



In PLAY and In FASHION

On October 22, 2011 the Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) members of DAWN will once again showcase their various talents in an event produced by Ms. Jean Pierre Pardo, in partnership with DAWN.

Titled “In Play and In Fashion,” the event will have a fashion show and the presentation of a musical play.

Ms. Pardo designed several items using hand-woven materials made by the women members of Sikhay. The materials were also sewn by Sikhay members. The clothes will be modeled by the JFC members of DAWN.

The children who will model the clothes are Juan Miguel Tadayoshi Miranda, Jennifer Verano, Shaira Azusawa, Stephanie Anne Seki, Tsuyoshi Imai, Yorgei Cerezo, Jemina Shilyn Alnas, Masami Angel Kuraoka, Hayato Ito, Mary Kay Alcuetas, Sora Sato, Mark Alcuetas, and Miyuki Alfaro. Aside from the Sikhay items, the children will also

model hand-painted shirts designed by JP Pardo for Don TJ Creations.

Following the fashion show is the presentation of the musical play “The CraneDog,” an original script written by award-winning screenwriter Michiko Yamamoto. The play is about the stories of many JFC.

Joining the cast of “The CraneDog” are Masami Angel Kuraoka, Juan Miguel Tadayoshi Miranda, Jennifer Verano, Jemina Shilyn Alnas, Yorgei Cerezo, and Sora Sato.

Directing the fashion show and play are Ms. Dona Gallo Pardo and Liza Garcia of DAWN, respectively.

In Play and In Fashion will be held on October 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon at the Pope Pius Catholic Center in UN Avenue, Manila.



REALIZATIONS of a DAWN INTERN

by Miriam Thieme

I don't know when or how it happened that travelling and experiencing the way of life in countries far away from my usual home became the only thing guiding my life. But it did happen. And finally I had at least one thing that made me set goals, which never changed since: observing, learning and sharing.

I did not really know what to expect, when I started my internship at DAWN. I had hardly any idea how big the issue that DAWN is concerned with actually, and it took me a while to grasp the complexity of it. I am still having a hard time to understand how people and institutions can take advantage of other people's desperation to make money. It

makes me angry and helpless to see that too many people in this world are unconscionable enough to exploit others without being ashamed at all. When I started concerning myself with this issue something great happened at the same time. I saw the passion that every single one puts into the organization, how they stand up and raise their voices together. It makes me keep on trying to turn things for the better and believing that a change is possible. So in the end, no matter how many things you hear or read that make you want to cry, DAWN really is something to draw hope from.

The first weeks at DAWN I just tried to observe and detect the unwritten laws in the Filipino culture. There were a few moments where I found myself acting in a way that proved that I grew up in an individualistic and selfish society. But I quickly learned that there is hardly anything you can do wrong, as long as you're able to laugh about yourself. At the beginning I found it irritating that everyone laughs about actually really serious things. But now that I know that humor often is the only thing left, I think I will try to adopt this way of facing difficulties of life. I learned that everything is so much easier with a smile on your face, especially when you have people around who smile back at you.

I enjoyed the conversations over lunch with the Staff and the other interns Jasper from China and Lauren from Australia - mostly in Tagalog and English, partly Chinese, partly German and sometimes also a bit of an Australian accent. And if from time to time even our hands and sights couldn't cross the language barrier, the shared language left was humor.

It was amazing to talk to and read of different people whose lives were extremely influenced by migration and to listen to their stories. Especially to experience the different ways men and women seem to deal with it and how much they share – or not share. I became aware of this issue, started to talk to my other Filipino friends and soon I realized how omnipresent migration is in the Philippines. Until now I haven't met anyone who has not a family member, boy- or girlfriend working abroad or even had the intention of going abroad themselves. It is so interesting to walk through this world knowing that every single one has her or his story. I appreciate



everyone who is willing to share and am excited to listen.

One of my most eye-opening moments was when I found myself dancing with all these cheering women at the DAWN office. If I have not read their stories, I could never tell that there is a heavy weight on their chests because of the times they had to go through. I'm not much of a dancer and in any other situation I would have been just very, very uncomfortable with it. But at that moment I realized how ridiculous I was to be concerned about producing a painful impression with my dancing, while being surrounded by women, who once lost their dignity but kept moving on. I realized how lucky I am that I never had to experience how someone else took away my dignity. It was always me who could decide to feel embarrassed or not. And there is a big difference between embarrassment and losing one's dignity. The lesson I learned at that moment was how important it is to express yourself in the way you feel. And no matter what, one day you will be able to laugh and dance again.

During my three-month internship at DAWN, they became my family, doing all the things a family is supposed to do - giving you a sense of security, making sure you are safe on travels, being someone you know you can deeply trust, making you laugh when you just feel like crying, reminding you that there are still wonderful people around when you have to see a very special person leaving.

I don't think there is a way to express how much I want to thank everyone at DAWN for everything. Thank you for letting me observe, learn and share. Thank you for treating Jasper, Lauren and me so lovely, for looking after us all the time. Thank you for laughing at and with us, thank you for sharing your experiences and your knowledge. Thank you for making our time in the Philippines so much more special.

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Behind the Shoot



STUDY TOURS

By Christina A. Lopez



DAWN staff and members with visitors from Bunkyo Gakuin University

Students from the Bunkyo Gakuin University in Tokyo, under the guidance of Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, visited the office of DAWN on September 10 to learn about the organization's programs and services. DAWN interns Lauren Brand from Australia and Miriam Thieme from Germany provided the Japanese students with the orientation. Prof. Horiuchi is a member of the DAWN's Advisory Council.

After the orientation, the visitors went to see the Sikhay projects in weaving, sewing and the wellness center. They got the chance to see its actual operation and interacted with some of the women who are members of Sikhay. They also had lunch with the staff and members of DAWN.

After lunch, there was a discussion

and sharing between the students and the members and staff of DAWN. The students from Tokyo asked questions to the women in order to gain better understanding of what they went through. They also asked questions about other development issues in the Philippines and shared with DAWN their experiences in the Philippines.

In the afternoon, the staff and members of DAWN also prepared a presentation and some games for the visiting Japanese students. It was a good way of making them more comfortable and to get to know them better. The JFC presented two dance numbers and invited

the Japanese students to dance with them. In turn, the Japanese students also presented a song and dance number to everyone's delight. The song and dance numbers were followed by a series of games that involved everyone.

On September 13, another group of students came to DAWN to learn about our work. The students of Fr. Edwin Corros from the Loyola School of Theology of the Ateneo de Manila University were provided with an orientation by Liza Garcia, DAWN's Research and Advocacy Officer. There were a few questions from the group, after which they were given a tour of DAWN's office, including the sewing, weaving, wellness center, and the DAWN-Multi-purpose Cooperative. Two weeks earlier, one of Fr. Edwin's students, Ms. Evangeline Pascual, also came to DAWN for the same reason.



Mel Nuqui showing Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi the latest shawl designs produced by the women of Sikhay

Three Cheers for Our Interns

This July, DAWN hosted three interns from three different countries. They all came to the Philippines through AISEC's student exchange program.

Wen Biyu or Jasper, as she wanted to be called, is from Wuhan, China. She is a human resource management student from the Central University of China. Lauren Brand who hails from Melbourne, Australia, is a student of international relations at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), while Miriam Thieme from Hamburg in Germany is a psychology student at the Hamburg University.



Miriam, Jasper and Lauren

During their internship at DAWN, the three ladies did not just do office work. They were also exposed to social realities in the Philippines. Together with Thina Lopez, DAWN's social worker, they visited the home of three of our women clients in Singalong. They also visited Mary Jane Kuraoka at the hospital when she had

her operation. They also attended the celebration of International Youth Day held at the SMX Convention hall on August 12. On September 15, Lauren also attended the Seafarer's Forum organized by the Philippine Migrants

Pagsanjan in Laguna a day before she left the country. On September 11, the staff of DAWN joined Lauren and Miriam on a trip to Pagsanjan. Miriam also went to the island of Siquijor together with other AISEC volunteers.

Miriam will stay the longest with us. She will leave the Philippines on October 14. Lauren left Manila on September 23, while Jasper left on August 17. Jasper is now in Taiwan for an exchange study program.

DAWN is very grateful to Jasper, Lauren and Miriam for sharing with us their time, talents and skills. Aside from doing volunteer work at DAWN, the three also shared with us information about their countries. Each

of them gave a presentation of their country. The presentations gave us an appreciation of their countries and their cultures.

Thank you Jasper, Lauren and Miriam! We will surely miss you!

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People, Places, Events



Mel Nuqui and Mr. Katsuhiro Sato of Jichiro meeting with Rep. Chinami Nishimura in Tokyo on July 13



DAWN Advisory Council member Katsuhiro Sato appreciating the different products of Sikhay



JICA volunteers together with the staff and members of DAWN during their visit on July 29



Ms. Evangeline Pascual came to DAWN on August 26 to learn more about its work and programs



JFC Jennifer Verano celebrated her 18th birthday with her DAWN family on July 16



Students from the PUP College of Cooperatives during their visit to DAWN Multi-Purpose Cooperative on July 12

ALP CORNER

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

BEADS MAKING PROJECT

Last September 14, 2011 Mary Jane Kuraoka started the beads-making project of Sikhay. At first Jane was hesitant to make beaded items but after one week of doing self study using ideas from books and the internet, she became interested and creative in making bracelets. In support to the project, Dolores Alnas, who has trained in accessories making, shared her knowledge with Mary Jane. Once a week, she would teach Jane some techniques. Together, they were able to produce bracelets and necklaces made from Swarovski beads and pearl crystal stones.

IN PLAY AND IN FASHION

“In Play and In Fashion” is a must see event conceptualized by JP Pardo, in cooperation with DAWN, to be held on October 22 at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center in UN Avenue, Manila.

After our first project with JP in 2010, she once again shared her talent in designing a set of collection for Sikhay using the hand woven materials. JP designed 16 items to be modelled by the Japanese-Filipino children members of DAWN.

The children who will model the dresses, vests and other items are Juan Miguel Tadayoshi Miranda, Jennifer Verano, Shaira Azusawa, Stephanie Anne Seki, Tsuyoshi Imai, Yorgei Cerezo, Jemina Shilyn Alnas, Masami Angel Kuraoka, Hayato Ito, Mary Kay Alcuetas, and Sora Sato. Mark Alcuetas and Miyuki Alfaro will also model hand-printed shirts designed by JP.

The event was made possible through the help and generosity of our friends. Ms. Dona Pardo conducted the modelling workshop for the JFC, while Ms. Angelica Escarcha and her husband Scorch conducted the photo shoot that was held on September 17 at the UST grounds. Ms. Lyn Arcilla did the make

up of the children during the photo shoot.

DAWN is likewise grateful to the JFC who took time to attend the rehearsals, as well as their mothers who accompanied them. Special thanks to Juanita Contreras and Rosie Verano for making the clothes and the slippers, as well as to Rosalie Akase, Anna Liza Yambao and Mary Jane Kuraoka for producing the hand woven materials.

DAWN-MPC

A group of students from the PUP College of Cooperatives, under the guidance of Prof. Zandro Estella is conducting an assessment/evaluation of the DAWN Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DAWN-MPC). Since the establishment of the DAWN-MPC, the PUP College of Cooperatives has been assisting us and providing consultation to improve

(Continued on page 8)



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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(Continued from p. 7 ALP Corner)

the management and operation of the cooperative.

The assessment/evaluation aims to review the impact of the coop to its members and PUP's assistance to the DAWN-MPC. It will also look into how to make the partnership more efficient, fruitful and helpful to the members. On the part of DAWN-MPC, we want to see, from an outsider point of view, how the operation of the cooperative is going on and how it has impacted on its members.

The assessment hopes to come up with recommendations and a proposed plan of action to make the cooperative more productive and innovative.

Recently, the DAWN-MPC ventured into buy and sell of Hanabishi appliances and other electronic gadgets.

DAWN interns Lauren Brand and Miriam Thieme also developed a brochure for the cooperative, which will soon be available.

Jean-Pierre Pardo
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