

JOICFP NEWS

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Women Take Initiative in Vietnam

Parliamentarians welcome grassroots support from women in Japan

Despite strong government commitment and a vast national healthcare system that serves the grassroots through a network of village health stations, improvement in the level of health in Vietnam is seriously hampered by a lack of medical equipment and medicine, said Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong, vice chairwoman, National Assembly of Vietnam. In Tokyo to attend the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) meeting on February 25 and the Eighth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development on February 26, the parliamentarian said that Vietnam needs strong support to overcome these serious shortages and praised the efforts made by Japanese individuals and women's groups to answer some of these needs.

Reproductive Health

Phuong also commented favorably on a new JOICFP initiative to tackle women's reproductive health issues through the Integrated Project (IP). Under the plan, JOICFP would send medical supplies and equipment to pilot communes of the IP to support activities to improve women's health at the grassroots. The plan was made in response to a recent evaluation which highlighted women's reproductive health as a serious problem in Vietnam.

Through the IP, women in Japan and Vietnam have joined hands to support the promotion family planning (FP), maternal and child health (MCH), primary health care and community development in Vietnam. The Nagano Chapter of the Women's League has been supporting grassroots projects in Vietnam with donations of equipment and funds to support activities. Twenty reconditioned treadle sewing machines have also been donated by schools and individuals in Japan to support women's income-generating activities.

"I would like to see more such



Vietnamese parliamentarians and secretaries with embassy staff in Tokyo.

exchanges between people, especially between the women of Vietnam and Japan," said Phuong. "Women are a very strong force in every country, making up more than 50% of the population around the world. If a country has difficulties, it is the women who have to tackle them — they always have a double burden," she said. "I think it is very good if women have an opportunity to share experiences," she said.

Political Force

Women do not just play a prominent role at the grassroots of Vietnam, but are also active in the political arena. A nationwide network of women's unions is well established in Vietnam and acts as a link between the grassroots and the administration. Among the country's 496 members of parliament, 88 are women. Three of the eight standing committees of parliament are also chaired by women.

One of the five parliamentarians who joined Phuong in Tokyo was a representative of Vietnam's Women's Union, Trung Thi Khue, president, women's union, Quang Tri Province. Khue accompanied the recent mission of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) on a field trip to the IP area in Thua-thien Hue Province, a neighboring province to Quang Tri. "The women's

union in the IP pilot commune of Quang Phu is very pleased with the improvements that the IP has brought the community," said Khue. "The health center strengthened under the IP offers a variety of contraceptives such as IUDs, the pill, and condoms, and provides examinations and treatment of gynecological diseases and antenatal care." Impressed with the dramatic improvements in FP/MCH that were achieved within two years of project initiation, Khue requested JOICFP to start projects in her province.

Noting that both Japan and Vietnam have been faced with the task of rebuilding their nations after war, Khue said that Vietnamese women have much to learn from the Japanese women who endured the hardships of the postwar years and contributed to the dramatic improvement in the nation's standard of health. "These women have many valuable experiences and can understand the situation that faces the women in my country very well," she said. "I applaud the recent efforts of Japanese women to strengthen cooperation with Vietnam." Calling for closer collaboration in the future, she said that the support of the women's associations in Japan can do much to strengthen community health efforts in Vietnam.

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Challenges for Vietnam

Below is an outline of a presentation made by Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong at the Eighth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development on February 26.

The laws and policies of Vietnam concerning population and development are aimed at reducing the population growth rate, while still respecting the rights of individuals to choose freely the number and spacing of births, and contraceptive methods.

Although Vietnam has a low gross income per capita, the infant mortality rate is 45‰ and literacy rate is 88%, while there is one medical doctor for 3,300 persons — better than average for a developing country. Still, FP programs have been implemented for many years and have not achieved expected results. We think the main reason for this is that FP programs in rural areas, where over 80% of the population lives, have not been intensively implemented. Another important factor affecting the programs is Vietnam's economic difficulties.

There are two areas in which Vietnam will be concentrating efforts for population and FP programs: first, intensifying IEC programs so that every person can voluntarily accept FP and consider it to be of benefit; and second, making budget and staff investments in FP implementation in rural areas.

Prime Minister's Message

Below are excerpts of a message sent by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to the Asian Forum.

One of the most urgent global issues facing us today concerns how human beings and the earth can co-exist. Whether or not we can solve population problems is believed to be the key to realizing a bright future. World population now stands at 5.4 billion, 3.2 billion (approximately 60%) of which live in Asia. It is, thus, no exaggeration to say that the population situation in Asia will determine the fate of all human beings. Population problems are not any single country's problems. Rather they are something that must be dealt with on a global scale while examining the relationship between population trends and the earth's ability to sustain human existence. Ecological issues, which are closely linked with population problems, are recently receiving a great deal of attention. We need to think about what roles Japan can play in Asia to deal with population problems.

New Initiatives for Asia

Policymakers urge action on population and development

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) marked their 10th anniversaries in Tokyo on February 25 with calls for renewed efforts in the population and development field. The Eighth Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development was also held at the same venue on February 26.

In an address to the forum, Takeo Fukuda, president of JOICFP, honorary chairman of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and former prime minister of Japan, emphasized that serious effort is required of parliamentarians involved in the population and development and environmental fields. The significant impact that population has on the global environment must be recognized, he said.

A pioneering organization, the Asian Forum was set up in 1982 and links parliamentarian federations of countries in the Asian region concerned with population and development. The forum has continued to be an effective organization for generating interest, while sustaining involvement and cooperation among Asian parliamentarians. Policymakers from 16 countries were welcomed to the forum with an address by Prasop Ratanakorn, secretary general, AFPPD.

In a message to the forum, Dr. Halfdan Mahler, secretary general, IPPF, said, "The parliamentary movement on population and development began in Asia. Within a decade the parliamentary movement has spread all over the world." Mahler said

that parliamentarians are uniquely placed to play an increasingly important role in bringing about changes in all countries, especially in Asia where 55-60% of the world's population lives. Encouraging closer cooperation among parliamentarian federations and family planning associations, he said IPPF is strongly committed to continued support of the Asian parliamentary movement.

"All of us must renew our determination to assist the region in reaching the population and development objectives including self-sufficiency in food and provision of education for all," said Katsuhide Kitatani, deputy executive director, UNFPA. "In the endeavor to attain the objectives, the most critical factor is to secure the resources needed to design and to implement effective programs." Noting the efforts of parliamentarians over the last 10 years, Kitatani promised that UNFPA would make efforts to work in closer collaboration with parliamentarians in the future.

The meeting featured several addresses and presentations including an address by Taro Nakayama, chairman, JPFP, and former foreign minister of Japan. During proceedings, a special tribute was paid to the late Takashi Sato, former chairman, AFPPD, who died on April 17, 1991, and Sat Paul Mittal, former acting chairman, who died on January 12, 1992. Prominent members of the AFPPD, both parliamentarians made considerable contributions to promoting population and development issues in the Asian region.

Sato and Mittal were also memorialized in a book published to mark the forum's 10th anniversary. A compact volume on the history of the forum, the book includes messages from several prominent individuals including Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA.



Takeo Fukuda



Taro Nakayama



Prasop Ratanakorn

IPPF Looks to the Next 40 Years

Federation renews determination to improve the health and well-being of women, children and families

"IPPF had a glorious period with volunteer pioneers when virtually no funds were available," says Dr. Halfdan Mahler, secretary general, IPPF, in the 40th anniversary issue of IPPF's "People" magazine. "What in my opinion is now required is a federation of 'FPA Pioneers Model 2000' that together progressively will lead to IPPF's moral re-awakening and make the federation the pioneering NGO (non-governmental organization) leader in the 1990s at the national and international levels."

The world's largest voluntary family

One of the Brave

Among the "brave and angry women" noted by IPPF in its anniversary issue of "People" magazine as dominating the early history of the organization is Shidzue Kato, president, Family Planning Federation of Japan, and vice president, JOICFP. Kato was involved in IPPF from its birth in 1952



Shidzue Kato

in Bombay, India, and worked with prominent women active with in the FP movement including Margaret Sanger of the U.S., Elise Ottesen-Jensen of Sweden and Dhanvanthi Rama Rau of India to put the young organization on its feet. Within Japan, Kato has been a driving force in the FP movement which sought to give women control over their fertility and power to determine their health and that of their children. Despite her 95 years of age, she remains committed to improving the status and health of women and promoting FP both in Japan and internationally.



A network of FPAs provides FP support to women in 132 countries.

planning (FP) organization, IPPF marks its 40th anniversary this year with renewed determination to improve the health and well-being of women, children and families. Working on a global scale to promote and provide FP services and to develop public support for sustainable population, environment and development policies, IPPF embraces a network of autonomous, indigenous national family planning associations (FPAs) in 132 developing and developed countries.

The federation was launched in 1952 in Bombay, India, and was an outgrowth of the International Committee on Planned Parenthood, established in 1948. Two FP pioneers were appointed as joint first presidents of the federation, Lady Rama Rau of India and Margaret Sanger of the U.S. Shidzue Kato, president, Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), and vice president, JOICFP, was also among the prominent individuals associated with its establishment, while Japan was among the early members of the federation, joining in 1954.

In 1955, the Fifth International Conference on Planned Parenthood was held in Tokyo, an event that gave significant encouragement to the FP movement in Japan. Through the efforts of the people involved in the FPAs and IPPF, population issues continued to attract attention around the world culminating in the establishment of UNFPA in 1969. A year prior to this, FP pioneers in Japan founded JOICFP.

Today, IPPF has grown from being a federation of eight members to one with 109 members from 132 countries. The FPA countries represented in the federation now account for over 95% of the world's population. Working to provide every individual with access to the knowledge and means that will enable him or her to choose when to have children and how many to have, IPPF continues its efforts to

integrate FP into social, economic and community development programs wherever a local need is expressed. By submitting itself to constant self-appraisals, IPPF strives to remain a relevant agency reflecting FP needs of people around the world. 

Africa 2000

In the anniversary issue of "People" magazine, Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, looks at Africa's future. Below are excerpts.

As part of human resource development African governments should put a lot more emphasis on the population and family planning (FP) programs. So far, about 10 governments have come out with policies in both these areas. All other governments have accepted FP as a contribution to health. This is not sufficient because it does not permit the governments to give programs the priority that they deserve. There is a need for governments to sponsor major nationwide population programs so that the anticipated increases in Africa's population growth rates may be curtailed.



Fred Sai

For all those concerned with FP in Africa there are two challenges which are interrelated. The first is how to make governments realize that they must begin to listen to the people and to work with them. The second challenge is how to change fertility aspirations of the people.

If governments and people move together, Africa, with its vast resources, could surprise both itself and the world.

* Photo courtesy of IPPF

Starting with the People

Dr. Jorge A. Solórzano Benítez is director of the Integrated Project (IP) of Guatemala launched in 1988 in the area of San Lucas Toliman. To assist project implementation in the IP area where 97% of the population is indigenous, Solórzano spent considerable time living with the indigenous people to gain an understanding of them prior to the launch of the IP. He spoke about the project in Guatemala and the people of the IP area with JOICFP NEWS on February 29. Below is an outline of the interview.

In applying the IP in Guatemala our priority is the indigenous people, those we call Mayan people. Before the IP, we encountered many problems in approaching this ethnic group. However, the IP concept and philosophy are appropriate for this group. The IP is acceptable because it has made these people aware of their health and they have realized that they themselves have to work to be healthy. The people in the IP areas are working together to improve village environmental sanitation. Through the IP, we are providing health education and are developing a network of community volunteers. Also, we are working with teachers at elementary schools to conduct parasite control (PC) programs for the people.

The Mayan people have a long tradition and it is not possible for them to change as quickly as non-Mayan people. The best way to approach the people is not to go against them or their beliefs. You have to know the people, their way of life, their interests and their problems.

You have to learn to think like them. To approach these people, the most important thing to do is to teach them about their health using some examples they can understand. With PC, they can quickly see results and will trust you.

The biggest health concern in

Guatemala is a very high infant mortality rate, mainly caused by diarrhea, acute respiratory diseases and measles. Maternal mortality is also high because almost all women give birth at home and have no antenatal care or postnatal care. Through the IP, we are trying to improve the skills of

midwives with training. Also, through a network of community volunteers we are trying to provide the community with oral rehydration salts, contraceptives and anthelmintics at affordable prices. The people in the IP area accept a paying system. It is their belief that if you don't pay for services, you don't deserve them.

When the project started, we had 18 family planning (FP) users. That number has already increased to 1,000. One of the biggest barriers to FP acceptance is the opposition of the Catholic church. We try to overcome this by teaching people that it is their own decision to practice or not practice FP. But we suggest that if they want to take care of their family's welfare, then they have to decide to wait at least two years between pregnancies.

The initial coverage of the project was 10,000 people. Now the project covers 37,000 people. We are trying to expand the project to cover 120,000 people. 



Jorge Solórzano

Shortcuts to Success

Dr. Solórzano was in Indonesia from February 19-28 on a study tour. Below is an outline of his impressions of the Indonesian IP and FP/MCH in Japan.

Sharing experiences with people really involved in the IP in another country provided me with a wide scope of ideas. The study tour was a nice complement to the knowledge I acquired at the recent "Seminar on Parasite Control Administration of Senior Officers". I was most impressed with the speed with which the Indonesian IP accomplished self-reliance and by the spirit of the group of people working for the project.

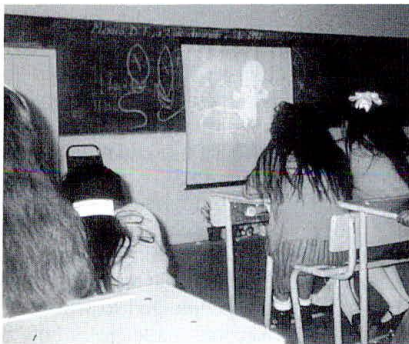
Guatemala and Indonesia are on different sides of the earth, but we do have some things in common. I saw some similar problems and learned applicable experiences. In particular, the system used in the central IP laboratory is applicable to the Guatemalan situation. They have a very smooth, efficient and easy way of working. The system used in schools in Indonesia to motivate the children, teachers and parents to participate in the project could also be applied in Guatemala with some modification.

Fee-charging System

We are trying a fee-charging system in Guatemala and will apply some of the aspects of the Indonesian system with some modifications. To be self-reliant it is necessary to apply the mass approach so that services are affordable to the people. We apply the IP philosophy to prove that through this strategy, MCH with an FP component is well accepted by the people.

When I look at Japan, I can see that health improved because MCH and FP were very well implemented in rural areas by local health personnel. Today, there is a lot of high technology in Japan. However, the FP/MCH program does not only depend on technology, but also effectively uses public health nurses.

The high standard of health in Japan was not achieved just because the people were wealthy and had a lot of money to pay for services. The most important factors to the success of healthcare activities in Japan were the participation of the community in the implementation of FP/MCH programs and government support of these programs. Today, Japanese people in rural areas are well aware that FP is an MCH activity — without education. They are practicing FP because they are aware that it is an integral part of MCH.



Taken during the recent independent evaluation of the Integrated Project (IP) for the Latin American and Caribbean region, the photos show (left) a presentation of the animated adolescent health film "Blue Pigeon" to primary schoolchildren in Cuajimalca, Mexico, and (right) young winners of a hand-washing competition and their teacher at the IP office in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala.

Photos courtesy of Patricia Poppe

Putting Strategy into Action

Women's Workshop inspires practical workplans, IEC materials for Latin America



The photo book is used to mobilize women in San Lucas Cuilapan, Oaxaca.

Significant progress was made at the Women's Workshop in Oaxaca, Mexico, due to the efforts of 76 participants who actively shared and evaluated strategies to promote women's health and development in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Held February 3-7, the event provided a forum for participants to review progress on the "Plan of Action" made last year, discuss the evaluation of the regional Integrated Project (IP), evaluate IEC materials made under the IP to promote women's health and exchange information and experiences on young women's health. The program also included a field trip to IP villages in Oaxaca.

Applying the Lessons

The effectiveness of the women's workshops was underlined by participants who said that much of what they have learned has been applied in their own countries. A participant from Colombia said that many points made in the "Plan of Action" had been endorsed by government policy. Supported by the president of Colombia, the Council for Women, Youth and Family was created in 1991 and reflected much of the "Plan of Action" in its policy, she said.

The practical nature of the IEC materials produced over the last year under the IP highlighted the effective role that the Women's Workshops play as a source of strategies for promoting women's health. Noting that a lack of awareness of women's rights was a hurdle to improving women's health, a participant from Brazil said that the workshop gave her many ideas for producing IEC materials. She said that

much of what she learned at the workshop would be put to use in her work at the community level to support training for community leaders. The Women's Workshops are important for sharing experiences, she said.

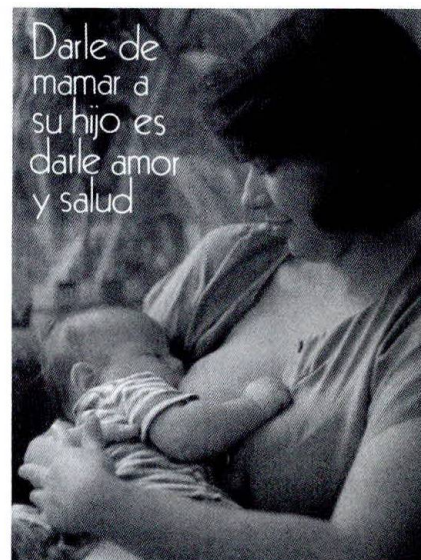
Among the six IEC materials produced with funds from UNFPA, JOICFP and other organizations, was a colorful flip chart of the Bolivian Ministry of Health titled "Women's Rights in Health". Highly evaluated by participants, the flip chart covered such topics as maternal and child health (MCH) and reproductive health, and emphasized the role of family planning (FP) in health promotion.

IEC Materials

Two other IEC materials highly rated by participants were videos made by the Family Planning Association of Guatemala (APROFAM). The videos promoting breast-feeding and women's rights were welcomed by the majority of participants as successful and relevant. The Center for Mothers, Children, Infants and Family Planning (CMI/PF) of Brazil also chose video as the medium for their IEC material on AIDS prevention from a woman's perspective. The video, featuring semi-professional actors, won approval from some two-thirds of participants.

During the workshop, much was demanded of the participants who not only had to take part in discussions and evaluations, but had to present their ideas for a film to promote women's health at the sub-regional level in the form of role plays. Through the intense efforts of the participants, the groundwork was laid for the production of a film to be used at the sub-regional level as a prototype to assist in the production of films to promote women's health.

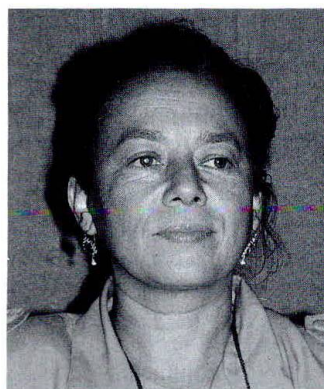
During the field trip, participants observed health workers utilizing the women's photo book "Now, a New Wind Blows" to mobilize women. Produced jointly by UNFPA and JOICFP as a



A video to promote breast-feeding produced under the IP in Guatemala.

regional prototype, the book has proved a successful IEC material for encouraging women to participate in health promotion at the grassroots. Participants were told that the book had inspired women in the village of San Lucas Cuilapan to establish an association which now has a membership of 70.

A valuable learning experience, the Women's Workshop was welcomed by participants as a practical means of promoting women's health and development in the region. Commenting on the progress made at the workshops, one participant said that the first workshop in 1989 gave participants an overview of the situation of women in the region, while the fourth workshop produced concrete results through the active participation of all who took part. [5]



(From left) Dr. Magarita Dalton, secretary, State Council on Population, Oaxaca, and Graciela Duce, country director, UNFPA, Mexico.

Staying in Touch in the 1990s

IPPF leads FPAs toward rejuvenation

V. T. Palan, regional director, ESEAOR-IPPF, spoke to JOICFP NEWS on February 24 about the challenges facing IPPF in the 1990s. Below are highlights of the interview.

An enormous challenge of the '90s facing IPPF is how to attract a wide base of volunteers into our organization. The need for family planning (FP) is now by and large accepted around the world. We now need to find new causes for volunteers to rally around. These new causes will clearly differ by country. Broadly, however, they must be inspiring.

We must demonstrate that as a non-governmental organization (NGO) we can continue to develop effectively and efficiently. The challenge is not only to



V. T. Palan

identify new goals or restate old relevant ones, but to continue to have our feet at the community level. We must ensure that we have a core of professional staff. We must have a deep understanding of what volunteerism means. We must manage effective, efficient programs. We also need to look at ourselves and trim our organization. That is part of an organization's growth.

Vital Volunteer Input

IPPF must have the vital input of volunteers to give it direction and vision. But we also need to ensure that volunteers truly represent the community. The organization needs to be continually rejuvenated with new blood and new ideas. Women's views, youth's views and community views in general are important if IPPF is to be responsive to grassroots needs. At the moment the volunteer composition doesn't reflect the needs of the '90s. One challenge is whether IPPF and the family planning organizations (FPAs) can evolve a strategy to bring about greater involvement of women at all levels.

"The Family Planning Challenges of the '90s" project was started in 1990 under Halfdan Mahler and is aimed at getting the FPAs to reexamine themselves through the process of strategic thinking, planning and management. Most organizations that have been established for a while tend to get somewhat fixed in their plans and activities and, not consciously, stop being responsive to needs and to the environment.

Strategic thinking is critical to the process of reexamination. If FPAs are willing to open themselves up for examination not only by the staff and volunteers of the organization but also by other stakeholders — and get these stakeholders to voice their needs openly — then they have some way of being

responsive to the community. If an organization's volunteers truly represent the community, reflect the community's needs and respond to these needs, then it is a relevant and responsive organization. And this is where we have strength.

Six FPAs, one for each region, have taken part in the project. All six volunteered to take part and as a result of their successes, 20 or so more FPAs would like to join the process. Once the desire for change and willingness to look at themselves has been established, the next step is to provide supportive assistance to FPAs. IPPF can provide bridging support and is willing to retrain staff to meet new needs. Hopefully, through this process we will be able to see FPAs venture into new directions and doing the right things. [J]

Population Award

On February 6, UNFPA jointly honored J. R. D. Tata, president, Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Jamshedpur, India, and the Population Council, a U.S. non-governmental organization (NGO) headquartered in New York, with the 1992 UN Population Award for contributions to increasing the awareness of population problems and their solutions. Tata, 87, was honored for his efforts to establish a successful family planning program in Jamshedpur that served as a model program in India. [J]

Kato Turns 95



Kazutoshi Yamaji, senior advisor, JOICFP, presents Shidzue Kato with a bouquet on her birthday.

A reception was held to celebrate the 95th birthday of Japanese family planning (FP) pioneer, Shidzue Kato, in Tokyo on March 12. Kato, president, Family Planning Federation of Japan and vice president, JOICFP, has been an active advocate of women's rights, FP and maternal and child health for over 70 years. Addressing the 100 guests at the event, Kato said she remains committed to her work. "There is still much work to be done and I will continue to do my best until I am greeted by God," she told the guests. Earlier, on March 2, participants of the Council on Population Education paid tribute to Kato's marathon efforts to improve the lives of women and children in Japan.

New Publication

A booklet titled "Population and the Environment: the Challenges Ahead" has been published by UNFPA ahead of the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) to



be held in Brazil from June 1 - 12. Aimed at a wide range of people, including politicians, journalists, students as well as the general public, the booklet introduces the inter-relationships among population, resources and the environment and emphasizes the need for sustainable development. "Population issues are central to the search for sustainability," comments UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik in the booklet's foreword. A Japanese-language version of the booklet has also been released in Japan by UNFPA.

Sharing Keys to Community Health

Ethiopian IP administrators take home workable strategies from Malaysia and Thailand



A health worker explains contraception to people in Jerong Seberang village.

Despite the distance between Africa and Asia, two administrators of the Integrated Project (IP) of Ethiopia learned applicable strategies to grassroots health promotion and community development from the projects in Malaysia and Thailand during a study tour from February 24 - March 6. Dr. Petros Olango Dubusho, head, Regional Health Department, West Shoa, and Dr. Eyob Tsegaye Asfaw, head, Health Division, Health Programming, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said that much of what they observed of grassroots integrated family planning (FP), maternal and child health (MCH) and primary health care programs in the two countries would be used in IP areas of Ethiopia to improve project implementation.

Noting that both the Malaysian and Ethiopian projects are implemented by the government, the Ethiopian visitors said that they learned many readily applicable strategies from the Malaysian IP. The Ethiopians were inspired by the significant contribution that the government had made to improving community health and development. In



Dr. Eyob Tsegaye Asfaw (right) discusses honey production with a villager.

particular, the team was impressed with the close coordination among the various government departments. In one rural area they visited, the ministries of health and agriculture worked in close cooperation to promote community development.

Smooth Integration

A smoothly run integrated project, the Malaysian IP focuses on human resource development through health promotion, training and community mobilization to achieve goals of community development. The ambitious NADI Program, launched as a grassroots development campaign under the IP and now promoted as a national development program, integrates various components such as health, agriculture and education.

The use of mobile health teams for FP/MCH and primary health care promotion was another feature of the Malaysian IP that impressed the visitors. The teams were effective for reaching grassroots communities in both urban and rural communities, they said. At the village level, the Ethiopians learned that the health teams had not only won the trust of the community for FP promotion, but had contributed to raising awareness of health in the area.

Effectiveness of NGOs

Meanwhile, in Thailand, the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and mobilization of community volunteers particularly interested the team. The use of a wide base of health volunteers is vital to the success of the IP in Ethiopia where there is a shortage of doctors to serve the country's large population of 50 million, they said. The Ethiopians were especially interested to learn how the IP-implementing agency, the Population and Community Development Association (PDA) of Thailand, selected and maintained its volunteers.

Another feature of grassroots development in Thailand that left an impression on the visitors was the successful income-generation schemes that have been fostered by PDA. The team noted that the schemes contribute to community development while providing local employment and skills training for young people. The use of a local NGO that responds to community needs is



Dr. Petros Olango Dubusho meets with local women and children.

particularly beneficial for project implementation, the team said. In Ethiopia, those foreign-implemented projects that recognize the needs of the people at the grassroots are more successful, they said.

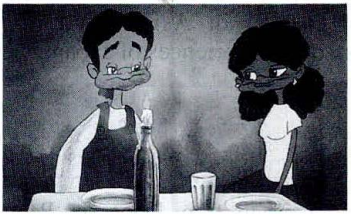
The Ethiopians said the wide acceptance of the IP by people at the grassroots in Malaysia and Thailand and the achievements of the projects made them optimistic about the success of the Ethiopian project. Stressing the importance of grassroots involvement in the project, the team said they learned many practical strategies for strengthening the IP in Ethiopia. 9

JOICFP ADOLESCENT
HEALTH SERIES

NEW ANIMATION

BEST WISHES

14min, color/English, Spanish



Why do a young man and a young woman decide to live together? Why does a couple try to find the answers to raising a family and a happy life?

BEST WISHES is the third animated film in a series jointly produced by Mexico and Japan. This film depicts a young man and a young woman who are pursuing true love and who are confronted by reality and their worries about the futures. And they eliminate misconceptions about male-female roles and learn to respect each other as individuals.

Directed and distributed by
Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

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Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

IPPF and Japan

Forty years have now passed since the birth of IPPF. Today, the organization boasts a collaborative network that embraces both government and private sectors in almost every country in the world. I would like to heartily congratulate all the people that have contributed to the development of this organization for their achievements.

Japan's family planning (FP) movement began in earnest in 1954 through the efforts of such individuals as Yoshio Koya, Shidzue Kato, Kan Majima and Juitsu Kitaoka who worked hard to establish FP organizations. The considerable contributions that these people made to the Japanese FP movement were inspired by one person, Margaret Sanger, who also provided financial support early on in the movement.

Following the Fifth International Conference on Planned Parenthood in Tokyo, those of us involved in the movement worked closely with FP promoters to officially establish the Japan Family Planning Association in 1956 to promote FP. With the support of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the press and field workers including midwives and public health nurses, we were able to expand the movement to reach the people at the grassroots.

In the years that ensued, Japan's economy made significant steps toward recovery. Thus, the Japanese government began to support IPPF, encouraged by Nobusuke Kishi and Shidzue Kato.

It was during this time that a group of young people to which I belonged began to spread the concept of the Integrated Project (IP) in Asia based on the grassroots experiences of Japan. [1]

DIARY

Six participants from Indonesia, Peru and Thailand took part in a one-day seminar organized by JOICFP under the Program for the Counterpart Training on Population and Family Planning on Feb. 20.

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UNFPA Deputy Executive Director **Katsuhide Kitatani** visited JOICFP to exchange information while in Japan to attend the Asian Forum meeting on Feb. 25 and 26.

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V.T. Palan, regional director, IPPF-ESAOR, visited JOICFP while in Japan to attend the Asian Forum meeting on Feb. 25 and 26.

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Benjamin D. De Leon, executive director, Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation visited JOICFP on Feb. 27.

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Dr. Jorge A. Solórzano Benítez, IP director, Guatemala, was in Japan from Jan. 20 - Feb. 18 to participate in the Seminar on Parasite Control Administration for Senior Officers. He was in Indonesia from Feb. 19 - 26 to observe the Indonesian IP and was in Japan from Feb. 28 - 29 to report on his activities.

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Three medical students from Chiang Mai University attended a one-day seminar on FP and the IP at JOICFP on Mar. 2.

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Dr. Peter J. Foley, regional director, Asia and the Pacific Office, Family Planning International Assistance, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and **M. Mosleh Uddin**, faculty member, UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), visited JOICFP on Mar. 2 to exchange information.

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Dr. Petros Olango Dubusho, head, Regional Health Department, West Shoa Administrative Region, and **Dr. Eyob Tsegaya Asfaw**, head, Health Program Division, Addis Ababa Regional Health Department, Ethiopia, took part in a study tour of IP activities in Malaysia and Thailand from Feb. 21 - Mar. 8. They were accompanied by Fumiharu Sato, staff member, JOICFP.

Kunii Honored

Chojiro Kunii, chairman, Hoken Kaikan Foundation and JOICFP, was honored by the prestigious Ohyama Health Foundation on March 7 for his efforts to improve the health of the Japanese people in the postwar years. The health foundation, which has many prominent experts and scholars among its members, presented Kunii with a commemorative plaque for his contributions to the fields of maternal and child health, family planning, parasite control and preventive health and for contributing to the



Chojiro Kunii

longevity of the Japanese people. The foundation commended Kunii's tireless efforts to share his experiences, strategies and ideas with

developing countries through international cooperation. Expressing his appreciation of the honor, Kunii gave a brief presentation on the health activities in which he has been involved since the end of the war. The Ohyama Health Foundation was established in 1974 and began presenting the award annually in 1975 to individuals making significant contributions to health in Japan. Kunii was the first person with a non-medical background to receive the award.

Stamp of Approval

The latest film in JOICFP's animated adolescent health series won overwhelming approval from participants at the Women's Workshop, held in Oaxaca, Mexico, from February 3 - 7. During the one hour spent discussing the film after its premier at the workshop,



participants agreed that the film was an effective education material for tackling adolescent health issues, particularly those concerned with relationships between young men and women.

Aimed at a mature adolescent audience, "Best Wishes" concerns a young couple's efforts to build a strong, equal partnership and touches on such themes as women's independence, communication between the sexes, sexual roles and family planning. All three films in the series take a very straightforward approach toward sexual matters and are intended to be used by instructors to elicit feedback from target adolescent audiences.

"Best Wishes" particularly impressed the participants from Paraguay and Colombia who said the film was appropriate for young urban couples in both countries. They said they would like to begin using the film as soon as possible.

The film was also appreciated by the Cuban observer who commented that the emphasis placed on audience discussion was particularly important. Remarking that priority had been put on adolescent health programs in Cuba, she said that the approach of "Best Wishes" was appropriate since it did not coerce adolescents, but encouraged them to respond and take an active part in the education process.

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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