



## From Japan to Korea: Tales of Trafficked Women



*Fr. Edwin, Ms. Nuqui, and Fr. Glenn pose with Filipino women entertainers outside a club in the Tongducheon area*

Many believe that because of the restrictions on the entry of Filipino women entertainers to Japan after the implementation of the new immigration policy, entertainers have since moved to Korea.

To date, there are about 47, 000 Filipinos in South Korea. Many entered Korea as factory workers, entertainers, and domestic workers. Some came to Korea as trainees in factories, while others entered Korea as brides of Korean men.

DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui, together with Fr. Edwin Corros of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP-ECMI), visited South Korea last August 25-29. They had the

chance to talk to Filipino workers there, including the women working as entertainers in the Tongducheon area, where many clubs are scattered around the periphery of the US bases.

Ms. Nuqui said they talked with the women standing outside the clubs, and were allowed to have a peep inside. They entered one club and talked with the women working there and found out that they receive US\$200-250 salary per month. Oftentimes, these salaries are not paid on time. They also shared that on the second level of some clubs, there are areas where women are brought for sexual services.

There is an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 Filipino entertainers working in the

periphery of the more than 50 US bases in South Korea. Most of them entered Korea using E-6 visas (entertainer visas).

The situation of the women entertainers in Korea are not different from those in Japan. Both entered Korea and Japan using valid entertainer visas. Both entertainers perform work that goes beyond singing and dancing. Many women working in Korea as entertainers have their passports and alien registration cards confiscated from them and returned only upon finishing their contracts. This is a strategy employed by club owners and managers to ensure that the women do not run away. For many women, a portion of their salary is also withheld, forcing them to supplement their income by engaging in other activities, including providing sexual services.

One woman, who was interviewed by Ms. Nuqui at the Archdiocesan

*(Continued on page 3)*

What's Inside?	
2	Editorial
4	Effective Parenting
5	Teatro Akebono Diary
9	Study Tour
10	Sikhay Corner
11	Newsbrief
12	DAWN Exec. Director Joins Peace Boat's 51st Voyage

**Editorial****Migration & Development  
At What Cost?**

There is no doubt that remittances from overseas Filipinos have helped the country in many ways.

A World Bank study says that remittances reduce poverty in developing nations. Remittances can spur a developing country to increase its spending on education, health and investment.


The study further says that in the Philippines, remittances result in fewer children having to work, increased levels of child schooling, more hours worked in self-employment and more people starting capital-intensive enterprises.

More recently, remittances from OFWs boosted the peso against the US dollar despite the political strife in the country. The Philippine peso is one of Asia's strongest currencies at present.

On the downside however, the study notes that it can lead to massive brain drain in which highly skilled citizens leave their countries for better work opportunities abroad. How many of our doctors, nurses, and other medical workers have left the country to seek better opportunities and better pay abroad? The Philippine Medical Association says that of the country's 100,000 registered doctors, 30 percent have been lured to work in North America. According to the group Health Alliance for Democracy, from 2000 to 2003 a total of 51,580 Filipino nurses left the country to work abroad. And where does this leave us?

As more and more Filipinos are enticed to work overseas, we can expect more remittances to flow into our economy. But at what cost? Let us not forget that for every dollar remitted to the country, there is a social cost involved. Our history of migration has shown us the emerging issues and problems related to migration that we had to contend with, such as trafficking, illegal recruitment, welfare and protection of OFWs, vulnerabilities of migrant women and children, to name a few.

A United Nation's Children's Fund report said recently that between three and eight million children are left behind by Filipinos working overseas. It is said entire family units are being broken down as a result.

The Global Commission on International Migration said that "development must begin at home." While the remittances of our OFWs have helped the Philippine economy for years, they cannot be used as substitute for sound economic policies and programs. The social costs of migration are painful reminders that overseas migration cannot be a substitute for national development. Government should match the efforts of our OFWs to promote and enhance their economic development and empowerment. The Philippines has to learn how to tap the knowledge and skills gained by our returning migrants and apply them here. Meaningful and productive jobs and livelihood opportunities at home for its citizens should also be provided to help in the country's development. 

(Continued from p. 3)


basis (Republic Act 6955 or the Anti-Mail Order bride law of 1990). Some people however, are able to circumvent the law, thus the practice continues.

**Prostitution Around the US Bases**

Every year the US State Department comes up with a global Trafficking in Persons Report that classifies countries into tiers depending on their compliance with anti-trafficking standards. In 2005, the Philippines was placed in the Tier 2 Watch list of the report, while South Korea was in Tier 1. We urge the government of the United States of America to take a second look at the trafficking of women in Korea, as well as the reported involvement in trafficking of US military personnel.

There exists a Memorandum of Understanding between the US Army support activity in Korea and the entertainment establishments regarding the prohibition of prostitution and Human Trafficking, as well as a US infantry division policy statement that has identified areas that are off-limits to its military personnel. Off-limits areas include all houses of prostitution, clubs or restaurants that encourage or compel trafficking, as well as the "red light" districts.

Many people, however, will attest that indeed US military personnel visit these restricted areas and buy the services of women for sex. But has any military personnel been castigated or punished for such actions?

We have heard of many sad tales about the life and working conditions of Filipino women entertainers, not only in Japan, but also in Korea. Urgent measures are needed to prevent the exploitation, abuse and trafficking of Filipino women overseas. 

*(From Japan ... Continued from p. 1)*

Pastoral Center for Filipino Migrants in Seoul, being run by Fr. Glenn Jaron, disclosed that she and another Filipina ran away from the club they worked in because they have been asked to go out with customers. She trained in the Philippines as a singer, and signed a contract to work as a singer in Korea. But in the club where she worked, she was made to wear sexy outfits and perform as one of the "dinky girls" in a nightclub located near the US military bases. She and the other girls were also made to sell drinks to their customers or they risk not getting their monthly salary.

In contrast to the women working in the bars and nightclubs, those working as singers and entertainers in hotels and other reputable facilities fared so much better. They also entered Korea using the E-6 visa but their working conditions, salaries and other benefits are much better.

Fr. Glenn says that the trafficking of Filipina entertainers in Korea has been going on for years. His center has been a haven for trafficked women.

Aside from those working in the entertainment sector, there are women trafficked in Korea as "mail-order brides."

Statistics indicate that there has been an increasing number of foreign women married to Korean men. Records from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) indicate that as of 2004, there were 3,442 Filipinos married to Korean nationals.

The demand for foreign brides in Korea can be explained by the changing situation in its rural areas. As many young Korean women leave the rural area for a better life in the cities, the men find it difficult

to find wives. Thus, it is not surprising to see advertisement in rural and agricultural areas in Korea announcing arranged international marriages. The Unification church (commonly called the "Moonies") has been largely responsible for arranging marriages



*Fr. Edwin, Ms. Nuqui, and Fr. Glenn at the Tongducheon district*

between Korean men and Filipino women.

Many Filipino women who entered Korea through arranged marriages said that their expectations of their husbands and living conditions were not met. Some claim to have been deceived. Some brides end up in remote rural villages with husbands who are financially insecure, violent and abusive. At times, relatives of the husband live in the same household so that the women, in effect, becomes a household servant looking after the needs of her husband as well as that of his extended family. Some women also perform unpaid work in the farm, aside from taking care of the household. There are also some women who end up working in bars or clubs after marriage to Korean men.

### **Government Response**

The past two Philippine ambassadors to Korea have recommended to stop or at least limit the issuance of E-6 visas only to

qualified entertainers contracted to perform in five-star hotels or similar reputable establishments. In a letter to Justice Minister Seung-Kew Kim on February 4, 2005, former Philippine Embassy to South Korea, Aladin Villacorte stated that as far as the Philippine embassy is concerned,

"the best way forward is to suspend indefinitely the granting of E-6 visas to Filipino women entertainers, with the exception of those who are contracted to perform as singers and musicians in major hotels and reputable establishments." Even POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz "has requested the South Korean embassy not to issue employment-based visas to Korean-bound Filipino entertainers without presenting the POEA's exit clearance

papers."

It will be recalled that as early as February 2003, the Philippine embassy, through then Ambassador Juanito Jarasa, has already made a formal request to the Korean government to discontinue the issuance of E-6 visas to Filipino women entertainers for deployment to bars and nightclubs near military bases. Two years later however, in spite of the passage of the Anti-Trafficking law in the Philippines, the number of Filipino women entertainers in Korea, rather than decline, has grown. A plausible explanation is the lack of effective implementation of laws. We can also surmise that traffickers have found a way to circumvent immigration rules through fabrication of documents or misrepresentations.

With regards to the issue of mail-order brides, there is a law in the Philippines against the practice of matching Filipino women for marriage to foreign nationals on a mail order

*(Continued on p. 2)*

## DAWN Conducts Effective Parenting Seminar

by Maria Corazon Gomonan

Being a parent is a tough job. More so when one is a single parent trying to make both ends meet to provide for the needs of the family.

With this in mind, DAWN organized a seminar-workshop for its women members to help them reflect and understand themselves better as persons and as parents. It is worth noting that all the women who attended the seminar are single parents. The seminar-workshop hopes to guide them to step forward to become more effective in their parental roles as single parent.

Fourteen (14) women members of DAWN participated in a seminar-workshop on Effective Parenting which was conducted under the Social Services program. DAWN volunteer Sr. Milagros Goyena, SDS, assisted in conducting the said seminar-workshop held last July 9, 16 and 23.

The seminar-workshop is part of a continuing series of activities for the growth and self-development of DAWN members. Topics discussed during the first module included "Understanding Oneself as a Person," "Family Values," and "Self-Esteem as a Parent."

At the start of the first session, the participants were asked to write down their expectations and what they want to learn from the seminar-workshop. These expectations included wanting to learn how they can bring their children all together in one roof, the best way to discipline a child, how not to get mad, knowing one's traits, how to reach one's goal in life, knowing other people's traits, getting along well with other people, overcoming shyness, learning how to mingle with others, values in life, and patience.

Various activities, discussions and role-playing were introduced in the workshop-seminar. One of the activities introduced was called the "Five Fingers of My Life." The activity was held to make the participants have a deeper understanding of themselves and others. Each finger of the hand represents something in a person's life. This was followed by a group sharing and discussion.

Most of the participants expressed that they felt good after sharing and listening to others. They were touched by the stories of the other participants and they were able to empathize with the one sharing her story. While listening to others, some women felt that they are luckier than others and wanted to help. The sharing of stories and experiences made them understand in some ways the other person.

Through the activities, the women also discovered the importance of knowing one's strengths and weaknesses as a parent. Some of them said that they have to be tough, strong and independent especially in making decisions. Their strength as a woman is manifested in their being able to stand on their own and face challenges, and being able to accept their

situations as single parent. They also learned that women, as parents, need to know their weaknesses because these may stop them from growing as a person and as a parent. They need to overcome their weaknesses by changing them to serve as their strengths. The more positive characteristics they have, the more they become fulfilled as persons and as parents.

During the session on Family Values, the participants shared their values at home, especially the mother-child relationship. The common family values they practice at home and in the community are love, respect, trust, patience, obedience, helpfulness, and prayerfulness.

As a parent, it is important to know the importance of family values. During the discussion of values, the participants shared that they were resourceful. They know how look for extra income or to ask for loans in order to meet the needs of the family. With regards to respectfulness and trust they said that in order to be trusted and respected, one has to be respectable and trustworthy. They respect people who talk to them kindly, without raising one's voice and showing a feeling of superiority. When it comes to their children, they said that it is important to talk to them to find out how they are doing and how they feel. Trust is a sacred value for them. They expressed that some things should remain between a few people and not disclosed to all. The facilitator reminded them that trust could not be built overnight. It has to be earned; one has to work for it.

Based on the role-playing presented by the three groups,

(Continued on p. 8)



Social Services Coordinator Macoy Gomonan giving a lecture on effective parenting

# Teatro Akebono Diary

## **Preparations for the Tour**

The workshop for the 9 participants for the Japan theater tour started on June 25, 2005. Workshops for the children were conducted only on Saturdays since the children are attending classes in different schools all over Metro Manila. The rehearsals were held at St. Scholastica's College and at the DAWN office.

At the start of the workshop, the participants were made to review what they have learned last summer – discipline, focus, movements, delivery of lines. Workshop facilitator Danny Lopez made them act out the play they presented last summer.

A new script for the musical play was written for the Japan presentation. It tells of the story of a young, greedy prince who grew up searching for his identity, not knowing how it feels to be loved and cared for by parents. He thought that by possessing all the riches of the earth, he could find true happiness and love. One day, he heard about the Father King's magical ring that is being guarded by fairies. He waged war with the fairies to gain possession of the ring, thinking that once he owns the ring he will be most powerful and happy. He neglected the fact that whoever touches the ring will turn into a centipede as a punishment. The young prince gains possession of the ring but turns into a centipede. He cries and asks for forgiveness. He cries because he is all alone with no friends. The fairies heard his lament and started befriending him. The centipede then gains friends and he finds happiness with his new friends.

The story, although fictional, has parallelisms with the experiences of many JFC, who grow up trying to search for their identities. Most of the JFC members of DAWN

w e r e abandoned by their fathers. Some do not even know if they will still have the chance to meet their fathers. And yet they continue to hope and dream that some day, they can experience the love and affection a father can give.

## **NCCA Supports DAWN**

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) provided assistance and support to this year's Teatro Akebono musical



*The JFC during one of the rehearsals*



*Recording songs at the ISIS studio, with Japanese volunteers Yuuki Nozaki & Remi Noaki*

play. They provided DAWN with resource persons who helped in the choreography and music of the play. Aries Clemeno again helped the children for choreography while Otto Hernandez was in charge of music.

NCCA Executive Director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez lauded DAWN's efforts "for spearheading this worthy cause by establishing a means to encourage the continuing balanced development of a pluralistic culture by the people themselves, as well as preparing the younger generation towards a cultural revolution underscored by values of sharing, caring and ethical values." (See complete text of message on page 8).

Aside from the choreography in the play, Aries also taught the children *kuntaw* and a *T'boli* dance, which the children can perform during their cultural exchange programs with Japanese communities and school children. Otto on the other hand, took time to teach the children how to sing, starting with the proper breathing technique. On September 25, the children recorded the songs to be used in the musical play at the recording studio of ISIS

*(Continued on p. 6)*

*(Teatro ... Continued from p. 5)*

International, with Otto supervising them.

**Japanese Volunteers**

The Japanese volunteers of DAWN played a big role in the outcome of the presentation. Since the script is translated into Japanese, having a Japanese volunteer at DAWN's Manila office is always a blessing. It saves time in having the script and other documents sent to Japan for translation. Since most of the lines in the script are translated into Japanese, our volunteers made sure that the children are able to pronounce their Japanese lines well.



*Preparing the backdrop for the PNU presentation*

Several Japanese volunteers were on hand during the rehearsals. For their patience, understanding and support, DAWN wishes to thank Hanako Okubo, Remi Noaki, Shori Onishi, Chiho Ogaya, Masami Ochi, Ran Yagasa, and Yuuki Nozaki.



*The presentation at PNU*



*Warm up exercises, with Kuya Aries*

**Teatro Akebono Bids Farewell**

The Japan tour participants of Teatro Akebono bid farewell to the Philippines during a presentation at the Dagot Hall of the Philippine Normal University on September 30, 2005. It was their first formal presentation of the new musical play before a live audience before they embark for their 14-day tour in Japan.

Normal University graciously hosted the farewell presentation. It was a joint presentation of the children of Teatro Akebono and the CTL. The CTL students presented musical and dance numbers.

About 250 CTL students, teachers, parents and guests saw the presentation, after which an open forum and interaction between the JFC and the students of CTL took place. Ms. Mylene Urriza of the NCCA was also in the audience.

The DAWN staff and members of Teatro Akebono will leave for Japan on October 4. They will present the musical play, "The Magic Ring," and have cultural exchanges in six prefectures in Japan: Fukuoka, Ehime, Saitama, Gunma, Yokohama and Tokyo. They will be back in Manila on October 17, 2005.



*With Kuya Otto Hernandez*

Dr. Nilda Santos and the teachers and staff of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) of the Philippine

# Meet the Cast of *The Magic Ring*

## 1. Ai Risa Akase



A consistent honors student, Ai Risa is now in her third year at the Araullo High School. This pretty young lady is quiet, well-behaved, and mild-mannered. One of her talents is drawing. She is also good at expressing herself through writing. Ai Risa is now 15 years old. She last met her father in 2003, when she participated in the theater tour. Her mother Rosalie, is a member of DAWN's alternative livelihood program, Sikhay.



## 2. Masami Cabugao

Masami is 11 years old. She is a grade 5 pupil at a private school in Quezon City. Masami is a very graceful girl, who loves to sing. She also loves to act and is fast in memorizing lines. Masami has not seen her Japanese father yet, but hopes that she will have the chance to do so when she joins the tour this year. She has not been deprived of a father figure though because her mother married a Filipino. Her step-father has always regarded her as his own daughter and provides for all her needs.

## 3. Yorgei Cerezo



A very active and playful boy, Yorgei wants to become an actor. He loves to sing and dance. During the workshop, many

thought that Yorgei was a hopeless case. He slept during lectures, and always got into arguments with the other young participants. Towards the end, however, he was able to show that he has the makings of a good performer. Yorgei finds it difficult to read but amazingly, he learns his dialogues fast. After undergoing a three-week workshop last summer, many were amazed at the changes in Yorgei. He has become more behaved and better adjusted.

Yorgei, who recently turned 9 years old, plays the lead role in the musical play. He is in grade 3.

## 4. Junko Fujiwara

Junko, who turned 17 this July, is the oldest among this year's participants. She is regarded by the cast as the group's leader because of her ability to make others follow her. This pretty young lady is one of the most active JFC members of DAWN. She was one of the first JFC to attend DAWN's theater workshop. In fact, she was the lead character in the musical play "Fujiwara Junko: JFC," DAWN's first attempt at theater production.

Junko likes to sing and plays the guitar. She is also very creative, and can easily pick up ideas and perform given tasks. She is friendly and likes to go out with friends, but she prioritizes her studies. She has been getting good grades in school.

Now in her senior year in high school, Junko plans to take up broadcast communications or theater arts in college.



## 5. Kinako Fujiwara

Kinako is fondly called Ken-ken by her family and friends. She is 12 years old and a grade six student.

She is playful, very amiable, and charming. She loves to listen to music, sing and dance. She looks up to her sister, Junko, as a role model. Ken-ken was part of the cast that toured Japan last year. She looks forward to this year's tour in Japan because she very much wants to see her father again.



## 6. Ian Ichiro Kadowaki



Ichiro is a third year high school student at the St. Andrew's Catholic School. He is a consistent honor student, and his mother

has always been proud of his good behavior.

Among this year's participants, Ichiro is the most serious of them all. He is quiet and listens attentively, that is why it is very easy to give him instructions.

Ichiro wants to be a nurse someday. He is 14 years old.

## 7. Joynichi Kawaguchi

Joynichi's parents met and married in the Philippines. Their family was supposed to move to Japan but before this materialized, his father died. He



(Continued on p. 8)

(Meet ... continued from p. 7)

was only 6 years old then. He says he has not much recollection of his father, but he loves him very much. This young man, who is now 15 years old is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year in high school. He has a good disposition and perseveres until he is able to satisfactorily perform a task. He has two brothers, Kengi and Kineichi.

**8. Kana**

**Nakaya**

Kana has two younger sisters, Naomi and Mika. She is a very sensitive girl, who takes to heart her being “ate” or older



sister. When their mother is not around, she makes sure that her sister eats lunch. Kana is very close to her sister Naomi. They love to play together. One of her fondest wishes is for their family to be whole again. Kana is 8 years old and is a grade 3 pupil. She wants to be a doctor or a teacher someday.

**9. Naomi Nakaya**

The youngest in the group, this quiet, 7-year old girl is in her second grade. She is Yorgei’s best friend in the group. Naomi, who is Kana’s sister wants to



become a teacher.



The JFC during an open forum at PNU




(DAWN Conducts ... Continued from p. 4)

it was observed that there were similarities on how they communicate family values. Most said that they discuss family matters during mealtime. That is the usual time they have to talk about how things are with each other, what problems they have, etc. The value of trust on their children was also emphasized. The women said that when they allow their children to go out as a way of showing their trust in their child/children. It was emphasized to them that it is not enough that they are aware of their family values as parents. They have to make sure that their children are also aware of these family values.

The third session focused on the topic “My Self-Esteem as a Parent.”

The women were made to analyze and reflect on the song entitled “I Love Myself.” A short lecture on how to improve self-esteem was also given to them. The women were also reminded that parents with high self-esteem are more productive and fully functional, while parents with low self-esteem are less productive and have no direction in life. Self-esteem constantly changes depending on how you approach different situations in life. However, it can be improved and developed by facing all experiences positively and accepting all responsibilities with interest, trust and hope.

A series of sessions is being planned for the women members of DAWN for their continuing education and development. 

# DAWN Plays Host to Study Tours

Every year, DAWN plays host to study tours from different organizations and countries. This August, DAWN played host to three (3) study tours.

On August 6, twelve (12) students from the Japan Lutheran College, together with Prof. Hiroshi Harashima, visited DAWN to get acquainted with its work and programs. They were given a briefing on the work that DAWN does. They also had a discussion with some of the women members of DAWN, who shared their stories and experiences. Since this is a group of



*A visit at the Sikhay weaving center*

social workers, they had a lengthy discussion with Social Services Coordinator Macoy Gomonan on social work practices and handling of cases DAWN.

On August 15, another group visited DAWN. Ten (10) Filipino-American college students and young professionals had a one-day study tour at DAWN. It was organized by the



*Study tour participants listen to a lecture at FACTI*

Tagalog-on-Site (TOS) group of Ms. Susan Quimpo.

Tagalog-on-Site is a study-abroad program held in the Philippines every summer. It was designed for young Filipino-Americans to have a better understanding of their roots. Through its program, TOS participants get the chance to learn about Philippine history and culture through a brief study of the Filipino language, visit to different provinces in the Philippines, and immersion in Philippine NGOs. At DAWN, the TOS participants met and shared stories with DAWN women members, visited the Sikhay sewing, hand-loom weaving and tie-dye projects at the DAWN Center, and visited the Epifanio de los Santos Elementary School, where two of DAWN's JFC members are studying.

In contrast to the short study tours participated in by the students of the Japan Lutheran College, and the TOS participants, it was a 5-day study tour that was arranged by DAWN-Japan and DAWN. The study tour was from August 25-29. There were 14 participants, who are college students and teachers from various universities in Japan. The group visited the offices of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the Foundation for Advanced Concepts in Training, Inc. (FACTI), and the Rose Princess homes for Japanese retirees in Laguna. They also had a dialogue with the officials of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines regarding the issues of OPAs and caregivers. At the DAWN office, they interacted with the women and JFC members of DAWN.



*TOS study tour participants visit the Epifanio de los Santos Elementary School*

Deputy Administrator Carmelita Dimzon and Director Libby Casco gave the study tour participants a briefing on the work that POEA does. The participants were also able to ask questions on various migration issues.

At FACTI, Ms. Elizabeth Nieva gave a well-prepared presentation of her organization's structure and work. She also gave the participants a tour of the caregiving and dance-school facilities of FACTI.

Study tours are conducted by DAWN to acquaint participants, visitors and guests, both local and foreign, on Philippine culture, its history, and its people. It is also an opportunity for DAWN to acquaint them with various migration, women and children's issues, as well as the kind of work it does. 📷



*Tour participants in front of the Manila Cathedral*

## Sikhay Corner

### *A Showcase of Sikhay Products*

by Mary Joy E. Barcelona

Sikhay products once again graced bazaars in the Philippines and abroad during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2005. The batik dresses and blouses, wrap-around skirts, bags, and shawls are always a hit with buyers because of the quality of each and every product.

Ms. Sayo Noda of the SALT Payatas Foundation, invited DAWN to a bazaar held at the Manila Shimbun office in Makati on July 17. For the past years the SALT Payatas Foundation, has been inviting DAWN to bazaars that it organizes.

In Japan, products of Sikhay were displayed and sold by the newly formed group Empowerment for All (EFA), during the annual general membership meeting of the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union (Jichiro-Rengo). Mr. Kenji Yoshikawa, Secretary General of EFA, who was also the one in charge of the bazaar, praised Sikhay for the quality of the work of the women. They promised to assist DAWN in the marketing of Sikhay products.

Mr. Akihiro Tamura, Maritime Division Shop Manager of Peace Boat, makes



*Sikhay Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona preparing for the bazaar at Manila Shimbun*

sure that in every voyage, Peace Boat is well-stocked with Sikhay products. This is their way of supporting DAWN's alternative livelihood for its women members. DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui, who joined Peace Boat's 51<sup>st</sup> voyage from September 3-14 to give lectures on board, never failed to promote the

works of DAWN's women members.

For next year, DAWN hopes to further improve ties with partners and supporters for the marketing of Sikhay products not just in the Philippines and in Japan, but also in other countries. 📷



*Sikhay products on sale at Peace Boat*



# 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

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

#### Contributors

Mary Joy E. Barcelona  
Nancy F. Bondoc  
Maria Corazon C. Gomonan

**NEWS BRIEF**

***Internship Program***

For one whole month, the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) hosted the internship of Japanese student Ran Yagasa. Ran is a student of International Relations at the International Christian University in Tokyo.

Ran was given a briefing by Ms. Nuqui, as well as the staff of DAWN regarding the organization's work and programs. He got a chance to see for himself the situation that makes DAWN do the work that it does. He also got a feel of what it is like to work at DAWN – from folding newsletters, teaching the JFC Japanese songs, to attending a public hearing at the House of Representatives, as well as participating in the PMRW capacity building seminar.



Ran is now a full-pledged volunteer of DAWN-Japan.



***Union Leaders Visit DAWN***

Last September 16, two Japanese friends and supporters of DAWN dropped by for a visit. Mr. Noburo Inokuchi, Director of the International Department of the All-Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union (JICHIRO-RENGO) and Mr. Koichi Ito, Director of the Public Services International (PSI)-Tokyo Office, met with the staff of DAWN, visited Sikhay's hand-weaving, tie-dye and sewing projects and interacted with the women members.

***Radio Interview***

Ms. Shia Levitt, a freelance radio reporter from the US interviewed DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui and Sikhay Coordinator Mary Joy Barcelona last July. The interview focused on stories about trafficking of Filipino women in Japan and the program of DAWN for the women migrant returnees.



***PMRW Capacity Building Seminar***

Three staff members of DAWN, together with its Executive Director and two Japanese volunteers participated in the Capacity Building seminar organized by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) for the staff of its member organizations. The seminar, held from August 17-20, aimed to equip the participants with additional knowledge on migration, human rights issues and the advocacy work of the PMRW. Aside from the lectures and workshops, the participants also got to know each other better through the fellowship night and other social activities held.

**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](mailto:dawnphil@i-next.net)  
Website: [www.dawnphil.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

## LECTURE AT SEA

### DAWN Executive Director Joins Peace Boat's 51st Voyage

Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental organization that seeks to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. They partner with civil society organizations in Japan and around the world to create awareness and action based on effecting positive social and political change in the world.

Peace Boat carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship becomes a floating peace village, where dialogues, lectures, and other activities are held onboard and in the ports that they visit.

For its 51<sup>st</sup> voyage, DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui once again

joined Peace Boat. She gave lectures on overseas performing artists (OPAs) in Japan and their Japanese-Filipino children. She explained the reasons why Filipinos seek employment overseas, as well as the realities and working conditions of women OPAs in Japan. She also briefed the participants on the work that DAWN does to help women returnees from Japan who seek assistance, including its programs and activities for both its women members and the Japanese-Filipino children.

One of the lecture attendees, Ai Hirota said, "Before, I had not given much thought on why Filipino women come to work as

hostesses in Japan. After the lecture, I have a clearer image and understanding of what these women go through."

Sikhay products, made by the DAWN women members were also promoted by Ms. Nuqui. The products, which were sold during the voyage, were very much liked and appreciated by the Peace Boat participants for their use and as "omriage" gifts for their family members and friends back home.

Ms. Nuqui encouraged continued discussion on the issue among the participants in the voyage. "We need to have people to people discussions about what we can do to improve this situation," she said. 📷



*Singing "I Can" with Peace Boat participants*



*Giving a lecture*



*Promoting Sikhay products*

**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, 2005  
Subject for postal inspection