



## DAWN PARTICIPATES IN JOGYAKARTA REINTEGRATION WORKSHOP

By Carmelita G. Nuqui

In many cases, migrant workers in the ASEAN region are facing social and economic challenges after returning to their countries of origin. Because of lack of support especially on the aspect of reintegration, they end up deciding to work again overseas without taking into consideration the risks they have to take as re-employed migrant workers. There may be decent programs during pre-departure, during employment and post departure but programs during the reintegration stage remains wanting.

It is in this context that the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) initiated a *Workshop on Reintegration Programmes for Returning Migrant Workers* on August 27 & 28, 2019 held at the Eastparc Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Through the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), DAWN Executive Director, Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui was invited



*The delegates from the ASEAN Member States holding arms during a photo opportunity culminating the workshop held at Eastparc Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.*

to represent the civil society organizations (CSO) and participate in the workshop which aims to share best practices on existing reintegration programmes among ASEAN Member States. Together with Ms. Nuqui are Philippine representatives from the Government, Trade Union and the employer sector.

The first day of workshop focused on the introduction to what reintegration programs are for, why they are necessary and what the current challenges being faced are. The remaining sessions of Day 1 got even more interesting because of the sharing of the reintegration programs by the different ASEAN Member States which was followed by a sharing and discussion on good practices likewise from among members and beyond.

The first day ended with a presentation of Draft Outline of the ASEAN Guidelines

on Effective Return and Reintegration as presented by Mr. Piyasiri Wickramasekara. Moderators for the day are from different fields of expertise from Trade Unions, Migrant CSOs, Employers & Business Association and Employment Ministry.

Workshop time for Day 2 as the delegates divided themselves into groups to discuss feedback on the draft outline presented on Day 1. Each group nominated moderators and rapporteurs to present results of the breakout session. Members of the workshop groups were encouraged to give their comments as well. The next was a plenary session allotted for the revision of the draft outline based on the results of the previous discussion coming from the delegates themselves. The output will be reviewed and finalized by the delegates for endorsement by ACMW.



*The Philippine representatives from left: Government – Mr. Roel Martin; CSO – Ms. Carmelita Nuqui; Trade Union – Ms. Isabel Pango & Employer sector – Mr. Ernie Cecilia*

# SIKHAY PRODUCTS GET NOTICED

*DAWN Joins College Week Celebration at Miriam*

*By Willie S. Descalzo*



Miriam College during its foundation week celebration entitled CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: *Generating Ideas, Thinking Big and Breaking Barriers*, invited diverse organizations to feature their respective products in a bazaar type activity from September 3 to 5, 2019. Development Action for Women's Network (DAWN) was one of the organizations invited to participate.

During the 3-day bazaar, DAWN's booth proudly carried Sikhay product creations which got easily noticed by students, staff and faculty members alike because of its multi-colored and one of a kind indigenous designs.

*Left: Samples of Sikhay Products during the 3-day Bazaar at Miriam College.*

The students even got more interested by the time they learned about the products' backstory from DAWN's Multi-purpose Cooperative (MPC) Chairperson, Ms. Luz Antonio. She



*Right: Bracelets are definitely a good buy for the students.*

shared her story as a returning OFW from Japan and how she eventually became one of the creative designers of Sikhay – an alternative livelihood program under DAWN. Bracelets, earrings and other women's accessories got the most nods from buyers and onlookers. Meanwhile, a number of inquiries about the shawls, scarves and table runners were entertained. Potential orders in the offing so it seems.



Leaving up to the celebration objectives, held in different locations inside Miriam campus - fora, film showing, exhibits, boot camp, sports festival, food and arts were in store for the students. Aside from DAWN, the following organizations participated in the bazaar: Patamaba, Copperazo, Heft.ph, Cleopatra's Secret, B.Manila, Aprile and Gifty Shop among others carrying a wide array of products from women's accessories, tie-dyed shirts, bags, organic skin and body care. The Applied Arts Society of Miriam sold stickers with artworks designed by its members.

*Left: Students take a look at the wide array of Sikhay products.*

Invitations are still being extended for DAWN to participate in various bazaars within the next quarter that will be held in Trinoma, Market Market and Glorietta. Certainly, there are more opportunities for Sikhay products to be showcased especially during the holiday season. Lastly, Sikhay products are slowly getting noticed in the different social media platforms like Instagram. Recently, DAWN received inquiries from the United States about Sikhay's products and hopes to find potential (new) market not previously tapped.



*Right: Earrings are one of the best sellers throughout the Foundation Week.*

# DAWN @ ANC's TALKBACK

## *Lending a Hand to Distressed Migrant Women*

By Willie S. Descalzo

DAWN Executive Director, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui together with Mary Joy Barcelona graced the July 1, 2019 episode of TALKBACK - an ABS-CBN News Channel talk show hosted by Karmina Constantino. The discussion started with Ms. Nuqui giving a situationer about the conditions of women workers coming to Japan from 23 years ago to the present, how massive the number of women who were excited to work in Japan as performing artists but dreams were shattered due to abuses and exploitation.

The conditions were confirmed as Mary Joy recounted her story about her dire need to work overseas to continue her studies and at the same time provide for the family. The exploitative working conditions forced her to go back to the country.

*Right: DAWN Executive Director, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, as she discussed the situationer on women migrant workers.*



As the discussion got deeper, Ms. Nuqui explained how the women were referred by the Japanese Embassy in Manila and the different networks based in Japan to be under DAWN's care. According to her, it is key for the women to recognize and accept their situation for the intervention to be more effective. Interventions such as counseling, workshops, group activities and theater play have proven to be a holistic approach to women's recovery. Mary Joy emphasized that after going through DAWN's intervention, she is now able to convey her experience in a positive way.

Since the problem turned out to be an inter-generational concern, DAWN's intervention was extended to the women's children as well. Organizing theater groups composed of women and youth was one approach that helped the women and youth become more open. Sharing their experiences to their children became less difficult. In a way, the children become instrumental in the healing process while they perform well both in school and extra-curricular activities. Considered one of the most significant impact - both the mothers and their children becoming co-advocates.

Ms. Nuqui added that there has been a significant change on the situation as evidenced by migration policies that were passed throughout the years. The Vital Voices led conference in 2003 became one of the catalysts for change. Programs and services have been replicated by other countries and Japanese government started recognizing the work of the different NGOs by engaging them to improve the conditions of the women and youth.

And for her final message, Ms. Nuqui said, "Everyone has a second chance in life and Mary Joy Barcelona is a perfect example. Despite her traumatic experience in Japan, with a very good support system and effective healing interventions, there is definitely life after Japan."

*Left: Mary Joy Barcelona sharing her experience as overseas performing artist in Japan.*



# SAFE AND FAIR: REALIZING WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*DAWN Participates in UN Women Capacity Building Series*

*By Mary Joy E. Barcelona & Shane M. Mesa*

UN Women, under its project Safe and Fair: Realizing Women Migrants Worker's (WMW) Rights and Opportunities in the ASEAN Region, in collaboration with Miriam College's Women and Gender Institute (WAGI), conducted a two-part capacity building training last August 6 – 9, 2019 held at the Miriam College – ESI Building, Conference Room.

DAWN sent two representatives for both seminars. DAWN's Social Worker, Shane Ann Mesa, attended the training for front liners while Project Coordinator, Mary Joy Barcelona participated in the second training about quality service delivery.

Training 1 which was held last August 6 & 7 entitled **Skills Training of Trainer in Providing Quality Services for Front Line Service Providers** hopes to strengthen front-line service provider delivery of quality coordinated services to women migrant workers that are subject to violence against women with the following specific objectives: a) To understand Women Migrant Workers Experience of Violence Against Women (VAW); b) to improve front line service providers communication skills for providing psycho-social support to women migrant workers that have been subjected to VAW and c) to improve front line service providers capacity in case management, coordination and referral, data collection and reporting.

The training was attended by representatives from various schools, universities, non-government organizations (NGO), government agencies and civil society organizations (CSO). Ms. Aurora Javate de Dios of WAGI and DAWN President of the Board of Trustees, was one of the resource speakers. For the participants to understand violence against women migrant workers, she discussed the VAW situation in the Philippine labor migration context as well as the socio-economic implications of female migration among others.



*Ms. Aurora Javate de Dios leads the resource speakers during the training for front line service providers.*

Together with Ms. de Dios, resource persons from different fields and organizations including the Philippine National Police (PNP) were invited to speak about topics relevant to capacity building for front liners from communication skills, case management and engagement, assessment and planning, referral systems and finally, data collection, management and reporting. These are the key functions of front liners that were given focused during the 2-day seminar.

For her insights, Shane articulated, *“As a social worker, this training will definitely help me understand more the plight of our overseas Filipino workers (OFW) especially women. Women migrants have different needs. I will now be more sensitive about each individual’s distinct needs and wants whether expressed or perceived. The referral system in our country is likewise a big concern in the social work profession. It is not as systematic as it should be. Most of our women migrant workers, upon return to the country, often struggle in finding the right person, services or agency that would address their needs. The result is that the women migrant workers get frustrated, disempowered and lose hope to continue the process. One way to help resolve this issue is, front line service providers and their respective agencies and institutions need to unite and build a strong network that would efficiently and effectively address the situation of our distressed women migrant workers.”*

The second training entitled **Strengthening Coordination for Delivering Quality Services for Filipino Women Migrant Workers (WMW)** held August 8 & 9, 2019 was attended by multi-sectoral participants whose roles are as integral as the front liners in the service delivery most especially in the coordination aspect. - *cont. to page 5*

## SAFE AND FAIR...



*Participants from the Strengthening Coordination for Delivering Quality Services for Filipino Women Migrant Workers (WMW) Training gathered together for the traditional group photo opportunity.*

The training's overall objective is to strengthen multi-sectoral coordinated quality services to respond to gender-based violence against women and increase access for women migrant workers to relevant services. Specific objectives are to build understanding of tools, guidance and political mandates for implementing multi-sectoral coordinated quality services to address VAW; to build understanding of women migrant workers risk of violence through their migrant journey, challenges, good practices in accessing essential services; and to identify the next steps to implement multi-sectoral coordinated essential services for WMW based on the guidance and tools.

Joy shared her insights after the training. She said, "As a Project Coordinator, one of the discussions that struck me the most was about identifying the gaps in the existing social services being provided to the WMWs. The national, international and global protocol and framework are in place but the challenge is how to be able to consider all these in providing the quality and empowering services to WMWs. Continuous coordination and collaboration are key to address the gaps in the entire migration cycle on the following concerns: human rights, perpetrator accountability, women empowerment, gender equality, culture, victim-survivor centered and safety."

As they represent DAWN in this 2-part Capacity Building Training, Joy and Shane are looking forward to applying the learnings in the performance of their roles in the organization to help improve the situation of our women migrant workers because they truly deserve a safe and fair space in society.

### SUBSCRIPTION

Development Action for Women Network  
(DAWN)  
Unit 3, 3rd Floor  
Bocobo Commercial Center  
1253 J. Bocobo St. corner Padre Faura St.  
Ermita 1000, Manila, Philippines  
Tel. No. (632) 85269098  
Fax No. (632)85269101  
E-mail: dawnphil@pltdt.net  
Website: www.dawnphil.com

YES, I would like to subscribe to SINAG. Enclosed is my check payment for:

P150 (one year, local)

US\$15 (one year, international)

This entitles me to four (4) issues of SINAG. (Please make check payment to the Development Action for Women Network)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

# DAWN - PUP-EMO PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES

*By Shane M. Mesa*



*The youth participants working on their artworks during the workshop.*

On January 29, 2019, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), forged a partnership with the Polytechnic University of the Philippines' (PUP) Extension Management Office (EMO) headed by Associate Prof. Zandro T. Estella. Under the extension program appropriately called Salin-Kaalaman Tungo Sa Kaunlaran for DAWN Women and Youth, the PUP-EMO tapped Psychology professors who are experts in their field to work hand in hand with DAWN.

Held on July 27, 2019, a discussion participated by DAWN women and youth, focused on the so called "my existential self." The facilitator initially shared a quote from Fyodor Dostoyevsky saying that *"The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for."* With the quote as a starting point, the session was all about how an individual exists in this world? As an individual, one must live with a purpose because every decision made or anything that you do will have an impact in life. Furthermore, existence is about having an essence within our hearts that guides us in making life choices. It's a matter of how one values his/her own virtues and how these virtues affect one's life. Cited as an example, is a person who values love, so that person's virtues would probably be compassionate, gentle, and affectionate. If you value something that is in contradiction with your virtue, it is better to reassess yourself so that you will acquire virtues aligned with what you value in life.

To further deepen the discussion, a follow-up question was raised about knowing one's purpose in life. Searching for your purpose in life is not easy. However, if you are aware of your worth, roles, and love the things you do, you recognize your purpose in life. At the end of the workshop, the facilitator requested the participants to close their eyes and listen to the music and a voice. It was a short activity that allowed the participants' mind to be creative and touch their souls to help appreciate and treasure the people around.

On August 31, 2019, another session was conducted with DAWN women and youth. It was time to determine the current state of the women. The session focused on "kumustahan" and giving them the constant reminder to seek help in case they need counselling. The topic for discussion with the youth on the other hand was about people, things, and events that they hold dear, the not so important but still they need to do someday, and lastly, the one obstacle they want to overcome.

It was a fruitful session because participants had the freedom to discuss their issues regarding their personal life. The youth became aware of the current situation in the country and showed strong character to overcome their dilemmas. Both the women and youth are willing to improve and change their lives for the better. DAWN is looking forward to a more meaningful and effective sessions for women and youth through the continuing cooperation with PUP-EMO.



*DAWN Women as they intently listen to the facilitators from PUP.*



*The women during the "kumustahan" session together with their two (2) facilitators (rightmost).*

# CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINARS FOR DAWN-MPC

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

As part of the first half of implementation under the project *Empowering Women through Cooperative*, with the invaluable support of Voice PH, DAWN and network partner PUP College of Cooperatives conducted a series of capacity building seminars for Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC) members last July and August held at the DAWN's office.

On July 13, 2019, The *Basic Cooperative and Recording Management* seminar was conducted. Attended by twenty (20) members including officers, the participants learned to value their sense of ownership of DAWN-MPC and the importance of being a member with good standing. From the different workshops and practice exercises, another insight from the members is that properly organized transactions, intact and accurate postings are signs of good record keeping. They are all looking forward to applying what they have learned from the seminar.



Recording of daily expenses exercise.



Members as they identify their needs and wants.

The *Entrepreneurial and Business Management* seminar was held on July 27 and August 10. The seminar discussed how a real business person works from the purpose, planning, type & size of business and the financial aspect. During the session, the Ps of doing business namely: People, Product, Place, Price, Packaging, Positioning, Promotion & Partner were discussed in depth. Role playing exercises were done to apply practical learnings. After the seminar, the participants from DAWN-MPC realized that they could venture to an attainable and feasible business in the near future. - cont. to page 8



Participants during role play exercises as producer, retailer, marketing, consumers & cooperative.



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 children/youth.

#### EDITORIAL TEAM

Aurora Javate-de Dios  
Carmelita G. Nuqui

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Mary Joy E. Barcelona  
Shane M. Mesa  
Willie S. Descalzo

LAYOUT: Willie S. Descalzo

## CAPACITY BUILDING...



Review and presentation of DAWN-MPC Financial Statement.



Identifying self-worth and behavior using the left and right hands as one of the workshop exercises.

### Gender and Development (GAD) Seminar

The month of August produced another capacity building seminar workshop for DAWN-MPC. This time it's for the members' awareness and clearer understanding about Gender Identity and Expression. Ms. Masako Ono of DAWN-MPC Gender and Development (GAD) Committee, facilitated the seminar workshop entitled *Exposing Status Quo of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression*.

The workshop is a combined participation of former women migrants and their children/youth. The participants' awareness and understanding were heightened.

Exercises on identifying self-worth and behavior revealed how well the participants know themselves. They find the exercises very important and relevant. Finally, as part of the participants' feedback, one of the women said *"Expressing oneself in the same space with my own child together with another mother & child provided a huge impact in accepting and understanding one another."*



Participants from Group 2 during one of the GAD workshops.

#### Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)

Unit 3, 3rd Floor, Bocobo Commercial Center  
 1253 J. Bocobo St. corner Padre Faura St., Ermita 1000  
 Manila, PHILIPPINES  
 Tel. No. (632) 8526-9098 Fax (632) 8526-9101  
 E-mail: dawnphil@pltdsl.net  
 Website: www.dawnphil.com

