

JOICFP NEWS

Sai Speaks Out for Choice

IPPF president sees active, vocal role for IPPF in the 1990s and beyond



Dr. Fred Sai, newly reelected as president of IPPF.

Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, was in Tokyo from November 11 - 18 to affirm cooperation with the Japanese government and related agencies. Sai spoke with JOICFP NEWS on November 17 about the Sixth Members' Assembly of IPPF, held in New Delhi, India, from October 21 - 26 and the IPPF Strategic Plan for the 1990s. Below is an outline of the interview.

One of the major things that came out at the Family Planning (FP) Congress of the Members' Assembly was the fact that FP programs have on the whole been quite successful in many parts of the world. They have been successful in terms of their contribution to health and family well-being and also in terms of reducing fertility and the total numbers of people. An estimated 400 million people would have been added to our current population if not for FP programs.

The second thing that came out was that there is still a major need for FP, and because of this need, there is an opportunity for us to do better. There are large numbers of women who would like

to postpone their next birth by at least two years, or who do not want more children — and many of whose last child was unwanted. Yet they have no access to FP.

We looked at contraceptive technologies and noted that although the current technologies are not perfect, they have been improved sufficiently for us to be quite confident about them — provided that the delivery systems respond to the real-life conditions of the people; that we respect the people and involve them. In other words, we need to make the delivery systems and technologies accessible socially, culturally, financially — in every possible way.

We also agreed that the human resources need to be developed a lot more both in terms of quality and quantity. The amount of funding going to the field will not be sufficient to do this, so we are calling upon the donor countries to provide more support.

Out of all of these, we decided our challenges for the 1990s and beyond — our strategic plan. The IPPF Strategic Plan has certain major components. One is the emphasis on the improvement of the role

and status of women; the IPPF should be a major advocate for women's rights, women's equality and women's opportunity. Linked to this is the right and freedom to choose — and this extends to all FP methods. We also think we should not be quiet anymore about the ravages of unsafe abortion. We should make known what unsafe abortion is doing to women's lives and families' well-being around the world and, if possible, help do something about it.

Another area is sexual and reproductive health. We think for too long the word "sex" has been removed from the FP vocabulary. An understanding of human sexuality should be the basis of our counseling work, especially in relation to sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS and in relation to adolescent sexuality and reproductive health.

Unmet Needs

Finally, we want to expand our coverage and the actual service provision of the IPPF system, particularly to underserved areas and to people who are neglected, especially the adolescents, the illiterates and people in scattered rural communities. These are the basic planks, but of course we will be always strengthening the system itself to be able to cope with these challenges.

As for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the major thing we would like to see is a conference that accepts and emphasizes again the freedom and rights to fertility regulation by everybody and one that emphasizes governments' duties and responsibilities — whether or not they are providing support — to ensure that education, counseling, services and a supportive environment are available without restriction to everyone. We would also like a conference which then goes on to discuss how we can make this a reality rather than whether it should be a reality.

Spreading the Word in Japan

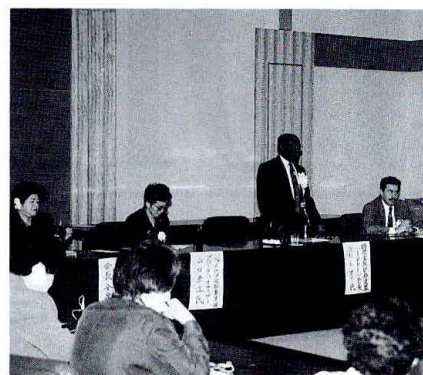
"In those countries with high maternal and infant morbidity/mortality, the provision of family planning (FP) information and services has demonstrably improved maternal health by providing the means to postpone child bearing until after adolescence, to space births, to prevent high-risk pregnancies and to reduce abortion," said Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF. Addressing members of the Nagano Chapter of the Japan Women's League on November 12, Sai said, "It is estimated that worldwide there are 30-40 million legally induced abortions every year, plus some 10-20 million clandestine ones, the latter killing about 200,000 women each year in developing countries."

The Nagano lecture, titled "Women and children in developing countries and the role of Japan," was organized by the

Nagano Chapter of the Japan Women's League with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IPPF and JOICFP. Some 160 representatives from all over Nagano attended the meeting.

Sai focused much of his lecture on women's issues, calling on Japanese women to speak out on FP issues that affect women in Japan by working through parliamentarians, administrators and the mass media. He also encouraged the grassroots efforts being made by the Nagano women to support small-scale health and development activities in developing countries such as Vietnam.

Sai was also guest speaker at another special lecture on November 17 in Tokyo. Titled "Towards the International Conference on Population and Development 1994 — expectations of Japan," the Tokyo event was organized by



Sai addresses the Nagano women.

the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), JOICFP, Council on Population Education and the Population Problems Research Council of the Mainichi Shimbun (newspaper). The lecture was attended by some 40 people including representatives and experts of population- and FP-related fields and the mass media.

In Tokyo, the IPPF head had appreciative words to say about the stand taken by Japan and other countries in continuing their support of IPPF and UNFPA after the U.S. withdrew funding in the mid-1980s. Commending the Japanese acceptance of safe abortions as a choice for women, Sai also praised widespread condom use and efforts taken to market and provide education about condoms in Japan. He said that Japan should be part of the world community which speaks out for issues concerning individual rights, particularly with respect to equality for women. J

An Advocate of Women's Rights

Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, paid a courtesy call to the Ministry of Health and Welfare while in Tokyo and held discussions with officials of the Children and Families' Bureau on November 13. Sai took the opportunity of the meeting to speak to the officials about the postponement of the release of low-dose oral contraceptive pill in Japan. The ministry, which was expected to authorize sale of the pill in Japan this year, abruptly postponed its release, citing fear of an AIDS epidemic as the reason.

Taking issue with this decision, Sai explained to the ministry officials that Japan remains the last country in the world not to have authorized the low-dose pill as a form of contraception. Noting that over 60 million women worldwide are presently using the pill, Sai said that the contraceptive's safety has been proven in the more than 30 years since it was first developed, adding that the pill's side effects are no longer an issue.

Pill vs. AIDS

Commenting on the government's decision to postpone the pill's release, Sai stressed that it is a false assumption that authorizing the pill will lead to an increase in AIDS cases. He said the decision of the government shows a disrespect for the women of Japan since it assumes that women will neglect to use condoms and will contract AIDS. The IPPF head stressed that by banning the pill, the government takes away an effective means for women to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy and forces them to rely more on male methods such as the condom and, thus, men for contraception. This

situation, he said, severely restricts choices for women. Noting that the government has authorized use of the IUD, Sai asked the officials why the ministry has made an exception of the pill. He said that as a medical doctor and the former chairman of the International Medical Advisory Panel of IPPF, he could see no reason why the pill is linked to AIDS and banned, while the IUD is freely available to women in Japan.

Negative Information

During the meeting, the ministry officials told Sai that according to their research, only 5% of Japanese women would take the pill if it was authorized. In reply, Sai said that Japanese women do not have enough information on the pill and what information they do have is often negative. He added that despite this situation, it is significant that 5% of women would still like to take the pill.

Sai also told the Japanese officials that the government ban puts the IPPF in an awkward position. While Japan restricts access to the pill domestically, it is a major funding source for IPPF's FP programs in other countries which are actively promoting the pill as a form of contraception.

Sai also spoke about IPPF's activities and the current population situation worldwide. He said that it was time for everyone to think about fundamental issues such as education, health, equitable income and freedom — issues that contribute to the situation of women around the world. Noting that most women do not even know freedom, Sai said that providing basic education to women would do much to raise their status and bring them more rights.



In a meeting with former Prime Minister of Japan and President of JOICFP Takeo Fukuda (left), IPPF President Fred Sai expressed his appreciation for the contributions of the Japanese government, parliamentarians and Japanese people to supporting IPPF and other multilateral agencies involved in population activities. The IPPF president also conveyed his hope for Fukuda's continued support for population activities and urged the former prime minister to encourage the Japanese government to take a leadership role in making the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development a practical, action-oriented meeting.

Brave & Angry After 40 Years

The IPPF observed its 40th anniversary with its Sixth Members' Assembly from October 21-26 in the country in which it was founded in 1952, India. The over 300 senior family planners and health experts in attendance adopted the Delhi Declaration renewing IPPF's "Brave and Angry" commitment to fight for rights of individuals worldwide to plan their families. Two directors of the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPPJ), Akiko Domoto, member, House of Councilors, and Dr. Minoru Muramatsu, former president, Saitama College of Health, attended the assembly.

Under the theme of "Meeting challenges: promoting choices," a special Family Planning Congress focused on the key issues of the effectiveness of family planning (FP) programs, policy and ethical dimensions, women's perspectives and service delivery, the unmet need for FP, contraceptive technology, AIDS prevention and the challenges for the 1990s.

Increase in FP Users

Estimating an increase in FP users from around 300 million at present, to more than 600 million by the year 2000, the declaration called on family planning associations (FPAs) to work with governments to try to meet the huge need for information and services, particularly among poor urban communities and those living in remote rural areas. It also called for greater emphasis on services for young people and stressed the need for high-quality, caring services that offer a wide choice of contraceptive methods.

Pledging to intensify its efforts at the international, regional and national levels, IPPF reasserted its commitment to be the "conscience" and the "leader" of the FP movement in the non-governmental sector. The federation urged its member FPAs to highlight the nature and extent of unsafe abortion, which affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of women every year, and also vowed to gain equality for women in all aspects of IPPF's work. Source: IPPF



The Japanese mission at the opening of the IPPF Members' Assembly.

Population Insights in India

Japanese parliamentarians deepen ties with Indian counterparts



Parliamentarians meet Indian women in Agra.

The seven members of a delegation of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) deepened their understanding of population and development issues in India during an eight-day study tour, held October 18-25. A valuable mission for strengthening exchanges among parliamentarians concerned with the issues of population and development in India and Japan, the tour included meetings with political leaders, parliamentarians and representatives of international organizations, and took in field trips to areas to observe health and family planning (FP) related activities.

The tour coincided with the Sixth Member's Assembly of IPPF, held in New Delhi from October 21-26. In a show of support for the work of IPPF, the mission attended the assembly's inauguration ceremony on October 21 and conveyed a message from former Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Nakayama, present chairman of JPFP. In his message, Nakayama said, "I believe that the resolution of the population issue is most important to ensuring the future of humanity and the earth. We must make courageous resolutions to seriously address the population issue on a global scale." Nakayama also reaffirmed JPFP's commitment to solving the population issue.

Seven parliamentarians took part in the mission which was led by Dr. Eimatsu Takakuwa. The other parliamentarians were: Minoru Mizuta, Osamu Ikeda, Yoshio Yatsu, Kayoko Shimizu, Akiko Domoto and Kentaro Koba.

Accompanying the mission was Hirofumi Ando, director, Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA. The

tour was organized by JPFP and APDA in cooperation with JOICFP, UNFPA and IPPF.

During their stay, the lawmakers held discussions with leading politicians including Vice President Kocheril Raman Narayanan, Speaker of Lok-Sabha (Lower House) Shivraj Vishwanathrao Patil, and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Makhn Lal Fotedar as well as Indian parliamentarians

concerned with population and development issues. They also met with Erling Dessau, representative of UNDP and UNFPA in India.

One of the highlights of the tour was a meeting with Jamsetji Tata, one of the most prominent figures in the Indian business world and a pioneer in the field of FP. Tata, who was awarded the UN Population Award this year, pinpointed two main obstacles to reducing population growth in India: illiteracy, particularly among women, and the practice of early marriage. The best way to solve population problems of India, he said, is to provide basic education to everyone, particularly to women.

NGO Flexibility

The mission schedule also included observation of FP activities of a planned parenthood clinic operated by the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) where the delegates were impressed with the flexibility and effectiveness of the non-governmental organization (NGO).

The mission also took in a field trip to a slum area in Bombay that is home to 1 million people, and included field trips and observations of activities of a government-run public health center in Agra and a UNFPA-supported project in Jaipur.

At the conclusion of the tour, the delegation members agreed that the study tour had convinced them that women's education, particularly for young girls, was one of the most effective means to promote FP and that greater emphasis needs to be placed on health and education in social development efforts. [1]

FP — a Basic Human Right

FP and health issues concerning women and adolescents highlighted at Bangalore experts' meeting

The basic right of individuals and couples to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so, was reaffirmed at the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Well-being, held in Bangalore, India, from October 26 - 30. One of six forums being held in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994, the Bangalore meeting produced a series of draft recommendations concerning the issues of family planning (FP), health and well-being.

Universal Access to FP

The call for universal access to a wide range of safe, affordable and effective FP choices was also reiterated in a message to the conference by Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA. Drawing attention to the traditional practice of early marriage of girls in Asia, Sadik noted that formal education usually ends with marriage. "Ending early marriage will not unfortunately put an end to early childbirth. Teenage pregnancy is a growing problem in all countries, none the less severe for being ignored," she said. "We must put all our efforts into

rescuing young girls from becoming mothers before they are physically and emotionally

ready. The high rate of abortion-related deaths among adolescents is tragically high. It could and must be radically reduced."

This focus on adolescent health was reflected in discussions at the conference. Calling for governments to recognize the special unmet needs of adolescents and to strengthen programs to minimize the incidence of high-risk pregnancies, sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV infection, participants stressed that service providers need to be trained to be more receptive to adolescents and that legislation should not inhibit the use of services by adolescents. It was agreed that: "Young people should be involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programs designed to serve them in order for services to be sensitive to their needs."

The contribution that adoption of FP makes to safe motherhood and child survival was also highlighted by participants who agreed that, "The death



Participants at the experts' meeting.

and suffering of women in fulfilling their childbearing responsibilities continues to be the scandal of all time."

The conference drew attention to the large disparities both within and among countries in the practice of FP, and that the lack of access to, and information about FP in many countries are reflected in high abortion rates. Participants called for government and intergovernmental organizations to recognize that abortion is a major public health concern and one of the most neglected problems affecting women's lives. "Action is needed to reduce the need for abortion, provide counseling, and expand access to safe abortion services for women and adolescents who request them," urged participants.

Informed Choice

Focusing on FP programs themselves, participants stressed that they should be based on voluntarism and informed choice. It was agreed that governments should establish FP goals on the basis of unmet demand for information and services and that they should not impose demographic goals on FP providers in the form of targets or quotas.

Moreover, participants urged governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve the quality of FP services by incorporating the user's perspective and respect for the dignity and privacy of the client. It was noted that in IEC activities, emphasis should be placed on consumer-oriented approaches such as careful targeting and segmentation of unserved populations, proper design of communications strategies based on research and an adequate mix of media and interpersonal communications.

Lessons from the Field

As one of only a few NGOs from the Asian region represented at the Bangalore meeting, JOICFP was able to share with participants its unique experiences gained in promoting community-based FP/MCH through the Integrated Project (IP).

Among the lessons presented by JOICFP at the meeting were: FP promotion is more effective when it is presented as an integral part of MCH and other primary health care activities; the establishment of local steering committees which include leaders of the community has proven effective in IP promotion; women play a major role in FP promotion; technical cooperation between developing countries (TCDC) is advantageous; and for NGOs to work effectively, their unique advocacy and

pioneering role must be recognized by the government.

Many of these points were reflected in the summing up discussions at the conclusion of the conference. It was noted that, "FP program managers should consult with and encourage the participation of local community groups in the design, financing, and delivery of FP services wherever feasible." Participants also agreed that, "Increased involvement of social organizations and use of local volunteers, greater decentralization of decision-making to local administrative structures that are better placed to respond to community needs, and increased pluralism of institutions in the delivery of services may be among the more promising strategies for increasing community participation."

A Woman's Place is...

INSTRAW aims for change for women through research and training

Margaret Shields, director, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), spoke with JOICFP NEWS about women's issues and the activities of her organization on October 4. Below is an outline of her interview.

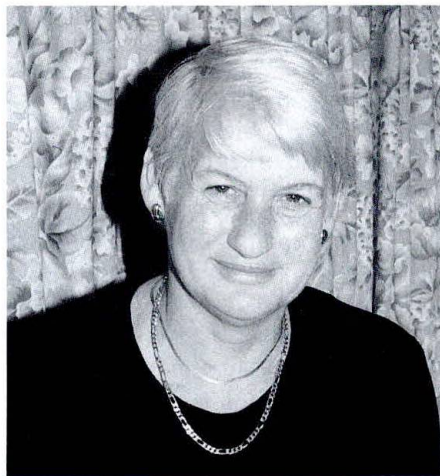
INSTRAW is an organization that was formed out of the 1975 International Women's Year Conference. At that conference, it was recognized that there was an enormous information gap about women's activities and that it was not possible, therefore, to even begin to look for commonality, particularly between the more-developed and less-developed countries. People realized that in order to have constructive communication in the future, it was important to know more about the situation of women worldwide. It was also particularly important for countries to have adequate information of the situation of women within their own boundaries which could be used as a basis for policy change.

Research & Training

There was general support for a resolution that there should be a research and training institute within the UN which would focus on women. It is important to note that there was also a resolution at that stage to form UNIFEM, a funding institution for women.

The aim of INSTRAW is to change things at the grassroots, but we work through governments and other agencies. However, this is not a huge disadvantage, because if we have got governments supporting the use of our materials or committed to collecting certain types of statistics, it means they will be, to a certain extent, committed to the outcomes.

One of our most important programs, which we are endeavoring to get funding for, is a program to measure the value of unpaid work. That seems to be a long way from family planning (FP), but of course it is not. First of all, if a woman's only role is seen to be reproductive, even if that flies in the face of reality, her worth will only derive from the number of children she has. If a woman's self esteem is increased by the recognition of the contributions she makes, not only to having children, but by also helping to



Margaret Shields

provide for them — and most women are doing that already — then there will be less pressure to increase the number of children, more respect for women, a strengthening of women themselves, and more appreciation of their multiple role.

I think there is now a real understanding of the fact that in most parts of the world, it is not a question of including women in development. Women are already up to their necks in the development process — where they are absent is from the decisions about development and in the control of resources. There needs to be a very strong discussion about the nature of development. There needs to be more openness about discussing the choices that are available to governments and that discussion needs to take place at the national level.

Human Tendency

There is a human tendency to regard our own experience as natural and normal and everybody else's as different, better or worse. These concepts are of very little use when we talk about development because each country's development is a function of its unique history and the values that people have grown up with, and also the forces that have borne down on that society from other countries — particularly the economic forces. I think if we just try to transfer ideas that work for one society onto another, we are indulging in a type of imperialism which at best is inappropriate, and at worst totally damaging. My feeling is that change works best when it is the product of local examination and discussion of the best information that is available on choice.

Spotlight on MCH & AIDS

Reflecting the growing concern in Japan about the issue of AIDS, the National Convention of Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning took AIDS as one of its themes this year, focusing on transmission of the disease from mothers to infants. Held in Omiya City, Saitama Prefecture, on October 28 and 29, the 1992 convention marked the first time for the gathering to take up the issue of AIDS. Featuring presentations and discussions, the meeting highlighted the significant increase in the number of AIDS patients to 473 and people infected with HIV to 2,077 (as of the end of April). According to forecasts, the number of newly diagnosed AIDS patients in Japan is expected to increase 2.5-fold in 1992 over 1991.

The Omiya meeting was organized under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW), Omiya prefectural government, Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ) and Boshi Aikui Kai. The 27th such event, the convention was attended by some 2,500 people from the medical, public health and family planning (FP) fields, as well as students, representatives of the media and members of the public.

AIDS Awareness

One of the highlights of the convention was a quiz show organized by Dr. Yoshiki Sakurai, specialist, AIDS Medical Information Center. The quiz show, which involved the entire audience, drew attention to the widespread misconceptions about AIDS and demonstrated the importance of serious efforts to create awareness on the issue, particularly among young people.

The timing of the convention coincided with recent efforts of the central and local governments in Japan to create awareness of the AIDS issue. Action on AIDS has also been taken by non-governmental organizations such as the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) which has produced a variety of innovative IEC materials to create awareness of the issue under its "Stop the AIDS" campaign.



Students participate in an AIDS quiz.

A Voice for Women of the South

DAWN offers analysis of key development issues from perspective of Third World women

Peggy Antrobus, general coordinator, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), spoke with JOICFP NEWS on October 4 and offered her views on women's issues. Below is an outline of the interview.

DAWN is a network of Third World women formed in 1984 to reflect on what we had learned about development as a result of our activities throughout the Decade for Women. Out of those discussions came a feminist critique of what we termed "growth-oriented development." We saw that type of development — which is focused on economic growth and equates development with economic growth to the exclusion of social, cultural and political areas — as being very destructive and the cause of a number of crises. We identified these as the interlocking crises of debt, deteriorating social services, environmental degradation, food insecurity,

militarism and political conservatism. All of these were making life very difficult for both human and natural environments.

What DAWN tries to do is to come up with an analysis of key development issues from the perspective of poor women living in the South. A characteristic of our analysis is that it is holistic. Another characteristic is that we try to reflect regional diversity. One other very important thing that DAWN does in its analysis is to make the link between the micro level and the macro level — that is to bridge the gap between the experience of the individual women in their households and communities and the macro-economic policies that shape them.



Peggy Antrobus

women's education and fertility. But I think even more than education, it has to do with how women perceive themselves and with the conditions under which they bear and raise children. Women tend to want to have children. But if they have any choice, they choose to have them where the circumstances are conducive to raising those children.

There is a lot of diversity and divisiveness around the issue of population and it is an issue on which women are divided. This really came to a head in the context of the debate on the

environment. That is why Rio was a special point of reference. Many people argue that population pressure is a primary cause of environmental degradation. It is not. One of the dishonest things about the Rio conference was the focus on population and the complete exclusion of much more serious causes of environmental problems.

I am talking specifically of nuclear testing. There was absolutely no discussion of that in Rio, and I really question whether any government can say that they are serious about the environment if they refuse to discuss nuclear testing and militarism.

Free-market Ideologies

Another issue not discussed was the impact of free-market ideologies on the environment. There was complete exclusion from the discussion on environmental degradation of the Uruguay Round of discussions. The Uruguay Round has profound implications for the environment. If successful, it would put the environment at enormous risk because, basically, it says that no country can introduce any kind of protective measures — that the corporations must have complete control. And we know that corporations can be very irresponsible when it comes to the environment. □

Population Think Tank

The chairperson of a newly established international think tank on population said, "Population is a multi-dimensional issue closely related to the issues of environment, education of women — especially young

women — and quality of life." Speaking in Tokyo on October 30, Maria Pintasilgo, former prime minister of Portugal, said that in her new role as chairwoman of the "Independent



Maria Pintasilgo

Commission on Population and Quality of Life," she is aiming to create awareness of population issues around the world. The new commission will be active for a two-and-a-half-year period during which it will organize regional and sub-regional activities to create awareness of population issues and coordinate a panel of specialists on population and quality of life. Pintasilgo said named former Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama as a likely member of the 20-member group. She has been a long-term admirer of the work of former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and described him as a leader of population activities around the world.

Access to Education

For instance, we would want to explore women's lack of access to education and health and the macro-economic policies of structural adjustment. These are policies that have been urged on debtor countries by the World Bank and IMF, and basically they are putting pressure on governments to make major cuts in social services.

In the field of population, reproductive rights and health, a lot of the discussion that emphasizes education is very important, but how many of those emphasizing women's education make the connection or at least recognize that we are operating within a very hostile environment that has been systematically cutting off women's access to education through these macro-economic policies? Until you make that connection between women's lives and reality, and the structures — economic, political, cultural, social — that impact on women, then you are not going to be able to come up with any programs that are consistent in terms of achieving any objective at all.

Women's education is very important because the one conclusive statement that can be made about fertility and women's status is that there is a link between

Innovative Approaches to Self-reliance

MEXFAM implements unique franchise system for clinic operation

Alfonso Lopez, executive director, Family Planning Foundation of Mexico (MEXFAM), stopped in Tokyo on his way to attend the Members' Assembly of IPPF as well as the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being in India. He spoke with JOICFP NEWS on October 20 about his organization's approach to promoting family planning (FP) in Mexico. Below is an outline of his interview.

One of the ways that MEXFAM is trying to achieve self-reliance is by promoting the formation of autonomous organizations in every part of the country. Our aim is to run every branch of

MEXFAM as an enterprise. The idea is that the manager

of each branch does not feel that he/she is an employee of a central office, but considers his/her own branch to be more or less his/her property. Thus, it is in his/her interests to develop the branch, get more customers and expand activities.

The independent clinics using MEXFAM's trademark are operated like a franchise — just like McDonald's. In order for them to use our name, they must comply with our requests. If they do not, we take our trademark from them, and we stop supplying contraceptives and educational materials. For our part, we continue supervising activities and visiting the clinics. The five or six managers that have gone independent have a seniority of at least seven years in MEXFAM and each of them is very good at his/her job and very compliant with our rules.

Community Doctors

MEXFAM has a policy not to build new facilities. Instead, we help other organizations or individuals to set up offices. For instance, we go into a poor area and find a doctor who is already providing services. We provide medical equipment and furniture, remodel the facility and allow it to use the MEXFAM logo. We provide the community doctor with contraceptives and educational materials. His/her only duty is to promote FP with special emphasis. We also have a policy not to pay doctors' salaries and leave it up to the doctors to set their own fees. We tell them, "if you charge too much, people won't visit your clinic."

One way MEXFAM raises funds is by selling such items as educational materials and contraceptives. Among the most popular items in MEXFAM are the films produced with JOICFP's support. In particular, the adolescent health series is selling well. We also sell sex education

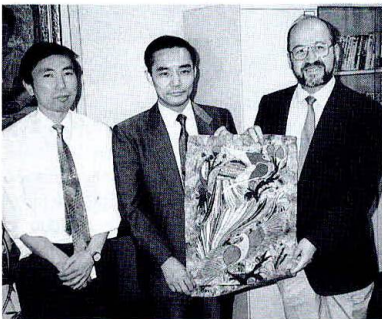


Women listen to FP messages outside a MEXFAM clinic.

texts to schools and recreation centers. We are presently introducing modern marketing techniques to MEXFAM's operations and are in the process of going into communities to see if there is a demand for our products.

Total Quality Management

MEXFAM is putting efforts into improving quality, but we do not approach the issue through "quality control," an old concept whereby people controlled the results at the end of the process. Instead, our approach is "total quality management" which is based on the principle of prevention. The idea is to prevent mistakes before they occur and the best way to achieve this is to convince staff to do things well from the beginning. Quality is important to the self-reliance of activities because it means the effective use of resources. If you do things well, you avoid mistakes and avoid wasting money. Also, if you provide quality services, you are going to have more customers. □



(From left) Fumio Komukai, deputy director, and Terutoshi Sano, director, VDIA Office, with Lopez.

During his two-day stay in Japan, Alfonso Lopez presented a report of the progress of the Mexican Integrated Project (IP) in Tokyo and paid courtesy calls to member cities of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance to express his gratitude for the cities' donation of 150 reconditioned bicycles to support the activities of the IP in Mexico. On October 20, Lopez paid a courtesy call to Mayor Shindo Takahiro of Omiya City and on October 21, he met with Mayor Endo Masanori of Bunkyo City. The IP director also paid a courtesy call to the Voluntary Deposit for International Assistance (VDIA) Office, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, on October 21 to convey his appreciation for funds to purchase medical equipment to promote clinic self-reliance. He met with Terutoshi Sano, director, and Fumio Komukai, deputy director, at the VDIA Office.

MEXFAM Takes Honors

In recognition of its significant achievements in the field of FP over the last three years, MEXFAM was presented with the Cadbury Award on October 22 at the Sixth Members' Assembly of IPPF in New Delhi, India. The first recipient of the award, MEXFAM was selected from among all family planning associations (FPAs) worldwide. The award was instituted three years ago by the IPPF in honor of the contribution that the chocolate-making family made to the cause of FP. In comments to JOICFP NEWS, Alfonso Lopez said that the award was very symbolic for MEXFAM.

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

A Reflection of Goodwill

Recently, JOICFP has been receiving items donated by people in Japan to support the Integrated Project (IP) and contribute to the self-reliance of activities. The donations reflect the goodwill of individuals in Japan and their sincere wishes for the success of the project. Among the donations are treadle sewing machines and reconditioned bicycles which are utilized in IP areas to support income-generating activities and as transport for midwives and public health nurses. Other items that have been donated include footwear and stationery items such as pencils and notebooks. According to the reports, the donations are warmly received. Despite their small scale, these activities are indeed very valuable and illustrate the genuine concern among the people in Japan.

Cooperative Network

Toshima City in Tokyo has served as an inspiration for much of these activities. It was Toshima that began the project in cooperation with JOICFP to donate bicycles to other countries in 1988. From these initial efforts, a movement was launched and a cooperative network has gradually spread to take in other cities inside Tokyo and in neighboring prefectures such as Saitama.

Another very innovative project initiated 1991 is the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) Scheme. Coordinated by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the scheme supports activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in developing countries with funds collected from interest of deposits held in special VDIA accounts at post offices. Under the scheme, JOICFP has been allocated funds to support activities of the IP in certain countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Although the VDIA scheme has only been in existence for two years, it has had a significant impact on the activities of clinics and maternal and child health (MCH) centers in various areas. Efforts are now being made to take this progress a step further and establish formal foundations of disease prevention and MCH in these areas. To this end, JOICFP has been working in close cooperation with counterpart governments, academics and NGOs to provide Japanese know-how and has the full agreement of



(From left) Takeshi Yonese, deputy general manager, and Kuniharu Kuwasawa, managing director, Okamoto Industries, Inc., with Abate Gudunffa.

In a gesture of appreciation, Abate Gudunffa, head, Department of Family Health, Ethiopia, paid courtesy calls to the mayor of Setagaya City, Tokyo, and to officials of Okamoto Industries, Inc. while in Tokyo recently. Gudunffa met with Mayor Keiji Oba of Setagaya on August 7 to express his appreciation for the city's donation of 50 reconditioned bicycles to support UNFPA activities in Ethiopia. Meanwhile, on September 15, the Ethiopian official paid a courtesy call to Okamoto where he met with Kuniharu Kuwasawa, managing director, and Takeshi Yonese, deputy general manager. Gudunffa expressed his gratitude for the company's generous donation of 10,000 sneakers to the people of IP areas. The shoes would be used as a practical means to strengthen health education activities and prevent diseases such as hookworm in the community, he explained.

UNFPA and IPPF in this endeavor.

It took Japan almost 50 years to become what it is today from the devastated country it was at the end of the war. Today, many developing countries welcome cooperation from Japan. I hope that the small-scale goodwill efforts of the Japanese people can be expanded upon and serve as a model for further international cooperation activities.

DIARY

Dr. Toshio Kuroda, director emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute (NUPRI), JOICFP Program Officer Ryoko Nishida and staff member Mayumi Katsube were in Thailand from Sept. 29 - Oct. 4 to take part in activities related to JOICFP's regional aging project including a preparatory meeting organized in collaboration with ESCAP on Oct. 1 and 2.

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Twelve participants from 12 countries took part in a half-day seminar on Oct. 8 conducted by JOICFP on the IP under the Farm Household Development 1992 program of JICA.

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Program Officer Nishida was in Thailand and the Philippines from Oct. 4 - 11 to gather and

exchange information with UNFPA, the Department of Health and other concerned agencies on project development.

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Alfonso Lopez, executive director, MEXFAM, was in Japan from Oct. 19 - 21 to exchange information with JOICFP and meet with officials of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and MCCOBA.

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A 10-member mission from China headed by Dr. Guo Deming, director, FP Commission of Hubei Province, was in Japan from Oct. 12 - 25 to study FP/MCH. The mission was joined by Ding Xiaoming, deputy chief, General Affairs Division, Department of Foreign Affairs, State FP Commission, who will be staying on in Japan for a six-month period to carry out research on population and FP/MCH issues.

Notice

The English-language version of the film, "The Awakening Kowloon" is now available.

JOICFP DOCUMENTARY SERIES

NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Awakening Kowloon Village Women in Vietnam

Color/Vietnamese & Japanese version: 39 min.
English version: 32 min.



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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