



SINAG

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

January - March 2022

DAWN commemorates its 26th year of Empowering More Women and Youth in the New Normal

by Masako Ono

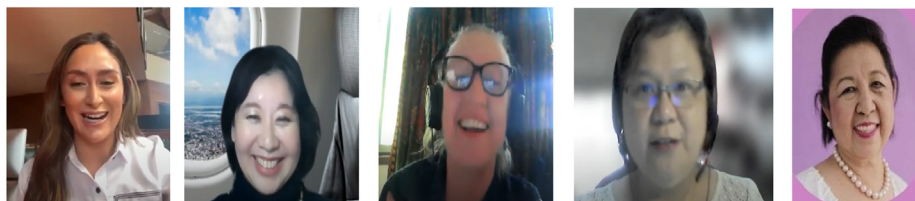
The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) commemorates its 26th Anniversary last February 12, 2022, with the theme, “Empowering More Women and Youth in the New Normal”. The event was held at the DAWN’s office and was streamed via Zoom to its partners and networks.

The event started with the opening prayer of Rev. Leonardo Morada, DAWN’s Secretary-Treasurer, followed by the welcome remarks of DAWN’s Executive Director, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui. An opening song, “Yesterday’s Dream” by Donna Cruz, was sung by the members. A video presentation of DAWN’s journey in empowering the lives of women and children in the past year was shown.

There were also congratulatory messages from various partners and networks supporting DAWN’s advocacy and activities and in celebrating the milestones of women through the years: Ambassador Laure Beaufile, British Embassy Manila; Ms. Connie Samson, Biofemme-Unilab; Ms. Sheila Ferrer, GAD-City of Manila; Prof. Cristy Elizaga-Daguay, University of San Agustin; Councilor Krystle Bacani, 4th District of the City of Manila; Prof. Chiho Ogaya, DAWN-Japan; Ms. Janelle Falconer and Ms. Jude Berghan, Australian Volunteers International; Ms. Gemma “Bhing” Comiso-Woods and Mr. O’neal Woods, DAWN Volunteer; Kagawad Alexandra Balagtas, Barangay 666 Manila; and Prof. Aurora Javate-De Dios, President-DAWN Board of Trustees (BOT). As part of DAWN’s tradition in celebrating its anniversary, a prayer



DAWN members and partners during the 26th Anniversary, February 12, 2022.



DAWN partners and networks giving their congratulatory messages during DAWN’s 26th Anniversary via Zoom.

of commitment was spearheaded by the members of the organization: Mr. Keigo Mosatalla, Youth; Ms. Celia Tribunal, Women; Mr. Lance Velasco, Volunteer; and Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, Staff and BOT.

This was followed by the community song, “One Little Candle” by Joseph Maloy Roach and George Mysels. There were also dance performances

that were presented by the members and staff of DAWN in lieu with the celebration of its 26th anniversary.

The event ended with the singing of “If We Hold on Together” by Diana Ross and a photo opportunity of participants in Zoom and at DAWN’s office.

(to be continued on page 2)

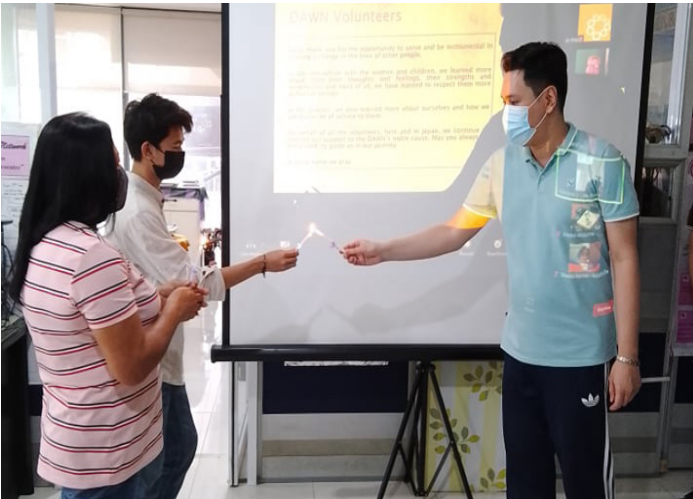
DAWN commemorates (cont'd)



DAWN's Executive Director, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui giving her welcome remarks to officially start the program of DAWN's 26th Anniversary.



From left Ms. Gilda Mosatalla, Ms. Luzviminda Antonio, Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona, and Mr. Lance Velasco.



Prayer of Commitment led by Mr. Keigo Mosatalla (Youth); Ms. Celia Tribunal (Women); Mr. Lance Velasco (Volunteers); and Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona (Staff, not in photo).



DAWN members - Mr. Keigo Mosatalla, Ms. Rosalie Akase, Ms. Gilda Mosatalla, and Ms. Celia Tribunal, during the 26th Anniversary at DAWN's Office.



DAWN staff performing their special dance number.



DAWN members enjoying the meals courtesy of Biofemme.

HMA Laure Beaufls - DAWN 26th Anniversary Remarks



Magandang araw. Ako si Laure Beaufls, British Ambassador to the Philippines. Masaya akong maging bahagi ng inyong pagdiriwang. Maligayang Anibersaryo sa Development Action for Women Network. (Good morning! I am Laure Beaufls, the British Ambassador to the Philippines. It is an honour to be part of such a momentous event for your organisation. Happy Anniversary to the Development Action for Women Network).

I'm sure previous celebrations would have allowed us to gather together, meet with colleagues, shake hands, and feast over good food – ideally with rice (as apparently, it's not a complete meal in the Philippines without it). But instead, with the onset of the pandemic, our social gatherings are still very much limited and done online, as we've shifted to what we've all come to recognize as the "new normal."

The 26th Anniversary theme of DAWN looks to Empowering Women and the Youth in the New Normal. This could not be timelier. We've seen in the past two years of battling Covid-19 that while a virus, the pandemic is not just a health issue. It's a social issue that impacts the most vulnerable groups in our societies, including the women and the youth.

For the youth, the outbreak of Covid-19 has affected already marginalised young people, whose access to education, social services, digital tools, or decision making has become even more limited. The closure of schools exacerbated inequalities and produced serious educational setbacks for young people everywhere. The mandatory confinement of young people caused increased numbers of individuals experiencing anxiety and depression. In the worst cases, reports of young

people, particularly girls, suffering in the hands of sexual abusers in the confines of their homes as lockdowns were imposed everywhere, doubled during the pandemic.

The pandemic also has a regressive effect on gender equality. Human rights groups have noted a surge in domestic violence during the pandemic. Women in the labor market were also hit by the pandemic. While women make up only 39% of the global employment, they account for 54% of overall job losses showing that women's jobs are 1.8 times more vulnerable to this crisis than men's jobs. Women were also at the frontline of tackling the pandemic as 76% of healthcare and social workers and 86% of personal care workers in health services are women.

Outside of their profession, the lockdowns have had significant impact on unpaid care and work-life balance, with women spending more hours per week caring for children and doing housework compared to men.

While the impact of Covid-19 is greater on women, there is a striking lack of women in Covid-19 decision-making bodies. A 2020 study found that men greatly outnumber women in the bodies created to respond to the pandemic.

Among the most vulnerable groups of women are female overseas Filipino workers. According to the data of the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), reported cases of abuse involved more women than men. Female OFWs reported experiencing contract violation, maltreatment, immigration problems, health problems, sexual abuse, or rape.

Of the 444 sexual abuse or harassment cases, 441 of the victims are women. Of the 23,000+ cases of abuse reported to OWWA in 2021, 18,000 of the victims are women.

The UK remains committed to addressing these social ills. Our programmes in the Philippines and our internal policies in the Embassy seek to uphold gender equality and inclusion by ensuring that it is incorporated and observed in every partnership that we finalise.

As the co-chair of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking's Technical Working Group on Migrant and Domestic Workers, we remain committed in working with the Philippine Government to pass policies and laws that seek to better protect women and children from human trafficking and modern slavery.

The UK's National Crime Agency also works closely with the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation Anti-Human Trafficking Division to rescue children from online sexual exploitation and abuse.

Separately, our project funds support the work of Filipino NGOs who are tirelessly working to uphold the rights and welfare of women and children and ensure their protection from abuse. DAWN is one of our partners in this advocacy.

In the past year, DAWN has provided psychosocial and economic support for migrant women returnees, migrant women workers, and their families. They've conducted mental health webinars and offered livelihood support and access to social and welfare services for OFWs. DAWN also actively holds dialogues with key policy makers to develop programmes for migrant women workers and returnees.

I am sure that our work with DAWN is only but a preview of the many amazing things that they do as an organisation.

Indeed, every new year for the organisation, every anniversary means another year of life-changing work that impacts the rights and welfare of Filipina migrants and their families.

We are honoured to work with the Development Action for Women Network on such an important issue. We hope our collective efforts can make the new normal a better normal for every woman and every child.

Cheers to 26 years of impressive and relevant work in the development field and to many more impactful years to come!

Happy 26th Anniversary, again!

DAWN-BEM Webinar Series on Access to Essential Services and Livelihood Support

by *Mary Joy E. Barcelona*

DAWN in partnership with the British Embassy Manila held a webinar series in January via Zoom on the concerns and rights of women migrant workers, especially those who have limited information on the various financial assistance, benefits, and programs from government agencies in the midst of the pandemic.

On January 14, 2022, the webinar on Access to Social Services that our migrant workers can avail of were discussed by the following speakers: (1) Ms. Elena DG Clemente, Social Security System; (2) Ms. Janice Kristine Fatima Lagasca, Philhealth; and (3) Mr. Aurelio B. Miguel, Jr., Pag-IBIG Fund.



**Webinar 3.1: January 14, 2022
Friday, 2 - 4:30 PM (PST)
Access to Social Services
(SSS, Philhealth, Pag-IBIG Fund)**

Resource Person
Ms. Elena DG Clemente
Social Security System

Resource Person
Ms. Janice Kristine F. Lagasca
Philhealth

Resource Person
Mr. Aurelio B. Miguel, Jr.
Pag-IBIG Fund

Welcome Remarks
Prof. Aurora Javate - De Dios
President, DAWN BOT

Moderator
Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui
Executive Director, DAWN

Facilitator
Mr. Lance A.S. Velasco
DAWN-PMRW

DAWN-BEM webinar on January 14, 2022 via Zoom.

On January 21, 2022, Access to Welfare Assistance Webinar discussed the numerous assistance provided for migrant workers, especially returning OFWs, by the following resource speakers: (1) Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III, Department of Labor and Employment; (2) Director Annie E. Mendoza, Department of Social Welfare and Development; and (3) Mr. Zandro R. Almendrala, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.



**Webinar 3.2: January 21, 2022
Friday, 2 - 4:30 PM (PST)
Access to Welfare Assistance
(DOLE, DSWD, OWWA)**

Resource Person
Sec. Silvestre H. Bello III
DOLE

Resource Person
Dir. Annie E. Mendoza
DSWD

Resource Person
Mr. Zandro R. Almendrala
OWWA

Welcome Remarks
Prof. Aurora Javate - De Dios
President, DAWN BOT

Moderator
Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui
Executive Director, DAWN

Facilitator
Mr. Lance A.S. Velasco
DAWN-PMRW

DAWN-BEM webinar on January 21, 2022 via Zoom.

On January 28, 2022, the webinar on Livelihood Support for OFWs and Enterprise Development focused on the several programs that help jumpstart the livelihood of our women migrant returnees. The following speakers are: (1) Ms. Rhodelia C. Mariano, Department of Trade and Industry; (2) Mr. Santiago S. Lim, Small Business Corporation; and (3) Ms. Bianca Claudette Canlas, Department of Science and Technology.



**Webinar 4: January 28, 2022
Friday, 2 - 4:30 PM (PST)
Livelihood Support for OFWs
& Enterprise Development**

Resource Person
Rhodelia C. Mariano
Dept. of Trade & Industry

Resource Person
Mr. Santiago S. Lim
Small Business Corporation

Resource Person
Ms. Bianca Claudette Canlas
Dept. of Science & Technology

Welcome Remarks
Prof. Aurora Javate - De Dios
President, DAWN BOT

Moderator
Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui
Executive Director, DAWN

Facilitator
Mr. Lance A.S. Velasco
DAWN-PMRW

DAWN-BEM webinar on January 28, 2022 via Zoom.

Prof. Aurora Javate - De Dios, President, DAWN-Board of Trustees, shared her messages in all the webinars, moderated by Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director of DAWN and facilitated by Mr. Lance A.S. Velasco, DAWN/PMRW.

The various webinars conducted by DAWN in partnership with BEM truly gave awareness to returning migrant women on their rights and welfare, as well as assistance and programs they may access during this pandemic.



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 returnees and their children/youth.

EDITORIAL TEAM
Carmelita G. Nuqui
Masako Ono
Lance A. S. Velasco

CONTRIBUTORS
Mary Joy E. Barcelona
Masako Ono

LAYOUT: Masako Ono

DAWN-UN Women hold Webinars for Stakeholders in the City of Manila

by Mary Joy E. Barcelona

The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) in partnership with UN Women Safe and Fair Program, organized a series of webinars for its project on March 28 and 30, 2022.

The Community Consultation and Capacity Building of Women Migrant Workers on Awareness-Raising and Changing Social Norms Around Women's Labor Migration, Preventing Violence Against Women, Trafficking and Gender Equality was conducted via Zoom on March 28, 2022. This was the second in the two-part series for representatives of local government agencies and migrant advocates.

Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui of DAWN gave the welcome remarks, followed by Ms. Charisse Jordan of UN Women Safe and Fair Program, who presented advocacy strategies on policies and programs for women migrant workers and survivors of violence against women, trafficking and illegal recruitment.

An interactive workshop was facilitated on community advocacy, awareness-raising and action planning. Ms. Sheila Ferrer of GAD Manila committed support by presenting the ways forward for promoting the welfare of women migrant workers.

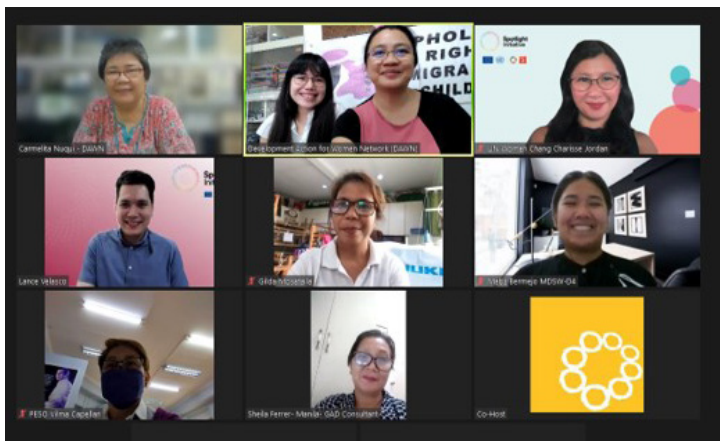
The Community Dialogue of Women Migrants with Frontline Service Providers, Local Inter-Agency Bodies and Other Stakeholders on Provision of Health, Justice, and Social Services was also conducted via Zoom on March 30, 2022. This was participated by women migrant workers and frontline service providers. The event started with the welcome remarks by Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui, DAWN's Executive Director, followed by the opening messages of Ms. Charisse Jordan, UN Women and Ms. Ma. Asuncion "Re" G. Fugoso, Officer-in-Charge of the Manila Department of Social Welfare (MDSW).



Participants of the webinar on March 30, 2022 via Zoom.

Moreover, Ms. Sheila Ferrer of GAD Manila discussed the LCAT-VAWC Ordinance which will help in catering distressed and abused women and children. Ms. Rosemarie Orpilla, Head of Plans and Programs of MDSW's Development Office, shared the various programs and services available for Manileñas.

Mr. Lance A.S. Velasco, DAWN-PMRW facilitated the open forum and workshop on the possible measures to promote the welfare of Women Migrant Workers. Both events ended with the closing remarks by Prof. Aurora Javate-De Dios, President of the DAWN Board of Trustees.



Participants of the webinar on March 28, 2022 via Zoom.

SUBSCRIPTION

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DAWN Co-Organizes the 1st Manila Women Summit

by Masako Ono

On March 21-23, 2022, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) co-organized with the City of Manila, Asmae and WISE, the 1st Manila Women Summit at Winford Manila Hotel with the theme, “Let their Voices Be Heard... Manilaña, Women Leaders of Tomorrow Amidst the Pandemic.”

On the first day of the summit, the event started with a Doxology prayer, followed by the singing of the National Anthem sung by the UDM Chorale and singing of the Awit ng Maynila sung and played by the Manila City Government Band. Ms. Rosemarie J. Orpilla, Head of Plans and Programs of MDSW’s Development Office acknowledged the attendees of the summit.



The 1st Manila Women Summit held on March 21-23, 2022 at Winford Manila Hotel.

Moreover, Ms. Ma. Asuncion “Re” G. Fugoso, Officer-in-charge of MDSW, giving a heartwarming message and thanking the participants for making the event possible.



Ms. Ma. Asuncion “Re” G. Fugoso, Officer-in-Charge of the Manila Department of Social Welfare (MDSW), giving her message during the celebration of the 1st Manila Women Summit

Also, Hon. Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso, Mayor of the City of Manila gave his inspirational message via AVP at the 1st Manila Women Summit. Hon. Maria Sheilah “Honey” Lacuna-Pangan, MD, FFDS, Vice Mayor of the City of Manila, also gave her speech on how the Manila LGU should continue empowering women by celebrating through the annual summit.

There were also various solidarity messages in celebration of Women’s month: Atty. Kristine Chavez, Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Women; Atty. Rollyne A. Javier, Director of the Manila Department of Interior and Local Government; and Usec. Paterna M. Ruiz, Gender and Development Chairperson of the National Anti-Poverty

Commission. Ms. Rhodora T. Masilang-Bucoy, PhD, Former Chairperson of Philippine Commission on Women, gave an insight on the “Buhay ni Iska sa Panahon ng Pandemya.”



Hon. Maria Sheilah “Honey” Lacuna-Pangan, MD, FFDS, Vice Mayor of City of Manila, giving her inspirational message during the celebration of the 1st Manila Women Summit.

Ms. Josephine R. Dino, Office of the MDSW-OIC, hosted the testimonies of the Community Women Leaders of Manila who thanked the Manila LGU for the services that were provided in helping them have a better life.

The following gave their testimonies: Ms. Lolita D. Muring, a Solo Parent from Tondo; Ms. Elizabeth Villa Delgado and Ms. Cristy Maturgo of *Samahan ng Magkapitbahay Parola Tondo* (SMPT); and Ms. Lilian M. Tiglaog, Ms. Roselle Dalangin, and Ms. Lolita Mercado of *Samahan ng mga Tagapangalaga ng Nitso sa Norte* (Samantaganor).



From left: Ms. Lowelyn Adriano, Sr. Argell Baguio and Ms. Rosary Charity Rosello of Stella Maris Manila, Ms. Esther Abao, Mr. Lance Velasco, and Ms. Carmelita Nuqui of DAWN, Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna, Ms. Sheila Ferrer of GAD Manila, Ms. Maryjoy Barcelona, Ms. Luzviminda Antonio, Ms. Gilda Mosatalla and Ms. Masako Ono of DAWN on the first day of the 1st Manila Women Summit held at Winford Manila Hotel on March 21, 2022.

On the second day of the event, more speakers gave their solidarity messages during the 1st Manila Women Summit: Hon. Krystle Marie C. Bacani, Councilor/Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Family Relations; Mr. Felixberto D. Espiritu, City Administrator and Vice Chair of GAD-TWG of the City of Manila; and Mr. Bernardito C. Ang, Secretary to the Mayor of Manila.

A series of talks were spearheaded by speakers who had contributions in fighting against various forms of violence and the state of women, inside and outside of the country. Atty. Minerva F. Lopez, Legal Counsel of National Union of People's Lawyer and Gabriela Women's Party List, discussed about Gender-Based Violence and Prostitution in the Philippines.

Ms. Catalina E. De Polonia, Philippine Commission on Urban Poor discussed the state of urban poor families in the Philippines. Ms. Natividad J. Villanueva, GAD Focal Person of the Philippine General Hospital, discussed the women's state of health before and during the pandemic. Atty. Cheryl L. Daytec-Yañgot, Labor Attaché of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, Geneva, Switzerland discussed women's crisis on joblessness, and migrant workers. She also shared her first-hand experiences as a labor attaché on the status of our fellow Filipinos in Switzerland. Ms. Abigail Pundol-Genito, Country Gender Specialist of Plan International Philippines discussed teenage pregnancies and other issues of girls in society.



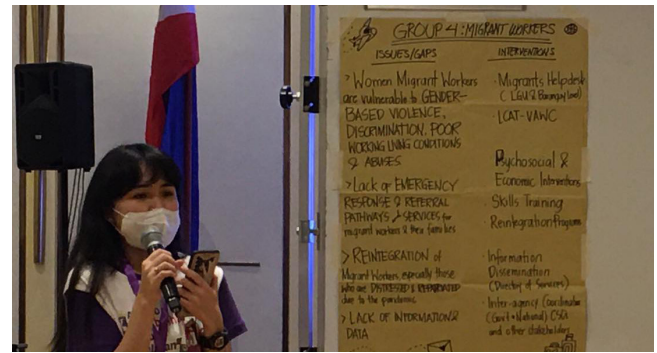
DAWN members and networks on the second day of the 1st Manila Women Summit held at Winford Manila Hotel on March 22, 2022.

The third day of the summit was intended for the workshop. The event started with the gathering of participants per sector, and tackling their issues and gaps. DAWN was in-charge of the Women Migrant Workers, joined by other representatives from different organizations.



DAWN members with the participants of the Migrant Workers Sector during the workshop on March 23, 2022.

After the discussion, participants are asked to present the issues and gaps in each sector and provide recommendations in solving the issues and gaps in each sector.



Ms. Masako Ono, DAWN advocate, presents the Issues/Gaps, Interventions and Recommendations for the Migrant Workers Sector at the 1st Manila Women Summit on March 23, 2022

DAWN Advocate, Ms. Masako Ono presented the gaps/issues for the migrant women sector. Some of the issues/gaps that were discussed are: Women Migrant Workers are vulnerable to Gender-Based Violence, Discrimination, Poor Working Living Conditions and Abuses; Lack of Emergency Response and Referral Pathways and Services for Migrant Workers and their families; and Reintegration of Migrant Workers, especially those who are distressed and repatriated due to the pandemic.

In line with this, several interventions and recommendations were presented: Migrant Help Desk (LGU and Barangay Level) and LCAT-VAWC; Psychosocial and Economic Interventions; Reintegration Program; Information Dissemination; Skills Training; Inter-agency Coordination; and Development of a Database of Migrants in the City of Manila.

Ms. Sheila A. Ferrer, GAD Consultant of the City of Manila, presented the Women's Agenda for the year 2022. Ms. Re Fugoso of MDSW spearheaded the oath of commitment of the participants.

To wrap up the last day of the summit, EnP. Ar Danilo Victor H. Lacuna, Jr., Chairperson of GAD – TWG and City Planning & Development Coordinator III of the City of Manila, gave his closing remarks.



DAWN members on the third day of the 1st Manila Women Summit at Winford Manila Hotel on March 23, 2022.

DAWN joins International Women's Day Breaking the Bias Webinar by AVP

by Masako Ono

On March 8, 2022, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, DAWN's Executive Director was invited as one of the speakers in the celebration of the International Women's Day in a webinar, "Breaking the Bias: Women as Entrepreneurs in Indonesia, The Philippines, and Timor Leste" organized by the Australian Volunteers Program (AVP).

Ms. Nuqui shared issues of women migrant returnees and the work of DAWN, especially its alternative livelihood program (Sikhay). She was also joined by other speakers in the region: Ms. Palmira Pires, Founder and Director East Timor Development Agency (Timor Leste); Ms. Aisyah Odist, Founder and CEO of Bank Sampah NTB Mandiri (Indonesia).

With this webinar, the participants were able to understand the advocacies of the speakers in helping women rebuild their lives.

The event was moderated by Ms. Vanessa Reksodipoetro, Yayasan Usaha Mulia (Nobel Foundation) Executive Director.



Ms. Vanessa Reksodipoetro, Yayasan Usaha Mulia (Nobel Foundation); Ms. Palmira Pires, East Timor Development Agency (Timor Leste); Ms. Aisyah Odist, Bank Sampah NTB Mandiri (Indonesia); and Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Development Action for Women Network (DAWN).

LG partners with DAWN for Women's Month

by Mary Joy E. Barcelona

The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) partners with LG Philippines in celebration of Women's Month and launching of their campaign that promotes Women's individuality by wearing their best on all aspects.



The official FB post of LG Philippines in celebration of Women's Month and launching their partnership with DAWN.

With this partnership, both LG and DAWN empower women from all walks of life, and from anywhere in the world. This shows their support, especially to distressed women migrant returnees assisted by DAWN. With the celebration of Women's Month, LG donated the following: one unit of Instaview Door-in-Door Refrigerator with dispenser; one unit of Front Load Washing Machine; and one unit of Clothes Styler. As DAWN wants to empower its members as well, DAWN requested LG to provide 10 units of One-door Smart Inverter Refrigerators and 10 units of Top Load Washing Machines hoping that these appliances will help them in their daily lives.

DAWN is thankful for the LG partnership in supporting DAWN's advocacy. May this bring more hope to everyone in the midst of the pandemic.



DAWN's Executive Director, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui and staff with LG Philippines representative.