

JOICFP NEWS

Family Planning and AIDS on Yokohama Agenda

JFPA sparks debate on relevance of condom and the pill during "era of AIDS" at satellite meeting of Int'l AIDS conference

The Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) focused attention on the issue of "family planning (FP) in the era of AIDS" with a satellite symposium held on August 6 in Yokohama, Japan. Specifically, the symposium focused on the importance of providing access to oral contraceptives and the necessity of condoms. The symposium was timed prior to the 10th International Conference on AIDS/International Conference on STD, held in Yokohama in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo from August 7-12.

The symposium, organized by JFPA, was cosponsored by the Japanese Society for STDs, Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Japan Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. It was supported by IPPF and the International Committee for Research in Reproduction (ICRR). Dr. Seiichi Matsumoto, chairman, JFPA, opened the symposium.

The first of three speakers at the event was Dr. Takashi Wagatsuma, director general, International Medical Center of Japan, who called for the authorization of the low-dose oral contraceptive pill to widen contraceptive choice in Japan by providing women with an effective method that they can use. The condom is effective for prevention of AIDS and STDs, he said, but the authorization of the pill is essential from the viewpoint of reproductive rights. He said he disagreed with the assumption that the introduction of the pill would influence the spread of AIDS in Japan.

Dr. Yoshiaki Kumamoto, professor, Sapporo Medical College, urged wider use of the condom not just for AIDS prevention but also to prevent other STDs such as chlamydia. "Where there is sex, there is transmission of infection," he stated.

The third speaker, Dr. Elisabeth Johannisson, secretary general, ICRR, said that



A view of the satellite symposium on "family planning in the era of AIDS" in Yokohama.

the concept of reproductive health does not just refer to FP, but goes further to embrace such issues as maternal and child health, prevention of STDs and infertility. She said that the pill and the condom both have important parts to play to effectively promote reproductive health. Both methods have merits and drawbacks, so both should be available, she added.

The symposium included a special lecture on clinical approaches and care for HIV-infected individuals during pregnancy and labor. The main speaker at this event was Dr. Yutaka Miyazawa, director, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tokyo Metropolitan Otsuka Hospital, one of the officially designated hospitals in Japan that handle HIV/AIDS patients. Miyazawa spoke about the 10 known cases of mother-to-child HIV transmission that have occurred in Japan, noting that the actual number of cases is estimated at 60.

Miyazawa emphasized the importance of providing counseling to pregnant HIV-positive women to determine whether they want to continue or terminate their pregnancies or begin taking medication such as AZT. Another important issue when delivering babies to HIV-

positive mothers by cesarean section is to ensure that medical and paramedical staff are effectively protected. "It is easy for staff to protect themselves if they are given correct information," he said. "This would also help reduce prejudice." He added that the same methods used for handling hepatitis patients can be used for HIV-positive patients.

Meanwhile, the six-day International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama attracted about 12,000 people from 130 countries. The conference considered AIDS issues as the pandemic enters its second decade and helped draw attention to the rapid growth in infection rates. According to the World Bank, 14 to 18 million adults are now thought to be infected with HIV. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is showing no signs of slowing around the globe and cases of AIDS have now been reported in 164 countries in all regions of the world.

Taking the opportunity provided by the conference, Norio Hattori, deputy director general, Bureau of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conveyed Japan's support of worldwide AIDS-related activities with an outline of the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS.

Education Costs Deter Japanese Women from Childbearing

Exorbitant education costs are the number one reason cited by Japanese women for the falling birthrate, according to a survey taken by the Population Problems Research Council of the Mainichi Shimbun and published on July 27. In its biannual poll of knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of family planning (FP), the council found that 57.3% of women consider education costs as the biggest deterrent to

The dramatic decrease in the number of children in Japan's population is a concern to 77.7% of women, according to the poll. Some 13.1% said they were very worried, while 64.6% expressed moderate concern. When asked for their reasons for concern, 51.6% of women said that they were worried that the country would lose its vitality; 35.9% said they were concerned about the financial burden that pensions would place on the work force; and 32.8% said they were worried about the burden placed on care-givers for the elderly.

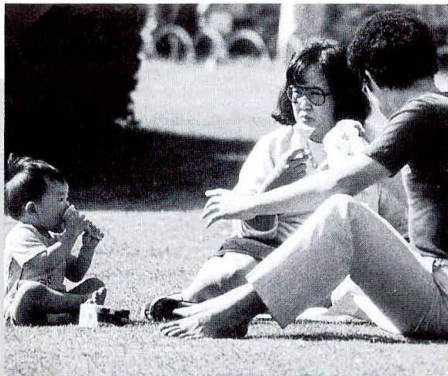
Despite the concern about the falling birthrate, most women (67.4%) said that bearing children was the decision of the individual and that the government should not take measures to raise fertility. Only 29.7% said that the government should take action.

Meanwhile, among all the women polled, 42.2% considered the ideal number of children to be two, while 42.0% said that three is best. Of this same group, 77.7% said that they relied on the condom and 13.9% said they used the *Ogino* rhythm method for contraception. The majority of married women (67.7%) had never experienced an induced abortion; while 16.0% had experienced an abortion once; 6.8% twice; 2.5% three times; and 0.6% four or more times. When asked under what circumstances abortion should be permitted, 26.3% said it should be permitted without conditions, while 55.1% said it should be permitted with conditions. When they were asked to name legitimate conditions for abortion, 47.7% cited contraceptive failure and 70.4% cited economic difficulties.

When unmarried women were asked what qualities they seek in a partner, 75.8% replied good character; 52.2% said someone who helps them with household chores; and 33.4% said someone financially well-off. Over half of unmarried women (51.5%) cited two as the desired number of children, while 25.7% said that three was a desirable number. When unmarried



A significant 57.3% of women consider education costs to be the biggest deterrent to childbirth.



Over half of unmarried women want future partners to help with household chores.

childbirth. Stress related to child-rearing was noted as the second deterrent by 51.6% of respondents. The total fertility rate (TFR) of Japan dropped to a low of 1.46 in 1993.

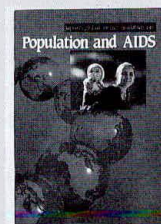
The 22nd National Survey on Family Planning was conducted in cooperation with the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) and JOICFP. The survey was launched in 1950 by the council, which was honored with the UN Population Award in 1993 for its efforts to create awareness of population issues through the poll. This year's survey polled 3,995 women between the ages of 16 and 49 for a response rate of 69.4%.

Population & Society of Postwar Japan

People wishing to purchase the English-language publication *The Population and Society of Postwar Japan* should contact the Mainichi Shimbun Population Problems Research Council. The book's price of US\$65 includes mailing costs. For inquiries, please contact the council at: 1-1-1, Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-51, Japan. Phone: 81-3-3211-0954/Fax: 81-3-3211-0891.

Brief Guide to GII

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has published a booklet on the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS. The publication has



four chapters and features many photos throughout. Background to population issues and AIDS is covered in chapter 1; an outline of Japan's approach to assistance is

provided in chapter 2; an introduction to Japanese assistance that has been provided so far is included in chapter 3; while the closing chapter focuses on cooperation and coordination with international organizations and other donor countries. Copies can be obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Learning from Experience

FP seminar participants gain take-home lessons from Japan's postwar experiences

Family planning (FP) administration was not the only issue on the agenda for participants of the Seminar on Family Planning Administration for Senior Officers II, held in Tokyo from August 6-26. Luckily for the FP administrators, the seminar coincided with the 10th International Conference on AIDS, held in Yokohama from August 7-12. Their attendance at this major international event enabled them to broaden their knowledge of the complexity and extent of the global AIDS problem.

The seminar itself provided participants



Students handle infants as part of the adolescent health education program of Ikawa Town.

with an opportunity to exchange information and experiences on FP and to learn about Japan's postwar experiences in FP and maternal and child health (MCH) promotion and the country's demographic transition. The ultimate aim of the seminar was to improve participant's skills of administration of FP programs in their home countries. The seminar was entrusted to JOICFP by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as part of Japan's bilateral assistance activities.

Japan's experiences were an inspiration to participants who highlighted several aspects as applicable to their country situations. These included Japan's success in involving the community in FP implementation; the integration of FP and MCH; and the collaboration among non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governmental organizations (GOs) and the community.

Jaruwun Jongvanich of Thailand, was

particularly impressed with the role that women have played as volunteers in villages in Japan to raise the health status of the people through FP/MCH promotion. She also praised the close GO-NGO cooperation in health care in Japan and the strong leadership role taken by NGOs.

"The role of NGOs in postwar Japan began in a modest way but became a force to reckon with," said Nene Akresi Korda II of Ghana. "The self-supporting efforts of these NGOs are very impressive." He added, "Health centers in Japan emphasize preventive measures as compared to the curative activities in my country, which are highly costly."

For Rita de Cacia Badiani of Brazil, the preventive health care work undertaken by the health centers in FP/MCH was one aspect of the Japanese experience that she would try to apply in her country. She added that she would also like to apply the self-reliance strategies of the Japan Family Planning Association.

To smooth the exchange of experiences among participants, the seminar included country presentation sessions in the form of a panel discussion. Topics were chosen for relevance to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in September and covered: "gender equality and women's empowerment"; "reproductive rights and health"; and "collaboration and coordination among GOs, NGOs and the private sector."

The exchange of experiences proved beneficial for participants who welcomed the exposure to the various approaches taken by different countries. The exchange also enabled participants to grasp an understanding of cultural and social factors that hinder or promote FP implementation, while providing them with an opportunity to tackle common issues. Participants said the seminar helped them realize that South-South and South-North collaboration is possible and that developing countries have similar problems, traditions and religion which affect development. The need for women to take an active role in their empowerment was also noted as an important issue for all countries.

"My interaction with other participants has not only broadened my knowledge in areas of training pertaining to FP/MCH management, but has given me more insight into cultural and



A midwife demonstrates delivery techniques at Tokushima Public Health Center.

social variables that impede or assist FP/MCH implementation and management," said Nene. "I am more convinced that this globe of ours and its inhabitants are one people."

Participants were introduced to actual FP/MCH activities in Japan during a field trip to Tokushima Prefecture where they observed health-care programs firsthand and talked with people involved. The schedule also included a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where participants were given an outline of the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS.

The visit was welcomed by the FP administrators who expressed a desire to continue collaboration with Japan in the future.



A 3-year-old child receives a checkup at Tokushima Public Health Center.

Women's Empowerment – Key to a Better Future

State of World Population report predicts 10 billion world population by 2050

In this year's *State of World Population* Report, UNFPA states that women's empowerment is the key to solving population problems. Released on August 17, the report provides forecasts of global population growth and outlines needs for the future. The report was released prior to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in September, and notes promoting equality between the genders as an important aim of the conference. Below is a summary of the report.

Free and equal access for both men and women to health care, family planning (FP) and education is not only desirable in itself but is a



Making contact with the world outside their homes, learning a skill, working and earning money transforms the lives of many women, says the report.

Photo courtesy of UNFPA.

practical contribution to environmental protection and economic development. In particular, women's growing command of the means to manage their own fertility improves women's health and opens up a range of options regarding education, marriage, employment, housing and migration. It will also help in achieving balanced population growth.

Slower population growth will relieve pressure on the environment and other problem areas, and grant time to find solutions. For the countries concerned, even the difference of a decade in the transition to lower fertility can have a considerable impact on the quality of life, for example, in providing education, quality health care and employment opportunities.

The world population in mid-1994 was 5.66 billion. It will be 6 billion by 1998. Although overall fertility rates have fallen, annual increases are at 94 million a

year, the highest increases in history. After 1997, annual additions will start to decline, and by 2020 the annual increase will be 85 million. Nearly all this growth is in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Over half of the growth is in South Asia and Africa, with many of the poorest countries in the world.

ICPD Unites Japanese NGOs

Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that participated in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) were given a briefing prior to the September conference in Cairo on August 11. Representatives from 12 NGOs and the mass media were briefed on the ICPD program, particularly the activities for NGOs at the NGO Forum, and were given an outline of the general arrangements for participants.

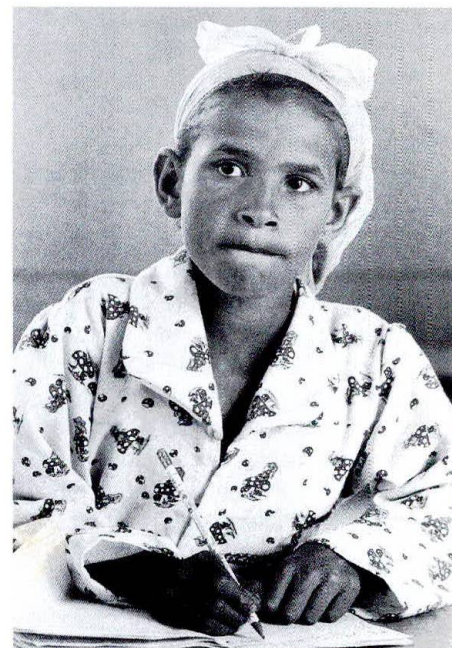
Providing an overview of the meeting was Dr. Hirofumi Ando, deputy executive director, UNFPA.

The meeting was particularly beneficial for the NGO representatives who expressed a common desire to cooperate closely to



Ando

ensure the best possible outcome of the conference. This shared understanding led to the creation of a list of participants as a first step to establishing a network among the NGOs, a move that helped smooth activities prior to and during the ICPD.



Merely being able to read and write gives women confidence outside the home, says the report.

Photo courtesy of UNFPA.

World population is projected to reach 8.5 billion by the year 2025 and 10 billion by 2050. However, if fertility does not continue to decline, world population could reach 12.5 billion by 2050.

Many of the actions that must be taken to alleviate poverty, improve food supply, end malnutrition, and provide adequate housing are the same as those required to achieve balanced population growth. These include extending the range of choice available to individuals, especially women, and equalizing opportunities between the sexes from birth onward.

The priority for the remaining years of this century must be to ensure that individual needs and public policy remain in harmony and that individual needs form the basis of public policy.

Empowering women means extending choices: choices about if and when to get married, choices about education, employment opportunities, controlling the social and physical environment; choices about if and when to get pregnant, and ultimately about family size. Empowerment requires that husbands, partners, family members and communities help to promote a healthy environment free from coercion, violence or abuse, in which women are free to use

community services on a basis of equality.

The role of education in enhancing women's social power is undisputed. Education influences the number of children a woman wants and the number of children she bears. It is important for girls to have equal access to formal

schooling, but women also need special training outside school. Education for older women is important because they often have influential roles in the family and community.

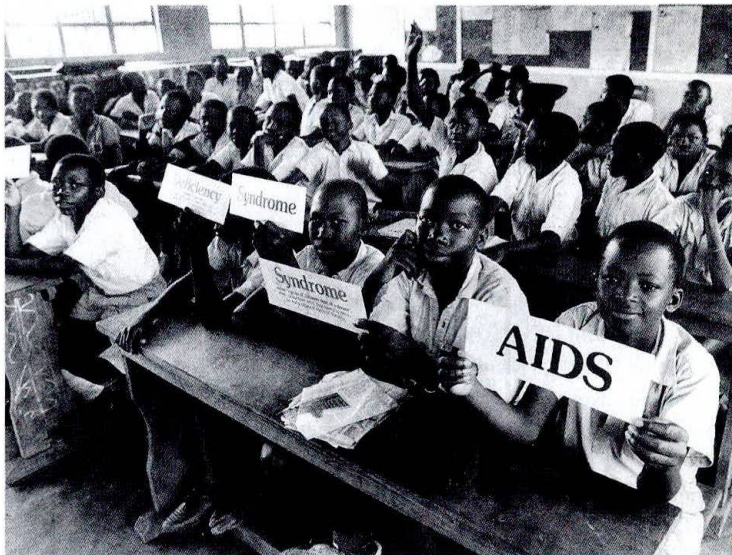
Governments worldwide are investing considerable resources in confronting population growth, but in the final analysis, success or failure depends on the decision of individual women and men, in the pursuit of their own personal interests.

Zimbabwe, Thailand and Colombia are examples of the impact of integrated policies. Although the conditions in these countries vary widely and each uses different methods, their successes are all based on a similar approach: providing freedom of choice leads to increased responsibility on the part of individuals.

The means are available that would allow most of the women in the world to plan how many children they wish to have and when to have them. However, access to health care, particularly reproductive health care, is still inadequate. There are approximately 120 million women who wish to plan their families but do not have access to modern contraceptives.

All countries can learn from the successful strategies that meet individual needs — especially those of women — and that also contribute to national development priorities. Countries need to undertake a number of initiatives including increasing national investment in the areas of human development, especially in education, health and improving the status of women — the building blocks of sustainable economic development.

Extended globally, these national programs will contribute to slower overall population



Boys who learn responsibilities early in life are more likely to be responsible later in life, says the report.

Photo courtesy of UNFPA.

Report Introduced to Japanese Press

All major Japanese newspapers, TV stations and radio stations were represented at a special press lecture on UNFPA's *State of World Population 1994* report, held in Tokyo on August 10. The meeting was held prior to the official release of the report by UNFPA at noon GMT on August 17.

The report was introduced by Dr. Hirofumi Ando, deputy executive director, and Kyoichi Nakamura, information advisor, Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA, with the support of Dr. Toshio Kuroda, director emeritus, Nihon University Population Research Institute (NUPRI). Among the highlights of the report were the references to women's empowerment and the forecast of a world population of 10 billion in 2050. A briefing on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) followed the introduction of the report.

UNFPA News Mission

Four journalists from three countries learned firsthand about population issues during a news mission to the Philippines from July 13-21. The mission was organized by UNFPA to bring population issues to the attention of the media with the aim of deepening the understanding among the public.

During their visit, the journalists from Japan, New Zealand and Australia were introduced to population issues in urban and rural areas and their impact on social and economic development. The team visited public and private facilities including health centers and interviewed people involved in population and family planning programs.

The two Japanese journalists were Tsutomu Ozaki, staff writer, Mainichi Shimbun, and Kaori Iida, reporter, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK). As follow-ups to the visit, NHK broadcast a special TV program and the Mainichi Shimbun published a report.

Grassroots Project in Vietnam Expands

A JOICFP mission drew up a work plan with Vietnamese counterparts for the expansion of the Integrated Project (IP) during a visit to Vietnam in July. The plan is to be implemented in 1994-1995 with US\$200,000 recently allocated by UNFPA. The project will be expanded to cover a total of 80 communes, including the 70 existing IP communes. The project has also attracted funding from widening sources in Japan including support from the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA), administered by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Funds from UNFPA will be used mainly for training at the district and commune levels. One of the main aims of the work plan is to move the responsibility for such activities as training away from the central level to make them the responsibility of each province. The new work plan also calls for further coordination and sharing of experiences with existing UNFPA projects in other areas. Personnel already trained under UNFPA projects will also be utilized in the JOICFP project and a uniform recording system is to be adopted in all communes. To further ensure effective use of

existing materials, formats and trained personnel, the activities of the IP will be coordinated with other national efforts.

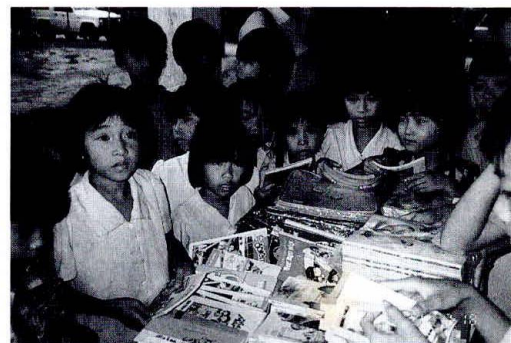
Meanwhile, the POSIVA funds will be used to replace basic medical equipment including midwife kits and delivery beds and to provide training in 30 commune health centers in the two northern IP provinces. Essential drugs, IEC materials and other equipment will also be purchased with the approximately US\$100,000 allocated by the ministry.

JOICFP's efforts to increase awareness in Japan also raised another US\$4,500 for Vietnam from the Japanese public, particularly from women's groups in Nagano Prefecture. The donations were distributed in the project areas in the south of Vietnam for use as revolving funds for income-generating projects.

The JOICFP mission visited all IP districts and spoke to people to gain a fuller understanding of project needs. Among the areas highlighted was training for midwives, volunteers and women engaged in income-generating projects.

Small Project for Higher Learning

A small-scale project launched by the students of Tokiwa Junior High School in Suzaka City of Japan's Nagano Prefecture has done much to promote education in two primary schools of Vietnam's Ben Luc District in Long An Province. Funds raised by the students in a campaign dubbed the "World



Children in Long An Province examine books donated with funds from Japan.

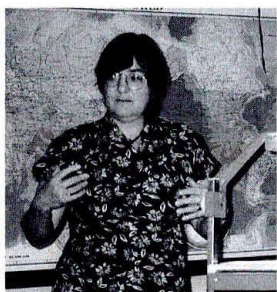
Volunteer Project (WVP)" were used to provide the two schools with books, which are in short supply at the community level in Vietnam. Members of a JOICFP mission observed students using the books at the primary schools in Than Phu Commune and Tan Buu Commune during their visit in July. The schools have 1,700 and 850 students, respectively.

To raise the funds, the Japanese students used their spare time to print the WVP logo and map of Vietnam on 1,000 donated T-shirts. These were later sold at the Consumers' Festival of Suzaka City to raise US\$1,500.

The seeds of the project were planted by Dr. Nguyen Thi Hoai Duc, former national director of the Integrated Project (IP) of Vietnam, who visited the school last year. The Japanese students were moved by the visitor's description of the desperate shortage of books and poor conditions of schools in Vietnam. They were also surprised to learn that despite these conditions, Vietnam has a very high literacy rate.

The campaign continues to attract a growing number of followers within the school and has sparked the interest of teachers and parents alike. It has even caught on among local residents of Suzaka who have shown interest in taking part in international cooperation activities.

Targeting Aboriginal Needs



Marilyn Chalkey

Staff of JOICFP and the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) were given an overview of the HIV/AIDS and STD situation in Australia, particularly among the Aboriginal population by two visiting officials on August 16. Marilyn Chalkey, director, Education Unit, AIDS/Communicable Diseases Branch, Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health, explained that the national government of Australia has given priority to projects to prevent HIV/AIDS, STDs

and communicable diseases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The educational Magnel Kit developed jointly by JFPA and JOICFP is being used to educate this and other groups, she said. Chalkey and the JFPA and JOICFP officials also discussed planned revisions of the kit to improve its effectiveness for health education related to STD and AIDS prevention. Chalkey was accompanied by Peter Gourlay, education and training director, Family Planning Association of Victoria, Inc.



Peter Gourlay

Today's Challenge – Meeting Unmet Demands

President of the Population Council says that times have changed and it is time for action

Margaret Catley-Carlson, president, the Population Council, provided an overview of her organization and spoke about population issues during an interview with JOICFP NEWS on August 13. Below is an outline.

The unique quality of the council is that it blends the three necessary parts of the science of looking at population. The first is the biomedical part.

The council is a well-established source of knowledge about human reproductive physiology and contraceptive techniques.

The second part is the ability to look at the macro-demographic forces. We do need to understand as a world what is causing changes in fertility. Why is the highest fertility found in areas under a lot of stress such as the West Bank and Gaza? Yet the lowest-fertility societies — the former Soviet Union, the eastern part of Germany and Hungary and Romania — are also under a lot of stress.

You cannot just say, "Well it's obvious if people are under stress, they will act in a certain way," because I've just given two different examples of societies that are under

enormous stress. There is a lot we need to understand about societies — about the ways societies are put together legally, socially, economically, and how that will impact on fertility.

The third necessary part is the research on a whole gamut of issues that really focus on the individual. This includes research into how the reproductive health of individuals could be improved; why individuals make the decisions they do about going to clinics; and how those managing and serving in FP clinics can improve their services.

I would like the world to understand that working in population is much more "do-able" than is usually assumed. First of all, there is definitely an unmet demand, an unmet need. That was not the case 20 years ago. At least if it was the case, it wasn't well-documented. People's perceptions of themselves, their most desirable futures, and what they can offer their children are increasingly tied to their desires to have smaller families.

So we've got to meet the demand that is out there and meet it as quickly as possible because it is totally unnecessary to have a planetary population of 9-10 billion people. Steep population growth is not necessary because the demand is there to change it and the techniques, technologies and mechanisms also exist. We really just have to put the resources to the task and get on with it.

When I get pessimistic it is the race against ecological time that gives me worries. Is there a series of triggers in the stress that we put on the environment that is going to create enormous difficulties? I have great faith in human potential to keep maximizing and capitalizing on gains that have been made. But so far, we have not yet the kind of collective spirit and collective intention, for example, to substitute internal-combustion engines with solar or alternative forms of energy. We have never put the kind of human energy into substitute forms of energy that we did in getting to the moon, that we did into military weapons ... all those campaigns. I do not think we take very seriously as a species the fact that we are probably living very close to some ecological, sustainable margins.



Margaret Catley-Carlson

During my stay in Japan, I was enormously pleased to meet with Mr. Kunii. I really felt that I was in the presence of important Japanese history. I think what JOICFP has done has been really important in Japan — a country that does not have an established non-governmental-organization tradition.

JOICFP has gone out and worked in areas that are tough. It has raised public support and public awareness over the years and established a global network to really meet the concerns of the most dispossessed people — people living at a very modest means of survival. JOICFP has stayed true to that mandate and expanded it with the addition of FP.

Mechai Wins Magsaysay Award

Mechai Viravaidya, secretary general, Population and Community Development Association



Mechai

(PDA) of Thailand, was recently awarded the 1994 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service. A renowned anti-

AIDS campaigner, Mechai was chosen for his "rigorous, honest and compassionate" response to HIV/AIDS. The Manila-based award foundation noted that due to the efforts of Mechai, Thailand has the most comprehensive government response to the AIDS epidemic in Asia.

Kunii Awarded

JOICFP Chairman Chojiro Kunii was honored on August 3 by the minister of foreign affairs for his contribution as an individual to the promotion of international cooperation. JOICFP previously won the same award as an institution in 1991. In honoring Kunii, Foreign Minister Yohei Kono noted Kunii's promotion of the application of the Japanese postwar experience and humanistic approach to family planning in the Integrated Project. The project, which has been implemented in 25 countries in three regions of the world since 1974, has won strong support at the grassroots, he said. The minister praised Kunii for his deep beliefs and philosophies and said he was a strong leader and significant contributor to international cooperation activities within Japan.

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

The APCO Movement

The Asian Parasite Control Organization (APCO) is a voluntary group consisting mainly of parasitologists from Southeast Asia. Their aim is to control parasite infections, using the process of eradication to motivate people to take actions to improve the quality of life.

In the postwar years in Japan, parasite control (PC) quickly caught on and the movement spread nationwide through the primary schools and workplaces that were used

as promotion channels. The movement was later introduced to Taiwan and Korea.

The expansion of the movement led to the establishment of APCO 20 years ago. The organization has continued to expand over the years from PC to embrace such activities as family planning and maternal and child health (MCH). Activities have also expanded geographically throughout Asia and centers have been set up in both China and Indonesia in recent years. Currently, in Taicang City of China, efforts are being made with the government to form a body for PC promotion.

The health movement that springs from PC is one in which people participate freely. The health of mothers and children is a basic

concern of every community and as such, is an effective starting point for expanding into other areas related to health such as the securing of safe drinking water, construction of sanitary toilets, and prevention of infectious diseases. The efforts naturally develop into a more comprehensive preventive health and MCH movement. Even humble efforts by community people can have a significant impact on community well-being.

This movement is characterized by the "self-help" efforts of the people who strive to improve their lives without depending on government support. In Taicang City, for example, the staff of the Integrated Project (IP) is charging a fee of 2 yuan (23 U.S. cents) for every parasite examination as a means to promote project self-reliance.

I am deeply moved that people are willing to pay for these services and that the project is earning some income. The people involved in the project are working in good faith to ensure project sustainability.

DIARY

- **Paul White**, minister counselor for development cooperation, U.S. Embassy in Japan, and **Kenneth Farr**, chief, Population Division, USAID, Indonesia, visited JOICFP on July 7 to exchange information.

- JOICFP Program Officer Atsushi Yoshino and staff member Soon Hee Lee visited Taiwan, China, for discussions on film distribution from July 10 - 15.

- **Paul White**, U.S. Embassy in Japan, visited JOICFP on July 15 to speak on USAID's policy and activities with Japanese NGOs.

- Program Officer Sumie Ishii and staff member Mariko Honma visited Vietnam for project monitoring from July 4 - 22.

- **Kyoichi Nakamura**, information advisor, Information and External Relations Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP on July 22 for discussions related to the Japanese version of the *State of World Population*.

- **Fausto Camunha**, secretary, Sports and Tourism, State Government of São Paulo, Brazil, visited JOICFP for discussions on July 26.

- **Omer Ertur**, UNFPA country director, Nepal, visited JOICFP on Aug. 6 for discussions.

- **Margaret Catley-Carlson**, president, Population Council, visited JOICFP on Aug. 10 to exchange information.

- JOICFP Program Officer Ryoko Nishida was in

the Philippines from July 24 - Aug. 11 for monitoring of the UNFPA-supported project.

- **Dr. Hirofumi Ando**, deputy executive director, and **Kyoichi Nakamura**, UNFPA, visited JOICFP from Aug. 8 - 11 for activities related to the ICPD.

- **Marilyn Chalkey**, director, Education Unit, AIDS/Communicable Diseases Branch, Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health, and **Peter Gourlay**, director, Education and Training, Family Planning Association of Victoria Inc., Australia, visited JOICFP on Aug. 16 for discussions.

- Eleven participants from 10 IP-implementing countries attended the 16th APCO Parasitologists' Meeting organized by Japan Association of Parasite Control in cooperation with JOICFP.

- **Sri Jamtini**, MCH Division, NFPCB, Indonesia, visited JOICFP on Aug. 18 to exchange information.

- **Paul White**, U.S. Embassy in Japan, and **Karen Y. Morita**, health/population coordinator, U.S.-Japan Common Agenda, visited JOICFP on Aug. 18 to exchange information on GII.

- JOICFP Program Officer Sumie Ishii was in Laos from Aug. 8 - 19 for monitoring of the UNFPA-supported project.

- **Dr. Ronny A. Shtarkshall**, president, Israel Family Planning Association, visited JOICFP on Aug. 19 to exchange information.

JOICFP's Kon Joins National Delegation to Cairo

Yasuo Kon, deputy executive director of JOICFP, was one of three representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) selected on August 23 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to join the official Japanese delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo from September 5 - 13. The selection of Kon reflects his 40 years of work in family planning in Japan and JOICFP's 25-year experience in international cooperation activities in the field of family planning. The ministry's move marked the first time for NGO representatives to be included in a government delegation to a major UN population conference and indicates a more open attitude toward NGOs.

The two other NGO officials were Keiko Higuchi of Japan's Network for Women's Health, Cairo '94, and Shunsuke Iwasaki of People's Forum 2001.

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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