

Eri-silk Production Project

We take pleasure in announcing that our assistance to this project has now been successfully terminated. At the end of February, we conducted our last training of and discussions with the women we have been training in Puerto Princesa and Port Barton, Philippines in the past ten years. We now have a group of 10 skillful trainers in Puerto Princesa and 7 in Port Barton who can now train other women acquire the necessary skills of Eri-silk raising, spinning, dyeing, knitting and weaving. They have now established their own organization called “Princesa Eri-silk Community Development Service” in Puerto Princesa and have their own computer, and they actively interact with tourists and city officials.



We operated in the Philippines for ten years and the first three years, I must admit, were not fruitful, as we were taken for a ride, so to speak. We just lost our valuable time and money, except our sincere hope to be of service to the women there. From the fourth year, we were in charge of the whole operation, planning and arranging everything ourselves and in consultation with the

women concerned. At the initial period, however, people were interested in getting cash as easily and quickly as possible without going through long training periods. The



We left behind a well-established workshop, a small-scale micro-credit system and a bunch of enthusiastic trainers. What we have to do from now is to assist them establish a fair-trade system so that they may sell their products overseas without being exploited. Anyone interested in sending a unique, one of a kind scarf to his/her mother, sister or friends may perhaps consider getting our scarf as a present.



women interested in acquiring new skills, many of them, came and went. But those remained have now become bona-fide trainers. We educated them about various management aspects and marketing techniques. Above all, how they should cooperate and help each other and work as a group of like-minded people. Now, they are independent, proud and happy. That is the best reward for us too.