

**3<sup>rd</sup> Caring for the Future Foundation (CFF)  
International Convention in Tokyo 2015**

**June 25-28, 2015**

**27 June 2015 - CFF OPEN FORUM AND FIESTA**

**1. OPENING**

The second day of the International Convention was opened at 9:35 P.M. with the Board of the three member-nations, students and their teachers, youth campers, and Japanese sponsors and benefactors present at the National Olympic Memorial Youth Center at Sangu-bashi.

Mitsuhiko Abe gave an overview of the alliance and its goals, as well as introduced the participants, emphasizing the importance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the assembly both to the alliance member-nations which will be presenting their respective vision and mission and their accomplishments the past few years, and to the Japanese youth and campers in forging stronger ties.

**2. PRESENTATION FROM CFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

a) CFF Philippines by Atty. Henry Onia, with translation by Fumiko Maihara

He presented the vision-mission of CFF Philippines of providing home and family for the less-fortunate children of the country. He presented pictures of Japanese campers who had visited the Center and interacted with the children housed in the Center, and the structures within the Center which were constructed through assistance from the Japanese benefactors.

He highlighted the programs for the development of children under the care of the Center, including spiritual formation, psychological and medical services, skills training and recreational activities, arts and craft, provision for their education, and their subsequent reintegration and after-care program.

The clients, as a result, earn recognition and awards from their schools. This is among the many accomplishments of the Center.

b) CFF Malaysia by Mitsuhiro Abe

He traced the origins of CFF Malaysia. In spite the lack of initial funding, CFF Malaysia was initiated anyway. Eventually, donations poured in, initially with Japanese support, but lately, local donations were infused.

He shared their experience in putting up the new building which would house additional clients. He thanked the attendees for their support and donation which led to the completion of the new building.

He likewise mentioned about the charity golf event in Sabah held for the benefit of the Center, as well as the breakdown of the Center's finances.

He showed the products crafted and produce harvested from the livelihood initiatives of the Center sold in stalls and charity events which in turn helped finance the operation of the Center, as well as the recent accomplishments of CFF Malaysia.

He called on the attendees to continue believing in the efforts of CFF Malaysia, and that they will be able to accomplish their noble goals.

c) CFF Japan by Teruo Yoshino and Tetsuo Aoki

They discussed what CFF campers do and learn when sent to the Centers of the other member-nations of the CFF Alliance, emphasizing the importance of sharing love, sharing hope and sharing love as espoused by CFF Japan in caring for children and youth growing mutual support.

They further discussed the recruitment, and the training and preparation process a Japanese youth goes through (usually four months) before he is sent to a camp of the member-nations, with the design of making them leaders.

Yoshino shared his own experience joining the study tour and adult camps in Philippines, Malaysia and Myanmar on various years.

He added that because of what a camper sees and does in the camps, they develop and improve himself through their interaction with children and other people, their work in the camps, and their exposure to different environments.

Aoki mentioned that the knowledge and experience campers earned from their life in the camps prepare them for school, domestic volunteer activities, internship, work and employment, and even in life itself. 3500 youth have joined CFF camps through the years.

In the end, awareness, community-building, and mutual respect become the core traits of a CFF camper.

### **3. RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Pres. Ma. Cristina Dalope-Mamaril introduced the members of CFF Philippines board. She mentioned that 6 out of the 11 board members are present in the international convention to express their solidarity and appreciation to the support of their Japanese counterparts, whose assistance made the construction of the different buildings in the Center.

She pleaded for the attendees to continue making the children supported by the CFF member-nations smile through their sustained support and participation in the camps, and continue making a better world.

### **4. INTERNSHIP REPORT PRESENTATION**

a) Internship with CFF Philippines by Akiko Kouketsu

She had undergone internship in CFF Philippines on August to September 2014 and served as assistant director of the 91<sup>st</sup> to 93<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Work Camp. She joined the internship to become a part of building the future with CFF Philippines.

Akiko discussed the preparation she had to go through, as well as her roles in the work camp. In the process of serving, she had always thought of what more she could do to help others and develop herself.

One of the challenges she faced in her internship is language barrier. She has to learn listening to and speaking English at the same time. She also had to look after her role as assistant director of the work camp. She was anxious of what she was about to face when she entered the work camp, even thought that she lacked confidence, but she eventually overcame her fears by reminding herself why she was in the camp in the first place.

She learned a lot of things while in the camp, but focused on two things: that her small contributions meant a lot to people around her and to the success of the camp; and that the camps build future and the camper himself finds hope inside him.

Now that she had already graduated from college and started working, she is now applying all the things she learned from CFF Philippines internship.

b) Internship with CFF Malaysia by Satomi Nakamura

She was an intern with CFF Malaysia from November 2014 – March 2014. She had earlier joined the camps in CFF Philippines, which endeared her to children. She learned what is important in life when she joined the camps, that is why she continued joining and supporting the camps and chose it for her internship.

She discussed the contents and schedule of her internship, and even helped the children in their arts and craft, science experiments, picnic (she cooked for the children and felt the joy of sharing meal with them), harvesting vegetables, and buying supplies from the market.

She also had to contend with language barrier as a challenge in her internship, and how to properly relate with the locals and house staff, who themselves also grow with the growing children. Yet, the things she learned in the internship helped her grow as a person.

As a result of the experience, she wants to learn more about children, and help shape their future.

## **5. OPEN FORUM**

IPP Joseph Lo expressed his sorrow in regard the decision of CFF Japan to decrease the number of campers due to funding. He opined that there must be a way to fund the camps in order to open the door wider and provide greater access to the less-fortunate being helped by the privileged. He mentioned of the success story of the clients of CFF Philippines. With the adjustment of the school calendar in the Philippines, the Filipino youth can now join the Japanese youth in the camps. He pleaded therefore for an increase in campers. If there are problems with

funding, there must be way in addressing this concern and open the doors wider for CFF Philippines and Malaysia.

An attendee asked what the individual countries learned from the other member-nations.

CFF Philippines, through VP Reynaldo Jimenez, learned from CFF Malaysia that they have common problems and challenges, such as the management of length of stay of the client in the Center, which compared with the Centers in Japan is shorter. It is therefore the common effort to come up with guidelines as to the length of stay of a client in the member-nations' Centers. He added that those who stayed with the Centers longer are those who had the success story. CFF Philippines is now trying to reintegrate some of the clients with their families, and make them more productive members of the society.

CFF Malaysia, through Ps. Chin Chi Kong, learned from CFF Japan, how the Japanese culture affected the Malaysians. Japanese have long menus, Malaysians have no menus. Now they learned that they have to enumerate steps to take in addressing problems.

Second, Japanese punctuality. In Malaysia, everybody is late. When they began working with the Japanese, they learned to be on time.

Third, the value of hardwork. Japanese youth even had to pay to work.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The session was adjourned at 11:35 A.M. The participants retired to a fellowship lunch at Café Friends.