



DAWN Partners with Rags2Riches for 2015 Collection

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona and Arisa Junio

The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) is privileged to share their hand-woven cloth designs to Rags2Riches (R2R), a fashion and design house that empowers community artisans in the Philippines. DAWN has been making cloths for R2R for their bag collection since January 2015. The first design was used for their first collection, while the second design was used for their recent collection entitled "Fall/Holiday 2015". The second collection was launched for three days, each in the following venues: September 22 at Avida Showroom in Glorietta 2; September 24 at The Podium; and September 29 in North Court, Power Plant Mall. As a partner of R2R in the collection, DAWN was invited by Chris Cera, Product Development Specialist, and Angela Poblador-Antonio, Sales and Marketing Manager, to attend the product launching.



DAWN team, led by Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director with Reese Fernandez-Ruiz, President and Co-Founder of Rags2Riches (R2R).

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DAWN with R2R artisans at Avida Showroom in Glorietta 2.



Sikhay's Anna Yambao poses with different bags.



Mel Nuqui and Joy Barcelona showing the bags to the customers at the North Court, Power Plant Mall. The cloths used in making the bags were woven by DAWN Sikhay women. R2R produced exquisite and world-class bags using the cloths.



DAWN team during the exhibit last 29 September 2015 in North Court, Power Plant Mall. (From left to right): Gilda Mosatalla, sewer; Mary Jane Kuraoka and Anna Liza Yambao, weavers; Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director; Chris Cera, R2R Product Development Specialist, Mary Joy Barcelona, ALP Coordinator, and Gemma Comiso of PEBA, a network of DAWN.

Part of the launching is the discussion entitled “Women and Fueling Social Movements” led by Reese Fernandez-Ruiz, the President and Co-Founder of R2R.

She was accompanied by Lia Cruz, Issa Cuevas-Santos, Krie Reyes-Lopez, and Sarah Meier. The discussion revolved around the stories on how they created change on the global stage through the opportunities that changed their lives.

Their own interests have become their passion in creating a difference for the men and women they have been working with. After the discussions, the floor was opened to entertain questions from the audience.

The presence of DAWN representatives, spearheaded by Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director of DAWN, was also recognized during the abovementioned launching events.

She was accompanied by Mary Joy Barcelona, Alternative Livelihood Program (ALP) Coordinator, Mary Jane Kuraoka, weaver, Anna Liza Yambao, weaver, and Gilda Mosatalla, sewer, and Gemma Comiso, a member of the partner network of DAWN.

Nuqui spoke on behalf of the women artisans of DAWN, and shared her gratitude on the opportunity given to DAWN in sharing their products to R2R.

SKILLS TRAINING (cont'd)

At the end of the lectures, they were asked to create their own livelihood/business proposals which are submitted to DSWD to grant them financial support.

The proposals of the following women are:

- 1) Cuna planned for pillow case and bed sheet making;
- 2) Felarca offered dish washing liquid detergent making;
- 3) Junio proposed for Electronic loading business, which includes Smart Money padala, sim card, and prepaid load;
- 4) Mogote made plans in buying and selling of beauty products and e-loading;
- 5) Petisme offered homemade peanut butter;
- 6) Sacabin proposed for a peanut butter making, maja blanca making, and buy and sell of chicken and pork; and
- 7) Tribunal planned for buying and selling of rice and canned goods.



Meeting facilitated by Mary Joy Barcelona, with the DAWN women beneficiaries. Barcelona taught the women business proposal-writing for their home-based projects which are submitted to DSWD-NCR under the “Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons” program.

A New Home for DAWN

By Ma. Cristina S. Tenorio



DAWN staff working in the new office.

For the last 19 years of its operation, DAWN members and affiliates, board members, friends, and network members would remember with fond memories its old home at the fifth floor of Don Santiago Building in front of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) along Taft Avenue, Manila.

It was the place for meetings, study group orientations, theater rehearsals, anniversaries, and other celebrations; a home also for weaving and sewing or the production of the Sikhay products. DAWN has also hosted the Philippine Migrants Rights' Watch (PMRW) Secretariat for the last four years.

Those were the memories of the beginning of DAWN and will continue to make history as it moves to a new home.

Last July 31, 2015, it has relocated to the following address: Unit 3, 3rd Floor, Bocobo Commercial Center, 1253 J. Bocobo St. corner Padre Faura St. Ermita 1000, Manila.



Inside the new DAWN office.



At DAWN office entrance.

It is the new place for DAWN to continue its mission of assisting and supporting women and Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC), and in providing skills and alternative source of income for women migrant workers to become self-reliant.



DAWN's Sikhay sewing area.



DAWN's Sikhay weaving area.

DAWN Interaction with Study Tour Students

By Mirriam R. Orig

This August and September 2015, Japanese students and their professors from Hiroshima University and Kansai University visited the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) to interact with the women and Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) members of the organization.

This interaction enlighten the visitors on the situation of JFC and their mothers, and on how they cope with life.

Hiroshima University Interaction

On 22 August 2015, a group of students from Hiroshima University visited DAWN to interact with the women and children members.

The group was led by Professor Koki Seki, Cultural Anthropology and Philippine Studies lecturer in Hiroshima University, with Associate Professor Tatsuo Yamane, Peace Studies lecturer, and six junior undergraduate students.

The activity started with an orientation led by Mary Joy Barcelona, Alternative and Livelihood Program (ALP) Coordinator, regarding the programs and services offered by DAWN.

The Japanese students showed their interest on how JFC acquire Japanese nationality.



DAWN members and Hiroshima University group during their interaction at the DAWN office.

To answer their concern, a copy of the Nationality Law of Japan issued by Japan Embassy in Manila was provided to them for their reference.

The students asked the women about their motivation to work in Japan. Majority responded that it was to augment their family's income. They were also asked on the things they liked the most during their stay in Japan; all women loved the food and the different tourist attractions in the country.

The JFC shared that they enjoyed learning the Japanese language and culture during their Saturday activities in DAWN as it creates a symbolic connection with their Japanese fathers.

The Hiroshima University group visited the Sikhay project wherein they were shown how the women produces the cloths which were made into bags, holders, scarves, shawls and many more. They bought some items to bring back to Japan.



Sharing of insights between DAWN women and children and Hiroshima University group.



Hiroshima University group exposure at Sikhay, led by Mary Joy Barcelona, DAWN ALP Coordinator.



Kansai University-Mayumi Kubota team visited DAWN and Sikhay.



DAWN children playing with the Japanese recorder.

Kansai University-Mayumi Kubota Seminar and Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) Interaction

Thirteen students from Kansai University-Mayumi Kubota Seminar arrived last 01 September 2015 to meet and visit DAWN and Sikhay. On 05 September 2015, students from the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) interacted with DAWN members at TUP Campus, along Ayala Boulevard, Manila. The interaction was facilitated by Kansai University students, in assistance with the TUP students. Prof. Mayumi Kubota provided an overview about their activities, while representatives from DAWN and TUP presented their respective organizations. This was followed by playing the Kendama, a traditional Japanese toy, and the Japanese recorder.



DAWN members, Prof. Mayumi Kubota and students, and TUP participants during the interaction at TUP Campus.

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Peace Boat Participants Interact with DAWN

By Mirriam R. Orig



Peace Boat participants and DAWN members, staff and volunteers.

The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) is fortunate to interact with Peace Boat, a Japan-based non-profit organization (NPO). Peace Boat endeavors to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development, and respect for the environment through awareness and actions for positive social and political change.

Peace Boat's 88th Global Voyage arrived in Cebu, Philippines on August 27, 2015. With the theme "Eradicating Poverty and Building a Sustainable World", 28 students and five staff disembarked in Cebu and flew to Manila for their exposure. The stop in the Philippines revolved around the topic on "Overcoming Poverty and Community Organizing in the Philippines."

On August 29, 2015, the Peace Boat team arrived at the Senden Hall-Asian Social Institute in Leon Guinto, Manila for the scheduled interaction with DAWN women, children, staff, and volunteers. The activity started with the registration and distribution of nameplates, introduction of DAWN staff and volunteers, and provision of house reminders to the Peace Boat participants.

The participants were introduced to DAWN's welcome song "Kumusta Ka? O genki desu ka?" and was followed by singing "Youkai Taisho", a Japanese children's song. After the energizers and getting-to-know activities, Carmelita Nuqui, the Executive Director of DAWN and speaker in the Peace Boat on-board, welcomed the participants.

The whole group was divided into three groups to discuss about Philippine and Japan culture, in connection to this year's voyage theme. Each group was delegated one output at the end of the activity: a song for group one; a skit for the second group; and a collage for the final group.

While preparing for their respective presentations, snacks were served.



Group 1's presentation: a song adaptation of "We Are the World" which highlights unity and camaraderie among Japanese and Filipino communities on prevalent issues concerning both countries.



Group 2's presentation: a skit inspired by "The Statues in Straw Hats," a Japanese legend that focuses on kindness and generosity to those in need.



Group 3's presentation through collage.

Group 1 adapted the song "We Are the World" with the lyrics, "There comes a time, when we need a helping hand, children roaming around to beg for food. There are people dying, many people are jobless, poor families have more children... we are the DAWN, we are the Peace Boat, we will make a world where children are smiling, we want to change the situation of education in the Philippines, when we cooperate with each other, we solved the problem..."

For the second group, they presented a skit inspired by a Japanese Legend "The Statues in Straw Hats". The skit focused on showing kindness and being generous to people in need.



DAWN team and Peace Boat participants having a Fellowship song.

The third group presented a collage with their hands traced around the sides of their output.

Along with it were different cut-out pictures that present their dreams on improving the educational system and economy, and the means and ways on how to address climate change.

The presentation of output was followed by the showing of DAWN Teatro Akebono's "The Crane Dog".

The video was recorded by Kansai University-Mayumi Kubota Seminar students last May 2015 during the Japan Theater Tour. This was complemented by excerpts from the women's play entitled "Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty."

This was followed by an open forum. Most of the Peace Boat participants appreciated the efforts done by the mothers to move on and support their Japanese-Filipino children to achieve their dreams.

Some Peace Boat participants shared their messages for the DAWN Family.


Most of them expressed their appreciation on how the women and children moved on with their life even if they were abandoned by their Japanese partners/fathers.

They acknowledged the efforts of DAWN in helping its members achieve their dreams to become a reality. The interaction ended by singing "Te No Hira wo Taiyou Ni" and "It's a Small World."

After the interaction, the Peace Boat participants visited the new office of DAWN and bought souvenirs with them back home. They also spent some time visiting the Robinson's Mall and had dinner with the DAWN staff, SIKHAY members, and volunteers at Kamayan, Saisaki, Dads. A brief assessment of the interaction and visit to DAWN was made during the dinner.



DAWN members and Peace Boat participants having dinner.



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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Skills Training and Livelihood Assistance to DAWN Women

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona and Arisa Junio



DAWN women beneficiaries of DSWD's program entitled "Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons" with DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui and Ms. Miriam Navarro, DSWD NCR representative.



Consultation of DAWN women members with Mary Joy Barcelona regarding their proposals. (From left to right): Fritzie Petisme, with her peanut butter project; Zenaida Cuna on her linens project; and Anna Lissa Junio with her e-business..

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided assistance to women migrant members of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) through their program entitled "Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons".

The program aims to intensify the recovery and reintegration services being provided to trafficked persons to cope with the traumatic experiences they had. Services provided include an array of activities relating to psychological, medical, legal, and economic assistance for successful reintegration in the community.

As an accredited non-government organization by DSWD, DAWN assisted seven women members namely: Anna Lissa Junio, Cecilia Tribunal, Fritzie Petisme, Gloria Mogote, Juvy Sacabin, Zenaida Cuna, and Zita Felarca. They received skills training and financial assistance for livelihood/enterprise development.

The skills training is a 45-day sewing and handloom weaving training led by Mary Joy Barcelona, the Alternative and Livelihood Program (ALP) Coordinator of DAWN.

DSWD, on the other hand, provided financial assistance to the women in the form of daily transportation allowance, training materials and supplies

Other than skills training, financial assistance for livelihood/enterprise development is to be given to the beneficiaries.

They were given introductory lectures on business and entrepreneurial skills and development.

(to be continued on page 2)

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