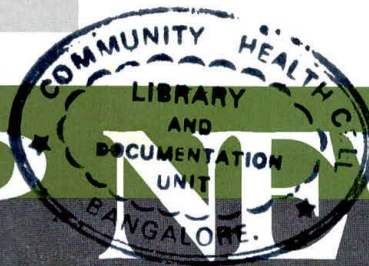


JOICFP NEWS



Women & NGOs Stir PrepCom III



A view of the PrepCom III participants.

Reproductive health approach endorsed in draft of Cairo Document

Women and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) demonstrated the power of collective action and made their presence felt at the Third Session of the Conference Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III), held in New York from April 4 - 22. Attending in record numbers, representatives of more than 100 NGOs worked together to get their views reflected in the draft Program of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which was discussed at the event. One of the major outcomes of the meeting was a shift in focus from family planning (FP) towards the more holistic approach of reproductive health and greater emphasis on male involvement and men's responsibility.

The third of three preparatory meetings for government delegations organized prior to the ICPD, PrepCom III was chaired by Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF. During the meeting delegates discussed the draft "Cairo Document," which is to be adopted at the ICPD to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September. The ICPD will continue negotiations with national

delegations to finalize the document before the ICPD.

While PrepCom was formally a forum for official delegates, NGOs worked behind the scenes at the event to effectively lobby delegates and get their views reflected in the document. One of the driving forces behind the strong women and NGO presence was the

Women's Caucus, which organized popular hourly sessions held daily to facilitate the involvement of women's groups in the ICPD process. A forum for open discussions, the caucus provided representatives with an opportunity to network, dissect the arguments of the previous day and respond with suggestions for revisions to the draft.

To cover as much ground as possible and lobby all representatives, regional caucuses and task forces were set up under the Women's Caucus. By taking the initiative and maintaining well-organized pressure, the caucus was able to see much of its suggestions reflected in statements made by the national delegates. At the conference end, the caucus members were thanked for their efforts by Tim Wirth, counselor, U.S. State Department.

NGOs were also behind a reception where members of the Japanese delegation met the press and representatives of international and national NGOs. Organized by two Japanese NGOs, People's Forum 2001, Japan and Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94, the April 5 meeting was attended by 60 people and gave delegates a chance to introduce Japan's views on population and family planning (FP) and the role of NGOs. In response to questions about Japan-U.S. collaboration on population and HIV/AIDS under the Global Issues

Initiative, the Japanese delegates commented that details of the initiative had not been finalized, adding that Japan would like to promote a government-NGO collaborative framework. Japan's commitment to collaboration with NGOs was also stressed in the official delegation's statement to the meeting.

PrepCom also brought together a number of parliamentarians who agreed to organize a one-day forum at Cairo for parliamentarians concerned with population issues. Shin Sakurai, chairman, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, served as chairman of the parliamentarian's meeting, at which the lawmakers agreed to prepare recommendations for consideration at the ICPD.

As a step toward the ICPD, a total of 934 NGOs were accredited to join the conference at PrepCom. These will be joined by more than 70 local Egyptian NGOs at the meeting to bring the total NGO presence at the ICPD to over 1,000. The ICPD Secretariat is expecting participants at the event to total between 10,000 - 13,000. Of these, 6,000 - 8,000 will likely be NGO representatives, 2,000 government officials and 2,000 - 3,000 from the media.

In remarks made at the end of the conference, Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, and secretary-general, ICPD, stressed government-NGO partnership as crucial to the success of the ICPD and the implementation of programs.



Participants listen to the briefing for NGOs.

1 JUN 1994

Spreading the Word about PrepCom III

Fifty population experts, academics and representatives of the mass media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were given a broad outline of the events and outcome of PrepCom III during a study meeting of the Council on Population Education, held at JOICFP on April 28. In a presentation to the meeting, Makoto Ato, director, Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare, explained the discussions that took place on eight major issues at PrepCom III, which he attended as a member of the Japanese delegation.

Ato began his summary of the main points, by describing the discussion on the issue of setting quantitative population goals up to the year 2015. He commented that the setting of such goals requires the commitment of both developed and developing countries. The next issue raised, population and sustainable development, brought out traditional differences of opinion between the North and South, he said. Population activities are often viewed as something imposed from the North to reduce numbers in developing countries, while

the South sees the consumption patterns of the North as the major threat to sustainable development, Ato said.

Improvement of the status of women and population

was the next major topic, followed by discussions on the concept of the family, Ato said. At issue in the discussions on the family, was whether the family should be considered as singular or as a plural concept to denote the diversity of types of families, he said.

The next major area, sexual and reproductive health, was particularly controversial with considerable discussion on the concept of reproductive health, noted Ato. Exchanges on the issue of safe abortion were active and even the words of safe motherhood were bracketed in the draft, he added. Another

major area of discussion was to whom sexual and reproductive rights should be addressed. The exchanges on this topic were particularly heated with regard to adolescents, he said.

The next major topic, international migration, involved discussions on the right of migrants to move and the national right of a country to control its borders, he said. The last discussion point highlighted by Ato was the issue of population program cost. He said that efforts were made during the meeting to obtain the commitment of each country toward estimated program costs.

A different perspective of PrepCom III was provided by Hiroko Hara, professor, Anthropology and Women's Studies, Ochanomizu University, who joined the Japanese delegation as a representative of the Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94, a new NGO.

Commenting on the composition of the Japanese delegation, Hara said that she was pleased that women were well represented. However, she was disappointed that the government had not given more thought to the wording of its statement, particularly with regard to its use of the term "the environment and women," she said. One of the high points of being a part of the delegation for Hara was being able to officially comment on the content of the draft Cairo Document's chapters on women and reproduction as well as those chapters related to health.

As a representative of a women's NGO, Hara said that she made efforts throughout the meeting to reflect the views of women. From this perspective, Hara said that she made certain recommendations. First, she said that the population issue should not be discussed as a matter of statistics, but rather as an issue that relates to the lives of individuals. Population, she said, is a reproductive health issue.

Hara further commented that the issue of reproductive health should not be limited to pregnant women or mothers. Instead, it should encompass the full life of a woman, and the issues affecting health, welfare and livelihood, she said. Hara also highlighted the need to



The Japanese delegation meets the press at PrepCom III.

study and understand issues related to birthrate, aging, women's labor, migrant workers, welfare, sexuality, AIDS, education, poverty and environmental debt.

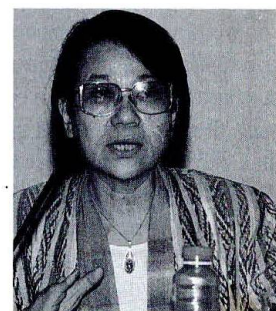
In describing her experiences at the meeting, Hara emphasized the role played by the Women's Caucus, which brought representatives of NGOs, women and men together and effectively lobbied delegates to incorporate a women's perspective in the draft document. She also had positive words to say about the meeting of Japanese official delegates, international NGOs and press that took place at PrepCom III.

Following the presentations by Ato and Hara, various participants of the study meeting made comments. Kuniko Funabashi, who attended the second week of PrepCom III, said that she was impressed by the strong networking among the women's NGOs. The meeting was also a good opportunity for many Asian NGOs to link up with one another, she said.

Makiko Arima, head of the Japanese preparatory committee for the Beijing World Conference on Women in 1995, also among the audience at the study meeting, noted that the recognition of reproductive health as an issue was important to the Cairo process. She added that it was also an important issue in the document being prepared for Beijing.



Makoto Ato



Hiroko Hara

Putting the Women's Network into Action



Women practice the carols they sing to raise money in Malvar.

project to strengthen FP/MCH activities. The discussions focused on the development of strategies and activities for the promotion of community organization, greater involvement of women's groups in community health activities and cost-sharing and sustainability.

The project was also formally launched at the workshop with the signing of a memorandum of agreement by the governor and two mayors and representatives of the DOH and

JOICFP. The agreement clearly outlines roles for all those involved in the project.

Initiated in 1993, the project is being implemented by the DOH Family Planning Service and Local Government Unit of Batangas in the Balayan and Malvar municipalities of Batangas Province.

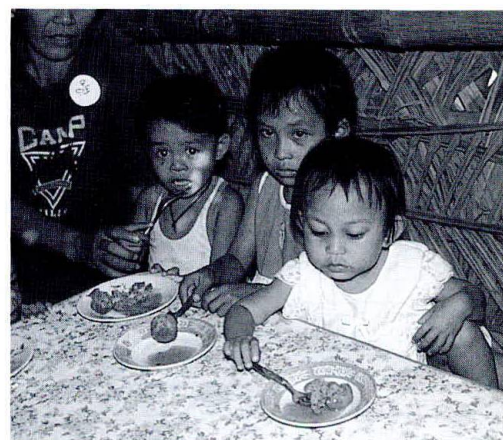
The results of baseline surveys recently conducted in the two project municipalities and two control areas by the Philippine Information Agency were presented at the workshop and were used to guide the creation of the framework and work plan. While the survey found that awareness of FP/MCH was reasonably high among the people, the most pressing issue found was a lack of accurate information and knowledge about preventive health and FP among the people and the absence of quality services to respond to such needs. The survey, which emphasized a need for greater IEC, also indicated that a majority of couples rely on less-effective methods, while many cited a fear of side effects as a reason for not practicing FP. One of the objectives of the project will therefore be to strengthen the existing health program.

Another issue highlighted by the survey was the need to mobilize community participation and systematize community-based health care. Insights into the effectiveness of community-based organization were provided in a presentation on Japan's postwar experience in community-based FP/MCH activities and the Indonesian

system of community action for health, *Posyandu*. The *Posyandu* system, which has been credited with raising the acceptance of FP and level of MCH at the local level, utilizes women volunteers to promote the health activities cost-effectively and efficiently.

While in Batangas, the JOICFP mission visited the two project areas to observe and review existing programs and activities. Noting the existing network of women's groups, the mission commented that the project should build on the activities of these groups — which are already taking the initiative in health areas — to promote community health activities.

During the field trip, the mission observed a nutrition education program promoted by the women's group *Samahang Batanguena* to combat malnutrition among children, one of the key issues in both project areas. In Malvar, the mission also met with members of a women's



Children eat nutrition supplements in Balayan.



The signing of the memorandum of agreement.

group that has been raising funds through carol singing to renovate the *barangay* health substation. The women are also actively helping the *barangay* midwife.

One of the main issues raised in discussions on detailed implementation planning held after the observation was how to systematize service delivery to provide quality services readily at the community level. In view of the heavy workload of health personnel, it was agreed that women's groups will be fostered under the project to expand their activities and support the healthcare system. Noting the willingness of the people to support health services financially, it was also agreed that cost-sharing be promoted to sustain the project.

Japan & U.S. Join Forces on Population & AIDS Under Global Issues Initiative

Viewpoint from Japan

Masafumi Kuroki, director, Research and Programming Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, spoke with JOICFP NEWS recently about Japan's official development assistance (ODA) including the new joint Global Issues Initiative with the U.S.

Global issues such as population, HIV/AIDS and environmental problems are among the priority issues addressed by the Japanese government in its ODA to developing countries.

To actively extend its cooperation in these fields, Japan has taken specific initiatives. One entails cooperation in the environmental field. Japan announced this initiative at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992, pledging ¥900 billion - ¥1 trillion (US\$7 billion - US\$7.7 billion at an exchange rate calculated at the time of the pledge) of ODA during the fiscal years 1992 - 1996.

The second initiative is the Global Issues Initiative (GII) for population and HIV/AIDS, announced in February 1994. Under this initiative, Japan is to extend up to US\$3 billion

of ODA during the fiscal years 1994 - 2000. The U.S. has pledged US\$9 billion under the initiative.

One of our primary concerns in developing countries is that the rapid increase of population is seriously hindering development efforts. The most effective means of tackling population problems is to use a direct family planning (FP) approach together with an indirect approach that incorporates activities aimed at improving such areas as basic healthcare and basic education and enhancing the status of women in society. We, therefore, place emphasis on a comprehensive approach.

As population problems and HIV/AIDS directly affect the lives of individuals, grassroots activities by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to tackle these issues are just as important as government-to-government cooperation. In implementing the GII, the Japanese government is promoting its cooperation with NGOs.

Japan's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS



Japan has pledged \$US3 billion under the GII.

By launching the GII on population and AIDS, Japan and the U.S. are appealing to the international community, in particular, and other donor countries to extend active cooperation to developing countries.

U.S. Perspective

Paul E. White, minister counselor, Development Cooperation, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), recently spoke to JOICFP NEWS about U.S. assistance and the role of NGOs.

American overseas private assistance pre-dates and is larger than U.S. government development assistance. Private Americans donate over US\$12 billion per year to the developing world. Much of this activity is carried out by NGOs.

USAID has long recognized the importance of NGOs. Starting in the 1970s, USAID substantially increased funding for NGOs but found that many could not take advantage of expanded funding. While their spirit and energy levels were high, many NGOs were small, totally voluntary, and lacked skills and techniques for carrying out larger development activities. USAID established innovative

funding arrangements to expand and professionalize NGO headquarters and field capabilities and also provided significant funding to strengthen developing country NGOs and NGO associations. As a result, today in many parts of the developing world and in the U.S. there are NGOs with excellent grassroots development experience.

NGOs have played a vital role in the population sector. The U.S. provides 18% of total ODA but 45% of donor population assistance. A significant portion of U.S. population assistance is implemented by NGOs. Population is a particularly important global issue because actions taken to expand reproductive choice over the next decade will determine when the world's population will stabilize. The future costs of *not* acting will be far higher than the cost of addressing population issues now. Therefore, population is

a priority sector in USAID's sustainable development mandate.

The U.S. is pleased to join forces with



Paul E. White

Japan on population and AIDS. As implementation of the new GII initiative begins, both the U.S. and Japan look to NGOs to play a vital role.

Japan Raises Population Assistance

Japan pledges US\$67.10 million to multilateral agencies in fiscal 1994

Japan again strengthened its financial commitment to the solution of global population problems and the promotion of family planning (FP) by increasing its

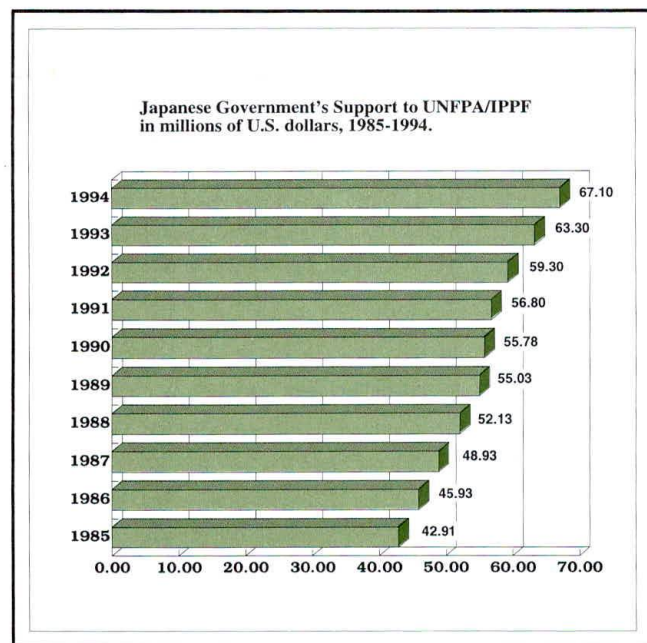
Japan remains committed to assisting population activities around the world and views its contributions to UNFPA and IPPF as an effective multilateral means to help developing countries tackle health and social welfare problems. The Japanese government also actively assists population and FP activities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

Bilateral support provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was also increased this year to mark ¥1.349 billion (US\$12.73 million at an exchange rate of ¥106 to US\$1) for an increase of 11.1%. Nine countries will receive technical support provided by JICA in fiscal 1994: Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. The agency is also the sponsor of two

international FP seminars in Japan this year for which JOICFP is serving as the implementing agency.

The newest aspect of Japan's assistance to the population field is its pledge to spend US\$3 billion on population assistance and HIV/AIDS prevention over the next seven years under the Global Issues Initiative. Launched in cooperation with the U.S., the initiative calls for both governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to play a role in tackling population issues and fighting HIV/AIDS in developing countries. The U.S. has pledged to provide US\$9 billion under the initiative.

In response to the launch of the initiative, women's groups and NGOs in Japan have expressed their hope that funds will be used to reach the people at the grassroots in developing countries. An increased role for NGOs, which work effectively at the community level, has been highlighted to achieve this aim.



contribution to UNFPA and IPPF to US\$67.10 million in fiscal 1994 (April 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995). The figure represents an increase of US\$3.8 million (6.0%) over its US\$63.30 million contribution in fiscal 1993. The amount was approved by the Japanese Diet (parliament) in its fiscal 1994 budget.

With the 1994 contribution, Japan still remains the biggest donor to UNFPA, the world's largest multilateral agency providing population assistance. Japan has continued to demonstrate its support for international population and FP activities since 1969, when it provided its first financial assistance to IPPF. It started providing financial assistance to UNFPA in 1971 with an initial contribution of US\$1.5 million. Since then the scale of assistance to UNFPA and IPPF has increased annually. This year's contribution to IPPF out of the total contribution of US\$63.30 million has not been decided, but it will exceed the US\$16.9 million provided to IPPF in 1993.

Child Rearing – an Expensive Affair in Japan

A recent white paper released by the Ministry of Health and Welfare highlights the financial and other burdens placed on families with children in Japan and sheds some light on why women are choosing to have fewer children. In 1992, the total fertility rate (TFR), or average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime, is estimated to have hit 1.50.

One of the major aspects of child-raising highlighted by the white paper is the lack of child care support provided by the government. The white paper notes that the raising of children is still considered a private affair for the family in Japan and that the belief that children should be raised at home by their mothers remains deep-rooted.

According to the paper, it costs a Japanese family ¥20 million (US\$189,000 at an exchange rate of \$1 to ¥106) to raise one child. A family with two children attending college spends 45-70% of its disposable income on them, according to the report. The paper also reveals that households nationwide spent over ¥21 trillion (US\$198 billion) on their children in 1992.

The relatively low level of public spending in Japan is one of the contributing factors to the heavy financial burden placed on families to raise and educate children. Among the 20 countries of the OECD, Japan's public spending on education is the lowest at 3.7% of gross domestic product (GDP).

Meanwhile, a report by the Management and Coordination Agency indicates that the number of children under 15 years of age decreased by about 500,000 in a single year to hit 20.59 million as of April 1, 1994. The figure brings the proportion of those under 15 in the population to 16.5%, the lowest since WW II.



A young Japanese family.

Investing in Youth & the Future in Brazil

One hundred years ago Japan and Brazil established official ties of cooperation. Today, the close ties remain intact and can be seen in the cooperation that exists between the two



Olympic medalist Ricardo Plado with his swimming students in São Paulo.

countries in the field of health. In the *favelas* (slums) of São Paulo, assistance provided by the people of Japan is being used to support family planning (FP), maternal and child health and adolescent health activities at the community level.

One important source of support to the grassroots activities of Centro Materno-Infantil (CMI) has been the assistance donated by the Japanese public through the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme.

Administered by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the assistance has been used for two years to train medical professionals, community volunteers and women in primary health care, produce IEC materials such as posters on AIDS prevention and adolescent health, and purchase medical equipment and furniture for such facilities as an adolescent health center and kindergarten.

A JOICFP mission, in São Paulo from April 9 -16, observed some of the innovative activities supported by the VDIA scheme. One of these is a center for adolescents (later opened on May 13). Concerned about the rising level of such problems as STDs and unwanted pregnancy among youths, CMI planned the center to

function as a space for training of peer counselors and for the provision of medical services. To support this center, VDIA funds have been used to purchase such equipment as a medical examination table, office furniture, IEC materials and audio-visual equipment. CMI is planning to create three other such centers.

To recruit youth leaders and peer counselors, CMI is utilizing such events as the celebrity sports school project organized by the state government. While in São Paulo, the JOICFP mission observed Olympic medalist Ricardo Plado provide a swimming class for young people.

Committed to achieving self-reliance, CMI has almost completed construction of a clinic that will also function as the organization's main office. To generate funds, the center will provide fee-charged services for infertile couples, which are in high demand in the city. These funds will be used to assist with the provision of medical services including FP clinical and counseling services and training for the people living in the *favela*.

Tackling Population in Sierra Leone

Yoshio Koike, UNFPA country director, Sierra Leone, spoke to JOICFP NEWS on April 21 about the population situation in Sierra Leone. Below are highlights of the interview.

Sierra Leone is not very large. The country measures about 74,000km² and the population is only 4.5 million. It achieved independence in 1961. The country had been under the patronage of the U.K.

In April 1992, there was a military coup. Under the present regime, very young people aged 22 to 29 steer the country. These people are young and very enthusiastic and try to be free from corruption. The government has announced the procedure of democratization and a general election is to take place in 1996. The municipal assembly election will take place in 1995. So hopefully they will have a multi-party political system in 1997.

UNFPA provides assistance to 48 countries

in Africa. Out of these, only 13 have established population policies. Sierra Leone was the ninth to set up its policy in 1989. The National Population Commission was also established, but unfortunately this committee has been dormant.

The population growth rate in Sierra Leone is 2.4% per year, an average growth rate in West African countries. The total fertility rate is 6.8. Although we don't have reliable figures, we estimate that the maternal mortality rate is terribly high at around 1,400 - 1,700 per 100,000 live births. The infant mortality rate (IMR) is about 180 and the mortality rate for under 5-year-olds is about 275.

The problem facing the maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) project is that country's health infrastructure is almost nil. On paper, the government has announced that there are about 470 clinics available throughout the country. But it is UNFPA's observation, after tedious monitoring work, that only one-fourth of the clinics quoted by the government are operational. Therefore, there are about 120 clinics that are operational, including the large governmental hospitals in big cities. This is the third year of the MCH/FP project which has covered only 76 clinics where FP information

and services are provided.

Thanks to joint non-governmental organization (NGO) and government efforts we are recruiting about 20,000 newcomers and acceptors for FP each year. If we can continue to expand acceptors at this rate and maintain them as repeaters for five years, we can bring the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) up to 20%. It is now about 2% in rural areas and 9% in cities. The national average is about 4-6%. If we can continue for 10 years then the CPR will come closer to 60%, our target. Generally speaking, there is no serious objection to FP delivery from the socio-religious point of view. The problem is that people are not well-informed about why birth spacing is important or about where they can get services. We are now trying to improve IEC activities.



Yoshio Koike

Community Muscle

The community serves as a dynamic force of change in developing countries of Asia. That is the message of a new JOICFP video titled *A New Profile of Asia*. Produced by JOICFP with the support of IPPF and UNFPA, the video conveys the impact of the community-based activities of the Integrated Project (IP) in six developing countries with 312 still photos arranged in sequence with narration and music. Advanced techniques were used to smoothly integrate the photos together to resemble a sophisticated slide show.

The video was produced under the UNFPA-supported regional Sustainable Community-based Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women. Available in Japanese and English, the video will initially be used intensively in Japan to develop awareness of the needs of people living in developing countries and foster support among the Japanese public in international cooperation activities.

A New Profile of Asia is the first of a three-part series of videos made from still photos. Designed primarily to stimulate an interest in developing countries, *A New Profile of Asia* focuses on the effects of the IP at the

grassroots, depicting the activities being undertaken by the community people themselves under the project. The second video in the series, which is now under production, will follow up on the first by providing more background on the IP. The video series is designed as an educational material to be used by instructors in group situations as a start to discussions.

The video begins by depicting how the tradition of "mutual assistance" is being utilized in the Philippines to promote community development. By building on the local traditions, the project has been able to get people to join hands and share the benefits of collective health and other activities. For Vietnam, the video focuses on a community's efforts to rebuild their village. Faced with extreme poverty and poor health conditions, the women of the village band together and encourage the men to join them in their efforts to overhaul toilet facilities and water supplies and improve the way of life.

For Thailand, the video depicts the efforts of the Population and Community Development Association (PDA), which integrates FP services with activities to promote enterprise development. Setting up a revolving fund

system, PDA assists FP acceptors to start small agricultural businesses such as animal raising. Meanwhile, for Bhutan, the video begins by outlining the high maternal and infant mortality rates and lack of medical facilities and services. It then introduces the system of outreach clinics involving health workers and volunteers, which has been established under the project to improve MCH.

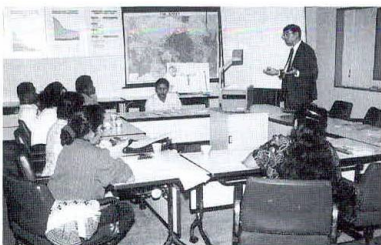
The video also focuses on the role played by women in village development in Sri Lanka. The video notes that the highly literate Sri Lankan women serve as a model for women in development in South Asia. For Indonesia, the last country featured, the video covers the activities of a self-reliant MCH clinic of Jakarta, which provides MCH/FP services to urban residents on a fee-charged basis.



Young women work as health volunteers in Sri Lanka.

Sharing Experiences

Seven participants from six countries learned about Japan's postwar experiences in the field of family Planning and maternal and child health at a one-day seminar held at JOICFP on April 22. The paramedics were also introduced to the application of the Japanese experience in a presentation of JOICFP's Integrated Project in developing countries. The paramedics were part of the Specialized Nursing Course, sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



JOICFP MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERIES

DOCUMENTARY NEW FILM

SONG OF TOMORROW AT KILIMANJARO

32min/color, English



The maternal & child health movement began in Masama on the slopes of Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, involving the whole village joined by midwives, girl volunteers and the religious group.

ANIMATION FILM

GINA'S DREAM

20min/color, English

FOR HAPPY FAMILY

FOR YOUR BELOVED BABY

25min/color English, Thai, Japanese

COMING INTO THIS WORLD

25min/color English, Thai, Japanese

GOLDEN YEARS OF HAPPINESS

23min/color English, Thai, Japanese

GOOD KASEM AND CLEVER MANEE

15min/color English, Thai, Spanish

16mm-VTR (beta, VHS / NTSC, PAL, SECAM)

Distributed by
Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.
YOYOGI CENTER BLDG., 57-1, YOYOGI 1-CHOME,
SHIBUYA-KU, TOKYO 151, JAPAN
TEL.81-3-3320-6311/FAX.81-3-3320-7666
TELEX.J34799 ITCINBT

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

Light after Darkness

As I look back on the events that have shaped my life, I can clearly see the long shadow that the population problem cast over Japanese history. During my lifetime, I have seen the negative effects of population pressure and witnessed the efforts of the Japanese people to come to terms with this pressure and the measures taken to avoid disaster.

When I was a young boy, the pressure of Japan's population was already being felt in many ways. It manifested itself as rice shortages, high unemployment rates, rural poverty and political upheaval.

But the population problem was profoundly affecting Japan before I was born. Since the Meiji era, the country's population crisis had repeatedly driven it to enter war, sacrificing many lives in each conflict. These wars were seen as unavoidable, as a means of Japan's survival in the face of a bulging population and

scarcity of resources. But in reality, the Japanese paid a high price by following this belligerent course. Countless lives were lost in war and poverty ravaged the masses. The farming population was reduced to working hand to mouth, treading a thin line between life and death.

The military's repeated invasions into neighboring countries were done in the name of saving the people from misery. Japanese people were told to obey the policy of foreign aggression which was presented as a "supreme command," one that would determine their survival. It was commonly believed that through this strategy, the government was trying to divert people's attention away from the political turmoil at home which resulted in such events as the "February 26 Incident," an attempted coup by an army faction in 1936.

For those of us living through these times, there was no escape from the terror and threat of population pressure. It was not until Japan's final defeat in World War II in 1945 that things began to change for the people. The defeat was the biggest turning point in the country's history. As a result, Japan accepted the

Potsdam Declaration, the constitution was rewritten, and many reforms were carried out including agricultural land reform under the guidance of the Occupation Forces.

These changes amounted to a revolution for the country, which adopted a system of democracy for the first time in its history. Given these new circumstances, the people renewed their determination to change their lives and vowed to survive. Uniting our strengths, we began to rebuild our country. By persevering and working hard, we managed to create the country that Japan is today.

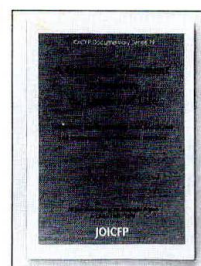
New JOICFP Publication

JOICFP published *A Grassroots Movement to Improve the Quality of Life*, the latest volume in its Documentary Series of publications, in March this year. Subtitled *Integrating Family Planning with Healthcare and Community Development Activities — 10 Year Experience of the Integrated Project in China 1983 - 1993*, the booklet provides an overview of the activities of the project, which has been implemented in China with support from IPPF for a decade. The volume is a compilation of speeches and reports by Chinese representatives

of central and local governments and non-governmental organizations, village leaders, village doctors and a villager, and provides broad insights into the workings of the project at all levels.

Most of the contents

of the 120-page booklet were prepared for the ceremony held in Beijing in June 1993 to celebrate the project's 10-year milestone. The ceremony was attended by over 150 people involved in the project. The booklet was published with the support of the Hoken Kaikan Foundation in cooperation with the State Family Planning Commission of China and the China Family Planning Association.



DIARY

– Dr. **Hirofumi Ando**, deputy executive director, UNFPA, visited JOICFP to discuss the Population Clock III and Population Monitor, while in Japan from Mar. 5 - 9.

– A six-member Chinese mission headed by **Chang Chongxuan**, standing vice president, CFPA, was in Japan from Mar. 2 - 11 to study self-reliance strategies for FP/MCH and preventive medicine.

– **Idriss Aden Farah**, counselor, Embassy of Republic of Djibouti, Japan, visited JOICFP on Mar. 11 to exchange information.

– **Joseph Van Arendonk**, deputy executive director, UNFPA, was in Japan from Mar. 9 - 12 to take part in an international symposium on population organized by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on Mar. 11.

– JOICFP program officers Sumie Ishii and Atsushi Yoshino were in Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Taiwan from Mar. 2 - 13 for activities related to the production and distribution of IEC materials.

Bicycle Donations in the News

The donation of reconditioned bicycles to developing countries from Japan received worldwide publicity in May when the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) featured a 10-minute program covering the scheme on the international broadcast Radio Japan. The program, initially broadcast in Japanese and English on May 12, was also translated into many other languages to be heard in all corners of the world. Operated by the 15 local governments and JOICFP of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), the scheme is assisting people at the grassroots to improve health and welfare by providing a practical and readily usable means of transport. Since its launch in 1988, the scheme has seen 9,500 reconditioned bicycles sent to 24 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America (as of March, 1994). During fiscal 1994 (April 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995), another 3,200 bicycles are expected to be sent to 23 countries. One of the member cities of MCCOBA, Musashino City, recently announced that it will also send 2,280 pens and other stationery goods to developing countries inside the shipping containers with the bicycles. These items will assist with literacy promotion as well as healthcare record-keeping.

JOICFP NEWS is a monthly newsletter published by the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP).

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

JOICFP NEWS
Hoken Kaikan Bekkan
1-1, Ichigaya Sadohara-cho
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162 Japan
Phone: 81-3-3268-5875
Facsimile: 81-3-3235-7090