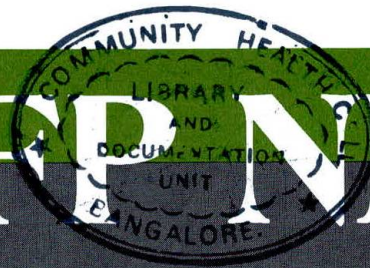


JOICFP NEWS



Towards a Global Partnership

Eminent Persons' Meeting in Tokyo outlines action in Tokyo Declaration ahead of ICPD

"The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is the last opportunity for the international community in this century to consider progress so far and to decide what needs to be done in the area of population to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development," said Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA. A keynote speaker at the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Population and Development in Tokyo on January 26, Sadik said that the ICPD "will allow us to ensure that individuals are at the center of all our activities and decisions." Sadik, who is also the secretary general of the ICPD to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September, called for deeper commitment and further assistance to the population field.

The meeting, held on January 26 and 27 in preparation for the ICPD, produced the Tokyo Declaration titled "Towards a Global Partnership in Population and Development." Chaired by Dr. Taro Nakayama, former foreign minister of Japan, the meeting was held over two days and included keynote speeches and four discussion sessions led by eminent persons concerned with population and development. The meeting was held under the auspices of UNFPA, the UN University and the Japan



Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa welcomes participants to the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Population and Development in Tokyo.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was attended by approximately 200 people.

Addressing the participants and audience with a welcome speech, Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by UNFPA and IPPF in the population field. "Japan is determined to further strengthen its efforts in the field of population in continuous cooperation with other countries by taking a comprehensive approach that includes not only direct cooperation in population and FP efforts, but also cooperation for the provision of basic health and medical care to mothers and children, and for the empowerment of women," he said.

The level of Japan's official development assistance (ODA) was one of the issues mentioned in a keynote speech by Robert

McNamara, former president, World Bank. "Japan is devoting a lower percentage of GNP to ODA to developing countries than other OECD nations, excluding the U.S.," said McNamara. "In relation to GNP in 1992, Japan contributed 0.30% compared to 0.48% for the others." He added that while Japan's ODA as a percentage of GNP will continue to fall far below most other OECD countries, its income per capita is 21% greater.

Inable to attend the conference, Prime Minister of Norway Gro Harlem Brundtland sent a keynote speech in which she explained that the journey toward sustainable societies is a transition from quantity to quality. "In Cairo, we must deal with population as an issue of human development," she said. "Our agenda must include education for all, enhancement of the status of women,

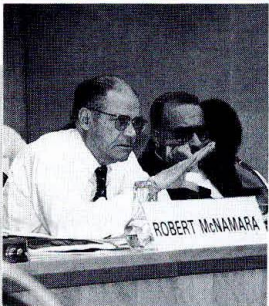


Nafis Sadik speaks.

A Voice for the People

improved public health and ensured universal access to FP services before the end of the century." Brundtland added, "The future lies not in arming but in educating a healthy population."

The discussion sessions, chaired by Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, began with a lead-off speech by Paul Ehrlich, Bing Professor of Population Studies, Stanford University, who



Robert McNamara

provided a description of sustainable development and reminded the audience of the earth's rapidly depleting resources. Jeremia Tabai, secretary general, the South Pacific Forum, also led a discussion by

outlining the effects of internal and international migration. In her lead-off speech, prominent Indian economist Devaki Jain noted that women's issues within population discourse fall into two streams: one that sees woman as a subject and a second that sees woman as an object. "Focusing on women is quite different from listening to women," she said.

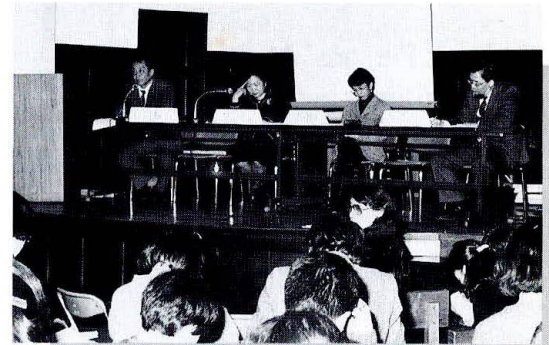
The second day was mainly taken up with discussions on the Tokyo Declaration. A comprehensive document, the declaration includes recommendations on the areas of Population and Sustainable Development; Women's Role in Decision Making; Reproductive Health and FP; Population Distribution and Migration; and South-South Cooperation. In the second section, the declaration spells out clear goals in the population and development field and outlines action to be taken to achieve these goals.

In its call to action, the declaration urges developing countries to increase their investment in health, education and other aspects of social development. It goes further to call on developed countries to provide assistance specially earmarked for social development in developing countries burdened by debt and structural adjustment programs and to raise awareness and mobilize public support for such assistance. "We encourage the international community to suggest ways and means of stimulating sustained economic growth which will be consistent with efforts towards sustainable development," the declaration states.

Two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) joined hands to organize a conference in Tokyo on January 15 aimed at voicing the opinions of ordinary citizens on the issues of environment, population and women ahead of the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Population and Development on January 26 and 27. Dubbed the "Ordinary Persons' Meeting on Environment, Population and Women," the meeting produced a declaration with a series of concrete proposals for action for the eminent persons' meeting.

The declaration produced at the meeting includes specific proposals for action for the Japanese government, which participants agreed had been slow to respond to needs of women in the field of

reproductive health and reproductive rights. Among these proposals is a call to respect women's reproductive health and reproductive rights in implementing population policies and abolish the Japanese criminal abortion law and Eugenic Protection Law and replace them with laws that protect women's reproductive health and reproductive rights. The declaration also urges the government to integrate the opinions of citizens' groups, particularly the opinions of



The panel discussion in progress.

Gearing NGOs for ICPD

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are being encouraged to take an active part in the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September, according to Jyoti Shankar Singh, director, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, who provided a briefing for NGOs on January 31 in Tokyo. Offering a general overview of the conference and the preparatory activities that have been conducted over the last three years, Singh briefly explained the draft program of action of the conference and the major goals proposed by the document.

Noting the active part already played by NGOs in the preparatory meetings and in contributions to the document, Singh said that 4,000-6,000 representatives from NGOs are expected to attend the ICPD. He added that some NGO representatives will be able to participate in the conference itself as observers and emphasized that the NGO Forum will be held concurrently as an opportunity for NGOs to network among themselves.

women, in its report to present at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), to be held in Cairo in September. It further urges the government to send members of women's NGOs to the preparatory meeting in New York and to the ICPD. The final version of the declaration was handed to the ICPD Secretariat in Tokyo on January 31.

Attended by 300 people, the meeting was organized by the People's Forum 2001, Japan, an NGO concerned with environment-related issues, and the newly formed Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94. Professor Hiroko Hara, Ochanomizu College, an active member of the women's network took part in the eminent persons' meeting.

In a message to the meeting, Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, assured the participants that women's health and women's rights will be critical issues in the discussions at Cairo.

Providing an outline of the ICPD for participants, Catherine S. Pierce, chief, Women, Population and Development Branch, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, noted that emphasis is being placed on women for the conference. "The 1994 conference seeks to ensure that all population and development policies will be grounded in the principle of gender equality and, that such policies will promote the empowerment of women and eliminate gender disparities in opportunities and choices," she said.

Basics of FP Promotion

Joseph Van Arendonk, deputy executive director, UNFPA, spoke to JOICFP NEWS on January 14. Below is an outline of his interview.

Based on experience, UNFPA has identified the critical points of success for a family planning (FP) program. First and foremost is the commitment of the political leadership of a country. This political commitment should be very public and consistent over time. Second, services must be readily available and of very good quality. Specifically, the clinics should be clean and the workers well-trained — especially in the area of counseling.

Third, services must be accessible. This means that people have to be informed that the service is there and be informed of the importance of making the visit. Also, in a physical sense, services should not be available far from where people live.

Fourth, women should have the ability to decide for themselves about their fertility. However, FP should be a common decision in

so far as possible and therefore education for men is extremely important.

Another important element to success is to have proper service statistics built into the FP program, so that you know what the problem is when people drop out. This also provides a continuous evaluation of your program.

Of course, there are other aspects of management such as good supervision and control. You also have to take care that your logistics work properly.

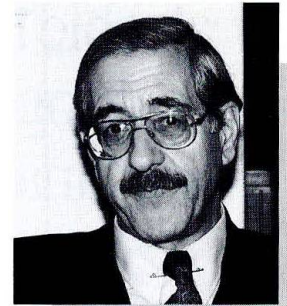
The ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) will be an extremely important opportunity for the world to reflect on population policy at the global or national level and to give it the proper priority in terms of sustainable development over time. Although the Earth Summit made sustainable development the objective for the year 2000 and beyond, we have to realize that this goal is only viable if it is linked with an appropriate population policy.

It will be important at Cairo to see what has

to be done by individual governments and individuals in terms of population, and what governments at national and international levels have to make available in order to realize

that process. I hope Cairo will try to identify where we are at this moment, where we want to be in the middle of next century, and what this will imply in terms of resources.

In population, we can still see the same kinds of challenges we saw 25 years ago. This is because once you introduce contraception, the issue of the role of women immediately follows. If you make contraceptives available, you are going to change the relationship between men and women. You are also going to change the whole concept of family, and by doing that, you are bringing about changes in the fabric of society.



Joseph Van Arendonk

Women on the Agenda

Reproductive health and reproductive rights for women was one of the key issues discussed at the first Symposium on Women and Health, held in Tokyo on January 14. Catherine Pierce, chief, Women, Population and Development Branch, Technical Evaluation Division, UNFPA, paved the way for an active panel discussion by first clarifying the concept of

reproductive health and reproductive rights for the mostly Japanese audience of 100 people. Noting that the concept is not well understood, Pierce stressed that it is vital to listen to women's voices to ensure that family planning (FP) programs are effectively promoted from a reproductive health and reproductive rights point of view. Pierce also provided the audience with a brief introduction to the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September.

The symposium was the first to be organized by the Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94, a newly formed Japanese non-governmental organization (NGO). The NGO, comprised of about 200 members, was formed with the aim of ensuring that the voices of Japanese women are heard at Cairo. The network had provided an outline of its aims prior to the January 14 meeting at a press conference held on January 10 in Tokyo.

Joining Pierce as a panelist at the January 14 meeting was Yayoi Aoki, social commentator and activist. Aoki noted that while Japanese women are encouraged to have more children to raise the present total fertility

rate of 1.50, women in developing countries are pressured to have fewer children to lower birthrates. She stated, however, that the only way to tackle population problems is from the viewpoint of women's reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Meanwhile, Akiko Nagaoki, member, Women's Coalition for Anti-Eugenic Protection Law (Soshiren) argued that while women of developing countries are usually the target of population control policy, the basic cause of problems related to population is the mass consumption and mass production pattern of the developed world.

The fourth panelist, Akiko Domoto, member, House of Councilors, called for women to be the main topic at Cairo to ensure that they are not the object of population policies, but are actively involved in finding solutions to population problems. The parliamentarian added that people need to change their value systems to embrace the notion of a borderless world. This concept, she said, should be the starting point for the next century. The two goals of "revival of humanity" and reproductive health and rights should be the axes of change, she added.



Catherine Pierce (second from left) speaks during the panel discussion.

Valuable Lessons in Program Sustainability

Insights into community-based healthcare in Japan left a strong impression on the 14 participants of the 2nd Regional Technical Committee Meeting on Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women. During a field trip to Oami Shirasato Town in Chiba Prefecture, the participants observed some of the health services conducted by government healthcare personnel in cooperation with community volunteers. The close relationship between the public health nurses and community people has enabled the local government to smoothly implement healthcare services on a more cost-effective basis, the participants learned.

The meeting, held January 18 - 22, was attended by representatives from the four countries of Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal and the Philippines where the UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women is being executed by JOICFP. They were joined by participants from China, where the IPPF-assisted Integrated Project is being executed by JOICFP, and Vietnam, where UNFPA has a country program. The participants were



Participants observe MCH guidance activities in Chiba Prefecture.

representatives of government organizations (GOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implementing the respective projects in each country.

During the meeting, participants reviewed project implementation in 1993 and shared experiences. To enhance implementation, they also discussed each country's strategies, work plan, operation, management and monitoring and evaluation scheme for the project for 1994. Participants were introduced to community-

based FP/MCH promotion in Japan in the postwar years by JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon and gained insights into the successful production and sale of IEC materials by the Japan Family Planning Association, a self-reliant NGO.

During discussions, it was noted that the projects had been successfully focused on women and had produced practical, comprehensive strategies to promote the project locally. Problematic areas in the

projects were also highlighted in a set of recommendations produced at the meeting. Among these was a call to conduct needs assessments in communities; place emphasis on motivation and training of women, particularly by promoting literacy; place stress on preventive health activities; establish steering committees at all levels and strengthen collaboration among these and the GOs and NGOs; place emphasis on male involvement; encourage positive relationships between the service providers and community; and promote the sharing of experiences and technical exchange at the regional level.

The field trip to Oami Shirasato Town took the participants to Japan's coast on the Pacific Ocean. Despite the town's urban setting, the team noted that the community spirit was still thriving among the people. During observations of MCH and infant and child development counseling, the participants spoke with women working as health and nutrition promotion volunteers who serve as a pipeline between the people and the municipal government.

Participants noted that the volunteers were mostly drawn from the older generation and were passing on their knowledge to the younger people with children. For the team, this smooth coordination between the town's different generations offered a good model for the effective utilization of available human resources and for promoting program sustainability.



A local nutrition volunteer prepares a meal as participants look on.

Four Perspectives of Family Planning

Four participants of the 2nd Regional Technical Committee Meeting on Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women spoke to JOICFP NEWS on January 22 about the situation regarding health and women in their countries. Below are highlights of the interviews.

Daisy Fallar, provincial family planning coordinator, Batangas Province, the Philippines

Two municipalities in Batangas have been initially selected for the project and we have already finished the pre-implementation stage. This project is aimed at enlightening Philippine women. Since 85% of the people are Roman Catholic, we have to do many things to convince the women about the more effective methods of contraception including the IUD, pills and sterilization.

This meeting has been very productive for me. The issue of sustainability is a very crucial one for the Philippines and I have learned a great deal about how to seek sustainability through the promotion of a community-based project. Before I left to come to Japan, I was talking to the mayors of the two project municipalities who said that they would help us in our efforts.

Shamima Hasan, deputy director, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh

The integrated approach to healthcare is important since piecemeal activities do not yield results quickly. For example, parasite control activities for children will in a very short time improve the health of children. Then people start to consider other issues such as the health of the mother. But if you only provide FP and neglect other health issues, women will lose interest.

We have different strategies to achieve

sustainability. One is the use of steering committees to involve the community and use local resources, people and facilities. These committees are also one of the most important steps to involve women in the project. Our society is a male-dominated one, so when we set up these all-women committees, we call a meeting and involve the men in the selection of the members of the steering committee. Since the men are involved, they cannot object. Each committee has 15 women who are all voluntary members. One of these members is elected each year as a convenor, which means that one person cannot dominate and everyone gets a chance to develop her skills. In this way, if the project continues for 10 years, we will have 10 very well-trained women who can disseminate their know-how.

Dr. Do Trong Hieu, director, Department of MCH/FP, Ministry of Health, Vietnam

The obstacles to FP promotion in Vietnam are primarily a shortage of funds to provide a choice of contraceptive methods and a lack of trained staff and IEC materials. There is also an urgent need for research and follow-up monitoring and supervision.

The FP program chiefly focuses on women. Very recently men's involvement is being encouraged, but acceptance of male methods of contraception is still low. The condom, for example, is not popular in Vietnam and vasectomy was only recently made available. For every 10 women sterilized, there are only three men who undergo vasectomies. Although male sterilization is much easier, women are still the focus of sterilization.

According to the demographic and health survey, more than 60% of women do not want more children because they already have two or three children or more. Women in Vietnam now also want to get married later because they want more independence, especially economically. This is a new idea because in some places women used to get married as young as 10 years old. Now the average age of marriage is 24-25 years and in some places it is 27 years.

The problem of lower reproductive tract infections for women is acute in rural areas. The major cause of this is unhygienic conditions due to the poor water supply, a major problem in Vietnam.

The government has increased its commitment to FP and sharply increased its funds. For example, in 1991 the budget for FP was about 30 billion dong, but in 1994 it will be 210 billion dong. However, in 1994 we will have about 17.5 million women of reproductive age. This means each woman will receive only about US\$1 for FP, which buys about four or five condoms.

Dr. Phonethet Pholsena, director, Birth Spacing Project, and director, Institute of Mother and Child Health, Laos

The birth spacing project is important because it is essential that we improve the health of women and children in Laos, which is a priority of the government. At present, the infant mortality rate is about 123 per 1,000 live births and the maternal mortality rate is about 653 per 100,000 live births.

The total fertility rate is about 6.9. In rural areas, the people are poor and the women work hard while having children almost every year. Under the government's birth spacing policy, the aim is to decrease the number of children to four; space pregnancies by at least two years; promote later marriage up to 18 years for women; and discourage pregnancy after the age of 35.

The birth spacing project focuses on one municipality of Vientiane. Our institute staff conducted a baseline survey and found that the need for contraceptives is very high. Some 86% of married women of reproductive age have unmet needs, while 23.6% are contraceptive users.

The survey also found that women's knowledge of contraceptives is poor. About 53% do not have proper knowledge of the menstrual cycle. Due to this lack of knowledge, they tend to opt for tubal ligation. Therefore, they need to have knowledge of other contraceptive methods.



Improving Services & Promoting Sustainability

A delegation from Taicang County in China was introduced to practical ways to develop fee-charging systems for healthcare services while in Japan from January 24 - February 2. Headed by Duanmu Yiwen, vice president, Family Planning Association of Taicang City, the seven-member team learned various strategies used by Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to seek self-reliance through the provision of quality services on a fee-charged basis.

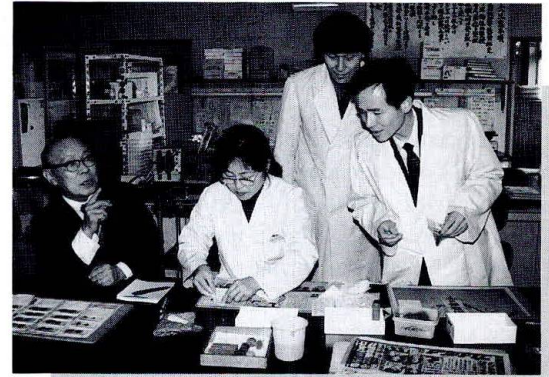
The delegation was in Japan to gain know-how which can be applied to the Taicang Integrated Project (IP) Center. It included IP center personnel, city education and health officials and a project officer of the National IP Steering Committee. The mission was also partly joined by Dr. Huang Boashan, director, International Relations Department, State Family Planning Commission.

Established in 1992, the IP Center is operated by the Family Planning Association of

Taicang City and has been conducting training activities and providing a range of services including FP, healthcare, MCH care and IEC. The center recently launched parasite control (PC) activities with an eye to expanding preventive healthcare to people of all ages on a fee-charged basis.

A PC examination center will be established this spring to initially provide mass fee-charged PC activities to school students. Prior to this, a training seminar will be held in coordination with the health and education bureaus of Taicang City to teach personnel mass examination and treatment techniques.

In Japan, the Chinese were particularly impressed with the strategies employed by the Tokyo Health Service Association and the Japan Family Planning Association, both large self-reliant organizations. During a field trip to Shizuoka, the team was also introduced to the



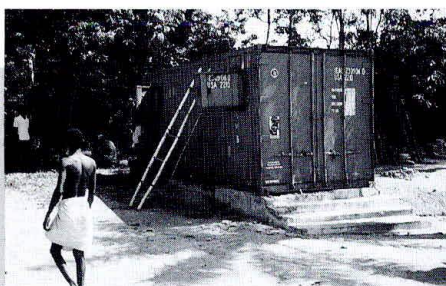
The visitors learn mass parasite examination techniques.

activities of the Shizuoka Health Service Association, an NGO that provides comprehensive preventive healthcare services.

The team returned to China armed with new strategies for an NGO to seek self-reliance by providing better quality services. If effective, the activities of the IP center will serve as a positive model for the 18 other areas in 16 provinces of China where the IP is being implemented. The center will also play a solid role to train personnel from other areas of China and from other developing countries.

A Solid Base for Services

Large, metal shipping containers are finding new uses as clinics and storage facilities in African countries where the Integrated Project (IP) is being promoted. Initially used to ship reconditioned bicycles and materials donated through the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), the sturdy containers were donated to the IP areas in Ghana and Tanzania

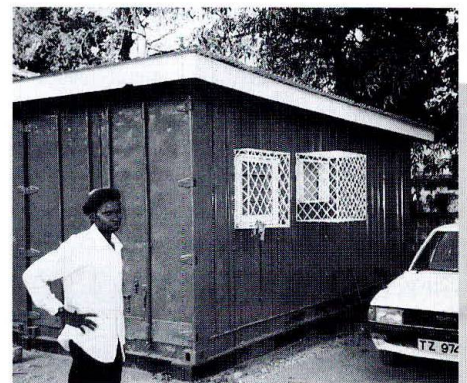


A container is renovated in Ghana.

by the Japan Bicycle Promotion Institute, which has also contributed to the costs of shipping bicycles from Japan. The institute agreed to purchase and donate the containers after learning about the need for secure storage and clinic facilities in these countries.

The bicycle donation scheme, which was launched in 1988, has expanded dramatically under MCCOBA to provide support to 24 developing countries. The 15 current members of MCCOBA include 14 local Japanese governments and JOICFP. Since the scheme was started, the donation activities have expanded to include such items as stationery, weighing scales and toys, which are stored in the spaces between the bicycles. It was the inclusion of such items in the donations that made the use of shipping containers necessary since bicycles can be shipped abroad without containers.

The containers, which have an average internal height of 2.3m, width of 5.9m and length of 2.3m, have been converted into clinics in Ghana and solid warehouses in Tanzania. In Tanzania, for example, project staff have hooked up electricity and installed an air conditioner in one of the new warehouses to



A secure storage space in Tanzania.

maintain the quality of contraceptives and essential drugs. The container has also been painted, roofed and had windows and a door added for convenience.

The bicycle donation scheme received a welcome boost recently when the Japanese government revised the Bicycle Law. Under the revised law, local governments are encouraged to use bicycles collected from public property to support international cooperation activities.

A Show of Support

The heads of UNFPA and IPPF met with top parliamentarians involved in the field of population and development at a luncheon meeting hosted by the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) on January 27 in Tokyo. During the meeting, Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, and Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, spoke with seven members of the JPFP about the role of parliamentarians in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September.

Despite the timing of the meeting, which coincided with the passage of an important political reform law in the Diet (parliament), leading members of the JPFP turned out in force to meet the heads of the world's two largest bodies concerned with population issues. Headed by Dr. Taro Nakayama, chairman, JPFP, and former foreign minister, the Japanese parliamentarians included JPFP Senior Vice Chairman Michihiko Kano; Vice Chairman Shogo Abe; and Executive Director Shin Sakurai. Minister of the Self Defense Forces Kazuo Aichi also attended.

In discussions with Sadik and Sai, the legislators expressed JPFP's support for the ICPD and outlined the efforts being made by the federation. As part of these, JPFP is trying to stimulate parliamentarians from other countries ahead of the conference.

The discussions also focused on ways to revitalize the support of African parliamentarians for population and development issues. Noting the strong political commitment in Asia, Sadik expressed a hope that exchanges between Asian and African parliamentarians could be stepped up in the future for the benefit of both parties.

Women Lawmakers on Track for ICPD

Women parliamentarians demonstrated their strong support for population and development issues on January 28 by taking time out of an important parliamentary session to attend a

meeting with Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA. The meeting, which coincided with the passage of a critical political reform bill, was attended by nine of the 13 women members of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP). Among

them was Wakako Hironaka, minister of the Environmental Agency, and JPFP member.

The meeting provided Sadik with a positive opportunity to introduce the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September, and provide an outline of background papers to be submitted at the conference. In particular, Sadik focused on the areas of gender equality and empowerment of women; the family, its roles, composition and structure; reproductive rights, reproductive health and family planning (FP); and international migration, which are among the topics covered in the Cairo Document.

During the meeting, the parliamentarians

expressed their disappointment with the Japanese government's failure to recognize the concept of women's reproductive health and reproductive rights. Noting the lack of



Sadik (center front) joins legislators in Tokyo.

understanding and neglect of women's health and rights in Japan, the parliamentarians commented that efforts are needed to expand perceptions of FP within the government and among the Japanese public beyond the current limited concept of maternal and child health.

Japan's international role in the field of population and development was another major topic of discussion at the meeting. One suggestion made by the parliamentarians was to expand Japan's contribution from that of funding to include the provision of materials that are needed in developing countries to support population programs.

Encouraging the active contribution of the women parliamentarians to the ICPD, Sadik also reminded the participants of the upcoming World Conference for Women, which will be held in Beijing in September 1995. Sadik stressed that both meetings will have important meaning for women and urged the legislators to take initiative to ensure that the outcomes are equitable for both women and men.

Commenting on her expectations as the secretary general of the ICPD, Sadik expressed her hope that a global meeting of parliamentarians would be held ahead of the conference. She encouraged the legislators to do their utmost to make this meeting a reality.

Kunii Awarded

JOICFP Chairman Chojiro Kunii was honored with the Takemi Memorial Award on December 18 for his work within Japan and abroad. In selecting Kunii for the prize, the Takemi Memorial Foundation recognized Kunii's efforts to promote family planning (FP), parasite control (PC) and preventive health in postwar Japan, and his contributions to developing countries through the promotion of the Integrated Project (IP). Kunii was the third person to receive the prize which was created in memory of the late Dr. Taro Takemi, who served as the president of the Japan Medical Association from 1957 - 1982 and the president of the World Medical Association from 1975 - 1976.

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

A Base in China

After considerable discussion with our Chinese colleagues, we are making headway in establishing a base in China to support the exchange of Integrated Project (IP) experiences. This means that we will be strengthening the model areas of the IP, which have been effectively applying the postwar experiences of Japan. At present, there are 18 areas in 16 provinces that are benefiting from the very practical program incorporating comprehensive preventive health and family planning (FP)

activities.

In the 50 years since the end of the war, Japan has tried to build a society where people can enjoy a safe and peaceful life. However, it is only recently that Japan's achievements in the population and FP fields have become worthy of international attention.

Japan made it through the desperate postwar years to become the nation it is now thanks to the hard work of its people. The farming people who were poor and had to rely on traditional farming methods made remarkable efforts during the postwar years, while the industrial sector developed at an unprecedented pace.

We now feel it is our turn to share our

experiences with China and to assist these people in their development. We would like the Chinese people to be able to improve the quality of their lives, just as we did in Japan. Fortunately, our histories and traditions are quite similar, and our approach to development is very alike. Personally, I was influenced in my youth by many aspects of Chinese culture and philosophy.

China is now free from political strife and it is proceeding full speed towards development. We have high expectations of the spirit and determination of the Chinese people, and sincerely hope that we can make amends for the problems that we caused them in the past.

China was previously referred to as the "sleeping lion." The U.S. and Europe first roused this lion from its long sleep and, unfortunately, Japan also joined their ranks during that regretful phase in China's history. It is now the time for Japan to assist in China's development.

DIARY

– **Hillary Salmons**, volunteer, and **Deborah Koehler**, researcher, Ashoka Foundation, visited JOICFP on Nov. 5, 1993, to exchange information on AIDS prevention.

– **Anne Donohue**, editor, Radio Broadcasting of the Christian Science Monitor, visited JOICFP on Nov. 9 to collect information on FP in Japan.

– **Satish Mehra**, chief, East & Southeast Asia Branch, Asia & Pacific Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP on Nov. 18 to exchange information about UNFPA-assisted Asian regional programs.

– Professor **Gary Chamberlain**, Theology & Religious Studies, Seattle University, visited JOICFP on Nov. 19 to exchange information.

– JOICFP Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami was in Thailand and Kenya from Nov. 4 - 20 as a member of an evaluation mission of bilateral FP projects conducted through JICA.

– Nine participants from five countries attended a JICA-entrusted one-day seminar on FP at JOICFP on Nov. 22.

– JOICFP Program Officer Ryoko Nishida was in the Philippines from Nov. 21 - 27 to discuss the UNFPA-assisted regional project

with UNFPA and government officials.

– Dr. **Zhang Fubao**, chief, and Dr. **Zhong Hebao**, chief doctor, Medical Section, Health Department, Shanghai Baoshan General Iron & Steel Works visited JOICFP on Nov. 29 to exchange information on the IP in China.

– **Paul White**, minister counselor for development cooperation, U.S. Embassy in Japan, visited JOICFP on Dec. 2 to exchange information.

– Nineteen healthcare and IEC experts from 15 countries in the Asia and Oceania region were in Tokyo and Saitama Prefecture from Nov. 29 - Dec. 4 to take part in the IEC Workshop for the Production of Video Script on Women's Health.

– **Richard Frank**, president, Population Services International, visited JOICFP on Dec. 10 to exchange information.

– JOICFP representatives joined the NGO Forum on Population and Environment organized by **Timothy Wirth**, counselor, U.S. State Department, on Dec. 10.

– JOICFP Program Officer Ryoichi Suzuki and staff member Tetsuo Kato were in Brazil from Dec. 6 - 16 to monitor the IP in São Paulo.

JOICFP Film Awarded

JOICFP's documentary film *Maria* was selected as one of Japan's top 10 films of 1993 by *Kinema Junpo* magazine. *Kinema Junpo* is the oldest and most prestigious film magazine in Japan. *Maria*, which is available in English, Japanese and Spanish, concerns the lives of two women who join hands in a Guatemalan village to improve the health and way of life of the people, particularly the community women. The film is distributed by Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

JOICFP Documentary Series

A New Documentary Film

Maria

33 mins., Color; English, Spanish, Japanese



Our latest documentary film features two Marias from Guatemala — a country over 50 percent of whose population is comprised of indigenous people.

Nana Maria, a traditional birth attendant and faith healer who still follows the Mayan tradition closely, strives to protect the health and decrease the burden of the women in her village. Citydweller Maria Teresa wishes to get closer to indigenous women like Nana Maria.

This touching film outlines the awakened women trying to protect themselves through action.

Distributed by

Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

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Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151, Japan

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JOICFP NEWS welcomes your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please mail to:

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