This year, the Akebono Team made presentations in different universities, schools, and communities with the continuous support from DAWN's non-profit organizations (NPO) partners, universities, schools, volunteers & friends.

The following day, May 14, the team performed their first presentation of the play, "The Crane Dog," at the Kozoji Catholic Church after the Mass. It was attended by Filipino mothers and their children, Japanese people and friends and Fr. Shiio Masafumi, Parish Priest of the Kozoji Catholic Church.



Teatro Akebono team with Prof. Seiko Hanochi, Mr. Koushou Nakashima and Fr. Shiio Masafumi, together with the Filipino community and parishioners of the Kozoji Catholic Church.

The Akebono Team arrived at the Chubu Centair International Airport, Nagoya on May 13 and was welcomed by DAWN-Japan Volunteer Akihiro Tamura & Aichi prefecture Coordinator Koushou Nakashima.

Afterwards, there was a lunch party organized by the Filipino community and members of Kozoji Church. Tita Dori Yamanaka and Tita Lisa Hara with their children took the team at the Nagoya Green Pierre Park for a stroll.

On May 15, the Akebono team headed to Kyoto via Shinkansen and met Prof. Wako Asato and his student, Airi Yamabuchi. The team had a tour around the Kiyomizu Temple, one of the popular temples in Kyoto and had dinner.

The Team headed to Kozoji Catholic Church for the night.

(to be continued on page 4)

DAWN Supports *CAREDIVAS*

By Kanna Junio



DAWN women and children at the presentation of CAREDIVAS on June 24, 2017 at PETA Theater Center.

Last June 24, 2017, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), together with the women and their children, watched *CAREDIVAS* at the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) Theater Center. First staged in 2010, this musical written by Liza Magtoto and directed by Maribel Legarda became a sensation as it was inspired by a true story of an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW). Indeed, *CAREDIVAS* portrayed the struggles of five Filipinos as caregivers in Israel, and the challenges they faced with their identities as gay men in a predominantly Jewish nation. It was such a heartfelt story that it touched the hearts of many Filipinos across the world.

The musical started at 3:00PM with the scene of Chelsea and his employer, Isaac, teaching him Israeli Culture and the Hebrew Language. At the middle of the story, Chelsea then met a guy named Faraj, who accepted his being *bakla* and became his boyfriend afterwards. On the other hand, Shai, the leader of the group, is unceasingly haunted by his mother who always asks for his money, but never accepts his homosexuality. Chelsea and Shai are joined by Kayla, Thalia, and Jonee whose employers are unkind and not treating them well.

Every night after doing their jobs, they meet altogether and hold shows at nightclubs in the hope of fulfilling their dreams of performing at Tel Aviv. With the help of their friend, Nonah, and her boyfriend, they were able to audition for Tel Aviv; however, only three of them were chosen—Kayla, Chelsea, and Thalia. This led to disagreements among the group, and the unfortunate events that happened to them thereafter.

Before the most crucial performance of the five caregivers, Isaac dies, Kayla is deported for working illegally in Israel, and Faraj is chased by the police. And because Chelsea tries to save Faraj from the Israeli policemen and from the danger of being deported, he was the one who sacrificed and died in the bombing incident. Towards the end, the remaining caregivers seemed happy and content with their life even though they are apart. They commemorate the death of Chelsea and his heroic deeds through a celebratory song number.



DAWN women and children with the cast of CAREDIVAS

Indeed, the story relates to the experiences and hardships of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Watching the musical was nostalgic and reminiscent to some, while contemptible and pitiful to others. It depicts the reality that our OFWs face - the struggles of working abroad just to earn money for their family. In fact, it shows their dedication and diligence in doing their job, despite the mistreatment they experience from some of their employers. Finally, the story reminds us that the true meaning of caregiving is an exercise of genuine care that goes beyond just a contract and a mere responsibility.

Cheers to the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) for sponsoring this very good presentation, about the realities of our OFWs.



DAWN women and children taking a selfie with "Kayla" of CAREDIVAS.

Youth Conference at the 50th ADB Meeting

By *Mitzie Petisme and Eien Antonio*

Two of the DAWN-JFC (Japanese Filipino Children), Mitzie Petisme, 17 and Eien Antonio, 15 with DAWN Executive Director, Carmelita Nuqui were invited by the Yokohama National University and the Yokohama City government to attend the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Conference with the theme “Building Together the Prosperity of Asia,” from May 5-8, 2017 at the Yokohama National Convention Hall. The three were accompanied to the event by Prof. Hiromi Kabashima of the Yokohama National University (YNU) and Prof. Chiho Ogaya of Ferris University.

This activity hopes to solve the poverty and economic disparity issues in the Philippines. Do you believe that the youth are the hope of our nation? To start the event, the Yokohama National University (YNU) students made a presentation on the theme: “Reducing Poverty and Fostering Inclusive Economic Growth, Analysis and Practical Business Attempts by Youth in Yokohama.” It talks about their visit and experiences in the Philippines.

During the event, participants were divided into 6 groups in order to make recommendations on how to solve the issues. Mitzie and Eien joined two different groups. As an individual, do you think you can help in solving the issues about infrastructure and education in your country?



Mitzie presenting her ideas on infrastructure issues with Group B.

Mitzie joined Group B which tackled the infrastructure problems in the Philippines. The group ended up with 7 ideas on how to solve the infrastructure problems: 1) an exclusive bus lanes just like in the country of Columbia 2) to raise taxes for peak hours like in Singapore 3) to promote the “sharing car policy” or to have a higher number of passengers in each vehicle 4) a private concession. 5) change the traffic flow of the cars 6) a change in the office hours and 7) to have a home office at some days of the week.

Eien joined Group C which tackled about education. The given topic was thoroughly discussed and the group came up with interesting solutions to provide education to the indigenous people for them to further know what’s happening inside and outside the country.



Eien sharing his thoughts on education with Group C.

Mitzie, Eien and Mel also got an invitation from the ADB to attend the launching of the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila. The forum talked about how wonderful it is to be in the Philippines and the Philippines’ warm welcome to the participants of the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila in 2018.



(From left to right): Mitzie Petisme, DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui and Eien Antonio at the 2017 ADB Youth Conference in Yokohama City, Japan.

It was really a great experience for the youth to be part of this event. Mitzie and Eien learned a lot of things during the conference and were happy that their ideas/recommendations can help reduce the problems in their own country.



Mitzie, Eien, Tita Mel and Tita Chiho at the Yokohama Landmark Tower to see the spectacular view from the top, later had sushi dinner at the mall, May 7, 2017.

TEATRO AKEBONO 2017 (cont'd)

The Crane Dog cast at the Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto on May 15, 2017.

The next day, May 16, the team had their second presentation at the Kyoto University. Airi Yamabuchi explained their volunteer activities regarding helping JFC living in Kyoto. Prof. Wako facilitated the forum part wherein the cast were asked various questions regarding their personal reflections on the play. Afterwards, Prof. Wako and his students had dinner with the team at the school restaurant. The team then went to the Amenity Hotel to prepare for the next day's travel to Osaka.



Prof. Wako Asato of Kyoto University facilitating the Q&A segment with The Crane Dog cast after their presentation on May 16, 2017.

On May 17, the Akebono team went to Shin-Osaka station by Shinkansen, Japanese bullet train. Mr. Katsumi Anno and two students from Kansai University – Yoshida Seminar, Hiroki Hayashi and Masahiro Tabako welcomed them. The team went to Kansai University – Senriyama Campus by taxi. Moreover, the team had lunch at the university cafeteria and met with the other students from the Yoshida Seminar. Afterwards, the team headed to the Iwasaki Kinenkan Conference Hall for the third performance organized by Kansai University students of Yoshida Seminar.



The DAWN Teatro Akebono team with Mr. Katsumi Anno and students of Kansai University Yoshida Seminar at the Senriyama Campus on May 17, 2017.

After the presentation, Prof. Shinsuke Yoshida and his students had a meeting about SIKHAY with Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona and Mr. Akihiro Tamura for the improvements and suggestions on the SIKHAY products and the marketing. Before the day ended, the team headed to the EXPO City at Bampaku-kinen-koen station and went for sightseeing at Nifrel Aquarium. The team was dropped off at Nagai Youth Hostel International.

On May 18, the team met with Katsumi Anno-sensei, Mr. Nobuki Fuiimoto of Hurights Osaka and his Intern, Walter Pugil. Anno-sensei organized an exchange with the Grade Five students of Matsuda-sensei and Uda-sensei at the *Okibe Higashi Shogakou*. The first part of the program was an introduction by the team in Nihonggo. Then, the students organized a game called, "Fruit Basket," with a twist wherein the fruits that will be called are said in Tagalog. They also had a song number for the team entitled, "Believe" which tells about believing in your capabilities despite the trials faced in life. Then, there was a lunch with the teachers and the students. Lastly, the team went at the school's field to play some ball games with the students.



The DAWN Teatro Akebono team having fellowship with the students of Okibe Higashi Shogakou on May 18, 2017.

Around mid-afternoon, the team went to Aramoto Human Rights and Culture Center for the next presentation. The presentation was organized by Anno-sensei and was included in the program of Shigaikyo or City Education for Teachers in Foreign Studies. In this program, they tackled the various issues and agenda faced in the current education system based in Higashi, Osaka and how they will be able to address these issues in their respective schools particularly when it comes to foreign students who cannot adjust in the school system of Japan. Matsuda-sensei and Uda-sensei also watched the play during the program.



Mr. Takahiro Suzuki (second from right) of the Yomiuri Shimbun interviews Ms. Nuqui and Mitzie on May 18, 2017. Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto (right) of Hurights Osaka interprets for them.

Afterwards, Mr. Takahiro Suzuki of the *Yomiuri Shimbun* interviewed Ms. Carmelita Nuqui and Mitzie Petisme regarding DAWN and how Mitzie felt when she met her father during the last Teatro Akebono Japan Tour 2016 and if there is a chance to meet her father this time. The team headed to the Katsuya Restaurant which is known for its tonkatsu meals for dinner.

On May 19, the team was treated by Hiroki Hayashi from the Kansai University Yoshida Seminar, at the Universal Studios Japan in Universal City, Osaka. The team went on various rides and attractions such as the Spiderman, Minion Park, Jurassic Park, Harry Potter, and so forth. After a long day at Universal Studios Japan, the team headed to Higashi, Osaka at Yamanabe Plaza to meet with Anno-sensei and the other JFC in the center. The team was able to meet with JFC, some of whom were former DAWN members who already continued their studies and stayed in Japan. The team had an interaction with them about their lives in Japan and their experiences including bullying.



DAWN Teatro Akebono team with fellow JFC in Osaka on May 19, 2017.

On the eighth day of the Teatro Akebono Japan Tour, May 20, the team met Prof. Mayumi Kubota and her students from Kansai University, Takatsuki Campus at the Nagai Youth Hostel. The students took us to Namba for a stroll around the city. The team headed to Kansai University in Umeda Campus for the next presentation. The team also had origami lessons and magic trick exhibitions with the students. Then, the team presented their fifth performance. In the first part of the program, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui had a brief discussion about DAWN's advocacies and programs in addressing the problems of the migrants and JFC. Next, Kaho Konishi discussed the partnership of Mayumi Seminar with DAWN and their activities. After the presentation, Kaho Konishi also explained the issue regarding multicultural marriages

particularly between Philippines and Japan. After the play, there was a dinner party with the audience. The team then went back to the Nagai Youth Hostel.



DAWN Teatro Akebono team with Prof. Mayumi Kubota and her students at Kansai University Umeda Campus on May 20, 2017.

The following day, May 21, the students from Mayumi Seminar of Kansai University toured the team at the Osaka Castle (Osakajyo) while the DAWN staff had a meeting with Prof. Mayumi Kubota and had lunch. Afterwards, Prof. Mayumi Kubota and her students send us off at the Shin-Osaka station for our Shinkansen trip to Tokyo then to Omiya. The team was met at the Omiya Station by Mr. Natsuyuki Imagawa and Ms. Miyuki Machida and son Ryohei of YUMEUTA. The team stayed at the YUMEUTA office for the night.

On May 22, the team went to Saitama University for the next presentation. The program was organized by Prof. Tomoko Morimoto and Miyuki Machida, as former alumni of the university. The team also met the students from Saitama University who also came to visit DAWN in the Philippines. In the first part, Koushou Nakashima had a lecture regarding his newly published book about Filipina Entertainers in Japan which is also a prominent issue in Japan. Then, the team presented the play and was followed by some dance numbers with the audience. The team headed to YUMEUTA's office along with the students of Saitama University for dinner.

While the team was preparing for dinner, Eien Antonio had the chance to talk with his father on the phone. He was really happy and said that he feels complete after talking with his father. He said that it definitely made his day even if it was only on the phone.

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DAWN Activities and Events



Yasushi Watanabe explaining to the participants the Kawakita Jiro (KJ) method in making business ideas on June 10, 2017.



Watanabe sensei facilitated a series of workshops on business ideas using the KJ Method on May 6 and June 24, 2017.



Teatro Akebono at the launch of the book, "Moving Portraits" of the Scalabrini Migration Center on May 11, 2017 at Discovery Suites.



Ms. Ethel Tungohan of the University of Toronto visits DAWN and PMRW on June 23, 2017.



Farewell presentation of "The Crane Dog" on May 11, 2017.



Teatro Akebono team with Directors Ronie Protacio, Alfredo Uriarte, Jr., choreographer David John Reyes and their family on May 11, 2017.



Mothers' Day Cards prepared by the JFC during the DAWN Mothers' Day Celebration on May 11, 2017.



The DAWN family celebrates Mothers' Day on May 11, 2017. The mothers, volunteers and staff were presented with flower crowns.

TEATRO AKEBONO 2017 (cont'd)

DAWN Teatro Akebono team with Prof. Tomoko Morimoto and Saitama University students on May 22, 2017.

The following day, May 23, the team including Prof. Chiho Ogaya, Mr. Akihiko Tamura and Ms. Miyuki Machida had a courtesy visit with Ambassador Jose C. Laurel V and Consul-General Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio. Ambassador Laurel gave some inspirational stories about his life and his children regarding reaching our dreams in life. He also gave some advices and details regarding the scholarships in the Philippines-Japan Friendship Foundation for those who are aiming to study in Japan. The team rendered action songs.



DAWN Teatro Akebono team with Ambassador Jose C. Laurel V and Consul-General Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio on May 23, 2017 at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo.

Afterwards, the team headed to PEACE BOAT, a NPO based in Japan. They were welcomed by Executive Committee Member Nohira Shinsaku, who gave a tour around the office and introduced them to their staffs and volunteers.

The JFC sang, danced and had an interaction with the staff and the volunteers and had snacks together. Mr. Nohira Shinsaku gave some World Map Cruise of PEACE BOAT as souvenirs to the team.



DAWN Teatro Akebono meeting with Mr. Nohira Shinsaku, Executive Committee Member of Peace Boat and the staff on May 23, 2017.

On May 24, the team had a performance at the Chiba University, organized by Prof. Ayako Sasaki and her students. The team was accompanied by Mr. Natsuyuki Imagawa, Ms. Ayako Toguchi and Mr. Akihiko Tamura. The team met Mr. Koji Sato, Director of Arts, Culture and Exchange Section of The Japan Foundation Asia Center, who supported the musicale, "The Crane Dog." Mr. Sato appreciated the presentation.



Ms. Mel Nuqui with Mr. Koji Sato (right) of the Japan Foundation Asia Center on May 24, 2017 at Chiba University.

The program had two parts: the first part was "The Crane Dog" play presentation, while the second part was the presentation of DAWN's advocacy made by Masako Ono, followed by an activity with the students of Chiba University and other people who came to watch the presentation.

The program was followed by a celebration of success of the events with teachers, students and guests. The students gave some souvenirs from their university.

The following day, the team went to Kawasaki, Yokohama for the next presentation. The team was welcomed by Prof. Chiho Ogaya and her student, Reah Ito from Ferris University.

The team went to Fureai-kan, a community center for Multi-Cultural children in Japan. The program was organized by a former student of Prof. Ogaya from Yokohama National University, Honjou-san who is now a staff in the center. After the presentation, there was a party with the children in the center.



Takashi leading the participants at the Fureai-kan Community Center on May 25, 2017.

Mr. Akihiro Tamura and Mel Nuqui brought and surprised Masako Ono to her father's house. Even though, nobody was around that time, Masako was glad and grateful that she had the chance to see his father's house. She said that some of her childhood memories came flashing back. Moreover, she said that it serves as a reminder not to lose hope in meeting her father.

On May 26, Masako was able to meet with her mother's family at the hotel. She was happy to meet her siblings. She realized how blessed she is for meeting them again.



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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TEATRO AKEBONO 2017 (cont'd)

The team went to the Cup Noodles Museum, one of the popular attractions in Yokohama. The team made their own cup noodles ramen as a souvenir from the museum. Prof. Ogaya treated the team for lunch at a buffet restaurant in World Porters Mall.

The following day, the team had another presentation at Kanda University for International Studies. From Inaban, the team was fetched by DAWN-KUIS member and Akihiro Tamura. After the presentation, the team proceeded to Saitama for a 3-day camping in Nagano with the YUMEUTA members.

Early morning on the first day in Nagano, the team went to a public bath or "onsen". Afterwards, the team strolled around the park near the onsen. The team went straight to Nagawamachi and experienced using chainsaw in cutting the logs around the townhouse with the help of Mr. Imagawa. Around mid-afternoon, some of the team joined Ms. Ayako Toguchi and her daughter, Yukune at a playground near Nagawamachi.



DAWN team with the DAWN-KUIS group in Chiba on May 27, 2017.

On May 29, the team started the day at Shirukawa Family Resort wherein there were rides and attractions for tourists. The team enjoyed the different rides and attractions at the resort. In the afternoon, the team had a special presentation in Nagano. That night, the team with YUMEUTA members went back to Saitama at the YUMEUTA's office.

On May 30, the team visited the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union, Japan (JICHIRO) based in Tokyo. Prof. Ogaya, Prof. Hirouchi and Ms. Nuqui shared the Team's itinerary along with its activities with Ms. Setsuko Kubota, Assistant Chief of International Division JICHIRO. The JFC rendered three songs. Ms. Kubota gave everyone souvenirs from the organization.



DAWN team with Ms. Setsuko Kubota (first from right), DAWN Vice-President, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi (second from right) and Prof. Chiho Ogaya (second from left) at the JICHIRO office on May 30, 2017.

After the meeting, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Vice-President, DAWN Board of Trustees, treated the team for snacks. The team went back to Saitama and headed to Cantabile, a restaurant owned by Takashi Koura and his friend for a farewell party.

On the day of the team's departure, May 31, YUMEUTA members sent the team off at the Haneda Airport. Mitzie's father arrived while the group was checking-in. Mitzie said, it was definitely a blessing that she was able to meet her father again before she leaves Japan. She also said that this 2017 was one of the best years of her life.



The DAWN team with Mr. Natsuyuki Imagawa and Mitzie's father after checking-in at the Haneda Airport, May 31, 2017.

The 19 days of the Teatro Akebono Japan Tour, was truly a successful and fulfilling experience. The group felt very satisfied and grateful to the different networks in Japan who made this tour very memorable and successful. *Maraming salamat po!*

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