

JOICFP NEWS

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Population vs. the Environment

Japanese national television features Sadik's call for immediate action on population

The serious threat that the rapidly growing world population poses to limited resources and the environment was brought home to the Japanese public by a hard-hitting documentary broadcast by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) on January 5. The program, titled "Population Explosion and the Looming Crisis: Can Humankind Determine a Better Future?" featured interviews with Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA; Dr. Paul Ehrlich, professor, Stanford University, and other experts from the population field who offered insights into the challenges that population presents to the environment.

Earth Summit

Aired ahead of the "Earth Summit" (UN Conference on Environment and Development) to be held in Brazil in June, the documentary compared the current global demographic and environmental situation with that expected to exist in the year 2050, when world population is predicted to reach 10 billion. A global food crisis, depletion of energy sources and resources, increasing numbers of refugees and the destruction of the environment were among the grim prospects portrayed by the film which was made with the cooperation of UNFPA and JOICFP.

Impact of Population

To illustrate the impact that burgeoning populations in developing countries are currently having on limited resources and local environments, the documentary featured reports from countries in Asia and Africa. Japan, meanwhile, was used as a model to demonstrate the heavy burden that industrialized countries place on the global environment with rampant consumption and waste. Comparisons such as "The annual amount of plastic thrown away in Japan is equivalent to what Ghana uses over a four-year period,"



The rapidly growing world population is placing an increasing strain on the environment and limited resources.

Photo courtesy of UNFPA

helped the Japanese audience digest information included in the program which asked viewers what Japan can do to head off the environmental and resource crises.

Commenting on the difference in lifestyles in industrialized countries and developing countries, Sadik said: "You cannot deny half the population, or 80% of the population, of the world. If you do, then what is being said is that 20% of the world will live in high-tech luxury, while 80% live in poverty." A reasonable standard of living should be enjoyed by everyone in the world, she said. This should be achieved in such a way that it sustains the environment, she added. "We should have sustainable patterns of development."

Sadik suggested three ways in which countries can work towards sustainable development: first, by improving available technology and producing less toxins; second, by reducing consumption patterns; and third, by changing lifestyles. Lifestyle changes must be made to reduce waste

and halt overexpenditure, she said. "Supposing we don't reach the target by the year 2000 of 3.2 children per woman. Then this will mean that the population of the world will continue to grow to reach between 10.5-14 billion people," Sadik said. "The difference is between doubling the present level of 5.4 billion or tripling the population, or something in between," she added. "That's why the importance of doing something immediately."

A well-presented argument for action on population and environmental issues, the NHK documentary illustrated the rapid rate of world population growth with UNFPA's Population Clock. By featuring the digital population counter at various times throughout the program, viewers were able to comprehend just how fast population is increasing worldwide. World population was estimated to have increased by 13,000 during the one-hour program. [3]

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6 Million Say Yes to Int'l Assistance

VDIA scheme gives Japanese avenue for cooperation with developing countries

An international assistance scheme administered by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has not only caught the public eye but has succeeded in getting a remarkably large number of Japanese individuals to actively contribute to grassroots assistance projects implemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in developing countries. The Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme has been greeted by an overwhelming response from individuals who have agreed to turn over 20% of the interest earned on deposits made in special VDIA accounts. Launched in January 1991, the scheme had attracted over 6 million new VDIA account holders by the end of last year.

Funds collected under the scheme during the April 1 - December 31, 1991, period totaled ¥2.5 billion (US\$19.7 million at an exchange rate of ¥127 to US\$1), some 2.5 times the amount of money provided through Japan's official development assistance (ODA) to NGOs. The ¥1.1 billion (US\$8.7 million) donated by account holders under the scheme during the January 1 - March 31, 1991, period was allocated in fiscal 1991 to Japanese NGOs to support the activities

of local NGOs in recipient developing countries.

In the 1991 allocation of funds, JOICFP received a total of ¥32,699,000 (US\$257,500) to support the maternal and child health (MCH), family planning (FP), primary health care and community development activities conducted in



communities where the Integrated Project (IP) is being implemented.

People living in project areas in Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal and Zambia benefited from this scheme in 1991 through donations of materials and equipment. The Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA), JOICFP's sister organization in the Hoken Kaikan Group, also received funds through the scheme to assist MCH activities of the IP in the Philippines. Both JOICFP and the JFPA will be seeking to

broaden the number of countries receiving VDIA funds through them for the 1992 allocation.

The remarkable response the Japanese people have shown to the VDIA scheme has not only demonstrated the public's commitment to international assistance programs, but has highlighted the need to provide people with appropriate avenues to show their support. As a scheme administered by a government ministry, the VDIA program has won a reputation for being a legitimate, well-monitored assistance program whereby donated funds are assured of reaching the people at the grassroots of target communities. Moreover, the ministry provides account holders with a regular record of funds collected and allocated and publishes bulletins containing reports from the field on use of the funds.

Through the ministry's efforts to further this campaign and the constant attention the scheme has attracted in the mass media, a growing number of Japanese people are learning about the needs of people in developing countries. As the scheme's popularity with individuals snowballs, it is indeed furthering the cause of international understanding within Japan. J

Traveling a Two-way Street

The bicycle assistance scheme being implemented by JOICFP is bringing benefits to people in developing countries, where the reconditioned bicycles are being utilized to promote community health and development, and in Japan where the scheme has highlighted such issues as mass consumption and waste. This was an observation made by three participants of the "Television Social Education Program" who produced a documentary on the scheme for broadcast in their home countries of Paraguay, Poland and Senegal. The program, sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the support of NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), was conducted from February 10 - March 3 and was attended by 15 participants from as many countries.

"An important aspect of the project is that it is not only positive for the people on the receiving end of the bicycles, but people in Japan are also benefiting," said Daniel Ignacio Ramirez, producer and director, Educational Television, Ministry of

Education, Paraguay. Ramirez visited JOICFP with fellow participants on February 6.

The scheme, through which JOICFP coordinates the distribution of reconditioned bicycles from nine cities within Greater Tokyo to areas of the Integrated Project (IP), supports the grassroots activities of the project. Often put to use in sparsely populated, rural areas, the bicycles offer healthcare workers an efficient means of transport to support such areas of activity as family planning and maternal and child health.

"I think it is very important to have a good project to utilize the bikes found in Tokyo," said Amadou Moutar Beye, producer, Television Production Division, Office de Radiodiffusion Television du Senegal.

Beye said that JOICFP plays a central role in the scheme by "informing the people in Japan about the relationship between the bicycle problem in Japan and the needs of other countries." He said JOICFP functions as the liaison between the people in cities such as Toshima City in Tokyo and the people of developing countries. "It is necessary for



(From left) Beye, Dolacka and Ramirez.

JOICFP to control the 'how' and 'where' of bicycle assistance," he added.

The bicycle scheme is a positive way of getting people from different parts of the world to cooperate, said Maria Dolacka, journalist, Polish Television. "Sending these bicycles abroad is the best way to utilize them," she added.

Prior to visiting JOICFP, the three media representatives observed the congestion caused by illegally parked bicycles in Toshima and Setagaya cities and visited rehabilitation centers in the cities where the bicycles are reconditioned.

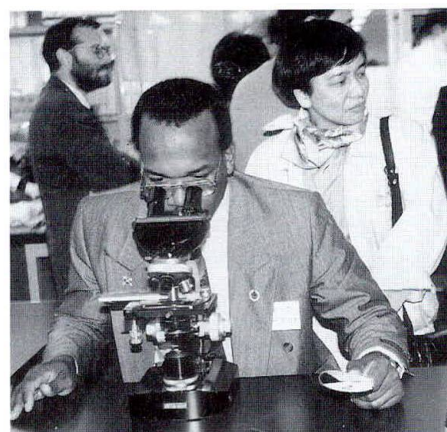
Lessons from Past Successes

Japan offers convincing argument for integrated healthcare

A great deal of Japan's experiences in preventive medicine are applicable in developing countries, according to participants of a seminar sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from January 20-February 17 in Japan. Before her trip to Japan, Dr. Karen Lai Nee Lee Peng Foon, research officer/acting head, Division of Parasitology, Institute for Medical Research, Malaysia, knew little about its postwar history of preventive medicine. But she said that what she had learned at the seminar had convinced her of the effectiveness of applying these experiences in other countries through the Integrated Project (IP).

During the seminar, the 10 participants from Brazil, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Thailand, learned much about preventive health activities that have been conducted in Japan during the postwar years and the application of these experiences through the IP in developing countries. The 13th meeting of its kind, the "Seminar on Parasite Control Administration for Senior Officers", was entrusted to the Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) by JICA. Including lectures and presentations on concepts and strategies, technical training and a week-long field trip to Iwate Prefecture, the seminar was conducted in cooperation with JOICFP.

The trip to Iwate served as a highlight for most participants who learned much from observing integrated healthcare



Participants learn technical skills (left) and observe mass health checkups at the Iwate Health Service Association (right).



conducted in communities by the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and volunteer groups which work in close cooperation. In particular, the visit to the Iwate Health Service Association demonstrated the effectiveness of providing mass health services on a fee-charged basis.

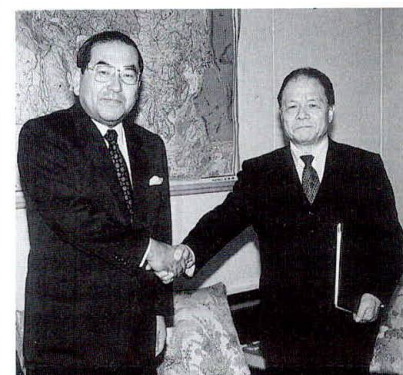
Preventive Healthcare

The Iwate association is one of 34 associations nationwide which grew out of a Tokyo-based parasite control (PC) organization set up after the war. The health service associations are today fully self-reliant and provide a wide range of preventive health services including mass health examinations in cooperation with volunteer groups. Participants were able to speak with some of the pioneers of this association during the visit to Iwate.

The concept of utilizing mass services to achieve program self-reliance appealed to Dr. Rusdi Satria Ridwan, head, Division of Planning and Development, National Family Planning Coordination Board, West Sumatra. In Jakarta, he pointed out, the IP involves mass PC services to generate income and gain the trust of the community for the promotion of FP/MCH. "It is very clear that using this kind of simple approach can make people believe that what is

provided is beneficial for them," he said. "Some people in my country think FP is for the good of the government and not for them because the benefits of FP may not be seen immediately." If mass PC is used as a tool to get the commitment of the people, however, it is much easier to promote FP, especially in difficult areas such as remote, rural areas and city slums, he said.

Participants agreed that the seminar was effective for learning workable solutions to community health. 3



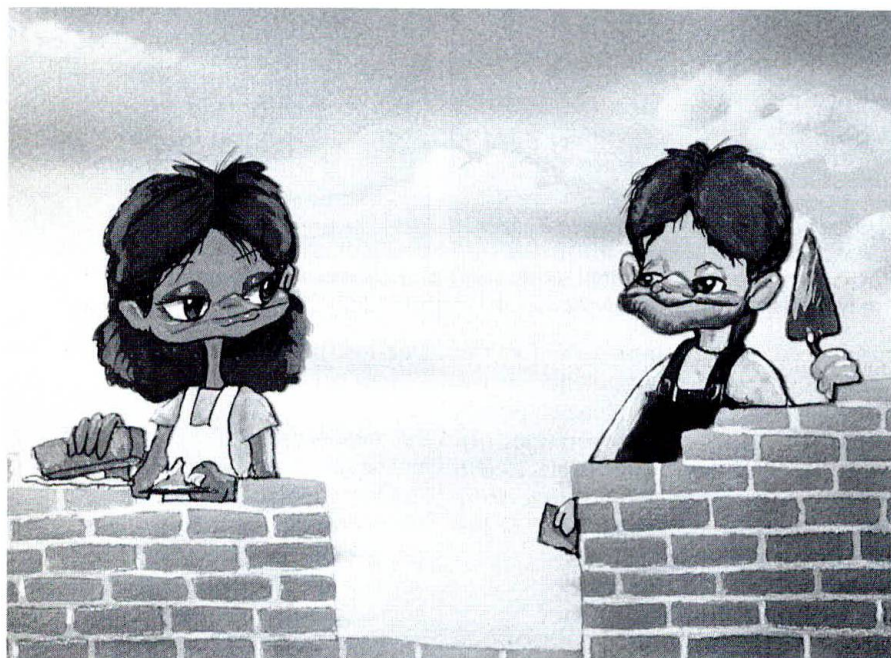
Yasuo Kon, deputy executive director, JOICFP (right), expresses appreciation to Takehiko Okamoto, president, Okamoto Industries, Inc., on February 14 for the donation of 23,000 gross of condoms to support the activities of the Integrated Project (IP) in Asia. Okamoto Industries, Inc. provided the practical assistance to IP areas in Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to assist the promotion of family planning and prevention of AIDS. The condoms will be distributed through JOICFP to IP areas. The move by Okamoto, which has been making donations of condoms to the IP for some years, marked the second time for the company to donate such a large amount of the prophylactics following a donation of 23,000 gross in November 1990.



The group meets school children (left) and health volunteers (right) in Iwate.

Getting Teenagers to Talk Back

New animated film in adolescent health series seeks responses from young target audiences



Sara and Gaspar strive to build an equal partnership in "Best Wishes".

Building equal partnerships is the theme of the latest film in JOICFP's animated series on adolescent health. "Best Wishes" is the third film in the series created to support the adolescent health education activities being conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean region under the Integrated Project (IP). Released in February, the latest film addresses such issues as women's development and financial independence and family planning (FP) within the context of a sexual relationship between a young man and woman.

The two previous films in the

animated adolescent health series, "Blue Pigeon" and "Music for Two", have proven extremely popular as education materials within the region and in a growing number of countries in other regions. Designed to be used by qualified instructors to initiate discussions among teenagers on adolescent health, the films present issues such as sexuality and contraception in a frank, open manner. According to responses from educators utilizing the IEC materials, the films are extremely effective for drawing questions and comments from young people during follow-up discussion sessions.

All films represent a fresh, straightforward approach to adolescent health and reflect the significant input that was made by adolescents themselves. Teenagers were consulted on the theme and form of the films prior to production of each to ensure that the series was appealing to a youthful audience. One of the most striking characteristics of the series is the very natural situations and characters that are presented. For all three films, efforts were made to create characters that feel, think and experience the same things as ordinary young people and thus, trigger responses from young target audiences to enhance the learning experience.

"Blue Pigeon", the first in the series, is aimed at younger adolescents and features responses to puberty and experiences such

as sexual fantasies. The theme of "Music for Two", which is targeted at older adolescents, is the development of a sexual relationship between a young man and woman. "Best Wishes", meanwhile, concerns the established relationship between Gaspar and Sara, who must reassess male-female roles and learn to respect each other as individuals. In doing so, the couple are able to build a stronger, more meaningful relationship. As in the previous films, there is no attempt to misrepresent or judge the sexual nature of the relationship presented in the story. The couple, who live in a crowded extended family situation in an inner-city slum, enjoy a natural sex life and practice family planning as a matter of course.

Joint Production

Fourteen minutes long, "Best Wishes" was jointly produced by JOICFP and the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM) with the support of UNFPA and IPPF. The film, distributed by Sakura Motion Picture Co., is the work of Carlos Carrera, an award-winning Mexican animator/director, whose creative animation, lively characters and vivid color schemes have won the admiration of both instructors and young people throughout the Latin American region. Carrera, who also directed the two previous films, created the animated series with technical support from Japan. Based on the extremely positive response to the films in the region and elsewhere, a similar series is being planned for Asia that will reflect the values and issues of the countries in the region. J



Sara yearns for independence.



Animator Carlos Carrera at work.

Test Case for Better Health

Pilot activities of the IP in Guatemala should be expanded, says evaluation team

Community health activities conducted in Guatemala under the regional Integrated Project (IP) for Latin America and the Caribbean region have been effective for winning the participation of people living in remote rural areas. In particular, the project has been well received by the predominantly indigenous population (97%) living in the IP area of San Lucas Toliman. These observations were made by a two-person team which was in Guatemala from November 21-30, 1991, to carry out an independent evaluation of the project. The two evaluators were Luis Aller Atucha, executive director, A.A.Y. Asociados, Argentina, and Patricia Poppe, program officer, Center for Communication Programs, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University.

Review of Successes

To review the success of the IP in Guatemala since its start in 1988, the team "opted for an evaluative design of a qualitative nature, including some quantitative data already available on the project." Through interviews with project personnel, participants and beneficiaries, the consultants attempted to observe and understand behaviors, attitudes and knowledge levels of those involved in the project.

According to the findings, the team strongly suggested that the parasite control (PC) and family health activities of the project be expanded geographically and that new programs emphasizing maternal and child health (MCH) be included to answer the requests of community leaders from surrounding areas. "For voluntary promoters of the project, working with PC campaigns is quite advantageous," said Mario Maldonado, mayor, San Lucas Toliman, who made his comments during an interview with the team. "The recognition and credibility gained among the



Luis Aller Atucha



Patricia Poppe

population give them the opportunity to talk about contraceptive methods later."

Noting the time that is required to establish project credibility in communities with large indigenous populations, the evaluators urged that the pilot phase of the project be prolonged. With more time, significant results could be expected from the communities' efforts to adopt new practices in environmental sanitation and family planning (FP) promoted under the project. According to available data, the team deduced that that FP acceptance has increased more than 250% in the pilot area in the two and a half years since the IP was launched. This was achieved despite

obstacles such as tradition and culture and the systematic opposition of churches.

Among other recommendations, the team urged that JOICFP provide technical assistance, mainly in the field of communication strategies and development of IEC materials, and support efforts to gain community participation and the involvement and organization of women in community health activities. The value of the project's success in gaining community participation and creating awareness of health issues was demonstrated during recent community efforts to avoid an outbreak of cholera, the team reported.



Underscoring Education

Following their activities in Guatemala, the two consultants were in Mexico from December 1-14 where they carried out an evaluation of activities conducted under the IP for Latin America and the Caribbean region. To determine the progress of the regional project, which focuses on community education and personnel training to ultimately improve family health in project areas, the mission reviewed several aspects of the IP including activities and IEC materials. The education materials evaluated by the team were the adolescent health films and the book of photographs on women in Latin America titled "A New Wind Blows".

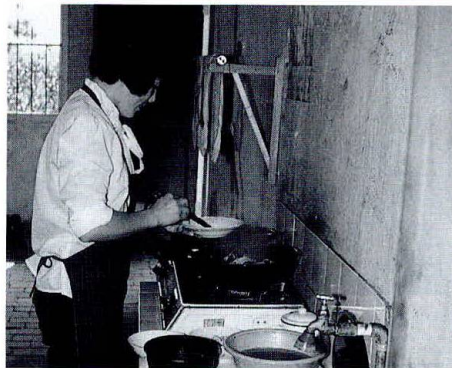
The effectiveness of the IEC materials for training of personnel and creating awareness of FP, adolescent health and health education in target communities was noted by the team. Commenting on the animated films, "Blue Pigeon" and "Music for Two", which are designed to encourage the active participation of young people in adolescent health education activities, the evaluators urged training for instructors to enhance the films' impact. As for the photo book, which seeks to promote the participation of women in FP and health programs, the team said that it was an important tool for encouraging women's organizations in rural communities.

Reflecting the project's emphasis on the training of personnel, the evaluators found that the CAPRI (American Conference on Integrated Programs) Technical Training courses have provided practical skills that have been readily applied in the field, while the CAPRI meetings have been well received by participants. As for the Women's Workshops, the evaluation team were told that they were "extremely important" since they encouraged women to commit themselves to initiating health movements in their countries.

Generally positive in their evaluation, the consultants offered practical suggestions that could be acted on immediately. It was recommended, for example, that the experiences of the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM) be shared systematically with the implementing agency, the Family Planning Association of Guatemala (APROFAM), to support the IP activities in Guatemala and enhance project cost-effectiveness. The team also emphasized the role that JOICFP can continue to play in providing technical assistance for the development of IEC materials and communication strategies.

Preparing for a Brighter Future

Planning under way for expansion of the IP into new provinces in China from 1993 onward



Infant checkups, the supply of clean water and efficient data collection are among the activities conducted under the IP.

A seminar held in preparation for the launch of the fourth phase of the Integrated Project (IP) in China received an enthusiastic response from 20 participants representing 10 provinces which have been nominated as potential new IP expansion areas from 1993 onward. Held in Beijing from January 7-10, the National IP Seminar in Preparation for the Next Cycle served as an excellent forum for senior officers of provincial Family Planning Commissions (FPCs) and Family Planning Associations (FPAs) to gain an understanding of the concepts and strategies of the IP as well as practical know-how for initiating and implementing the project. Represented at the seminar were Fujian, Anhui, Sichuan, Zhejiang, Hubei, Guangdong, Jiangxi, Henan and Guizhou provinces and Guangxi Autonomous Region.

For many participants, the seminar was their first opportunity to learn about the innovative approach of the project which integrates primary health care components with family planning (FP) for promotion at the grassroots. In

particular, participants were impressed with the concept of utilizing readily acceptable parasite control (PC) services as a means of gaining community participation to achieve the FP and maternal and child health goals of the project. The involvement of health, education and FP institutions and such volunteer organizations as youth and women's groups in the implementation of the IP was another unique aspect of the project that received favorable comments from a large number of participants at the seminar.

Expansion of Project

The IP has been implemented in China since 1984 by the China FPA with the support of the State FPC and assistance from IPPF and JOICFP. The number of pilot areas has continued to increase from the original nine townships of two counties within two provinces to cover 27 townships of eight counties within the six provinces of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Liaoning, Shandong, Jiangsu, Hunan and Yunnan provinces. The total target population has also been expanded from 274,000 to reach some 700,000. Moreover, it was announced at the seminar that the number of people receiving some benefit from the project during 1991 was as high as 4 million.

The scope of the IP was broadened significantly following the National Conference on the IP held in June last year. Organized by the National IP Steering Committee and aimed at bringing the experiences of the IP to the attention of a wider audience, the conference was attended by representatives of 16 provinces. In response to strong requests to initiate the project in new provinces, the orientation of the IP in China was widened from that

of a pilot project to that of a project geared toward nationwide expansion.

The January seminar, held ahead of the start of the next three-year cycle in 1993, focused on improving the management skills of IP implementors in the fields of project planning, implementation and monitoring in preparation for the start of the project in new provinces. Participants were given an overview of the IP by Dr. Huang Baoshan, deputy director, Department of Foreign Affairs, SFPC, and project planning by Dr. Qiu Shuhua, vice president and secretary general, CFPA. Among the other presentations given by experts in MCH/FP and PC was that of Jia Wensheng, senior program officer, UNFPA, China, who spoke on UNFPA's China programs.

Noting the practical nature of the seminar, participants expressed a keen interest in utilizing the new knowledge they had gained. [3]



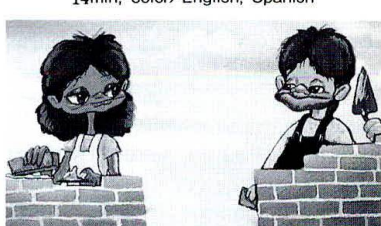
Participants take notes at the seminar.

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First Call for Children

Promises made at the World Summit for Children should be kept: UNICEF report

The "State of the World's Children 1992" report is "a plea for the inclusion of the issues which tend to be ignored and the voices which are normally silent," states this year's report published recently by UNICEF. "It is a plea, particularly, for the inclusion of those voices silenced by poverty and illiteracy, for those who are silenced by the effects of malnutrition and preventable disease, for those who are silenced by being born female, and for those many millions who are silenced by death almost before their lives have begun."

Keeping the Promises

The report, published annually, calls on societies to keep the promises made at the "World Summit for Children" and to follow the principle of "first call for children", whereby children have first priority in resource allocation.

In view of political and economic changes that have taken place over the last three years and the new challenges that now face humankind, the report presents 10 propositions aimed at bringing an end to malnutrition, preventable disease and illiteracy among millions of children worldwide. "Creating the conditions in which people can meet their own and their families'



For many women in Bhutan childbearing begins during the teen years.

needs for adequate nutrition, healthcare and education is an essential underpinning of efforts to meet those new challenges," says the report.

"If the issues of malnutrition, preventable disease, and widespread illiteracy are not confronted as a new world order evolves, then it will be very much more difficult to reduce the rate of population growth and make the transition to environmentally sustainable development," the report states. Notable among the other propositions is an emphasis on the crucial role of family planning. "The responsible planning of births is one of the most effective and least expensive ways of improving the quality of life on earth — both now and in the future," says the report. "One of the greatest mistakes of our times is the failure to realize that potential."

"Several million children die each year because they were born too soon after a

previous birth or because they were born to mothers who were too young to give birth safely," states the report. "Over 100,000 young women die every year because they did not have the knowledge or the means or the right to plan the number or spacing of their pregnancies." The report says that if all women could exercise that right, the rate of global population growth would decrease by approximately 30%. "Reducing child deaths gives parents more confidence in family planning. Most of the developing nations are now entering or approaching the stage at which further declines in child deaths are associated with much steeper declines in birthrates." [7]



Twenty nurses from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand gained fresh insights into the promotion of integrated family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) care at the "Special Nursing Course", held at JOICFP on January 22. Organized by the International Nursing Foundation of Japan, the course offered participants an overview of the community-based FP/MCH activities that have been conducted in Japan in the postwar years and provided insights into the application of these experiences in developing countries through the Integrated Project (IP).

Focus on Family Planning

"If family planning is to be successful, it must be acceptable to the people at all times," says the narrator in a 14-minute film on the activities of Integrated Project (IP) being conducted in nine pilot communities in Ghana. Produced by Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, the film highlighted the role that family planning (FP) plays in reducing maternal and child mortality rates and increasing the health and welfare of families. Titled "Living Well", the film featured various aspects of the IP including FP, maternal and child health, environmental sanitation and nutrition activities. The project is implemented by the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG) which enlists the support of public health nurses, trained community-based distribution (CBD) agents and volunteers from community groups such as women's associations. Noting that building trust with community people is an essential part of the project, the film showed IP personnel maintaining personal contacts with village people, promoting health services and education. Nutrition advice provided through the IP to mothers with small children was particularly welcomed, said women interviewed in the film. The project has brought positive changes to the lives of the people in the pilot sites and surrounding areas by making health services more available and by motivating people to change their lifestyles, the narrator pointed out. "Since the advent of the project, the attitudes of the community have changed."

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

Sowing Seeds of the IP

"The Sower", Millet's famous painting of farmers toiling in the fields conveys a theme that is central to the concept of the Integrated Project (IP) — that of sowing seeds.

JOICFP has been engaged in the task of sowing the seeds of the IP all over the world with the cooperation of UNFPA, IPPF and the Japanese government. The one hurdle that has continued to confront us in our activities over the years is that of financial resources.

Several years ago, however, the IP movement won some strong supporters within Japan. Among these are a group of municipal governments which has launched a project whereby they collect and recondition bicycles to assist community people in developing nations. This project has been most welcomed in many countries (3,175 bicycles were sent to IP areas as of the end 1991).

A second collaborator is the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications which has set up a scheme to collect donations from the general public. Among many uses, these funds have helped to build clinics and buy stationeries for primary school students in IP areas. The total amount of available funds is expected to increase in the next fiscal year.

Such demonstrations of strong support within Japan are indeed heartwarming.

7



Solórzano pays courtesy calls to Yoshio Nishino, mayor, Ota City (left), and Masanori Endo, mayor, Bunkyo City (right).

One hundred and fifty reconditioned bicycles donated to the Integrated Project in Guatemala will mobilize volunteers in IP villages to promote health, said the director of the Integrated Project (IP) in Guatemala, Dr. Jorge A. Solórzano Benítez. Solórzano made his comments to the mayors of Ota and Bunkyo cities whom he thanked during two courtesy calls to their municipal offices on February 10. Both cities are members of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) which has been supplying bicycles to the IP to assist personnel to promote maternal and child health, family planning, primary health care and community development activities. The cost of shipment of the bicycles to Guatemala was covered by Bunkyo City's budget. During discussions with the mayors, Solórzano expressed appreciation for the understanding and efforts of Japanese Ambassador to Guatemala Hirotsugu Oshima who assisted in the bicycle donation. Solórzano said the ambassador was scheduled to attend the official turnover ceremony for the bikes to the Family Planning Association of Guatemala (APROFAM) in March.



ANNOUNCEMENT

International Seminar on Community-based Family Planning Strategy

The government of Japan will conduct an international seminar on family planning (FP) in Japan as part of its technical cooperation programs for developing countries for fiscal 1992 (April 1, 1992 - March 31, 1993). Focusing on the role of community participation in the promotion of FP, the seminar will provide an understanding of Japan's experiences in FP/maternal and child health (MCH), which offer an innovative approach to the field, and encourage mutual sharing of relevant experiences and knowledge.

Date: May 18 - June 12, 1992

Participants: 10 FP officers to be selected from Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Vietnam

Deadline for applications to the Embassy of Japan: March 25, 1992

The seminar will be executed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with JOICFP.

For further information, contact the Embassy of Japan in nominated countries through the relevant government agency.

DIARY

JOICFP Program Officer Yukio Honma was in China to attend the training seminar for planning the next IP phase from Jan. 6-11.

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Mustapha Asad, adviser to the president of Sierra Leone, visited JOICFP on Jan. 16 to exchange information. He was accompanied by Tarek Mikaoui, barrister at law; Norio Akahori, representative to Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and National Resources, Republic of Sierra Leone; and Ikunosuke Yoshioka, president, Metro Overseas Japan.

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Twenty senior nurses from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand participating in the "ASEAN Specialized Nursing Course" attended a one-day JOICFP seminar on Jan. 22.

* * *

Pierre Marchand, president, and Christophe Graizon, senior officer, Partage, visited JOICFP on Jan. 24 to exchange information.

* * *

Dr. Hannu Sundquist, assistant director, Licensing Business Department, Leiras, visited JOICFP on Jan. 27 to exchange information.

* * *

From Jan. 27-Feb. 22, JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Shin-ichi Yagi and Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami visited Mexico to attend the Fourth Women's Workshop and carry out project monitoring, and traveled to New York to hold discussions with IPPF/WHO and UNFPA.

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Four representatives from China, Guyana, the Philippines and Thailand participating in the "Program for Public Health Technologists' Course" attended a one-day seminar on the IP at JOICFP on Jan. 30.

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Daniel Ignacio Ramirez, producer and director, Educational Television, Ministry of Education, Paraguay; Maria Dolacka, journalist, Polish Television; Anadou Moctar Beye, producer, Television Production Division, Office de Radiodiffusion Television du Senegal, visited JOICFP on Feb. 4 and 6 to gather information on the bicycle assistance project for a television documentary.

JOICFP NEWS is a monthly newsletter published by the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP). JOICFP NEWS welcomes your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please mail to:

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