



M—the—W Migrant Watch

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Manila, Philippines

Recognizing the Dignity and Rights of Women

Lisa Garcia

Development Action for Women Network

In celebration of its 10th year anniversary, DAWN held a conference on Migration and Trafficking in Persons on February 10, 2006 at the Bayview Plaza Hotel. The theme of the conference was “Recognizing the Dignity and Rights of Women.”

The conference was timely and relevant because trafficking in persons has been a major international issue this past decade. The Trafficking in Persons Report of the U.S. State Department estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are being trafficked across international borders every year. This does not yet take into account those trafficked within the borders of countries.

Topics in the conference included the issue of human trafficking between the Philippines and Japan, the efforts of both governments to find a solution to solve the problem, and the roles of other institutions and NGOs in combating trafficking in persons.

Human trafficking between Japan and the Philippines has been a serious issue of concern to the international community. Japan’s grossly exploited entertainer visa system is believed to have led to trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. The US Trafficking in Persons Report of 2005 cited that a significant number of the 71,084 Filipino women who entered Japan as entertainers in 2004 ended up in the sex trade.

In the past years, DAWN, as well as other NGOs in Japan and the Philippines have advocated for reforms and policy changes in Japan in order to prevent trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. In March 2005, due to international pressure, Japan revised its immigration measures.

Mr. Tomoaki Noguchi, Labor Attache of the Embassy of Japan, presented the comprehensive counter-trafficking actions taken by the Government of Japan (GOJ) as of February 2006, as well as some data on the number of cases reported to the government. It is not clear though what the government of Japan’s concrete protection plans for trafficking victims.

The conference also looked into the Philippine government’s migration and anti-trafficking policies.

Overseas employment was a temporary means to assist Filipinos in obtaining employments due to lack of job opportunities at home in the 1970s, but of late the government has been aggressively promoting labor migration abroad without generating enough domestic jobs. The Philippines is now the third largest sending country in the world, deploying mostly unskilled workers, such as



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Recognizing the dignity...

domestic workers and construction workers, who suffer from abuse and exploitation abroad.

"We are facing a conflict between economic interests and human rights" said Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen of the government's aggressive overseas deployment policy.

Ambassador Pedro O. Chan, Executive Director of the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA) of the Department of Foreign Affairs highlighted the passage of Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 as one of the concrete efforts done by the Philippine government in the fight against human trafficking. He reported that as of February 2006, there have been seven convictions under R.A. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

Mr. Chan said that prevention is still the best antidote for trafficking in persons. "It should be at the heart of any action plan to combat trafficking in persons."

He also cited the "need for coordination between and among different agencies of

the government and non-government organizations for a more focused and streamlined approach."

The role that non-government organizations (NGOs) like DAWN play in combating trafficking in persons was discussed by Carmelita Nuqui, Executive Director of DAWN and President of the Philippine Migrants' Rights Watch (PMRW). These include awareness-raising, consciousness-building, information dissemination, education and training, providing data and information, providing direct services to victims, as well as lobbying for the passage of laws. She also cited NGOs as critical allies and partners of government in the fight against this modern-day form of slavery. Ms. Nuqui also stressed the need for cooperation and collaboration in the local, regional and international arenas among all sectors in order to win the war against traffickers. She also cited, in particular, the work of DAWN in assisting trafficked Filipino women from Japan.

To emphasize the critical role of the media, Atty. Rowena Guanzon stressed a gender-sensitive perspective, especially when reporting news.



A moment of the opening ceremony: Ms. Peta Dunn (Australian Embassy), Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, OCD, Hon. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr (Senate of the Philippines), Mr. Bruce Reed (IOM), Mr. Timothy Cipullo (US Embassy), Commissioner Wilhelm D. Soriano (Commission of Human Rights) and Mr. Tomoaki Noguchi (Japan Embassy).

She also cited the important role the media play in educating the public.

Ms. Wenchi Yu Perkins, Director of Vital Voices' Anti-Trafficking and Human Rights Program, spoke on global efforts to combat human trafficking. She presented a brief history of international anti-trafficking movement, current debates on best practices, and the need to take a holistic approach.

"The Philippines is an interesting case to study because of its large migrant labor force and decades' of culture of exporting labor abroad. However, we need to be careful about examining the trafficking problem from a migration perspective only, especially when domestic trafficking for labor exploitation is another immense yet under-addressed problem in this country," said Ms. Perkins.

Other speakers in the conference were Mr. Kazuo Inoue, former member of the Parliament of Japan and Mr. Nobuki Fujimoto, a researcher of Hurights Osaka and a

member of the steering committee of the Japan Network Against Trafficking in Persons (JNATIP).

Another highlight of the conference was the performance by DAWN's women and Japanese Filipino Children (JFC) members of DAWN's milestones. A theatrical performance based on true stories of survivors revealed the excruciating experiences of Filipino entertainers in Japan and the discrimination facing the JFCs in society.

The one-day conference was organized by DAWN, in cooperation with Vital Voices Global Partnership. Vital Voices is a US based international NGO with former U.S. First Lady and now Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton as one of its Honorary Co-Chairs.

the Migrant Watch

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Updates from CCOFW Meetings

The 15th Consultative Council for OFW (CCOFW) was convened on February 6, 2006 at the OWWA Multipurpose Hall. In attendance were members of the PMRW and other migrant NGOs, and representatives from DOLE, OWWA, POEA and DFA-OUMWA. Many issues and concerns were raised during the meeting. Some were clarified, some were not.

OWWA Medicare transfer to Philhealth

PMRW questioned the lack of information to OFWs regarding the availment of Philhealth benefits considering hasty transfer to Philhealth two years ago. There were also reports that collection of Philhealth membership fees on-site was stopped. OWWA Director Abet Valenciano informed the body that Philhealth and OWWA have yet to agree on a set of guidelines concerning the collection of Philhealth membership fees on-site.

RA8042 Amendments

To hasten the legislative process of repealing the deregulatory provisions as contained in sections 29 and 30 of RA 8042, the CCOFW agreed to pass a resolution to request the President to certify as urgent the passage of a consolidated proposed bill.

Deployment of OPAs to Japan

Undersecretary Cruz reported that there was a 42% drop in the number of OPAs deployed to Japan in 2005 following the implementation of Japan's stricter measures. Japan also suspended the verification process of documents at the Philippine embassy in Tokyo. In response, the POEA has been instructed to study and

conduct consultations in regarding the possibility of suspending the deployment of OFWs to Japan.

OPAS in Korea

PMRW's Mel Nuqui and Fr. Edwin Corros asked about of the increasing number of Filipino OPAS in Korea. POEA clarified that OFWs who go to Korea are those under the EPS (Employment Permit System). POEA clarified that deployment of OPAS to Korea is still restricted per PMRW's request to Korea to stop the issuance of entertainers visas to dancers and singers performing near the American bases.

OWWA's One percent Incentive to POEA

OWWA Director Valenciano clarified that the reported P40M "perks" that OWWA gave to POEA is covered by a board resolution of OWWA in 1998. The one percent incentive is the donation of one percent from the total collection of OWWA fees by POEA. OWWA further said that the arrangement is anchored on EO 292 or the Administrative Code of the Philippines. PMRW, however, objected to the arrangement on relation to the illegal collection of the US\$25 under the OWWA Omnibus Policies.

OFW Representation in the Board of OWWA and the Governing Board of POEA

PMRW requested transparency, democracy and representative consultations with the migrant sector in the selection process by which the OFW representatives to the POEA and OWWA board are chosen.



2005 POEA's highlights

Deployment of 981,677 OFWs. 77 new licenses issued. 67 agencies delisted. 55% increase of disputes settled through voluntary arbitration. 63% of cases disposed through compulsory arbitration. Introductions of E-link project/Quality management system. POEA's thrust in 2006 and beyond: A million decent jobs. PMRW lamented and questioned POEA's thrust, which is the overall policy thrust of the current government. PMRW maintained that the government must not promote overseas employment as a development strategy.

The 16th CCOFW meeting was held at POEA on March 6, 2006. PMRW members and other NGOs were present, together with representatives from POEA, Philhealth, DOJ, OWWA, DFA-OUMWA, ILAS and BID. The meeting continued the discussion of issues raised in the previous meetings. The following issues were discussed.

Mandatory PEOS

For PMRW, the issue with PEOS is how it can reach the grassroots. The program must be intensified in order to reach more people. PMRW sugges-

ted tapping schools, TV and radio programs. According to Admin. Baldoz PEOS is not mandatory, until the Board decides otherwise. POEA will be conducting a joint action planning meeting with government agencies around the third week of March to discuss how to maximize the PEOS.

Amendments to RA8042

Changes were suggested by PMRW and the rest of the Body on the draft resolution made by the CCOFW Secretariat. The corrections were noted and a new draft will be finalized and will be endorsed to the Office of the Secretary of DOLE for appropriate action.

Cases of Human Trafficking

Atty. Edna May Lazaro explained the preventive campaigns taken by IACAT in the different hot spots in the country. PMRW inquired on what IACAT is doing to prevent local and international trafficking. The Administrator noted the following to be included in the IACAT agenda: actions taken on the issue, regular progress report on trafficking cases, and a proposal to have a watch list of agencies engaged in human trafficking.

OPAS in Japan

There is said to be a significant decrease in the deployment of entertainers to Japan. PMRW asked for the figures because they were informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo that there are almost 60,000 Filipinas in Japan and was wondering where the said 70% drop in 2005 is based. POEA said the drop was not 70% but 50%. PMRW also endorsed the case of a 17-year-old trafficked victim in Tokyo.

OPAS in Korea

POEA will start closely monitoring the deployment of workers to Korea because it was pointed out that there are many performing artists there as reported by PMRW. POEA was also tasked to coordinate with the labor attaché to inspect the venues where the performing artists are working. DFA reported that the Korean Ambassador

recognized that they had been lax in the issuance of entertainment visas and assured the Undersecretary of DFA that their President has taken a keen interest on the issue. PMRW also recommended that the government must have records of where Filipinos are, especially the unauthorized ones. Another recommendation was a 24-hour hotline that migrants can access.

Deployment of one million workers

PMRW insisted that the government go beyond the deployment of workers and assure their protection.

OWWA Medicare transfer to Philhealth

VP Rulloda explained that they made a consultation on their medium term development plan to solicit how to enhance their services to the

OFWs. PMRW questioned if the workers on site are already aware of their Philhealth benefits. An information campaign on the transfer and how migrants can avail of their benefits was suggested. Admin. Baldoz suggested that rules and regulations on availment will be helpful. VP Rulloda took note of all the suggestions.

It was also reiterated that the government consider how much sacrifice and costs are inflicted on Filipinos who have to come to Manila in order to process their documents if they want to go abroad. It was recommended that the agencies have offices in provinces to stop the constant flow of people in Manila. The Administrator considered it as subject for recommendation to the Board.

To discuss the issues further PMRW suggested inviting the

board members of POEA, OWWA and Philhealth. Admin. Baldoz asked the secretariat to prepare the agenda along with specific details from the previous meetings to be sent to them.

PMRW also pressed that OWWA and other government organizations must have an annual report for purposes of discussion. OWWA as a welfare agency has stated in its mandate to have a sustainability of funds. The question was unanswered because Admin. Marianito Roque of OWWA was not present. PMRW noted the sectors involved in CCOFW must be properly represented to ensure fruitful discussions.

*Ellene Sana, CMA
M. Celeste Marasigan,
PMRW*

The Maritime Labor Convention

Fr. Savino Bernardi, Director of Apostleship of the Sea-Manila, provides the following responses of ICMC, Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao, and Archbishop Silvano Tomasi on the adoption of the Maritime Labor Convention

International Christian Maritime Association

23 February 2006

GENEVA – The International Labour Organization’s Maritime Labour Conference, attended by more than 970 delegates from 106 countries, today voted to adopt a new comprehensive maritime labour convention. The new convention, entitled the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, consolidates more than 65 international maritime labour instruments that had been adopted by the International Labour Organization over the past 80 years. Today’s vote culminates five years of effort by governments, ship owners’ organizations, labour organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Popularly called “the Seafarers’ Bill of Rights” and “the Seafarers’ Magna Carta”, the Convention sets international standards on a wide range of seafarers’ rights including medical care, welfare facilities, food, accommodation, safety, minimum age, recruitment, repatriation, hours of work and other crucial seafarers’ concerns. It is intended to be the fourth regulatory pillar of fundamental

maritime standards joining the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Seafarers (STCW).

The International Christian Maritime Association’s General Secretary praised the Convention’s adoption. “With its 526 seafarers’ centres and 927 chaplains, the 27 ICMA member associations provide the most of the world’s shore side seafarers’ welfare facilities and services. ICMA helped develop the new Convention as an accredited ILO non-governmental organization. ICMA’s Standing Delegation to the International Labour Organization shared ICMA’s vast experience and knowledge of seafarers’ issues with ILO member governments, ship owners and trade unions throughout the five year process of preparing the Convention.”

According to the ICMA delegation’s chair and maritime attorney Douglas Stevenson: “This Convention is the most significant accomplishment ever in seafarers’ rights law. For the first time in the long history of seafarers’ rights - rights that have evolved

piecemeal over the centuries - the Convention codifies in one comprehensive instrument, customary seafarers' legal protections as well as those more recently legislated."

"Adopting the Convention was a major accomplishment, but it was only the first step," said the ICMA delegation's vice chair Ken Peters. "We must now devote our energies to ensuring that the Convention's promise to seafarers is fulfilled by encouraging maritime nations to ratify and implement the Convention."

The International Christian Maritime Association is a free association of 27 Christian non-profit organizations engaged in welfare work for seafarers who include those working on merchant, fishing and passenger vessels.

These 27 organizations represent different Christian Churches and Christian communities. Each member keeps its independence and autonomy. ICMA was founded in 1969 to encourage ecumenical collaboration and mutual assistance between these different organizations on the local port level as well as on the national and international levels.

In a fragmented and divided society, ICMA's mission is to promote unity, peace and tolerance. ICMA chaplains and volunteers serve seafarers, fishers and their dependents without regard to their nationality, religion, culture language, sex or race.

ICMA's Standing Delegation to the International Labour Organization is comprised of Mr. Douglas Stevenson from the Seamen's Church Institute of NY & NJ (chair), The Rev. Canon Ken Peters from the Missions to Seafarers (vice chair), Commodore Christopher York from the United Kingdom Apostleship of the Sea, Mr. Domingo Gonzales from the Spanish Apostleship of the Sea and the Rev. Jaakko Laasio from the Finnish Seamen's Mission.

For additional information, contact Douglas B. Stevenson (csr@seamenschurch.org), Canon Ken Peters (justice@missiontoseafarers.org) or ICMA Secretariat (icma.secgen@btconnect.com).

Vatican City

Prot. n. 2213/2006/AM

Dear Regional Coordinators and National Directors,

On Thursday 23rd February the maritime session of the International Labour Conference of ILO adopted a new comprehensive Maritime Labour Convention. Our Pontifical Council warmly welcomes this new instrument for the protection of seafarers and their families. This Convention will make a great difference to the life of the 1.2 million seafarers and their families, as it will ensure that the health, safety, working conditions and general welfare of seafarers are given primary importance.

We congratulate all those who have worked tirelessly for the success of this Conference. We would like also to underline the spirit of dialogue and collaboration which has reigned during the Conference and which has made this fruitful outcome possible.



In his concluding speech, the ILO Director General, Mr. Juan Somavia, recognised the importance and paid homage to religious welfare organisations and other non-governmental organisations working with seafarers. He also made special mention of the delegation of the Holy See, of ICMA, of the role of Christian organisations and of their positive contribution within the maritime industry.

At our XXI AOS World Congress in Rio de Janeiro (2002) we expressed the wish that the globalised maritime industry be given a humane face. We believe that this vote is a step in that direction. To make it become a reality, we must encourage and urge all the member States who have voted this Convention to ensure that it is now ratified and properly implemented worldwide.

As we rejoice and give thanks for this historical event, we pray that it will inaugurate a new era for the People of the Sea, where the dignity of each one will be recognised and respected.

Yours sincerely in Christ.

Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao

President

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto

Secretary

Archbishop speaks up for human rights of seafarers

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi CS, Holy See permanent observer to the United Nations at Geneva, has called on States to ratify a Maritime Labour Convention that will protect the rights of millions of maritime workers.

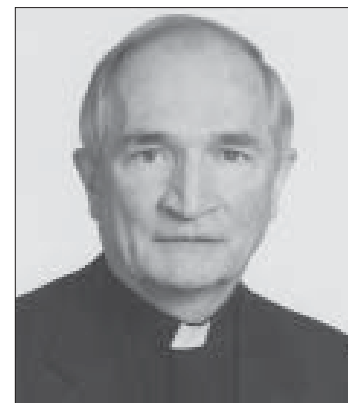
The Vatican Information Service reported at the weekend of his intervention at the 94th session of the International Labor Conference (Maritime).

During the session, which was held in Geneva from 7-23 February, a convention on maritime work was approved, coordinating and updating the provisions of more than 60 earlier international instruments.

Archbishop Tomasi expressed the hope that the conference would "provide 'opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity,' as the Report of the Director General has stated."

The permanent observer called on States to ratify the Consolidated Maritime Labor Convention which, if "implemented effectively at the national level, will bring great benefits to the lives of millions of people over time, and be an example of good practice to the whole industrialized world."

See *Archbishop Tomasi addresses question of maritime work* (Vatican Information Service 25/2/06)



More Questions on Philhealth

EDITORIAL

by Edwin Corros (ECMI)

We were seated at Table 10 at the grand function room of the Diamond Hotel in a forum last March 1, 2006 organized by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation billed "Phil Health Sulong sa Walang Patid na Pagseserbisyo sa mga OFWs." We were invited to its first anniversary of launching Overseas Workers Program (OWP). In the report presented by OIC, President and CEO, Dr. Lorna O. Fajardo, Philhealth now covers an estimated beneficiaries of 54.5 million Filipinos, with a network of services of 1,601 hospitals, more than 21,000 doctors, 16 regional offices outside the National Capital Region, more than 80 services offices and desks, 56 accredited collecting agents with more than 3,200 branches and has three NCR branches.

After having presented its achievement report, PHIC also said that it has not yet posted anyone overseas to attend to the contributions they are expecting to avail from OFWs. The transfer of the OWWA fund to Philhealth was to assume the Medicare function for OFWs as per Executive Order No. 182 issued in February 15, 2003 and as amended by another EO 392 signed in December 28, 2004. This transfer was made without prior consultation with the OWWA Medicare members. Nevertheless, according to the report, there was a membership build up of ten percent increase after its transfer from OWWA to PHIC, and a seven percent collection increase from 2004 to 2005. Dr. Fajardo likewise

reported that there was no diminution or discontinuity of existing benefit package to OWWA Medicare members after its transfer and boasted for a zero backlog of claims including pending cases from OWWA. PHIC also reported that the OWP had received 2,957 claims of which 2,207 were paid, 368 were returned and another 283 that are still being processed with a total payment of Php968,157.23 since March 1, 2005. The



power point presentation looked very impressive, but I have no idea what happened to the more than 400 cases of claims already approved by OWWA, but never paid in 2004. Those cases were submitted to ECMI in 2003, for which the commission has lobbied to the former OWWA administrator.

After the report was presented, the launching of the OFW Handbook followed; but there was no copy for the participants. Actually, only the cover was launched: the real book will follow in June.

The whole afternoon was dedicated to workshop on

drafting PHIC's medium term development plan covering the period of 2006-2012. In my group I raised again the question on whether the transfer of the fund from OWWA to PHIC was already clear or not, because I could not understand that a medium term development plan was only being studied after its transfer. All my colleagues replied yes. Other questions were raised on the mechanism of PHIC's collection

While membership to PHIC is now mandatory for OFWs, many of them are already members of better health insurance in the countries where they are working, such as the case of European countries, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Moreover, most OFWs are not that familiar with OWP. Their knowledge of it is limited to the requirement of its payment before they are allowed to leave the country.

Since there is no turning back to OWP among OFWs, it is necessary that PHIC spend more time and money on its information and dissemination campaign. PHIC officials are providing confuse information on the benefits for OFWs. It was frustrating to realize that one year after the launching of PHIC's program, not even a simple illustrative brochure has been produced. Observing the deliberation of March 1 at Diamond Hotel, I expect that more questions will surface in the near future, since the only clear fact is the transfer of the health services (and some funds) from OWWA Medicare to PHIC.

PMRW will continue to monitor the progress of its benefits and services to direct beneficiaries as part of its own commitment to safeguard the interests of OFWs and their families. It expects Philhealth to come out with a regular simple brochure that would inform and guide clients, namely the OFWs and their families.

overseas, because there was no one yet posted to do the work. Later at the plenary, Mr. Gregorio Rulloda, PHIC Vice President for Membership and Contributions, explained that they were looking into the possibility of entering into a contract with our embassies and POLO officials overseas. Such statement clearly hinted us that the transfer was in fact even more questionable for the way Philhealth presented its OWP after one year. The workshop has proven that there was no real study conducted before the transfer of the OWWA fund for the purpose of handling the Medicare aspect of its services.

GO OUT AND REGISTER!

by Ellene A. Sana

Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA)

As of March 27, 2006, after almost six months of the registration period for overseas absentee voters, Comelec has thus far registered only some 36,191 from the Philippine posts around the world and at the established registration centers at the POEA and the NAIA. Of this number, 60% of those who applied for registration/certification were generated from the POEA and NAIA. The list of those whose applications have been approved are posted on the Comelec website (Source: Comelec).

PMRW calls on overseas Filipinos to please help disseminate the information and ask those who have not registered to do so as soon as possible.

We may be in the midst of a political crisis now. We have lots of questions on the credibility and integrity of our political and electoral processes. The current leadership is under question. But after all is said and done, we still go by the democratic tradition of elections in choosing our leaders and making our voices heard. And only those who are registered voters can participate in the 2007 national elections and future elections.

As a final note, however, PMRW expresses concern that the moves to change the constitution and to parliamentary unicameral form of government will practically disenfranchise the overseas Filipinos because the positions that may be voted upon, as provided for in the OAV law, might be dissolved. This is unacceptable.

Please go out and register now as an overseas absentee voter.

Following is the notice of OAV Registration from Comelec.

Notice of Registration and Election to All Filipino Citizens Abroad

*All citizens of the Philippines abroad, not otherwise disqualified by law, at least eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the election, and who wish to vote for Senators and Party-List Representatives for purposes of the **May 14, 2007 National Elections** must file applications for registration/certification as overseas absentee voters **from October 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006**. The voting period will be **from April 14, 2007 until 3:00 p.m., Philippine time of May 14, 2007**.*

For details,

(1) see the embassy/consulate nearest your residence abroad;

(2) or if you are in the Philippines, you may register at the OAV Registration centers at POEA in Mandaluyong City or at the NAIA (Ninoy Aquino International Airport)

(3) or visit the following websites:

*DFA Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat (Manila):
www.dfa.gov.ph*

Hotlines: +63 2 8330914; +63 2 8328363

*Comelec Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting (Mla):
www.comelec.gov.ph*

Hotlines: +63 2 5222251 or 5212952 or 5239924

PMRW 2006 Program

On its 11th year of service to the migrants, the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) remains steadfast in advocating for the protection and recognition of migrant rights. This year PMRW has planned four major activities to promote migration education, the protection of human rights and honor the Filipino migrant.

Two activities are scheduled for the first semester of this year. Acknowledging the power and the responsibility of the media to disseminate accurate information, the group plans to organize a dialogue, with local and

international media personalities who have taken an active participation in the migration world.

The second activity is dedicated to the Filipino fisherfolk. The ILO Convention on Fishermen which aims to give protection to fisherfolks in international waters. PMRW believes in the importance of this issue. The forum aims to enhance awareness of and involvement on the issue, which is a necessary preparation for the 2007 ILO Convention when the Convention will be re-discussed.

In the second semester, PMRW plans to organize another two forums. One forum will focus on

the bilateral agreements between the Philippines and the receiving countries. Reviewing the documents and analyzing their contents will provide quality information for the improvement of migrants' rights. The forum will serve as an avenue to disseminate the findings of the analysis.

The second forum will be in line with the celebration of this year's International Migrants Day. PMRW would like to honor the migrants by publishing a collection of migrants' stories written by the migrants themselves. At the book launching where the contributors to the book will

share their experiences to the public.

In addition to these new activities, PMRW remains committed to pursue the monitoring of the amendments for RA 8042, continuing the case against the OWWA Omnibus Policies and the illegal collection of the US\$25.00 membership contribution from the workers, and to strengthen its cooperation with other NGOs and GOs in the improvement of anti-trafficking programs and activities promoting the rights of both land-based and sea-based workers.

Maria Celeste Marasigan

Daejeon ‘Moyse’

A Pastoral Service Center for Migrants in the Republic of Korea

Moyse was named after the Latin name of St. Moses who emancipated his people, the Israelites, and led them to God's promised land, the Canaan. We see Moses, or Moyse, and his Israelites in tens and thousands of migrant workers in our society today. With the hope of being with them, the name Moyse was chosen for the center. Interestingly, the word "moyse" in Korean also means "come together!"

Moyse dreams of a community in which everyone can come together despite the differences in skin color and languages spoken by accepting those differences.

Goals of Moyse

The Catholic Diocese of Daejeon established the Migrants' Pastoral Service (Moyse) in order to form a relationship between foreigners living in Korea and the local people. Daejeon Moyse aims to serve migrant workers and women of international marriages by addressing various issues arising out of experiencing cultural

and social differences, lack of human rights, and to promote psychological, medical, and pastoral care. Through various cultural activities, Moyse enhances migrants' self development and also the understanding of Korean society and local community so that they may live happily in Korea.

Daejeon Moyse was established in 2003 for the migrant community of Daejeon, but we soon discovered that there were also a great need by migrants and women of international marriage in the nearby city of Cheonan. Therefore, Cheonan Migrant Women's Shelter and Moyse Center were also established about a year later.

Main Activities of Moyse

- Build good relationship between the local people and migrants
- Build good relationships among migrants from different countries
- Support migrant communities
- Protect human rights
- Support missionary and pastoral activities



- Provide medical support
- Hold Korean classes
- Provide shelters for migrant women

Daejeon MOYSE

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