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JOICFP NEWS

People Power in Vietnam

Commitment and energy of women in Vietnam move members of Japanese mission



One of the families in Nghi Long Commune to benefit from a revolving fund for local enterprises.

While observing the activities of women working as volunteers for the Integrated Project (IP) in Vietnam, Kashiji Ide, vice chairwoman, Nagano Women's League, was reminded of the role women played in improving health and enhancing development in Nagano Prefecture in the years following WWII. Commenting on the volunteers she met and her observations of family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) promotion in IP areas, Ide said that the Vietnamese women were making the same crucial grassroots contribution to their nation's development as the women did in postwar Japan.

Ide was one of 12 members of a JOICFP mission that was in Vietnam from July 29 - August 9. Aimed at strengthening the network and deepening the understanding in Japan to support

the Vietnamese people, the mission comprised representatives of the Women's League of Nagano Prefecture, FP/MCH specialists, journalists and a representative from the City Office of Toshima, one of the cities belonging to the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), a pioneering Japanese body promoting the donation of reconditioned bicycles to developing countries. All mission members were funded by independent sources.

The mission visited three provinces where the IP is being implemented. Although the trip was the first visit to Vietnam for most of the participants, many have been involved in assisting the IP in Vietnam through grassroots activities in Japan. For these members, the trip provided a welcome opportunity to observe the impact of their support to Vietnamese people.

For the three representatives of the Nagano Women's League, the visit to Nghi Long Commune, Nghe An Province, was particularly rewarding. Nghi Long was selected last year as a pilot commune to receive a revolving fund of US\$2,000 donated by the league for loans to support family enterprises. The loans, which have mostly been used to raise livestock as food sources and for sale, were provided to families on a contract basis for a year at an annual interest rate of 2%. The profits earned from the interest are to be channeled back into the community where they will be used to support volunteers and related personnel working for the IP.

During meetings with loan recipients, the mission members were impressed with the way the loans were well-managed by the local IP Steering Committee and Women's Union and were struck by the

determination expressed by the families to repay the loans and interest due this September. A member of one family happily told the mission that the family venture had earned US\$80 in less than a year, more than enough to repay the original loan of US\$50.

The mission also included field trips to the IP communes of Quang Phu in Thua-thien Hue Province, and Tan Buu in Long An Province. The inclusion of the IP communes enabled participants to observe firsthand the community-based health and environmental sanitation promotion activities of the project and speak with volunteers and IP personnel.

Commitment of Leaders

Commenting on their experiences, the mission members said they were moved by the enthusiasm and commitment to community development shared by local leaders and community people despite an obvious lack of basic necessities. They noted, however, that what materials the community people had received as donations from Japan were being used effectively. At health centers, the mission saw personnel using towels and laboratory coats from Nagano and observed the effective use of such JOICFP-supplied items as megaphones and baby scales.

For one of the mission members, a surgical nurse from Tokyo, her observations in Vietnam confirmed her



Tran Thi Trung Chien, vice minister of health, briefs the mission on FP/MCH activities in Vietnam.

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belief in the power of people working collectively. Tsusa Kidachi, who had visited Vietnam previously in 1977, said that she was surprised by the progress she saw about her and by the motivation and high spirits of the people. Noting that the people had rebuilt parts of their country that had been completely destroyed during the war, Kidachi said she hoped that the people of Vietnam would succeed in their collective efforts to develop the country.

The mission did much to further the understanding among the Japanese participants of the Vietnamese people and promote future exchanges. The trip also gave members a clearer idea of how to contribute to improving the way of life of the people in Vietnam by fostering grassroots activities. On return to Japan, the mission members proposed that they each contribute ¥1,000 (US\$8 at an exchange rate of ¥129 to US\$1) per month for three years to establish a revolving fund for community loans. 

Common Threads

One of the highlights of the JOICFP mission to Vietnam was the opportunity to see reconditioned sewing machines being utilized at the Ben Luc Vocational Training Center in Ben Luc District, Long An Province. In particular, the mission members

were impressed with the practical and well-organized donation scheme



which was having an obvious, positive impact on the development of the women in the area. Since receiving 20 of the 40 treadle sewing machines sent to the IP in Long An Province through JOICFP in March, the IP committee in Ben Luc has been encouraging skill training for women while earning income through a venture with the training center. According to an agreement between the committee and the center, the rental on the machines goes toward subsidizing the training of IP volunteers at the center and also supports their activities in the field. With an enrollment of 220 trainees, the well-established center also provides training in vehicle repair and wood carving. At the time of the mission's visit, a total of 176 trainees were enrolled in the sewing course.

Warm Homecoming for Film



Children of Tan Buu Commune react with excitement during the film show.

A JOICFP documentary on village women in Vietnam premiered in Hanoi on July 30 to applause from an audience of some 60 people which included the new vice minister of Health, Tran Thi Trung Chien. The minister was joined by other parliamentarians and representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Committee on Population and Family Planning and Ministry of Sports and Culture as well as the first secretary of the Embassy of Japan and representatives of international organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF and FAO, women's unions and the mass media.

The film, *The Awakening Kowloon — Village Women in Vietnam* was shot on location in Tan Buu Commune in Long An Province where JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP) is being implemented. Documenting the struggle of the people to develop their community and rebuild the village infrastructure destroyed more than 20 years ago during the Vietnam War, the film focuses on the crucial role played by women working as community volunteers to promote family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH).

The Vietnamese-language film, which featured actual members of the Tan Buu Commune and scenes from daily life, was welcomed by the audience as well made and extremely realistic. Noting the contribution of Japanese technical expertise to the film's quality, a Vietnamese audience member commented that the documentary was a positive example of Vietnamese-Japanese collaboration. Ministry of Health representatives also expressed their

determination to use the film as an IEC material to promote the health volunteer network throughout the country.

The film was also well received by representatives of international organizations who said that it clearly showed how to maintain a healthcare network and promote development of communities through the participation of the people in the face extreme economic difficulties. One official said that the film could be used in countries with similar difficulties as Vietnam to show community people how much they can achieve through their own efforts.

Community Enthusiasm

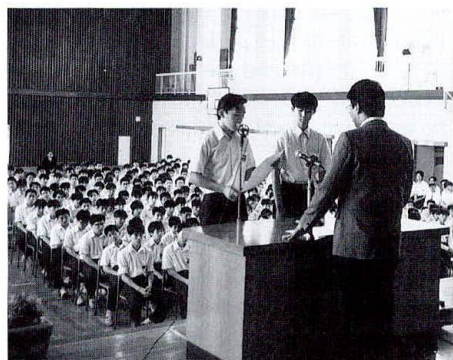
Film showings were also held in the Long An Province Community Health Center and in Tan Buu Commune. For the visiting JOICFP mission, the show in Tan Buu was an extremely memorable experience. Despite monsoon rains, over 300 villagers turned out for the event and to welcome the film from the opening scenes with shrieks of delight as members of the community recognized themselves and neighbors. For one mission member, the excitement of the people of Tan Buu was reminiscent of the postwar days in Japan when the enthusiasm of the people to improve their way of life was at a peak. Before the mission members left the following day, they were able to talk with the chairman of the People's Committee, head of the Women's Union and volunteers who had appeared in the documentary. 

A Lesson in International Cooperation

Donation scheme teaches Japanese students about needs of community women in Guatemala

A treadle sewing machine can make a significant difference to the quality of life of a woman and her family in Guatemala, said Dr. Carlos Contreras, director, Medical Service Unit, Family Planning Association of Guatemala (APROFAM). Addressing the teaching staff and students of Fuchu Daikyu Junior High School in Fuchu City, Tokyo, Contreras explained that with a sewing machine a mother can learn new skills that she can use to generate income to pay for better nutrition and healthcare for her children.

Contreras made his speech at the school's closing ceremony for the first semester on July 20. Expressing gratitude for the school's donation of 10 treadle sewing machines to the Integrated



(Photo, right) Student leaders address Dr. Contreras at Fuchu Daikyu Junior High School. (Photo, left) Women learn sewing skills in San Lucas Tolimán.



Project (IP) area of San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala, the APROFAM representative said that a vocational training school for mothers had been established in the IP community to utilize the donated sewing machines. "Through this training program, mothers will be able to better provide for the health of their children," he said. "Thus, on behalf of the children of San Lucas Tolimán, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your contribution."

Donation Scheme

The donation scheme has not only brought benefits to the people of San Lucas Tolimán, but has also stirred interest in Guatemala and international cooperation among the staff and students of Fuchu Daikyu Junior High. Inspired by the scheme, the staff have included Guatemala as one of the countries covered in the school's social studies curriculum. During his address to the school, Contreras introduced students to some of the geographical and social aspects of his country along with a slide presentation.

In an emotional speech, a student representative welcomed the Guatemalan guest and thanked him for visiting the school. "Through our social studies classes, we have learned a little about your country," said the student. "But your visit gives us a very rare and welcome opportunity to exchange ideas, deepen our understanding of your country and further develop the friendship between the students of this school and the people of Guatemala."

Contreras was overwhelmed by the warm welcome and by the amount of interest that the scheme has sparked among the students. "I think the donation of sewing machines is a very important way of letting children know that not all people live the

same way," he said. "It is helping them to understand the problems in developing countries and the importance of raising the standard of health and education of the people."

The sewing machines, which have been used for educational purposes since being handed over in Guatemala on June 5, were reconditioned free of charge by Janome Sewing Machine Co., Ltd.

While in Japan, Contreras also paid a courtesy call to the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) Office of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on July 20 which recently allocated funds to support the activities of the IP in Guatemala. Contreras expressed his thanks for the assistance to VDIA officials and presented a report of the activities of the project in San Lucas Tolimán. J



Community people of Zamboanga del Sur welcome a donation of bicycles.

Reconditioned bicycles donated to the Philippines by local Japanese governments through JOICFP are helping to ease the workload of members of the Team of Development Workers (TDWs) who must often travel long distances to bring much-needed services to people living in remote areas, said Dr. Benjamin D. Cabrera, professor emeritus, University of the Philippines, and vice president, Foundation for Integrated Services on Health and Development (FISHDEV). "By using a bicycle, for example, a midwife can attend a delivery on time and save the life of a mother and child," he said.

On a recent visit to Japan, Cabrera expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by MCCOBA by paying courtesy calls to two member cities in Saitama Prefecture on July 20. In Tokorozawa City, Cabrera met with Mayor Hiroshi Saito and in Kawaguchi City, he met with Vice Mayor Sukeichi Yagi. During discussions with the municipal officials, Cabrera presented a report on the usage of bicycles by local governments and TDWs to promote community development and healthcare.

Forging Closer Ties

Dr. Reginald K. Anteson, associate professor, Ghana Medical School, and chairman, National IP Steering Committee, paid courtesy calls to two Tokyo member cities of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) on July 20 and 24 to express appreciation for the donation of reconditioned bicycles. During meetings with Yoshio Nishino, mayor of Ota City, and Saburo Iwanami, mayor of Nerima City, Anteson provided an outline of the IP in Ghana and reported on how the bicycles are being used to promote health and community development within IP areas. To ensure that the bicycles are maintained properly, a central depot is being set up for maintenance and repair work, he said.

Determining a Better Future

N'diaye hails increasing priority on population policies/programs

Lamine N'diaye, director, Africa Division, UNFPA, was in Japan from July 27 - August 2 to take part in the Tripartite Review (TPR) Meeting on the Integrated Project (IP) and join a field trip to Nagano Prefecture. He spoke with JOICFP NEWS on August 1 about his impressions of Nagano and on current population issues in Africa. Below is an outline of his interview.

It is always good to see the work of Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs). I think what the people of Togakushi village in Nagano are doing could be a model for many African countries to demonstrate that NGOs can work very efficiently at the community level. Communities can do anything they want if they have the will and are well organized. Success does not depend on what donors will give, but on what the community will do.

Unfortunately, Africa has a colonized past, so private institutions have been given less emphasis. Everything has been done by the central government, a factor which has not helped to promote

the role of private institutions. The generation that experienced colonization is now passing and we hope that the new generation born after independence will be more equipped with a sense of private activities.

UNFPA has been very successful in sensitizing African governments about population issues. What we are doing now is encouraging governments to translate that knowledge and information into action at the grassroots. For this reason we are encouraging governments to involve NGOs, which are more efficient at working with communities.

The Third African Population Conference (jointly organized by UNFPA and the Economic Commission for Africa) will be held in December in Dakar, Senegal. Prior to the conference we plan to hold a forum to interact with NGOs and ask them their perceptions of population issues in their communities and of their national population programs and policies, and how they see their role in terms of helping government implement them.

The Dakar conference will be very



Lamine N'diaye

interesting. The theme of the conference is "Population, African family and sustainable development," a theme that really illustrates the concerns of African governments.

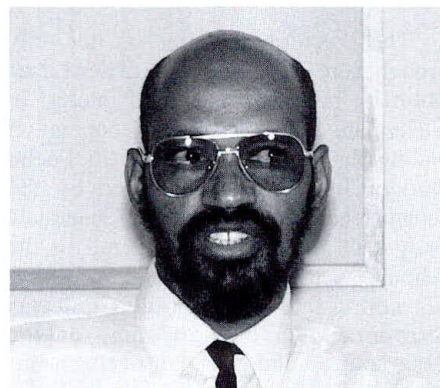
When we compare the present population situation in Africa with 10 or even 20 years ago, the progress has been tremendous. Today, we have indications of fertility decline in countries such as Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya and Mauritius. These countries are opening the way for the others to follow. The factors that have contributed to their success are: firstly, education of women that has enabled increases in contraceptive prevalence; secondly, strong commitment by governments; and thirdly, good organization of services. J

A Positive Decade

Diallo welcomes increasing role for FPAs in government policies and programs

Alpha M. Diallo, assistant regional director, Africa Regional Office, joined N'diaye at the TPR Meeting and field trip to Nagano Prefecture. He was also interviewed by JOICFP NEWS on August 1. Below is an outline of his impressions of Nagano and his comments on IPPF's activities in Africa.

One of the very good pieces of news over the last 10 years has been that an increasing number of governments in Africa have adopted population policies. What is of interest for IPPF in these policies is the fact that most governments assign a very important role to the family planning associations (FPAs). In some countries, the whole area of IEC has been given to the FPA, while in others this role is accompanied by an authorization for the FPA to open model clinics that provide high-quality care, FP services and also training in contraceptive technology for



Alpha M. Diallo

government health officials. The FPAs do not work in isolation, but in collaboration with the ministries of health, education, agriculture and social development.

Improving the status of women is the key to FP success. Women are the basic healthcare providers, consumers of healthcare and the mothers of the community. Women also represent the best health agents in any country. We see women as one of our priority target groups, not just as consumers of contraceptives, but also as primary partners in the work that we are doing. The second most important group is young people. Between 50 - 55% of African people are under the

age of 21. They are the parents of tomorrow and it is very important to educate them into responsible parenthood. Our third major goal is male involvement in FP. We want men to be actively involved in FP, to practice FP themselves and to be supportive of their wives who practice FP. We also target policymakers and speak to religious and community leaders.

I was most impressed to learn that after the war this country faced problems that were very similar to the ones we are facing in Africa today. I think that Africa is going through the same process that Togakushi village in Nagano went through — involving individuals and the community in self-development. Members of the community can only improve their livelihood, living conditions and health status if they accept to organize themselves and to collaborate with each other. This process involves a lot of effort, self-sacrifice and dedication from both the paid staff and the people acting as volunteers. Development can only be achieved through the joint efforts of these two groups. The initiative has to come from within, but what can be received from outside is backup support and advice. J

Collaboration in Africa Reaffirmed

Senior representatives of UNFPA, IPPF and JOICFP agreed to further reinforce joint collaboration to promote the Integrated Project (IP) in the African region at a recent Tripartite Review (TPR) Meeting held in Tokyo. The meeting was held from July 28 - August 1 and attended by Lamine N'diaye, director, Africa Division, UNFPA, and Alpha M. Diallo, assistant regional director, Africa Regional Office, IPPF.

The main aim of the TPR Meeting was to review UNFPA/IPPF/JOICFP tripartite cooperation in the development of the IP in Africa during the past year and to discuss program planning for the coming year. The officials also reviewed regional activities carried out under the "Promotion of Integrated Family Planning with Primary Health Care Service for Sub-Sahara Africa" (RAF/88/P31) project and progress of on-going projects in Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia for 1991.

Independent Evaluations

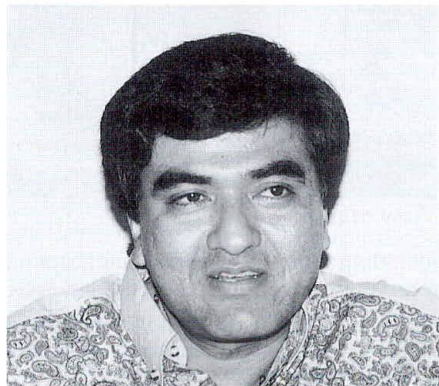
Referring to the recommendations made at the Pan-African IP Conference (PANFRICO III) held in Accra, Ghana, in October last year, the participants agreed that an independent evaluation of the regional and country projects in Africa should be conducted in 1993 to assess the impact of the project and to strengthen and expand project implementation in the region. Participants also discussed the independent evaluation of the IP in Ethiopia, a country project of UNFPA, to be carried out later in the year.

Noting that a few countries including French-speaking nations had submitted proposals to IPPF to implement the IP, the participants agreed that the involvement of French-speaking countries should be encouraged in the IP in the future. Participants also discussed a regional workshop to be held in Ethiopia in the latter part of the year to address common issues of project management of IP-implementing countries.

At the meeting, the representatives of UNFPA and IPPF outlined FP/MCH service delivery, adolescent health, IEC activities, women and continuous advocacy on population issues as key program areas for the Africa region. [3]

Building on Experiences

Sharing successes and failures essential, says Nepalese researcher



Dr. Mahendra K. Chhetri

Dr. Mahendra K. Chhetri, senior medical officer, FP/MCH Project, Nepal, recently concluded a study of the impact of the Integrated Project (IP) on environmental sanitation in Panchkal, Nepal. He shared his impressions of the IP and spoke about health issues in Nepal during an interview with JOICFP NEWS on July 22. Below are highlights of the interview.

Before the IP was implemented, people in Panchkal were not very aware of health issues such as environmental sanitation, water contamination and parasites. According to my study, most people living in the IP area now have pit latrines which have become a part of their daily lives. The introduction of these inexpensive latrines has been a very good way of forming hygienic habits among the people.

Major Killer

Poor sanitation is the major killer of people in developing countries. But if a little care is taken to provide information to the people at the community level, mortality can be significantly reduced. Sharing information and knowledge is essential. For example, if rural people were given technical assistance to build low-cost latrines, a lot could be done for the standard of health of whole country. The priority, however, should be on supporting people with technical assistance. The information provided should be very technical, such as how to build a latrine, the impact of environmental sanitation on health and information on how to grow nutritious foods.

As for family planning (FP), most people now in Nepal do not want large families. But in many villages people do not have access to information. The

national contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is about 20%. Under the IP, however, the CPR in the IP area has been increased from 5% to 45%. Awareness of FP has been spread in these areas through information programs, movies and by community field workers who go door-to-door to communicate with the people and provide services.

When a project is started in a new place, experiences of other projects such as those of the IP should be utilized. Much of what has been learned in the IP area, both successes and failures, can be utilized in other parts of the country and should be widely disseminated to the health workers in communities.

Recently, studies were conducted into the impact of vitamin A on child mortality. The results showed that vitamin A treatment could prevent 33% of under-6 mortalities in Nepal. Vitamin A does not just prevent night blindness, but has a value in immunity development to make the body stronger to fight diseases. Nepal has many wild plants that are rich in vitamin A, but the people do not have the habit of cooking or eating vegetables. So, there is now a plan to create weaning foods from local plants that are rich in vitamin A. [3]



In a show of support for JOICFP activities, the new president of SCAC JAPON Transport International, Alain Chemery (left), presents JOICFP deputy executive director, Yasuo Kon, with a check for ¥500,000 (US\$3,900 at an exchange rate of ¥129 to US\$1) on July 27. The contribution, to be used to strengthen the Integrated Project activities, marks the first time for JOICFP to receive a donation from SCAC JAPON, the Japanese subsidiary of the French shipping company SDV. Chemery, who also holds the position of SDV director for North Asia, said that his company takes much interest in supporting the work carried out by non-governmental organizations such as JOICFP in developing countries.

Essentials of International Assistance

Seminar provides firm basis for paramedics concerned about international assistance

A contribution was expected from every participant at this year's Seminar on International Cooperation in Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning, held in Japan from August 11 - 21. Incorporating an overnight stay at the National Women's Education Center in Saitama Prefecture, the seminar called for the active involvement of all participants in discussions on practical strategies for providing technical assistance in the field of maternal and child health (MCH) and family planning (FP) to developing countries.

An annual event, the seminar is geared to preparing participants for overseas service by increasing their awareness of issues related to international cooperation and to broadening technical cooperation channels for assistance to developing countries. The format of this year's training course was varied with presentations by experts on a variety of topics



View of trainees.

including adolescent health, contraception, reproductive health, international assistance, population issues, communication techniques and volunteer work. Since the training course was launched in 1972, a total of 525 health professionals have participated as trainees.

This year's trainee group comprised 22 health workers including public health nurses, midwives, instructors of paramedical students and one JICA expert. Subsidized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by JOICFP, the course was led by Dr. Minoru Muramatsu, former chairman, Population Association of Japan.

An overnight brainstorming session included in this year's training course provided participants with a welcome opportunity to exchange information and experiences with each other and officers of JOICFP. For Emiko Kakuda, the seminar

gave her a wider perspective of international cooperation. About to embark on a three-year stay in the Philippines as a volunteer nurse, Kakuda said that she had also established a valuable support network with other participants through the seminar. For Hiromi Eto, the course was an enlightening experience. A teacher of nursing, Eto said that she had been able to develop a clear picture of Japan's international obligations and practical ways for people like her to fulfill these obligations.

New Insights

For veterans such as Yoko Komura, a midwife who spent two years in Malawi as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV), the seminar provided new insights into international assistance. Komura was particularly impressed with the approach of the Integrated Project, the broad components it encompasses and the idea of using parasite control to gain acceptance of the project.

In summing up, the paramedics noted the importance of answering grassroots needs and of promoting the self-reliance of projects through human resource development. Inspired by the enthusiasm expressed by Chairman Kunii, the participants agreed that above all else, the success of any project is ultimately determined by the commitment of the people and personnel. J

Sharing Keys to Health

Reports on the progress of the Integrated Project (IP) in Ghana and Guatemala served as highlights of the 14th APCO Parasitologists' Meeting, held in Tokyo from July 21 - 23. Presented by two IP representatives, the reports illustrated the IP as a practical approach to win community participation in environmental sanitation, family planning (FP), nutrition improvement and maternal and child health (MCH) activities.

Dr. Reginald K. Anteson, associate professor, Ghana Medical School, and chairman, IP Steering Committee of Ghana, and Dr. Carlos Contreras, director, Medical Services Unit, FP Association of Guatemala (APROFAM), pointed out that the IP has had considerable impact on raising awareness of health issues and acceptance of FP in the project areas in their countries. Anteson noted that through parasite control (PC) and other primary health care activities to improve MCH, the project has won the trust of the

community in IP areas in Ghana and contributed to an increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) from 17.4% in 1987 to 62.8% in 1991. Meanwhile, in San Lucas Tolimán in Guatemala, PC activities have had a positive impact on health and awareness of health issues, said Contreras. The APROFAM representative also noted said that the target population of the IP is to increase from the present 35,000 to reach 120,000 in the future.

This year's meeting was sponsored by the Japan Keirin Association and Hoken Kaikan Group and organized by the Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) in cooperation with JOICFP. It was attended by 27 participants including members of the Asian Parasite Control Organization (APCO) Research Group in Asia, experts, observers and representatives from UNICEF and the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The meeting featured progress reports on research carried out in the last year by



Participants listen to a presentation.

APCO members, while an overview of progress made in IP areas since July 1991 was presented in a secretary's report compiled by Chojiro Kunii, secretary, APCO, and chairman, JOICFP.

The meeting wound up on a positive note with participants agreeing to gear research toward solving health problems afflicting people at the community level. This point was reiterated in a message by Kunii, who emphasized that projects aimed at improving the way of life of people, should begin by trying to answer needs at the grassroots. J

Lessons from the Field

Mission to China deepens understanding of grassroots needs



A couple in Zhangqiu County display their MCH handbook.

The term "international cooperation" has been receiving an increasing amount of attention in Japan in recent years as the country moves to take on a more active role in world affairs. One activity that is doing much to foster exchanges and deepen the understanding of the needs of a developing country among Japanese people is the annual study tour to China organized by JOICFP and the China Family Planning Association (CFPA). A regular event, the main aim of the tour is to introduce internationally minded Japanese to family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) activities in China.

This year's study group was in China from August 3 - 16 and included healthcare personnel, academics, an expert of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an official of the prefectural government of Fukushima and a member of the press.

To provide the group with a picture of the health and development situation of China, the study tour encompassed field trips to Fujian and Shandong

provinces where the community-based Integrated Project (IP) is being implemented and included a visit to a joint-venture factory in Amoy, a fast-growing special economic zone. The group also visited Shanghai and Beijing.

Of particular interest to the mission was a one-day observation trip to the IP areas of Zhangqiu County in Shandong Province. Integrating FP/MCH, parasite control (PC), nutrition and environmental sanitation components, the IP has proved popular with the community people who actively promote and participate in activities. From an initial population of 37,000 in two townships, the target population has been expanded to cover 960,000 in 22 townships.

MCH Handbook

One of the most significant achievements of the project has been the spread of the use of the MCH handbook. The promotion of safe drinking water and environmental sanitation under the project has also had a positive impact on the standard of living in the IP area. This was most evident during visits to farmers' houses where the group was surprised by the high standard of water supplies and toilet facilities and awareness of environmental sanitation among farming families.

Through nutrition guidance activities, the project has also raised awareness of nutrition among the people of the IP area where anemia and rickets have been a problem. During their visit, the group members were introduced to the activities of a van donated to the Family Planning Commission of Shandong Province by the local government of Fukushima Prefecture in May last year. Incorporating a demonstration kitchen, the van is being used to provide nutrition and health guidance and promote FP/MCH activities. Since it was donated, the vehicle has covered 22,000km and reached over 200,000 people. The effectiveness of the van was particularly pleasing for the official from Fukushima who pledged further support in the future.

The tour also included observation trips to Shuibei Township, Shaowu City, Fujian Province, where the IP is to be initiated next year and to the established IP area of Tai'an Municipality in Shandong Province. Initiated in 1984, the coverage of the project in Tai'an has been expanded from an initial population of 147,000 in two townships to



A set of triplets attend kindergarten in Zhangqiu County.

cover a total of 479,000 people in eight townships.

To gain a wide perspective of the health situation in China, the study tour members visited facilities providing FP and MCH services, child care centers, kindergartens and farmers' houses in both IP and non-IP areas. In assessing the merits of the project, the group was most impressed by the impact the IP has had on integrating the activities of different government departments to smooth provision of services.

One aspect of the Chinese way of life that left a marked impression on the tour members was the broad acceptance of the "one-child policy" and the efforts that have been made to smoothly integrate the policy into society. Members were impressed with the emphasis that has been placed on raising one healthy, contented child per family and the MCH services and information that are provided to support families.

The mission members said the study tour had given them practical insights into the needs of the people in China and expressed their wish to further collaborate with JOICFP in the future. J



Participants stand beside a nutrition and health guidance van donated to Shandong Province by Japan.

Gesture of Support

A total of ¥600,000 (US\$4,650 at an exchange rate of ¥129 to US\$1) was donated to JOICFP by Maritime International Cooperation Center (MICC) of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in July. The funds will be used to cover part of the costs of shipping donated reconditioned sewing machines from Japan to Zambia where they will be used to support women's development activities under the Integrated Project (IP).

1994 UN Conference

Cairo will host the Fifth UN Conference on Population and Development to be held September 5 - 13, 1994. The choice of Egypt as the host country was recently finalized by the UN Economic and Social Council.

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

VDIA Scheme

Since it was launched in January 1991, the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) has received tremendous response from Japanese people with the total number of VDIA account holders reaching 6.7 million this year. The funds, collected from 20% of the interest on savings in VDIA accounts, are mainly used for health and welfare programs in developing countries.

The concept of VDIA rose out of a public desire for a reliable avenue for contributing to overseas assistance and cooperation activities. Most concerned Japanese people recognize the difficulties of implementing such activities and are wary of many fund-raising campaigns. However, the VDIA scheme, which is handled by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, is not only trustworthy, but offers people an easy way to do their part for people in developing countries. Through a simple procedure, citizens can join the scheme at any post office and begin to contribute to "international cooperation" activities.

Int'l Role for Japan

When I reflect on the nearly 50 years that have elapsed since the end of WWII and the hardships faced by the Japanese people during this time, I am deeply impressed with what Japan has achieved. Thus, when I anticipate the future, I can see that Japan has an instrumental role to play in fostering the development of other countries. Only by fulfilling this role can Japan coexist in harmony with the rest of the world. The time for Japan to mature as a nation and consider its function in the world is at hand.

The VDIA scheme has won the hearts of the Japanese people and continues to gather steam as efforts are made to spread the word about the scheme. At the post office near JOICFP, for example, the postmaster recently encouraged his staff to be more enthusiastic about soliciting account holders with a pep talk on the meaning of the scheme. JOICFP staff have also given talks to account holders about the activities carried out under the scheme. To reach even more people, the Hoken Kaikan Group is planning to cooperate with related organizations to make informative photographic panels that accurately capture the joy that projects funded by the VDIA scheme bring to beneficiaries. [7]

DIARY

Takashi Miyazaki, Japanese ambassador to Honduras, visited JOICFP on July 10 to exchange information.

A 10-member Chinese mission led by Dr. **Wang Ruiqin**, deputy director, Family Planning Commission, Jilin Province, was in Japan from June 29 - July 12 to attend the Ninth Seminar on Parasite Control for China.

Dr. **Benjamin Cabrera**, professor emeritus, University of the Philippines, and vice president, FISHDEV, paid courtesy calls to MCCOBA members Tokorozawa City and Kawaguchi City, Saitama Prefecture, on July 22.

Forty representatives from 12 countries attended the 14th APCO Parasitologists' Meeting, held July 21 - 23 in Tokyo.

Dr. **Mahendra K. Chhetri**, senior medical officer, FP/MCH Project, Nepal, was in Japan to attend the APCO Parasitologists' Meeting, held July 21 - 23.

Dr. **Carlos Contreras**, director, Medical Service Unit, APROFAM, Guatemala, and Dr. **Reginald Anteson**, associate professor, Ghana Medical School, were in Shizuoka Prefecture on a study trip from July 17 - 19 and attended the APCO Parasitologists' Meeting from July 21 - 23 as observers. Anteson also paid courtesy calls to Ota City and Nerima City, and Contreras visited Fuchu Daikyu Junior High School and the VDIA Office of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Lamine N'diaye, Director, Africa Division, UNFPA, and **Alpha M. Diallo**, assistant regional director, Africa Regional office, IPPF, were in Japan from July 27 - Aug. 2 to attend the UNFPA/IPPF/JOICFP Tripartite Review Meeting for the Africa Region and to observe community-based MCH activities in Nagano Prefecture.

Dr. **Marco Antonio Sagastume Gemmell**, Human Rights Expert, Ministry of the Interior,

Population in the Picture

Twelve winners of an international poster contest were announced by Dr. **Nafis Sadik**, executive director, UNFPA, on July 10. The competition, aimed at creating awareness and understanding of population issues, was sponsored by UNFPA. The winning posters were chosen from 134 submissions from children and young people from 36 countries. The posters will be distributed by UNFPA offices to governments, NGOs and other institutions and will be used at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The winning designs will also be featured on UNFPA greeting cards.

Guatemala, visited JOICFP to exchange information on Aug. 3.

Keiko Ono, officer, Population Division, International Economic and Social Affairs Department, UN, visited JOICFP on Aug. 7.

A 12-member mission organized by JOICFP visited Vietnam from July 28 - Aug. 9 to observe community-based FP/MCH activities. The team was accompanied by Program Officer Sumie Ishii and staff member Mariko Honma.

An 11-member mission organized by JOICFP visited Shanghai and Beijing cities and Fujian and Shandong provinces in China from Aug. 3 - 16 to study FP/MCH activities. The team was accompanied by Program Officer Yukio Honma and staff member Sono Aibe.

Dr. **Hirofumi Ando**, director, Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP to exchange information while in Tokyo from Aug. 8 - 12.

JOICFP DOCUMENTARY SERIES

NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Awakening Kowloon Village Women in Vietnam

39 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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