SINAG

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DAWN Women's Center inaugurated

If you have a dream, hold on to it. It's been said that when you dream hard enough, the cosmic forces of the universe will arrange themselves to make your dream come true.

And so it did—for DAWN's women clients, staff and supporters, who gathered on May 21 to collectively cheer on the dream they've nurtured for so long. That afternoon, DAWN launched one of its dream projects – the Women's Center, which finally found a home at 2166-B A. Linao Street, Malate, Manila.

Home at last! Sr. Mary John Mananzan (left) and DAWN executive director Mel Nuqui formally open The DAWN Women's Center.

A liturgical Mass officiated by no less than DAWN Shelter's Steering Committee co-chair, Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, started the celebration. The activity was also attended by board members Rev. Leonardo Morada, Dr. Racquel Rimando, Atty. Cora Fabros, Ms. Pearl Domingo-Flores, Special Assistant of the Economic Section of the Embassy of Japan Ms. Yoko Konishi and Ms. Agnes Mineko-Hara, member of DAWN Shelter Steering Committee. Also present were representatives of the Philippine Textile Research Training Institute (PTRI), DAWN's clients, their children and the staff.

Though the dream of setting up and owning its own shelter has yet to materialize, DAWN is optimistic that finding a place to rent and locate the Women's Center initially is a big step towards the right direction.

The Women's Center, a three-story building, houses the hand-weaving project at the reception area/first floor, and the tie-dye project under SIKHAY, DAWN's Alterna-

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DAWN joins research project on migration, gender equity

How do industrialized countries protect their borders from illegal migrants without tramping on human rights? How do migrant workers, especially women, go around restrictive immigration policies in most receiving countries? What new tricks are criminal syndicates up to in the nefarious trade of human trafficking?

To find the answers, DAWN has entered into a research partnership with the group of Kinhide Mushakoji of IMADR (International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism). The proposed research project will study the

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editorial

We can at WCAR

Two plays, a photo exhibit, a video presentation and a testimonial by a former entertainer are among the activities that DAWN has lined up on the occasion of the UN Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) to be held in Durban, South Africa from August 27 to September 7, 2001.

The activities are meant to increase the public's awareness on the plight of women migrants in Japan and that of their Japanese-Filipino children (JFCs) who routinely experience racism and instances of discrimination. DAWN hopes to effect changes in public opinion as well as in government policies to reflect the concerns and rights of migrant workers and their families.

This year's presentation by DAWN's Teatro Akebono is a play about JFCs based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling." The play, "The Ugly Duckling? A Journey of Hero, JFC" compares the plight of Japanese-Filipino children to that of the ugly duckling who is subjected to cruel jokes and taunts for being different from other ducklings. The play will tour Japan from September 20 to October 3.

The women's theater production similarly focuses on tales of gender, racial and class discrimination, as experienced by former entertainers and migrant workers in Japan. The musicale play "Ibat-Ibang Mukha ni Misty" also centers on the difficulties that the women face during the reintegration process in their home country. The play is targeted at young women and is meant to acquaint them with the realities of life as a migrant worker and entertainer in Japan. A plan to tour the play to different schools and communities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces is also in the offing.

For its participation to the WCAR, DAWN has signed up for a six-member delegation to attend the NGO Forum from August 27 to September 1 and the WCAR conference from September 2 to 7 at the Kingsmead Cricket Stadium. Three of DAWN's delegates have likewise registered to attend the Youth Summit scheduled on August 26 and 27.

Some of the activities being planned for the event are a testimonial by a former entertainer during a Migrants' Tribunal organized by CARAM-Asia; a presentation by DAWN executive director Carmelita Nuqui of the experiences of Filipino women in relation to the Gender Security and Human Rights issue in a forum to be sponsored by IMADR on August 26; an exhibit of hand-woven and tie-dyed products made by members of DAWN's Alternative Livelihood Project, Sikhay, a video presentation and a photo exhibit.

With these activities, DAWN hopes to achieve another milestone in advancing the public's awareness and understanding of the twin issues of discrimination and migration, as well as generate support for the promotion and protection of the rights of Filipino women migrants and their Japanese-Filipino children. With international attention focused on the problem, we can certainly do the seemingly impossible at WCAR.

JFCs, mothers enjoy DAWN's family day

Sing for joy: music and smiles on Family Day.

For years, DAWN has tried to fill the gap created by the absence of Japanese fathers in the hearts of Japanese-Filipino children, knowing that such absence creates feelings of isolation and withdrawal among the affected youngsters. By hosting a series of family-oriented activities, DAWN tries to impress on the children the social notion of family as one that go beyond the basic unit consisting of father, mother and children. With activities that can be shared by a larger community, DAWN attempts to stimulate feelings of belonging among Japanese-Filipino children that they sometimes seek in vain from their own relatives.

One such activity is Family Day, when mothers, their children, DAWN's staff, friends and Japanese volunteers gather for a fun-filled day that would enable them to relax, meet new friends and spend quality time towards forging a sense of solidarity.

Party animals at DAWN's Family Day.

One fine morning on May 23, DAWN organized a Family Day at the Manila Zoological and Botanical Garden (Manila Zoo). Eleven mothers and 11 Japanese-Filipino children joined Japanese volunteers, visitors and the staff for a fun-filled day. The group toured the zoo in the morning, and enjoyed the sight of animals and reptiles. Sailing in the manmade lagoon and frolicking in the playground followed, after which parlor games were organized.

At lunchtime, the group feasted on homemade treats. More explorations of the zoo followed, even for latecomers who were given personalized tours by the staff. The tour was capped with action songs "Leron Leron Sinta" and "Do Re Mi" vibrantly taught in Nihonggo by the Japanese volunteers. A singing session and a game followed, with the participants grouped into three: children, mothers and volunteers. To complete the children's delight, the DAWN staff led by its executive director Mel Nuqui distributed

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Hooray for DAWN's new set of volunteers

PEOPLE come and go, but the memories they leave behind last and linger.

Such was the case with DAWN's Batch 2000 volunteers who had to bid farewell as their school semester ends. Volunteers Chiho Ogaya, Shiori Onishi, Dai Yamamoto, Chigusa Ide, Megumi Taura, and Naoto Kobayashi recently concluded the last leg of their exchange program studies at the University of the Philippines and the De La Salle University.

To Ogaya and company, DAWN sends its fondest farewell, good wishes and heartfelt thanks for sharing their time and energy and for their continuing commitment

Joining in the fun and games during Family Day.

to DAWN's cause and their support for our women-clients and their Japanese-Filipino children as new members of DAWN Japan. At the same time, DAWN welcomes a new set of young, energetic and enthusiastic volunteers who want to learn and be one with us in our continuing pursuit of our cause. Meet the volunteers of Batch 2001:

1 **Junko Akao.** Born July 1, 1980 in Hokkaido, Japan, she is an exchange student of SOKA University at the De La Salle University. Junko always has a warm smile for everyone and displays touching enthusiasm in learning the language and culture of Filipinos. With her involvement in DAWN, Junko hopes to make friends with the women and their children and help them find their goal.

2 **Masaki Kato**. This exchange student at the University of the Philippines was born on December 20, 1979 and is from Suita-shi in Osaka, Japan. Macky is interested in

Volunteers join a DAWN planning session.

meeting and interacting with people and would like to improve his communication skills as well.

3 **Ryotaro Oda.** Born March 31, 1982, Ryo is an International Relations exchange student at the University of the Philippines. He is interested in learning and experiencing beyond what he can learn from television, books and the Internet. He looks forward to sharing language skills and helping the children get connected with their fathers in Japan.

4 **Naomi Watanabe**, the most senior of the group, was born on April 27 and hails from Takamatsu-city. Naomi is a student of Foreign Language in Kansai University and is currently based in the Philippines doing some work with the Konkokyo Peace Activity Center and DAWN. She wants to impart to the children the pride of being both Japanese and Filipino, for them to come to terms with having a mixed culture and heritage.

5 **Ayako Sakashita** was born on August 24, 1976 and is from Ibaraki, Japan. The law student at SOKA University is currently studying Women and Development and Constitutional Law at the University of the Philippines. In Japan, Ayako was involved with the Human Care Network for Disabled People for four years. She is also an expert of Kendo, the Japanese martial arts. Aside from wanting to understand the situation of migrant workers and their children, she is interested in research and case documentation.

A lively discussion among the volunteers.

6 **Taishi Yoshimoto**, a senior student of Foreign Development and Environment Studies at the University of Osaka is an exchange student at the University of the Philippines and a member of a college NGO that promotes co-existence between foreigners and the people of Japan. By teaching Nihonggo, Taishi wishes to encourage JFCs to learn to appreciate both Japan and the Philippines, and to develop their traits as a product of a mixed parentage and culture. Taishi was born on December 12, 1976 and is from Osaka, Japan.

7 **Yukino Okuyama**. Born on July 18, 1977, Yuki is from Shimizushi, Shizuoka-ken. Prior to her involvement with DAWN, she counts nine years of rewarding involvement in an educational committee on recreation for children in Shizuoka-ken. Her interests are counseling, teaching the Japanese language and supporting the education of JFCs.

8 **Yo Sakao**, born on August 22, 1979, is from Hachioji, Tokyo. Yo is a student of Foreign Studies at Tokyo University. She is taking up Anthropology at the University of the Philippines. Yo shares Yuki's interest in counseling, teaching Nihonggo and supporting the JFCs education needs. For Yo, being involved with DAWN means total immersion and a deeper understanding of the JFCs concerns.

9 **Makoto Ito**, born on January 5, 1980, is from Ibaraki, Tokyo. Mack, also an exchange student, is currently taking up Environmental Science at the De La Salle University. He is now the "principal", as well as *sensei* (teacher), of Nihonggo lessons for the JFCs. Mack, Yuki and Yo are currently involved in the children's play doing translation and teaching of the songs from Tagalog to Nihonggo.

Welcome to you all and we at DAWN hope that we can help enrich your lives and nurture your social consciousness, just as you are bound to affect us and our clients in a positive way.

Teatro Akebono plays likens JFC to "Ugly Ducklings"

During rehearsals: Hirofumi Kataoka (seated, second from left) plays the lead.

THE well-loved fairy tale is familiar to most children: an egg hatches and out comes an ugly duckling, so different from the other ducks in the backyard that it soon becomes the object of their cruel jokes and taunts.

It is easily the story of every Japanese-Filipino child, who soon finds that being born of two cultures means never fitting in in any of them. So similar is the plight between the ugly duckling and the JFC that Teatro Akebono's latest production is based on this Hans Christian Andersen classic.

The play "The Ugly Duckling? A Journey of Hero, JFC" asks all the questions that a JFC often ponders: How can children born of inter-racial unions live in a society that discriminates against them? How does one deal with the psychological, social, economic and cultural effects of being treated differently?

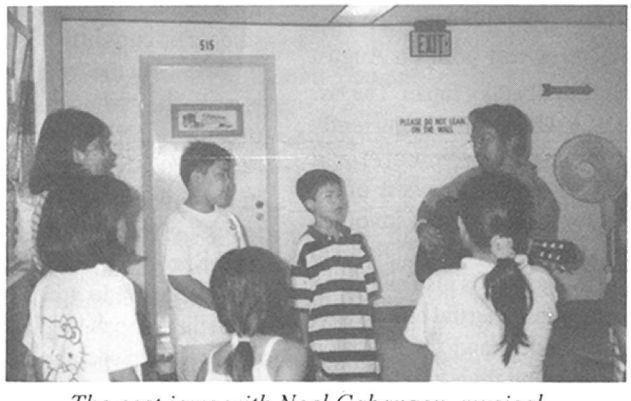
The story focuses on Hero, a Japanese-Filipino child, who identifies strongly with the ugly duckling in the fairy tale he is reading. Like the duck in the story, he is ostracized by other children and shunned for having a former entertainer for a mother and for being abandoned by his Japanese father. Despite these challenges however, Hero studies hard and gets along with his teachers and some of the kids who have accepted him for what he is.

A sharing session with the PETA staff during the play's pre-production stage.

For all the support he gets from his mother and friends who assure him that it's okay to be different, Hero still finds it difficult to understand why other children treat him differently. Why do they call him names like Japino or Japayuki? He also wonders about his father's identity and his whereabouts. Why do other people treat his mother differently? Can't they be accorded the same respect and rights given to other families? Are we not one and the same after all?

Things come to a head when some bullies attack him and his friends in school. Hero then finds out that one of his friends, Risa, is also of Japanese-Filipino descent and has encountered the same problems. She encourages Hero and his mother to join the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) to help them in locating his father.

DAWN is an organization that assists Filipino migrant women in Japan and their Japanese-Filipino children to overcome such problems as abandonment from their Japanese partners and the lack of child support from Japanese fathers. Soon enough, Hero and Risa meet other children like them and Hero realizes that he is not so different after all and that Japanese-Filipino children have the same rights as other kids. But oh, if only he'd find his father!



The cast jams with Noel Cabangon, musical director of the play, during a weekend rehearsal.

Thus starts Hero's journey to trace his roots. Inspired by the turn of events, he returns to reading the story of the ugly duckling only to find the last page of the book missing. He is stunned and begins to wonder about his own fate. Would he be able to find his father? Would they be able to live together as one family? Would seeing his father change the course of his life? Perhaps other people would start being nice to him again.

And so the journey goes on....

MEET THE CAST of "The Ugly Duckling? A Journey of Hero, JFC"

A theater production of the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), in cooperation with the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA)

Naoko Hiroha (Classmate/JFC)

Naoko is 8 years old and wants to be a teacher. A fourth grader, her favorite subjects are English, Math and Science. Naoko has a talent for dancing and loves to play games with fellow JFCs, especially *sungka.*

Sweet and bubbly, Naoko is the eldest in a brood of four. Two of her sisters were sent to a children's center in Japan when her parents separated, while she and the youngest are in the care of their maternal grandparents in the Philippines. Naoko was born in the Philippines and cared for by her mother for a year until she decided to return to Japan as an entertainer to be able to continue supporting her family. This, in spite of her husband's continuing support for her and the children.

Naoko is an active member of Teatro Akebono. At a young age, she can easily memorize dance steps and takes on the role of dance instructress to the other members of the cast. She was the lovely Barbie in the play "Walang Iwanan" (No Desertion), which toured Japan in October 2000.

DAWN tried to locate Naoko's father during the theater tour last year, but when the group's representatives visited his place, they were told that it has been unoccupied for sometime. Although she tried not to show her disappointments at not meeting her father, Naoko became withdrawn and sickly during the tour in Japan. Seeing that six other children had been reunited with their fathers, she would often ask the DAWN staff about her turn.

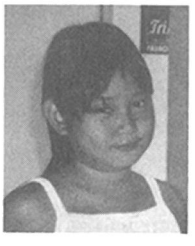
In January 2001, DAWN received information from Sr. Keiko that Naoko's father had contacted her and had felt sorry for missing the chance to meet Naoko in October. When Naoko heard the news, she could not contain the joy that spilled on her face. This year, both Naoko and her father are looking forward to meeting each other, and Naoko's two younger sisters.

Jennifer Muroi (Classmate/JFC)

Jennifer or Angel, as she is fondly called by her mother, is 7 and the youngest member of the cast. This fragile-looking child keeps to herself most of the time, but also loves to play and sing. She is in Grade 2 and Math is her favorite subject. Like Naoko, she wants to be a teacher someday.

Jennifer was 3 when she last saw her father who has since stopped all communications with them. Her mother has singlehandedly supported their daily needs and her schooling by selling fruits, vegetables and snacks. She is a new member of Teatro Akebono who tries her best to catch up with the group. Her fondest dream though is to meet her father during the theater tour in Japan.

Hisaco Garcia (Classmate/JFC)



Hisaco is 9 years old, a fourth grader and a Math enthusiast who dreams of teaching this difficult subject someday. Hisaco and her mother, Cora, are both active members of DAWN who never fail to attend rehearsals, workshops and other theater activities despite the four-hour commute from Quezon to Manila. Hisaco is easily the most sociable of the group.

Hisaco never saw her father. Her mother was pregnant with her when she lost communication with Hisaco's father. With the help of her family, Cora was able to sustain their needs. In 2000, DAWN was able to contact Hisaco's grandfather, a retired worker, who said he does not know of his son's whereabouts. But the old man has been helping out with Hisaco's education since December 2000. Hisaco hopes to meet him and possibly, her father, in September.

Anna Shimizu (Classmate/JFC)

Anna is 8 years old and is in Grade 2. She loves reading books and hopes to become a teacher someday. Well-behaved and amiable, Anna's favorite subject is Math. She dances well and speaks Nihonggo fluently. Her closest buddy in the group is Naoko.

Anna was born in Japan and stayed there until she was four. She and her mother returned home in 1997; her parents got married in 1998. But communication with her father became irregular a few months later. Because of health reasons, her mother could not work and had to depend on Shimizu's maternal grandfather for their living. When her mother sought DAWN's assistance, Anna joined Teatro Akebono and was part of the "Walang Iwanan" cast that toured in Japan in September 2000. It was there that she met her father again. Both were very happy and spent time together. Although Mr. Shimizu was unemployed at that time, he managed to make his daughter's stay with him pleasant and memorable.

Ryosuke Reyes (Bully /JFC)

Ryo is 10 years old. The Grade 4 student loves to study and play games. Science is his favorite subject. Smart and well-behaved, Ryo wants to be a doctor. Although he is the newest member of the theater group, Ryo, a talented singer, managed to fit in and catch up with the rest of the cast.

Ryo's parents are not married. He and his mother lived separately from his father who visited them occasionally and supported their catering business. In 1995, a Japanese friend informed them that his father had died and it took them a while to recover from their loss. Meanwhile, Ryo's maternal relatives have been giving them financial support since their catering business is no longer as profitable as before.

This coming theater tour, Ryo hopes to get confirmation of his father's death, as well to get to meet his paternal relatives.

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Mayumi Sato (Classmate/JFC)

Mayumi is 10 years old and a new member of the theater group. She is in Grade Four and her favorite subjects are Science and Math. Not surprisingly, she dreams of becoming a doctor.

Mayumi loves to play and to watch television. At a young age, she has developed the maturity and sense of responsibility needed to look after her younger brother.

Mayumi's father is much older than her mother. He has been visiting them regularly until he got sick. DAWN gathered from his son and a neighbor that Mayumi's father is confined in a hospital although they have no way of verifying this. Mayumi's mother sews slippers and rugs and sells them for a living. Mayumi is looking forward to meeting her father and if possible, look after him in the hospital during their coming theater tour in Japan.

Ai Risa Akase (Risa/JFC)

Risa is 10 years old, and a fifth grader who excels in school She is easily the friendliest in the group, with a ready smile for everyone. Like her mother, she has a good singing voice.

Risa lived in Japan with her parents until she was 6 years old. While on holiday in the Philippines in 1996, they visited her maternal relatives in Davao City. Unfortunately, problems with money and her mother's visa prevented them from returning to Japan. The father however started sending them financial support until 1997.

They have since been depending on her mother's meager income from doing laundry, as well as support from her mother's cousin. Risa also joined the last theater tour in Japan and was one of the fortunate kids who managed to be reunited and to spend time with their father. Once in a while Risa and her mother talk to her father through DAWN. Risa hopes to meet him again during this forthcoming theater tour in Japan.

Michael Mitsuo Suzuki (Bullies' leader/JFC)

Michael is 14 years old and the "elder brother" of the group. He is in second year high school, enjoys his Science class the most and wants to be a scientist someday. He also loves playing computer games. Michael is mature and sensible and wants to become an advocate for the rights of Japanese-Filipino children.

Michael was 6 when his parents decided to end their relationship. His father left them the house and lot and a vehicle, but did not visit him nor communicate further.

As a member of the cast of "Sana...Isang kuwento ng Pangarap" that toured Japan in 1999, Michael was able to see and talk with his father. His father as promised visited him the following month but said that he could not provide regular support as he has retired from his job. He however gave Michael some money for his education.

Michael is being trained to assist in the technical aspects of the JFC theater production. He looks forward to meeting his father again during the theater tour.

Miyuki Alfaro (Bully/JFC)

Mikee is 12 years old, a freshman in high school, and names Science as her favorite subject. She wants to be a success-

Anna's story: Paradise found, lost, and hopefully, found again

Anna Shimizu during last year's theater tour in Japan.

TERESITA was from a middle class family and was still a student when she opted to go to Japan rather than wed a stranger chosen by her father in a customary arranged marriage. Using her mother's maiden name, she flew to Japan using a tourist visa in 1986.

For six months, Teresita did not get any salary. Every yen she earned went to the agency or promotion outfit that landed her the job. Without a proper working visa, Teresita had no choice but to work odd jobs as a waitress, cook, cleaner/janitress and entertainer. After six months as cook and waitress in Ibaraki, and convinced by a Filipina friend to try her luck elsewhere, Teresita ran away to Nagano City. It was there that she met Mr. Shimizu, the son of the club owner where Teresita worked for sometime until she was arrested for overstaying.

Her lack of a proper working visa pushed Teresita to a live-in arrangement with Mr. Shimizu. On June 15, 1993, Teresita gave birth to Anna.

Teresita and her partner did not see the necessity of getting married until such time that Anna had to attend preparatory school. Since Teresita had gone to Japan on an assumed name, the couple had a hard time getting proper documentation for Anna. Anna was nonetheless registered at the Philippine Embassy in Japan as Anna Tablizo, after the forged identity of her mother. The only recourse they had then, according to Teresita, was to go back to Philippines, secure the proper documentation, get married and work out Anna's proper and legal documentation. The marriage

ful chef in the future. The younger cast consider her their "elder sister" because of her sense of responsibility.

Mikee's parents decided to end their relationship when she was still a baby. Her father has not communicated with them since then. Not long after, her mother remarried and she now stays with her mother's new family. Because her mother has no stable job, she has a hard time supporting the family's needs.

Mikee got the lead roles in "Sana... Isang Kuwento ng Pangarap" in 1999 and "Walang Iwanan" in 2000. She was chosen mainly for her skills in acting and dancing and her support for the younger cast members. It was after their second performance in 1999 that Mikee found out that her father had died in 1993. She has since recovered from her grief and has accepted her father's death.

Hirofumi Kataoka (Ugly Duckling/ JFC)

Hero is 12 years old and a first year high schooler. Polite, smart and energetic, he likes to make origami.

Hero's parents met in Japan. Al though his father has a family in Japan, his affair with Hero's mother lasted for years. His father visited them regularly in the Philippines and supported their lavish lifestyle, recalls Hero. But their relationship became shaky and ended in 1993, several months after his father stopped communicating with them. His father's promised support was short-lived and they have been unable to contact him since then.

Hero is an active member of Teatro Akebono and does not mind traveling eight hours from Baguio to Manila for the rehearsals. He joined the Japan theater tour in 1999 during which time DAWN tried to locate his father, but to no avail. At present, a Japanese lawyer helps in contacting Hero's father and has already gathered information about him. Hero, like other JFC, hopes to finally meet his father this time around.

Junko Fujiwara

Junko is 12 and in grade six. Talented and smart, she loves reading pocketbooks and dreams of becoming a teacher someday. Junko is the eldest in a brood of three. Her parents met and eventually lived together in Japan. Her mother Arlene, returned in the Philippines when she became pregnant with Junko. Her father visited them occasionally and the couple decided to get married in 1992. They have been unable to contact him though since Arlene gave birth to their youngest child.

In March 1998, DAWN was able to contact their paternal grandmother who informed the office that her son is now handicapped and can no longer work. Arlene was able to visit him in 1998 during the SIKHAY Study Tour organized by AWEP and DAWN. Junko also met her father and grandparents that same year as part of the Teatro Akebono tour. Junko and her siblings are active members of DAWN.

Because of her father's disability, regular support is not possible, although Junko's grandparents are trying to make up for it with occasional financial assistance. Arlene is currently employed in Kuwait as a domestic helper, while her children are staying with a friend in Taguig. Junko hopes to visit her father and grandparents again this time.

took place at the Caloocan City Hall in February 6, 1998. The registration process however took longer and became too costly. For unknown reasons, Mr. Shimizu stopped communicating with them. Meanwhile, Anna who was then 5 years old, had no choice but to live in a new environment, learn a new culture, speak a different language, and adjust to a completely different family set-up. The father she knew fondly had vanished.

At school, Anna became a victim of taunts. Her classmates would call her "Japayuki", "daughter of Japanese", bowlegged, etc. It even came to a point where the taunts became physical, with some bullies cutting her hair. Feeling helpless, she would go home crying to her mother who finally decided to transfer Anna to another school, hoping the teasing would stop. To her dismay, the new environment proved worse. Anna would still come home crying and asking why she was being treated so shabbily.

During the Teatro Akebono tour in Japan last year, Anna was lucky enough to be reunited with her father. It was a teary reunion. Mr. Shimizu was at home when DAWN took the chance of visiting him one October afternoon. Anna had no idea either that they were about to see her long-lost father. In a bid to protect Anna from possible rejection, a DAWN staffer waited with her at the hotel lobby on another pretext. When the Japanese volunteer came back, there was still no mention of the result of the meeting, with Anna still clueless about her impending reunion with her father. Waiting on the other side of the road, Mr. Shimizu excitedly watched his daughter walk toward him. Anna froze momentarily when she saw the figure of her father. When she realized that it was indeed her father, she came running to him. Neither of them could speak. Sobs and tears engulfed the moment.

While in Japan, Mr. Shimizu spent time with Anna. He took her to Disneyland, to the malls for shopping and to other places where they could be together. During the farewell party, Anna proudly displayed her acting skills to her father who was then in the audience.

Father and daughter have been communicating since then. Mr. Shimizu also fulfilled his promise to visit Anna and her mother. Unfortunately, Anna was sick and was in hospital during that visit because of broncho-pneumonia. But she had looked forward to hearing from her father again. Mysteriously however, Mr. Shimizu stopped calling and could no longer be contacted.

This year, Anna is one of the ugly ducklings in the JFC's theater tour in Japan in September. Aside from the excitement of performing onstage, meeting other children and supporters in Japan, Anna counts a possible reunion with her father as reasons enough to look forward to the tour.

DAWN JOINS RESEARCH

(from page 1)

policies of receiving industrial countries, and their attempt to meet both the requirement of international cooperation for "peace and order" and their obligation to respect the human rights of the migrant women involved. The research hopes to clarify the policy standards being used as part of international governance and their resulting impact on promoting gender equity.

The result of the research will be presented by DAWN's executive director, Carmelita Nuqui, in a workshop-forum titled "Promoting Human Security to Prevent Exploitative Migration in Africa—With Special Emphasis on Trafficking in Women and Children." The workshop is part of the NGO Forum to be held in Durban, South Africa in August.

The research focuses attention on borderless trade or globalization, which usually means the free flow of goods and services between developing and industrialized nations. For most impoverished countries, however, it can also mean a rapid out-migration of its citizens in search of better economic opportunities. To limit the number of migrants knocking on their doors, most receiving countries have set up restrictive immigration policies. These, in turn, have given rise to criminal syndicates preying on vulnerable migrants who are bound to accept any overseas contract no matter the terms, just to land jobs abroad. The result is an increasing number of illegal migrants and victims of human trafficking. In the Philippines, the most affected sector is that of migrant women who are employed in the sex and entertainment industry in Japan.

The research, which reflects DAWN's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the rights of women, has three components. The first component seeks to develop a theoretical framework for a comparative study of the impact of globalization on women's migration in the regions of Asia, Europe and Africa; the effect of informal criminal organizations, and the industrial States' policies on immigration, police intervention, labor and human rights.

The second component will study the pattern of preference among migrant women who choose to go to either Asia, Europe or Africa. The Philippines provides a rich source of information on this subject, as Filipino women stream out to Japan mostly as trafficked sex workers, to North America as nurses and domestics, and to Europe mainly as domestics and sex workers.

A third component will study the receiving countries where trafficked women usually land. Several localities in Japan will be selected as sources of case studies that show the interaction between trafficked women and criminal syndicates as well as law enforcing agents. Among the basic questions to be asked in comparing conditions in Asia, Europe and Africa are the

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DAWN WOMEN'S CENTER *(from page 1)*

SIKHAY women Merly, Imelda and Joy weigh and measure tie-dye ingredients at the Women's Center.

Weaving dreams together.

tive Livelihood Program, at the rooftop. The sewing project, also a component of SIKHAY, is maintained at Room 516 of the Don Santiago Building in Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila. With four bedrooms, the Center also serves as a transient house for women and children attending workshops during weekends, a convenient venue for workshops and training activities, a halfway home for Japanese volunteers and women involved in DAWN's projects, as well as a refuge for women and children who are emotionally distressed.

Indeed, the launching of the Center is a concrete proof of DAWN's continuing commitment to help women in distress find a new dawn in their lives.

SUBSCRIPTION

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frequently asked questions

How do I divorce my Japanese husband?

I have a child who is Japanese-Filipino, but I'm thinking of divorcing my Japanese husband. How do I go through the divorce process? What would be its implications on my visa as a "Spouse of Japanese National?"

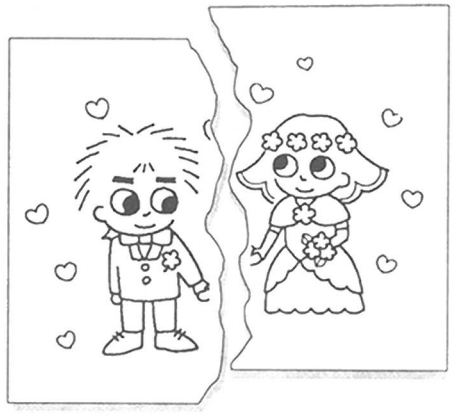
In Japan, there are three procedures and types of divorce: divorce with consent, divorce through mediation and divorce through legal suit.

Divorce with consent, the first procedure, means that the couple has mutually decided to divorce each other and set between them the agreements for the divorce. Once they have agreed on the terms and conditions, they seek a third party to be a go-between or witness. Be advised however that the Philippines does not recognize divorce with consent.

In some cases, one's partner might go to the office to apply for divorce without telling the other party. This might result in divorce terms and conditions that are one-sided and disadvantageous to the other party. Should this happen or should you need more time to make a decision, you can submit a document called "Non acceptance of Divorce Report." This will render as null and invalid the Divorce Report that has been presented unilaterally by the other partner. But this non-acceptance document is valid only for six months so make sure that you ask for an extension at the municipal office before its expiration.

Divorce through mediation is often resorted to if the marriage cannot be dissolved to the satisfaction of both partners (meaning, divorce with consent is not an option). If this happens, you can apply for mediation at a family court, where two mediators and a judge will listen to the testimonies of both parties separately.

To apply for divorce through mediation, the documents needed are: a copy of the family register; certificate of foreign registration or alien registration card and passport. The first two documents can be obtained from the same office where you previously applied for your marriage notice.



Divorce through legal suit means taking the case to court. Although it is an expensive way to dissolve a marriage, it is the only option left when mediation is unsuccessful, or when husband or wife is missing. In this case, you need a lawyer, which means a lot of expense, although you can take advantage of the public legal assistance service if you have financial difficulties. This system provides you with a loan for trial costs and attorney's fees, and you can pay this back later either by installment or in a lump sum after the suit.

In any of the three types of divorce the focal points cover residence, assets and case settlement, as well as parental authority and nursing costs for children, if any.

Effect of Divorce on Visa as "Spouse of Japanese National"

You will automatically lose the status of residence of "Spouse of Japanese National" after your divorce. As a result, you will lose the opportunity to guarantee your visa. You need not return immediately to your country of origin, but as a rule, when the immigration authority knows that there has been a divorce, it cancels the visa status of the spouse. In most cases however, the Immigration Bureau will not cancel your visa within the period of its validity.

Change of status of visa upon divorce

There have been instances when visas were processed arbitrarily to change the status of visa from "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" to "Long Term Resident." (*Please refer to Procedure for Foreign Nationals Who Take Care of a Real Child of a Japanese National, 1996, issued by the Ministry of Justice.*) Foreign parents who look after Japanese children (regardless of their nationality and visa status) are covered by a nationally unified process. This has affected a lot on overstaying foreign adults who take care of, and protect, these Japanese children.

What does one need to do to change the status of visa after divorce or the death of one's spouse?

You must submit the following documents when applying for a change of status:

1. Documents which certify your social status and relationship
   a. If a child has a Japanese national status, submit: Copy of Family Register and Certificate of Residence
   b. If a child is of foreign nationality, submit: Certificate of Birth and copy of Family Register in which a description of the father's recognition is found (including recognition of fetus or a stillbirth)
   c. Certificate of Alien Registration (if you are a parent covered under b)

2. Documents certifying you have parental rights (the decision from the court, etc.)

3. Documents which provide evidence of the situation in which Japanese children are taken care of:
   a. Certificate of schooling, certificate of kindergarten schooling or other documents related to school or preschool education
   b. Other documents certifying the situation in which the child is being raised (Report presented by District Welfare Officer or Child Care Commissioner)
   c. Documentation on Occupation and

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FREQUENTLY ASKED *(from page 9)*

Income of Parent: Certificate of Employment, Withholding Tax Certificate or Certificate of Salary (What is important here is that you are working rather than the type of work you are engaged in)

d. Letter of guarantee written by Guarantor who lives in Japan: Letter of Guarantee, Certificate of Employment, Certificate of Tax Payment, etc.

If you do not live with the child who is instead left in a child protection home, the administration office does not regard you as the caretaker. Please remember this point. Even if you are not financially independent and are dependent on the Daily Life Security Allowance, it is enough to have the office confirm the fact that you are rearing the child. Please have a certificate that states that the Daily Life Security Service covers you from your local office.

Your "Long Term Resident Status" visa status is linked with the acquisition of your "Permanent Residence" status in the coming years, so please apply for the latter as soon as you can.

(Source: Manual for Migrants: Information for Living in Japan, 1997, Catholic Diocese of Yokohama Solidarity Center for Migrants)

newsbriefs • newsbriefs

DAWN women get wired

It's never too late to learn. Eight former migrant workers found this out for themselves when they started taking computer classes being offered by DAWN, with funding support from the Embassy of Japan. The computer training, which started May 28 and is being facilitated by the staff of the Research, Education and Advocacy Program, hopes to keep DAWN's clients at pace with information technology and equip them with skills useful in entrepreneurship and organizational management.

The first batch of women who signed up for the computer training are Ma. Luz Nakajima, Caroline Lansang, Mayalene Ebisu, Virginia Tolentino, Marissa Panigbatan, Corazon Garcia, Angelita Manalastas and Rennie Reyes. The women cited similar reasons for taking computer lessons: to learn how to operate a personal computer, to get connected to the Net and to be able to set up a computer-based system of operating small-scale enterprises, like sari-sari stores and slipper-making.

Two SIKHAY members, Henedina Francisco and Mary Joy Barcelona, are meanwhile being given hands-on training on the preparation of their reports using the computer programs MS Word and MS Excel.

The computer training sessions started the participants off with basic typing lessons to get them acquainted with the keyboard. After attaining a certain typing speed, they will be introduced to some program applications like MS Word and Excel. Lessons are held every Friday, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., and every Saturday, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the DAWN office.

The training welcomes other interested clients. A plan to sign up Japanese-Filipino children in similar computer lessons is also being considered for this year.

DAWN's website updated

THANKS to our dedicated computer wizard volunteer, Edgar de Pedro, DAWN's website has undergone a complete facelift. With a completely new set-up and appearance, www.dawnphil.org is now more user-friendly and offers more information to readers. Edgar is a graduate of De La Salle University in Manila, and has been providing DAWN much needed technical support in maintaining our computers and developing our website since 1998.

With its improved graphics and design, DAWN's website lets you travel with members of Teatro Akebono during their theater tours from 1998 to the present. It also lets you share the journey of former migrants and their Japanese-Filipino children as they discover a new dawn in their lives and find fulfillment in their quest for their long-lost partners and fathers.

Fashion-conscious folk on the lookout for clothes made of indigenous materials, hand-woven or tie-dyed textiles and batik clothes can click on the site and discover what the women of Sikhay, DAWN's alternative livelihood project, has in store for them. The website also makes online shopping for Sikhay products possible. Just fill-up the order form and we promise to deliver the goods at your doorstep.

The website facilitates research and data-gathering as well. DAWN's collection of publications is listed online to give browsers an idea of what available information they can access from the group.

So click on and ride the information highway with us. We'd also appreciate getting your feedback and comments.

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, development organization devoted to issues concerning migrant women and their Japanese-Filipino children.

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The cast of this year's theater production of "Misty."

Encore for "Misty"

SEEING the need to focus on young women in the Philippines, the DAWN Women's Teatro Akebono does a repeat performance of the musicale "Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty" this year. The play, which toured Japan in October last year, will have a re-run in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, with its target audience being young women vulnerable to the honeyed promises of illegal recruiters as well as abuses in foreign lands.

The musicale is a collection of the experiences of women entertainers in Japan and their reintegration struggles within their family and society. "Misty" represents the thousands of Filipino women forced to try their luck abroad to support families living in poverty back home. The play also highlights the Japanese-Filipino children's struggles to live normally, free from taunts and discrimination, as well as their desire to meet their absent Japanese fathers. "Misty" details the consequences that hound entertainers and the steep price they pay for the choices they make.

This year's "Misty" has undergone some changes though. While former entertainers act as the play's director, choreographers, scriptwriters, costume and production designers as well as performers, this year's cast features mostly newcomers. Only one, Mary Joy Barcelona, may be considered a veteran. This year's performers are Henedina Francisco, Dorothy Ito, Mayalene Ebisu, Caroline Lansang, Eugene Oshima, Rosalie Akase, Rose Muroi, Corazon Garcia, Ma. Luz Nakajima, Rennie Reyes, Merly Kato, and Imelda Balayo.

DAWN clients given workshop on how to become entrepreneurs

TO HELP returning migrants reintegrate into Philippine society, DAWN recently conducted an Entrepreneurial Orientation for its clients. The activity opened with a discussion-workshop on the causes of migration and discussed as well its advantages and disadvantages to give participants an overview of the issue. The discussion also introduced the erstwhile entertainers to DAWN's Alternative Livelihood Program for former migrants.

DAWN currently has center-based projects for women, like sewing, tie-dyeing and hand-weaving, and community-based projects like slippers-making. The organization also supports micro-business initiatives, such as food vending. DAWN also facilitates skills training for women.

The orientation started with a discussion of the issue of migration. Poverty and the lack of economic opportunities in the Philippines were cited as dominant factors in the women's decision to work overseas. Other factors cited were: the desire for adventure; to discover and enjoy freedom; see and visit other places, and the desire to better one's living condition. The disadvantages however far outweighed the advantages mentioned. Some of the disadvantages cited were discrimination and the low regard of the Japanese towards Filipino women; feelings of loneliness and being homesick while away from the family; emotional distress; abandonment; lack of economic alternatives; worries about children left behind; the failure of cross-cultural marriages, and the loss of self-confidence or low self-esteem.

2 DAWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

(from page 12)

"Rights of Migrant Workers" in 1997; the launch of the First International Day of Solidarity with Migrants in Manila in 1997, and its subsequent celebration every December 18, and legislative lobbying and the signature campaign for the passage of relevant migration-related legislation such as Absentee Voting. The PMRW is also widely credited for spearheading civil society efforts to enact Republic Act 8042, or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995.

JFCs, MOTHERS ENJOY

(from page 2)

candy packs. Everybody then assembled for a Fellowship Circle and sang while passing around origami flowers.

Cloudy skies however prevented a longer stay at the open-air zoo and the children reluctantly agreed to call it a day. It was definitely an enjoyable activity, the children agreed, begging for a repeat in the near future. Their elders noted that the children were upbeat and did not seem to mind how other children strolled around with their families. They seemed to have finally realized that they have a family in DAWN and that they do not need the traditional concept of family to be happy.

DAWN JOINS RESEARCH

(from page 8)

political and economic conditions that create and maintain a stratified structure of migration, which puts trafficked sex workers at the bottom.

At this stage, DAWN is conducting individual interviews with women returnees to validate previous responses. A focus group discussion with about 30 former migrant women in Japan will be conducted from July 29 and 30 to enable the research group to look deeper into the issue using the women's actual experiences. To get the government's views and to look into its efforts in protecting women from trafficking, another focus group discussion has been scheduled on August 1.

2 DAWN Advisory Council members honored; Nuqui heads nat'l migrants body

TWO of DAWN's Advisory Council members recently received recognition for their involvement in social issues. Atty. Basil Fernando, executive director of the Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission was honored with the 2nd Kwangju Human Rights Award, while Aurora Javate De Dios was appointed chair of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women.

DAWN's executive director, Carmelita Nuqui, has meanwhile been re-elected president of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) during the organization's assembly held in May. The other officers are: Engr. Noel Josue, vice-president; Fr. Graziano Battistella, secretary, and Jeremaiah Opiniano, treasurer.

Born in Hendala, Sri Lanka on October 14, 1944, Fernando has been active in human rights and social action issues early on. He has been the Executive Director of the Asian Human Rights Commission and the Asian Legal Resource Center (ALRC) since 1994. He also authored several books on human rights-related issues and legal reform issues and has conducted numerous workshops and consultations on reconciliation issues.

The first Kwangju Human Rights Award was given to East Timor independence leader Xanana Gusmao last year. The

Basil Fernando

Award is given to persons or organizations that reflect the spirit of the May 18 Kwangju uprising and have the indomitable courage to stand against brutal violence. Awardees must also have the devotion to examine the truth and to push for sanctions against those responsible for the violence perpetrated against other human beings. They must endeavor as well for the promotion of political and socio-economic democracy.

DAWN salutes Atty. Basil Fernando for being the most prominent and passionate human rights activist in the Asian region.

Aurora Javate-De Dios, executive director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific and dean of Miriam College in Quezon City is a staunch and internationally-known feminist and activist. She now heads the NCRFW, a government agency attached to the Office of the President tasked to ensure the full integration of women in the country's economic, social and cultural development. The Commission also works at ensuring the equality between men and women.

Ms. De Dios previously served the Commission as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Committee on Violence Against Women in 1994-95. She also handles key positions in the government and various NGOs owing to her expertise on women's studies, gender and development planning, violence against women and human rights, the UN system and the CEDAW, Philippine-Japan relations, Third World studies and many other fields of endeavors.

Nuqui again heads PMRW, a loose but established coalition of nine people's and Church-based organizations, among them DAWN, KAIBIGAN ng OCWs, ICSI, AOS, COW, KAKAMMPI, Sentro ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Scalabrini Migration Center, and the ECMI of CBCP. The organization was formed in 1995 to campaign for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The PMRW successfully lobbied for the Convention's ratification by the Philippine government in the same year.

Some of the organization's major accomplishments to date are: the publication of primers, in English and Filipino, detailing the rights of Filipino migrant workers titled

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