



TESDA Women's Center NEWSLETTER

4th Quarter

A Publication of the TESDA Women's Center

October - December 2016

Galang Philippines and TWC sign MOU on access to training for lesbian, bisexual women and trans men (LBT)

by Lucy P. Tabu

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was forged between Galang Philippines and the TESDA Women's Center (TWC) on October 12, 2016 at the Gregoria de Jesus Room, TESDA Women's Center, Taguig City. The partnership aims to provide access for the members of the Filipino lesbians, bisexual women and trans men (LBT) to the competency-based training (CBT) programs of the TESDA Women's Center for empowerment and gainful employment.

Galang Philippines is a non-profit, non-government organization (NGO) that seeks to contribute to the attainment of social and economic equity for Filipino lesbians, bisexual women and trans men (LBT). It also promotes LBT human rights in training institutions and workplaces to open more opportunities for gainful employment towards a just and progressive society that treats all persons equally re-

turn to page 3...



TESDA NCR Director Nenuca E. Tangonan, TWC Chief Maria Clara B. Ignacio with representatives from Galang Philippines Deputy Executive Director Marie Rose R. Ramos and Ms. Gyknell Tangente together with the TWC staff during the signing of memorandum of understanding between Galang Philippines and TWC

Closing Ceremonies to celebrate new competent women skilled workers

by Lucy P. Tabu



Around 500 trainees, parents, guardians, TESDA officials and TESDA Women's Center (TWC) teaching and non-teaching personnel, all came together in celebration of the TWC 2016 closing ceremonies of its Competency-Based Training (CBT) programs held at the TESDA Auditorium on December 9, 2016. It was the second graduation event within the year. The traditional part of the closing ceremonies started with the entrance of graduates of the following qualifications: Automotive Servicing NC II, Barista NC II, Bartending NC II, Cookery NC II, Dressmaking NC II, Electronic Product Assembly and Services NC II, Food and Beverage Services NC II, Food Processing NC II, Gas Metal Arc Welding NC II, Housekeeping NC II, Plumbing NC II, and Shielded Metal Arc Welding NC II, followed by the TWC management and staff members and the Guest of Honor.

turn to page 2...

(Left) TWC Chief Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio, Ms. Mylene H. Somera and Ms. Melina Faith E. Deinla together with the guest of honor Deputy Executive Officer, Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines, Mr. Alfredo T. Li.

(Middle) TESDA Director General / Secretary Gulling "Gene" Mamondiong delivers his message to the TWC graduates during the TWC Closing Ceremonies.

(Right) TESDA Deputy Director General for TESD Operations Alvin Feliciano speaking to the graduates during the TWC Closing Ceremonies.

Closing ceremonies... from page 1



(Top-left) Mr. Alfredo T. Li of Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines as the Guest of Honor during the TWC Closing Ceremonies.

(Left-middle) Ms. Irene B. Mortel, Trainer in Dressmaking delivers an inspiring message to the graduates.

(Left) Mr. Ricky Talon, a graduate of Dressmaking shares his experiences before joining TESDA and during his training at the TESDA Women's Center.

(Top-above) A graduate of Bartending receives certificate during the TWC Closing Ceremonies.

(Top) TWC graduates listen to the TESDA Director General / Secretary Guiling "Gene" Mamondiong during his keynote speech.

In front of a packed auditorium, the ceremonies started with a warm welcome message from the TWC Chief, Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio. *"This is a celebration of successes and achievements where you made a right choice. In TESDA there is always a choice. I can see that you are all happy with your smiles, but for us, we are overjoyed seeing all of you in this momentous event,"* she said. *"I also commend the parents and guardians for providing moral and financial support to your loved ones. To the TWC trainers and staff, I recognize your full support and cooperation,"* Ms. Ignacio added.

To the graduates she said, *"you have not simply graduated from your training, you are now certified skilled workers! Consistent with our theme: "TESDA, kagapay ng Pamilya at Sambayanan tungo sa Matagumpay at Maunlad na Kinabukasan," your family and community needs you. Continue learning even while at work."* Finally, always choose to be happy, Ms. Ignacio ended with a smile.

The Deputy Executive Officer of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Philippines, Mr. Alfredo T. Li was the Guest of Honor during the closing ceremonies.

In his speech, he used three short videos to convey the mission of Tzu Chi Foundation and to highlight his message for the graduates focusing on the need for work experience and practice which can only be gained in the real world of work.

A message from the graduate was delivered by Mr. Ricky Talon, a graduate of Dressmaking NC II, a non-traditional course for males. He shared his experiences before joining TESDA and during his three and a half months memorable training at the TESDA Women's Center. *"I learned pattern making and sewing casual apparel. More than that, discipline, appropriate work ethics and professionalism were instilled to us by our Trainer, Ms. Irene Mortel. I learned to value work, respect women, and fight for equal rights,"* Ricky said. He thanked his Trainer in Dressmaking for giving him the opportunity to serve as her Assistant Trainer. *"I will cherish the experience where I became competent in the field of Dressmaking,"* shared Ricky.

Ms. Irene B. Mortel, Trainer in Dressmaking gave another inspiring message. She shared about her humble beginning and modest family life while she grew up

in the province of Albay. She said it was an opportunity for her to finish Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education major in Garments at the Bicol University College of Industrial Technology. It became her stepping stone to achieve her present career as Trainer in Dressmaking at the TESDA Women's Center. She gave this advice for the trainees, *"I never blamed my parents nor held grudges for the difficulties in life, especially to my father who never provided support to us but I learned to forgive so I had peace of mind right now. Today, I have my own family and blessed with two children,"* Ms. Irene said. She finally shared about the success of her graduates in Dressmaking. *"One of my graduates now works in New Zealand as Dressmaker and the whole family migrated with her. Another 65 year-old graduate is now teaching Dressmaking in her own community in the Visayas region."*

Prior to the Keynote Speech by the Director General, the Deputy Director General for TESD Operations, DDG Alvin Feliciano delivered an encouraging message for everyone. He focused on the 17-point reform and development agenda of the new TESDA leadership for the next six years and beyond. He enumerated and expounded the following agenda: I. Barangay Scholarship Program; II. Online Scholarship Application; III. Walk-in Scholarship Application; IV. Technical Audit of TVET Schools and Programs; V. Skills Training for Drug Dependents; VI. Skills Training for Entrepreneurs and Family Enterprises; VII. Skills Training for Inmates and their Families; VIII. OFWs' Reintegration; IX. Special Skills Program for the Indigenous People; X. Expanded Training Program for Women, PWDs; XI. Continuing Program for TESDA's Alumni; XII. Global Access to/ On-line Database of TVET Graduates and Certified Workers; XIII. Strengthen Linkages with Agro-Industrial Sector; XIV. Linkages with Foreign Skills Training/ Funding Institutions; XV. Linkages with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs); XVI. Transparency; and XVII. Moral Renewal.

The highlight of the closing ceremonies was the keynote speech delivered by TESDA Director General/ Secretary Guiling "Gene" Mamondiong. He expressed his dedication and sincerity to support the President's renewal program which includes war against drugs and corruption. *"TESDA is part of the campaign for a drug-free nation. Drug testing shall be done for all TESDA employees and train-*

turn to page 3...

TWC chief speaks in the “wash your fears summit”

by Lucy P. Tabu



TWC Chief Maria Clara B. Ignacio was one of the guest speakers during the “Ariel 100 Stains in One Wash Wash Your Fears” Summit.

A symbolic washing away of fears that women face highlighted the summit dubbed “Ariel100Stainsin1Wash Wash Yours Fears” held on October 11, 2016 at the Shooting Gallery, Makati City. The event consisted of panel discussion from the views of fearless women as a way to drive conversations to inspire more Filipina women to pursue their passion and succeed in life by overcoming their fears. Ten fearless women including Ms. Kris

Aquino, Ms. Meriam Quiambao and other celebrity influencers known to be fearless in their various roles joined the panel discussion hosted by Ms. Bianca Gonzales.

Aside from the celebrity influencers, Resource Speakers from the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the TESDA Women's Center (TWC) shared their views to add relevant context on the topic “State of Filipina Women.” Ms.

Maria Clara B. Ignacio, TWC Chief, was one of the guest speakers. She said that the presence of Filipina women in the workforce has a big impact in the economy and there is industry growth in the country. “In TESDA, we believe that development is for all. Men and women should have the same opportunities,” Ms. Ignacio added.

She also shared about the women trainees and the successful graduates of the TESDA Women's Center in courses that used to be male dominated such as welding, automotive and plumbing. When asked about the common fears of the trainees who are enrolled in non-traditional courses, “it is the fear of not being accepted or even rejected in the men's world of work,” she replied. “But this fear has been overcome by empowering them thru skills training. We have successful stories of many of our graduates mostly women who have landed in good and decent jobs because they expanded their choices, they choose to be empowered and as a result they changed their lives.”

The celebrity influencers in the panel shared their own fears in life and how they were able to overcome it. Some of the fears of women include losing a loved one, fear that any member of her family gets hurt, not being able to perform her role as the best mom, being a single parent, living alone especially in old age, and many more. The audience composed of 100 fearless women had their share by writing their own fears using readily available stains from labelled containers in the white T-shirts distributed to all the participants. The TWC representatives, Ms. Gerrelen Balbin, Ms. Ritchie Briagas, and Ms. Lucy Tabu also participated in the staining of shirts where all the stained T-shirts were finally placed in the bin of fears.

After the symbolic washing of fears, Ms. Kris Aquino pointed to the newly washed 100 clean shirts and announced that Ariel removes 100 stains in 1 wash. The event concluded with photo opportunity and giving away of the new Ariel Powder Gel and Powder Detergent.

Signing ceremony of the memorandum... from page 1

regardless of class, sex, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.

The MOU signing started with a welcome remarks delivered by the TWC Chief, Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio. She mentioned that during the Pilot Batch of

TWCs Plumbing NC II, Galang Philippines and the TESDA Women's Center have initially collaborated by accepting Galang's endorsement to the TWC of some members of the lesbian, bisexual and trans men (LBTs) for access to skills training.

The TESDA NCR Regional Director, Ms. Nenuca Tangonan, in her message, focused on the scope of the partnership between Galang Philippines and the TWC. She emphasized that aside from Plumbing NC II, the target beneficiaries of this partnership can be expanded to include both traditional and non-traditional skills training programs offered by the TWC and other TTIs within the National Capital Region (NCR).

On behalf of Galang Philippines, Executive Director Anne Marie Kristine Lim was represented by Deputy Executive Director Ms. Marie Rose Ramos who gave her message regarding the significance of the partnership aimed at empowering women who are members of the LBTs.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by TESDA Regional Director Nenuca Tangonan and Deputy Executive Director Marie Rose R. Ramos of Galang Philippines. Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio and Ms. Gyknell Tangente also signed as witnesses.

Closing ceremonies... from page 2

ees. I hope you will take part in pursuing the goals of the new administration. I am offering cash reward for information about any corruption committed by any TESDA but you have to prove the allegation,” the Director General explicitly said.

During his speech, DG Gene Mamondiong gladly shared information that there are more TESDA graduates than college graduates who have acquired job after completion of their skills training in TESDA. He also encouraged the graduates to be included in the worldwide database of the TESDA Alumni as a support mechanism for post training assistance.

The closing message was delivered by Ms. Mylene H. Somera, Supervising TESD Specialist. Ms. Joanna P. Tabu, GAD and Empowerment Trainer, and Mr. Michael William H. Del Rosario, Guidance Counsellor, served as the masters of ceremony.

All the staff members of the TESDA Women's Center also witnessed the MOU signing, as a symbol of support to gender equality and appreciation for an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or SOGIE.

A photo opportunity to document the momentous event captured the MOU signing followed by the ceremonial handshake of the parties.

TWC's expertise on GAD - A gift to share

by Joanna P. Tabu



(Left) 2-day orientation on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) for the staff of TESDA Women's Center.

(Left-bottom) 1-day Basic GST facilitated by TWC Chief, Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio and Ms. Joanna P. Tabu for Samsung Electronics Philippines, Corporation (SEPCO).



During ber-months and especially the holiday season, most people think of special gifts that they can give and share to those who are close to their hearts. Truly, giving and receiving presents have an optimistic, heart-warming and unforgettable effect which contributes to a person's sense of happiness.

In the TESDA Women's Center (TWC) culture, we plan to always give to as many people as possible – to anyone who becomes an internal and external part of TWC and in anytime of the year.

We practice giving to others, through our regular conduct of free Gender Sensitivity Training (GST), a one-of-a-kind educational training which aims to raise people's consciousness, in the most creative and participative way, to understand and appreciate the principles of equality among women and men; expand knowledge on how gender shapes our thinking and actions towards ourselves and other people (mainly to the opposite sex and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community); realizing that gender biases and discrimination still exists in the world that we live in and most importantly, develop sensitivity to countless gender issues by responding to these concerns and advocating the need for a more Gender-Responsive government.

This 2016, TWC conducted two (2) batches of GST for its TESDA-National Capital Region (NCR) family and one

of its Industry Partner, the Samsung Philippines.

A 1-day GST was facilitated by TWC Chief, Ms. Maria Clara B. Ignacio and Ms. Joanna P. Tabu, TWC Gender and Development (GAD) Focal for 11 (7 female and 4 male) participants of Samsung Philippines who expressed their intention to apply gender sensitivity in dealing with

clients and among their organization.

The 2-morning sessions of GST for 26 participants (20 female and 6 male) from TESDA-NCR was also facilitated by Ms. Joanna P. Tabu who highlighted the significance of understanding SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression) concepts, practicing the use of gender-fair language and appreciate how TESDA's Gender and Development (GAD) program can largely contribute to the Agency's mandate in eliminating all forms of discrimination in the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Looking back at the activities done by TWC this year 2016, the TWC management acknowledges the opportunity to share its expertise in GST which promotes women's empowerment and builds a collective action towards the common dream for gender equality.



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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