

JOICFP NEWS

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South-to-South Cooperation

Indonesia paves way for sharing family planning experiences among developing countries



BKKBN Chairman Haryono Suyono (right) with JOICFP Chairman Chojiro Kunii.

"Indonesia has accumulated a wide range of experiences in the family planning (FP) and population field, not only through the activities of the governmental sector, but also through the work of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)," said JOICFP Chairman Chojiro Kunii. "These experiences can be utilized by other countries as stepping stones to development." In a discussion with Dr. Haryono Suyono, chairman, National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN), Indonesia, on February 2, Kunii said that JOICFP would support BKKBN's efforts to exchange Indonesian FP experiences with other developing countries under the so-called "South-to-South" cooperation initiative.

Haryono was in Japan from January 29 - February 3 to meet with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to discuss future projects to be developed under the South-to-South cooperation scheme. The initiative, under

which Indonesia is providing technical assistance to other developing nations, received a boost in January when Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged to provide Indonesia with US\$2.4 million to support the scheme. Out of the total, the Japanese government earmarked US\$1.7 million for training in Indonesia of people from developing nations. In addition, about US\$500,000 will be provided to UNFPA to support an FP program in Bangladesh and US\$200,000 will be provided to UNDP to assist an Indonesian-operated human resources program in other countries. The Japanese pledge of assistance came in response to a call by Indonesian President Soeharto for the promotion of South-to-South cooperation at the summit meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in September 1992.

"We are most happy that the Japanese government is ready to provide assistance because this is not only a South-to-South partnership, but also a North-to-South partnership," said Haryono. "What we are offering right now — to the private sectors

or government sectors of different countries — is really a partnership in FP." Haryono said that JOICFP could help promote North-to-South partnerships, especially through its publications.

In response, Kunii said that JOICFP would assist in the dissemination of information and FP experiences accumulated by Indonesia. He added that JOICFP would also work to further stimulate South-to-South cooperation activities by assisting with the dispatch of experts to expand the network of resource persons.

Outlining Indonesia's South-to-South cooperation activities, Haryono said that over the last three years, his country has provided technical assistance to 1,400 people from 64 countries. "In the future, we would like to work closely with many countries to ensure the success of their FP programs," he said.

People's Participation

Noting the effectiveness of South-to-South cooperation for the sharing of appropriate strategies and techniques among developing countries, Kunii commented that Indonesia has much to offer in terms of strategies for gaining acceptance of FP among people. He said that the Indonesian approach to FP promotion is not limited to service provision, but is aimed at gaining people's participation in activities. The Indonesian FP success story is the result of an FP movement supported by the people, he said. "Indonesia can play a leadership role in the promotion of appropriate FP strategies to solve population problems worldwide," Kunii said. "The country's role as a leader in the FP field is already recognized the world over."

Looking ahead to the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994, Kunii underscored the importance of developing a comprehensive, practical strategy for South-to-South cooperation for discussion at the conference. J

Sai Wins UN Population Award

Group award goes to Population Problems Research Council of Mainichi Shimbun

Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, was honored this year with the prestigious UN Population Award for his involvement and global leadership in family planning (FP) and population activities. In its announcement on February 17, the UN Population Award Committee also honored the Population Problems Research Council of the Mainichi Shimbun of Japan with the UN Population Group Award for its achievements in creating awareness of population issues.

A total of six individuals and 10 institutions were nominated for the awards this year. Sai and the Population Problems Research Council will be formally presented with their awards on June 10.

"I am deeply honored to have received this accolade and I accept it on behalf of my many IPPF colleagues around the world — both staff and volunteers," said Sai. "As an African, this honor is a challenge for me to work with the many poor, young and neglected individuals within the continent to empower them and improve the quality of their lives through FP."

Sai was honored for his 40 years of work in national and international organizations both promoting awareness of population issues and working toward effective programs to address those problems. Sai first became involved with IPPF 20 years ago. In 1967, he co-founded the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana and was instrumental in founding the African Region of IPPF, uniting family planning associations (FPAs) across the continent. He was first elected as IPPF's president in 1989 and was reelected for a second



Fred Sai

term of office in 1992.

Sai has represented international bodies and the Ghanaian government at many global meetings and in 1984 chaired the Main Committee of the International Population Conference in Mexico City. From 1985 to 1990, he was a senior population advisor to the World Bank, for whom he remains a consultant on African health issues. At present, Sai lives in Ghana where he advises the government on FP and population issues, chairing the recently-formed National Population Council. He is also an honorary professor of community health at the University of Ghana Medical School.

The Population Problems Research Council, meanwhile, was honored for its more than 40 years of efforts to create awareness of FP and population problems in Japan through its knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) surveys on FP and through publications and forums. Established shortly after the end of WWII in 1949, the council was one of the first institutions in Japan to recognize the importance of population issues and their interrelationship with development.

Breaking ground in Japan with its first KAP survey in 1950, the council has amassed a unique body of information on



Shidzue Kato, current president, FPFJ, stands beside FP pioneer Margaret Sanger as she gives a speech in Tokyo in 1952. She was invited to Japan by the Population Problems Research Council.

Photo courtesy of Mainichi Shimbun

public opinion concerning FP and population issues in Japan by consistently conducting its surveys. To date, a total of 21 surveys have been conducted.

To further draw attention to population issues, the council has also been active in arranging study meetings and seminars and inviting experts from around the world to speak in Japan. Since 1990, it has undertaken the work of secretariat of Population Forum 21 which supports the activities of UNFPA and other organizations working in the field of population.

Creating Awareness

Through such efforts to create awareness within Japan, the Mainichi Shimbun has played a significant role in encouraging support from the Japanese public for population activities both within the country and internationally.

"We are very pleased that the council has been honored with this award because it recognizes the work of this institution to promote both domestic and international population issues since 1949," said Mainichi Shimbun President Tadao Koike, who also serves as president of the Population Problems Research Council. "Population will be a crucial factor for the 21st century and much will be required of humankind to solve this problem," he said. "Environmental issues are fundamentally related to population. Globally, we all have to make serious efforts to solve these issues."

* Information on Fred Sai courtesy of IPPF

Filling the FP Vacuum

Pathfinder International targets unmet service needs

Pathfinder International is one of the oldest family planning (FP) organizations in the U.S. and today is active in the promotion and support of FP activities in developing countries. Since its establishment in 1957, the non-profit organization has funded over 2,500 projects in more than 80 countries. Focusing on service delivery, Pathfinder International makes grants to institutions, governments, organizations and individuals in targeted countries through its 11 field offices. It has drawn the bulk of its funds from USAID since 1967 but also benefits from private funds which give the organization flexibility and considerable autonomy.

Clarence Gamble

The organization was founded by Clarence Gamble, an associate of FP pioneers such as Margaret Sanger. Prior to its establishment, Gamble provided seed money to create Planned Parenthood Federation affiliates in several countries including Japan. His contributions helped establish the FP Federation of Japan (FPFJ), one of nine organizations of the Hoken Kaikan Group of which JOICFP is a member.

Pathfinder International's president, Daniel E. Pellegrum, and the

organization's regional vice president for Asia and the Near East, Dr. Türkiz Gökçöl visited JOICFP on February 25 to discuss possible future collaboration. Below is an outline of comments made to JOICFP NEWS.

Gökçöl: We are an FP organization and our ultimate goal is to reduce birthrates and ensure that as many people as possible have access to quality FP services. But we go through many stages to accomplish that goal and it is a long and continuous process.

Pellegrum: I think the principle that drives our organization is the conviction that individual people deserve the opportunity to take control of their own destinies; that they deserve the opportunity to manage their own fertility and need to be able to do that with the safest possible methods. It happens also that most of us in Pathfinder International also believe population growth in an aggregate or more generalized way is an issue of considerable importance in much of the world. Our expertise is normally associated with service delivery and we primarily operate in environments where the demand exceeds the services available. In most cases we do not work hard at stimulating demand for FP.

G: This is pretty much true worldwide. Demand usually exceeds what is available in terms of services. People all over the world are looking for ways to control their fertility — even in the most conservative areas.

P: In the former Soviet Union, for example, the reliance on abortion is staggering. Obviously the people want to control their fertility. The question for us is how are we going to help them do that. It is not that I think abortion is unsafe. However, if you offer women a full cafeteria of methods, it is unlikely that they will choose abortion as their preferred method. So, I think it is incumbent upon us to



Türkiz Gökçöl

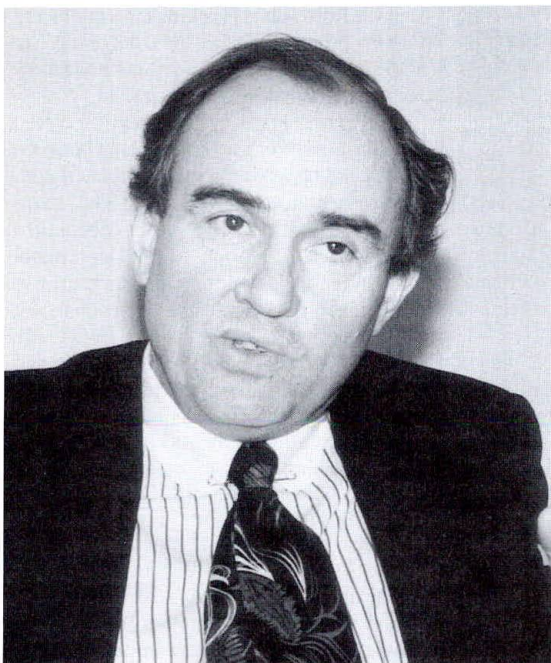
make the selection of methods available as diverse as possible so that people can make that choice for themselves. I think globally we have done an inadequate job of that.

Clinton's election is clearly good for the field of FP. He stated the issues very clearly and in an uncomplicated way and has not attempted to soften that. Most of all, his election means that for the first time in more than a decade, the people in power are neither trying to play up to the opponents of FP or placate them. That is very positive for the field of FP. However, the new president has got to solve some very serious issues and there won't be enough funds for him to invest in some of the areas in which he may want to invest. Therefore he has to make tough decisions.

Mexico City Policy

G: If the government cannot come up with significant increases in funds, it is possible that there will be less money for organizations which rely heavily on USAID such as Pathfinder, because UNFPA and IPPF will now be receiving funds. But even then, I think it is very great that these organizations will be funded and that the (Mexico City) policy has been reversed. What we will try to do is maintain our programs and get funding from wherever we can.

P: If the U.S. government is going to do FP in a serious way then there is absolutely no question that it should be funding UNFPA and IPPF. It is absolutely right that these two organizations be funded by the government. 



Daniel E. Pellegrum

New Challenges in Ghana

In the nine pilot areas where the Integrated Project (IP) is being implemented in Ghana, the community people have been prompted to change their behavior by a "trigger," said Ian Howie, country director, UNFPA, Ghana. In an address to the 2nd National Conference on the Integrated Family Planning (FP), Nutrition and Parasite Control (PC) Project, Howie said, that within its various country programs throughout Africa, UNFPA is continually looking to support innovative projects which will impact upon excessive fertility, particularly those which involve communities helping themselves. "The IP is one of these," he said.

The conference, held from January 11 - 13, took the theme of "Expansion and Sustainability" as a follow-up to issues discussed at the first national conference in 1989 and PANFRICO III in 1991. The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by some 60 people including representatives of UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, USAID and concerned government ministries. A total

of 30 participants attended the actual conference, which wound up with remarks from Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, and chairman, National Population Council. A JOICFP mission also attended the meeting and carried out monitoring of the IP during its stay in the country from January 9 - 20.

The conference provided participants with a forum for exchanging information and experiences and discussing ways to sustain and expand the project after the completion of the pilot phase in 1992. The meeting was particularly effective for introducing the project to representatives of the government and related agencies with a view to possible replication of activities in the future.

During the conference, participants recommended that the achievements of the IP be more widely publicized to promote replication of experiences and that efforts be made to expand the project into areas where needs have been identified and the people have shown interest in the IP. Participants also urged that cooperation with other agencies and the involvement of local governments be encouraged to



A view of participants.

enhance sustainability and that male involvement in IP activities be promoted.

The possible expansion of the project into neighboring areas was particularly emphasized by the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana, the implementing agency of the IP. Participants were also made aware of the desire of the Ministry of Health to initiate the project in the northern region where the socioeconomic status is comparatively low. Participants discussed possible ways to generate funds locally through such activities as fee-charging for services and community support to enable smooth expansion in the future.

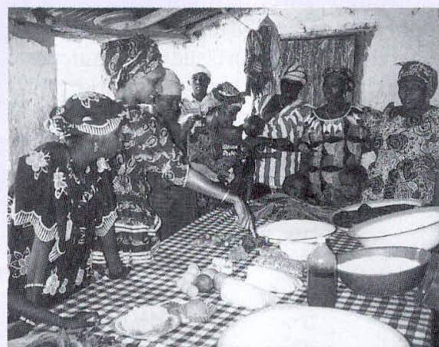
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Women Take Action in The Gambia

Using very simple technology, the members of women's clubs in the villages of Mandinari and Muniyagen in The Gambia are actively involved in soap-making that is earning profits in the local market. The activities, which are being implemented under the Integrated Project (IP), have also given the women greater confidence to talk to their partners about family planning (FP), said officials of the Gambian Family Planning Association (GFPA), the IP-implementing agency.

The progress of the women's clubs and the close cooperation between GFPA and government bodies such as the Ministry of Health were some of the positive findings of a JOICFP team, which visited The Gambia on a monitoring mission from January 20 - 29. The first such mission, the team held discussions with GFPA personnel and officials of concerned agencies and visited the two IP-implementing villages.

The IP is now in its sixth year and utilizes trained community-based distributors (CBDs) who promote family planning (FP) and work closely with community health nurses (CHNs), village health workers



Women learn how to make nutritious foods from local products.

(VHWs) and traditional birth attendants (TBAs). Initially geared to the promotion of FP integrated with parasite control, the IP has been expanded to include such components as environmental sanitation, health and nutrition promotion and women's development activities.

Mandinari, a semi-urban village, has a population of about 8,000 people, while Muniyagen is a rural village with a population of about 4,000. The introduction of the CBD system into the villages has been well-received by the local women who told the mission that FP has become more accessible under the IP. Noting the effectiveness of CBDs, residents of neighboring areas have also requested GFPA to train CBDs to work in their villages.

The activities of the IP have also gained a wider audience through a radio drama broadcast by Radio Gambia in cooperation with GFPA

and the Health Education Unit (HEU) of the MOH and supported by the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa. After HEU donated radios to listening groups in the two IP villages in 1989, Radio Gambia created a drama with an FP message based on the IP which it aired nationwide once a week for three months. Extremely popular, the drama has since won support from Johns Hopkins University and is being broadcast in five local languages. In addition, radio listening groups have now been established in 15 villages.

The mission was particularly impressed with the good working relationship between GFPA and the government and related non-governmental organizations. The soap-making ventures, for example, have benefited from the technical input of the Department of Community Development. The team also noted that GFPA staff have been consistent in conducting IEC campaigns for health, nutrition and FP involving film shows and discussions as well as in their efforts to monitor the IP. In particular, the mission was impressed with the nutrition education program conducted in cooperation with CHNs and health staff of MOH.

During their stay, the mission members were also made aware of the need to secure further sources of safe drinking water. According to the GFPA staff, the lack of access to water poses a major obstacle to the promotion of activities to improve health and environmental sanitation.

Sharing Keys to Integrated Healthcare

Community participation in healthcare activities highlighted at Tokyo seminar

Ten representatives of 10 countries learned innovative strategies for the promotion of integrated healthcare and project self-reliance at the Seminar on Parasite Control Administration for Senior Officers, held in Japan from February 1-19. Entrusted to the Japan Association of Parasite Control by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and organized in cooperation with JOICFP, the seminar highlighted the effective role that parasite control (PC) can play as an entry point for the promotion of integrated healthcare activities including family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) care at the community level. Participants also learned of the benefits of smooth cooperation among the government, private sector and community in healthcare promotion and gained insights into ways to enhance self-reliance.

Postwar Experiences

The 14th of its kind, the seminar included presentations by experts, country presentations and group discussions. Participants were introduced to Japanese postwar experiences in the healthcare field and gained a deep understanding of the Integrated Project (IP). Dr. Shigeru Hayashi, former director general, National Institute of Health, was course leader. Participants had an opportunity to observe present-day community-based healthcare activities in Japan during a field trip to Kumamoto Prefecture, where they visited health facilities and viewed the activities of the local government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Below are comments from four participants.

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Etelvina Zavala Suarez

We have been co-operating very closely with the Family Planning Federation of Mexico (MEXFAM) to promote the IP in a medium-sized city

in central Mexico. We would like people to take part in this program because the integrated approach is extremely useful. I think that the project will achieve close to its aim of encouraging couples to have one or two children and will improve the lives and health of the people in the city and the surrounding villages.

Etelvina Zavala Suarez, director, Medical Unit, Mexican Institute of Social Security

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I am a strong supporter of the IP because in my country we are poor and if we integrate health programs it will entail less expense. Parasite control is a very good entry point for the promotion of MCH, FP, health education and nutrition. In the past,



Winifreda de Leon

we have had problems in promoting FP in the Philippines because the majority of the people (80%) are Catholic. But our new president and secretary of health are progressive, so they will hopefully be more supportive of FP activities. If I have a chance to talk with the secretary of health, I will reemphasize the importance of integrating health programs and using PC as an entry point. The approach promoted by JOICFP is not actually against the Catholic religion because the IP emphasizes the health of the mother and child. Also a project that promotes MCH is more acceptable to the people.

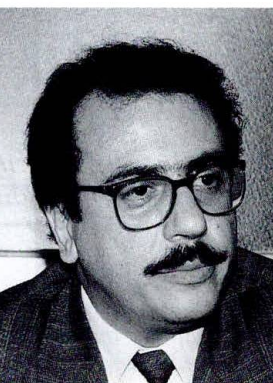
Winifreda de Leon, assistant professor, Department of Parasitology, College of Public Health, University of the Philippines

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Parasite control is not only a treatment of parasite infection but also helps overcome health problems such as anemia. Parasite control activities primarily improve the living conditions of the people through better knowledge of environmental sanitation. There is clearly a link between the way people use the land and

the level of their living conditions. Improving their health status will raise their standards of living and enhance their interest in protecting the environment.

Dr. Anisio de Moura, adviser on public health administration, Adolfo Lutz Institute, Brazil



Anisio de Moura

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In 1991 I was first introduced to the concept of the IP. At that time I thought that the project would not be applicable to Nigeria and that PC would not be an effective partner to FP. However, I now welcome PC as a partner, primarily because I learned that people can see the results of PC for themselves and also because it is very easy to train technical staff to conduct PC. The results of mass treatment are almost immediate and the people's interest is kindled when they see worms after the deworming. Once



Chioma Nkasiobi Amajoh

the interest of the community has been won with PC, it is easier to introduce FP and people more readily appreciate the need to improve the status of their health. Through health education activities, people can also be made aware of other problems and issues such as environmental sanitation and the need to change their behavior.

Chioma Nkasiobi Amajoh, assistant chief scientific officer, Parasite Control, Federal Ministry of Health & Human Services, Nigeria

[7]

A Grayer Future for Japan

Japan's elderly to make up 20% of total population in 2007, says NUPRI

The population of Japan is aging more rapidly than previously expected with the proportion of elderly reaching the critical level of 20% in 2007, according to Nihon University Population Research Institute (NUPRI). In a forecast developed with the aid of computer simulation, the research institute also predicted that Japan's population will continue to rise from the 123.61 million mark in 1990 to peak at 128.64 million in 2007 and fall to 121.7 million in 2025. Earlier, the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) had forecast that the population would peak at 130.44 million in 2011.

Dramatic Increase

According to the predictions of NUPRI, in 2007 Japan will have 26.3 million people aged 65 or older, comprising 20% of the population. This will not only mark a dramatic increase from the 10% that the elderly occupied in 1985, but the 22 years that it will take to expand the proportion of elderly from 10% to 20% will be the fastest of any other nation, the institute said.

Commenting on the findings of the computer simulation, Naohiro Ogawa, professor of economics, NUPRI, and deputy director, Nihon University, said that Japan will have to pioneer in the field of social policy for the aged since it will experience the effects of rapid population aging ahead of all other countries.

According to the forecast, the proportion of elderly in the population will peak at 27.28% in 2025 to make Japan the world's grayest nation. At this time, one in every 3.67 people in Japan is expected to be aged 65 years or older. Previously, the MOHW had predicted that the aged would make up 25.8% of the population and that one in every 3.88 people would be elderly in 2025.

The effects of population aging are already being felt in many parts of Japan,



One out of every two women in their 40s will likely be caring for either a bedridden or senile elderly person by 2025 in Japan.

particularly in rural areas. In one town in Yamaguchi Prefecture, for example, the proportion of elderly has already reached 43%. "Aging is affecting municipalities in a variety of ways," said Ogawa. "In some towns, funeral ceremonies outnumber live births and seasonal festivals cannot be held because there are not enough young people to carry the *mikoshi* (portable shrines)."

The institute attributed the rapid aging of the Japanese population to the falling birthrate. It estimated that Japan's total fertility rate (TFR) will fall from the current level of 1.53 (1992) to a low of 1.499 in 1997. It is then expected to increase to 1.696 in 2025. Previously, the MOHW estimated that the TFR would hit an all-time low in 1994 at 1.495.

In addition, NUPRI predicted that Japanese will also be enjoying longer lives. The institute estimated that the average life span for men will increase from 76.11 in 1991 to 77.59 in 2000 and to 79.17 in 2025. For women, the life span is expected to increase from 82.11 in 1991 to 83.85 in 2000 and to 85.85 in 2025.

The study also highlighted the increasing burden that will fall on the shoulders of women as the number of aged people requiring care increases. Among women in their 40s, one out of every 15 were likely to be caring for either a bedridden or senile elderly person in 1990. In 2025, however, one in every two women

in their 40s is expected to be performing the same tasks.

The institute also noted that the larger number of elderly women will present unique problems in the future. According to the study, Japan will have 14.3 million elderly men and 18.9 million elderly women in 2025 when the proportion of elderly in the population is expected to peak. There is also expected to be a larger number of elderly women than men living alone. In total, the number of aged people living alone is expected to mark 17.7% in 2025, up significantly from the 10.9% in 1990.

Women to Bear Burden

The institute pointed out that the increase in the elderly will put pressure on the family members who support them. In 1990, the family support ratio of adults supporting one parent was 0.76. In 2000, it is expected to fall to 0.52 and to 0.38 in 2010. According to NUPRI, the ratio will become the world's lowest in 2005 at 0.403.

To cope with the anticipated increases in the number of aged people, Ogawa stressed the need to develop community networks of people to assist elderly people who are ill or living alone. In its analysis of the estimates, NUPRI warned that Japan will need an "ingenious policy" to cope with the aging of its population. **[J]**

Joined by Threads of Assistance

Japanese students reach out to women in developing countries through sewing machine donations



A TV crew covers donation activities at Taishido Junior High School.

A small-scale assistance project first launched by JOICFP in cooperation with the students of Taishido Junior High School is attracting the attention of a growing number of schools and has won support from both the business and government sectors in Japan. Aimed at assisting women's development, the project involves the donation of reconditioned treadle sewing machines to women living in areas in developing countries where the Integrated Project (IP) is being implemented. Under the scheme, the sewing machines are being utilized for skill training and as a means to generate income for the project and for the women living in the project areas. To date, a total of 401 machines have been donated to six countries in the Asian, African and Latin American regions through the project.

Since it was started in 1988, the project

has continued to attract wide media attention in Japan. In Setagaya City of Tokyo, the activities of Taishido Junior High School were picked by 800,000 citizens as one of the top 10 news items for the city in 1992. The awareness created through such media attention has also attracted support from new sources, and a fund-raising campaign launched to cover the costs of shipment of the machines to developing countries has won assistance from schools, business and the government. The assistance from these sources has been welcomed by JOICFP since shipment costs have continued to pose an obstacle to the donation of sewing machines abroad.

Most recently, the project received a grant of ¥1.3 million (US\$10,800) from the NGO Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cover half the costs of a shipment of 120 sewing machines to Vietnam. Sent in December last year, the machines were collected from 11 schools in the Tokyo area. They were reconditioned free of charge prior to shipment by Janome Sewing Machine Co., Ltd. The Japan Shipbuilding Foundation has also continued to offer strong financial support to the project, most recently providing a donation of ¥1 million (US\$8,300) to assist with the shipment of the sewing machines to Vietnam.

Students Take Initiative

But perhaps the most heartwarming support has come from the students of various schools. In particular, Tokyo Jyoshi Gakuin High School has displayed keen interest in supporting women's development activities through the sewing machine donation project. After the school donated 24 machines to the IP areas in Vietnam, the students launched fund-raising activities at their school festival to assist with their shipment. Through donation boxes, the sale of homemade cookies and the donation of part of the proceeds of a tea room, the students were able to raise a total of ¥220,000 (US\$1,800) which they donated to the project. Three other schools including Taishido Junior High School also provided funds to the project through fund-raising activities.

The most recent shipment of machines to Vietnam is to be distributed to Quangdien and Phongdien districts in Thua-Thien Hue Province, and Nghi Loc, Nam Dan and Nghi Xuan districts in Nghe An and Ha



Students distribute JOICFP leaflets at Tokyo Jyoshi Gakuin High School.

Tinh provinces in the central and northern parts of the country. Previously, 41 sewing machines were distributed in Long An Province in the south. J

Condom Issue Confuses Local Governments

Conflicting instructions from the Health and Welfare Ministry (MOHW) and the Management and Coordination Agency in Japan have local governments in Japan confused over whether to ease access to condoms by relaxing restrictions on the installation of condom-vending machines.

In a move aimed at combatting the spread of AIDS, the MOHW instructed local governments on February 9 to relax regulations concerning the installation of condom vending machines. Noting the increase in the number of people contracting HIV/AIDS through heterosexual contact, the ministry said that local governments should make condoms more easily available to minors.

However, the local governments received another instruction on February 22 from the Management and Coordination Agency urging them to exercise caution before relaxing their regulations. In making its decision, the agency expressed concern about the consequences of making condoms more easily available to minors.

As a result of the two sets of instructions, local governments are unsure of whether or not to go ahead with relaxing restrictions. At present, many local governments ban the installation of condom vending machines near schools and along main routes to schools. Despite the restrictions, there are still about 30,000 such machines in Japan.



Yohei Sasakawa, chairman, Japan Shipbuilding Foundation (right), stands with JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Konon February 9 after presenting JOICFP with a check for ¥1 million (US\$8,300) toward the shipment costs of 120 reconditioned sewing machines to Vietnam. The foundation offered the donation to JOICFP after the project was featured in several leading Japanese newspapers including the Mainichi Shimbun, Asahi Shimbun and Yomiuri Shimbun.

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

IP Development in Africa

Since 1987, JOICFP has been holding regional "PANFRICO" conferences in Africa every two years to promote the Integrated Project (IP). In 1992, biannual IP workshops were also initiated.

In response to requests from governments of various African countries, non-governmental organizations and residents in the IP areas, JOICFP has been dispatching experts from Japan and other Asian countries to explain the IP philosophy and pass on know-how and technical skills for project implementation.

During its implementation, the project has achieved some very positive results: 1) it is welcomed everywhere by community people and the use of parasite control as an entry point has been effective for stimulating the people to develop their communities; (2) it has especially motivated communities to develop maternal and child health services, family planning activities and regional development projects; and (3) the effects of the IP in some of the African countries have drawn the attention of related agencies such as UN organizations.

Impact of IP

The developments in the IP areas of Africa have done much to enhance community participation and have also had a positive impact on the related activities of other agencies in recent years, particularly those of the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and IPPF. It is hoped that further developments will be made in IP areas in the future that can be shared at the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Egypt in 1994.

At the first IP workshop in Ethiopia last year, Ambassador of Japan Hisakazu Takase spoke passionately about Japan's "innovations and past efforts toward development." It is my hope that the Japanese government, parliamentarians' groups and mass media, take an active part in the International Conference on Population and Development. [7]

CORRECTION

The date of birth of Former Foreign Minister of Japan Saburo Okita was inadvertently printed as November 4, 1913, in the March issue of JOICFP NEWS. The obituary should have stated that he was born on November 3, 1914. We regret the error.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Seminar on Population Aging

Date: July 5 - 16, 1993
Venue: Tokyo, Japan
Organizers: UNFPA, JOICFP
Participants: Senior planners and/or administrators responsible for the planning and management of health/medical services for the elderly and/or policy researchers in the same field from such countries/areas as China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand
Theme: "Health Promotion and Medical Services for the Elderly"
Objectives: 1) To promote the formulation of health and medical policies and the development of systems and strategies to meet the expected needs of societies with aged populations using the experiences of Japan as a case study.
2) To exchange information, experiences and strategies on aging issues among participating countries and to develop a regional collaborative network among policy planners, administrators and experts in the region.

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

DIARY

Federico Aguinaldo Poblete, mayor, Kawit, Cavite Province, the Philippines, visited JOICFP to exchange information with JOICFP officers on Jan. 25.

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Ten representatives from five countries attended the Asian Regional Technical Committee Meeting on Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women, held in Tokyo from Jan. 26 - 30. Dr. **Huang Baoshan**, director, Department of International Relations, SFPC, China, and Dr. **Firman Lubis**, executive director, YKB, Indonesia, served as resource persons at the meeting and exchanged information with officers of the Hoken Kaikan Group member organizations including JOICFP during their stay in Japan.

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JOICFP Program Officer Ryoko Nishida was in Ghana to attend the 2nd National Conference on the IP and monitor the project and in The Gambia to monitor the IP and exchange information from Jan. 7 - 24. She was accompanied by staff member Mayumi Katsube who returned to Japan on Jan. 31.

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Dr. **Haryono Suyono**, chairman, National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN), visited JOICFP on Feb. 2 to exchange information. He was accompanied by Dr. **Abdullah Cholil**, deputy, Planning and Program Analysis, and Dr. **Loet Affandi**, deputy, General Affairs, BKKBN, and **Sudirman**, third secretary, Embassy of Indonesia.

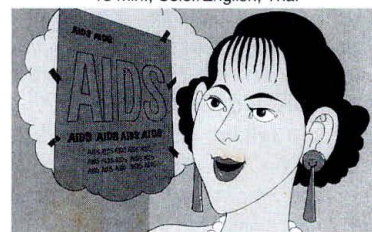
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Dr. **Seiichi Matsumoto**, chairman, JFPA, and JOICFP Program Officer Sumie Ishii and staff member Sono Aibe were in Malaysia to attend the IEC Workshop for the Production of Printed Educational Materials for Preadolescent Women's Health, held from Feb. 6 - 11.

JOICFP Women's Health and Status Series
A New Animated Film

My Way

13 min., Color/English, Thai



Sexual relationships between teenagers tend to place young women in much more serious situations, both physically and mentally, than their partners. Four young women are depicted in this film, each with a chance to have a sexual relationship with her boyfriend. What desires does each girl feel for her partner? How does each girl make her own, personal choice?

My Way is the first film in the Women's Health and Status Series. It was produced specifically for the Asian region. It is an animated film jointly produced by Japan and Thailand, the first country in the world to promote AIDS education on a nationwide scale.

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