



## VITAL VOICES

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

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January 30, 2006

Dear Development Action for Women Network (DAWN):

Congratulations on your Tenth Anniversary! Vital Voices Global Partnership is proud to be working with your organization, in particular the Executive Director DAWN and President of the Philippines Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW), Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, in the fight against human trafficking between the Philippines and Japan.

The trafficking of human beings is one of the grossest violations of human rights. It poses a threat to all countries because it is a very serious transnational organized crime, one that has serious national security and economic implications for countries. This flourishing criminal industry using deceptive offers and coercion is generating billions of dollars by engaging in modern day slavery. No country is immune from this problem and no country can eradicate trafficking by itself.

Beyond this threat, human trafficking is also fueling a growing health crisis with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The sexual exploitation of women and children results in the transmission of this deadly virus among both the victims and perpetrators.

In the past two years, Vital Voices has been working closely with DAWN to advocate for policy and legislative changes in Japan. We have been particularly concerned about the plight of Filipino women and children who are trafficked into Japan due to the widely exploited entertainer visa system. Thanks to DAWN's efforts, however, we are now witnessing concrete anti-trafficking actions taken by both the Japanese and Filipino governments. The criminalization of human trafficking and the improved entertainer visa screening process are both results of relentless efforts from the NGOs and individuals in Japan and the Philippines over the past few years. While we applaud and welcome these developments, we look forward to more anti-trafficking progress in both countries with more protection to victims, increasing prosecutions of traffickers, and better prevention strategies that address the root causes of trafficking.

Ms. Nuqui has been Vital Voices' Global Advisor since 2005. We look forward to closer collaboration with her and her organization, DAWN, to raise their vital voices in the world.

Congratulations again and please keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Vital Voices Global Partnership