

Eri-Silk Production

Akiko and Kit Kitatani and Honami Hara visited the Philippines from 8th to 19th November and found the project in good order, ready to be independent as of April, next year. That will be the end of our long association with the producers. They have now established their own organization called “Princesa Eri-silk Community Development Services”.

Here is a report on their activities:

Puerto Princesa



A workshop of their own has now been erected with the help of the Japanese Postal Savings Fund. The workshop is rather compact (5 m x 9 m) but is complete with a toilet, shower and a washing-basin. At the time our visit, 7 university students were being trained. Everyone

concerned was elated and happy, as they have their own workshop now.

There is another workshop/ training center at a place called Aborlan, about one hour by car to the South from Puerto Princesa.

This workshop is neatly maintained, producing high quality products and conducting training courses for new-comers.



These two workshops will be the focal points in the future to attract tourists and to train local women who want to attain the necessary techniques to be independent. The city authorities are interested in helping and cooperating with this group in the future.

These two workshops now produce one of a kind, fine quality products, which we wish to promote on a fair-trade basis.

Port Barton

At Port Barton, which is located at the North-West coast of Palawan Island, local women are now producing fine quality scarves and shawls. Their silk worms are now fed with Caster leaves, instead of Cassava leaves. As a result, their cocoons are much larger and whiter and their yarn is far superior compared to previous products.

Manturon Center

This center is located near an underground cave, which is about 2 hours drive South from Port Barton. As many tourist pass through, the center can also be a tourist spot, depending on how to attract them. The center is producing cocoons and yarn of excellent quality at the moment. The director of the center has some health problems and it is important that a new staff member be recruited and trained as soon as possible so that the center's activities may not be disrupted.



Our last visit to this project will be in February 2011.