



# SINAG

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## DAWN CELEBRATES 19th ANNIVERSARY: GROWING-UP & MOVING ON

*By Mirriam R. Orig and Ma. Cristina S. Tenorio*

The DAWN women, children, staff and visitors were in a happy mood when brothers Keigo and Paulo Mosatalla, together with Jemina Shilyn Alnas, introduced themselves as the emcees of DAWN's 19th Year Anniversary Thanksgiving Program in the afternoon of February 14, 2015. The program started with the Doxology: "Give Thanks," rendered by DAWN women & children representatives. This was followed by the welcome and anniversary message by DAWN Executive Director Carmelita G. Nuqui. She welcomed everyone and expressed her gratitude to the study tour participants from Kansai University and Yokohama National University for their visit in time for DAWN's anniversary celebration.

Looking back through memory lane, Alternative Livelihood Program Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona facilitated the video presentation of "The 19 Years of DAWN."

The DAWN women and children, volunteers, staff and Board of Trustees (BOT) cheered as they saw themselves in the video feeling happy and grateful to be part of the DAWN Family.



*The DAWN Family with Study Tour participants during DAWN's 19th Anniversary*

Rev. Leonardo R. Morada, DAWN-BOT Secretary, Prof. Corazon R. Arboleda and Prof. Chiho Ogaya gave inspirational messages for DAWN to continue its journey of "Growing-up and Move On." The speakers appreciated the fact that most of the children back then are now professionals and employed, others are in college and high school while a few are still in the elementary level. They also extended their gratitude to all the DAWN women, children, staff, volunteers, Board of Trustees and Advisory Council members who cooperated and participated actively for the DAWN family to grow-up and continue moving on.

The DAWN women and children provided a dance intermission to the tune of "Shake it Off." And because it is Valentine's Day, everyone was given a token while singing the song "Love will be our Home."

Then a prayer of commitment was led by the following representatives: Yukie Ikeda (children), Ma. Gloria Mogote (women), Lance Velasco (volunteers) and Ma. Cristina Tenorio (staff and BOT).

The program ended with a Fellowship Circle while singing "I Can" and everyone danced to the tune of "Happy."



*DAWN's Mel Nuqui giving her welcome and anniversary message*



*Prof. Chiho Ogaya, DAWN-Japan coordinator, sharing her experiences with DAWN for almost 15 years*

# STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANTS INTERACT WITH THE DAWN FAMILY

*By Mirriam R. Orig and Mary Joy E. Barcelona*



*Group 1 was assigned to cook Okonomiyaki with Yasushi Watanabe*



*Group 2 was assigned Filipino and Japanese games with Jennifer Verano*

For the 1st quarter of 2015, four (4) Study Tour Groups/Participants had interaction with DAWN Family namely: Kansai University-Yoshida Seminar (six participants), Yokohama National University (YNU) 10 participants with Prof. Chiho Ogaya and 2 representatives from UP Center of International Studies, Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) with Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi and the Kansai University-Mayumi Seminar with six participants.

The Kansai University Yoshida Seminar and YNU arrived in the morning of February 14, 2015.

They were welcomed by the DAWN Family by singing “Kumusta Ka? / O Genki Desu Ka?” The participants enjoyed singing the action song with the women and children.

They were then divided into three groups with assigned activity and respective Group Leaders to facilitate sharing and learning.

Group 1 was assigned to cook Japanese Food “Okonomiyaki” with Yasushi Watanabe, DAWN volunteer. Group 2 was assigned Filipino and Japanese games with Jennifer Verano (JFC) and Group 3 was assigned Filipino and Japanese songs and dances with Arisa Junio (JFC).

The group activity lasted for an hour and afterwards the sharing was made in the big group. The DAWN orientation was conducted by Mel Nuqui, after which the participants visited the SIKHAY Project. The cooked food was shared during the Fellowship Lunch in preparation for the DAWN’s 19th Year Anniversary Thanksgiving Program in the afternoon.

The Junior group of the Kansai University Yoshida Seminar visited DAWN last February 14 to 16, 2015. The group composed of Eri Koyama, Rika Okada, Miki Nadaoka, Yutaro Mitsui, Mai Kato and Fuka Kobayashi.

*(to be continued on p. 7)*



*Group 3 was assigned Filipino and Japanese songs and dances with Arisa Junio*



*Yoshida Seminar students with Sikhay members showing banana pen cases designed by them*

# DAWN MEETS RAGS<sub>2</sub>RICHES

*By Mary Joy E. Barcelona*



*Photos courtesy of Rags2Riches*

Rags2Riches (R2R) is a social enterprise organization, working with women in the urban communities who weave scrap cloths which they make into fashion bags and home accessories. Christian Cera, R2R's Product Development Specialist came to DAWN in April 2014 and was looking for tie-dyed materials for their product development.

Unfortunately, because of the physical set-up of the DAWN office, the tie-dye production was put on hold.

Despite this, Chris wanted to include the Sikhay hand-woven patterns as part of their main materials for their products.

He visited DAWN again to know more about the hand-woven items and samples were ordered.

R2R was interested to collaborate with us because of our similar advocacy of empowering women and communities through livelihood programs/opportunities to augment their economic situation.

DAWN's Executive Director, Carmelita Nuqui and I met with the R2R team composed of Ms. Stephanie Cuevas, Operations Manager, Mr. Chris Cera, Ms. Berna Imasay and Mr. Matt Pardinias at their office on January 13, 2015 to further discuss the partnership between the two organizations. Currently, Sikhay is making hand-woven designs for R2R's Viaje Spring Summer 2015 collection and multi-function bags, where portions of the bags are made of Sikhay hand-woven fabrics.

## MARY JANE TEACHES FASHION AND DESIGN STUDENTS

Mary Jane Kuraoka, one of the expert weavers of Sikhay, was able to showcase her skills in the class of Ms. Vie Alvarez at the College of Fashion and Design of the De La Salle College of St. Benilde. The four-day demonstration/teaching last March 16-17 and 23-24, 2015 was indeed a good chance for her to teach and share her weaving skills to the students.

She has been training new members of Sikhay by providing hands-on training in hand-loom weaving, but she felt a bit nervous with her new set of audience. After her first day of teaching, all her worries were gone and she easily mingled with the students and teacher. She is proud and happy that her skills in weaving were shared to the students of the College of Fashion and Design despite Mary Jane's not having a college degree herself. Congratulations Jane!



*Mary Jane at the center teaching the Fashion and Design students of St. Benilde "drawing-in," the third step in weaving*

# SKILLS TRAINING IN SEWING AND WEAVING

*By Mary Joy E. Barcelona*



*Gloria doing her project in sewing*

After finishing her training in weaving in 2014, Ma. Gloria Mogote continued her training in sewing. She has a sewing machine at home. Although her machine is not high-speed, she can still do basic sewing and alterations for her family. Aside from that, she can also hand-sew several items, such as skirts and blouses.

She hopes that learning more skills like pattern-making and cutting will help her maximize her sewing machine for her additional source of income.

Maria Celia Tribunal started her training in sewing in 2012. She then focused her time in taking care of her son, Toshinobu. Late last year, she became active again in DAWN. We encouraged her to attend the weaving training so that she can enhance her skills in design and be creative and productive.

She had her training in weaving last February-March 2015. At the start of her training, she was a bit worried, but later on, she enjoyed her training and was very happy to finish her projects.



*Gloria learning to do a pattern*



*Celia warping coasters*



*Celia doing the third step in hand-weaving, drawing-in*



*Celia weaving coasters*

# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*By Mirriam R. Orig*

In celebration of the International Women's Day, DAWN conducted a Women's Rights Workshop on March 7, 2015 in Manila. It was attended by 20 participants, 10 of which were youth and children.

The theme of the workshop was "Women's Rights... How to Make it Happen." The participants were divided into two groups: the adults and the youth and children. They were provided with a copy of the list of women's rights as follows: 1) good and quality education, 2) comprehensive health services, 3) access to loans and other forms of financial credit, 4) join leisure, sports and cultural activities, 5) decide on the number of children and on the number of years between pregnancies, 6) shared parenting responsibilities, 7) equal access to top jobs, benefits and said activity, 8) be paid equally based on the work she does, 9) free from all forms of slavery and prostitution, 10) vote, run for election and hold office 11) represent the country internationally, and 12) To acquire change or retain nationality and citizenship.

They were asked to discuss among themselves how these rights can be claimed by women and the responsibilities they have to consider in doing so.

Each group shared their outputs through collage, using old newspapers, easel pad, markers and glue.

The youth and children shared that they have decided to use the female symbol as the core of their collage to give emphasis on their understanding of women's rights. They focused on the rights of the significant woman in their lives who is their mother. All other participants were amazed on how the youth and children gave meaning to the workshop. On the other hand, the adult group focused more on presenting different examples of their rights and how they were able to claim it considering their responsibility. In as much as most of them are single parents, they gave emphasis on raising their children, providing them with socio-economic needs and education. This was also recognized by their children in their presentation.

The participants claimed that knowing and understanding their rights also mean being responsible in following rules governing these rights. It is more fun and learning is facilitated when other sectors join in understanding and have better access to these rights. It resulted to a deeper relationship between the mothers and their children.



*Japanese-Filipino Youth preparing for their presentation*



*Women and children preparing materials for their collage*

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# DAWN JOINS UN WOMEN WORKSHOP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

*By Mirriam R. Orig*

I was very grateful to travel and participate in the Training for Trainers (TOT) Workshop on “Gender, Migration, Development: A Matter of Rights” held at the UN Women Training Centre in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on March 23-27, 2015. There were 32 participants who came from 14 countries: Morocco, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Moldova, Philippines, Kazakhstan, United States, Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Nepal, Paraguay, India & Hong Kong.

I attended the training together with two other participants from the Philippines: Marilen Soliman, National Project Officer-Migration of UN Women; and Rhodora A. Abaño, Advocacy Officer of the Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA).

The five-day TOT focused on strengthening the participants’ knowledge and skills to conduct training sessions aimed at the following: 1) Recognizing the ways in which gender inequalities are present in labor migration processes within a globalized world; 2) Making the link between the phenomenon of global care chains and the promotion of decent work for migrant women workers; 3) Identifying strategies for making migration and labor policies gender-sensitive; 4) Becoming familiar with mechanisms for defending migrant women’s rights and share strategies with other rights defenders; and 5) Equipping trainers with tools, techniques, and methodologies to plan, design, and deliver a training that is gender-sensitive and has a learner-centered approach.

The Training Team was composed of Allison Petrozziello, who acted as the Lead Facilitator, is the Research and Training Consultant and Specialist in Gender and Migration of UN Women.

She is also the author of the Training Manual “Gender on the Move: Working on the Migration – Development Nexus from a Gender Perspective.”



*Participants of the UN Women workshop*

Joining her are Elizabeth Robert, Training Associate; Sarah Gammage, Policy Advisor on Economic Institutions; Jenna Hennebry, Director International Migration Research Center; Genevieve Sauberli, Associate Expert in Human Rights and Migration; and Allyn Alda, Junior Fellow of the UN Women Training Centre.

The Team used presentations that build participants’ analytical capacity on gender, migration, development, labor and human rights, practical exercises and peer-review that allowed participants to apply and practice facilitation skills and techniques and cross-learning discussions and interactive activities that facilitated exchange of experiences between and among participants.

As a participant, I gained insights and learned: First, migration tends to have mixed and sometimes contradictory effects in the empowerment of women. These factors can be empowering and disempowering depending on the situations the women faced. Second, the current system of social provision of care is not sustainable in origin and destination countries.

It depends on poorly paid or unpaid women’s labor and lack of government’s responsibility in providing care. Third, the country of origin can and should play an important role in protecting the rights of its citizens who reside abroad. Finally, there are many points throughout the migration cycle at which to intervene in order to guarantee migrant women’s ability to exercise their rights and the governments’ accountability to uphold those rights.

The Training Manual “Gender on the Move: Working on the Migration – Development Nexus from a Gender Perspective” is very helpful, functional, and easy to comprehend and use due to its salient features such as a Facilitator’s Guide with self-guided learning section and activities, its Activities Section includes facilitator’s instructions and worksheets that can be photocopied and its Compendium of Action Ideas can be used as a reference in planning.

The workshop was delivered in English and Spanish through simultaneous interpretation.

## STUDY TOUR (cont'd)

The group will be the next members of the Yoshida Seminar for SY 2015-2016. The group's exposure trip to DAWN and Sikhay is a very valuable experience for the participants who are first-timers in the Philippines.

On their first day, the group had their orientation about DAWN's work and activities, and because this coincided with our anniversary, they joined the celebration.

They enjoyed the different activities and cultural exchange in cooking, games, singing and dancing. They also prepared an interactive Nihongo lesson for the JFC.

The activities for the day ended with a home visit to Mary Jane and Masami Kuraoka.

On the second day, the group learned about Sikhay and its products.

They were very curious on the mechanics and advocacy of Sikhay because their curriculum in Yoshida Seminar focuses on public relations and social enterprise.

They started the day by interviewing the Sikhay members, asking on the impact of Sikhay among its members and how the group will be able to help them.

They explained that the information they would gather will help them understand Sikhay as a whole and make a marketing strategy for their target customers.

To further understand Sikhay, the group was divided into three sub-groups, where each sub-group experienced the three components of the project (weaving, sewing and the DAWN wellness).

They were given ample time to have hands-on training on the different steps of each component.

They were happy and thankful with their experiences.

On the third day, the group had a session on their suggestions and recommendations based on their observations during the trip.

They also selected items that they will bring back to Japan for their forthcoming bazaars.

The study tour ended with a dinner, sharing of each other's lives and experiences, and group photos.



*Yoshida Seminar students discussing with Sikhay members*



*Mayumi Seminar students discussing DAWN's Theater Tour in Japan from May 16 to 31, 2015*




*Yutaro Mitsui's hands-on training on weaving by Mary Jane*

They were very appreciative of the warm welcome and fruitful activities with the JFC and the women.

They also promised to keep selling Sikhay products, and hoping for a stronger partnership.

*(to be continued on the next page)*



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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## STUDY TOUR (cont'd)

The KFAW participants arrived on February 28, 2015. The DAWN Orientation was likewise conducted for them to understand the goals, objectives and programs of the organization. The group's interaction was focused on the sharing of life situation of DAWN women and children and a Fellowship Lunch with the DAWN Family.

They also visited the SIKHAY project and bought some items to bring back home.

On the other hand, the Kansai University-Mayumi Seminar arrived on March 4, 2015 and had a meeting with the DAWN staff regarding their plan to video shoot the Teatro Akebono Musicale, "The Crane Dog" during the annual theater tour in Japan in May 2015.

They came back for the interaction with the DAWN Family and visit of the Sikhay project in the afternoon of March 7.



*KFAW participants with KFAW President, Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, during the DAWN Orientation*



*Mary Joy giving orientation to Mayumi Seminar students*



*Mayumi Seminar students discussing their suggestions with Sikhay women*

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