



# JOICFP NEWS

## A Call for Action on Disarmament & Population

### Fukuda warns of consequences of increasing world population at InterAction Council session

Takeo Fukuda, former prime minister of Japan, and president of JOICFP, opened the 12th session of the InterAction Council in Dresden, Germany, with a speech on June 7. The council was established in 1983 in Vienna by Fukuda and other former heads of state including former chancellor of Germany, Helmut Schmidt. The main purpose of the group is to consider and discuss long-term global issues and make recommendations that can contribute to world peace. The group addresses three priority issues on a continuous basis: world peace and disarmament; global problems of population increase, environmental degradation, resource and energy questions; and the question of activating the world economy. This year's session was held from June 7 - 10 and was attended by representatives of over 20 countries. Below are excerpts of Fukuda's speech.

The cold war structure has crumbled and mankind is given a historic chance to construct a new era of genuine world peace. However, amid such a change, the stockpiled nuclear weapons still exist today, and the nuclear arms suspicion in North Korea poses a new threat to the world. Under such a situation, the role of multilateral organizations, particularly the UN, has become increasingly important.

Although the principal parameter of the world's political management has been East-West relations, I believe that henceforth it should encompass North-South-East-West – the entire world. For that reason also, multilateral institutions should be further strengthened. I particularly feel that special attention should be paid to the neglected North-South relations.

Ever since mankind was created, we have been under the illusion that the resources, energy and environment, which are indispensable to our existence, are infinitely available, and we have lived a myriad of



Takeo Fukuda, former prime minister of Japan, and president of JOICFP, in Tokyo.

millenniums without much concern. However, the emergence of the mass-consumption society brought on by economic development proves with facts that such a perception is erroneous. I have termed this the "advent of the era of finite resources and environment" and have warned the world for many years about this.

Moreover, the rapidly increasing global population is further complicating and making it arduous to cope with this issue. Unless we alleviate these global problems encompassing population, global environment, resources and energy, we cannot promise a future for our posterity.

The world population is increasing by 100 million each year. It was 1.6 billion at the beginning of this century but is assumed to increase to 6.4 billion at the end of the century, to 8 billion in the year 2020 and an appalling 10 billion by 2050.

How is this earth with finite resources going to sustain this explosively increasing population? Resources, energy, environment

and global population are a mutually linked set of problems. Among them, the population problem requires particularly critical but difficult measures. I believe the importance of recognizing this problem can never be overstressed. In particular, I am convinced that we must now address the problem of balancing the rapidly increasing population with food supply.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) will be convened this fall in Cairo, Egypt. It is my earnest wish that this conference will attain the best possible results for the survival of our planet and mankind. And I greatly hope that the InterAction Council will come up with convincing recommendations. I am hoping that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will make an authoritative forecast on the supply and demand relationship between population and food and come up with measures to cope with this problem.

The InterAction Council will hold its 13th session in Tokyo in 1995.

## Women Call for more Contraceptive Choice

The low-dose oral contraceptive pill should be authorized in Japan to widen accessibility to contraception. That was the conclusion of the Symposium for Discussing the Reproductive



Hans M. Vemer

Health of Women, held in Yokohama on June 25. The symposium was attended by a mostly female audience of 400 and organized by the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA). The event com-

memorated JFPA's establishment 40 years ago.

The issue of the pill was taken up by the first keynote speaker, Dr. Masahiko Hiroi, Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN) Department, School of Medicine, University of Yamagata, who spoke on "Reproductive health

— the role of female hormones." Advocating the pill, Hiroi said that from the viewpoint of reproductive health, the pill should be considered as an effective means of contraception. Hiroi added that clinical trials had proved that the pill is an effective contraceptive method.

The next keynote speaker, Dr. Yoshihide Kimura, director general, OBGYN Department, Sanraku Hospital, introduced a unique survey on induced abortion conducted at his hospital. The survey, conducted over 8 years, found a large number of unwanted pregnancies caused by failures of withdrawal, rhythm method or condoms. To avoid unwanted pregnancy, women should have a wider choice of contraceptive methods including the pill, he said.

The panel discussion served as the highlight of the symposium. Coordinated by Dr. Kunio Kitamura, director, Ichigaya Clinic, JFPA, the discussion brought two panelists with opposing views together. The first, Dr. Tomoko Sautome, OBGYN, Aoyama Hospital, argued that the pill should be used as an effective method for preventing pregnancy, while the condom should be promoted as an effective means to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

However, Chizuko Ikegami, representative, PLACE Tokyo (Positive Living And Community Environment) rejected Sautome's view. The most important issue, she said, is to provide people with wider access to contraception based on informed choice and not to stress one method over another. Moreover, couples should be encouraged to communicate and make mutual decisions about contraception, she said. To prove her point, Ikegami commented that the rate of teenage pregnancy increased in the U.S. after the pill was authorized. The reason, she argued, was that as more emphasis was placed on the pill, men took less responsibility for contraception.

Dr. Hans M. Vemer, member, International Committee of Research in Reproduction, Switzerland, added to the debate by commenting that teenage pregnancy did not rise in Europe after the pill's authorization because adolescent health education was incorporated into the education system.

The symposium also drew attention to the vulnerability of women to AIDS in a special lecture entitled, "Women and AIDS."

## Japanese People Boost NGOs

Funds donated by the Japanese people were allocated to JOICFP by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications on June 27 to assist people in six developing countries in 1994 (July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995). The funds were donated under the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme, previously called the Voluntary Deposit for



JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon receives POSIVA funds from the minister.

International Aid (VDIA) scheme. JOICFP was the third-largest recipient of funds in this year's allocation, receiving a total of ¥74.282 million (US\$701,000 at an official exchange rate of ¥106 to US\$1). The funds collected by the ministry in 1993 for allocation in 1994 came to ¥2.36 billion (US\$22.3 million).

Under the scheme, members of the public donate 20% of the interest accumulated on savings held in special POSIVA accounts at post office branches throughout the country. The number of POSIVA accounts reached 14.51 million at the end of March 1994. The funds are then distributed by the ministry to Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which use them to provide assistance to NGO counterparts in developing countries. A total of 197 Japanese NGOs received funds for 261 projects in developing countries this year.

The funds received by JOICFP are being utilized to raise the health of women and children and promote community development in Brazil, China, Ghana, Guatemala, Tanzania and Vietnam.

Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase materials and equipment to support grassroots activities promoted under the Integrated Project (IP) in respective countries.

### Meeting Old Friends

Dr. Halfdan Mahler, secretary-general, IPPF, met with leaders of major Japanese family planning (FP) organizations including the Family

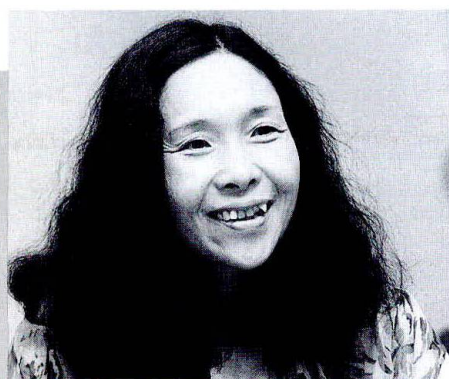


Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), Japan Family Planning Association

(JFPA) and JOICFP during his stay in Japan from May 24 - 27. Shidzue Kato, president, FPFJ, was among the FP pioneers who joined discussions. Mahler also exchanged information about population, FP and related global issues with Michihiko Kano, head, New Vision Party, and senior vice chairman, Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP).

# Childbirth – a Question for Couples to Decide

The decrease in Japan's total fertility rate (TFR) to a new low of 1.46 in 1993 may reinforce concern about the rapid aging of Japanese society and boost calls from politicians and the business circle for women to bear



Yuriko Ashino

more children, says Yuriko Ashino, deputy executive director, Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ). "Since government and business are already afraid of declining fertility

in Japan, this may further strengthen their pronatalist attitudes."

Ashino, who is a member of the Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94, argues that motherhood is a question of choice and should not be forced on women in the form of government policy. "Instead of pressuring women to have babies, the government should foster a social environment in which women won't feel that having children is such a burden," she says.

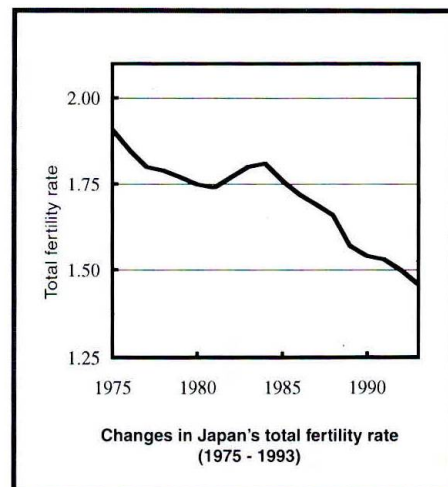
To create such an environment, Ashino calls for more supportive systems such as fully paid child-care leave as well as a change in the value system. "The notion that women should stay at home and raise children needs to be changed," she says. Changes should also be made in the labor system to allow men to contribute more to child rearing, she adds. "If it is the choice of couples to have only 1.46 children, then the government should accept this and change policies to ensure that people living in a low-fertility society can lead satisfying lives."

According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the TFR, or number of babies born to a woman, dropped 0.4 points from 1.50 in 1992 to reach the 1.46 mark, the second-lowest TFR in the industrialized world after Italy's 1.26. The ministry also reported that the number of babies born in Japan fell by 20,672 from 1992 to 1.18 million in 1993. At the peak of Japan's second baby boom in 1973, 2.9 million babies were born within the year.

As in previous years, the ministry partly attributed the decline in fertility to the growing trend for women to marry later and bear children later. In the report, it noted that the average age of first marriage for women rose from 26 in 1992 to 26.1 years in 1993, while the average age at which women bear their first child rose to a record 27.2 years in 1993.

However, Ashino and other concerned women dispute the ministry's analysis. "Due to advances in medical technologies, women can now bear children much later," she says. "Therefore, the later age of marriage and first child should not necessarily affect a woman's ability to have more than 1.46 children."

The women also reject previous arguments from the government that the higher education of women in Japan is affecting the birthrate. According to Ashino, the statistics do not bear this out in Japan since women of all educational



backgrounds are choosing to have fewer children. "This argument also implies that women should not receive higher education," she says. "This makes women angry."

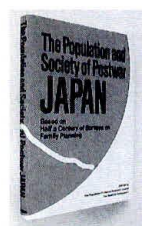
"Having children concerns two people," says Ashino. "Thus, the government should place more emphasis on men's participation and responsibility for contraception, child-rearing and household work." Ashino believes, however, that the government would like women to stay home not only to rear children, but to serve as care-givers for the increasing number of elderly. "These two responsibilities are now major factors that restrict a woman from leading a fuller life outside the home."

"Since the 1994 UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is to be held in September, we should also consider Japan's fertility issues in relation with other countries," says Ashino. "Japan is the leading contributor to UNFPA. This implies that Japan is pushing the concept of 'smaller families, happier families' in developing countries," she says. "But at home, it is urging Japanese women to bear more children. This is quite a contradiction."

## New Publication

A new book published by the Population Problems Research Council of the Mainichi Shimbun provides a concise overview of the population trends of Japan over the last 50 years. Entitled *The*

*Population and Society of Postwar Japan – Based on Half a Century of Surveys on Family Planning*, the book incorporates analyses of different aspects of population written by prominent



population experts. The analyses reflect information gathered by the institute in its biannual knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) surveys, which it has conducted since 1950. The survey is the only source of information on family planning of its kind in Japan and earned the council the UN Population Award in 1993.

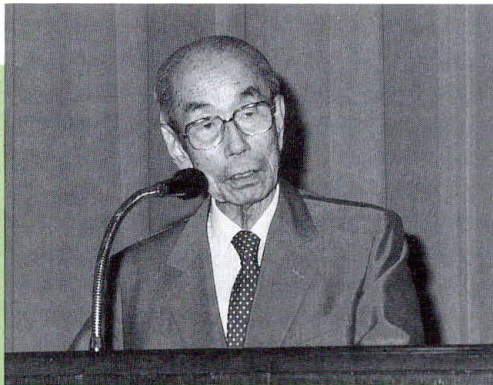
## "2050" NGO Debuts

A new Japanese non-governmental organization (NGO) named "2050" was inaugurated on May 15 in a ceremony in Tokyo. Headed by Katsuhide Kitatani, senior advisor, UNFPA, the NGO is aimed at creating awareness of population issues, conducting research and study tours and promoting international cooperation. The name "2050" symbolizes the year 2050 in which world population is expected to reach 10 billion.

# Expectations High in Japan for ICPD

## Symposium participants look toward the ICPD in Cairo in September

A symposium to mark World Population Day was held in Tokyo on July 14. In a fitting turnout to the event held ahead of the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, the



Takeo Fukuda

majority of the over 300 members of the audience were women. The gathering, dubbed the "Japan Population Conference" Symposium, was named after the first "Japan



Katsuhide Kitatani

Population Conference" held 20 years before, prior to the World Population Conference in Bucharest, Romania, in 1974. The event, which took the theme of "The ICPD and the role of

Japan," concluded with participants agreeing on a set of recommendations for the ICPD entitled the "Tokyo Appeal."

The symposium was organized by the Council on Population Education and JOICFP in cooperation with the Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94, Population Forum 21, the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ) and Family Planning Association

of Japan (JFPA). It was supported by UNFPA, IPPF and the IP Forum and attended by the mass media, which brought nationwide attention to the event.

The symposium began with an opening address by Takeo Fukuda, former prime minister of Japan, and president of JOICFP, who served as conference chairman. "Despite the end of the cold war, we still have enough atomic weaponry to kill the world's population 60 times over," he said. "The issue of disarmament is still a most pressing one for humankind." Noting the significance of the issues of population, environment and development, Fukuda commented that the ICPD is an important event for the entire world as it will determine the plan of action for the next 20 years.



A view of the panel discussion in progress at the symposium.

A leadership role for Japan in efforts to solve population issues was strongly urged by Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, in a message conveyed by Katsuhide Kitatani, senior advisor, UNFPA. "Japan can not only provide financial support, but can share its experiences in population and family planning (FP) toward the solution of problems," said the message.

Ambassador of Egypt in Japan Mervat Mehani Tallawy also spoke at the event and warned that "The population clock is ticking

## NGOs Prepped for ICPD

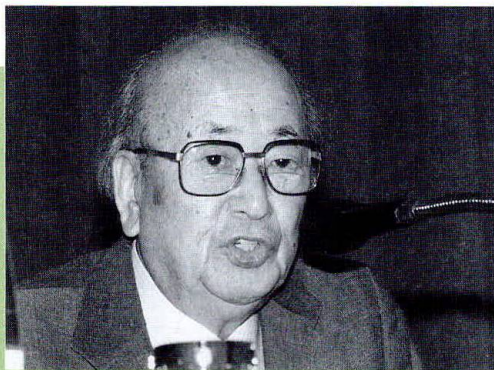
Representatives of 15 Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were given an outline of what to expect at the UN International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Cairo, Egypt, at an orientation meeting at the Embassy of Egypt on July 15. Hosted by the Ambassador of Egypt in Japan Mervat Mehani Tallawy, the meeting was open to those NGOs attending the ICPD in September and to the mass media.

Providing a comprehensive outline of the conference, Tallawy said that the agenda includes many important issues such as social and economic development, health and education. However, the most important issue for discussion will be women, she added.

Addressing the representatives, Tallawy said that NGOs will have a more important role to play in the field of population and development. She also had comments to make about the important role that Japan can play in world affairs. As a country with a peaceful constitution, Japan can do much to contribute to the solution of important non-military issues such as population, the environment and poverty alleviation, she said.



Mervat Mehani Tallawy



*Toshio Kuroda*

continuously and will never stop." Addressing the audience, she added, "Any delay in confronting the problem will have inevitable serious consequences because those who are born are our responsibilities. The ICPD, which will be the major international population conference of the decade, will provide a means for governments and NGOs to share the responsibility which the world has towards future generations."

The first keynote speaker was Dr. Toshio Kuroda, director emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute. Speaking as a demographer, Kuroda commented that while the importance of issues such as women's empowerment and reproductive health cannot be neglected, the need to consider macro population issues should not be overlooked. The rapidly increasing world population will have serious consequences for humankind and



*Akiko Domoto*

deserves attention, he said. Norio Hattori, deputy director general, Bureau of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was also a keynote speaker. Providing an outline of the Global Issues Initiative (GII), Hattori explained that the Japanese government has taken leadership in this field and committed a total of US\$3 billion in official development assistance over the next seven years for population and AIDS. Under the GII, the government will be depending heavily on the support of NGOs, which will directly receive

assistance under the initiative, he said. The health of women and children, primary health care, education programs for the illiterate and the empowerment of women are some of the areas that will benefit under the GII, he said.

Coordinated by Dr. Minoru Muramatsu, standing executive director, FPFJ, the panel discussion was marked by lively discussion among the panelists.

The importance of an approach that balances the micro and macro views of population issues was stressed by Yoichi Okazaki, professor, Nihon University, who began the discussion. To get his point across, Okazaki explained that the macro approach indicates the sum of the behaviors of the individuals at the micro level. Okazaki further stressed that it was important not to lose sight of the big picture of rapidly increasing population. There are already too many people on this earth, he added.

A very micro approach to population was taken by Akiko Domoto, member of Parliament, House of Councilors. Stressing that women's decisions and choices should be widened, Domoto expressed her hope that the ICPD would focus attention on the importance of giving women more decision-making power. She said that population policies have tended to neglect women's issues, but after Cairo she hoped to see more focus on women in the policies of the many governments attending. Domoto said that she hoped the concepts of reproductive rights and health would be broadened after the ICPD.

The other woman on the panel was Yoriko Meguro, professor, Sophia University, who reminded the audience that the 4th World Conference on Women will be held in Beijing in 1995. In consideration of this event, the ICPD will be very important for creating a positive setting for discussing issues related to women, she said. Meguro also commented that the concept of women in development needs to be expanded to that of gender and development, she said.

The effectiveness of NGOs in population activities was emphasized by the last panelist, Akihiko Yoshida, professor, Sanno Junior College. Commenting that governments cannot do everything, Yoshida said that NGOs have a powerful effect at the community level. In terms of women's empowerment, Yoshida noted the effectiveness of income-generating activities for providing women with more

choices and higher status.

The symposium wound up with discussions on the Tokyo Appeal, which were chaired by



*Norio Hattori*

Masaaki Yasukawa, professor, Meikai University, and secretary-general, Council on Population Education.

## Tokyo Appeal

In anticipation of the ICPD in Cairo, Egypt, in September, the participants of the symposium put forward recommendations on what the Japanese people should plan and implement and what roles Japan should assume as a member of the global community in the 21st century. The recommendations were presented as the "Tokyo Appeal."

The document notes that the concept of reproductive health and rights is increasingly recognized as being indispensable to improving women's status the world over. "In the foreign aid projects of the Japanese government, now the world's largest official development assistance donor, the women's point of view should be incorporated and practical steps need to be taken," it states.

Meanwhile, the document urges the Japanese prime minister to attend the ICPD to proclaim the government's political commitment based on the Global Issues Initiative (GII) to the world community. The appeal demands that women representatives and NGO representatives be included in the official Japanese delegation in view of the conference agenda which includes several specific sessions on women and NGOs.

# Lessons in Self-reliance

The situation of Japan 30-40 years ago has many aspects in common with the situation in China today, according to the 13 members of a Chinese study team who attended a seminar in Japan from June 27 - July 10. For the team, the field trip to the central mountainous area of Nagano Prefecture was a learning experience. In discussions with many of the original grassroots health promoters, the team learned how the people joined hands to improve the way of life, and how the private sector, working in collaboration with the government and

personnel are working to improve services and promote self-reliance of activities by providing high-quality services on a fee-charged basis.

An annual event, the 11th Parasite Control Seminar for Promoting the IP in China was sponsored by the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation and conducted by the Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) in cooperation with JOICFP. Ten of the participants were representatives of 10 provinces implementing the fourth three-year IP plan. A representative also attended from the Taicang Family Health Service Center. The center is operated by the Taicang Family Planning Association and provides fee-charged services with a goal of self-reliance. Two representatives of the National IP Steering Committee also attended.

The Chinese visitors were particularly impressed with the history of activities of the Nagano Health Service Association. The association was established in the extremely poor area of Nagano as a parasite control (PC) organization in 1954 with three staff members who began by promoting mass PC activities on a fee-charged basis. Through these activities, people became more aware of the importance of health. The association broadened its activities to other areas of preventive health care and began providing mass health checkups. Today, the association is a self-reliant body with over 30 staff members.

Another institution of interest to the visitors was Saku Central Hospital in a rural area of



*The team looks over health examination records of the Nagano Health Service Association.*



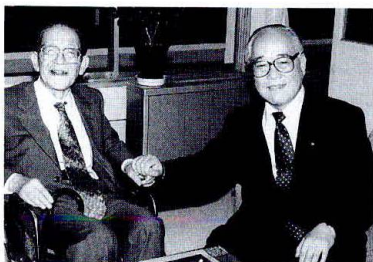
*Participants observe infant checkups at the Saku City Health Center.*

volunteers, played a vital role in raising the level of health in Nagano.

The insights into the use of the private sector to promote health on a fee-charged basis were particularly beneficial for the team. In China the concept of paying for services is still relatively new. However, in areas where the Integrated Project is being implemented, project

Nagano, which first launched a unique mobile health care team to reach isolated rural areas without doctors in 1945. The pioneering hospital, under the leadership of its director, Dr. Toshikazu Wakatsuki, was ahead of its time in initiating outreach preventive health care and education services and served as a health examination center for the entire prefecture. The hospital also initiated intensive and systematic screening with education, and establishment of a "total health control" program in the village of Yachiho. Under the program, each villager kept a health diary on an annual basis.

In Nagano, the team also visited the Nagano Prefectural Government Office, Saku Prefectural Health Center, government offices, a primary school and the house of a farming family in Saku City, Usuda Town and Yachiho village. The observations complemented the visit to the Tokyo Health Service Association and the presentations that the team received in Tokyo. The team gained a much firmer understanding of ways to achieve self-reliance in the promotion of mass preventive health care.



Dr. Sook Bang, senior consultant, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, (right) speaks with JOICFP Chairman Chojiro Kunii in Tokyo on June 28. Bang was in Japan to gather information about the health-care system and activities for the aged. Korea, like Japan, is facing a rapidly aging society.

## Spreading the Word by Radio

A reporter for Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) interviews a woman from the Miao ethnic minority in China working as a midwife for a worldwide radio program to be aired on NHK's Radio Japan (photo on right). The program, for broadcast in August, is one of a five-part series on population issues and the family to be broadcast worldwide from August - December. Made with collaboration from JOICFP, the series features activities of JOICFP's Integrated Project in China in the first program and in Tanzania in the third program. The series, entitled *5.7 billion Population Challenge - A Family Point of View* was planned to mark the UN International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September, and the International Year of the Family.



# Japanese Respond to Campaign

A unique campaign launched by JOICFP in August last year had netted ¥4,371,000 (US\$41,200 at an official exchange rate of ¥106 to US\$1) at the end of this June to support activities of the Integrated Project (IP) in

developing countries. Under the campaign, the public, institutions, organizations and businesses have been sending in used prepaid cards to JOICFP for sale to collectors in Japan and abroad. The



A card donation box in Tenmaya Department Store, Okayama City.

cards, which are used for phones, subways, railways and highways, feature appealing illustrations and photos that attract collectors. Prepaid cards are widely used throughout Japan. Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) alone issues 20 million cards annually.

JOICFP has been surprised by the tremendous response to the campaign, which it launched primarily to raise awareness. The campaign, which has been widely featured in

the media, has proved effective for drawing attention to JOICFP and to population and family planning issues. Gaining the understanding of the Japanese public about population issues has grown in importance since the government's announcement of the new Global Issues Initiative (GII).

The media attention began at the end of last year and word about the campaign spread as it was carried by radio, television, newspapers and magazines nationwide. The number of cards sent in escalated with the attention. By the end of June, JOICFP had received around 700,000 cards of which 550,000 had been exchanged for cash.

The funds generated by the card sales have been allocated to support grassroots IP activities and encourage the self-reliance of projects in China, Ghana, Guatemala, Nepal, Tanzania and Zambia.

Responses to the campaign have come from individuals as well as local governments, hospitals, enterprises and educational institutions. Many of these have initiated their own card-collection system and information-dissemination activities to support JOICFP. Over 5,000 different organizations are now collaborating with JOICFP for the campaign including a major department store, Tenmaya Department Store in Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture.

# Appropriate Technologies

Margaret Dodd Britton, deputy director, Technology Management Department, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), spoke with JOICFP NEWS on June 2 about her organization. Below are highlights.

PATH's mission is to improve health, especially the health of women and children, in developing countries. We focus on the technologies related to improving health and we are accomplishing our mission through increasing the efficacy, safety, availability and appropriateness of different contraceptives and health technologies. By a focus on technology, I mean we actually develop some technologies and help introduce these technologies into health and family planning (FP) programs. We also transfer technologies for local manufacturing where feasible and appropriate.

PATH is unique in that our focus is not just on the technology itself, but how to fit it into a health system to improve health in a particular setting. In addition to contraceptive technology, PATH is working in areas



Margaret Dodd Britton

related to safe injection systems, safe blood, and safe birth. So we are interested in technologies that are not only appropriate, but are also simple to use and low cost. If appropriate, we may transfer technologies to a country. In this situation, we would train people in the use of the technology and also help people to develop appropriate educational materials.

We think it is so important that technologies be appropriate for programs. Therefore, we assess whether or not a technology is appropriate. The best people to assess this are the those in the field. As technologies are used in the field, we continue to make modifications.

One of our interests is reproductive health. We hope in the future to see more integration of FP and overall women's reproductive health, counseling and post-abortion services. Also in the future, we hope to have more recognition that a woman's FP needs change throughout her reproductive years as her age and family situation change.

## Expressions of Gratitude

Two African visitors paid courtesy calls to the mayors of Kawaguchi and Setagaya cities to express their gratitude for the cities' donation of



With Mayor Yoji Nagase

reconditioned bicycles to support grassroots health promotion in their countries. On June 13, Nii Adote Addo, program director, Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), and Tengio Urrio, coordinator, Service Delivery, Family Planning Association of Tanzania (UMATI), met with Mayor Yoji Nagase of Kawaguchi City to express gratitude for the city's

donation of 50 bikes each for Ghana and Tanzania. The next day, the Africans paid a visit to Setagaya City where they thanked Mayor Keiji Oba for the city's generosity. The city, one of the oldest members of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas

Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), also donated 50 bicycles to each country. During the courtesy calls, the

visitors also explained that the bicycles will help health workers to promote maternal and child health and family planning.



With Mayor Keiji Oba

## VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

### Parasites – a Beginning

About 40 years ago, the Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) organized a training seminar for parasite control (PC) technicians under the directorship of Dr. Yoshitaka Komiya and other experts. It was the first such seminar aimed at controlling parasite infections which were prevalent in those days. The seminar then began to be held annually to a growing number of participants who would return to their localities and launch PC campaigns. The idea of PC caught on and spread nationwide. The PC promoters also worked as health agents to promote community health activities. With the help of local medical and health experts, they involved primary schools, women's associations

and companies in the campaigns.

During the course of the campaigns, the promoters realized the significant impact that bacterial infection was having on the people. The identification of diseases such as dysentery through the examinations was noted as an important issue and the promoters attempted to expand their activities into this field.

But our actions were strongly opposed by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, which referred to the Infectious Diseases Prevention Law to inhibit the activities. The ministry urged JAPC to limit its activities to parasites.

However, those of us concerned about the health of the people did not pay much attention to the law and went ahead with efforts to prevent infectious diseases. We gained the cooperation of experts in this venture. We devoted ourselves to this cause, expanding our activities to include measures against food poisoning and the promotion of health

education. Expanding our examinations to involve schools and businesses, we took little notice of the law. Ahead of the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964, we saw the number of examinations for bacterial infections double and our activities grew dramatically.

After this phase, our activities further expanded into occult blood testing for diseases such as stomach cancer. We found an increasing demand from companies requesting tests for workers and Dr. Kurokawa of Tohoku University, an advocate of the early detection of stomach cancer, led this new drive.

We made every effort to detect stomach cancer at an early stage and the occult blood test was recognized as an important tool for this purpose. "Early detection for early treatment" was our slogan. The introduction of examinations for bacterial infections and occult blood testing both came out of our earlier PC activities. Through these and other efforts, the concept and strategy of preventive health care was gradually established in Japan.

### DIARY

– JOICFP Program Officer Ryoichi Suzuki was in Bangladesh from Mar. 31 - Apr. 6 to monitor the Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women.

– **Shoji Shibata**, deputy executive secretary, JFPA, was in China from Mar. 30 - Apr. 7 to exchange information on contraceptive marketing and IEC. He was accompanied by JOICFP Program Officer Yoshitatsu Kanno.

– **Paula Bagasao**, senior advisor, Donor Coordination, Asian/Pacific Region, Bureau for Program and Policy Coordination, USAID, visited JOICFP on Apr. 12 to discuss the GII.

– JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon was in Taiwan, China, from Apr. 14 - 16 to attend the 30th anniversary of the Maternal and Child Health Association.

– JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon and program officers Aiko Iijima and Ryoko Nishida were in the Philippines to attend the Orientation and Planning Workshop of the Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women, held from Apr. 18 - 19. Iijima and Nishida later monitored project activities.

– **Richard Frank**, president, Population Service International (PSI), visited JOICFP on Apr. 20 to exchange information.

– Seven paramedics from six countries attended a one-day seminar on FP activities in Japan and the IP at JOICFP on Apr. 22.

– JOICFP Program Officer Sumie Ishii and staff member Tetsuo Kato monitored the IP and VIDA activities in Brazil and attended the PrepCom III in New York while out of Japan from Apr. 3 - 24 and Apr. 9 - 24, respectively.

– **Yoshio Koike**, UNFPA country director, Sierra Leone, visited JOICFP to exchange information while in Japan from Apr. 12 - May 12.

– **Mieko Yabuta**, associate external relations

officer, Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP on May 16 and 17 to exchange information on the production of the Japanese version of the UNFPA Briefing Kit and the UNFPA-sponsored Poster Contest.

– **Dr. Hirofumi Ando**, deputy executive director, UNFPA, was in Tokyo from May 15 - 18 to exchange information with parliamentarians, government officials and JOICFP.

– **Dr. Halfdan Mahler**, secretary-general, and **Mark Laskin**, assistant secretary-general, IPPF, were in Japan from May 24 - 27 to hold discussions and exchange information with parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of PPFJ, JFPA and JOICFP.

– **Margaret Dodd Britton**, deputy director, Technology Management Department, PATH, visited JOICFP on May 30 for discussions.

– Eleven participants from 11 countries attended the Seminar on Community-based Family Planning Strategy, held May 16 - Jun. 10. The seminar was implemented by JOICFP and sponsored by JICA.

– Four nurses from Taiwan attended a one-day seminar at JOICFP on FP in Japan and JOICFP's IP on Jun. 20.

– **Juan G. Santiago**, deputy chief, Interregional and NGO Programs Branch, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP on Jun. 24 to exchange information.

– **Kenneth Far**, chief, Population Division, USAID in Indonesia, visited JOICFP on Jul. 7 to exchange information on population programs and JOICFP's activities. He was accompanied by **Paul White**, minister counselor for development cooperation, U.S. Embassy in Japan.

– Thirteen representatives from China attended the 11th Seminar on Parasite Control for Chinese Officials, held in Japan from Jun. 17 - Jul. 10. The seminar was implemented by JAPC in cooperation with JOICFP.

#### JOICFP Documentary Series

A New Documentary Film

## Maria

33 mins., Color; English, Spanish, Japanese



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

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