



SINAG

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DAWN Celebrates 21st Year Anniversary

By Masako Ono

Last February 12, 2017, DAWN celebrated its 21st Anniversary with the theme: “Moving on for a Better Tomorrow” at the DAWN office at Ermita, Manila with the DAWN JFC, women and staff as well as students from Kansai and Kyoto Universities and Prof. Wako Asato.

The event formally started with an opening song, “Give Thanks,” followed by a Bible reading and Opening Prayer led by Shikainnah Glow D. Menoza, DAWN’s intern from Hiroshima University. DAWN Executive Director Carmelita G. Nuqui gave her welcome remarks that truly inspired the members on the mission that DAWN has imparted on them for the past years. A video clip prepared by Mary Joy E. Barcelona, Coordinator of Alternative Livelihood Program, was presented.

Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, Vice-President of the DAWN Board of Trustees, who came all the way from Tokyo, Japan, gave an inspirational message in line with this year’s theme. The DAWN-JFC members also paved the way to showcase their talents through various special numbers presented during the anniversary along with the



The DAWN family and friends from Kansai and Kyoto Universities during its 21st anniversary celebration on February 12, 2016 at the DAWN Office, Manila.

DAWN women. Prof. Wako Asato of the Kyoto University also gave his message and challenged the members of DAWN, especially the JFC, to pursue their dreams and aspirations in life. He also shared some societal and migration issues that are currently happening in Japan.

Moreover, Prof. Aurora Javate-de Dios, President of the DAWN Board of Trustees, also gave an inspirational message which gave hope and motivation to the DAWN family.

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DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui welcoming the DAWN members and friends.



(From left) Prof. Wako Asato, DAWN President Prof. Aurora de Dios and DAWN Vice-President Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi with their messages.

The DAWN Family Celebrates International Women’s Day

By Mirriam R. Orig



The DAWN family celebrating International Women’s Day

DAWN joined the celebration of National Women’s Day by conducting a workshop for women and children/youth on March 11, 2017. The game “Bring Me” set the tone of the activity followed by a group work.

The participants were grouped into two: women and children/youth to work on their ideas on the theme: “We Make Change Work for Women.” Some of the ideas that were shared by the women were: work for women, work for change, change for work and women changed while the children/youth focused on women for change, we change for women and women make change.

The facilitator confirmed the ideas shared by the participants by presenting the elements of the theme provided by the Philippines Commission on Women as follows:



DAWN Executive Director Mel Nuqui with her inspirational message

WE stands for Women’s Empowerment- empowering women enables to confidently and meaningfully engage with appropriate institutions to ensure that they contribute to and benefit from development and changes; We Change Work= MCW= Magna Carta of Women - this means putting in place functional mechanism as well as implementing and making known to citizens, programs and services that address strategic gender needs of women.

Carmelita G. Nuqui, DAWN Executive Director explained further the meaning of the theme through her message followed by the video presentation “A Salute to DAWN Women” prepared by Mary Joy Barcelona, Alternative Livelihood Program Coordinator.

Simple tokens were given to all the participants.



Women’s workshop



Youth’s workshop

“My Learnings at DAWN”

By Shikainnah Glow D. Menoza



Learning doesn't only happen within the four corners of the classroom. Most importantly, your teacher doesn't always need to be another person. Sometimes, the most suitable teacher that you need could be your own self. At least this is what I realized as my internship days had reached to its end.

My name is Shikainnah but my *titas* at the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) fondly called me 'Kai.' 'Tita' is a Filipino term that means 'aunt,' but we, Filipinos, have this culture of calling another woman 'tita' as a form of endearment despite the bloodless relation. It felt even more endearing when all the Japanese-Filipino Children (JFC) I met and interacted with during my internship called me 'Tita Kai.' You see, the month-long experience I have with DAWN, although brief, felt like home... like I am always with a family... and I am home.

My hometown is in Davao City, but I came to DAWN as a master's student of the Graduate School of International Development and Cooperation (IDEC) and as a scholar of TAOYAKA program to which I am currently affiliated with at Hiroshima University, Japan.

I first came to visit DAWN last August 24, 2016, to propose my plan of conducting an internship. I had several e-mail exchanges with Tita Mel, DAWN executive director, and have read few of her published articles before, but it was only then that I met her for the first time.

I could still remember the time when I was so nervous talking with her, worrying over the thought that she might not like me as her first impression. But I was all wrong. She welcomed me warmly inside her office and talked to me like we already met before. It gave me the approving sense that I can conduct my internship for the following year. True enough, I started my internship last January 16, 2017 until February 14, 2017, 30 days seemed to be fleeting.

Desk works such as finalizing of proposals and reviewing of DAWN published articles and video viewing had me nailed in my chair during my first week. I also had an orientation with Tita Joy, followed by meetings with Tita Mirriam and administrative meeting with Tita Mel. It felt like I was in a getting-to-know phase with the organization.

The first task that challenged me during my first week at DAWN was the time when visitors from the PEACE BOAT, a non-government organization partner of DAWN, visited the office unexpectedly. Tita Mel asked me to facilitate the orientation of Hiro and Yoriko, Peace Boat members, since Tita Joy and Tita Mirriam were busy with other activities with the children and mothers.

What made it challenging for me was that I wasn't prepared for their coming, let alone facilitating their orientation in straight Japanese. Despite long years of studying the language, I do not have the confidence of conveying perfect translation, most especially when it comes to business-related meetings. Nevertheless, I was glad to know that we were able to communicate enough and I was able to answer their questions regarding DAWN in my own simple way.

At times like this, I realized how important it is to be flexible with situations unprecedented at work. This is actually the time to show them that I am someone that they can rely on in situations like this. Most importantly, I am glad that Hiro and Yoriko visited the office to know better DAWN's advocacies and I'm sure enough they left the office with satisfied hearts.



Kai providing an orientation to Peace Boat members Yoriko and Hiro.

The following week was also full of new experiences. Tita Mirriam and I went for the school and home visits to a family member of DAWN. We went to observe the school of the JFC and visited him in his classroom. We were glad to see him in a cheerful attitude, though a bit shy at first, in the class.

(to be continued on page 4)

“My Learnings at DAWN” (cont’d)

Soon after, we visited their house which is a 7-minute tricycle ride from the school and there, the mother welcomed us warmly inside their home.

Despite the drizzling weather, we were grateful to visit their home and be able to know them more. Satisfied with the visits, we went back to the office as another pile of work awaits us.

Eager to obtain a better understanding of SIKHAY, an alternative livelihood program of DAWN, I asked my Titas if I can try the SIKHAY training- handloom weaving and sewing. With their approval, Tita Joy scheduled my training from February 1st to 4th through the help of Sikhay members namely: Tita Ana, Tita Jane, and Tita Gilda.



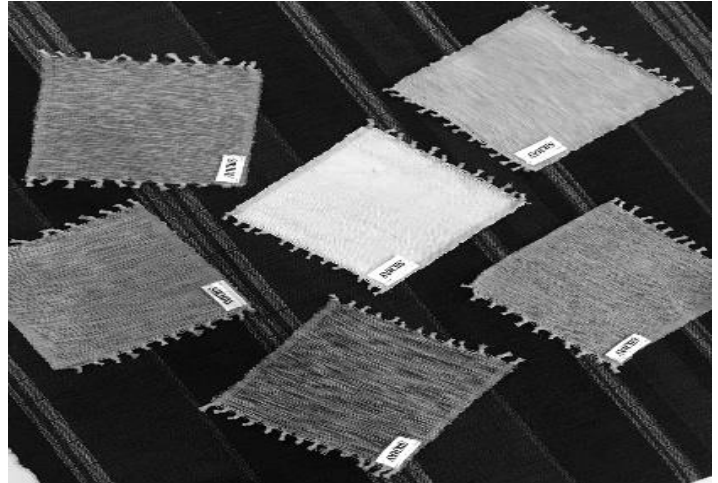
Kai doing the first step- warping threads for coasters.

What makes this activity different and unique from that of my usual activities is that all necessary parts for working are deliberately utilized for just a single job. Hands, legs, mind, and even the whole body at times were actively functioning. The whole process itself led to a very good physical and mental exercise. No wonder the staff keeps mentioning how therapeutic this can be. It revitalizes the body! And most importantly, I learned how to stay patient and determined in all aspects that I do- from learning the cross patterns of warping, the careful arrangement of threads in drawing, to the patiently positioning and inserting of threads to their rightful places, to carefully maintaining the equal sides of the fabrics during weaving, and up to the tassel-making and sewing for finishing.



Kai weaving coasters.

Being patient with the whole process took me a lot of determination. And with determination, I know I can achieve anything. As a result of my determination, I was able to make 6 pieces of coasters! In this way, I can help disseminate the advocacies of DAWN back in my university!



Kai's 6 pieces of coasters.

Another week had passed and I observed that my Titas had become busier and busier. DAWN's calendar of activities was packed of scheduled incoming visits of guests from here and abroad.

During my internship, I gladly assisted in the orientations of students and visitors from Kitakyushu University and Kyoto University on February 6th and 7th respectively. Not only did I assist, I was grateful that even in a short period of time, I was able to interact with them and even share few of my experiences at DAWN.

A week was added, and I have slowly grown myself a more experienced teacher in me. Through the experiences, it had propelled me to become a leader.

This was put into action when I was assigned to facilitate a group activity for the JFC as part of the cultural lessons for children on Saturdays. Of all Saturdays, this was the Saturday I could hardly wait.

I proposed to conduct the “My Kimono Art” class to the children, and paramount preparations were done prior to the activity. The primary objectives of the class are to encourage JFC to express their own thoughts through designing their own Kimono and to promote group efforts by compiling their individual works to come up with a piece of art.

Interestingly, children produced their own meanings and expressed their ability to construct their own representations of themselves. Terms such as ‘bravery,’ ‘smoldering fire,’ ‘shining’ and ‘rising,’ ‘bright characteristic,’ ‘inspired by a beautiful sunset scenery’ and much more were presented on the table to describe their works.

Their decisions of choosing one color to another, or mixing one with the other only proves the decisiveness of the children at such an early age.



Kai conducting "My Kimono Art" class with the JFC.

Little did I thought that a simple art class would result in a more meaningful output of sharing inner thoughts and feelings. Not only was I delighted with the great results from the children and the activity altogether, I was also privileged to know them a little bit more.

DAWN provides avenues such as this with an open heart to welcome the children and their mothers. Although their experiences and issues somehow vary from one another, they share the same hope of a great tomorrow for themselves and for their family, with or without the support of the Japanese fathers for the children and partners or spouses for the mothers. I am, for one, grateful for this opportunity as I learned many things from their experiences and it taught me the great lesson of acceptance and forgiveness. One more thing I considered myself blessed with opportunities since I joined DAWN was taking part in DAWN's 21st-anniversary celebration!

It was a good chance to observe one of the get-together activities of DAWN wherein everyone was touched by the opening message of Tita Mel that put many into tears, the inspiring messages of Professor Wako Asato of Kyoto University, Professor Aurora Javate-de Dios and Prof. Mitsuko Horiuchi, President and Vice-President of the DAWN Board of Trustees respectively, the joyous interaction between the children and students of Kyoto University, the active participation of the mothers during performances and games, the smiles of the JFC throughout the program and most importantly, witnessing an opportunity that provides the mothers and their JFC a place to bond together was more than anything I could ask for during my internship days.



The JFC with their Kimono Art

Thinking how precious that was to me as an intern, I realized how valuable this is to the mothers and their children. How much more to my Titas who worked hard to be able to give them activities like this? And how much more to Tita Mel who dedicated her life for DAWN? Seeing all these had completed my internship experience.

Indeed, learning doesn't only happen inside the classroom. Most of the times, learning valuable things happen the moment I step outside the four corners of my laboratory. True enough, I learned from the real-life situations, putting myself in nerve-racking business meetings and facilitating people with different cultures and backgrounds and adjusting myself in unprecedented situations is somehow challenging. As a result of this one-of-a-kind immersion, I have become the teacher of my own.

For the past days, I have taught myself the techniques on improving my communication skills, developing leadership skills while working with my superiors, and most importantly, I have become a strong person through various times of interacting with much stronger people whose experiences are different and alien to mine.

One month went by so fast. It felt like yesterday was the first time I visited DAWN at its new office and now, I am leaving for Hiroshima to present the output of my internship to my colleagues.

I am leaving with bountiful learning experiences I will cherish for the rest of my research years... I am now leaving... I am leaving but leaving with a grateful heart. Continue to empower more lives, DAWN!

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“Resonance: Celebrating Self-Empowered Women”

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona



The DAWN and LAV women during the photoshoot and interview on February 25, 2017.

The DAWN and the Lex Athenia Victoria Society of Women of Law (LAV) of the Ateneo de Manila University collaborated on the project with the theme “Resonance: Celebrating Self-Empowered Women.”

Ms. Farah Carillo Abu of the Farah Abu Accessories, facilitated a fashion design workshop with the women expressing themselves in making their own bag designs on February 6, 2017. Aside from letting them express their ideas, she also shared the basics of making good designs and crafting bags that will match the needs

of target groups. She also helped improve the designs of the bags by providing suggestions and tips. This workshop brought out the women’s creativity and innovativeness.

The eleven (11) members who joined the workshop are Gilda Mosatalla, Anna Lissa Junio, Mary Jane Kuraoka, Anna Liza Yambao, Fritzie Petisme, Pretzie Joguilon, Rachel Tubig, Luzviminda Antonio, Rosie Verano, Dolores Alnas, and Zenaida Cuna.



Ms. Farah giving a workshop on fashion design to the DAWN women on February 6, 2017 at the DAWN Office.



Ms. Farah giving inputs on the designs made by the women during the workshop.



“Anna bag,” the design selected by LAV members among those made by the DAWN women.

The DAWN women weaving the materials for the bags.

The output of the workshop was materialized in Sikhay. The women sew their own bag designs using hand-woven materials. Anna Liza Yambao’s bag (which was named Anna bag) was chosen among the designs of the DAWN women by LAV members. LAV then ordered a number of Anna bags from Sikhay.


On February 25, 2017, the LAV members had a photo shoot with the women with their bag creations and interviewed them on their successes and empowering stories as women, mothers and returned migrants.

Through this partnership, LAV made a social media campaign for the whole month

of March (women’s month) on the issue of women empowerment, OFWs, migration and self expression through fashion. On March 8, International Women’s Day, the LAV posted the articles about the women, DAWN’s work and women’s empowering stories and fashion.



The DAWN women making patterns, cutting and sewing their bags with their own designs.



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

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DAWN Celebrates (cont'd)



Mother-and-son tandem, Luz and Eien Antonio, performing a special dance number.

As part of the annual tradition in celebrating the anniversary of DAWN, a prayer of commitment and lighting of candle ceremony was held with the DAWN family and students from Kansai and Kyoto Universities. The Youth were represented by Masako Ono, the Women by Ana Lissa Junio and the Staff & Volunteers by Lance Velasco.

Afterwards, a thanksgiving song entitled, "One Little Candle" was sung and followed by a fellowship song, "I Can." The members of DAWN and the students from Japan joined the Community Dance "A Beautiful Sunday," led by Ana Lissa Junio.



DAWN women rendering a song to the audience.



Brothers Keigo and Paolo Mosatalla with a song number while the rest of the group sings along.

DAWN had its get-together lunch with its members and the students from Kansai and Kyoto University. There were also raffles and games during the celebration of the 21st anniversary of DAWN.



The DAWN family cheering at the anniversary

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