SINAG

Vol. 13 No. 4 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACTION FOR WOMEN NETWORK (DAWN) October-December 2008

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

(With reports from Mirriam Orig, Mary Joy Barcelona and Christina Lopez)

The last quarter of 2008 was a busy time for DAWN. Several activities were lined up that required the participation not just of the staff but also the women and children members.

The Social Services Program, which is the entry point of DAWN clients, conducted several activities, which included new members' orientation, anger management workshop, parenting and family dynamics workshop, and human rights workshop, among others (*See related story on page 6*).

The Alternative Livelihood Program, which is also in-charge of providing support to the newly formed DAWN Multi-Purpose cooperative, has also been busy with several activities. Aside from the training being provided to women in sewing and weaving, the program facilitated the many business opportunity seminars for the members of the cooperative.

The Research and Advocacy Program likewise has been busy. The forms from last year's national registration of JFCs were processed. With support from the National Women's Education Center (NWEC) of Japan, focus group discussions (FGDs) were held with JFCs and mothers of JFCs not just in Metro Manila but also in Cebu and Davao. The results of the FGDs were made into a report that has been shared during some of the discussions it had with its members, as well as in a forum held at NWEC this December.

DAWN has likewise been actively participating in activities of other organizations and networks.

In September, four of its JFC members, namely Anna Takei, Janus Layosa, Takeru Maganoy, and Kaezee Yokota, participated in a consultation workshop on 'Protecting Children from the Effects of Migration' that was organized by Asia Acts. The workshop is part of the preparations for the People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA), an alternative forum to the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development. Anna and Janus, together with DAWN Social Worker Thina Lopez joined the Children's Migration Caravan on October 31 that was held in Quezon City.

The women members of Teatro Akebono were invited by the UP Visayas' UGSAD Regional Gender and Resource Center in Iloilo in De-

(Continued on page 5)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pre-Consultation with JFCs and their Mothers	2
Children's Rights Camp	4
SSP Updates	6
Cosmetology Training at Splash Foundation	7
DAWN Christmas Party	9
People, Places, Events	10
ALP Corner	11
Alternative Initiatives to the 2nd GFMD	12

DAWN members with visitors from Tochigi, Japan

Pre-Consultation Workshop with JFCs and their Mothers

By Liza Garcia, with reports from Mirriam Orig and Christina Lopez

On December 13, 2008, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) conducted a pre-consultation workshop with JFCs and mothers of JFCs. This pre-consultation workshop is part of DAWN's participation in the project of the International Labor Organization (IOM) Tokyo on the 'JFC Multi-Sectoral Networking Project.'

Lately, there have been plenty of developments in Japan regarding the issue of nationality of JFCs. These developments include the Supreme Court decision of June 4, 2008 and the revision of the nationality law in December 2008. DAWN, together with other NGOs based in the Philippines such as the Batis Center for Women and Maligaya House, welcomes these developments. After almost three decades of fighting for the rights of JFCs, finally something concrete has happened. We are also glad that other organizations, including the IOM, have taken cognizance of the issue of the rights of JFCs.

DAWN's participation in the IOM project does not mean that it encourages the recruitment or the migration of JFCs and their mothers to Japan. But it recognizes that some JFCs and their mothers would want to migrate or return to Japan. It participated in the project to ensure that the rights and welfare of the JFCs who would want to work in Japan are recognized and respected. We would want to see the creation of a rights based mechanism to minimize abuse and exploitation.

15 JFCs, 9 mothers, and one guardian from DAWN, Batis Center for Women, Batis YOGHI, and Maligaya House came for the activity, as well as representative staff and volunteers from the different organizations.

The program started with a presentation of the objectives of the seminar, followed by an introduction of the participants. Thina Lopez of DAWN presented a brief overview of the organization. This was followed by a presentation by Liza Garcia of the Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Situations of JFCs and their Mothers. Liza presented before the participants the results of the survey which DAWN and the CJFCA conducted from February to March 2007 on the socio-demographic characteristics of JFCs and their Mothers in Metro Manila. She also shared partial findings of the 2007 nation-wide registration of JFCs conducted from August 1 to October 31, 2007. The presentation served as a guide for the participants for the first two workshops that followed.

Three main issues were taken up in the pre-consultation workshop: the situations and needs of JFCs and their mothers; the interventions which they think should be provided to them; and, whether to go or not to go to Japan should it be possible to do so.

For the first workshop, the participants were divided into 4 groups for workshop 1: 2 mothers and 2 JFCs. Workshop 1 was a discussion of the situation and needs of the JFCs and their mothers. The participants were asked what their situations are at the moment and to also look into the causes of their present situations. Each group was asked to present in plenary the results of their discussions by role playing.

The following were the situations identified by the two groups of mothers:

1. The Japanese father (JF) does not send financial support to his children in the Philippines. If he does, it is not even enough for the needs of the family.
2. The children need support for their education.
3. Sometimes, children are forced to take up courses in college which they do not really like because of financial constraints.
4. Some mothers have approached organizations in order to seek assistance for their children's needs
5. Lack of jobs and employment opportunities for women have pushed them to apply as entertainers in Japan.
6. The mothers have children with their Japanese partners and spouses.
7. Some women have regular work while others do not have work.
8. The mothers are concerned about their children's future. They want recognition for their children.

Among JFCs, the following situations were raised:

1. Issues about their identity as children.
2. JFCs want recognition.
3. The issue of nationality is a question for the JFCs. They want equality for all JFCs.
4. Some Japanese fathers have othe

families in Japan.

5. When the Japanese father stops sending financial support to his family and children in the Philippines, the studies of the JFCs are affected. Some have to transfer from private to public schools because they can no longer afford to pay the tuition fee.

6. When a mother goes into a relationship with another man, her children with her Japanese partner also suffer. There are instances when the JFCs and the new partner do not go along well, or the JFCs are not treated well.

Given the earlier discussions and the results of these discussions, the participants were asked what they think should be the action/s taken to address the issues identified. Who should address the identified issues? Current interventions, if there are any, should also be discussed. Are these interventions enough? What else are needed?

According to the mothers, the following actions are necessary or should be taken: (1) The mothers should explain to their children their situations; (2) NGOs and the mothers can help in the education of the JFCs; (3) Many mothers are experiencing financial difficulty; and, (4) It is good to have a livelihood as a back up.

Regarding the issue of nationality of their children, the mothers said that the children should be given equal treatment. JFCs should enjoy their rights whether the parents are married or not. They also stressed that there should be no age limit in giving nationality. Even if a JFC is over 20 years old, he/she should be allowed to choose nationality. The mothers also said that the Philippine government should support the law on nationality, and the Japanese government should give children their right to claim nationality. NGOs, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Embassy can also help.

One group of JFCs gave the following suggestions: (1) There is a need for unity and solidarity among JFCs in the Philippines; (2) The help from NGOs is important but JFCs should also help themselves; (3) Seek help from organizations; (4) JFCs should know each other and establish networking; (5) Need for mass action to make governments realize that JFCs are united in their causes

The second group of JFCs raised several questions and other concerns in relation to the discussion.

1.Will we have a good job if we decide to go to Japan?

2.Will we be not discriminated upon in Japan?

3.Why is it that not all JFCs can get nationality?

4.All JFCs should be able to claim their rights.

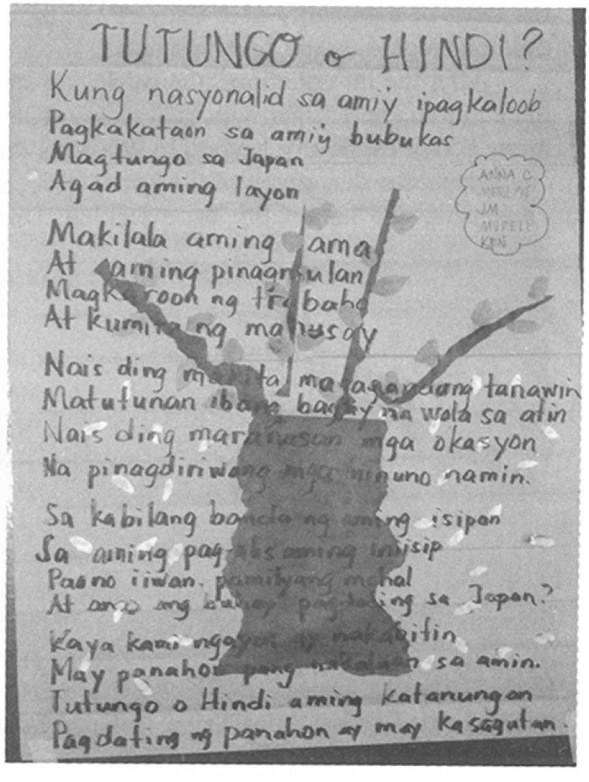
5.The Philippine government should present the cases of the JFCs to the Japan government.

After lunch, Liza Garcia made a presentation on the new developments in Japan regarding the nationality issue of JFCs. She cited the case of the 10 JFCs who filed a case in Japan and how the Supreme Court ruled on the issue. The issues and concerns raised in Japan regarding the passage of the new nationality law were also discussed, as well as the concerns of NGOs in the Philippines regarding the new developments. This was followed by a discussion by Mirriam Orig on the classification of cases of JFCs, as well as the documents they would present to the Japanese government should they wish to apply for nationality. The discussions were followed by an open forum, then the third workshop.

A third workshop was held. This time around, the groupings were changed. Mothers and JFCs have to work together. They were tasked to respond to the following questions: Given the chance to migrate or return to Japan, would you do so? Why? How will you prepare for this? Who do you expect to help you? What kind of assistance should you be provided? What do you expect to get out of this migration? If you decide to stay in the Philippines or should you be not 'qualified' to return or migrate to Japan, what are your plans? How can you improve your situation here in the Philippines?

For the plenary presentation, each group was asked to give a creative presentation. Three groups made a collage, while one group composed a poem. The presentations were a collective expression of the participants' wishes in relation to their situations. As to the question of whether they would like to go to Japan or not, majority of the JFCs indicated their desires to trace their Japanese roots, meet with their fathers and work in Japan. Two JFCs said they are satisfied with their lives in the Philippines and have no desires to become Japanese nationals. One group expressed their sentiments and the questions that still bother them. While there is that desire to go to Japan and embrace their Japaneseness, there are also lingering questions and apprehensions on what is in store for them should they decide to go and live in Japan.

The results of the pre-consultation workshop will be presented during a regional consultation being planned in February 2009.



Children's Rights Camp

Camp participants pose with the staff and proudly show their Certificates of Participation

A Children's Rights Camp was conducted by DAWN for its Japanese-Filipino children (JFC) clients from November 30 to December 1, 2008. The said camp, which was held at the La Roca de Trinidad resort in Los Banos, Laguna was attended by eighteen (18) JFCs aged 12 to 18 years old. This activity is part of DAWN's project with the ILO.

The objective of holding the camp was to provide a venue for the discussion of children's rights. This year's camp focused its discussions on the issues of identity and nationality of JFCs. Given the recent developments with regards to the issue of nationality of JFCs, DAWN thought it was but apt to talk to the children about these issues and hear their opinions regarding the developments.

After the introductions, the workshop started with a review of children's rights. It was worth noting that almost all the children are familiar with their rights. They shared that these are also being taught in school, while some said that the many activities they've had at DAWN have taught them what these rights are.

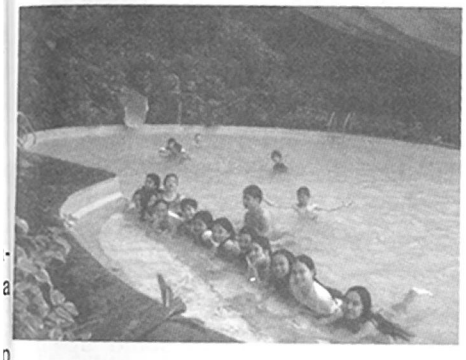
During the discussion of the issues of identity and nationality, the laws of the Philippines and Japan that define their citizenship and nationality were tackled. Updates on the issue of Japanese nationality for JFCs were also provided, which included the Supreme Court ruling on June 4, 2008 and the revised Nationality Law. There were many questions raised by the children, including the issue of dual citizenship. Clarifications on the difference between rights and responsibilities were also made.

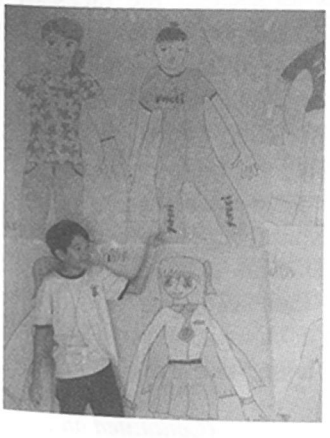
One of the questions asked of the children was whether they would want to become Japanese or Filipino, given the chance and opportunity. Many of the JFCs said that they would rather be both Japanese and Filipino. They said they are proud of their identities. Some said they would rather be Japanese given the many opportunities open in Japan, such as better education and prospects for work. There were also a few who said they would rather be Filipinos than Japanese. They said that they grew up in the Philippines and are used to life here. They all want to travel to Japan, though.

Of the 18 camp participants, three are holders of Japanese passports.

Aside from learning more about their rights, the camp was also venue for developing camaraderie and getting to know other JFCs. It also offered a venue for training young leaders. The children also enjoyed the swimming facilities of the resort after their workshop and discussions.

This year's campers are JM Miranda, Takeru Maganoy, Jenny Verano, Chieko Ise, Yorgei Cerezo, Aki Tano, siblings Shota and Hayato Ito, twins Aisa and Aika Kuroda, Ai Risa Akase, KC Andrade, Ayami Mitsuoka, Kenji Manguera, Janus Layosa, Anna Takei, Takeshi Ozawa, and Tadao Basanez.





(Continued from page 1, FOURTH...)

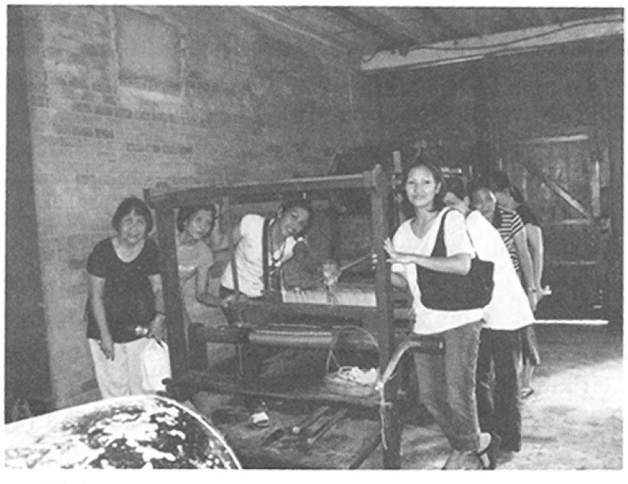
cember. On December 11, they performed the play 'Iba't-Ibang Muhka ni Misty' during the Multi-Sectoral Forum on Making CEDAW a Reality in Filipino Women's Lives through the Magna Carta for Women. In Iloilo City, they also had the chance to see the sights the city offers. They also visited a weaving project. The group also went to Antique to present their play on December 15.

Eighteen of DAWN's JFC members participated in the Children's Rights Camp that was held in Laguna from November 30 to December 1 (*See related story on page 4*).From December 2-6, fifteen women clients of DAWN underwent training in cosmetology at the Splash Foundation. This activity was facilitated by Ms. Dang Buenaventura of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (*See related story on page 7*). On December 13, a pre-consultation workshop with JFCs and their mothers were held at the Asian Social Institute (*See related story on pages 2-3*). On December 18, DAWN joined in the celebration of International Migrants' day. Its members and staff attended a forum organized by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch at the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) auditorium. The women members of Teatro Akebono also performed an excerpt of its musical play 'Misty' before the audience of the forum. Finally, on December 20, DAWN had its annual Christmas party that was attended by its members, staff, Board members, volunteers, and friends.

DAWN also welcomed several visitors in its office that included a delegation from Tochigi, Japan; representatives of ILO and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; students from the Bunkyo Gakuin University in Tokyo; Mr. Mark Taylor and colleagues from the US Department of State Office to Monitor Trafficking in Persons; a delegation from South Korea that came through Asian Bridges; and, the spouses of the Japan Embassy personnel. UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants Dr. Jorge Bustamante and UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery Gulnara Shaninian also visited DAWN's office in October.

(Continued from page 11, ALP...)

The MOA was signed by Professors Zandro Estella, Rebecca Palma, Corazon Mabagos, Herminia Manimtim, and Sr. Marietta Demelino for PUP, and Ms. Carmelita Nuqui and Analisa Carimpong, Chairperson of the cooperative, in behalf of the members of the DAWN Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Present to witness the signing were Dr. Juan Birion, Professors Alex Saclayan, Ricardo Romiscal, Al Fontanillas, Yreneo delas Armas, and Angelita Sumaway. Ms. Mary Joy Barcelona and Mary Jane Kuraoka, officers of the Multi-Purpose Cooperative were also there to witness the signing.



Visit to a weaving project in the province of Iloilo

SSP Updates

By Christina A. Lopez, RSW

Orientation for New Members

An orientation for DAWN's new members was held by the Social Services Program (SSP) staff on October 25 and November 5 for 9 women. Apart from the women who joined the orientation, one JFC also joined the briefing that included a discussion of DAWN's history, vision/mission, programs/services and other related matters.

Most of the new members reside in National Capital Region and nearby provinces like Cavite and Bulacan. They have the similar entry needs that included Japanese recognition and support. The women and children also were abandoned and neglected by their Japanese partners.

During the orientation seminar, Social Services Coordinator, Mirriam Orig discussed with the new members the importance of being active in DAWN activities. The activities are not just requirements. These can actually help them become good and responsible persons with new hopes and aspirations in life. Since most of them were abandoned and neglected by their partners, they were advised to attend the counseling sessions and other therapeutic workshops. They were also told about the other services of DAWN being offered such as Educational Assistance, Health Care Assistance, and temporary shelter, among others. The women and children will also be referred to the other programs of DAWN or to other institutions, as necessary.

Before the orientation was over, the new members were asked to sign an agreement with DAWN regarding their membership in the organization.

Group Dynamics Workshop and Joey Velasco's *Sa Hapag ng Pag-Asa*

Prof. Elmer Mores, whom we fondly call Tito Elmer, conducted a joint group dynamics workshop with the women and children members of DAWN on October 11. He showed a documentary film on Joey Velasco's painting called *Sa Hapag ng Pag-Asa* (A Table of Hope).

Joey Velasco is a simple businessman who has a talent in painting. His subject in all his paintings is Jesus Christ. He has drawn Jesus Christ together with poor and marginalized people like street children. *Sa Hapag ng Pag-asa*, the first painting he did, touched the hearts of many people. Through painting and by helping others, he continues his spiritual journey to find Jesus Christ in his life.

Velasco's works depict his childlike curiosity, experimental creativity, and strong desire in bringing meaning to people's lives. He considers his famous artwork as a legacy to his own children to remind them of the values of charity and compassion; that fullness of life is possible on earth through the sharing of our God-given gifts.

Sa Hapag ng Pag-Asa symbolizes the reality of our society. It is his version of Christ's Last Supper. But instead of the 12 apostles dining with Christ, there were 12 street children beside him with different stories to tell. The dinner table reveals a lot about starvation, manners, and relationships.

Every child at the table tells his/her own story of hunger. There was a nine year old lad whose plate was cleaned to the last crumb, but he listens still to feed his other hungers. He is a scavenger whose father is a drug addict while his mother is a club entertainer. Itok, also a scavenger, is his family's bread winner. At the age of eleven, he has gone a number of times in jail for petty theft. There is also Tinay, a five year old girl whose mother is working abroad as a domestic helper while her father is a drug addict. She is the only child in the painting who looks straight at the Savior. She is shown hugging a battered and dirty doll, but Tinay is more battered than the dirty doll because she was raped by her own father. Dodoy, an eight year old boy lives under the bridge. Joey was touched by the courage and cheerfulness of Dodoy's mother. They could not stand up in their little cubicle because the roof was too low. Jun and Rosel are poor children who are rich in faith. They are living in a shanty but their house is filled with love and understanding. Their greatest joy is their family.

The documentary film is a disturbing one, as it portrays a struggle between good and evil, wealth and poverty, greed and compassion, power and weakness as seen in the faces of the children. At a very young age, they were robbed of their innocence and security to grow as normal children. As DAWN members were watching the documentary film, their different facial expressions revealed their compassion for all the main characters.

The DAWN members were asked to share their thoughts and feelings about the documentary film. Many said they are blessed because of what they

(Continued on page 8)

COSMETOLOGY TRAINING AT SPLASH FOUNDATION

One of the objectives of DAWN's partnership project on the 'Psychosocial and Economic Reintegration Program for Women Victims of Trafficking' with the International Labor Organization (ILO) is to provide skills and entrepreneurial training for women. DAWN tapped ECOP, one of the project's partners, to assist in the provision of such training.

A meeting was set by DAWN with Ms. Dang Buenaventura of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) on October 17 to inquire into the possibility of tapping some of ECOP's members to provide training to DAWN's women clients. In particular, DAWN expressed interest in the Cosmetology training that Splash Foundation offers.

DAWN women graduates of Cosmetology from the Splash Foundation with (from L-R) Robert Larga, Mel Nuqui, Maurice Ligot, Jose Roland Moya, and the representative of the Liga ng mga Barangay of Valenzuela City

Less than a month after the meeting, DAWN signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Splash Foundation for the training of fifteen women. On November 13, DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui and Splash Foundation Trustee and Chief Operating Officer Maurice Ligot signed the MOA during the visit to the foundation's office. Witnesses to the signing of the MOA were Ms. Dang Buenaventura of ECOP and Ms. Ednalyn Gulane of ILO.

From December 2-6, fifteen (15) women clients of DAWN took part in a five-day training in Cosmetology, which is one of the courses in the "Ganda Mo, Hanapbuhay Ko" livelihood program of Splash Foundation.

The Cosmetology course is a five day comprehensive course where the participants are taught the basic techniques on hair cutting styles, hair coloring, hot oil, manicure/pedicure, permanent hair winding and foot spa. After the training, graduates are issued a certificate of completion. They are also provided with a starter kit as an incentive for them to become self-reliant through home service. The graduates are also required to take part in an outreach activity called "Libreng Gupit" as a sign of reciprocity for the free training they got.

The fifteen women who took part in the training are as follows: Dolly Alnas, Gertrudes Daza, Melody Urgel, Maylene Marquese, Jessica Gonzales, Jocelyn Ise, Jovielyn Harada, Analiza Yambao, Carina Crudo, Edita layosa, Rosalina Dagami, Mary Jane Someya, Marites Paulo, Juliet Bito-on, and Amalia Kuroda. They were all able to finish the five-day program and graduate on December 16, together with three other walk-in trainees. Some of the women received special citations during their graduation: Jocelyn Ise was best in pedicure; Maylene Marquese was best in foot spa; Mary Jane Someya was best in hair cutting; Gertrudes Daza was best in hot oil; Jessica Gonzales was best in manicure; and, Juliet Bito-on was best in hair perming. Maylene Marquese, Melody Urgel and Jovielyn Harada were also given awards for getting perfect scores in their written exam.

ILO National Project Officer Robert Larga and ECOP's Jose Roland Moya graced the graduation of the women and witnessed for themselves the newly acquired skills of the women.

The Splash Foundation was formed in 1997 by the Splash Corporation as part of its commitment to give back to the community and help the economically disadvantaged. An active member of ECOP, the Splash Foundation provides livelihood, health and educational programs, as well as community service and volunteer work as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR).

The MOA signing between DAWN and the Splash Foundation was witnessed by Ms. Dang Buenaventura of ECOP and Ms. Ednalyn Gulane of ILO

(Continued from page 7, SSP...)

have now. Despite all the hardships, they still eat meals thrice a day. Someone asked why our society allowed those children to go wayward and hungry? Sometimes, we see ourselves in one of those children. We may have material things, education, work and opportunity to provide ourselves, our children, and our family a better quality of life, but still we feel poor because many others around us are hungry and living in miserable conditions.

After the sharing, the group sang *Your Heart Today.* Everyone sang with tears in their eyes. They hugged each other when the song finished.

Children's Caravan

Four JFC members of DAWN, namely, Anna Takei, Janus Christian Layosa, Takeru Maganoy, and Kaezee Yokota, participated in the workshops conducted by Asia Acts, in preparation for the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development that was held in Manila in October. Together with other children participants from other organizations such as Batis Center for Women, Kakammpi, Migrante Kapamilya, and Atikha, the children participated in a Caravan last October 31, 2008 in Quezon City.

The objective of the said caravan was to create awareness and urge government in promoting and protecting the rights of the Filipino migrant workers. They also wanted to call public attention to the global plight of migrant children and children left behind by migrant parents.

The children who participated in the workshops and caravans are offsprings of migrant workers. Many of them were left behind by either or both of their parents in order to provide for their future. During the caravan, the children expressed their sentiments and asked that their parents be treated with respect.

Aside from the children, NGOs, and activists from the Philippines, Pakistan and Singapore were also there to support the said activity.

Kaezee, Takeru, Janus, and Anna show off the drawings they made for the Caravan

(Continued from page 12, ALTERNATIVE...)

CARAM members Manju Gurung from Nepal and Sheikh Rumana from Bangladesh were two of the migrant speakers.

The alternative activities were held to reject the GFMD process as a forum that is mostly focused on pushing migration as a tool for development. CARAM Asia Regional Coordinator Cynthia Gabriel said that "the GFMD is not a process which ensures compulsory policy change by governments," as it is no longer in the purview of the United Nations. She likewise assailed governments for talk about protecting and empowering migrants when at the same time they are "signing deals" to either "export" or "import cheap labor. They also rely on remittances as a financing tool for development.

"Remittances should not be used to help keep afloat mismanaged economies or to fund state development plans. Remittances are private funds of migrant workers," she added.

DAWN is a member of CARAM Asia.

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.

EDITORIAL TEAM
Prof. Corazon R. Arboleda
Carmelita G. Nuqui
Liza S. Garcia

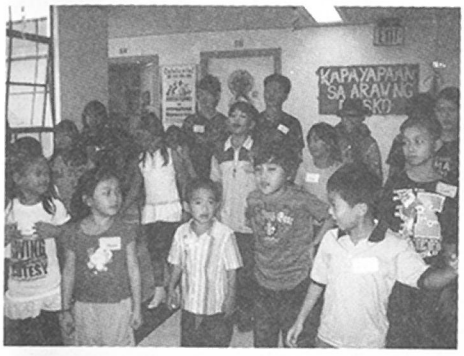
CONTRIBUTORS
Mary Joy E. Barcelona
Analisa M. Carimpong
Christina A. Lopez
Mirriam R. Orig
Ma. Cristina S. Tenorio

DAWN Christmas Party 2008

Tito Elmer Mores played the clown

"Santa Claus is coming to town," crooned Kenji

Gift-giving



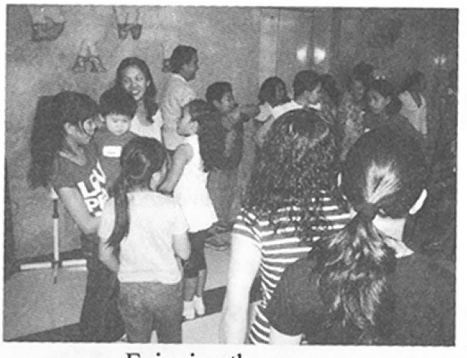
Another number from the JFCs

Christmas messages of peace and love were delivered by Rev. Ding Morada and Prof. Cora Arboleda

We played 'twisted'

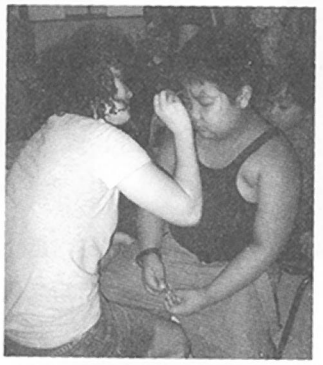
Tito Zandro Estella greeted everyone a Merry Christmas

The women members sang "Ang Gabi'y Payapa"



Enjoying the games

A special dance number from the Mitsuoka sisters

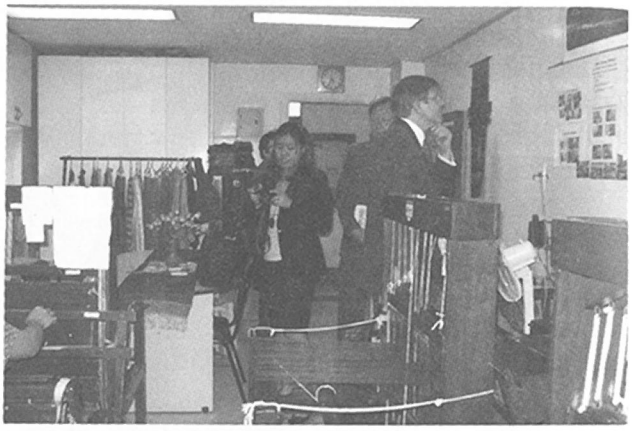


Face painting with Tita Sarah

Messages from Sarah and Trisha

People, Places, Events

DAWN Exec. Director and PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui receives the 2008 World Migration Report from IOM Director Charles Harnes during the celebration of International Migrants' Day



Mark Taylor and colleagues from the US Department of State Office to Monitor Trafficking in Persons visited DAWN on December 8

Visitors from Tochigi, Japan came to DAWN on November 24

Signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the DAWN Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the PUP College of Cooperatives on November 10

Tita Mel presents DAWN intern Fiona Seiger a farewell gift

MOA signing between DAWN and DOLE-NCR for the training of women in weaving and pattern-making

ALP CORNER

By Mary Joy Barcelona, with reports from Analisa M. Carimpong

Sikhay activities

Last November 7, 2008 Gifts and Graces held a partners' conference titled "A Forum on Community –based Livelihood Initiatives: Trends, Issues and Prospect for Fair Trade". Together with Juliet Bitoo-on and Analiza Yambao, I attended the whole day event which helped enlighten us on how we can, as a partners of Gifts and Graces and other organizations, be allowed access to Fair Trade in the Philippines and other parts of the world. The participants joined in the discussions and helped identify the issues that we need to address to work hand in hand with Gifts and Graces. As a symbol of our partnership, we had a "hand printing" that was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). To date, DAWN is still reviewing the MOA with Gifts and Graces.

On another note, DAWN is pursuing a collaborative project with Swimgreen for a fan- making project. The project aims to produce 150 pieces of fan made from vintage materials. These fans will then be brought to Sydney, Australia to be part of an exhibition that will focus on the fans, photography and advocacy in relation to alternative trade, social entrepreneurship, human rights, social art, and creativity. Rosalie Akase , Rose Verano, and Juanita Contreras are the women involved in the said project, which will run from December 3, 2008 to February 5, 2009.

Trisha Greentree, an Australian-Filipino, and Sarah Cunningham are the people behind Swimgreen.

Trisha also introduced us to Carlos Celdran and Nicole Dy. Both of them have shops that sell fine products. Carlos has a store in Intramuros while Nicole runs the Echo store in the Global City, Taguig. We showed them the products that the women of Sikhay make and they both appreciated the quality of the items. They both agreed to display and sell Sikhay products in their shops. Nicole suggested that we provide better packaging, especially for the hand-woven items.

Exposure trip for women

DAWN women members of Teatro Akebono were treated to an exposure trip in Iloilo by the members of UGSAD. They visited two livelihood projects. One was a weaving project being run by a family in Iloilo City who has been in that business for many years. The other was a project of the Association of Differently-Able Persons Multi-Purpose Cooperative, headed by Mr. Juvy B. Ministros. They manufacture wood products like chairs, tables, and other furniture pieces. The women also visited the Indag-An Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Miag-ao. It is a community cooperative that makes shawls, textile, bandanas, patadyong, placemats, curtains, and nets.

MOA signing with PUP College of Cooperatives

The DAWN Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the PUP College of Cooperatives signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on November 10, 2008 at the PUP Campus in Sta. Mesa.

Before the signing of the MOA, DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui did a short introduction about DAWN. It was followed by a powerpoint presentation by Prof. Zandro Estella which highlighted DAWN's mission and vision, its programs and activities for JFCs and their mothers, as well as the Extension Service Program of PUP which provides services and trainings to different organizations in the country. DAWN is one of the groups that PUP is helping.

(Continued on page 5)

SUBSCRIPTION

Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)
Rm. 514 Don Santiago Bldg.
1344 Taft Avenue, Ermita 1000
Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 526-9098
Fax No. (632) 526-9101
E-mail: dawnphil@i-next.net
Website: www.dawnphil.org

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

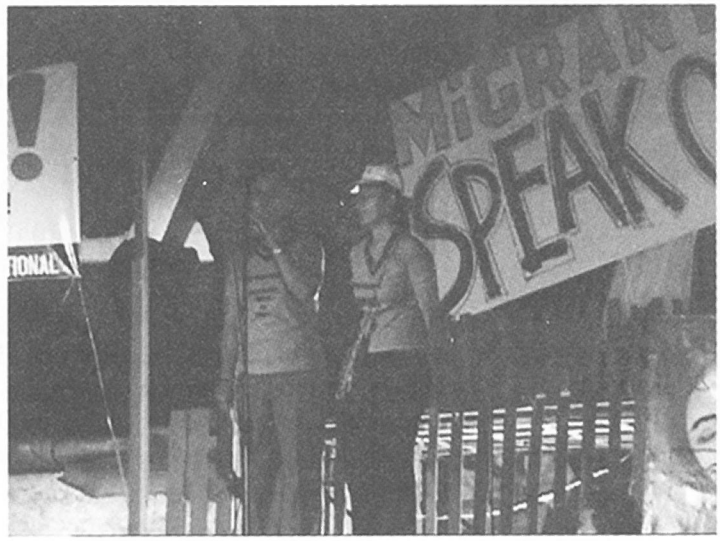
☐ P150 (one year, local) ☐ US$15 (one year, international)

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Tel. No. _____ Fax: _____

Alternative Initiatives to the 2nd GFMD

The 2nd Global Forum on Migration & Development (GFMD) was held in Manila from 29 to 30 October 2008. Several activities leading to the said Forum were held, including alternative civil society interventions at the GFMD. Some of these alternative interventions included the holding of the International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR), the People's Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights (PGA), as well as the Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteurs.



Manju Gurung of Nepal recited a poem during the Speak Out session. With her is Vivian Chong of CARAM Asia.

CARAM Asia, a network of 29 civil society organizations covering 17 countries in Asia and the Middle East, together with the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), organized a two-day consultation with UN Special Rapporteurs on October 24-25, 2008. The three networks jointly organized the consultation to develop more effective collaboration in highlighting the plight of migrant workers around the world and to develop protection mechanisms for them within the mandate of the UNSRs, as well as to discuss effective ways of utilizing the UN mechanisms. Dr. Jorge Bustamante, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and Ms. Gulnara Shaninian, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery including its Causes and Consequences, came to the consultation for a dialogue and listened to the representatives of several international civil society organizations (CSOs) from Asiã and the Pacific, Europe, South America, and the Middle East. The consultation especially focused on the issue of protection of migrant domestic workers and all women migrants, both documented and undocumented.

CARAM was also part of the holding of the International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR). IAMR activities that included the holding of seminars, a speak out session, and a rally, were held from October 28-30. The Speak Out session was held at the Bonifacio Shrine in Manila where migrant workers and members of their families from all over the world let their voices be heard regarding the true situations of migrants.

(Continued on page 8)

Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)
Room 514 Don Santiago Bldg.
1344 Taft Avenue, Ermita 1000
Manila, PHILIPPINES
Tel. No. (632) 526-9098 Fax (632) 526-9101
E-mail: dawnphil@i-next.net
Website: www.dawnphil.org

ENTERED AS THIRD CLASS MAIL
At the Manila Central Post Office
Under Permit No. 1041-97
Valid until December 31, 2008
Subject for postal inspection