

JOICPP NEWS

Japan Fully Endorses ICPD Program of Action

Deputy prime minister expresses support for reproductive health and partnerships with NGOs

The last major population conference of the century, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), wound up in Cairo, Egypt, on September 13 with adoption of the Program of Action. The event, held from September 5 - 13, was attended by some 10,000 representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), experts and the mass media. The large-scale international conference focused on the issues of reproductive health and rights and the empowerment of women to set a new course for population activities for the '90s and beyond.

During the conference, Japan fully endorsed the Program of Action and expressed its support for tackling international population issues. The official Japanese delegation to the ICPD was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yohei Kono. Below are highlights of the address he gave at the ICPD on September 6.

The population issue has grown more complex as the international community has developed and is now a global issue that requires urgent action. I believe that this issue, which is related to a whole range of economic and social issues, must be addressed by taking a comprehensive approach, one that includes the adoption of policies on basic health, education, and the improvement of the status of women. Based on these ideas, Japan launched the Global Issues Initiative in February, under which it will substantially increase assistance to developing countries in the fields of population and AIDS, a clear statement of the positive stance it intends to take on these fronts.

One of the major topics of this conference is reproductive health. My government is of the view that reproductive health is an important concept in solving the population issue since the concept is based upon the respect for basic

human rights, such as improvement of the status of women and promotion of women's participation in the decision-making process.

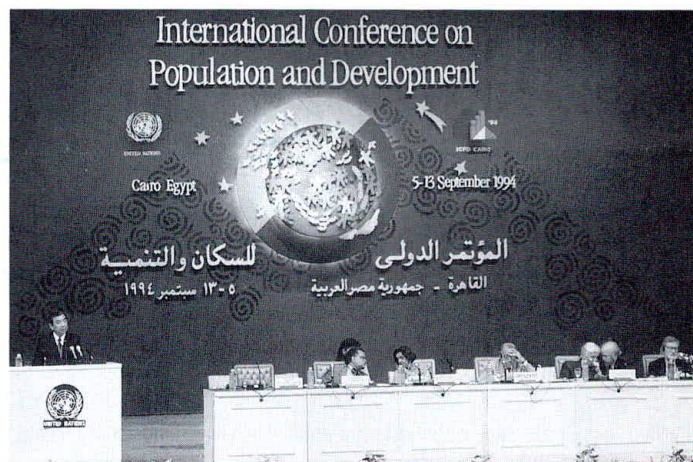
Japan has been undertaking a variety of measures to enhance activities in the area of reproductive health. It provides equal

education opportunity to both genders. The health

care system protects and fosters the health of mothers and children by distributing a Maternal and Child Health Handbook, providing women from the age of puberty on with the opportunity to receive counseling and guidance about pregnancy, childbirth and child care. These measures enable women to make their own choices and decisions based on accurate information, and along with the improvements in the attitudes and conduct of Japanese men, have brought about a decline in the rates of infant mortality and birth.

Japan recognizes the importance of grassroots activities which NGOs are carrying out in fields where governments and international organizations are not always able to deliver adequate service. It would not be going too far to say that the relationship between governments and international organizations and NGOs in these fields is a complementary one. Japan intends to intensify its support for grassroots projects conducted by NGOs in its bilateral cooperation in the fields of population, which includes enhancing dialogue with NGOs from the stage of project formulation onward. Establishing this kind of partnership with NGOs is also important internationally.

Japan endorses the draft Program of Action which was prepared as a result of the



Yohei Kono, deputy prime minister of Japan and minister of foreign affairs, speaks at the ICPD.

discussions at the preparatory meetings. I hope that the draft Program of Action will be adopted unanimously, so that we shall be able to cooperate with one another to deal with the population issue towards the 21st century.

The population issue, an important agenda of the international community, is an area in which Japan could make full use of its capabilities, and Japan regards its contribution in this field as a mission. Japan, the largest donor of official development assistance (ODA), announced the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS in February as concrete evidence of its determination to carry out this mission. Under the initiative, Japan will continue and enhance its international cooperation by providing ODA in this area toward a targeted sum of US\$3 billion over the seven years from fiscal year 1994 to 2000. By implementing the initiative, Japan, together with the U.S., wishes to promote the worldwide effort concerning the population and AIDS issues which are part of the common agenda of all humankind. I earnestly hope that many countries, international organizations, and NGOs respond to our appeal, and that it becomes a truly global effort.

I would like to reiterate Japan's strong commitment to tackling the population problem.

Parliamentarians Unanimous on Program of Action

Parliamentarians from all over the world showed unanimous commitment to solving population and development issues at a meeting of legislators held two days prior to the



A view of the ICPD.

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). A full 300 lawmakers from 107 countries attended the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD), held from September 3 - 4 in Cairo. The meeting was remarkable for the absence of differences over the draft Program of Action. Parliamentarians fully endorsed the draft, which was later the focus of considerable dispute at the ICPD.

The strong show of support for the ICPD far exceeded expectations with some 300 attending the event, 100 more than expected. Parliamentarian support for population and development has been driven largely by the pioneering efforts of parliamentarian groups in Asia, which are united under the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and



Nafis Sadik

Development (AFPPD). Within this group, the Japanese Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) has historically played a leading role. Japan's Shin

Sakurai, chairman of AFPPD, served as secretary general of the ICPD. Dr. Taro Nakayama, chairman of JPFP, and former minister of foreign affairs, attended the ICPD itself as part of the official Japanese delegation.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, secretary general of ICPD

and executive director of UNFPA, emphasized the important role that parliamentarians have in contributing to the ICPD and in following up the conference in a keynote address to the

ICPPD on September 3. "I have stressed the invaluable function that you, as intermediaries between government and people you represent, have in bridging governments' activities and people's perception," she said. "You therefore are in a unique position to facilitate the implementation of, and monitoring the goals and objectives of, the draft Program of Action."

One of the outcomes of the parliamentarians' meeting was the adoption of the recommendations of the ICPD Cairo Declaration on

Population and Development.

Among the recommendations included in the document was the recognition that family planning (FP) should be placed within the broader framework of reproductive health care. "We further urge governments to ensure that all population and development policies and programs in our countries safeguard internationally recognized human rights."

Unlike the disruption that the issue on abortion caused at the ICPD, the ICPD made a clear statement on abortion. Acknowledging abortion as a major public health concern for women, the declaration called on governments to reduce the need for abortion by providing universal access to FP information and services.

The declaration also made an uncompromising statement about women: "The empowerment of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status are highly important ends in themselves. We further believe that human development cannot be sustained unless women are guaranteed equal rights and equal status with men," it states. "We call upon legislators all over the world to join us in our efforts to empower women as a matter of national priority, and we call upon governments to enforce legislation in this respect."

To mobilize resources for the action outlined in the Program of Action, the parliamentarians called for a shifting of resources "especially from defense expenditures."

Kono Endorses Role of NGOs

Yohei Kono, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Japan, emphasized that the Japanese government has high expectations for working in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the field of population, while speaking at an open meeting with NGO representatives at the NGO Forum in Cairo on September 6. The meeting was the first between top Japanese government officials and Japanese NGOs. A powerful endorsement of the effective role that NGOs play in the population field, Kono's Cairo meeting with NGOs was a milestone for government-NGO cooperation. The forum was attended by 100 representatives of Japanese NGOs which had attended the NGO Forum.

During the meeting, Kono expressed his hopes for joint government-NGO cooperation, particularly with the implementation of the government's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS. Noting the different but complementary roles of the government and NGOs, Kono said that NGOs have accumulated expertise and experiences.



Yohei Kono

In response, JOICFP suggested that Japan could contribute internationally in the field of population by providing technical assistance to developing countries with expertise gained from Japan's past experience and by fostering the understanding and support of its public toward international cooperation activities. Since the support of NGOs will be needed to achieve the aims of ICPD, JOICFP urged that the government create guidelines for such collaboration.

Kono expressed the government's desire to listen to NGOs in the development of future programs under the GII through open dialogue. He said that further such meetings were needed to ensure regular contact between the government and NGOs.

Kono said that NGOs are in touch with the people in communities and can therefore play a vital role to ensure that assistance reaches the grassroots.

NGO Forum – a Landmark for NGOs

Voices of NGOs heard loud and clear at ICPD

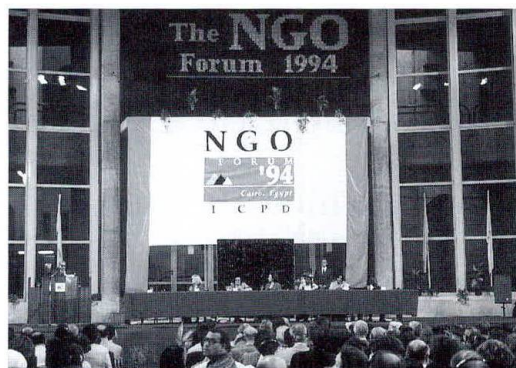
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) made a large contribution to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as part of the official delegations and through the NGO Forum '94, held concurrently with the ICPD. Almost half the delegations to the ICPD included women and NGO representatives, indicating the recognition that NGOs have won among governments.

The NGO Forum itself was launched on September 4 with a ceremony attended by 1,500 representatives of NGOs from around the world. Officially opened by Suzanne Mubarak, wife of the president of Egypt, the event proved too popular for the size of the venue and many had to be turned away.

Emphasizing the NGO role, Mubarak said

their "accessibility, innovativeness and flexibility" allow NGOs to respond effectively when other institutions cannot. "Their grassroots base ensures that especially vulnerable groups including women, children, migrants, refugees and others are reached with essential services," she said. "It is the NGOs in partnerships with women who have often been the first to address population issues in the development programs and projects aimed at empowering women through education, health and economic opportunities."

Noting that the role of NGOs is now recognized within the UN system and by governments, Mubarak said that NGOs have become partners in the decision-making process. "As NGOs, we must continue to study, to network, and to reinforce each other in order



A view of the opening ceremony of NGO Forum '94.

to render the UN declarations and plans of action more meaningful to our grassroots."

The NGO Forum drew representatives from various Japanese NGOs involved in such fields as women, population, the environment and health. A total of 100 representatives of 15 NGOs from Japan attended the event including representatives of JOICFP.

A Victory for Women at ICPD

The recognition of reproductive health and rights and women's empowerment in the Program of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was cause for celebration for the Women's Caucus which served as a driving force for the ICPD from its earliest stages.



Bella Abzug speaks at the Women's Caucus.

Led by co-chair of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, Bella Abzug, and joined by women from all over the world, the caucus was active in each of

the preparatory meetings leading up to the Cairo conference and behind the scenes lobbying governments, monitoring the activities of donor nations and international agencies and closely following the progress of the draft Cairo document. As a result of these efforts and those of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the final Cairo document maintains its focus on the needs of women.

To ensure that the Cairo document is implemented, however, the caucus established a task force at the end of the ICPD to monitor the conference agreements. The focused, collective action of women is expected to continue until the World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995.

Women also played an active part within Japan in lobbying the government to fully support the women's agenda in Cairo. Especially active was the Japan's Network for Women's Health, Cairo '94, an NGO established specifically for the ICPD. The members of this women's NGO are now committed to following up the conference in Japan to ensure that the Program of Action is implemented.

JOICFP Booth at ICPD



Dr. Maher Mahran, minister of population and family welfare of Egypt (right), was one of the many visitors to the JOICFP booth which was open to participants of the NGO Forum '94, held in Cairo from September 4 - 12. The booth was visited by representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the mass media and served as a source of information on JOICFP's activities and the role of NGOs in Japanese official development assistance (ODA), particularly under the Japanese government's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS. Informative panels were on display at the booth alongside publications and IEC materials produced by JOICFP such as the educational Magnel Kit and some of the videos of JOICFP's popular adolescent health series.

Firsthand Experiences of Participatory FP Programs

Counterparts from Asia, Latin America and Africa provide insights into IP at NGO Forum

An introduction to the participatory approach to family planning (FP) was provided during the first session of the JOICFP

International Symposium, held on September 8 at NGO Forum '94

of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo.

The event, aimed at sharing the experiences of JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP) offered five

different perspectives of the project from representatives of five IP-implementing countries. Alfonso Lopez Juarez, executive director, Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM), served as coordinator of the event which introduced such project aspects as people's participation, sustainability of FP programs and quality of care.

The first speaker was Dr. Huang Baoshan, director, International Relations Department, State Family Planning Commission of China. Explaining that the project was initiated in China in 1984, Huang said that the IP was not just geared to raising FP acceptance, but was

also aimed at improving maternal and child health (MCH), particularly women's health. The key to the project's success in China, he said, is the participation of the people who are willing to share responsibility for

the activities and contribute to making community improvements such as to water supplies and toilets. Since the IP was launched in China, the quality of services has improved, he added. The IP has now been expanded to cover 18 project areas in 16 provinces.

An outline of the project in Nepal was

provided by Ram K. Neupane, director general, Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). Commenting that the IP had resulted in many spin-off effects in addition to raising FP since it was started in 1980, Neupane said that environmental sanitation had improved and MCH had been raised with a reduction in infant mortality.

Neupane said that the project in Nepal has developed a cost-sharing scheme to promote sustainability under which people are charged nominal fees to support the community-based primary health care units. The units, set up in villages with the assistance of communities to provide easy access to services, are managed by community health volunteers trained under the IP, he said.

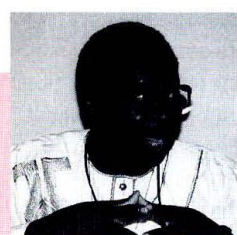
The IP experience of Ghana was introduced by Isaac K. Boateng, executive director, Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), who said that one of the keys to the success of the project was the strong support of national and local steering committees. At the national level, the committee brings together government agencies, experts and the PPAG and coordinates activities. The local committees, meanwhile, serve as an effective means to bring community people together to examine their own needs and work together to solve such issues as FP, MCH and environmental sanitation.

The nine original communities have seen improvements in the nutrition situation, MCH service participation and FP practice. The integrated approach to FP has resulted in an increasing the FP acceptance rate from 17.4% to 62.3% in the first six years, he said.

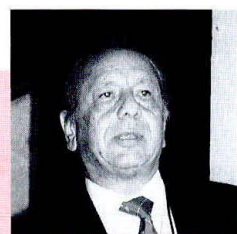
Dr. Roberto Santiso Galvez, executive director, Family Planning Association of Guatemala (APROFAM), provided an outline of the IP in Guatemala where women's participation in activities has boosted acceptance and success since the project began in 1988. Explaining that the IP is being promoted in an area where the majority of the population is indigenous, Santiso said that the project is unusual in that it has successfully gained the trust of this group. Despite the distrust that these people have of outsiders, the project has been accepted by involving the local women in activities that raise the health of the community people.



Ram Neupane (3rd from right) looks on as Alfonso Lopez (3rd from left) coordinates the first session.



Isaac Boateng



Roberto Santiso



Huang Baoshan

The IP has emphasized the organization of women, training for volunteers and participation of women in the decision-making process. Santiso said that in project areas, for example, a women's group has been organized, and skills training and income-generation activities have been initiated using sewing machines donated through JOICFP. Women have further participated as valuable human resources for promoting health care at the grassroots.

The last speaker was Christina Nsekela, chairperson, Family Planning Association of Tanzania (UMATI), who introduced the IP experience of Tanzania. Noting the gains that have been made in project areas since the IP was started in 1983,

Nsekela said that while the contraceptive prevalence rate is less than 10% at the national level, it has reached about 35 - 40% in the IP areas. The figures, she said, indicate that the IP approach is a

very effective means to reach the people with FP messages. She added that gains have also been made in areas such as MCH and in other aspects health that are covered by the integrated package of services promoted under the project.

The donation of items such as reconditioned bicycles from Japan has also helped the project, she said.



Christina Nsekela

Developing Countries Express High Hopes for GII

Symposium ends with a call to the Japanese government to create concrete program for GII

The second session of the JOICFP International Symposium, held at the NGO Forum '94 on September 8, focused on population and family planning (FP) assistance.



Aziza Hussein

Panelists provided a non-governmental organization (NGO) perspective on desirable forms for population/FP official development assistance under the Japanese government's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and

AIDS. The session was coordinated by Mark Laskin, assistant secretary general, IPPF.

The session began with an explanation of the strategies of the GII by Masahiro Kumomi, director, Environment, WID and other Global Issues Division, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In his outline, Kumomi



Avabai Wadia

emphasized that Japan endorses a comprehensive approach to population issues that integrates such issues as FP, maternal and child health (MCH), education for women and other social and basic health needs.

In response, Wilas Lohitkul, director, Population, Health and AIDS Bureau, Population and Community Development Association (PDA), Thailand, outlined areas that need attention in Thailand. In particular, Wilas stressed the need for support in combating of AIDS, explaining that the most urgent issues are awareness creation and comprehensive health services for all age groups. At present in Thailand, heterosexual transmission accounts for 73.8% of new HIV cases, while AIDS is affecting those between the ages of 20 and 40,

the most productive age group, he said. Wilas added that much can be done to foster South-South cooperation and the exchange of successes and failures in FP and related fields.

The second speaker, Aziza Hussein, president, Family Planning Association of Egypt, and former president, IPPF, emphasized the effectiveness of cooperation between governmental organizations (GOs) and NGOs. Noting that the ICPD had done much to further GO-NGO cooperation, Hussein said that NGOs should be utilized as effective partners to governments.

Hussein also had comments to make about AIDS, which she said needs serious consideration and action. She said that Egypt has stressed the importance of population, but policies are vitally needed to tackle AIDS.

Carlos Welti, professor, National Autonomous University, Mexico, noted that Mexico has made progress in its FP program, but that gaps still exist on a nationwide scale. To illustrate his point, he said that the total fertility rate in Chiapas is 4.7, while in the Federal Territory the figure is only 2.0. Meanwhile, the national average contraceptive prevalence rate in 1992 was 63.1%; while the figure for educated people was 73.6%; and for illiterate people 38.2%. Meeting these unmet needs is the challenge for Mexico, he said.

Avabai Wadia, president, Family Planning Association of India, and former president, IPPF, emphasized the importance of social and human development. The most important area of India, she said, is in the north where demographic transition has not been achieved. She said that there are 19 districts with low FP performance and in serious need of support.

The efforts of NGOs need to be expanded and positive GO-NGO partnerships should be cultivated, she said. For programs to be successful, they need to be people-centered, consider basic human needs and seek equal



Masahiro Kumomi of JICA speaks at the second session coordinated by Mark Laskin of IPPF (3rd from left).

rights for women, she said.

Hiroko Hara of Japan's Network for Women and Health, Cairo '94, stressed that the issue of quality of life should never be left out of discussions about population. She said that women's initiatives are extremely important and that women's perspectives must be included in any program supported by Japanese ODA. "When the government says that it supports a comprehensive approach, it must clarify its approach," she said. "People's initiatives must be respected in the programs."

Under the GII, Japan and the U.S. have joined hands for a more effective approach to population and AIDS. Mary Luke, vice president, Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), provided a U.S. NGO perspective to the symposium. Women, she said, are not just important as targets of services. Their education and women's advocacy are also important issues. Luke called for women to be trained in the community as leaders to promote their own development.

The session ended with agreement on the need to foster GO-NGO partnership to improve the effectiveness of the GII. Representatives of developing countries made it clear that they have high expectations for the GII. It was emphasized that the Japanese government needs to develop a concrete program for the GII that reflects the needs of the individual, particularly with regard to women.



Mary Luke

Philippine Women in Action

Significant progress was made toward assembling a village level task force during three-day training workshops held in the two areas in the Province of Batangas in the Philippines where the UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health Project with Special Focus on Women is being promoted. The training in community organizing was attended by 33 participants from the 15 barangays (villages) of Malvar Municipality from August 1 -3 and 32 participants from 11 barangays in Balayan Municipality from August 4 - 6. Participants included village health volunteers and women leaders of the communities.

The training followed an orientation and planning workshop in April and was geared to bringing women into the project as promoters

to stimulate community participation. The aim of the training was to get women to look at their situation, recognize needs and organize themselves to tackle these needs.

The project itself is aimed at building on the existing system of health volunteers in the barangays to assist midwives in their role as key health personnel for the promotion of family planning/maternal and child health (FP/MCH) in the community. An important aspect of the project is increasing awareness at the community level to enable health personnel to work in collaboration with health volunteers and women's groups to provide more comprehensive and integrated health activities.

The training was organized as dynamic and participatory with participants working in groups to identify issues and develop action plans for each barangay.



Volunteers and health workers prepare work plans in Balayan.

The work plans, which reflected the participants' needs assessment, focused on the need to gain the interest of women in the project and organize them to contribute to the project's promotion. They also highlighted the need for training for women in FP/MCH and nutrition and the importance of developing an effective monitoring system and following up on educational activities. The participants also noted the need to develop strategies to support and sustain the project.

The action plans were presented at the end of the workshops in front of local mayors and barangay captains, thus ensuring their support for women's initiatives.

Hands-on Training in Laos

Village volunteers and health staff had their first experience at learning through role plays during simulation training for outreach health clinic services in three districts of Laos where the UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health Project with Special Focus on Women is

mobile health services for the participants since the concept of outreach clinics is very new to Laos. The simulation training, enabled the participants to determine necessary preparation for the introduction of actual services.

Through the training, participants realized the considerable time involved in a quality-of-care approach. As a result, it was decided that the first and second mobile teams should focus on family planning (FP) counseling. They agreed that this should include client medical examinations followed by face-to-face counseling to provide clients with a full knowledge of available contraceptives to enable them to choose the most suitable method. The training, though simple, was extremely effective and revealing for the participants.

According to Dr. Michiko Chosa, JOICFP's consultant working on a voluntary basis for the IP in Laos, actual services were launched in on August 24 in the first of eight selected villages in Naxaithong District. Using a temple as a base in Phonsavane village, the team saw 52 of the 62 married women of reproductive age in the village on the first day. Despite the location of Phonsavane in Vientiane Municipality, the demand for services was astounding. At the temple, the women were introduced to reproductive processes and contraceptives with video equipment and IEC materials. Following the clinic, the mobile team returned to the district hospital to review activities and prepare for the next clinic.



Health workers encourage a village volunteer to experiment with a condom.

being implemented. The training, the first to provide practical skills to all those to be involved in service provision at the community level, was conducted in Naxaithong, Taphabat and Pacsane districts, from August 9 - 18.

The training was the first introduction to

Following up ICPD

Members of the official Japanese delegation to the ICPD reported on the conference to 50 representatives of Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at a meeting held on September 21. The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Among the speakers were Makoto Ato, director, Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Akiko Domoto, member, House of Councilors. The three NGO representatives who joined the official ICPD delegation also spoke at the meeting. JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon provided an NGO perspective of the ICPD along with Keiko Higuchi of Japan's Network for Women's Health, Cairo '94, and Shunsuke Iwasaki of People's Forum 2001. The officials of MOFA expressed the government's desire to follow up the ICPD through implementation of the Program of Action. They also called for similar meetings to be held in the future.

New FP/MCH Perspectives in China

A study tour to China yielded insights into the family planning/maternal and child health (FP/MCH) situation for 10 Japanese, who visited China on a tour organized by JOICFP from August 8 - 21. All self-funded, the team included representatives of the public health and preventive health fields and mass media.

To gain a broad perspective of FP/MCH activities, the team toured three areas where the Integrated Project (IP) is being promoted. The team visited two fourth phase project areas in Zhongxiang City, Hubei Province, and Runan County, Henan Province, where the project was launched at the beginning of 1993. The visitors were then able to compare these areas with the situation of Taicang City, Jiangsu Province, a

first phase area and the original site of IP implementation in China in 1984.

At the IP areas, the Japanese visitors were introduced to all aspects of the IP by local steering committees and spoke with local people involved in the project. The team visited such facilities as FP and MCH stations at the county level, town hospitals, farm houses and homes for the elderly. The visitors observed how the FP associations promoting the project emphasize health education through the promotion of such activities as parasite control in schools. It was also noted that FPAs are contributing to improving the welfare of the people and the community through promoting income-generating activities such as pig rearing.

The study tour included visits to China's three largest cities of Shanghai, Tianjin and Beijing where the team members were able to gain insights into FP/MCH challenges for urban populations. In particular, the team learned that



Villagers of Wanggang Township, Henan Province.

the FP associations of urban areas are placing greater emphasis on improving the health of people as the goal of slowing rapid population growth is being met in larger cities.

The insights into the situation of China were welcomed by the team members who noted that the contribution of the people themselves is a key factor to project success.



Shidzue Kato with Margaret Sanger in 1954.

Shidzue Kato, 97, spoke about her lifelong struggle to promote the family planning (FP) movement and women's empowerment at an event entitled "Text for the Future," held in Tokyo on September 24. Some 1,000 people attended the event. Kato, president of the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ) and vice president of JOICFP, won the UN Population Award in 1988.

Kato explained that it was a meeting with Margaret Sanger in 1920 and an introduction to the concept of birth control that sparked her commitment to FP. She would later be imprisoned in Japan for her convictions and her pioneering efforts would lead her to become a founding member of IPPF in 1952. Seventy-four years later, Kato said that she remains steadfast in her commitment to FP and women's empowerment.

Turning Point for FP in Shanghai

A three-member team from Shanghai family planning (FP) organizations learned insights into ways to diversify their activities during a study tour to Japan from September 25 - October 3. The visit, organized by the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) in cooperation with JOICFP, was geared to promoting exchange of information and future collaboration in FP between the two countries.

The visit was particularly rewarding for the Chinese officials who are looking to broaden FP activities to meet the changing needs of the people of Shanghai. The city is unique in China for being the first to report negative population growth in 1993.

After 40 years of population activities, Shanghai's average annual birthrate fell from the 1950s level of 40.1 per 1,000 to reach 6.5 per 1,000 in 1993. Natural growth rate decreased from 32.1 per 1,000 to minus 0.8 per 1,000 over the same period.

With the concept of FP already well accepted among the Shanghai people, the FP organizations are seeking to focus more on activities that improve the quality of life of the



Chinese visitors observe guidance for baby food preparation in Machida City.

people rather than slow population growth. Shanghai is the first city to face such a historical challenge in China.

In Japan, the Chinese officials were briefed on preventive health activities in Machida City and observed various activities there such as MCH care, baby food guidance, rehabilitation activities, a lecture for menopausal women and FP consultations. They also visited a condom factory. At a local supermarket, the team observed child care consultations provided by public health nurses using IEC materials of JFPA. The Chinese were particularly interested in the way that JFPA had linked up with private enterprise and local health staff to promote health care and expand its activities.

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

New Challenges for Men

Women took center stage at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, which also saw vigorous debate over issues at odds with certain religious views expressed at the conference.

The conference was a landmark event and has brought the freshest perspective to the discussions on population since the time of Thomas R. Malthus. Rather than being a forum

for conventional discussions on population increase and decrease, the conference focused on the improvement of women's status and their political empowerment. It was indeed very encouraging for me.

The conference offered new challenges for the field of family planning (FP) in Japan. It will go down in our history as a turning point for FP alongside the significant contributions that Margaret Sanger and Shidzue Kato made to the early movement.

Before World War II, men controlled almost all aspects of Japanese life including the family, education and politics. But the feudal political system and its social structure came to an end

after the war. The nation's defeat and the democratic reform that followed awakened something in the people who looked to a new future free of feudal ideas and practices.

I lived through this time of dramatic change and witnessed a new chapter in Japan's history. I became deeply committed to the movement to improve hygiene and health, and raise the quality of life. From this movement came the concept of the Integrated Project (IP) which caught on and spread throughout Japan. The IP was later implemented in countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Since the Meiji period (1868 - 1912), women have played an essential role in improving family welfare and the quality of life in the community in Japan. But, as the Cairo conference showed, it is time for change. Men must take responsibility and do their part to create a better future both within the family and the community. Japanese men must accept the challenges proposed by the Cairo conference and do their part to make amends for the past.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workshop on Quality of Care for Community-based FP/MCH in Asia

This workshop is being organized by JOICFP and the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). Objectives: To learn effective strategies to promote quality of care of FP/MCH activities through the Nepalese experience; to share experiences for developing strategies for project sustainability; to develop strategies and action plans for respective countries; and to follow up IEC materials developed in two previous IEC workshops held in 1993.

Date: December 4 - 9

Venue: Katmandu, Nepal

Sponsors: UNFPA, IPPF and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Participants: Three project directors/managers or equivalent from Bangladesh, Laos, the Philippines, Nepal, China, Vietnam; representatives of UNFPA and IPPF; and resource persons.

For further details, please contact FPAN or JOICFP.

3rd Regional Technical Committee Meeting on Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH with Special Focus on Women

This regional technical committee meeting for the UNFPA-supported regional project is being organized by JOICFP.

Objectives: To review project implementation of 1993/1994; to discuss evaluation scheduled for 1995 and the future plan; and to learn experiences and know-how of FP/MCH in Japan.

Date: January 23 - 28, 1995

Venue: Tokyo

Sponsors: UNFPA, IPPF and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Participants: Three project directors/managers/key local personnel of project or equivalent from Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal and the Philippines; two project directors/managers or equivalent from China and Vietnam; and representatives of UNFPA, IPPF and JOICFP.

For further details, please contact JOICFP.

DIARY

- A 10-member Japanese team was in China from Aug. 8 - 21 to study FP/MCH activities. JOICFP program officers Yukio Honma and Yoshitatsu Kanno accompanied the team.

- **Haile Wubneh Nerae**, head, Health Bureau of Region 14, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and **James Dhikusoka**, program manager, Family Planning Association of Uganda, paid a courtesy call to the mayor of MCCOBA member Itabashi City on Aug. 22.

- Fourteen participants from 14 countries attended the Seminar on FP Administration for Senior Officers held Aug. 6 - 26, organized by JOICFP and entrusted by JICA.

- **Agnes Amon Msuya**, director, Finance and Administration, Family Planning Association of Tanzania (UMATI), and **Mukoboto Moffat Fwanyanga Kangwanda**, acting director of programs, Planned Parenthood Association of

Zambia, paid a courtesy call to the mayor of MCCOBA member Ota City on Aug. 26. They later visited the mayor of MCCOBA member Nerima City on Aug. 29.

- A seven-member delegation from JOICFP headed by Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon attended the ICPD, held in Cairo, Egypt, from Sept. 5 - 13.

- Program Officer Sumie Ishii was in the U.K. from Sept. 14 - 18 for talks with IPPF and ODA officials.

- Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami was in France for talks with OECD DAC officials from Sept. 15 - 18.

- Program Officer Ryoko Nishida was in Ghana from Sept. 15 - Oct. 3 for IP monitoring.

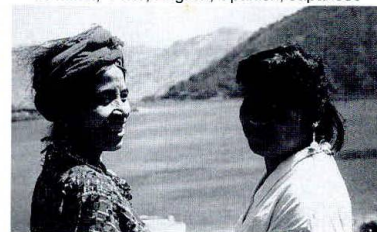
- Program Officer Hideyuki Takahashi was in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia from Sept. 15 - Oct. 6 for IP activities including monitoring.

JOICFP Documentary Series

A New Documentary Film

Maria

33 mins., Color; English, Spanish, Japanese



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

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

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

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Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

Yoyogi Center Bldg., 57-1 Yoyogi 1-chome

Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151, Japan

Tel: 81-3-3320-6311/Fax: 81-3-3320-7666

Telex: J34799 JTCINBTH

16mm • VTR (Beta, VHS/NTSC, PAL, SECAM)

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

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