

JOICFP NEWS

Population Policies for 21st Century

Population and sustainable development high on agenda at Bali conference



View of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference held in Bali in August.

"Population growth or population change in quantitative terms, must be matched by change in qualitative terms, by improvements in population quality," said Emil Salim, state minister, Population and the Environment, Indonesia. Inaugurating the Senior Officials Meeting of the the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bali, the minister called for more effective family planning (FP), family health and welfare programs. "The focus of FP services must be widened and the quality of such services must be further improved," he said. "At the same time, self-financing of FP programs must be introduced and promoted and people's participation in such programs must be broadened and intensified."

A forum for the governments of Asia and the Pacific to review and appraise population trends and policies in the region, the Bali conference was aimed at enabling the governments to obtain a clearer picture of the strategic value of formulating multi-disciplinary

policies and programs, the need to integrate research and evaluation into program planning and implementation, and the role of population data and information in the formulation of policies and implementation of programs. Another aim of the meeting was to draw attention to the major contributions that regional cooperation and mutual efforts, including the exchange of information and experience, make to national development planning, particularly in the field of population.

Substantial Progress

Noting the substantial progress that has been achieved by the countries of the region in responding to the Asia-Pacific Call for Action adopted at the previous conference in Colombo in 1982, the delegates to the meeting expressed concern that population issues remain among the most pressing challenges facing the region. Under the theme of the conference, "Population and sustainable development: goals and strategies into the 21st century," the

participants confirmed a series of goals and strategies and put forward the "Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development."

The conference was co-sponsored by the government of Indonesia and jointly organized by ESCAP and UNFPA. It was held from August 19-27 and attended by senior government officials of 36 countries, representatives of international organizations such as ESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO and WHO and non-governmental organizations including IPPF and JOICFP. Representatives of Syria, Sweden, the Holy See, World Bank and ADB also attended the conference.

Stressing that there is no "quick fix" for development, Seiko Takahashi, deputy executive secretary, ESCAP, said "Improvements will come about when coherent policies and well coordinated programs respond effectively to population and development issues." Noting issues requiring "enlightened policies," Takahashi drew attention to the need to

Bali Conference

A Voice for the Grassroots

fully involve women in the development process. "Although national development policies do address women's needs, they are often focused more on their practical needs as wives and mothers, rather than strategic gender interests," she said. "Women compose half of the region's human resources; they cannot be left out of the development equation."

Providing an outline of priority issues for the next decade, Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, highlighted the importance of reducing maternal mortality and improving reproductive health.

Maternal Deaths

Noting that almost 99% of all maternal deaths — estimated at 500,000 a year — occur in developing countries and almost half of them in South Asia alone, Sadik said, "A combination of better healthcare, fertility regulation, better nutrition and higher income is required for complete prevention, but FP alone is an important contribution, particularly among teenage women and those aged over 35." The UNFPA head also emphasized as priority issues for the next decade, eliminating poverty, improving women's conditions and enabling reproductive choice. "One of the most important contributions to improving the status of reproductive health of women is an environment that enables them to exercise the right to reproductive choice," she said. Pointing out that Asia is rapidly becoming the future home of the majority of the world's elderly, Sadik said that it is time to consider this and other emerging issues and formulate appropriate programs.

Japanese Commitment

Heading the Japanese delegation to the conference, Hiroyuki Sonoda, vice minister of health and welfare, reaffirmed Japan's commitment to continue promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of population. "I sincerely hope that the Japanese experiences may be of some good use for those countries which have recently been in the process of their economic and social development," he said.

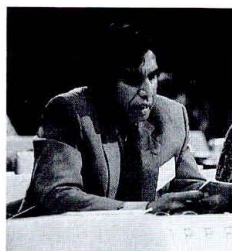
The conference was welcomed as a positive forum by the representatives of regional governments who reaffirmed a commitment to the creation of policies to tackle the issues of population and sustainable development. The ministers' meeting concluded with participants agreeing to the declaration on population and sustainable development. []

Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attending the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bali held a special meeting to discuss ways of accelerating collaboration between government and NGOs to promote more qualified and sustainable FP programs. The meeting produced a series of recommendations that were put forward to the drafting committee of the conference. As a result, reference to the role of NGOs in population policy formulation and program implementation is included in the Bali Declaration and in the "Goals and Strategies for Population and Sustainable Development into the 21st Century" produced at the conference.

During the meeting, the NGO representatives agreed that the human and financial resource base of the private sector needs to be activated in the service of FP programs, while the cost-effective and self-help approaches of NGOs should be strengthened. The participants also called for governments to strengthen collaboration with NGOs in the areas of

population, enhancement of women in development and poverty alleviation and to continue to "energize" NGO potential.

Most of the recommendations were reflected in the Bali Declaration, which notes the pioneering and significant contributions that NGOs have made to population efforts in the region. In the section on FP/MCH, the declaration recommends that NGOs should continue their roles in supporting national programs. The declaration states that governments should collaborate with, and enhance the potential of NGOs by: a) involving them in the development of innovative programs, es-



Dr. Johan A. M. Thambu, vice chairman, Central Council, IPPF.

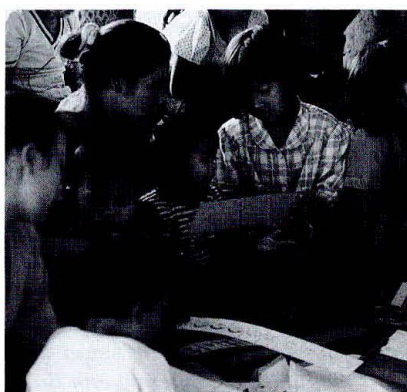
pecially for vulnerable segments of the population; b) ensuring that through their flexibility they are able to offer a greater diversity of client responsive services; c) encouraging them to strengthen their grassroots networks and community participative strategies; d) putting to best advantage their advocacy function; and e) enhancing their role as quality service providers. []

FP Program for the People

"Development is not merely dealing with the issues of economic growth, national income, debts and loans or the ranking of a particular country in the world arena. Development is about people," said President Soeharto of Indonesia. Addressing the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, the president stressed the importance of considering people in policy making.

As host country, Indonesia offered a successful model of population policies and programs. Between 1980 - 1990, the Indonesian annual population growth rate was 1.97%, significantly lower than the rate of 2.32% it marked between 1971 - 1980. Similarly, the country's total fertility rate was reduced from 5.6 between 1967 - 1970 to 3.0 between 1989 - 1990. Much of this success is attributed to the National Family Planning Program launched in 1969.

The positive impact of the program lies in its effective IEC and motivational campaigns, steady institutional development, availability of contraceptives and the wide coverage of village-based healthcare. Other important factors to its success have been the broad base of political and religious support



Women and children at a Posyandu.

and the close collaboration among government ministries in implementation.

Participants observed the activities of an Integrated Health Service Post (Posyandu) where volunteers and trained health personnel provide FP/MCH services, health and nutrition education and immunization.

Coinciding with the conference, JOICFP published an issue of its quarterly magazine *Integration* which included a feature on the Indonesian FP success story. A request for 2,000 extra copies was made by Haryono Suyono, chairman, National FP Coordinating Board of Indonesia for distribution at the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held from September 1 - 6 in Jakarta.

Show of Commitment on Population

UNFPA director welcomes high-level concern for population in Asia and the Pacific

Saad Raheem Sheikh, director, Asia and the Pacific Division, UNFPA, attended the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali from August 19-24. Below is an outline of his comments on the conference.

I think the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference was a success. There was substantial participation at a very high level — the fact that President Soeharto opened the ministerial segment of the conference, and that most senior ministers of the member countries participated, demonstrated the commitment of the countries. The delegations showed a very high degree of commitment to population issues and also outlined the plans of their own governments and what they are doing, not only in the FP field but also with

regard to such issues as sustainable development, the environment and women.

Other issues related to the Asia and the Pacific region, especially with regard to the demographic objectives — the concern with the reduction of infant mortality, improvement of programs that can lead to safe motherhood and child survival, population education, and the active role of women's organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) — were very much highlighted. From the viewpoint of the Asia and the Pacific Division of UNFPA, these are indeed the concerns that we would have liked the delegates to agree about, and we are very pleased with their total and unanimous support of the concepts.

At the conference, it was emphasized to us that within the somewhat successful programs there are many pockets where activities related to population and FP have not taken off or where the communities are still very disadvantaged. More needs to be done to bring those communities in line with the rest of the country's development.

It also came out very clear from the meetings that the countries that had been a

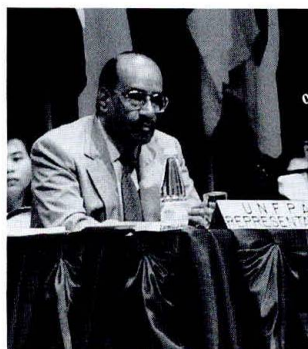
little passive in the past, especially those in central Asia, West Asia and the South Pacific, are now more committed and active in this field than ever before. To

answer the demands in these countries, we definitely need more resources. In fact, the individual delegations we had discussions with outside the conference all took issue with the lack of resources within UNFPA.

It was also a great pleasure to see various NGO representatives who not only participated in the

meeting but also made valuable contributions and interventions at the conference. We are very confident that the recommendations of the conference and more specifically the Bali Declaration, will be very helpful to the delegates at the 1994 UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

The Bali conference was a forerunner to other activities that are being held ahead of the global conference. The next conference is in Africa in December, followed by Latin America, the Arab states and Europe. J



Saad Raheem Sheikh

Legislators Speak

Shin Sakurai, vice chairman, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), and executive director, Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), presented a statement at the Bali conference from the AFPPD. Below are measures put forward in the statement to tackle population and regional development issues in Asia.

It is essential that the following measures be undertaken by countries to resolve the Asian population problem: a) to undertake increasing efforts towards reducing the present population growth rate of 1.84% to 1% by the year 2000; b) reduce by 50% the infant mortality rate which at present stands at 64 out of every 1,000 births; c) reduce by 50% the maternal mortality rate in the region; d) improve the status of women, who have a vital role to play as a human resource and as mothers who will bear and raise the coming generations; e) to mobilize adequate domestic and international resources for population activities, in order to reach the goals of US\$9 billion for population activities around the world by the year 2000 (as called for in the Amsterdam Declaration). We call upon all parliamentarians as well as other leaders of public opinion to intensify their efforts to increase awareness of population issues and to ensure the implementation of these measures.

Taking Issue with Population

A Media Seminar was held on August 15 and 16 in Bali, Indonesia, prior to the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference. Sponsored by UNFPA, the seminar was attended by 21 journalists from 17 countries. Masako Takuma, staff writer, Science and Technology Department, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, and member, Ministry of Health and Welfare Press Club, attended the event. Below is an outline of an interview with JOICFP NEWS conducted on September 3.

The seminar was a great learning experience for me. As the only journalist from an industrialized country, I learned much from representatives of developing countries which are confronting serious population problems. Also, the large number of women at the event meant that women's issues were a major topic of discussion.



Masako Takuma

In general, awareness of population issues is far lower in Japan than in other countries in the region. Also, in terms of the percent of GNP allocated to population activities, Japan is still lagging. The problem is that people in Japan do not yet have enough access to information on population issues. If the public was made more aware of the issues, there would be a lot more support of efforts to promote development in other countries and we would see an increase in grassroots projects in Japan to assist other countries.

I think the time is ripe for Japanese NGOs to take a more active role in international cooperation activities to supplement the government's overseas assistance schemes. Much depends on the media, and how well we "spark" an interest in Japan on population issues.

Driving Force of FP/MCH

Seminar highlights role of Japanese women in FP/MCH promotion



Participants with Toyama Governor Yutaka Nakaoki (bottom, third from right).

One of the most vivid impressions of Japan for the 14 participants of the Seminar on Family Planning for Senior Officers was the contribution women made to the development of their country in the postwar years. Speaking on behalf of the participants at the conclusion of the seminar, held from August 24 - September 11, Saida Agrebi, director, IEC/CSM Department, National Office of Family and Population, Tunisia, said that Japanese women played an important and positive role in transforming their country from a nation in ruins to one of the most powerful industrialized countries in the world today.

Such insights into women in development in Japan were gained during a field trip to Toyama Prefecture from August 31 - September 5, where participants were able to speak with pioneers of family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) and observe community-based healthcare activities. Like most areas in Japan, Toyama Prefecture experienced a surge in population growth in the early years after the war, then saw population growth level off as FP/MCH services were successfully introduced and accepted by couples in communities. Today, Toyama has a low birthrate of 9.9‰ and infant mortality rate of 6.3 per 1,000 live births (1990). However, the prefecture is now facing a rapidly aging population. A total of 15.0% of its population was over the age of 65 as of 1989.

The seminar was sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and executed by JOICFP. It was attended by 14 senior administrators of

FP programs of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Tunisia, and Turkey. Course leader of the seminar was Dr. Minoru Muramatsu, former president, Population Association of Japan.

One of the driving forces in FP/MCH in Toyama in the postwar years was the practicing midwives in each area who worked alongside public health nurses, volunteers and members of women's organizations to promote FP. During the field trip, seminar participants met with some of these pioneers, who are now over 60 years old.

Unwanted Pregnancies

During panel discussions, the midwives described the grim circumstances of the postwar years, explaining that their main reason for promoting FP was to alleviate some of the hardship of Japanese women who were giving birth to closely spaced children and undergoing induced abortions to avoid unwanted babies.

While in Toyama, participants also visited public institutions including the Prefectural Central Hospital, Yatsuo Public Health Center and Hayahoshi Primary School and private facilities such as the Fujisawa Maternity Home founded by pioneering midwife, Hana Fujisawa, president, Toyama Branch, Japan Midwives Association. At the Hosoiri Community Health Center, participants were introduced to the activities of the Aiku Han, a volunteer MCH promotion organization. [J]

Child Spacing in Malawi

Martha Kasonda, family health coordinator, Ministry of Health, Malawi, participated in the JICA seminar in Tokyo. She spoke with JOICFP NEWS on September 7 about the child spacing program in Malawi. Below is an outline of her interview.

The official population of Malawi is about 9 million, but with refugees from Mozambique, the total is about 10 million. Family planning in Malawi is called child spacing (CS) and is integrated with the maternal and child health (MCH) program since the objective of both is to reduce infant and maternal mortality. Launched in 1984, the CS program is aimed not at controlling population growth, but at improving the health status of women and children.

There is no population policy as such in Malawi, but there are policies that have been put in place in the interest of mothers and children. At present, we are in the process of examining policies related to



Martha Kasonda

FP, issues that might have a bearing on the CS program as well as issues related to MCH. Several ministries concerned with these issues recently held a meeting to discuss ways of updating policies.

Also, the government is encouraging non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other private sector bodies to promote FP services. The aim of the government, however, is to make sure that these bodies are fully supported so that they can reach people all over the country with services.

One major healthcare problem in Malawi is the severe shortage of medical professionals. The ratio of doctors is one to 60,000 people, while for nurses it is one to 14,000. We are therefore trying to utilize a community-based distribution (CBD) system and are planning to train volunteers to work as promoters of FP and providers of services and distributors of contraceptives. At present, we have two pilot areas where NGOs are conducting CBD programs. The government is fully supporting these activities and hopefully by 1993 we will be able to expand this program. [J]

Action for Youth in Peru

Dr. Lucy Lopez Reyes, director, Adolescent Health Program, Ministry of Health, Peru, was one of the participants of the JICA Seminar held in Tokyo. She spoke with JOICFP NEWS on September 8 about the adolescent health program in Peru. Below is an outline of the interview.

Fertility has been declining in Peru since the 1960s except for one age group — the adolescents. Today, 10% of all young women in Peru between the ages of 15 - 19 are either pregnant or mothers. In the maternity wards of state hospitals, adolescent



Lucy Lopez Reyes

mothers account for over 20% of deliveries. Moreover, one-fifth of these adolescent mothers have more than one child and have had up to four pregnancies, including both abortions and deliveries. It is estimated that 80% of pregnancies are unwanted among adolescents.

To tackle the problem of adolescent pregnancy, the government is implementing a policy which has three main focuses: the family, parents and children. Our aim is to foster self-esteem and a respect for others among children and young people through the family; to improve the child-rearing skills of parents; and to make children and young people aware of issues through education in reproductive health, nutrition and

disease prevention. This education must begin in elementary school so that young people can fully understand how to take care of themselves.

Training in how to deal with adolescent problems was launched in March this year for people working in health centers and hospitals. Once trained, these health professionals will be in charge of training other community members such as teachers to implement and provide services, advice and orientation to parents and children.

The best investment that can be made in maternal and child health in terms of preventive healthcare is to work with young women at the very beginning of their reproductive years. The knowledge, attitudes and practices of women are more likely to be influenced at this time than in later years. If you leave efforts until the woman you want to influence is married, you will be dealing with established habits. You will also have to involve more people in the process such as her husband and his parents who have their own attitudes toward the woman's fertility. By approaching the woman at any early age, however, you only have to influence one person. By working with this one young person, you save time and involve fewer people. In addition, it is cost-effective. [J]

Tunisia Puts Women in the Picture

Saida Agrebi, director, IEC/CSM Department, National Office of Family and Population, Tunisia, joined the JICA Seminar held in Tokyo. She spoke with JOICFP NEWS on September 10 about women in development and family planning (FP) in Tunisia. Below is an outline of the interview.

As an Arab-Muslim country, Tunisia is unique. Since independence from France in 1956, the Code of Personal Status (CPS) serves as a legislative measure to protect women's rights in all domains including education, health, employment, development and politics. This measure has made women in Tunisia very advanced in all aspects of life in comparison to other Arab, African and Muslim countries.



Saida Agrebi

Since 1987, the articles of the CPS on women have not only been reinforced, but new measures have been taken under the leadership of President Ben Ali to further the integration of Tunisian women in the development of the country. Today, women make up more than 20% of the working population and play a prominent role in politics at the national and municipal levels.

The population growth rate today is about 1.9% and the contraceptive prevalence rate is about 50%. Before 1966, the population growth rate was about 3.3%. Family planning is considered a human right in Tunisia and the FP program has been successful since it was launched in 1966 thanks to progressive IEC campaigns. The aim of the FP program is to assist Tunisian couples to have the number of children they want when they want.

A unique outreach approach has also been adopted for poor, rural areas utilizing "multi-disciplinary caravans" to bring FP to the populations in these areas. In each caravan, there are about 100 people including professional and medical representatives, health and social welfare personnel, volunteers and top government officials of the region. [J]

Population Policy for PNG

Elizabeth Agnes Wamala, branch coordinator, Family Planning Association of Papua New Guinea, was in Tokyo for the JICA seminar. She spoke with JOICFP NEWS about population and family planning (FP) issues in Papua New Guinea on September 7. Below is an outline of the interview.

According to the National Census taken in 1991, the population of Papua New Guinea is about 3.8 million. The average childbearing age for women is 16 years and since the majority of the population is Catholic, most couples have large families with six or seven children. The country's first National Population Policy was formulated early this year by the government. It is a broadly-based, multi-sectoral policy concentrating on the three key sectors of health, education, and migration and urbanization. It is

aimed at improving the standard of living and the welfare of the people through an integrated and balanced approach to population and development planning. It was only recently adopted and is now in the process of being implemented.



Elizabeth Wamala

The Family Planning Association of Papua New Guinea (FPA PNG), was established in 1975. It used to have government support but is now supported by IPPF. However, the FPA works in close cooperation with the government since we share the same aim of improving the way of life for the people. [J]

Family, a View from Within

Families to tell own stories in book for International Year of Family

Perdita Huston, director, The Global Family Project, was in Japan from September 5 - September 19, to gather information for a book for the International Year of the Family (IYF) in 1994. She spoke with JOICFP NEWS about her project on September 16. Below are highlights of the interview.

The object of this project is to give voice to families themselves — to find out what is behind the data and statistics and what are the attitudes and perceptions that families have of the changes taking place in society, the community and within their own family. I have entitled the project, "Families — a View from Within." The idea is to publish a series of conversations with families from 12 countries around the world, in order to provide a tool for discussion among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and policy-makers during the IYF.

This spring, the four UN agencies — UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP and UNFPA — agreed to support this project and, subsequently, the Secretariat for the Year of the Family has endorsed the project and has requested that it carry the official IYF logo. I hope to have the book available in the spring of 1994.

There are very few of us of any country, culture or language who are not interested in the changes that are taking place in family structure. The multi-generational family is being pushed and pulled by economic forces or environmental forces and the nuclear family, alone in the community, is struggling to provide support and sustenance to its members. The general public is interested in these issues.

The other thing that I think will come forth from the words of family members is some of the public policy issues that

government has to address relating to the family. These include education, training, child care and issues related to the elderly and disabled. These are the sorts of public policy issues that will emerge by hearing from families themselves the kinds of problems they face.

If the objective of government is to serve its people, then it is going to have to listen to its people, and its people are in families. When governments want lots of children, they will even organize the police to impose pregnancy on women. When governments want fewer children they will manipulate fertility. That is about as far as

most governments have gone at looking at the family.

One of the reasons that I wanted to give voice to families themselves is that we have in the world today some negative forces which would like to define families according to their way of thinking. I disagree with this and wouldn't want it to happen. So, rather than let the Vatican or certain fundamentalist groups, wherever they may be, define the family and say what families should be or should do, I think we could learn more and enhance democracy by giving voice to people in families. That is the theme of the IYF: "The Smallest Democracy at the Heart of Society."

I would urge readers to take a look at the documentation on the IYF which has some very progressive guidelines. I would also urge readers to get involved in the IYF activities in their country.

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For more information, contact: Henryk J. Sokalski, coordinator, Secretariat for the International Year of the Family, UN Office in Vienna, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Vienna, Austria. Fax: 431-237-497

Towards Self-reliance

A four-member team of consultants from Japan was in Jakarta from August 26 - September 2, and in Bangkok from September 2 - 6, to provide advice on ways to achieve self-reliance of the Integrated Project (IP).

Organized by JOICFP and sponsored by the Hoken Kaikan Foundation, the team comprised Takanori Hirano, secretary general, Hoken Kaikan; Shizuo Abe, head, Radiology Division, Chiba Health Service Association (CHSA); and Takaaki Hara, director, Department of Research and Study, Japan Association of Parasite Control; and included a JOICFP official.

The team's visit to Jakarta coincided with the expansion of the School Health Project to cover 1,000 schools in the city. The project is implemented through MCH/FP clinics operated by midwives and a central laboratory. The consultants joined two seminars, one for academics and the other for government officials, where they offered advice on ways to improve project implementation and enhance income generation to enable the expansion of the project to cover all 4,000 schools in Jakarta in the future.

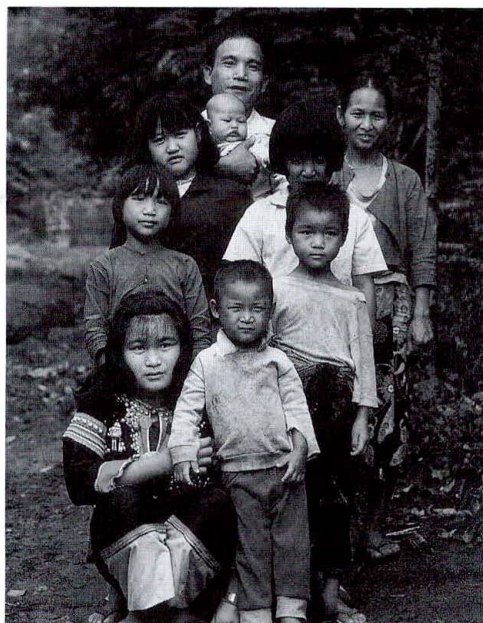
Technical Assistance Team

At both meetings, the technical assistance team emphasized the importance of enhancing tripartite cooperation among government, academic and non-governmental sectors to improve the reach and effectiveness of the project. The Japanese mission also attended the hand-over ceremony of a mobile X-ray vehicle donated to the IP by the CHSA through JOICFP. Shipment costs of the vehicle were covered by Yakult Co. of Jakarta and the Hoken Kaikan Foundation.

Meanwhile, in Thailand the Japanese experts offered advice on refining the mass healthcare activities conducted by the Population and Community Development Association (PDA) under the IP. The Japanese officials observed mass checkups conducted by PDA in industrial areas and schools on a fee-charged basis. Based on their observations, the team was able to pinpoint ways to enhance efficiency and the cost-effectiveness of PDA's services.



Mass health checkups in Bangkok.



Hilltribe family in northern Thailand

Facing Up to Challenges for the '90s

Challenges '90s project stirs interest at FPA Executive Directors' Meeting in Seoul

A pilot project launched by the Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea (PPFK) under IPPF's "Challenges for the '90s" project generated much interest among participants at the Family Planning Association Executive Directors' Meeting, held in Seoul from August 31 - September 4.

The fourth of its kind, the biannual Executive Directors' Meeting was sponsored by IPPF-ESEAOR and hosted by PPFK. It was attended by top representatives of all 12 members of IPPF-ESEAOR comprising Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. A special memorial service was held at the beginning of the meeting for Bong Soo Kang, former co-chairman of ESEAOR-IPPF and advisor to PPFK, who recently passed away.

The Challenges '90s initiative was launched by IPPF to encourage family planning associations (FPAs) to review



Participants observe mothers' club activities in Chongju City.

their mission and role and revitalize activities in line with present-day demands. The first member of IPPF-ESEAOR to undergo the process of strategic planning under the Challenges '90s project, PPFK has launched new activities in the fields of maternal and child health (MCH) and youth sexuality on a pilot basis.

Faced with a total fertility rate of about 1.6 and a gradual decrease in support from the Korean government, PPFK began to implement the pilot project incorporating new services and activities with the support of IPPF. By demonstrating the new dimensions of its services and activities and developing new strategies, PPFK is aiming to gain further support from the government and find new sources of financial assistance.

Unmet Needs

After careful review of past achievements and present realities and a forecast of future unmet needs, PPFK selected the two new activity areas. The pilot project, started in 1991, is to be evaluated after two years of implementation at the end of this year to determine future directions.

Participants visited pilot project areas in the rural area of Ansung County, Kyunggi Province and the industrial area of Chongju City, Chungbuk Province. Of particular interest to JOICFP were the similarities between the administration of the pilot project and JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP). The PPFK project is managed by a three-tier system of central-, local- and community-level steering committees aimed at mobilizing all concerned people.

The field trips gave participants insights

into how PPFK is reorienting its activities under the Challenges '90s project to meet present-day demands. The Challenges '90s initiative is particularly relevant to the Asia and Oceania Region where many FPAs have fulfilled their original mission through well-established FP programs that have successfully lowered population growth rates. Following PPFK's lead, four other FPAs in the region are currently preparing strategic planning under Challenges '90s.

Also present at the Seoul meeting was a representative of Taiwan who outlined IEC strategies in his country in a presentation on "FP communication strategies: problems and approaches." Expressing Taiwan's desire to be a member of IPPF, the representative said that his country is ready to provide financial and technical assistance to other countries in the region wherever possible. A forum for exchanging information and experiences, the meeting did much to reinforce the cooperative network of FPAs in the region. 3

Technical Backstopping

The UNFPA Inter-Agency Country Program Technical Support Team (CPTST) for East and Southeast Asia was established in Bangkok in July to bring timely, high-quality and effective technical advice closer to field-level activities.

The CPTST is headed by Team Leader Ghazi Farooq, and consists of 13 population advisers from ESCAP, FAO, ILO, UNESCO and WHO who will provide high-level technical backstopping to national population programs in the area of basic data collection and population dynamics; population policy formulation, evaluation and implementation; maternal and child health and family planning; population education, information, and communication; women, population and development; and rural development planning.

The new arrangements will supplement and strengthen the former system of technical backstopping provided directly to the countries by the specialized UN agencies and will ensure a unified and multi-disciplinary team approach to promote better coordination and sharing of ideas among advisers.

(Source - UNESCO PROAP)

JAPC Awarded

The Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) received the prestigious Public Health Award on September 24 for its efforts in the health and sanitation field. The awards committee noted the association's more than 30 years of work within Japan in the field of parasite control and its contribution to improving the health of people in developing countries through the Integrated Project (IP). Yukichi Kadono, president, JAPC, received the award on behalf of JAPC.

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

Documentary on Vietnam

Recently, a documentary film on the Vietnamese people produced by JOICFP in cooperation with Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd. was completed. I attended the film's premiere in Japan and was very touched by the genuine commitment of the people appearing in the documentary who are engaged in rebuilding their community and their country despite many difficulties.

The film provided some insights into the suffering that these people endured during the Vietnamese War. I found myself asking the question of why these people had to experience such a distressing war. Not only were hundreds of thousands of people sacrificed, but the war's ugly scars still remain, even now after 20 years have passed.

I found one scene particularly touching in which a health volunteer visits the grave of her husband who was killed 20 years ago. Her son is now grown and is contemplating a new future. In the scene, the light of a setting sun shines on the peaceful people.

Fulfilling a Dream

The people in the film belong to a village where an important bridge was destroyed in the war. It has long been their dream to rebuild the bridge across the river that divides their village. The film depicts the efforts of the community people who contribute their own money and labor to fulfill this dream.

But this film is not just a story about the rebuilding of a bridge. The people of the village have much to do to improve their way of life. Community-based health promotion activities are featured in the film along with the activities of the women's union including nutrition care of infants, communicable disease control, family planning and income generation for women — aimed at improving the women's living conditions as well as those of the community. In particular, the film highlights the enthusiasm and cooperation displayed by the people engaged in these activities.

By providing a glimpse of life in Vietnam, the film effectively calls into question the current affluence of Japan. It is an excellent reminder for the Japanese of the hardships encountered almost 50 years ago in the postwar days and encourages people to think seriously about the way they live today. [7]

JOICFP ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERIES

NEW ANIMATED FILM

NEW ANIMATION



BEST WISHES

14min, color/English, Spanish



A young couple's struggle to build an equal relationship is the theme of BEST WISHES, the third animated film in a series produced by a joint Mexican and Japanese team. The film concerns Gaspar and Sara who live in an inner-city slum. The couple faces a crisis when Sara decides she wants to be more independent and work outside the home. As they try to come to terms with this new element in their relationship, they learn the importance of communication and realize that they must reassess male-female roles and respect each other as individuals.

SERIES LINE-UP

ANIMATED FILM NO.1

BLUE PIGEON 11min, color/English, Spanish

ANIMATED FILM NO.2

MUSIC FOR TWO 13min, color/English, Spanish



Directed and distributed by **Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.**
STANDARD BLDG., 22-1, NISHI-SHINJUKU 1-CHOME SHINJUKU-KU, TOKYO 160, JAPAN
TEL 03-3342-5768 CABLE "SAKURA MOVIES TOKYO" Telex J34799 ITCINBTH

16mm-VTR(βeta, VHS, NTSC, PAL, SECAM)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Seminar on Population Aging

Date: November 18 - December 2

Venue: Tokyo, Japan

Organizers: UNFPA, JOICFP

Participants: Senior planners, managers and administrators responsible for the planning and implementation of programs on aging from the target countries/areas of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand

Theme: "Economic Security in Old Age — Can the Elderly Be Supported?"

Objectives: 1) To promote the formulation and effective implementation of appropriate policies and programs to deal with the social and economic consequences of population aging using the experience of Japan as a case study.
2) To exchange information experience and strategies on aging issues among participating countries and to develop a regional collaborative network among policy planners, program managers and experts in the region.

Note: Self-funded participants are welcome to attend the seminar. For more information, please contact JOICFP.

DIARY

Risman Musa, chief, Production Division, Information, Education and Motivation Bureau, National Family Planning Coordinating Board, Indonesia, visited JOICFP on Aug. 20 to exchange information.

* * *

Twenty-two Japanese paramedical personnel attended the Seminar on International Cooperation in MCH/FP, held in Tokyo from Aug. 11 - 21.

* * *

JOICFP program officers Sumie Ishii and Aiko Iijima attended the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali from Aug. 10 - 27. Following the conference, Iijima joined **Takanori Hirano**, secretary general, Hoken Kaikan Foundation; **Shizuo Abe**, head, Radiology Division, Chiba Health Service Association; and **Takaaki Hara**, director, Department of Research and Study, JAPC, as

a team to provide technical assistance in Indonesia and Thailand up till Sept. 6.

* * *

JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon and Program Officer Ishii attended the IPPF-ESEAOR FPA Executive Directors' Meeting, held in Seoul from Aug. 30 - Sept 5.

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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