

SECOND NATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS' SUMMIT

Decent Work for Domestic Workers

Organized by the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc

In cooperation with the Technical Working Group on the Philippine Campaign on Decent Work for Domestic Workers

With support from the International Labour Organization

*Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Ave. corner Agham Road, Quezon City, Philippines
August 20-21, 2009*

Narrative Report

Introduction

The Second National Domestic Workers Summit (SUMMIT) is the largest gathering of domestic workers, government stakeholder, trade unions, employers, and advocates for the recognition of domestic work as decent work. It laid the foundation for a common unified position undertaken by tri-partite representatives to the International Labour Conference in 2010. The Workers Group called for the adoption of an International Labour Convention for Domestic Workers accompanied by a recommendation and proposed very specific provisions for the contents of the Convention.

Despite initial inclinations to move for a Recommendation, the employers group, represented by the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), reversed their initial position after the Summit and called for the adoption of a Convention and a Recommendation. The Philippine government was initially calling for a Convention with binding provisions for migrant domestic workers and non-binding provisions covering local domestic workers. Because of intense opposition during the Summit, the Philippine government finally decided to move for a Convention.

The Summit also resulted in a set of concrete recommendations for future policy reforms and programs.

Rationale for the Summit

The SUMMIT comes at the crest of major milestones in the campaign for recognition of the rights and protection of domestic workers. In 2010, the International Labour Conference will discuss the possibility of adopting an international labour instrument that would ensure legal coverage, social protection, and decent work for domestic workers. At the national level, NGOs, government, local governments, trade unions, domestic workers themselves, and even employers are coming together to implement pioneering direct actions. The proposed

Philippine Magna Carta for Domestic Workers is at the final stages of legislation, having passed the Philippine Senate.

The First National Domestic Workers Summit held in 2005 helped bring about these major milestones. The First Summit led to the adoption of a set of concrete policy and program recommendation that were distilled into a ten-point agenda. The results of the First Summit guided stakeholders in their efforts to refine existing policies and regulations protecting domestic workers and in developing programs to promote the welfare of the sector.

The Second National Domestic Workers Summit (SUMMIT) builds on these milestones.

The Summit aimed to influence the development of an international labour instrument for domestic workers by facilitating the crafting of a unified Philippine response to the ILO Questionnaire. This entailed finding common grounds from among the different stakeholders' positions on issues such as legal coverage, minimum wage setting and protection, prevention and remedies against abuse, forced labour, human trafficking and exploitation, and social security and health insurance coverage.

The Summit sought to further enhance the existing program and policy environment in the Philippines that governs domestic work by assessing the status of commitments emanating from the First Summit, developing practical recommendations, and proposing implementing mechanisms that will transcend existing limitations in extending decent work to domestic workers.

The Philippine Campaign on Decent Work for Domestic Workers

The Summit is one of the highlights of the Philippine Campaign on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. The Campaign seeks to create a critical mass base that would push for reforms in policies and programs for domestic workers. Specifically, the Campaign seeks to facilitate the crafting of a unified and widely-accepted Philippine position on the ILO Questionnaire for the proposed ILO Instrument for domestic workers. Also, the Campaign seeks to catalyze the immediate passage of the Magna Carta for Domestic Workers.

The Campaign is headed by a Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of trade unions and workers groups (Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Federation of Free Workers, Alliance of Progressive Labour, Informal Sector Coalition of the Philippines), government agencies (Department of Labour and Employment, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, National Anti-Poverty Commission), migrant workers advocacy groups (represented by Migrant Forum in Asia), domestic workers (through the Samahan at Ugnayan ng Manggagawang Pantahanan sa Pilipinas) and employers groups (represented by the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines).

Since its formation in March 2009, the TWG has embarked on a series of activities. It spearheaded consultations, both multi-sectoral and within their own constituencies, to start the process of developing joint positions on issues such as definition of domestic work, minimum wage, social security, contracts, role of intermediaries, and minimum age of employment. Individually, members have included domestic work issues in their advocacies and public events such as Labour Day celebrations. The TWG, as a whole, has been active in mobilizing public support through media events and appearances in radio, TV, and newspaper articles.

Summit Objectives

The Summit seeks to:

1. Unmask and understand emerging trends, issues and discriminatory practices related to the invisibility and vulnerability of local and migrant domestic workers, with special attention to child domestic workers in the Philippines;
2. Culminate the discussions of a unified Philippine tri-partite and civil society position on the ILO Survey Questionnaire in consultation with domestic workers themselves as signal for a long-term campaigns for the adoption of the proposed ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers
3. Highlight key policy and implementation gaps towards generating a comprehensive set of recommendations on Decent Work Agenda that will help promote synergy among Philippine stakeholders and the general public

The Summit resulted in the following:

1. A Comprehensive Set of Recommendations that includes proposals that will enhance national laws, regulations, and recruitment and placement practices. The Recommendations also points the way to future programs that stakeholders could implement, either individually or as a network. (Annex A)
2. Adopted practical recommendations that lays the foundation for the formulation of common positions on issues such as:
 - a. Definition of domestic work
 - b. Definition and responsibilities of employers
 - c. Contracts and terms of employment
 - d. Wage setting and wage protection
 - e. Hours of work
 - f. Days off and vacation
 - g. Occupational safety
 - h. Standards for humane treatment and decent living conditions

- i. Protection against abuse
- j. Health insurance and social security coverage
- k. Special protection for migrant domestic workers
- l. Special protection for child domestic workers
- m. Minimum age for both local and overseas domestic workers
- n. Mechanisms for implementation and dispute settlements

These are enunciated in A Summit Statement (Annex B) which will also serve as guidelines for future policy discussions and debates among the stakeholders present

3. Served as a venue where domestic workers themselves are given the opportunity to discuss and debate with government officials, trade unionists, advocates, employers groups about policies and programs that directly affects their work and lives

Activities/Events leading up to the Summit

The TWG members embarked on a series of consultations to generate inputs for the Philippine response to the ILO Questionnaire. The consultations also solicited comments on possible improvements to the proposed Magna Carta for Domestic Workers and practical recommendations for concrete steps that should be taken by governments to enhance the protection and promote the welfare of domestic workers.

Three (3) Multi-sectoral Island-wide Consultations were held from June to July. A total of 139 domestic workers, trade unionists, local and national government agencies, NGOs, and migrant workers advocacy groups took part in 2-day consultations held in Davao (June 17-18, 2009), Cebu (June 25-26, 2009), and Luzon/NCR (July 16-17).

Trade unions and workers associations consolidated their own ranks and developed a Workers Response to the ILO Questionnaires. The Response was capsulized in a Unified Workers Statement that was released by the media. The first All-Workers Consultation was held in Sulo Hotel, last July 29-30. The All Workers Consultations were organized by the Workers Groups in the TWG (APL, TUCP, FFW, MFA, ISP, and SUMAPI) with assistance from the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc. The Consultation was supported by the ILO and the Global Network Asia Project of LEARN.

The Workers Groups made sure that the opinion and recommendations of a broad range of workers associations and trade unions are heard. Consultations were also held for Mindanao-based trade unionists last August 4 while another round was conducted in Visayas last August 6.

In all consultations, the consensus was near-unanimous – the strongest form of protection should be afforded to domestic workers. Hence, the decision is that the Workers will push for a Convention with accompanying recommendations. The Workers Groups also agreed to extend

minimum wage, social security, health insurance, and tenure protection to all domestic workers. The Workers recommended mechanisms to improve the monitoring and enforcement of laws and regulations for domestic workers.

The positions of the tri-partite representatives to the ILO 2010 Conference were brought together during the Working World Trialogue implemented by the DOLE Institute for Labour Studies (ILS). It was during this Trialogue when employers groups first declared that they are in favour of a recommendation instead of a full-fledged binding Convention. The initial position of the employers were forged during a Board Meeting held before the Trialogue.

Participants to the Summit

Three hundred twenty two delegates participated in the Summit.

A total of 147 domestic workers participated in the Summit. They came from Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Davao, Batangas, and the National Capital Region. Most of them came from SUMAPI chapters in the region; the rest are child domestic workers from PCMN and RMI. Fourteen domestic workers are migrant domestic workers who have been trafficked or have experienced abuse, contract violations, or unfair treatment. Fifty-two (52) participants represented national and local government agencies. Ninety (90) participants came from among NGOs, the academe, employers groups (ECOP) and international institutions such as the ILO. Thirty Three (33) participants came from among trade unions and workers organizations.

(for full details see database of participants and organizations, Annex C)

Collaterals Produced

The Summit served as the launching event for some IEC materials that will be used in the Campaign.

1. Five sets of campaign posters on decent work for domestic workers were prepared, printed, and disseminated. These campaign posters send out messages on fair wages, humane treatment and protection against abuse, social security and health insurance coverage.
2. A Souvenir Program that contains messages from the President of the Philippines, heads of Philippine Congress, and other key policy-makers. The messages were important because it also contained specific commitments that could serve as basis for future lobbying efforts. The Souvenir Program also contained write-ups about the Campaign, the TWG, and is intended to serve as a resource material that was used during the Summit. The Souvenir Program can also be easily transformed into a Primer on Policy Advocacy for Domestic Workers Rights.

Media Coverage

The Summit helped focus media attention on domestic workers issues. TWG members and SUMAPI leaders joined the ILO in the campaign and they were active in drawing media and public focus through regular guestings and release of press materials. During the Summit itself, eleven media practitioners were on hand to cover the event. Media coverage was also widespread the weeks prior to and after the Summit with various TV outlets, radio stations, and online news agencies doing special features on domestic work. (*see Media Monitoring Report, Annex D*)

Highlights of the Second National Domestic Workers Summit

Day 1: August 20, 2009 (9am to 5pm)

Opening Ceremonies

9AM to 11AM

The Summit was formally opened by Ms. Ma. Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, President of the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc., the organizer of the Summit and the Secretariat of the Philippine Campaign on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. Ms. Oebanda acknowledged the participants coming from all over the country, especially the domestic workers who had to take time off from their work, studies and multiple responsibilities to lead the discussions. She encouraged the participants to continue persevering since the fruits of their labour for protection of domestic workers are already within grasp.

Partners from the Technical Working Group delivered their Solidarity Messages. Josua Mata, Secretary General of the Alliance of Progressive Labour (APL) encouraged domestic workers to continue organizing and continue building their collective strength because strong domestic workers can help protect others. Alan Montano, President of the Federation of Free Workers, said that the Filipino domestic worker is worth more than what she is paid since they deliver valuable and necessary services to the households.

Ms. Teresita Salud of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) stated that it is the responsibility of the country to protect its workers, especially domestic workers since this is a gendered occupation whose workers are mostly women, and coupled with the low status of domestic work, are particularly exposed to abuse and exploitation. She said that the NCRFW joins the TWG and domestic workers in pushing for a law.

Migrant advocacy groups through Migrant Forum in Asia representative Agnes Matienzo reiterated their support to the Summit and the Campaign. She said that there should be Equal

pay for Equal work for domestic workers – that we should work to make sure that there are equal treatment and benefits for all types of workers in all countries. The representative of Undersecretary Esteban Conejos of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Maria Agnes Cervantes said that they are taking a closer look at the plight of Filipino domestics working outside of the country because of their vulnerability to abuse. She said that all sectors should work together to change existing views on DW, elevate their status of and ensure respect since the low regard is the usual root of abuses.

The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Linda Wirth, Director of the ILO Subregional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Ms. Wirth said that improving the conditions of work and lives of domestic workers is a major concern of the ILO since its early days. This is because of the importance of the occupation, the magnitude of workers involved, and the links of domestic work to slavery, colonialism, child labour, and other forms of servitude. She focused the attention of the group to the special plight of child domestic workers who are most vulnerable because of their age and near dependence to employers. The vulnerabilities of domestic workers, especially migrants, are exacerbated because they are not covered by labour laws in most countries.

Ms. Wirth concluded her keynote address to reaffirm that DWs should be covered by decent work standards. With the inclusion of Decent work for domestic work as a standard-setting agenda for the 2010 ILC social partners are provided with a platform to discuss the plight of the sector and move forward with concrete recommendations. She lauded the Philippine partners for showing that social dialogues can achieve social progress.

The emcee for the opening ceremony was Ms. Kim Bernardo Loquin.

THEME 1: UNMASKING THE INVISIBILITY OF DOMESTIC WORK

11:15 AM to 2:27PM

Chairperson: Ms. Carla Cuntapay, Visayan Forum

Speakers:

Ms. Lotte Kejsler

Ms. Sofie Arce

Mr. Roland Pacis

Ms. Carla Cuntapay of the Visayan Forum, the Chairperson, introduced the Session. According to her, the session seeks to help stakeholders arrive at a common understanding on the profile of domestic workers, the problems that they face, and the root cause of their vulnerabilities. The session will also look at past commitments generated during the First National Domestic Workers Summit.

Ms. Lotte Kejsler of the International Labour Organization presented the Emerging Situational Trends and Challenges in protecting and empowering domestic workers. During her

presentation, she stressed the importance of domestic work in national development strategies because of the number of women employed as domestics, its role as a major growth sector, and its economic contribution to both sending and receiving countries.

Ms. Kejsler proceeded to trace multiple discriminations against domestic workers. She said that domestic workers suffer from gender discrimination and perception of domestic work as unskilled work with little productive value. She pointed out that the unwillingness to regulate domestic work despite poor working conditions and inhumane treatment stems from the concept that households are private and that employers are there to protect and control domestic workers. Furthermore, migrant workers suffer from xenophobia. All of these factors conspire to compromise the working conditions of domestic workers.

It was pointed out also that, in the case of domestic workers, Core Labour Standards are systematically violated by employers and that there are very few efforts to implement existing standards in the context of domestic work. She ended her presentation by stressing on the need to come up with international labour standards for domestic workers and outlining possible areas for discussions and future actions.

Ms. Sofie Arce, VF Board of Directors and a former domestic worker who chaired the First National Summit presented the Ten-point agenda on Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

Key Points Discussed

1. On developments in the ten-point agenda. One concrete result is the passage of the Batas Kasambahay in the Senate as a result of the First Summit and subsequent activities. However, the proposed law continue to languish in the House of Representatives. For other items, the answer will come from the stakeholders as they assess the status of commitments during the Summit.
2. On monitoring possible rights violations for domestic workers. The first step is to map out the locations of domestic workers. This can be done through contracts that will be submitted to barangay officials and local governments for regular monitoring. The same can be done for migrant domestic workers where consuls will be the ones to regularly check on the conditions of domestic workers. One major obstacle will be if the host country will not recognize the contract.

Protection against abuse should also start with the domestic workers themselves. They should know their rights and how they can protect these.

3. On nature of domestic work. Domestic work should be recognized as work, and this recognition should start with domestic workers themselves. The status of domestic

workers should be elevated from mere “helpers.” They should be part of Labour Day Celebrations since they are part of the labour sector.

4. On preventing recruitment and placement practices that exposes DWs to abuse. It is recognized that excessive fees and contract substitution to diminish wages and benefits are rampant. The first step is to continuously educate domestic workers about placement and recruitment regulations. The next is to put more pressure on the Philippine government to conclude bilateral agreements that would respect contract and establish monitoring mechanisms.

The group reconvened after lunch for the Presentation of the Results of the Island-wide Consultations (see Annex E for presentation). Mr. Pacis explained that a more detailed discussion on the output of the consultations is included in the Souvenir Program. He started out with discussing the realities of migrant and local domestic workers, as discussed during the Island-wide presentations. He then proceeded to discuss the recommendations, a more detailed presentation of which could be found in the souvenir program. The outputs were distilled into 20 recommendations covering four (4) broad areas of work: national policy reform; protection, withdrawal, and reintegration strategies, prevention and family empowerment, and organizing.

Simultaneous Break-out Sessions

Issues and Gaps on Decent Work Agenda for Domestic Workers

2:39 – 5:00PM

The break-out sessions aim to expand discussions

The participants were divided into three break-out groups to discuss specific issues:

Break-out Group 1: Working Conditions and Discrimination Against Overseas Filipino Domestic Workers

Rapporteur: Ms. Marlene Sindayen (Alliance of Progressive Labour)

Speakers: Ms. Ellene Sana (Migrant Forum in Asia), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Mr. Jed Dayang (Department of Foreign Affairs)

Break-out Group 2: Working Conditions and Discrimination Against Domestic Workers inside the Philippines

Rapporteur: Federation of Free Workers

Speakers: Ms. Cecil Oebanda, Visayan Forum; Department of Labour and Employment

Break-out Group 3: Special Situation of Child Domestic Workers

Facilitator: Julius Cainglet, FFW; SUMAPI leaders

For the sessions, the groups will 1) enrich the discussions on the profile and issues of domestic workers by surfacing new data and information; 2) illustrate the value of domestic workers to their families, their employers, and to the national development of both sending and host countries; 3) identify decent work deficits in terms of policies and their implementation, and; 4) identify challenges and opportunities that could be utilized to ensure decent work for domestic workers.

(see Annex F for consolidated summary of output)

Day 2: August 21, 2009 (8am to 5pm)

Reporting of Workshop Outputs

Chairperson: Mr. Roland Pacis, Visayan Forum

Reporters: Breakout session rapporteurs/facilitators

The day started with the reporting of workshop output from the first breakout sessions. The Child Domestic Workers group pointed out the discrimination that is often experienced by child domestic workers as children and as migrants. They maintain that child domestic workers are the most invisible because they are hidden purposely by their employers from the sight of the public and because, being children and migrants, they have no support system to turn to in times of need. They bemoaned the lack of opportunity to express themselves – even to their employers. All the participants in the break-out session are united that all sectors should work to make sure that there will be no child domestic worker in the immediate future.

Local domestic workers stressed on the decent work deficits experienced by the sector. Apart from the low level of salary, they pointed out that even these are not paid on a regular basis. Salaries and benefits are not updated. Despite inflation and periodic increase in minimum wages, domestic workers have yet to benefit from these. They pointed out the lack of laws and legislation that would set standards on their terms of employment and other concerns such as board and lodging, termination notice for both parties, and employment contracts and certificates. The group recommended that education of domestic workers should be prioritized and that the employer should not hinder the domestic workers right to education and should contribute to addressing its costs, especially if the worker is a child.

For migrant domestic workers, they pointed out a new trend in terms of recruitment of domestic workers. They stated that almost 70% of new recruits come from Mindanao. As with local domestic workers, they bemoaned the lack of implementation of placement regulations as they are still being charged exorbitant fees. This often results in debt bondage. A contributing factor is the lack of coordination between the POEA and the POLO. As such the one-country team approach and the household service workers policy should be revisited. They also

stressed that officers and staff of government agencies working with abused domestic workers on-site should be trained to become more sensitive and sympathetic to the plight of their fellow Filipino workers.

The Chairperson summed up the discussions by saying that there is an innate demand for the skills of domestic workers since this is about managing households. This reality should be fortified by a shift in the perception and attitudes regarding women's work. A recurring challenge is how to empower and support victims so that they will pursue cases against the recruiters and against abusive employers, even those outside the country. This will require encompassing international standards and multi-lateral and bilateral agreements among sending and host countries.

THEME 2: TOWARDS A UNIFIED POSITION ON THE PROPOSED INSTRUMENT

Chairperson: Jerome A. Alcantara, Visayan Forum

Speakers: Sis. Flor Cabatingan, TUCP

ASEC Ma. Teresa Soriano, DOLE

Ms. Lilibeth Masamloc, SUMAPI

The Chairperson said that the Session is of utmost importance in view of the 2010 International Labour Conference where, for the first time in decades of advocacy, the ILO Governing Body has placed decent work for domestic work as a standard setting agenda. He said that we are faced with the opportunity to influence the formulation of a instrument that may have the force of an international law that would set decent working standards for all domestic workers.

Sis. Flor Cabatingan of TUCP presented the consolidated workers response. She said that the response is a product of a series of multi-sectoral and workers consultation. The overriding principle that governed decision-making is that domestic workers are workers – as such, they should have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their labour and they should have rights and benefits similar to that of workers in the formal sector. Workers groups are unanimous in calling for the highest form of protection through a Convention with accompanying recommendation (see Annex for Consolidated Workers Response).

ASEC Soriano discussed the preliminary position of government. She clarified that this is not yet final and that all inputs and recommendations from the Summit will still have an influence on the final government response.

She explained that the position is based on a triologue conducted by the ILS. Employers groups such as ECOP had difficulty arriving at a position because they are mostly employers of large businesses and industries and are not representative of individual households with domestic workers. She also stated that the challenge is that domestic workers – children, migrants, and local – may suffer from the same abuse but the circumstances differ. As such, government is

inclined to propose a Convention with binding and non-binding provisions. The binding provisions will apply to domestic workers outside the country while the non-binding provisions will apply to domestic workers in the Philippines.

SUMAPIs Lilibeth Masamloc responded in behalf of domestic workers. She lauded the efforts of all stakeholders to help uplift the lives of their sector. She called for the removal of all forms of exclusion in international standards, laws, and regulations. She said that SUMAPI is calling for a Convention with Recommendations that would apply equally to all domestic workers whether local or migrants. The convention, according to her, should be complemented by measures to ensure that social security and health insurance benefits are portable and that wages are fair and protected everywhere. She also encouraged the group to look at the prevention aspect and the right to education of domestic workers, especially children.

Key Points Discussed:

1. On Convention with binding and non-binding provisions. ILO representative Ana Liza Valencia pointed out that the government position is not possible since conventions should be non-discriminatory. The Philippine position discriminates against local domestic workers by not including them. Migrant advocacy groups and migrant domestic workers came up strongly against the government position. Ms. Oebanda of VF reminded everyone that the President of the Philippines, in her message, clearly called for the adoption of a Convention. Ms. Soriano of DOLE reiterated that this is just a preliminary position and that the output of the Summit will play a big role in influencing government's final response. Tony Asper of FFW cautioned that such a weak government position will not benefit the interest of the Philippines during the ILO Conference. He calls for going for the maximum and negotiating with other countries instead of watering down the Philippine position.
2. Contribution of migrant workers advocacy groups. Ms. Cabatingan acknowledged that the workers groups drew from the recommendations of migrant advocacy groups and migrant domestic workers.
3. Monitoring and implementation mechanisms. Representatives from local governments underscored that barangays should be given the authority and the capacity to regularly check on the conditions of work and lives of domestic workers in their areas of jurisdiction. Also, barangay-based interventions, such as pre-placement orientation even for local domestic workers, should be intensified to make sure that domestic workers are aware of their rights and their responsibilities. Speakers respond that such barangay action could be similar to what they are doing in domestic violence cases where barangays have the power to issue protection orders. The DOLE should also initiate the convening of homeowners groups to discuss domestic workers issues.
4. Batas Kasambahay and other policy reform measures. The Speakers stressed that the Batas Kasambahay should be passed before the ILO Conference to give the Philippines a higher moral ground in negotiating with other countries. Local ordinances passed as a

result of past advocacy efforts should be revisited to assess their level of implementation and learn lessons from their experiences. Also, efforts will be made by DOLE to integrate domestic workers issues into PESO activities and Bureau of Local Employment priorities and regulations.

The session closed with the agreement that the Technical Working Group will immediately convene to try to find unity points and common grounds from among the position of the different stakeholders.

THEME 3: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECENT WORK AGENDA FOR FILIPINO DOMESTIC WORKERS

Chairperson: Ms. Sofie Arce

The last break-out session seeks to come up with a comprehensive list of recommendations that would be carried as the Philippine Decent Work Agenda for Domestic Workers. The group was divided into four thematic workshops dealing with priority action areas. TWG members will serve as facilitators and rapporteurs. The four action areas are:

Workshop 1: National Policy Reform, Advocacy and Knowledge-based Improvement Strategy
Rapporteur: NCRFW

Workshop 2: Protection, Withdrawal and Reintegration Strategy
Rapporteur: DFA

Workshop 3: Prevention and Family Empowerment Strategy
Rapporteur: POEA

Workshop 4: Empowerment and Organizing Strategy
Rapporteur: APL

For full details of report, see Annex

During the break-out sessions, TWG members convened to formulate the Summit Statement (full details, see Annex)

After the presentation of the Summit Output, the floor was opened briefly for comments. Mr. Asper presented some revisions to the text (direct reference to the passage of the Magna Carta, clearer and stronger statement on the call for a Convention and a Recommendation, and clearer language on employers/intermediary liability). The TWG accepted the comments and made the necessary revisions to the text.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Emcee: Ms. Carla Cuntapay

*Speakers: Ms. Flor Cabatingan, TUCP
Undersecretary Rosalinda Baldoz, DOLE*

Ms. Flor Cabatingan delivered the Solidarity Message in behalf of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines. She reiterated her organization's support to the Convention and the passage of the Magna Carta. She said that their representative in Congress will work to ensure that the proposed Bill will progress in the Lower House of Congress. As representative to the International Labour Conference, TUCP will carry the calls of the Summit to the international arena and will help make sure that the voices of domestic workers will be heard.

For the Closing message, USEC Baldoz of DOLE assured the group that the agency is in full support for the passage of a Magna Carta. A select group has already been convened to work on this and she assured the group that the TWG will sit down to come up with the strongest possible form of protection for all domestic workers. She also outlined the various initiatives that are being made by the Philippine government, particularly the continuous implementations and improvements that are being made on the Household Service Workers policy.