

JOICFP NEWS

Facing New Challenges

JOICFP passes 25-year milestone with renewed vigor



Images of the IP: parasite control in China; maternal and child health in The Gambia; and family planning in Mexico.

JOICFP marked its 25th anniversary on April 22 this year. Established in 1968, the organization was initially charged with creating awareness within Japan of population issues and campaigning for increases in government funding to UNFPA and IPPF. In 1974, JOICFP took to the field and began promoting projects stressing community participation in family planning (FP). Primarily aimed at improving the health of women and children and raising the standard of living at the community level through the promotion of integrated healthcare and health-related activities, the project became known as the Integrated Family Planning, Nutrition and Parasite Control Project (IP). Since its launch, the IP has spread to over 24 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Within Japan, efforts to work with legislators and to secure support for population activities have paid off, and today, the contributions of the Japanese government to UNFPA and IPPF are the largest in the world (US\$63.3 million for 1993). Meanwhile, the IP has attracted a great deal of attention around the world as an innovative approach to grassroots healthcare promotion.

In view of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, JOICFP is preparing to offer practical strategies on South-to-South cooperation and the

role of the non-governmental organization (NGO) in population and development activities. JOICFP has already demonstrated the effectiveness of South-to-South cooperation through exchanges organized under the IP on a technical cooperation between developing countries (TCDC) basis. With TCDC, healthcare personnel of different developing countries have been able to share appropriate experiences to improve programs integrating FP with other healthcare components.

South-to-South Cooperation

In the future, JOICFP foresees greater exchange of experiences through the establishment of South-to-South training centers. Indonesia and China are at present being eyed as bases of technical training for Asia. The IP has achieved a high level of success in terms of self-reliance in Indonesia, while in China, it won strong endorsement by the government which recently decided to expand the coverage to another 10 provinces.

Having worked for many years in the promotion of community-based FP and maternal and child healthcare activities, JOICFP has learned many valuable lessons from the field. Some of these were presented at preparatory meetings for the ICPD held in Denpasar, Indonesia; Bangalore, India; and Dakar, Senegal.

JOICFP is also strengthening efforts to stimulate action in Japan on population

and development ahead of the ICPD. To achieve this aim, it is networking with other NGOs, parliamentarians, government ministries and institutions, expert groups and the mass media through such channels as publications and forums. JOICFP is also planning to organize the population conference in Tokyo in 1994 prior to the ICPD in cooperation with the Council on Population Education.

Among other recent activities that have served to create a domestic support network for international cooperation are JOICFP's reconditioned bicycle and sewing machine donation schemes. Carried out jointly with municipal governments, schools, corporations and public, the activities are not only providing practical assistance to people in developing countries, but are also attracting wider support and securing sources of funding for international cooperation which JOICFP aims to build upon in the future.

Meanwhile, the IP continues to be expanded in terms of coverage and scope. For example, a new regional project for Asia focusing on women was recently launched in cooperation with UNFPA and IPPF. In the future, JOICFP will continue to promote women in development and strive to meet new challenges, while remaining firmly committed to answering the needs of community people and improving the quality of life at the grassroots. J

Population Assistance a Priority

Japan pledges US\$63.30 million to UNFPA in fiscal 1993

In a strong show of support for population and family planning (FP) activities, the Japanese government increased its financial contribution to UNFPA in fiscal 1993 (April 1, 1993 - March 31, 1994). The increase in assistance, approved by the Diet (parliament) on March 31 in its fiscal 1993 budget, brought Japan's contribution to the Fund to US\$63.30 million, to mark an increase of US\$4 million, or 6.75%, over the previous fiscal year.

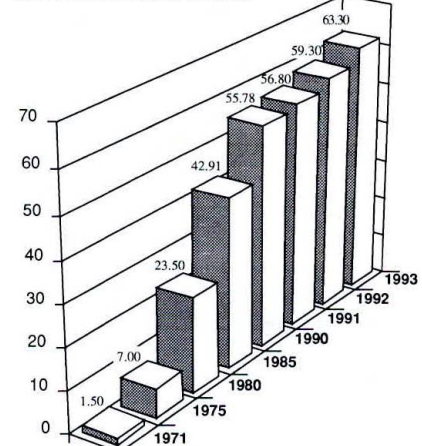
With the increased contribution,

Japan is likely to remain the biggest donor to UNFPA, the world's largest multilateral agency providing population assistance. Under President Bill Clinton, the U.S. has pledged to resume its assistance to the Fund, which was halted in 1986 under the Mexico City Policy supported by President Ronald Reagan. Although the amount of U.S. assistance has not been finalized, it is likely to be resumed near the US\$45 million level pledged by the U.S. in 1985.

Japan began providing financial assistance to population and FP activities in 1969 with a donation to IPPF and provided its first financial support to UNFPA in 1971 with a contribution of US\$1.5 million. The scale of the contributions to UNFPA has continued to increase and a portion of the total contribution is allocated each year for IPPF. The amount to be earmarked for IPPF activities out of this

Continuing Support

Contributions of the Japanese government to UNFPA in millions of U.S. dollars.



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

year's contribution has yet to be decided but it will be higher than the US\$15.9 million allocated last year.

Japan remains committed to assisting population activities around the world and views its contributions to UNFPA and IPPF as effective means to help developing countries come to terms with health and social welfare problems. The country also actively assists population and FP activities on a bilateral basis through such channels as technical assistance.

Bilateral Support

Bilateral support for population and FP provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was also increased this year to mark ¥1.215 billion (US\$9.95 million at an exchange rate of ¥122 to US\$1), up 4.4% from fiscal 1992. Population and FP activities in nine countries will receive technical support through JICA in fiscal 1993: Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. The agency will also sponsor an international FP seminar held in Japan this year for which JOICFP is serving as the implementing agency.

One of the highlights of the fiscal 1993 budget was the decision to establish a division for the environment and women in development under JICA's Department of Planning. A strong endorsement of activities to support women and environmental protection in developing countries, the move is also expected to have a positive impact on activities carried out in the closely related field of population and FP.

Bigger Slice of ODA Pie for NGOs

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) received a strong endorsement by the Japanese government on March 31 when it passed the fiscal 1993 (April 1, 1993 - March 31, 1994) budget authorizing a significant increase in official development assistance (ODA) to NGOs. While the total budget for ODA increased by 6.5% in the budget, the proportion allocated for NGOs was considerably higher. Perceived as recognition of the effective activities conducted by NGOs in developing countries, the increase in ODA affects domestic NGOs working abroad as well as local NGOs in developing countries.

One of the grants affecting NGOs that received a large increase was the Small-scale Grant Assistance (SSGA) administered directly by Japanese ambassadors in developing countries. Consisting of grants of about ¥5 million (US\$41,000 at an exchange rate of ¥122 to US\$1) for each project, the SSGA funds are provided in the form of equipment and materials to NGOs, local governments or institutions by the ambassador for community-based projects in such fields as primary health care, women in development and agriculture.

In total, the amount of funds for all SSGA grants was increased to ¥1 billion (US\$8.2 million). In terms of Japanese yen, the figure marks a significant increase of 43% from the 1992 figure of ¥700 million.

However, in terms of U.S. dollars, the figure is dramatically higher. With the change in official exchange rates from ¥129 in 1992 to ¥122 for US\$1 in 1993, the amount of increase in dollars is equivalent to a 52% increase in SSGA funds since ¥700 million was worth US\$5.4 million in 1992.

The total amount provided by the government in subsidies to Japanese NGOs working in the international cooperation field also increased in the new budget from ¥340 million (US\$2.6 million at ¥129 to US\$1) to ¥440 million (US\$3.6 million at ¥122 to US\$1).

VDIA Scheme

In addition to the increase in ODA, the government approved the establishment of an information center in Tokyo in autumn this year. To be called the "ODA Communication Plaza," the center will provide information to the general public about ODA.

Meanwhile, under the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Japanese NGOs are receiving funds collected from 20% of interest gained on VDIA accounts held by members of the public to support local NGO activities in developing countries. In fiscal 1992, a total of ¥2.4 billion (US\$20 million at ¥122 to US\$1) was collected from 10.45 million VDIA accounts for distribution in fiscal 1993.

Inspiring Behavior Changes

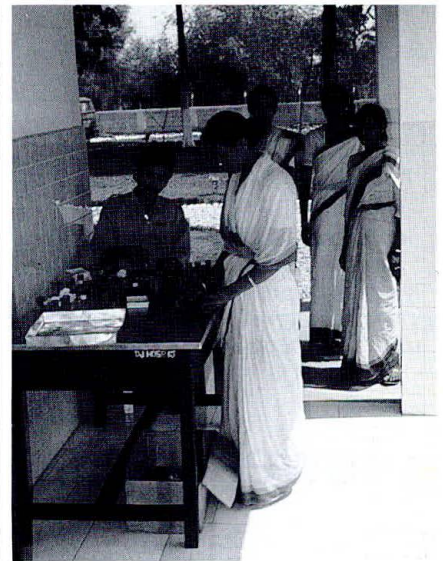
A JOICFP team dispatched to the Dooars district of West Bengal, India, were told that the promotion of parasite control (PC) activities paves the way for improving family welfare at the community level. In discussions with the team, Dr. D.N. Chatterjee, director, Integrated Parasite Control and Family Welfare Project, explained that people living and working in the tea gardens used to have little awareness of health and welfare issues. However, the project had motivated workers and their families to become involved in health promotion activities, he said.

The project, which was launched in May 1991, is being implemented by the Dooars Branch of the Indian Tea Association (DBITA) with the support of the government of India, UNFPA and UNICEF. Taking in 125 tea estates of the DBITA and covering a target population of 450,000 people, the project

is primarily aimed at promoting child spacing among the people of the tea estates.

Parasite control was selected as a partner to family planning in view of the high parasite infestation rates in the project area. For the estate children aged 14 years and under, the parasite infection rate is 81.4%. An effect of poor environmental sanitation, the parasites had not been controlled prior to the project due to the lack of awareness of health issues among the people of the estates. At present an average of 27.9% of households have latrines, while more than half use unsafe water sources.

The main aims of the JOICFP mission, which was in India from March 8 - 16, were to assist with the analysis of the baseline survey, offer advice in the analysis of the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey and to provide training in PC techniques for project staff and garden medical officers. Comprising Dr. Muneo Yokogawa, professor emeritus, Chiba



Mothers' club members learn PC.

University, and Takaaki Hara, director, Research and Study Department, Japan Association of Parasite Control, the team was assisted in the training course by the project director. Chatterjee, who attended the APCO Training Course in Bangkok in 1992, had laid much of the groundwork for the mission by sharing his knowledge with project personnel.

Mothers' Clubs

During their stay, the two experts attended a one-day training for members of the mothers' clubs. The clubs, which have been fostered in each estate under the project, are playing an active role in health promotion. During the session, the women were trained in subjects such as FP, oral rehydration therapy and PC. In comments to the team, the women said that the project was very meaningful for the people of the estates who offered their full cooperation.

The mission learned that the mothers' club system has also brought other positive benefits for the women of the estates. One of the spin-off effects of motivating women to work in groups has been to increase their self-esteem. Although only about 20% of the women are literate, most have taken a keen interest in gaining new knowledge, particularly concerning ways to raise the standard of living on the estates.

Noting the positive impact of the project on the people, Chatterjee commented that the project cannot succeed without community participation. Indicating a strong belief in the benefits of the project, he said that he hoped that it would be extended by the government after its five-year implementation period ends.

A Call for Action in Nepal

Omer Ertur, UNFPA country director for Nepal, spoke to JOICFP NEWS on April 2 in Nepal, where JOICFP is implementing the UNFPA-supported "Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women" in cooperation with the Family Planning Association of Nepal. Below are highlights of his comments.

In Nepal, poverty and rapid population growth increase pressure on the available resources. To find food, fuel and shelter, communities are forced into unsustainable practices. Poor use of agricultural land, farming on steep and fragile soils and poor water management mean that thousands of hectares of cropland are being threatened. Sooner or later the lives of many people in Nepal will be affected in a very negative way.

During the past decade, Nepal has made some recognizable attempts to tackle the issue of population growth. Many population and family planning-related arrangements have been made in various line ministries such as the health and education ministries.

The country went through two phases of population policies and programs — the population policies of 1984 and 1991. Within these policy frameworks one can find various arrangements — and later

rearrangements — of institutions. But, I worry when such restructuring efforts and rearrangements are made with no identifiable political commitment to the mobilization of internally and externally available resources to curtail Nepal's population growth, which is one of the highest in Asia.

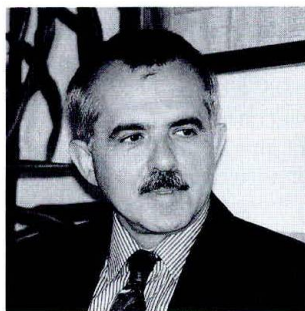
In the near past and present, there have been various statements of commitment to control Nepal's population growth. However, evidence indicates that no substantive action has yet been taken to seriously solve this severe barrier to the country's development.

Under the new democratic political reality, the people of this country deserve special attention to the issue of population. Without special efforts to mobilize mass programs to

solve population growth, Nepal's planned development will not materialize.

The future of Nepal clearly depends on realization of this issue, and upon resolution with serious conviction and action.

If all of us shout loud enough and long enough, maybe our major concern — that a development program without a population program is doomed from the beginning — will be heard. Hopefully, many concerned voices will reverberate throughout this beautiful land so that some serious action to curtail population growth will be taken.



Omer Ertur

The Power of Many Women's Voices

Creating equality of opportunity between men and women in the development of cooperatives was the theme of the Asia Pacific Conference on Gender Planning in Cooperatives, held in Tokyo from March 1 - 6. Attended by researchers and representatives of cooperatives, UN agencies and related organizations, the conference featured presentations by experts and discussions on ways to reach women in program planning and strategies to apply when planning for gender integration in cooperatives. JOICFP NEWS spoke to three of the invited experts on women in development at the conference. Below are outlines of their interviews.

Towards Gender Integration

Katarina Apelqvist, chairwoman, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Women's Committee

Women were involved when the cooperative movement was started. They thought that since the cooperative movement is based on the idea of democracy and equality that they should be involved. But quite soon they discovered that they were more or less omitted from decision-making functions. Therefore, the Women's Guild was established. It was active and lobbying up until 1965 when it dissolved itself. One of the conditions under which it was dissolved was that there be a specialized women's committee — the ICA Women's Committee.

The ICA Women's Committee is an expertise group. As women, we see ourselves as experts in women's situations, conditions, skills and values, and as representatives. We are initiators and a lobbying group, consultancy group and advisory body to the ICA, and to the cooperative movement as a whole.

When I look at the cooperative movement, I believe the goal is to have gender-integrated cooperatives. But in many countries this is not possible due to religious, traditional or socioeconomic constraints. Therefore, I always talk about the absolute necessity of women's groups and women's networks. Women must come together and among themselves define their values and skills. In doing so, they will gain self-esteem and become more assertive. Without this process — the networking of informal and formal women's groups — we cannot achieve gender integration, or equality between the women and men. Because if

women do not have self-esteem, have not defined their own values and skills and are not assertive, they will fall back into a subordinate role.

Men also have to go through a process — they have to come together and analyze

their roles. They have to understand clearly that having a dominant role is not only connected with privilege, but that it also has many disadvantages — suicide, alcoholism, heart failure. In Sweden, research has shown that men are becoming more aware of the disadvantages of the male role. Figures on men's participation in

child rearing are most encouraging and research shows that fewer men are willing to sacrifice their families for their jobs.

At the moment, I think many women are doubtful about sharing power on men's conditions. The whole labor market is based on male values and not all women will accept to share power on these terms — and they should not anyway. Accepting power on men's conditions should never be a goal. But women have to accept it as a sub-goal or they will not get into the boardrooms. Neither can a woman go further on her own. Women need to organize, to get the support of other women. We also need quotas — because one woman alone in a decision-making body is made invisible and not heard.

It is a wonderful experience for men and women to meet as equals, to discuss and exchange ideas. It is real dynamism. Research tells us that mixed sex groups are much more effective, make much better decisions, and that decisions are implemented with much more ease. [7]



Katarina Apelqvist

Joining Hands in India

Ela Bhatt, executive director, Self-employed Women's Association (SEWA), India.

There were two things clear in my mind when I started SEWA in 1972. One was that in the Indian economy 90% of employment generates from the unorganized or informal sector and that these people are outside any kind of labor legislation or social security scheme. I realized that unless the labor of the informal sector is brought into the mainstream of the labor movement, there cannot be a real labor movement. The other thing that concerned me was the women's movement. Eighty percent of women in India are rural, poor and illiterate — yet economically active. I realized that it is these women who should be playing a leading role in the women's movement in India.

SEWA Cooperatives

SEWA is basically a trade union. Today, we have a membership of 100,000 women and 61 cooperatives in five Hindi-speaking states. One-third of members are Muslim and one-third are harijan. There are three categories of members: home-based producers either working on their own as artisans, or working as piece-rate workers for a contractor; vendors and hawkers; and providers of services.

We also have five kinds of cooperatives: a cooperative bank and dairy, tree grower, craft and labor cooperatives. Our strategy is for unions and cooperatives to take joint action. It would be suicidal for a union to take action alone in India since workers in the informal sector are not protected by labor laws and there is so much surplus labor. But combined with cooperatives, particularly production cooperatives, unions can have bargaining power and can strengthen existing employment and create new employment.

I have found that when women organize on the basis of work — outside their roles as mothers or wives — two things happen. One, their own self-esteem grows and for the first time they realize

Seeds of Change

Sandy Stephens, regional sociologist and women in development officer, Asia and the Pacific, FAO



Most of the farmers in Asia are women.

that they are workers, producers and contributors to the economy of the country. Second, integration happens, and for a while, the women forget about differences in caste, religion and language, because work is a common factor. I am not saying that the women are ready to marry off their daughters to men of another religion, but they are ready to eat, suffer and enjoy together because they have gone through that process of change. I am a great believer in organizing women — there is no shortcut or alternative.

The poor in India need a package of support services including banking and continued credit, healthcare, child care, training of various kinds, housing and a good communication system. We are providing these services in SEWA. We see healthcare, child care, insurance and housing as work security because health is the first and foremost capital that the poor have and it needs to be strengthened.

The major challenges for SEWA are how to remain small and yet be big. The only way to achieve this is to organize ourselves and build up the grassroots. Only then will the women have a chance to play a bigger role in society. Women in India and other developing countries may be illiterate, but they are not ignorant. They have such a rich wealth of tradition and experience. They are also very sensible and have thought about the solutions to their problems. But power is so distant for such women that they feel at a loss. If the decision-making power and resources are brought down as close as possible to the people, women can have a big role to play — and they will play. [7]



Ela Bhatt

Economic status has a large influence on women's fertility. If women are literate and have access to income, fertility goes down quite dramatically. Once women start earning money, their mind-set changes, they get new self-esteem and their priorities change. They see that they can be somebody,

their own important member of the family, that they can make decisions on their own behalf, and that they are not just a wife, somebody else's property, or their children's mother. This has a big impact on their fertility control.

At FAO we emphasize women's access to income. We do not call programs for women "income-generating" programs, because men's programs are never called that. They are called business development, entrepreneurial development or management training programs.

There are plenty of "cute" little income-generating projects for women around. But the truth is that they usually do not make much income and end up pushing women onto the sidelines.

I did some costing, for example, of a sericulture project for women in Thailand and found that the women were getting only 3 baht, about 15 U.S. cents, per day. They could earn much more if they grew a crop that they could sell in the market.

If the aim of a project is to make money, and after all it is money that is going to make women want to reduce their fertility, then the economic viability of that project has to be looked at and women have to be trained in business development, entrepreneurship and management. Men would never accept a sericulture project that gave them 3 baht a day — they would laugh at it. But these things are offered to women as women in development projects. It is not development at all — it is anti-development.

In agriculture there is a

lot of potential for women to make money, hard money. But these activities are not being done.

For an agricultural project to work, we have to do a soil analysis and see which crops will grow well in that area. There has to be a scientific study and a feasibility study based on economics done. Scientific and technological innovations must be considered and resources must be mobilized. Child care centers are also very important. We found that in Vietnam when child care centers were provided, women's productivity went up by 60% because they did

not have to stop work all the time.

There needs to be completely new thinking about women's participation in agriculture. Women participating in agriculture are farmers, not housewives or farm wives. In many countries women cannot get credit from banks, cannot be members of agricultural

cooperatives and do not understand many technologies because they have not been exposed to them. Only 0.7% of the agricultural extension workers in Asian countries are women. Men working as extension workers are notorious for not contacting women. They think of a farmer as a man and talk to him about everything. Sometimes the woman even sends them to the man because they think that the husband is the farmer.

Lots of the work that women have to do, such as housework or collecting dung in the field, is said to be "natural" for women. But it is not natural — not biological. Women only have to bear children and breast-feed. Most other work can be shared by men. If women are going to become more part of the economy, men have to be prepared to become more of the household social unit. Men will not do it willingly, but they can be forced to some extent. Fetching water, chopping firewood — there are lots of things that men can do that would not humiliate them among their peers. And I think they will be more likely to do them if they see the women as economically active and contributing to society. [7]



Sandy Stephens

A New Beginning

One sewing machine can bring economic independence to 20 women in Bangladesh, a JOICFP mission was told during a recent visit to the country. With an independent income, women are not only in a better position to take care of their health and that of their families, but are also more likely to have more self-esteem and take a more active role within the family and community.

Empowering women through the creation of support networks is one of the key goals of the "Integrated Family Development Program" (IP) being implemented by the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) in cooperation with JOICFP. Part of the regional, four-year, UNFPA-supported "Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health Project with Special Focus on Women," the IP is being implemented in two pilot areas with target populations of 30,000 in each area.

The areas, Dhalia in Feni District, and Ghorasal in Narsingdi District, are both low-socioeconomic, rural areas with high populations of young people. About 45% of the population of Dhalia and 39.4% of Ghorasal are under the age of 15. Accordingly, activities for adolescents, particularly young women, have been given high priority under the IP, which is strengthening youth groups as a means to motivate young people.

Integrating mass parasite control

activities with family planning (FP) service delivery and maternal and child health (MCH) care, the IP includes a number of backup activities such as IEC programs; education and training on health, sanitation, nutrition and conservation of resources; skill development training; adult literacy; income-generating activities and management skill training. While women are the main target recipients for FP/MCH services, the IP is also aimed at motivating them to take an active role in program promotion. A family development center is to be established in each village under the IP and will function as a coordination center for activities as well as a meeting place for women to receive education, training and to take part in income-generating activities.

To ensure the success of the women in development activities being promoted under the IP, efforts are being made to secure male involvement in the activities. The IP aims to encourage positive behavior change away from traditional practices and foster cooperative efforts involving both men and women.

A pioneering, grassroots organization, the FPAB was established in 1953. Working closely with other nongovernmental organizations involved in the field of FP, FPAB is promoting the IP with an



Power in numbers for Bangladeshi women.

eye to sustainability. Under the IP plan, agreed upon on March 18, FPAB is aiming to achieve program sustainability through quality service provision, effective demand creation for services and institutional sustainability by fostering community ownership. 7

African Development High on Agenda

The groundwork was laid for the forthcoming Tokyo Conference on African Development during a preparatory meeting, held at the United Nations University (UNU) Headquarters in Tokyo from March 17 - 18. Attended by representatives of 25 African countries, 12 donor countries, 12 international organizations and institutions as well as observers, the meeting provided an opportunity for participants to exchange views on the organization of themes for the October conference and establish a drafting committee for a Tokyo Declaration on African development.

The October conference is being organized by the government of Japan in collaboration with the UN and Global Coalition for Africa. A ministerial-level meeting, the conference is expected to lead to the adoption of the Tokyo Declaration. The meeting is intended to address the emerging trends in the evolution of African countries, focusing on the progress of democratization, economic reforms, development strategies including population and environmental policies and institution building. Officials of 46 African countries are expected to attend the conference.

Meanwhile, the March meeting focused on themes to be discussed in October: political and economic reforms in Africa; Asian experiences and African development; economic development through the activities of the private sector; emergency relief and development; and regional cooperation and integration in Africa.

Better Quality of Life for Women

Dr. S. K. Alok, Country Director, UNFPA, Bangladesh, spoke with JOICFP NEWS about women in Bangladesh on March 18 in Dhaka. Below is an outline of his comments.

We believe that without the empowerment of women there can really be no family welfare at all. The education, status and employment of women are the basic foundations on which the edifice of a nation would stand.

Female literacy and female employment are the keys to success in FP — to enable women to choose the number of children they want and the time when they want to have them. This freedom of choosing the number and spacing of children and the power to do so is the basic freedom from which all other freedoms flow.

The status of women in Bangladesh or in the whole of the subcontinent is low. Deprived of education and any means of independent income, they totally depend on fathers, husbands and later on sons. The custom of *purdah* confines them within the four walls of their households. These are barriers which stand in the way to development of women and for that matter in the way of development of the whole society. So, any attempts at increasing the skills of the women, the literacy of women and the cash-earning capacity of women will go a long way in raising the status of women and, hence, will improve the quality of life of women and consequently lead to lasting family welfare.



S.K. Alok

Wheels for Outreach Team

A preventive healthcare team in Michoacan State in Mexico will soon be mobile thanks to the donation of a reconditioned chest X-ray van from two Japanese non-governmental organizations. Renovated and stocked with equipment and items such as microscopes, contraceptive supplies and IEC materials, the van will be used by personnel of the Family Planning Foundation of Mexico (MEXFAM) to take preventive healthcare and education to people working in factories in the urban areas as well as rural people of the state.

One of the main uses of the X-ray equipment in the van will be to provide health checkups for tuberculosis which is relatively widespread in Michoacan. The team staffing the van will include a medical doctor to enable the provision of clinical contraceptives and family planning (FP) consultations. In addition,

all services will be provided on a fee-charged basis to promote the self-reliance of MEXFAM's FP activities.

The van, which was shipped from Japan on April 9, is expected to be put into service in Michoacan State in mid-May. Reconditioned and donated by the Tochigi Branch of the Tuberculosis Prevention Association and Tochigi Health Service Association, the van was formerly used by the two NGOs in Tochigi Prefecture in Japan. JOICFP has



applied for funds from the NGO Assistance Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs toward the cost of shipment.

Other medical equipment donated to MEXFAM by Japanese NGOs and through the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme of the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is expected to boost self-reliance and the quality of health services provided by the organization in Mexico. [7]

Investments in Health Pay Off, Says World Bank

Armeane Choksi, vice president, Human Resources Development and Operations Policy, World Bank, was the main speaker at a seminar organized by the World Bank and the Japan Society for International Development in Tokyo on April 6. Below are some highlights of his presentation.

There is something very special about public investments in basic health, education, nutrition and family planning. They complement and interact with each other in a manner which raises the economic return to any one of them the more there is of another. For example, educated women are more likely to use available FP services, which in itself can reduce the cost of providing services.

Investing in human resources is good economics. It leads to higher income and more economic growth — and to more education and better health of this and the next generation. It is not just the soft-hearted who should be concerned with improving health, education, FP, sanitation and other programs. It is the hard-headed as well.

Cost-effective Healthcare

In health it costs a lot more to save a life through hospital care and other curative services than through private and community services. Preventive services such as immunizations, and community services such as antimalarial spraying, are much more cost-effective in saving lives. But where does most public money for health go? In developing countries in the early 1980s, between 70-85% went to curative services — and thus much less to those services that are both more cost-effective and more likely to reach the poor.

World Bank lending for human development programs increased from an average of US\$1.1 billion per year in (fiscal years) 1987-89 to US\$3 billion in 1990-92. For the same years, the number of projects increased from 26 to 45. Current investment lending for human resource development has quintupled since the early 1980s — from 5% of total Bank lending for fiscal 1981-83 to 14% in fiscal 1990-1992.

Within three years after approval of lending specifically for health programs, the Bank moved quickly to become the largest lender for developing country health projects. Health is the fastest growing area of Bank lending — Bank lending for health has tripled since fiscal 1986, and in fiscal 1991, lending amounted to more than US\$1.5 billion. Bank funding for population, health and nutrition is projected to rise to US\$2.5 billion in fiscal 1995. One half of all population, health and nutrition projects since 1980 were approved during the last three years.

Let the Sun Shine In

The use of solar energy as an appropriate technology for developing countries was the theme of the regular meeting of the Council on Population Education, held at JOICFP on March 24. Noting the non-polluting and low-

cost benefits of solar-energy sources and the advanced level of Japanese solar technology, participants expressed regret that the Japanese government is not taking a more active stance in promoting solar energy projects in developing countries through its bilateral assistance programs.

The reluctance of the Japanese government contrasts markedly with the active promotion of solar energy sources through European and U.S. official development assistance (ODA) programs. The biggest producer of solar panels in the world and the country with the most advanced solar energy technology, Japan is often the source of equipment for these projects being promoted by other countries.

While other countries have not been deterred by past mistakes, Japan has been hesitant to promote solar energy projects out of fear that it will repeat the 1983 failure of its solar energy project in Pakistan. Noting the highly advanced level of modern solar energy technology and the prominence of Japan in this field, the participants called for Japanese ODA to be further committed to solar energy programs in developing countries. [7]

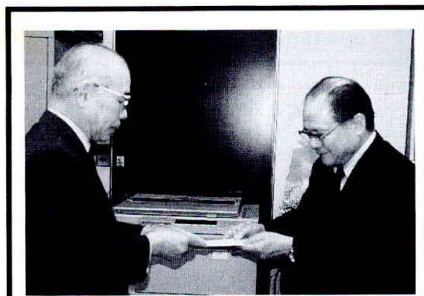


Photo courtesy of Mainichi Shimbun

Fujikazu Horigome, managing director, Social Welfare Foundation, Mainichi Shimbun (left), hands over a donation to Yasuo Kon, deputy executive director, JOICFP, on March 22 to support activities of the Integrated Project (IP). The third such contribution received from the foundation, the grant of ¥500,000 (US\$4,100 at an exchange rate of ¥122 to US\$1) will go toward shipment costs for reconditioned bicycles sent to IP areas in developing countries.

Voice of Voices

By Chojiro Kunii

South-to-South Cooperation

In early February this year, my old friend Dr. Haryono Suyono visited JOICFP. Dr. Haryono has been working tirelessly under President Soeharto to promote FP in Indonesia for over 20 years and recently became the state minister for population in charge of BKKBN.

The purpose of his visit was to discuss future projects under which the experiences and know-how of Indonesia's FP program will be transferred to neighboring countries. The projects are part of the South-to-South cooperation scheme endorsed by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in January.

Integrated Project

The Integrated Project (IP) of JOICFP, which was implemented in Sumatra with the cooperation of the Indonesian government 15 years ago, achieved great success within just a few years with the active participation of the community people. The project, which began with parasite control activities followed by FP and maternal and child healthcare activities, eventually led to community development.

This regional strategy was also supported by several branches of the Japan Association of Health Service and the Hoken Kaikan Group. The project is still being promoted smoothly under the IP concept in Jakarta where mass parasite control activities are conducted on school children on a fee-charging basis. The activities have the full backing of the education authorities who requested an expansion of the project.

Government Support

Indonesia's South-to-South cooperation scheme is being promoted under an official agreement signed between the Indonesian and Japanese governments. To ensure the success of the projects, JOICFP will provide full cooperation to multilateral and bilateral agencies.

The IP in Indonesia is now being promoted under the guidance of Dr. Firman Lubis of Yayasan Kusuma Buana and has much to offer other Asian countries in the way of applicable experiences. It is my hope that the success of the IP can be replicated in other countries through the exchange of experiences. 

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Seminar on Family Planning for Senior Officers

The government of Japan will conduct an international seminar on family planning (FP) in Japan as part of its technical cooperation program for developing countries for fiscal 1993 (April 1, 1993 - March 31, 1994). The seminar will focus on effective administration of FP and maternal and child health (MCH) programs at the central and local levels by calling on Japan's experience in this field, and will encourage mutual sharing of relevant experiences and knowledge.

Date: August 17 - September 12, 1993

Participants: 15 senior FP officers to be selected from the countries of Bangladesh, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, St. Lucia, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam

Deadline for applications to the Embassy of Japan: June 30, 1993

The seminar will be executed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with JOICFP. For further information, contact the Embassy of Japan in nominated countries through the relevant government agency.

DIARY

Ten representatives of 10 countries attended the Seminar on Parasite Control Administration for Senior Officers on Feb. 1 - 22. The seminar was supported by the Japan Cooperation Agency (JICA) and organized by Japan Association of Parasite Control in cooperation with JOICFP.

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Daniel E. Pellegrom, president, and **Dr. Türkiz Gököl**, regional vice president, Asia and Near East, Pathfinder International, visited JOICFP on Feb. 25 to exchange information.

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Dr. Hirofumi Ando, director, Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP to exchange information while in Japan from Feb. 28 - Mar. 1.

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Three students from the School of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, visited JOICFP to attend a one-day seminar on FP activities in Japan on Mar. 3.

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Dr. Kotsaythoune Phimmasone, chief of planning, National MCH Institute, Laos, visited JOICFP on Mar. 3 to exchange information.

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Dr. Muneo Yokogawa, professor emeritus, Chiba University, and **Takaaki Hara**, director, Research and Study Dept., JAPC, were in India from Mar. 7 - 17 to provide technical assistance for the UNFPA and UNICEF-supported project implemented by Doars Branch of the Indian Tea Association.

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JOICFP Program Officer Ryoichi Suzuki was in Bangladesh from Mar. 11 - 20 to finalize the proposal for the "Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women" implemented by the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh.

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A six-member study team from China headed by **Dr. Xie Zhimin**, director, Schistosomiasis and Endemic Diseases Control Office of Jiangxi Province, attended a one-day seminar on the PC movement in Japan at JOICFP on Mar. 24 while in Japan from Mar. 20 - April 2.

JOICFP Women's Health and Status Series

A New Animated Film

Twin Lotus

13 min., Color/English, Chinese



A newlywed couple is just beginning to live together in a beautiful riverside district in southern China. One day the wife collapses from illness while at work.

Women today must learn about their bodies and be intent upon maintaining their health so they can lead more self-reliant lives.

This film, from the Women's Health and Status Series, is a Japan-China joint production that uses an animation technique based on a traditional paper-cutting method.

Distributed by

Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

Yoyogi Center Bldg., 57-1 Yoyogi 1-chome,

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Telex: J34799 JTCINBTH

16mm VTR (Beta, VHS/NTSC, PAL, SECAM)

5,555,555,555

The world's population hit 5,555,555,555 people at 3:13:53 GMT on April 15, according to the Population Clock II.

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