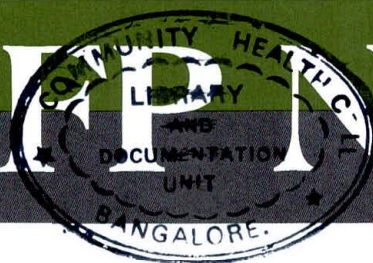


# JOICFP NEWS



## Revitalized IPPF Faces Challenges of 1990s

### Mahler examines challenges of federation and member FPAs ahead of 2000

As secretary-general of the IPPF, Dr. Halfdan Mahler has overseen the revitalization of the federation and member family planning associations (FPAs) that has occurred in recent years. Mahler spoke with JOICFP NEWS about the challenges of the federation's Strategic Vision 2000 and his expectations for JOICFP under the Japan's new Global Issues Initiative (GII) on population and AIDS. Below are highlights of his interview on May 26.

Two important things have been happening in the last few years in IPPF. For the first time, a global policy was unanimously adopted by all FPAs when they met in Berlin in 1992. This is called Vision 2000. Secondly, we have provoked all the associations to look into the mirror and to realize that it is time for a good bit of face-lifting if they truly are to be relevant to the challenges facing us in the 1990s. The majority of FPAs that have gone through this catharsis have recognized that it is no longer good enough to do more of the same, but that there is the need for a fundamental change in

priorities and the way that such new priorities are operationalized.

I will repeat the six challenges confronting the federation and all the constituent FPAs. First, from now we are committed to reach out to the poorest, whether they are in urban slums or remote areas. Clearly, we cannot pretend to be the leader and conscience of the FP movement unless we are willing to demonstrate to governments that this hard-core of the problem can be faced with imagination and courage.

Second, we can no longer just speak about contraceptive prevalence rates. Women increasingly insist that they want a broader definition of FP to focus on reproductive health and all this implies for them. Women in particular are also demanding that we face up to the intimately related subject of sexual health.

Thirdly, we have committed ourselves to eliminate unsafe abortion and to promote safe, legal abortion wherever that is possible. I would say even when it does not seem to be possible. Fourth, the quality of both sexual and reproductive healthcare in far too many countries is of an appallingly low quality. Again, we must provoke governments into realizing that women will not avail themselves of services or will stop making use of services if there is not a choice of high-quality contraception and, when necessary, safe abortion.

Fifth, 500 million young people are between 15 and 19 years old today. Very few of them are given even a minimum of attention to enable them to understand how to deal with their sexuality and that sexuality is a wonderful force that is not given by the devil but probably by a well-meaning god. Obviously this strong force has to be realized with tender care and responsibility.

Sixth, reproductive health or FP has to a



*Dr. Halfdan Mahler, secretary-general of IPPF.*

large extent been tyrannized by males for the last couple of decades. For this reason, in most programs women have been treated as objects of male ambitions of population reduction. So the empowerment of women becomes of great significance to any kind of program if it is to be sensitive and relevant to women's realities.

Looking at Japan, I have just come from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I believe I sense a very different climate than I have encountered in previous visits. The GII is a new era opening up for JOICFP. By necessity, it will have to rethink where it wants to go in order to meet the high expectations that the government of Japan has for JOICFP becoming a very important cooperating agency in the implementation of the GII. I believe this will imply a major expansion of the capacities of JOICFP in addition to an adjustment of its priorities in the light of these new challenges. This is a very exciting challenge for JOICFP because it will make it possible for JOICFP to become not only an important national organization in the field of reproductive health, but also by virtue of its being a cooperating agency for the GII, a very visible international organization. I only hope that JOICFP will have all the emotional and intellectual energies required in order to go through this transformation process.



*Mahler with former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda.*

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# Mahler Optimistic on GII

During his stay in Japan from May 24 - 27, Dr. Halfdan Mahler, secretary-general, IPPF, held discussions with prominent parliamentarians and government officials. On May 26, he met with one of the leading figures in the population field in Japan, former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, president, JOICFP. During the exchange, the former premier responded positively to Mahler's urging that he personally attend the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), to be

ICPD. He also conveyed his hope that the ICPD would be effective for discussing population strategies for the next century.

In response, Mahler expressed optimism for Japan's new Global Issues Initiative (GII) and commented that he sensed a more positive and open governmental attitude toward population issues. For many years, Mahler explained, he has been urging Japan to take a leadership role in social development, especially through population and family planning (FP) assistance.

Under the GII, this may now become a reality, he said.

The GII was also discussed by Mahler at a meeting with Norio Hattori, deputy director general, Bureau of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 26. During the meeting, Hattori expressed that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will play an important role in materializing the initiative. As an NGO with over 25 years of experience in international population assistance, JOICFP will have a significant role to play, he said.

Mahler explained that IPPF has extensive experience in the field and can provide valuable assistance to the

Japanese government in implementing the GII. He also stressed the effectiveness of using NGOs, adding that JOICFP can provide valuable support to the government.

# Global Population Issues — Japan's Role

The effectiveness of using academic research to guide government policy on international assistance in the population and family planning (FP) field was stressed by JOICFP at a symposium organized as part of a meeting of the Population Association of Japan, held in Tokyo on June 3 and 4. Noting the significance of the joint Japan-U.S. Global Issues Initiative (GII) to population activities, JOICFP called on the Japanese government to establish a more concrete policy for population assistance and urged that academics take an active part in this process.

The annual meeting was the 46th for the association, the only academic circle of its kind for demographers of Japan. The highlight of the event was a symposium held on the afternoon of June 4 under the overall theme of "Can the earth's population be maintained under 10 billion?" This event featured presentations by four speakers followed by a panel discussion.

Dr. Makoto Ato, director, Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW), spoke first on the theme of "Sustainable development and population control." He was followed by Dr. Shigemi Kono, professor, Reitaku University, who spoke on "Women's role and the population issue." "The effectiveness of FP programs" was the theme of the next speaker, Dr. Kenji Hayashi, director, Department of Demography and Health Statistics, Institute of Public Health, MOHW. Meanwhile, Dr. Tatsuro Kunugi, professor, International Christian University, spoke on "Population policy and human rights."

For JOICFP, it was the first time to actively participate in the symposium. Dr. Hiroshi Obuchi, professor, Chuo University, and JOICFP Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami served as discussants to stimulate discussions.

Focusing on Japan's international role, Ikegami noted that Japan can share its experiences of population transition and can more actively participate in population assistance in developing countries. To achieve the second aim, Ikegami urged that Japan establish a framework for population assistance policy based on the ideals of humanistic FP and that NGOs be effectively used for implementation of FP and population programs.



Mahler with Norio Hattori (center) and IPPF assistant secretary-general, Mark Laskin.

held in Cairo in September. Showing keen interest in the conference, Fukuda expressed his hopes for the two-day international parliamentarians meeting, to be held two days before the

## Reproductive Health – Giving Women More

*In his interview with JOICFP NEWS on May 26, Dr. Mahler spoke about the growing emphasis on the concept of reproductive health. Below are his comments.*

Let us not have too big a hang-up about semantics. When women have demanded a departure from FP, it is because it has the sinister population control connotation. Also, women are not only concerned about the prevention of pregnancies. They are concerned about the broader concept of well-being related to both their sexuality and reproduction. As for the "family" in the term family planning, many of us are not living in a family. But does this mean that we do not have a right to be able to take care of our fertility and sexuality in a positive way? Also "planning" is very related to the concept of imposing something on women, in particular, and on families — rather than letting them decide for themselves how often they want to have and when they want a child by choice and not by chance. In other words, women do not want to be treated as objectives of men's manipulations. As has been said many times, they want to be the subjects of their own development. This is not just development in the narrow framework of contraception, but is in the broad context of their sexual and reproductive well-being. Top-down, narrow-minded contraception must be replaced by much broader women-focused, quality support that integrates both sexual and reproductive health in a woman's total life.

# A Learning Experience in China

Protecting the health of mothers and children, promoting the development of a healthy young generation, improving the standard of living and contributing to the happiness of families were noted as key goals of the family planning and maternal and child health (FP/MCH) activities of the Integrated Project (IP) at the National Workshop on the IP, held in Yuyao City, Ningpo Municipality, Zhejiang Province, China, from May 20 - 26.

In recommendations made at the workshop, participants emphasized the importance of promoting the concept of voluntary FP acceptance and recommended that contraceptive counseling be strengthened for eligible couples to reflect their needs. To achieve this and a second aim of reducing the number of induced abortions, participants called for improvements in contraceptive effectiveness and the promotion of systematic management and regular checkups.



*Young women discuss issues at a premarital education class in Yuyao City.*

Launched in 1984, the IP is now in its fourth phase and is being promoted in 18 project areas in 16 provinces of mainland China. The main aim of the workshop was to enhance the effectiveness of IP implementation. It was attended by 60 participants including central level experts, government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), representatives of the first, second and fourth phase IP areas and experts dispatched by JOICFP. To promote the exchange of information and experiences, the workshop included three days of presentations, a two-day field trip to Yuyao City and two days of discussions.

Among the prominent issues discussed at the workshop was the need to use parasite control (PC) more effectively as a springboard for other health-related activities. Participants emphasized that PC is not an end in itself, but should be used as a tool for health education to promote awareness of health and to motivate people to join project activities and take care of their own health.

Prior to the workshop, a joint JOICFP-Chinese team of experts conducted monitoring in Taicang City of Jiangsu Province, the original site of the project. Joined by representatives of the third-phase IP areas of Yunnan and Hunan provinces, the team also conducted monitoring in two fourth-phase sites, where the project was launched in 1993. In Taicang, the team visited the Taicang IP Center, managed by the Taicang Family Planning Association and locally known as the Taicang Family Health Service Center. During their visits on May 6, 7 and 30, the mission observed activities of the center, which provides PC, FP/MCH care and services for the aged and runs an IEC and training department. The center is planning to offer a range of healthcare services on a fee-charged basis to promote self-reliance.

To gain an understanding of the issues and problems in implementing the project in fourth phase areas, the mission visited Duyun City, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Minority Autonomous Prefecture in Guizhou Province, and Nanchuan County, Peilin Prefecture in Sichuan Province, from May 8 - 18.

Poverty is wide spread in Guizhou, which has a population of 33.6 million. Some 10 million people live below the poverty line, while 35% of the population represent ethnic minority groups. In Duyun, a city of 430,000, farmers' net income per capita is 501 yuan (against the national average of 921 yuan in 1993). Minorities make up 63% of the population.



*A Miao woman with two children in Duyun City.*

The promotion of the project in Duyun faces unique challenges since population issues of minority groups are given special consideration under China's population policy. Meanwhile, Sichuan Province, the most populous in China, has a population 110 million. In Nanchuan County, where farmers' net income per capita is 648 yuan, the population is 650,000.

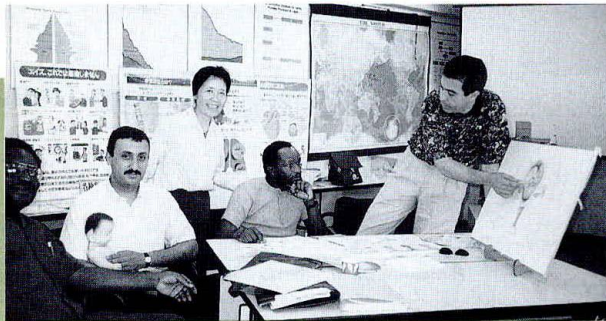
The mission's assessment and comments about the new project areas were utilized in the workshop to guide discussions. The insights gained into the Taicang Family Health Service Center were also shared with participants and incorporated into recommendations. In particular, participants suggested that the experiences of the center be utilized by other IP areas to assist with the reorganization of existing MCH institutions.



*A boy tries a new water pump in Nanchuan County.*

# Innovative Ways to Reach Audiences with FP/MCH Messages

Senior family planning (FP) administrators and managers from 11 countries came up with effective strategies to get their messages across utilizing the educational Magnel Kit during the Seminar on Community-based Family Planning



*A participant uses the Magnel Kit in a role play.*

Strategy held in Japan from May 16 - June 10. The seminar also introduced participants to the Japanese postwar experience in FP and maternal and child health (MCH) promotion and provided insights into the effectiveness of using the community as a force to promote and conduct healthcare activities.

During a field trip to Hokkaido Prefecture in northern Japan, the participants were able to observe FP/MCH, preventive healthcare and school health activities. They also spoke with over 100 women working as MCH and health volunteers, many of whom have remained active in the healthcare field since the postwar period. In comments made to the participants, the leader of the MCH volunteers, Mieko Hayashi, said that women make up 50% of the world's population, and can achieve a great deal.

Organized by JOICFP, the seminar was sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Participants were from Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Saint Lucia, Tanzania and Tunisia. Dr. Minoru Muramatsu, former chairman, Population Association of Japan, was course leader for the event.

For most participants, the seminar was their first opportunity to use the Magnel Kit, a visual aid designed for teaching reproductive health-related subjects. The kit is composed of a two-sided white panel with the male and female

reproductive organs and various magnetic vinyl images. Working in three groups, the participants created instruction manuals and developed innovative approaches to reach audiences with messages on prenatal and postnatal care; sex education for adolescents; and various contraceptives, particularly the IUD and condom. The approaches were then presented as role plays to elicit feedback from participants and IEC experts as part of the learning process.

The Magnel Kit presentations served as a highlight for the participants who expressed their pleasure at receiving a kit for use in their countries. Commenting on the kit's effectiveness, the

Egyptian participant said he would use it in his lectures at the FP center for training doctors, nurses and FP workers. He added that the kit would be effective for overcoming taboos and dispelling myths. The participant from Saint Lucia, meanwhile, was impressed with the kit's versatility. She said she would use her kit for various purposes and for a range of audiences.

The seminar was an effective forum for honing the communication skills of the participants and for the exchange of information on strategies. Various issues were given emphasis during the discussions, particularly women's status; quality of care; and FP as part of an integrated approach incorporating MCH, health and welfare. Participants were also concerned about the importance of reconciling the macro approach to population issues and the micro view of individuals affected by population policies and plans. They stressed the need to consider planning at the village level and to discuss how FP contributes to the health and happiness of individuals and families.

Summing up the lessons learned at the seminar, the representative from Fiji commented that it is important to remember that people are the resources of a program and that if the promoters do not believe in people's potential, they will not be successful. Therefore, he said, promoters have to be motivated. "We all go back to change our communities," he added.

# A Motivating Experience

Dr. Setareki Yaco Vatucawaqa, acting sub-divisional medical officer, Ministry of Health, Fiji, took part in the Seminar on Community-based FP Strategy. Below are some of his impressions conveyed to JOICFP NEWS in an interview on June 8.

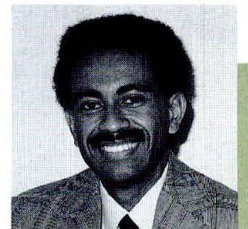
The seminar has been a very valuable experience for me. I have been able to learn how the community people in postwar Japan worked together, how they set out specific objectives and achieved each of these.

The field trip to Hokkaido was a real eye-opener. I learned how women are able to work hand-in-hand tirelessly. How they can care for the welfare of another woman giving birth without expecting anything in return. There is a uniformity among the women volunteers I met in Japan. All are highly motivated. Age has not deterred the MCH volunteers in Hokkaido. They are still active in MCH and have moved into the more general area of health as health promoters. They take pride in their work – something I would like to cultivate in the women's groups in Fiji. I have learned here that if we take pride in something, then we will give our all to achieve a goal.

I also took great delight in participating in the use of the Magnel Kit, a very exciting tool for FP education. The kit is a very useful IEC material that can be used for educating

various target groups. It would also be very useful in my subdivision which is geographically large and mountainous. It is light and compact, which makes it useful for travel.

It was exciting to find out what is happening in other developing countries through the seminar. When you are in a little corner staring at your own problems, they tend to get big and you tend to lose your motivation. But by sitting with people from other countries, you learn to appreciate your own situation. It is another reawakening to realize that you have resources. You find yourself asking, "why not tap them more to do another job better next time around?"



*Setareki Vatucawaqa*

# Community People Join Hands in Ghana

*Nii Adote Addo, program director, Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), is actively involved in the Integrated Project (IP) in Ghana. He spoke with JOICFP NEWS on June 8 about the project.*

The IP should be considered the most successful project of PPAG. Among the family planning (FP) acceptance rates of the whole association, only in the IP area is there a high contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR). The project has been able to motivate people to work to solve their own problems. Women with children, for example, are motivated to attend the maternal and child health (MCH) clinics – especially the child immunization sessions. As a result, the immunization rate is comparatively

high in IP areas.

We attribute the success of the IP to the project staff working in the field who are willing to travel regularly and do very intense activities. In rural areas, the literacy rate is very low. At the start of the project we realized that the most effective form of IEC was face-to-face communication. Therefore, field workers visit regularly, going into the field three days a week to do IEC activities. People have come to realize that the project is good for their health and we have been able to achieve success, particularly in FP and immunization.

Another factor is the community-based distribution (CBD) agents, who are selected by the villagers and trained by PPAG. The CBD agents distribute contraceptives in the communities and conduct community health education. They are very committed, especially to FP promotion. They work as volunteers without remuneration except for 40% of the sales of contraceptives, which is a nominal amount. Because of their difficult economic situation, however, we must consider the issue of how to

sustain their interest and activities in the future.

Currently, we are looking into establishing a revolving fund for income-generating activities for women. We are also educating communities on the importance of contributing funds to support project activities. We are discussing the possibility of setting up a clinic to serve a group of villages in the area and are seriously looking at the issue of expanding MCH activities in the surrounding communities. Securing safe drinking water is another serious issue for many villages, especially in the dry season. Solving this issue will go a long way towards solving health problems.



Nii Adote Addo

# CBDs – a Link to the People in Tanzania

*Tengio Urrio, coordinator, Service Delivery, Family Planning Association of Tanzania (UMATI), has long been involved in the Integrated Project (IP). He shared his insights into the project with JOICFP NEWS on June 8. Below are highlights.*

The IP started in Masama and at first only involved a few villages. The Masama project has been very successful and now covers the whole Hai District with a total land area of 2,180km<sup>2</sup>. In 1992, we extended to a second project area and now we have projects in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, and in Mgeta, Morogoro Region.

The project has been very well accepted by the communities. In Hai District, for example, the government health center register shows that the CPR has increased significantly since the project start.

We introduced CBD agents for FP promotion early in the project. They are very motivated and hard working. One of the reasons for their motivation is the strong group spirit. We encourage this spirit and get the CBDs to develop their own projects and to work together. For example, some CBDs sew

together and sell the materials. Some also have small vegetable gardens. When they meet as a group, they discuss their joint activities. They share the proceeds from these activities among themselves and their families.

Another factor that keeps down the CBD drop-out rate is regular supervision. We get a lot of support from the zone office of UMATI. Once a month the CBDs are visited by a supervisor. They discuss activities and their supplies are replenished.

Within the community, the CBDs work at the family level and can cover groups that have not been covered before. This is why they are effective. Family planning services provided by clinics have problems of accessibility.

The CBDs, however, provide a more personal service. They are actively involved in IEC and the provision of services within the community. They are known and trusted by the people they serve and they speak the same language. The women especially know that the CBD will be able to deliver the services and goods, that the CBD is always well-supplied with contraceptives. There is a confidence in the CBDs.

Another very important aspect of the CBD agents' work is that they serve as a means of communication with the formal health system. For the community people, it has been difficult to obtain services, to go to hospitals. But the CBDs serve as a link. They can tell them where to get clinical services and can even refer them to the formal health system.

In Morogoro where we have trained CBDs we have had some very encouraging results.

The CBDs' statistics show an increasing CPR, which has risen from 6.7% in 1990, to reach 39.9% in 1993 (sample survey results). We use the same strategy in this area as in the Kilimanjaro Region, with one exception. Since this area is closer to the city, we have mobilized the community to become involved in vegetable farming for supply to the city markets. In the future, we expect this project to help improve the socioeconomic situation of the villagers.



Tengio Urrio

# Working Toward Self-reliance in Nepal

A Japanese technical expert produced a range of simple suggestions on how to refine project implementation and promote self-reliance during a visit to Nepal from May 16 - 28. In Katmandu, the technical assistance was provided to the school health program, which is run by the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). Technical guidance was also provided to project staff in Panchkhal, a project site of the UNFPA-supported, regional Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women. Coordinated through JOICFP, the activity was supported by funds from the Voluntary Deposit for International Aid (VDIA) scheme of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan.

The technical assistance mission to Nepal was the second for Takaaki Hara, director, Research and Study Department, Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC), who visited Nepal in 1992. In providing technical

assistance, Hara called on his deep understanding of the Integrated Project in Thailand, Indonesia and other IP-implementing countries, where mass, fee-charged parasite control activities are utilized to promote self-reliance and as an entry point to inspire community participation in other activities such as family planning (FP) and maternal and child health (MCH) care.

Prior to making his evaluation and recommendations, Hara spent a week in Katmandu observing all the activities related to the project including campaign promotion activities, laboratory work and activities within the schools. Based on his observation, Hara concluded that the school health program could become self-reliant by systematizing activities and gearing them up to a fully mass approach. Specifically, he recommended that the involvement of students in the project be increased by more effectively targeting the estimated 120,000 primary school students in the city. He said that if the stool submission rate could be increased from the present 30-40% to reach 60%, the project could break even financially. If the activities were conducted twice a year as in Indonesia, the project would



Project promotion staff with students in Katmandu.

likely become self-sufficient.

Meanwhile, in Panchkhal, Hara provided a one-day seminar for community health workers (CHWs) of each village and the members of the cooperating committee. Noting a demand from local people for deworming drugs, Hara urged that PC services be provided on a mass basis in the area by personnel working out of a mobile unit. Hara also had suggestions to make about the use of rain water for drinking. Noting the absence of convenient water supplies, he recommended using the Thai experience of making water tanks from local materials.

## Mobilizing Health Workers with Bicycles in Sierra Leone

Two member cities of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) received a courtesy call in May from Yoshio Koike, UNFPA country director, Sierra Leone. Koike visited



Koike with Yoji Nagase.

Kawaguchi and Tokorozawa cities, which together with Nerima City recently donated 150 reconditioned bicycles to Sierra Leone through UNFPA. The

bicycles, the first MCCOBA shipment to Sierra Leone, are scheduled to arrive on July 19.

During his visit to the Kawaguchi City Office on May 9, Koike expressed his gratitude to Mayor Yoji Nagase. Providing an outline of the situation in Sierra Leone and the needs of the people, Koike explained that the country

was ranked 176th out of 176 countries on the UNDP's Human Development Index in 1993. The bicycles, he said, would be mainly distributed through UNFPA channels to health workers working at the community level. He said that he was planning to attach UNFPA and family planning (FP) messages on the bicycles.



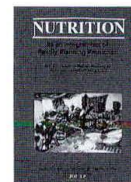
Koike with Hiroshi Saito.

In a meeting with Mayor Hiroshi Saito of Tokorozawa City on May 11, Koike emphasized that the bicycles were an appropriate means of transport particularly in the rural areas of Sierra Leone where fuel is expensive and where car parts are often scarce. The bicycles will be effective for expanding health services in remote areas, he said.

A second shipment of 75 bicycles is scheduled to reach Sierra Leone in November. The bicycles are to be donated to the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone.

## New JOICFP Publication

The *Report of the African Regional Workshop on the Integrated Project (PANFRICO IV)* was published in booklet form in May by JOICFP under the title of *Nutrition as an Integral Part of Family Planning Promotion*. A 25-page publication, the booklet is based on the discussions of PANFRICO IV, held in



Banjul, The Gambia, from September 27 - October 1, 1993. The meeting was conducted as part of the UNFPA-supported regional project entitled "Promotion of Integrated Family Planning Project with Primary Health Care Service for Sub-Sahara Africa" (RAF/92/P07). The meeting was also supported by IPPF. The booklet was produced as a reference material for project planners and managers.

# Give Women Work and Fertility Will Fall

*Giving women paying work and raising their status can be more effective for increasing family planning (FP) acceptance than a direct service promotion approach, said Akihiko Yoshida, professor, Sanno Junior College. Speaking at a study meeting of the Council on Population Education at JOICFP on May 12, Yoshida presented a case study of the impact of grape cultivation on the women of an area in Nordeste, a region in the northeast of Brazil. The meeting was attended by 40 population experts, academics and journalists. Below is an outline of Yoshida's presentation.*

For any FP program, Nordeste presented a challenge. A region of widespread poverty, the life expectancy in Nordeste was 51 years in 1984, while the infant mortality rate was 124.5 per 1,000 live births. The population was predominantly Catholic and most child bearing for women started at 15-16 years old.

However, when a small farm near the city of Petrolina succeeded in producing grape varieties that were suitable to the hot, dry conditions of the area, something very positive happened for the women of the area. The enterprise hired women to cultivate the grapes. Chosen over men for their production skills, the women found themselves in the secure position of paid employment.

As they began to earn more than their husbands, the women's status improved markedly and many aspects of daily life began to change. The average age of the first marriage of the women group leaders increased significantly to reach the present 24-25 years. The average number of children for the women working on the farm is now only half that of unemployed women living in the area. Married women with children have fewer deliveries than they expect after commencing work on the farm and have considerably fewer than other women in the area.

The lessons of Nordeste are clear. If women have higher status, they are more likely to choose to have fewer children. An approach that is aimed at improving the many aspects in women's lives such as income and job opportunities will be welcomed by women and

ultimately more effective than a simplified direct FP approach. The issue of women in



Akihiko Yoshida

development is therefore extremely important to FP and population programs and needs to be discussed seriously at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Cairo in September.

## Local Governments Reach Out

Members of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) agreed to send 3,225 reconditioned bicycles in 32 shipments to 22 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in fiscal 1994 (April 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995) at a general meeting, held at Musashino City on May 16. The new donations will bring the number of bicycles sent abroad by MCCOBA to a total of 12,725 by the end of fiscal 1994.

To smooth implementation of the bicycle donation scheme, members agreed to increase the number of spare parts sent to recipient countries. MCCOBA was advised of the need for additional spare parts by reports that noted the extensive use of the bicycles in the often difficult terrain of rural areas.

MCCOBA members also agreed to apply once again for Japanese official development

assistance (ODA) funds through Grassroot Aid (previously called Small Scale Grant Assistance) to support shipping costs. The organization has received funds through the scheme for the past two years. It was noted at the meeting that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also approved some funds towards shipment costs.

Despite an increase in the shipment budget to ¥35 million (US\$330,000 at an exchange rate of US\$1 to ¥106) in fiscal 1994, the shortage of shipping funds remains the biggest hurdle to answering the increasing requests from developing countries for reconditioned bicycles. Due to the fund shortage, only 3,225 of the 4,050 bicycles available from MCCOBA will be sent abroad this fiscal year.

Another major item discussed at the meeting was the effective use of space in the shipping containers between the bicycles for sending other donated items. Members noted that the space, already used for stationery goods donated by MCCOBA members, could be more fully utilized for sending office and medical equipment that has been made available from public institutions under the National and Local Government Property Transfer Law.

### Bright Population Message

An 8-year-old boy from Thailand, Sittiphol Charatwat, took top honors in UNFPA's International Population Poster Contest this year with a colorful entry under the theme of "Population - Key to the 21st Century." The student, who was selected on April 25 from among 237 entries from 57 countries, has been invited to Cairo to attend the awards ceremony to be held prior to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in September.

Sponsored by UNFPA, the poster contest was first launched in 1991 with the cooperation of governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations concerned with population. A goal of the contest is to promote awareness and understanding of population issues, particularly the relationship between environmental and social problems and population.

Prior to being sent to UNFPA in New York, the posters underwent selection at the country level. For the final decision on the five categories, the entries were viewed by a judging panel comprising UNFPA executive committee members and guest members from the Population Council.

## VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

### Thoughts on Cairo

A clear direction and agenda are essential to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). These, I believe, will determine its success.

If our experience in Japan is anything to go on, I believe that it is possible to solve world population problems. My optimism is based on the experience of the Japanese people who overcame their postwar difficulties to obtain

their present quality of life. Through struggle, the people were able to survive the famine, poverty and disease that were related to the population problem. As we overcame poverty and our standard of living rose to the present level, we gained considerable confidence.

Without a doubt, population poses the greatest challenge to humankind. I therefore believe that it is time to speak out and share our experiences. Through our struggles to survive the hunger and pervasive poverty of the postwar years, we learned a valuable lesson: if we have the will to survive, we can endure any hardship. The words "to live through" imply that people can face up to and endure difficulties. Clearly,

an ability to face adversity played a role in the Japanese people's struggle against poverty.

During their struggle, the people took the initiative to make their lives better. This motivation is the key to success. If you maintain this spirit, you will not only be able to survive, but you will improve your life. It is vital that people persevere in their efforts to raise their standards of living.

With strong determination and persistent efforts, I am sure people can solve the problems of humankind related to population issues. The Japanese people were able to settle their problems in this way and I am convinced that these experiences can now be adapted to assist people in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

With a strong will, much can be achieved. The threat of disease can be reduced and social development activities such as education can be promoted. As a first step, I suggest that the people who lead us should be the first to take action so that others may follow.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Latin American IEC Workshop on Adolescent Health

MEXFAM (Mexican Foundation for Family Planning) and JOICFP are organizing a regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean. Theme: IEC on Adolescent Health. Date: October 10 - 12, 1994. Venue: Pátzcuaro, State of Michoacán, Mexico. Organizers: MEXFAM and JOICFP. Sponsors: UNFPA and IPPF. Participants: Representatives from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, UNFPA, IPPF, UNICEF and PAHO.

*Note: Self-funded observers are welcome to*

*attend the workshop. For further details, please contact MEXFAM or JOICFP.*

### Seminar on Population Aging 1994

Theme: "Aging population and social services - community support systems for the elderly and the family."

Date: October 19 - 28, 1994

Venue: Tokyo and Hiroshima Prefecture

Organizer: JOICFP

Sponsor: UNFPA

Participants: Senior planners and/or program managers responsible for community health and welfare programs and/or policy researchers in the same field from the nine Asian countries/areas of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

*Note: Self-funded observers are welcome. For further details, please contact JOICFP.*

## DIARY

- JOICFP Program Officer Aiko Iijima and **Fumiko Mukaigawara**, matron, Kofu Jonan Hospital, were in Nepal from Mar. 1 - 17 to provide technical assistance to staff of the Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women.  
- Dr. **Toshio Kuroda**, director emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute; Dr. **Fumie Kumagai**, professor, Graduate School of International Cooperation, Department of Foreign Studies, Kyorin University; and Dr. **Kenji Hayashi**, director, Department of Demography and Health Statistics, Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Welfare, were resource persons for the Workshop on Population Aging, held from Mar. 14 - 17 in Singapore. They were accompanied by JOICFP Program Officer Ryoko Nishida and staff member Lisa Asamura.  
- Dr. **Helen Wallace**, professor of MCH, Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University, visited JOICFP on Mar. 25 to exchange information.  
- JOICFP Program Officer Ryoko Nishida visited

ESCAP in Thailand to exchange information on the regional project on aging, and visited UNFPA and the Department of Health in the Philippines to discuss planning of the UNFPA-assisted project, while in the two countries from Mar. 20 - 27.

- **Jane Fonda**, goodwill ambassador of UNFPA, and **Peter Bahouth**, director, Turner Foundation, visited JOICFP on Mar. 30 to exchange information.

- JOICFP Program Officer Sumie Ishii and staff member Sono Aibe were in Thailand and Laos from Mar. 16 - 27 and Mar. 15 - 31, respectively, for activities of the Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women.

- Dr. **Noriji Suzuki**, professor emeritus, Kochi Medical College; Dr. **Takashi Onogawa**, director, First Department, and **Takaaki Sambe**, vice director, Second Department, Central Research Laboratory, Tokyo Health Service Association, were in China from Mar. 21 - Apr. 3 for technical training at the Taicang IP Center. They were accompanied by JOICFP Program Officer Yoshitatsu Kanno.

### JOICFP Women's Health and Status Series

A New Animated Film

## My Way

13 min., Color/English, Thai



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

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

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