

JOICFP NEWS

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One Environment for All

Linkages among population, development and environment stressed at Tokyo symposium

"The UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) marked the first step for all nations to sit down together and begin working on joint solutions to environmental problems," said Kazuo Aichi, former minister, Environment Agency, and member, Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE). The keynote speaker at the Special Symposium to Commemorate World Population Day, Aichi warned that there will be no permanent solution to environmental problems as long as there are human beings populating the earth. Emphasizing the importance of concrete action on the environment, Aichi said that Japan brought to the summit many substantial commitments to protecting the environment. "Much of the impact of these commitments, however, was lost because the prime minister was not there in person." Aichi said that nearly everyone he spoke with in Brazil had large expectations of Japanese financial and technical assistance.

Under the theme of "Population and Environment — the Role of Japan", the symposium included panel discussions, a film showing and a question and answer session. It was held on July 9 in Tokyo ahead of World Population Day on July 11. Organized by the Council on Population Education, JOICFP and the IP Forum with the support of UNFPA, it was attended by people from the population and environmental fields, the public and the mass media. Some 400 people turned out for the event.

"The secretary general of the summit, Maurice Strong, spoke of the two Japanese miracles: achieving economic growth and regulating pollution," said Aichi. "Japan must recognize this remarkable success and take a global leadership role in environmental issues." The parliamentarian said that too often environmental and population issues are tackled by governments only when a serious problem already exists. To be effective, preventive measures to protect



Destruction of forestland in the mountains of Bhutan.

the environment should be incorporated into governmental policies before damage occurs, he stressed. "It is also time to reassess the meaning of national boundaries in terms of the global environment," he said. "One country should be able to make suggestions to another country since, after all, we are all citizens of the same earth."

Environmental Issues

One of the highlights of the symposium was the showing of *The Earth and the Environment*, a film documenting environmental destruction in different parts of the world. Produced by Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd. for lay audiences, the film vividly portrayed a variety of environmental problems including the thinning of the ozone layer, global warming and acid rain.

A major part of the symposium was a panel discussion featuring four experts.

Moderated by Dr. Michio Hashimoto, president, Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, and counselor, JOICFP, the panel discussion included contributions from Takeshi Hara, chief editor, Science Department, Mainichi Shimbun (newspaper); Akihiko Yoshida, professor, Sanno Junior College; Mihoko Ejiri, professor, Tsuda College, and Shin-ichi Yagi, deputy executive director, JOICFP.

Having participated in the Earth Summit, panelist Hara commented that Maurice Strong had outlined several priority actions that need to be taken on the environment. Among these, he stressed that people of industrialized nations must reassess and adjust their lifestyles; the gap between rich and poor must be bridged to give developing nations development options apart from those that damage the environment; and population increases, especially in

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View of the panel discussion at the Tokyo symposium.

developing countries, must be eased.

One of the positive features of the summit, he said, was the presence of some 20,000 representatives of 7,500 NGOs. However, he regretted that despite this large turnout, population issues were not referred to in the joint declaration of these organizations.

During discussions, panelist Yoshida emphasized the significant impact that grassroot projects can have on the environment. To demonstrate his point, the panelist presented a case study of a grape cultivation project implemented in the Nordeste region of Brazil.

Grassroots Projects

By offering employment to local community people in the impoverished, densely populated area, the scheme has helped stem the destruction of Amazon forests and resulting desertification caused by poor farmers seeking new farmlands, and slowed the flow of unemployed people to slum areas in São Paulo. The project has also contributed to improving the position of women in the area by providing them with an independent source of income, he said.

Yoshida said that there is a role for Japan to play in fostering such projects and in providing a market for produce and products. "Japan can provide technology and training to project personnel to improve the quality of products so as to make them more marketable," he said.

The consequences of rapid population growth in developing countries was the focus of points made by panelist Ejiri, who said that throughout the world many people do not have the basic human right to health. Calling for increased

access to FP services, Ejiri stressed that it is a woman's right to decide on the number of children she will have. "At present, the Japanese government is encouraging women to have more children, but should the huge world population be increased just because Japan wants more people?"

In summing up the panel discussion, panelist Yagi offered four practical means to promote a successful FP project. First, a project must be designed to answer the needs of the people, while respecting their choice of lifestyles. If this is done, the people will recognize the project as their own and contribute funds and labor to make it a success. Second, efforts must be made to develop human resources through such means as the training of community leaders. Third, the people should not be told to decrease population numbers but encouraged to improve the quality of their lives. If the quality of life improves, population growth will ease. Fourth, self-reliance should be a goal of any project.

The opinions of the panelists sparked a number of comments and questions from the audience in the lively question and answer session. One elderly member of the audience expressed his hope that global leaders take population issues more seriously. "Action now is essential since further population increases will only result in more pollution, more food shortages and ultimately, more wars," he said.

In a fitting end to the symposium, one of Japan's most senior FP pioneers, Shidzue Kato, president, Family Planning Federation of Japan, and vice president, JOICFP, offered comments on the content of Japan's global contributions. Urging increased assistance, she said that Japan has much to offer, both in terms of successes and failures when transferring experiences to other countries. [J]

Development & Environment

The World Development Report 1992 - Development and the Environment is the 15th in an annual series published by the World Bank. The director of this year's report, Dr. Andrew Steer, spoke at Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations) on July 15. Below are highlights of his presentation.

Today, there are more poor people in the world than ever before because of rapid population growth. The period between 1990 - 2030 will be quite unprecedented in its challenges. The rapid population growth that we will see in this period will be like none in history. Industrial output in developing countries will be six times what it is today; bad news if environmental destruction grows at the same rate at which it is growing

today. But this appalling environmental scenario need not happen and won't happen if policies are set in place.

There are two causes of environmental



Andrew Steer

problems: lack of development or too much of the wrong kind of economic growth. There are many investments that are good for the environment, that have very high economic rates of return and have very high environmental returns.

The World Bank is calling for funding of family planning (FP) programs to be increased from the present US\$4.6 billion spent annually to reach between US\$12.5 billion and 13 billion in the next decade.

We will, I trust, be more aggressive in funding population programs. But FP programs are ineffective without education for women. In fact, women's education may be the most important environmental policy for the next generation. If we have learned any lesson from the last decade, it is that there are at least four ingredients to lowering fertility: raising incomes, particularly incomes of women; educating women; making family planning (FP) services available and lowering child mortality.

I hope that in the 1990s we will see the World Bank get into emphasizing reductions in child and maternal mortality, FP and raising incomes. [J]

Benefits at Home and Abroad

JOICFP allocated donations from Japanese public for grassroots projects in six countries

Over 6 million Japanese people have now endorsed an innovative scheme administered by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications to bring assistance to people at the grassroots in developing countries. At the end of March this year, the Japanese public had opened a remarkable 6.74 million accounts at post offices across the country to support the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme. Under the scheme, launched in January 1991, holders of VDIA accounts agree to donate 20% of the interest on their savings to support Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

conducting projects in cooperation with counterpart NGOs in developing countries. During the 1991 fiscal year (April 1, 1991 - March 31, 1992), a total of ¥2.32 billion (US\$18 million at an exchange rate of ¥129 to US\$1) was collected from account holders for allocation. The amount is more than



double the ¥1.04 billion (US\$8.07 million) in official development assistance (ODA) provided to NGOs by the Japanese government in fiscal 1992.

The overwhelming response to the scheme demonstrates the willingness of the public in Japan to reach out to people in developing countries. It is also an indication of the increased awareness of the needs of people living in this part of the world and the effective role that NGOs can play in answering demands at the community level.

Despite the grassroots orientation of the scheme, administration of funds and coordination of projects are handled by VDIA personnel at the ministry, a feature that assures contributors that donations are properly administered. In return for contributing to the fund, account holders are kept up to date on the progress of the activities that they are funding with reports sent from the field.

The ministry announced on June 19 that JOICFP would be one of the major recipients out of a total of 185 Japanese NGOs to receive VDIA funds. Accordingly, JOICFP was provided with a total of ¥53.741 million (US\$416,600) on June 25 to support six projects being implemented in six countries.

A total of 250 projects in 49 countries were approved for VDIA funding in fiscal 1992. Of the funds received by JOICFP, ¥8.013 million (US\$62,100) has been allocated to Brazil; ¥9.050 million (US\$70,200) to Guatemala; ¥10.891 million (US\$84,400) to Mexico; ¥5.215 million (US\$40,400) to Nepal; ¥9.471 million (US\$73,400) to Tanzania; and ¥11.101 million (US\$86,100) to Zambia.

At present, JOICFP is implementing the Integrated Project (IP) to promote family planning (FP), maternal and child health (MCH), primary health care and community development in 24 countries in the Asian, African and Latin American regions. Funds supplied through the VDIA scheme are being used to purchase equipment and materials, support training and cover the costs of the dispatch of technical experts to project areas to strengthen the activities of the IP.

As the VDIA scheme continues to gather steam within Japan, awareness of

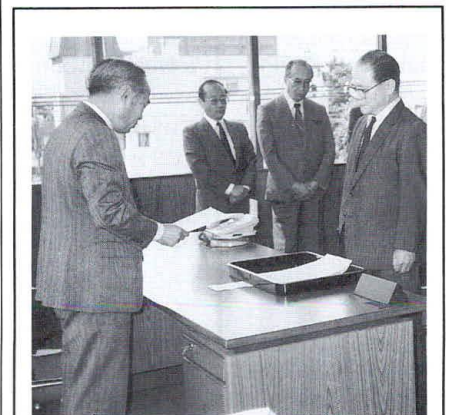


Prizes for children's handwashing contests produced in Guatemala with VDIA funds.

the gap between the north and the south is growing among the Japanese public, while benefits are being shared with people in the developing world. Since last year, the number of account holders has almost tripled from the 2.12 million of March 1991. Meanwhile, the amount collected from depositors for allocation in fiscal 1992 has almost doubled from the ¥1.1 billion (US\$8.53 million) allocated in 1991.



The Ngwenya Men's Club in the IP area of Fiwale, Zambia, were among the recipients of materials and equipment purchased with VDIA funds allocated in the last fiscal year. The provision of the tools, which have been utilized to train the men in carpentry skills for income generation, has stimulated men in surrounding villages to establish similar clubs. In addition, women's and men's clubs and village associations in Fiwale, Kabushi and Kapata have received seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, cooking utensils, fishing nets, cloth and knitting yarn to support nutrition promotion and income-generating activities at the grassroots in project areas.



Yasuo Kon, deputy executive director, JOICFP (right), receives official notification of VDIA funding from Giju Ogiwara, director, Ushigome Post Office, in Tokyo on June 25.

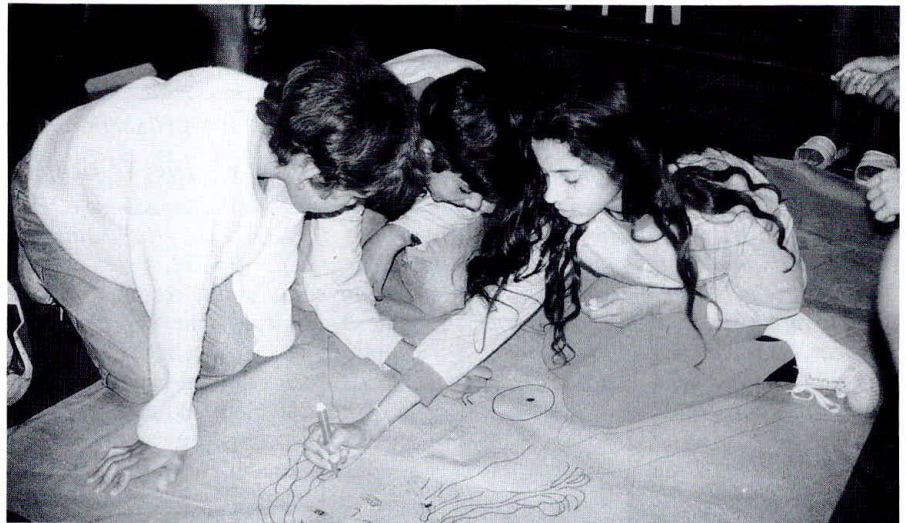
Looking to Youth for Answers

Guidelines for IEC materials and activities produced at adolescent health meeting

The importance of involving adolescents in the production and pretesting of IEC materials for adolescent health education was emphasized at the first Latin American Meeting on the Health of Adolescents, held in São Paulo, Brazil, from June 15 - 19. Participants stressed that IEC materials developed with input from the target group (teenagers) will have a greater impact and be more effective in changing behavior. Moreover, it was recommended that parents, educators and the community as a whole should also be involved in IEC material production and education programs on adolescent health. Noting that the attitudes of parents often pose an obstacle to the promotion of reproductive health, participants emphasized that education activities should be aimed at changing the attitudes of this group and winning parental support for programs.

Attended by representatives of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the workshop was organized by Centro Materno-Infantil Planejamento Familiar (CMI-PF) in cooperation with JOICFP and UNFPA. The 90 or so participants came from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru. Representatives of international agencies including UNFPA, IPPF and PAHO and various resource persons also attended.

The workshop provided Latin American representatives from the



Children study reproductive health at a Catholic-run center in Paraisópolis.

adolescent health field with a forum to discuss different aspects of adolescent health, including pregnancy and contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS. As a result, participants produced concrete guidelines for the creation of IEC materials for adolescent reproductive health as well as instruction manuals to support the teaching process, and developed an outline for educators.

IEC Materials

According to the guidelines produced at the workshop, IEC materials for teenagers should ideally stress visuals, have a clear, positive message, be attractive to the target group and be aimed at encouraging interaction among teenagers, educators and parents. It was also agreed that the education process should be used to strengthen the adolescent's self-esteem through a project to improve the quality of life in which the adolescent may act as the agent responsible for such changes. To maximize the effectiveness of activities, participants recognized the active role that the ministries of education of each country can play both in the classroom and the community in expanding awareness of adolescent health issues.

Another positive outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a Latin American network for the exchange of information and experiences on adolescent health. It was agreed that CMI-PF would function as the coordinating body for this exchange network and begin by compiling a list of concerned institutions.

During a field trip to Monte Azul, a slum area in São Paulo, participants observed an educational drama produced by a young people's group. The play, which dramatized such issues as AIDS

prevention, was attended by young people, parents and other members of the community. Workshop participants saw another example of effective interaction among teenagers and the community at the Engeneiro Goulart Health Center run by the São Paulo State Health Secretariat. The center, in cooperation with parents and teachers, operates outreach teams that provide parasite control and reproductive health education services at elementary schools. Another facility visited by the group was a community assistance center run by a Hungarian Catholic organization which offers vocational training for young people. To answer demands of the community, the center provides family planning (FP) and adolescent health counseling for youths.

The workshop also gave participants an opportunity to share experiences through country presentations. In particular, participants were impressed with some of the features of programs in Guatemala where adolescent health has recently begun to receive serious attention. Under the Commission of the Adolescent (CONAD), set up by the government to coordinate programs in this field, collaboration between



A youth group in Monte Azul dramatizes the AIDS issue.



Pablo Villanueva, country director, UNFPA, Brazil, with participants.



Elementary school children at an adolescent health class organized by the Engeneiro Goulart Health Center.

government and NGOs has already flourished. Participants were also given a case study of the El Camino Center for Adolescents run by the FP Association of Guatemala (APROFAM), which has been offering healthcare, counseling and education services for 11 years, and were provided with an outline of the innovative "Education and Entertainment" strategy.

The efforts made at the workshop to create substantial programs and IEC materials for adolescent health promotion underscored the importance that has been placed on issues such as teenage pregnancy and STDs in the region. Adolescent health will be one of the main topics to be discussed at the Meeting of First Ladies of Latin America scheduled to be held in Colombia in September to which JOICFP is invited to be a participant. J

Applause for Animated Film

A JOICFP animated film was welcomed as an appropriate IEC material for adolescent health education from participants of a workshop organized by Johns Hopkins University. The third film in JOICFP's animated series for adolescent health, *Best Wishes* concerns the struggle of a young Latin American couple to build an equal relationship. The film, a colorful 14-minute animation, raises such issues as women's financial independence, family planning and male-female roles. It is aimed to be used by trained instructors to initiate discussions with adolescents. Participants of the Advances in Family Health Communication Workshop, held at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, U.S.A., from June 8 - 26, were also given an outline of JOICFP and its activities including the use of parasite control activities as an IEC strategy to create awareness of health issues in communities. A showing of the second film in the series, *Music for Two*, was also held at the workshop.

In the News

Health by the People

Monitoring of IP in Tanzania reveals active community participation

The findings of a monitoring mission of the Tanzanian Integrated Project (IP) indicated that the IP "has contributed positively to increased use of contraceptives within the project zones and to a growing number of people reached through information, education and counseling activities." Dr. T. Mariama Barry, program officer, Service Delivery, Africa Regional Office, IPPF, monitored progress in the two villages in Masama and the Tanganyika Planting Company (TPC) sugar cane plantation camps in Kilimanjaro region where the IP is being implemented by UMATI (Family Planning Association of Tanzania) while in Tanzania from March 29 - April 4.

One of the key aspects of the project noted by Barry in her report was the high level of community participation in project activities. "In Kilimanjaro region, acceptance and understanding of the validity of the IP by local government, political and village authorities, and the sugar cane plantation management seem to have been well established over the years from the time the project was initiated," she said.

Contributions of Community

The community contributes by providing free services, workers and volunteers to distribute contraceptives and run health education campaigns," she said. Donations of reconditioned bicycles and sewing machines and modest financial assistance has also done much to mobilize the community, she added.

Barry noted that between 1984 - 1991, the contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 27% to 65% in TPC and from 9.3% to 51% in Masama. She attributed the rise to three factors: accessibility of services at the community level; a better understanding and acceptance of the project by communities through awareness-creation activities; and well-motivated distribution and education by community agents.

In her examination of FP services, Barry noted that attendance at the UMATI clinics was high and that a varied choice of contraceptives was available to clients. However, to further enhance the quality of services, Barry recommended the introduction of a simpler and more flexible data collection system to make the staff's work easier, and suggested a more thorough supervision and follow-up system for clients who stop receiving services.



Traditional birth attendants join a community effort to improve the water supply in Mabogini.

Commenting that the clinics offer good services with competent and well-trained personnel, Barry recommended that a system be set in place to evaluate the performance of project personnel.

Parasite control, which is used as an entry point to motivate the people win the confidence of the community in the project, was also singled out by Barry as an area deserving more attention. While noting that efforts to educate the community on personal and environmental hygiene are continuing through the community agents and health centers, Barry stressed that "Emphasis should be laid on parasite control and the development of the nutrition program."

In summing up her report, Barry stated, "For the past nine years, UMATI has succeeded in demonstrating that the IP approach represents a good strategy through which communities can be appropriately mobilized into taking charge of their health needs." J

TFR of Japan Hits Low 1.53

Japan's total fertility rate (TFR) hit an all-time low of 1.53 in 1991, according to the annual demographic report of the Health and Welfare Ministry.

At 1.53, Japan's TFR ranks the third lowest among industrialized countries after Italy's 1.29 and Germany's 1.39. The previous record low was set in 1990 at 1.54.

The birthrate per 1,000 people dropped to 9.9 in 1991, to mark an annual drop of 0.1, according to the report.

A Role for Men in FP Promotion

Ghana IP aims to stimulate male participation in project

Dr. Reginald K. Anteson, associate professor, Ghana Medical School, and chairman, National Steering Committee of the Integrated Project (IP), spoke with JOICFP NEWS on July 20 about the progress of the IP in Ghana. Below is an outline of his interview.

Before the IP is started in any locality, IP personnel go to the area and speak to the chief or community leaders. The chief is told what is going to take place and what the benefits will be for the village people, and is asked to contribute to the project. It is impossible to go into a village and do something without first seeing the so-called "father of the village." The chief cannot be bypassed because he is the one with the power and resources to call the village together and disseminate information.

Our society is a male-dominated society. A woman cannot easily make decisions without the consent of her husband. With family planning (FP), women are approached first, because as



Dr. Reginald K. Anteson

women they are directly involved with bearing and raising children. They are approached by IP staff and told that by spacing the births of their babies, the children they have will live longer and will help them with farm work longer. The women then go to their husbands and tell them about what they have learned.

It takes a while to get men involved, especially in FP, but this is what we are trying to do with the "daddies' clubs." One of the ideas of these clubs is to form cohesive men's groups that can be approached and "energized" to take part in the IP. Gradually we are seeing more men coming around to the idea of FP.

The IP in Ghana has been very effective for motivating the community people. One of the main reasons for this may be that it introduces activities and services that improve the health and way of life of the

people. Once they are made to understand the importance of taking care of their health through parasite control (PC) activities, they accept the project and take an active part. Naturally, PC leads to environmental sanitation. Through the IP, community cleaning competitions are organized. As a result, the people enjoy a cleaner community, improved toilet facilities and decreased parasite infection.

Home visits are very important for FP promotion because they give the community-based distribution (CBD) agents an opportunity to give advice about FP and demonstrate benefits directly to the people. We have found this person-to-person approach very effective. Direct contacts with groups such as men's and women's groups can also have a positive impact, especially once the people have been sensitized to the information through personal contacts.

Income-generating activities are geared towards raising funds for the IP to enable it to be self-reliant in the future. A little seed money is necessary to begin income-generating activities such as "gari" (processed cassava) production, "weanimix" (infant food supplement) service and bakery projects. We recently received a donation of sneakers from JOICFP, and instead of just giving the shoes away, we asked people to make small financial contributions to the project. With the funds raised through this, we will be able to start other income-generating activities. □

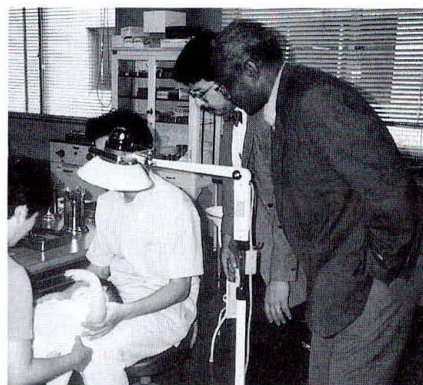
In Support of Self-reliance

"The Japanese health system is like no other health system in the world," said Dr. Carlos Contreras, director, Medical Services Unit, Family Planning Association of Guatemala (APROFAM), who took part in a two-day field trip to Shizuoka Prefecture from July 17 - 19. Contreras, who observed health promotion activities at Numazu Public Health Center, said he was impressed with coordination among local government, schools, businesses and the community in health promotion activities.

The government-run health center also interested Dr. Reginald K. Anteson, associate professor, Ghana Medical School, and chairman, National Steering Committee of the Integrated Project (IP), who joined Contreras on the field trip. Noting the efficiency of the mass health checkups for 3-year-old children he observed at the center, Anteson com-

mented that the Japanese healthcare system was operated on the concept of comprehensive care, beginning with care for infants. "People are grateful for having good health and are willing to do anything to maintain it," he said.

The two visitors were also given insights into the activities of a self-reliant Japanese non-governmental organization (NGO) in Shizuoka City where they visited the Shizuoka Health Service Association, an NGO providing preventive healthcare services on a fee-charged basis in coordination with the local government. Anteson noted that the association began activities with parasite control and later expanded into broader preventive health fields. "The people were so happy after receiving treatment for parasites that they were willing to pay for services and enabled the association to operate on a self-reliant basis," he added.



Anteson (right) and Contreras observe checkups for 3-year-olds in Numazu.

The observation of the activities of a self-sustained NGO was also a highlight of the field trip for Contreras who said that self-reliance was one of the goals of the IP in Guatemala. "At present we depend on agencies for contributions, but who knows how long this will last?" he said. "That is why we are making special efforts to develop the self-reliance of the project." □

Broader FP Perspectives

Bangladesh puts quality FP services and education high on agenda

Dr A. J. Faisel, medical and program advisor, Bangladesh Program, Asia Regional Office, Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception (AVSC), visited JOICFP on July 2 and spoke about family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) in Bangladesh. Below are highlights of his interview.

Since independence, each successive government has emphasized population as the number one issue. Today, the FP program is really an integrated MCH-based FP program. However, in the early 1970s the program was mostly based on sterilization and the popularity of this method peaked around 1984 - 1985. By that time the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had started establishing community-based distribution programs involving pill promotion, condom distribution and the motivation of women for injectables from small, rural clinics. At present, injectables and pills are the most popular contraceptive methods, followed by the IUD and sterilization.

Around 1984, about 550,000 sterilizations were performed annually.

Now annual sterilizations number between 100,000 - 140,000. One of the major reasons for the decrease in popularity of sterilization is the lack of service quality. When one woman has a problem with sterilization, she spreads the news in her village that sterilization is not a good method. But it is not just with sterilization that poor service quality is a problem. A recent joint AVSC-government assessment found that the entire FP program is affected by a lack of quality of services. One of the biggest issues is training. Doctors, nurses and paramedics all need training on infection prevention and on how to provide aseptic, safe, quality services.

Another obstacle to FP promotion is the low literacy rate. Overall it is about 24%. For women it is less at about 14 - 15%, and for village women it is far lower. The low literacy rate also means that many IEC materials are not very effective. Therefore, the major way of communicating with the people is through personal contact, either one-to-one communication or group communication. Thus, each FP field worker has recently



Dr. A. J. Faisel

been given an additional responsibility of educating at least two illiterate mothers in his or her locality.

From what I learned in Japan I think there are two major take-home messages. First, it is important to start a program with something simple that is easily understood by the people and that is easy to operate and manage. Second, community participation is vital. Without community interest or the participation of the community in a program, I don't think a program can be sustained or can bring any results. Community participation is the key element in the programs of JOICFP and the whole Hoken Kaikan Group. J

A Learning Experience

Japan's rich experiences in community-based family planning (FP), maternal and child health (MCH) and primary health care activities were a source of inspiration for 10 members of a Chinese mission in Japan for a parasite control (PC) seminar from June 29 - July 12. The mission comprised management staff from ongoing IP areas and representatives of the Department of Science and Technology and Department of Foreign Affairs, State Family Planning Commission (FPC) and Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Academy of Preventive Medicines of China. It was headed by Dr. Wang Ruiqing, deputy director, FPC, Jilin Province.

Over the two weeks, the visitors were given intensive training in such fields as PC, FP and MCH and introduced to preventive healthcare in Japan which was established in the postwar years. Noting that PC activities formed the basis of preventive healthcare in Japan, Wang commented that PC is an effective way



Chinese mission members observe public health checkups in Towa Town.

of making community people aware of other health issues. "The results of parasite examination and treatment are both visible and immediate, making people aware of health issues and paving the way for such activities as FP promotion," he said.

Sponsored by the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, the seminar was conducted by the Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) in cooperation with JOICFP.

A field trip to Fukushima Prefecture enabled participants to observe present-day preventive health activities and speak to staff and volunteers promoting healthcare in the community. During time spent in the Nihonmatsu district, the mission visited a local public health center, primary school, sewage disposal center, waste collection and treatment center, public water sanitation system and a local farm house. They also observed the activities of a private health service association which is contracted by the local government and businesses to provide preventive healthcare services including health checkups on a fee-charged basis in cooperation with community volunteers.

Commenting on what he had learned in Japan, Wang said that the trip had demonstrated the important role that private organizations such as FP associations, women's and youth associations as well as labor unions can play in the promotion of FP in China. Due to budget constraints, there is no formal plan to initiate the IP in Jilin Province. However, Wang said he hoped that a pilot project implemented on a self-reliant basis could be initiated in his province in the future. J

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

In Support of Self-reliance

The so-called "New Life Movement" began in Japan during the time of severe shortages brought about by World War II. When the war ended, the farmers started a movement to eradicate mosquitoes, fleas and flies. The spectacular results of their simple activities surprised everyone. Without the irritation of insects, cows began to produce more milk, the appetites of horses increased and chickens started laying more eggs. Moreover, people slept better without the disturbance of mosquitoes and fleas. This movement spread across communities and became what the government referred to as *Shin-seikatsu Undo* — the "New Life Movement."

Around that time (1949), parasite control (PC) became a topic of interest in Tokyo. The groups of children who returned from evacuation were heavily infected by roundworms. Hence, guided by experts, a PC movement was launched that brought cures for anemia and stomachaches. One thing led to another as similar movements began all over Japan, and very soon people moved from the prevention of stomach pains to the quest for clean running water and sewage treatment to prevent infectious diseases.

Dr. Noriji Suzuki, a professor of Kochi Medical School, returned recently from observing activities of the Integrated Project (IP) in China and spoke to us about his experiences. In a village he visited in Yunnan Province, the community people have reconstructed their latrines on their own initiative. With the methane gas collected from septic tanks, families are generating electricity for their homes and fueling their kitchens. This idea has since caught on and has been replicated in many other areas.

The cost to each household to install such a system (about 2,500 yuan) can be recovered within a few years. Once this happens, the community can then invest more money in activities such as repairing school buildings, constructing clinics in the villages and hiring doctors. This is just one example of the many such positive achievements that have been made under the IP in China.

Amid the current wave of modernization, China has been absorbing many innovations from developed countries. However, the Chinese people's greatest asset is their strong will and their shared desire to improve their lives and their society. J

DIARY

Eleven representatives from 11 countries attended the Seminar on Community-based FP Strategies from May 18 - June 12. The seminar was entrusted to JOICFP by JICA.

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JOICFP Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami was in Brazil to attend the Adolescent Health Workshop and in the U.S. to attend the Advances in Family Health Communication Workshop at Johns Hopkins University from June 8 - 26.

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JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Shin-ichi Yagi was in Thailand from June 24 - 28 to attend meetings of IPPF's ESEAO Executive Committee and ESEAO Regional Council.

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Dr. A. J. Faisel, medical and program advisor, Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception, Bangladesh, visited JOICFP to exchange information on July 2.

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Dr. Hirofumi Ando, director, Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP on July 1 and 3 to exchange information.



Takeo Fukuda (center) addresses the joint meeting at JOICFP.

"The Integrated Project (IP) of JOICFP is receiving attention around the world as a practical approach," said Takeo Fukuda, president, JOICFP, and former prime minister, Japan. Speaking at the joint meeting of JOICFP board members, counselors and councilors, Fukuda stressed that population and environmental issues are two sides of the same coin. The meeting, held on June 19, was called to discuss policy and the action plan for JOICFP.

Referring to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Fukuda emphasized that a greater contribution is expected from Japan in the field of population. "As a leading non-governmental organization in this field, JOICFP will be expected to take on a greater role in the non-governmental sector," he said.

Fukuda said that Japan will have to take on the challenges presented by population and environmental issues to fulfill its global responsibilities. Noting shared objectives with such agencies as UNFPA, IPPF, UNICEF, the World Bank and WHO, he said that Japan will be working in close collaboration with these agencies to achieve shared goals.



Japanese Ambassador to Honduras Takashi Miyazaki (left) with JOICFP Chairman Chojiro Kunii during a meeting at JOICFP on July 10. The ambassador visited JOICFP to exchange information on family planning and maternal and child health with JOICFP officers.

JOICFP DOCUMENTARY SERIES NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Awakening Kowloon Village Women in Vietnam

30 min., color/Vietnamese, Japanese



Despite the many years that have passed since the end of the Vietnam War, the people of Tan Buu Commune still have no bridge to replace the one that was destroyed in a bombing raid. Each day, children cross the river by boat to go to school along with women volunteers who promote family planning and maternal and child health among the community people.

The Awakening Kowloon — Village Women in Vietnam documents the struggle of the Tan Buu people to rebuild their bridge and the vital role that women play as agents of change.

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NOTICE

JOICFP is closed every Saturday and Sunday as of July 1, 1992.

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