



TESDA Women's Center NEWSLETTER

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TWC organizes more GAD activities for the national women's month celebration

by Lucy P. Tabu

Anchored on the theme “*Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda!*” (Include Women in the Agenda!), more gender and development (GAD) related activities were organized by the TWC for the 2016 national women's month celebration (NWMC).

Gender sensitivity training (GST) for parents and guardians of the TWC trainees was held on March 18, 2016. The 1-day training on GST aims to increase the participants' level of awareness on gender-related principles, concepts and issues. 200 parents and guardians participated in the GST which was conducted in four venues and facilitated by the following trainers: Ms. Joanna Tabu, Ms. Shirley Alah, Ms. Mindy Lee Villegas, Ms. Irene Mortel, Ms. Kimberly Gabriel, Ms. Malanie Dajan, Ms. Regina Ansay, Ms. Necie Martinez, and Ms. Jenny Caoile.

The highlight of the national women's month celebration was the closing program held on March 21, 2016. Ms. Joanna Tabu, Empowerment Trainer and TWC GAD focal, gave an orientation on the significance of celebrating the national women's month to more than 300 TWC trainees, trainers and non-teaching staff. The casting of votes for the *Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda* highlighted the closing program. All the TWC trainees participated in the casting of votes on the top 5 women's issues. It was an opportune time for the TWC to gather perception of the trainees on what issues should be prioritized by the next administration. The casting of votes was similar to the Philippine Commission on Women led activity dubbed “*Sama- Samang Pagsulong sa Mga Agenda ni Juana*” held at the Quirino Grandstand.

The top 5 women's issues prioritized by the trainees of the TWC are:

1. Improved protective and welfare assistance for distressed female migrant workers.
2. Strengthened social protec-

tion for workers in the informal economy and other vulnerable groups.

3. Improved access to justice of victims of abuse and violence, especially women and girls with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

4. Improved education, awareness-raising and women's participation in gender-responsive climate change adaptation and disaster reduction and management towards building resilient communities.

5. Improved information dissemination on government programs and services for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their human rights.

Skills demonstrations in Bartending, Barista, Cookery, Dressmaking



(top) Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio, Center Chief of TESDA Women's Center delivers her welcome remarks during the celebration of National Women's Month.

(right) Trainees show thumbs up after imprinting their thumb prints in the tarpaulin right after casting of votes.

(below) Parents and guardians of trainees attends a 1-day Gender Sensitivity Training conducted on May 18, 2016

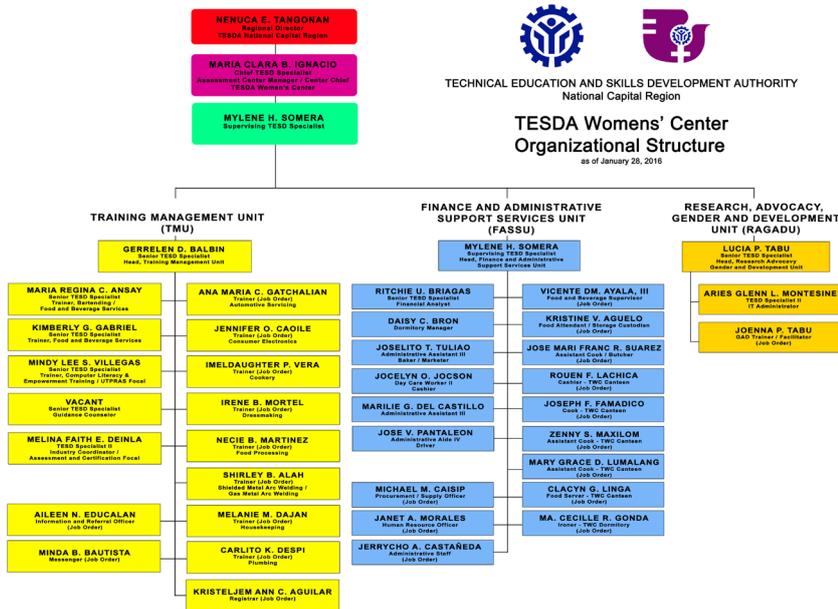


and Food Processing were also held after the casting of votes. The TWC trainers, trainees, and staff witnessed and participated the event.

The TESDA GAD Focal Point System-TWG Meeting held on March 22, 2016 concluded the whole month celebration. The highlight of the meeting was the finalization of TESDA central office GAD accomplishment report for 2015.

New organizational structure of TESDA Women's Center

by Aries Glenn L. Montesines



The management is headed by TESDA NCR Regional Director Nenuca E. Tangonan who has supervision over the TESDA Women's Center. Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio is the Center Chief and Ms. Mylene H. Somera is the Supervising TESD. Ms. Gerrelen D. Balbin is the unit head of the Training Management Unit (TMU) comprised by trainers, registrar, guidance counsel, employment/industry coordinator and staff of the information and referral office. Ms. Mylene H. Somera heads the Finance and Administrative Support Services Unit (FASSU) composed of admin personnel, financial analyst, cashier, human resource staff and canteen personnel. Ms. Lucia P. Tabu is the head of Research, Advocacy, Gender and Development Unit (RAGADU). The unit deals with the research-studies, evaluation and formulation and monitoring of relevant institutional policies and development of advocacy materials for the communication campaign of the center. It is also the lead in TESDA-wide GAD program implementation, monitoring and reporting.

The new TESDA Women's Center's Organizational Structure was the result of the agency wide Rationalization Plan of TESDA. Under the new structure, TWC is transferred under the supervision of TESDA National Capital Region. It now has three units, the Training Management Unit (TMU), Finance and Administrative Support Services Unit (FASSU) and the Research, Advocacy, Gender and Development Unit (RAGADU).

ABC and TWC renew partnership program on "Washoku"

by Lucy P. Tabu

The ABC Cooking Studio Co. Ltd., Japan's most popular cooking studio has renewed its partnership with the TESDA Women's Center (TWC) for another year. The parties first signed an agreement in August 2014 to help upgrade the cooking skills of Filipina Household Service Workers (HSWs).



Top: Japanese Cuisine trainees preparing meat dish (left) and bread (right) as part of their 5-day free training at the TESDA Women's Center in partnership with ABC Cooking Studio Co., Ltd.

Now on its third year, the partnership program seeks to continue the conduct of free training on Japanese Cuisine "Washoku" by introducing assorted delicious and healthy foods, utilizing flavourful foods and incorporating skilful techniques in cooking.

The menu includes Onigiri-Miso/ Tamagoyaki, Nikujaga, Gyuza, Gyudon, Tempura, Sushi, Katsudon, Takoyaki, rolled cake and bread with ham and mayonnaise.

Since the 2014 launch of this partnership, a total of 366 beneficiaries including household service workers, housewives, returning OFWs, senior

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<http://www.facebook.com/TESDAWomenCenter>

TESDA celebrates national women's month

by Lucy P. Tabu

Celebrating the 2016 national women's month, the TESDA Women's Center (TWC) as Secretariat to the TESDA GAD Focal Point System-Technical Working Group (GFPS-TWG) spearheaded the National Women's Month Celebration for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) central office. The annual celebration is consistent with Proclamation No. 227 s. 1998, which aims to give due recognition to the contributions of Filipino women in our society.

The TESDA Women's Center, also taking the lead for women's empowerment in the TVET sector has initiated, organized and participated in various GAD-related activities anchored on this year's theme: *"Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda!"* (Include Women in the Agenda!) such as:

- Issuance of two (2) TESDA Memorandum to the TESDA Central and Regional Offices for the observance of the 2016 NWMC;
- Production and distribution of advocacy materials and collaterals which include official streamer, advocacy fan, and advocacy shirt;
- Conduct of Gender Sensitivity Training for Parents and Guardians of TWC Trainees;
- Participated in the following Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) led activities:
 - ✓ International Women's Day Celebration: Presentation of the Report on the State of the Filipino Women held on March 8, 2016 at the Kalayaan Hall, Malacanang Palace attended by the DDG Teodoro C. Pascua, Chair, GFPS-Executive Committee together with Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio, Chair, GFPS-TWG;
 - ✓ Launching Event of the GREAT Women Forum: Stakeholders' Market-Match forum and Trade Exchange held on March 11, 2016 at the Yuchengco Museum, RCBC Plaza, Makati City participated by Ms. Lucy Tabu, Unit Head,



Left: TESDA Officials headed by DDG for TESD Operations and Chair of TESDA GAD Focal Point System Atty. Teodoro C. Pascua (middle) with the guest speaker for the event, Ms. Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod (2nd from left) during the celebration of International Women's Month at the Quirino Grandstand.

Middle: TESDA Employees at the Quirino Grandstand during the International Women's Month Celebration.

Below: Registration booth of TESDA at the Quirino Grandstand during the International Women's Month Celebration.



- Research, Advocacy, and Gender and Development Unit (RAGADU);
- ✓ Public Event: *"Sama-Samang Pagsulong sa mga Agenda ni Juana,"* an assembly of women and GAD advocates focused on celebrating the achievements, gains and accomplishments with regards to bridging the gender gap and promoting women's empowerment. The highlight of the event was the Agenda ni Juana Casting of Votes. It was held on March 16, 2016 at the Burnham Green, Quirino Grandstand, Luneta Park, Manila. The TESDA delegation composed of 40 officials and personnel from the Central Office, NCR, Region IV-A and the TWC participated in the event.

- Participated in one of the women's month activities organized by the Department of Labor and Employment
 - ✓ Inspirational Talk entitled *"Arise Women"* held at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Intramuros Manila attended by DDG Pascua, Ms. Mylene Somera, Mr. Rene Geron, and Ms. Joanna Tabu;
- Set-up a booth that showcased the training programs especially non-traditional qualifications offered to women during the public event at the Quirino Grandstand. Advocacy materials such as flyers and training schedule were distributed to various clients.

TWC steps up to act against HIV-AIDS

by Joenna P. Tabu



Left: TWC trainees attended a seminar entitled #ActAgainstAIDS at the Tandang Sora Hall.

Fifteen years ago, at a meeting of AIDS experts in Switzerland in May 2001, AIDS was declared “the most devastating pandemic in human history” while on year 2005, the United States Secretary of State Colin Powell stated “No war on the face of the world is as destructive as the AIDS pandemic.”

This remains true until today since a total of 36.7 million people in the world are living with HIV according to the 2016 Global AIDS Update, UNAIDS.org.

How severely affected is the Philippines by this infectious disease? **HIV/AIDS infection in the country is low but growing** according to the UNAIDS.org. **The Philippines has one of the lowest rates of infection, yet has one of the fastest growing numbers of cases worldwide**, as emphasized by the UNICEF Philippines. From its first reported case on 1984 to a 24,936 accumulated cases as of April 2015, shows a sustained increase of up to 37 times of newly diagnosed cases every year, according to the Department of Health (DOH) AIDS Registry.

How do we respond to this challenge? The TESDA Women's Center (TWC), aside from offering Life Long Learning programs, is also contributing to its mandate under Republic Act 9710 also known as the Magna of Women (MCW) Section 20: Women's Right to Health, which holds the state and its government agencies and other instrumentalities responsible in promoting a comprehensive health information and education campaign especially HIV and AIDS education that serve as a major cause of women's morbidity and mortality.

As a bold step to fight this issue, the TWC conducted a seminar entitled #ActAgainstAIDS last April 15, 2016 at the Tandang Sora Hall, TWC which was attended by 348 trainees (336 females and 12 males). The 1-day seminar includes interactive-discussion with group activities on the following topics: Female and Male Anatomy: What is happening to my Body? Is it a Crush, Infatuation or Real Love?; The Biology of HIV-AIDS and the participants were guided to analyze and determine their own Action Against HIV-AIDS.

The seminar was facilitated by Ms. Joenna P. Tabu, TWC Facilitator on Empowerment Programs and assisted by the TWC Trainers. The program enabled participants to become more knowledgeable about the characteristics of adolescent physical development, understand the differences of crush, infatuation and real love while enumerating the concepts of healthy and unhealthy relationships, differentiate between myths and facts about HIV-AIDS and how it is being transmitted and finally, appreciate the importance of life skills and apply the knowledge gained in dealing with the HIV-AIDS challenge.

The highlight of TWC's #ActAgainstAIDS Program was the distribution of 348 free bible-based books, entitled **Questions Young People Ask: Answers that Work** for young adults and for everyone who attended the seminar which has helped many teenagers to be more responsible in their actions especially in dealing with the opposite sex.

The facilitator ends the program with these powerful words: “*Prevention is better than cure, especially if*

this Disease (HIV-AIDS) still has NO CURE”.

When we hear the pandemic issue of HIV-AIDS, may we all be reminded by what President Nelson Mandela of South Africa (the biggest and most high profile country with HIV epidemic in the world) said “*The most frightening thing is that all of these infections . . . and . . . human suffering . . . could have been, can be, prevented*”.

ABC and TWC renew partnership... from page 2

citizens, persons with disabilities, victims of VAW, and TESDA graduates in Cookery, Food Processing and Food and Beverage Services participated in the five-day cooking lessons. Through the partnership, the ABC Cooking Studio provides financial assistance to cover the cost of training supplies and materials and trainer's fee including donations of tools and equipment for the conduct of training. A dedicated venue for the training is provided by the TESDA Women's Center at the TESDA Complex, Taguig City. The five-day free training program is scheduled until December 2016.



TESDA Women's Center

Vision

“In every Filipino Household a woman skilled for a living and educated for life.”

Mission

“To develop the competence and character of women in the most marginalized sectors of the Philippine society to equip them with an employable skill and prepare them for their role in the family and community thereby elevating their status towards gender equality.”

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