



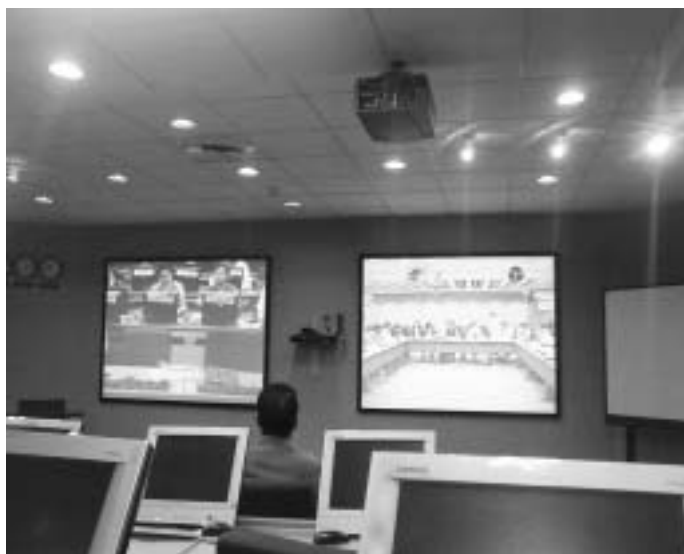
## PROTECTING FILIPINA TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN JAPAN

There is a need for collaboration between and among government agencies and the NGOs in order to combat trafficking in persons. This was one of the major conclusions reached during the international video conference held on June 22, 2006 on the topic "Protecting Filipina Trafficking Victims" that was sponsored by the Asia Foundation.

The video conference was participated in by representatives from government and non-government organizations from both the Philippines and Japan. Philippine Labor Attache to Japan Mr. Reydeluz Conferido attended in Tokyo, as well as Mr. Frank Ocampos of Family Center "Vilola" and Ms. Virgie Ishihara of the Filipino Migrants Center in Nagoya, two Philippine NGOs based in Japan.

Ms. Estrella Roman of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Atty. Robert Larga of the Inter Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) Secretariat were the speakers for the Philippine side, while Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto of Hurights Osaka and Ms. Chieko Tatsumi of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spoke for the Japan side.

Ms. Estrella Roman reported on internal and international trafficking of Filipinos. While she was unable to cite the number of trafficked Filipinos, she said that it is estimated that many of the reported 225,000 trafficked women and children



*Video conference on trafficking between the Philippines and Japan*

in Southeast Asia are Filipinos. She highlighted in her report the initiatives of the DFA in anti-trafficking, as well as the importance of collective efforts in fighting this scourge.

Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto of Hurights Osaka reported that there were 115 cases of women and children victims of trafficking in Japan in 2005. Of the 115, 47 or 41% are Filipinos and most of them were working as entertainers. Mr. Fujimoto raised several issues with regards to the trafficking of Filipino women in Japan. These include the repatriation of these victims and their status now. He wanted to find out if the repatriated women have received rehabilitation services and if cases have been filed against the perpetrators of the crime. He also cited the international support of Japan to the Philippines on the issue of trafficking. He specified the

US\$240,000 fund to the DSWD released through the UNDOC, and the US\$2 million that was approved in March 2006 through the ILO. Mr. Fujimoto also raised his concerns about the overlapping and duplication of programs for victim rehabilitation. He also raised the issue of a standard to identify victims of trafficking, since there always seem to be a discrepancy in the figures. Other issues raised by Mr. Fujimoto included the tightening of restrictions on entertainer visas and the recovery of the rights of illegal migrants and those working on entertainer visas. He also reported on the increase in the number of Filipino spouses.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

### What's Inside?

- 2 Editorial
- 4 2006 Teatro Akebono Summer Workshop
- 6 DAWN Family Day and Sports Fest
- 9 People, Places & Events
- 11 Sikhay Corner
- 12 Forum on Media and Migration

## EDITORIAL

# NOT YET OFF THE HOOK

The Philippine government was jubilant over the fact that the country was taken off the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the U.S. State Department. Malacanang said it just shows that the government is "serious about combating human trafficking."

Among the reasons cited for the country's removal in the watch list are the government's initial progress in prosecuting human traffickers, and the sharp drop in the number of Japanese entertainer visas given to Philippine women.

But same report also said that the country remains a "source, transit, and destination country for men and women and children trafficked for purposes of human exploitation and forced labor."

A year ago, the Trafficking in Persons report recommended the prosecution and conviction of traffickers. The country heeded the recommendation. Last year, seven (7) convictions were handed out for offenses in violation of Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking law.

There were 114 cases received by the Department of Justice in 2005, higher than the 12 cases received in 2003 and 60 received in 2004. We can only surmise that this is a result of the intensified campaign against trafficking in persons by various government and non-government organizations. However, this is only half the battle. The filing of a case does not mean victory yet for the victim unless the perpetrator is convicted and jailed.

The number of women entertainers going to Japan was drastically cut in half. From 70,000 women entertainers who went to Japan in 2004, this number was reduced to 38,700 at the end of 2005. The reduction was a result of the new immigration policy of Japan which took effect on March 15, 2005. Maybe the Philippine government should thank the Japanese government for implementing the new policy. Because it became difficult for Filipino women to enter Japan as entertainers, fewer women were able to secure entertainer visas. Remember when it was implemented in 2005? The Philippine government even asked for a moratorium on its implementation and


recruitment agencies were also lobbying for a return to the old system.

Special recognition should be given for the efforts of non-government organizations, who have relentlessly worked hard for the passage of the bill into law, for its proper implementation, for the support to trafficked victims. Local NGOs have provided support in terms of counseling services, legal and para-legal assistance, temporary shelter, and re-integration programs to victims and survivors of trafficking.

While the country has been stricken off from the watch list, this should not be a cause for complacency. The Philippines is not yet off the hook. We still have a long battle ahead of us in the fight against trafficking, both within and outside the Philippine borders. There is still a lot to be done in terms of prevention, protection and prosecution.

Filipinos are still being trafficked, both within and outside the Philippine borders. Trafficking within the Philippines exists mostly from rural to urban areas. Most victims are women and children. While we do not have an accurate figure as to the actual number of trafficking cases, it is said that at least 50 women and children from the provinces fall victim to human trafficking every day, lured by promises of high paying jobs in the cities and abroad.

Trafficking in human beings is not confined to the sex industry. Children are trafficked to work in sweatshops as bonded labor and men work illegally in the 3-D jobs – dirty, difficult and dangerous. Every year, Filipinos, mostly women and children are brought abroad under false pretenses and are forced to work as prostitutes, abused laborers or servants. And lest we forget, the sale of organs, which is quite rampant in some slums within Metro Manila, is also a form of trafficking.

Trafficking in human beings is everybody's concern. We cannot remain impervious to the issue. We cannot turn a blind eye to the plight of the victims. Trafficking in persons is not just a concern of governments, local and international organizations, NGOs, civil society groups, victims and survivors of trafficking. Every one of us is a stakeholder. 

*(PROTECTING ... from p. 1)*

Atty. Larga of the IACAT Secretariat reported on the efforts and measures taken in the Philippines to combat trafficking in persons. He also gave an update on the implementation of the anti-trafficking law in the country. He reported that from 2003-2005, there was a total of 224 victims repatriated and/or assisted by the Department of Foreign Affairs, 8 of whom were from Japan. This drew various reactions from the participants in the video conference because of the discrepancy in figures reported in the Philippines and in Japan.

For her part, Ms. Chieko Tatsumi discussed the recent actions of Japan to combat trafficking in persons. She raised her concerns that working as an entertainer puts the women into a lot of risk. She said that they can be exploited and they are working under terrible labor conditions. She also said that while they are restricting the entry of entertainers in Japan, they welcome the entry of real entertainers.

The period allotted for the discussion on each side proved to be very informative and challenging. On the Philippine side alone, several questions were asked and various issues were raised.



*Philippine participants in the video conference*

Ms. Katherine Clarin of Batis Center clarified the number of Filipino women from Japan who were repatriated through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She said that IOM has repatriated 37 Filipina victims of trafficking from Japan and that they are all in the care of their organization. The sad thing though, according to Kathy, is that many of these women would still want to go back to Japan and work there. Although interventions are being provided to them, including skills training at the TESDA, she said that the women victims see this as only temporary and they plan to go back to Japan or some other country, saying that this time around, they would be wiser.

Prosecutor Gana of the Department of Justice (DOJ) said that they do cooperate with IOM. He said that many repatriated victims are now with their families and do not wish to pursue the filing of cases. However, it seemed from the discussion that the DOJ is not aware of the repatriations through the IOM.

It is sad that government agencies can't even get their acts together. The DFA, DOJ, and DSWD are all part of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, created under RA 9208, and yet when asked about figures of trafficking victims from Japan, they present different figures. The number reported by government is much lower than the number reported by the NGO. Government claims that the figure they reported is just the number of those assisted by the DFA.

Ms. Carmelita Nuqui of DAWN raised her concerns about the increase in the number of Filipino women marrying Japanese

men after the implementation of the immigration policy. Citing concrete examples, she also noted the possible use of the tourist and student visas as a means to go to Japan in order to work as an entertainer.

Ms. Nuqui also brought up the issue of Japanese-Filipino children, including their recognition.


Philippine Labor Attache to Japan Reydeluz Conferido said that he had gone around the clubs, and based on his observation, about 80% of the Filipino women working as entertainers in clubs and pubs are married. He also said that they are doing hostessing jobs in these establishments.

It was suggested that the IACAT from time to time invite other NGOs and civil society organizations who are also working on the issue of trafficking. This will provide them with other updates and inputs on efforts to combat trafficking.

Other suggestions from the participants included a sharing of information, not just among the police and government agencies of both countries, but also a sharing of studies and findings. The demand issue has to be addressed, too. Collaboration between and among various stakeholders was identified as important, on both sides.

A lot of efforts and measures are being undertaken in Japan, in the Philippines, and in many other countries in the fight against trafficking in persons, but admittedly, there is still, and there remains a lot more to be done.

Other participants from Japan included Mr. Hideaki Adachi of the Cabinet Secretariat, Mr. Takashi Maruoka of the Immigration Bureau, Mr. Hiroyuki Oda of the National Police Agency, Ms. Keiko Otsu of the Gender Equality Bureau of Cabinet Office, and Atty. Yoko Yoshida of the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons (JNATIP).

Moderators of the video conference were Ms. Maribel Buenaobra of the Asia Foundation in Manila and Ms. Keiko Tamai of the Asia Foundation in Tokyo. 

# 2006 TEATRO AKEBONO SUMMER WORKSHOP

The much-awaited Teatro Akebono summer workshop finally ended on May 19. Sixteen children successfully finished the workshop, which focused on basic movements and choreography, and voice and music.

Like past workshops, the participants were a mix of small and big Japanese-Filipino children (JFC). The youngest participant this year is Nicole Alexandra Andrade, who just turned 7 years old in February. The oldest participants are Ai Risa Akase, Aya Ozawa, and Jefferson Contreras, all 16 years old.

Like past workshops, the participants were also a mix of first-timers and old-timers. Almost half of the participants were new to theater workshop. They were therefore very excited and eager to learn and participate in the activities.

Unlike past workshops, however, this one lasted only for ten days. It began on May 8 and ended on May 19. St. Scholastica's College hosted the venue of the workshop.

Mr. Ernesto Cloma, Curriculum Development Director of PETA and a member of the board of DAWN, was the over-all facilitator of the workshop. He was joined by fellow PETA artists Upeng Galvez-Fernandez, Vernie Severo, and Bernah Bernardo. Tita



Upeng was the facilitator for music and voice, and Tita Vernie taught the children body movements and dance. Tita Bernah was in charge of the rehearsals.

Tito Ernie, as Mr. Cloma is fondly called by everyone, stimulated the interest of the children through various exercises, games and story-telling. Every day, there was a dose of something new and interesting to look forward to and to learn. Even the younger of the participants enjoyed the activities and actively participated in them.

Aside from sessions in music and dance, a one-day session was devoted to poster-drawing and lantern-making. In the morning, Tito Ernie asked the participants to group themselves into two's. Each small JFC was partnered with an older JFC. The task given each group was for the small JFC to lie on top of a big drawing paper and the older JFC will have to trace his/her outline. Afterwards, both members of the group

will draw the model and color the picture. In the afternoon, Tito Ernie taught the children how to make lanterns from colored boards and cellophane. The lanterns and posters made by the children were later used as props during the workshop presentation.

On May 10, two artists from the Lao Democratic Republic dropped by to meet the JFC workshop participants. A fun

and active interaction was had with them. They introduced themselves and the country where they come from. The children asked them several questions about their country. The visitors brought a sample of Lao costume and JFC Aya Ozawa modeled it for the group. They also taught the children basic Lao dance and movements.

Aside from learning about music, movements, and theater, the JFC workshop participants were trained how to be responsible children. They were assigned cleaning duties and nobody complained. The older children were also tasked to help look after the young children, especially while commuting to and from the workshop venue.

All the JFC participants expressed satisfaction at the workshop. They said they enjoyed the activities. They also said they learned a lot and were able to make new friends. They thanked

*(Continued on p. 8)*

*The graduates of the 2006 Teatro Akebono summer workshop, organized by DAWN and conducted by PETA facilitators-artists*



# DAWN Family Day and Sports Fest

Every year, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) holds a family day, as a way for all DAWN members, staff, volunteers and friends to gather and meet. This year, we planned to hold our annual Family Day on May 13. This date was chosen because May 14 is Mother's Day, and we wanted to greet the women members of DAWN on this special occasion.

Things, however, did not work out as planned. Even if we had already prepared for a program and all the other things we needed for May 13, the weather did not cooperate with us. We had to postpone the holding of our Family Day because of the typhoon.

Family Day was thus held the following Saturday, May 20, simultaneous with the holding of the DAWN Sports Festival. This time around, we had a fine weather.

In the morning, 49 women and JFC members, staff, as well as DAWN Board member Pearl Domingo-Flores and Japanese volunteer Agnes Mineko Hara, trooped to the Dakota Sports Complex for the first ever DAWN sports festival. Sikhay Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona and Social Services Coordinator Macoy Gomonan coordinated the games.



*Tita Pearl and Hara-sensei take a rest under the tall kapok tree*

Susan Adachi was referee for the volleyball and badminton games.

The women and children members were divided into four groups, each group representing teams D, A, W, and N. Badminton and volleyball were participated in by the older JFC and the women. The children took part in the relay race, where they had to hurdle various obstacles. Everyone, young and old, big and small, participated in the sack race and the tug-of-war.

There were winners and losers but nobody paid much attention as to who won or did not win. Everyone had a fun time and enjoyed the activities.

After the games in the morning, the group moved to the Manila Zoo, which is just across the Dakota Sports Complex. It was there where we all partook of our lunch.

After lunch, we had a short program. Aya Ozawa and Tsuyoshi Imai were the hosts of this program. The women members rendered a song number. Not to be outdone, the children also did a song number, after which they gave their mothers a token gift, in commemoration of Mother's Day. Awards were also given to all the teams who participated in the sports fest. A small

gift pack was also handed out to each one.

Then, it was time to go around the zoo and see the animals. There were monkeys, an elephant, a zebra, a tiger, different kinds of snakes, an orangutan, horses, ostrich, a hippopotamus, deer, goats, sheep, llama, birds, and other kinds of animals in the zoo. The children were also allowed to touch and pet an iguana. Some children also took a boat ride in the lake.

The gathering was also a time to meet other members of DAWN and bond



with all the others. It was a time to catch up with the latest on each one.

It was a really fun day. Though it was a long day and everyone was tired towards the afternoon, still everyone had a nice time.

We wish to thank Mayor Lito Atienza, Vice-Mayor Danny Lacuna, Mr. Ali Atienza, Dr. Romulo Bernardo, and the City government of Manila for the support to our activity.

*Following is an account of JFC Tsuyoshi Imai of the DAWN Family Day and Sports Fest*

## FUN TIME WITH MY DAWN FAMILY

*By Tsuyoshi Imai*

Family Day is such a fun occasion, especially when you are with the DAWN family!

Every year, DAWN celebrates Family Day in a very unique way. This year, we celebrated it at the Manila Zoo.

In the morning, from the DAWN office, we proceeded to the Dakota Sports Complex. There, we had our first activity for the day – the sports festival.

The sports fest is something of an experience for me. Being a conscientious student, I rarely have time to play games because I spend most of my time in school reading, studying, and writing news items for our school paper. Thus, the sports fest was something I really enjoyed.

We started the sports fest by dividing ourselves into four groups – the red, green, white, and blue teams. Each team had mothers and children as members. Each team will have to participate in the different games lined up for the day. These games included volleyball, badminton, relay race, sack race, and tug-of-war. The team with the most number of wins will emerge as the overall champion and will be given an award.



*Mako, Tsuyoshi and Yorgei petting the iguana*

I was part of the green team and I participated in the volleyball and sack race.

All morning, all we did was to play and have fun. The women and children members of DAWN all actively participated in the games. In the end, the Green Team had the most number of wins. Hurray! Our team won!

Noon time came and we had to leave for the zoo, which is just across the street. We will have our lunch inside the zoo. We need to feed ourselves after the very tiring and energetic activity we had in order to prepare for the next activities lined up for us.

We chose a quiet, shady spot inside the zoo and that was where we had our lunch. After lunch, it was time to start our program. I was chosen to be one of the emcees of the program together with Aya Ozawa.

During the program, the mothers and children both rendered song numbers.



*Boat ride around the lake*

Prizes were also awarded for participation in the morning activity. Everyone got something for himself or herself. Tita Pearl Flores and Ms. Hara awarded the prizes. After the awarding, we were given time to explore the sights of the Manila Zoo.

We saw different kinds of animals in the zoo such as the lion, hippos, zebras, ostriches, iguanas, and many more. We also saw different kinds of birds, and of course, the lovable monkeys. We also took a boat ride. There were five of us in the boat – Mako, Jenny, Yorgei, Nicole and myself. I had to row the boat, together with Mako. At first, it was difficult to maneuver the boat but eventually, we got the hang of it and really enjoyed the ride around the lake.

After exploring the zoo, we went back to our place and rested for a while. Then Tita Pearl gave the closing remarks and that ended our program.

During the Family Day, I did not expect to see my old friend, Noriel Sato. I have not seen him for three years. But there he was, and we had a lot of catching up to do. We both have grown in the last three years.

Those who joined the Family Day really had a good time.

Kinako Fujiwara, a fellow JFC, said she enjoyed going to the zoo. She has not been there for years. Also it was a fun time for her because she was with friends.

Tita Mary Joy Barcelona also said that she enjoyed the activities. Although she almost lost her voice in the morning because she had to shout the instructions, she had fun. "I am pleased because everyone actively participated in the games. I have seen that everyone, young and old, were enjoying themselves," she said.

I look forward to the next Family Day we will have in 2007. I hope it will be another fun-filled activity to be participated in by more members. 📷

(2006 *TEATRO* ... continued from p. 5)

DAWN and the PETA facilitators for the workshop.

"We learned a lot from the workshop," said Kinako Fujiwara.

Yorgei Cerezo, who also participated in last year's workshop, said that he learned how to focus. "I think I am better now. I learned how to sing and dance," he added.

For most first timers, it was an enjoyable experience. However, some expressed that they felt nervous prior to the presentation.

May 19 was the last workshop day. It is also the day when the children had to present before an audience all that they have learned during the workshop. The presentation was held at the Battig Hall of the St. Scholastica's College. The script used during the presentation was almost similar to the one used during the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary presentation, with a few alterations. This time around though, the children had to take on the roles that were played by the mothers.

Kinako Fujiwara and Takeshi Ozawa also acted as emcees, aside from participating in the presentation. Each child participant sang, danced and acted. Roanne Samala sang "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" while Nicole, Masami, Kay Celine, Jennifer, Ai Risa, Kana, and Naomi did the interpretative dance. Ai Risa also had a song number in between short skits. All the children

also modeled the various products of Sikhay, DAWN's alternative livelihood program.

After the presentation, Tito Ernie and Ms. Liza Garcia, the DAWN officer in charge of the JFC workshop, awarded Certificates of Participation to each JFC. After receiving the certificate, each one was asked by Tito Ernie to say something about the workshop.

Ai Risa Akase said that in the 2-week workshop, she developed skills. "I enjoyed the workshop that was conducted by the PETA artists-facilitators. We did a lot of activities".

Kay Celine Andrade said she enjoyed the workshop and she met a lot of new JFC. Her sister Nicole, who is seven years old, also said that she enjoyed the workshop. Their mother, Gina, is a member of Sikhay.

Aya Ozawa thanked DAWN and the PETA facilitators for the workshop. She especially thanked the facilitators for being patient with her and the other children.

"I learned a lot from the workshop," quipped Roanne Samala, 8 years old.

Harris Matthew Taka, a first time workshop participant thanked DAWN and the facilitators for the free workshop. This elicited laughter from the audience.

Masami Cabugao, Jefferson Contreras, Nico Cousart, Takeshi Ozawa, JM

Miranda, Kana and Naomi Nakaya likewise thanked DAWN and the PETA artists-facilitators for the workshop. They all expressed appreciation for helping enhance their talents.

The parents of the workshop participants were also asked to comment on the presentation they had witnessed.

Gina Ozawa, whose two children participated in the workshop, said that the children were all good. She thought it was a good presentation.

Nita Contreras, the grandmother of JFC Jefferson Contreras said they enjoyed watching the presentation.

"I was surprised by the presentation," said Rose Verano, Jennifer's mother. "They acted out the parts that we adults performed during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The two-week workshop was worth it. I felt like crying when the children were performing."

The summer theater workshop is also in preparation for the Japan theater tour that is scheduled this October. Eight (8) JFC will be chosen to take part in the said tour. 📷



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# People, Places and Events



*Mr. Shinichi Kakui and Ms. Chieko Tatsumi of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*



*Mr. Tim Cipullo and Ms. Noemi Icaro of the U.S. Embassy*



*Members of the Peace Boat and Korea Green Foundation*



*Ms. Nuqui with KAFIN members and JFC during the launching of the KAFIN Yokohama Chapter in April 2006*



*Outgoing Japan Embassy Labor Attache Tomoaki Noguchi with incoming Labor Attache Shinichi Kakui*



*DAWN staff and JFC members with Nanako Hirai, Michiyo Yoneno-Reyes, Emi Fukuda and Ms. Agnes Mineko Hara*



*Mr. David Da Silva of the Canadian Embassy*



*Ms. Nicole Schenda of the German Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer*

## Sikhay Corner

# T'was A Busy Summer

By Mary Joy E. Barcelona

We recognize that many of our women members have little or no means to provide for the needs of their children. We also recognize the need of women to improve themselves by learning new skills and crafts. Thus, when necessary, DAWN, through the Sikhay alternative livelihood program, conducts special training programs for some of its members.

This summer Sikhay facilitated an in-house training on industrial machines operation and basic sewing for two of its women members. This was a one-week training conducted by the Sikhay Coordinator.

Jinuella Nakaya is one of the two women who attended the training. Her children, Naomi and Kana attended the JFC theater workshop last summer. While waiting for her children to finish their workshop, she made good use of her time by learning something herself.

"It feels good whenever you learn new things, especially for us mothers who stay in the house looking after our children. By learning a new skill, I have a better chance of earning extra income for me and my children. I am grateful to DAWN for such an opportunity," said Jinuella.

Jinuella is interested in learning how to make slippers. This is something she can do at home while her children are in school. DAWN is already making arrangements for Jinuella's further training in slippers-making.

Angie Cabugao, a mother of two, also attended the training. Just like Jinuella, her daughter Masami also attended the theater workshop for JFC.

Angie said she is excited every time she enters the Sikhay sewing room. She knows that she will learn something

new, which she can eventually make use of.

"I feel relieved that I was able to overcome my fear in operating a high speed sewing machine. Now that I can sew, I became interested in making designs. I am eager to apply my ideas in making different items," said Angie.

Aside from the training provided to the two women, the members of Sikhay have been busy promoting Sikhay products at every chance they get.

On April 24-25, some women members of DAWN took part in a conference organized by the TESDA Women's Center on "Mobilizing OFW Remittances and Alternatives to Migration for Sustainable Economic Empowerment of Women." Aside from learning about remittances and development from the speakers, the women also presented an excerpt from the musical play "Iba't Ibang Mukha ni Misty" (The Different Faces of Misty) before the participants of the conference. At the same time, they were able to promote the products of Sikhay.

As a result of DAWN's participation in the TESDA conference, Ms. Susan Andes, more popularly known as Susan K., who hosts the television show "Pilipinas Online: Bantay OCW" invited DAWN to guest in her show. On May 4, our Research and Advocacy Officer Liza Garcia, together with myself, Gina Andrade, Josephine Avelino, Maribeth Cruz, Imelda Balayo, Rose Verano, and Rosalie Akase went to the NBN studio to tape for the show. Liza discussed with Susan K. the work that DAWN does. The women members of DAWN were also given the chance to say something about their issues. An excerpt from the play "Misty" was also presented. Of course, we also took the opportunity to promote the products of Sikhay. Ms. Susan K. gladly donned a



DAWN staff and members with Ms. Susan K., host of the television program *Pilipinas Online: Bantay OCW*

Sikhay shawl during the course of the program.

For the first time, Sikhay participated in the U.S Embassy Club Shoppers' Day, which was held at the World Trade Center on May 6. Aside from promoting the products of Sikhay, the women who joined the trade fair learned from the event. They were exposed to the products and ideas of other groups and this made them better appreciate their work and products. It was exciting for Rose Verano to sell the products which she personally made. She welcomed the appreciation, comments and suggestions made by the shoppers. Maribeth Cruz was all smiles whenever people stop to appreciate the quality of Sikhay products. Susan Adachi and I were also present during the shopper's day.

On May 15, DAWN received a call from the staff of Eat Bulaga informing us that DAWN has been chosen as a partner in one of the show's segments, called "Laban o Bawi." The staff of the Eat Bulaga interviewed the DAWN staff, as well as the Sikhay members. The sewing and weaving projects of Sikhay were featured. DAWN staff Maricel Canaria and members Nita Contreras, Rosalie Akase, Rose Verano, and Maribeth Cruz went to Broadway Centrum on May 20 to watch the show

and receive the donation to the organization. This was aired over national television.

On June 8, Research and Advocacy Officer Liza Garcia and I attended the JICA-NGO Study Session, which was held at the Isis Center in Quezon City. It was a learning session on networking. Indeed, we did network with the other participants in that study session.

We also had several visitors this quarter: Mr. Tim Cipullo and Noemi Icaro of the US Embassy; Mr. Aoyagi and Ellen Cruz of the Tokyo Shimbun; Dr. Shun Ohno from the Australian National University; Dr. Kenichi Nakaya from Tochigi, Japan on May 22; Ms. Michiyo Yoneno-Reyes, Emi Watanabe and Nanako Hirai on June 10; the Peaceboat and Korea Green Foundation representatives on June 7; Ms. Nicole Schenda of the German Women's World Day of Prayer on June 26.

We never run out of things to do at Sikhay. In the next few months, we are planning to conduct advanced training skills for Sikhay members, so that their work could further be enhanced. For other women members of DAWN who may wish to learn sewing and hand-weaving, they can signify their interest through Macoy Gomonan, DAWN's Social Worker, or approach me directly.

(FORUM ... continued from p. 12)

Ms. Veronica Uy of INQ7, an internet-based media, said that the eight million overseas Filipinos inspire so many stories. "And NGOs and advocates are a dependable source of information," she said.

Ms. Uy acknowledge that media is foremost a business. But at the same time, she said that media is also a tool for change. "It can also be contemplative," she added.

The radio program "Buhay Marino" meanwhile is focused on the issues of seafarers. Mr. Leo Santiago, one of its anchors said that through their program, the voices of the seafarers are heard. They are able to shed light on issues and bring them up to the national level. Mr. Santiago cautioned however, that there are risks to being a media personality. He cited the libel case that was filed against him.

The PMRW forum on Media and Migration was held on June 28, 2006 at the Bayview Park Hotel Manila. The forum was organized to understand how media works and how it treats the issue of migration. It was also an opportunity for strengthening the organization's advocacy and networking with the media. 📷



Performing an excerpt from the play "Iba't-Ibang Mukha ni Misty" during the TESDA Conference



## 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.

### EDITORIAL TEAM

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# FORUM ON MEDIA AND MIGRATION

Why do media cover some stories and do not cover other stories?

“We cover it because it’s sensational. We cover it because it’s emotional,” said Philippine Star columnist Cito Beltran. “It’s about impact. It’s about money. And the viewers give us money,” he added.

These are some of the realities of media reporting, as cited by Beltran at the Forum on Media and Migration, which was organized by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW).

Beltran also raised the issue of interventions for OFWs. Aside from floating the economy, the migrants provide political stability in this country.

“But while we call them heroes, who takes care of their families”, asked Beltran.

He added that the OFWs will change the landscape of this country. In fact, OFWs are emerging as the new middle class.

Mr. Beltran in the past has been an OFW himself, having worked in the United States for two (2) years.



*PMRW President Mel Nuqui with speakers at the forum on Media and Migration. From L to R: Ms. Susan Andes, Ms. Nuqui, Mr. Cito Beltran, Ms. Veronica Uy, and Mr. Jeremaiah Opiniano. Not in the picture is Mr. Leo Santiago*

Aside from Mr. Beltran, OFW Journalism Consortium President Jeremaiah Opiniano was also a speaker for the conference.

Mr. Opiniano gave an overview of media coverage and reporting of migration issues. While a few years back, negative stories dominated the headlines, today there is more positive reportage of migration issues, according to Opiniano. Further, with the growth in the number of overseas Filipinos, there was also a corresponding growth in the media

landscape. There are newer media approaches, more television, radio and newspaper reporting of migration issues, not to mention the proliferation of blogs and e-groups of overseas Filipinos. Overseas Filipino workers or OFWs have become newsworthy given their economic and political power.

Aside from Opiniano and Beltran, three other speakers provided meat to the forum.

Ms. Susan Andes of the long-running program “Pilipinas Online: Balitang OCW,” spoke about her program’s format and how it has sustained itself through the years. One of the program’s principles, according to Susan, is providing the listeners with true, accurate and reliable information. She also cited commitment as an important ingredient for the success of her programs, both in radio and television.

“We do not encourage Filipinos to migrate,” said Susan. That is why in their program, they talk about the problems and realities of migration.

*(Continued on page 11)*

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