

JOICFP NEWS



Answering Community Needs in Africa

The IP stirs communities into action as it is adapted to meet local demands

The Integrated Project (IP) is finding acceptance in African countries as it is adapted and expanded at the local level to answer the needs of the community people. Monitoring missions to the three IP countries of Zambia, Tanzania and Ghana found that while family planning and maternal and child health (FP/MCH) remain the goals of the project, a variety of innovative approaches are being made under the project to raise the level of health and well-being of the community people.

Zambia

In the semi-rural area of Fiwale in Zambia's Copperbelt Province, men's clubs have sprung up alongside women's clubs under the IP. The men's clubs have been working in harmony with women's clubs to promote the activities of the IP. This cooperation has also proved ideal for overcoming male resistance to FP acceptance.

In addition to FP/MCH activities, the clubs are involved in a variety of community development/income-generation projects including bee-keeping, food preparation, castor oil processing, carpentry, road maintenance, poultry farming and backyard gardening, metal work, cooking, sewing and knitting.

The project has also contributed to the

establishment of nursery schools. The centers, which provide a means to check child health and serve as a source of information on FP and health-related issues, have freed women to listen to FP messages provided by mobile FP workers. Some of the mothers have also begun their own adult literacy classes at the shelters.

Tanzania

In Tanzania, the IP has overcome resistance from the Catholic church to win acceptance of the people living in the predominantly Catholic area of Mgeta, Morogoro Region.

The IP began in 1990 with parasite control campaigns to pave the way for the introduction of other health activities. Its FP messages, however, met with local church opposition. This was overcome by convincing the bishop of Morogoro that the project was indeed aimed at improving the health and welfare of the community. The contraceptive prevalence rate has since continued to climb, reaching 39.9% by the end of 1993, up from a mere 6.7% in 1990.

Another important aspect of the IP is the establishment of community-based distribution services (CBS) within villages to ease access to FP/MCH services. The system utilizes local people such as the village health workers and traditional birth attendants to serve as contraceptive distributors. The village health workers also are trained in primary health care and FP under the IP.

Ghana

In Ghana, meanwhile, the project has sparked the interest of the community people who are taking initiative to improve their way of life. Support from Japan has also done much to build on this enthusiasm. In Bontrese village, for example, funds allocated under the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme administered by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecom-



Community-based distributors at work in Tanzania.

munications are being used to set up a clinic. The village has already established a clinic implementation committee to involve the community people in the running of the clinic.

Japanese support is also contributing to the training of young women in Bontrese and Awutu villages where donated treadle sewing machines are being used for vocational training.

The variety of activities promoted under the project has stirred the community into action in the IP areas of Ghana. The self-help spirit can be seen in the small-scale community gardening projects which are not only helping people acquire skills, but are also assisting them to generate funds for important activities such as improving water supplies.



Children play at a nursery shelter in Zambia.



A woman learns sewing skills with a donated sewing machine in Ghana.

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Community Support Systems in an Aging Society

Non-governmental organizations will have an increasingly important role to play in supporting families with the aging of populations in Asia, according to participants of a seminar on population aging held in Japan from October 19 - 29. They also agreed that networking of NGOs within the field of population aging is therefore important.

The seminar was the third to be conducted by JOICFP under the regional UNFPA-supported project titled "Promotion of Awareness and Policy Formulation on Aging (RAS/92/P13)." The October seminar focused on "Aging Population and Social Services — Community Support Systems for the Elderly and the Family" and was aimed at promoting the formulation of social service programs and development of community support systems and strategies to meet the expected needs of aging populations. The experience of Japan was used as a case study for the seminar, which was also aimed at fostering exchanges on aging issues and promoting a regional network among those involved in the field of aging in the region. The seminar was attended by 12 policy planners, program managers and policy researchers from nine countries and was organized by JOICFP with UNFPA support.

The seminar included three country presentation sessions on the themes of family support, development of community care and the role of NGOs. Chris Leach, manager, Aged and Community Care, Commonwealth

Department of Human Services and Health, Australia, provided insights into the Australian experience of home and community care as a guest speaker. Participants responded with interest to Australia's Home and Country Care (HACC) and Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACATs), commenting that the approaches were relevant.

The highlight of the seminar for participants was the field trip to Hiroshima Prefecture where they visited Mitsugi Town. The proportion of aged in the town's population is currently 23%, the same proportion estimated for Japan's total population in 20 years.

At Mitsugi, the participants observed the comprehensive community care system implemented at the Mitsugi General Hospital under the leadership of hospital Director Noboru Yamaguchi. The hospital has integrated an office of the town government to be able to provide health and medical services along with welfare services for the elderly.

The approach, taken by hospital for the last 15 years, has been extremely successful in reducing the number of bed-bound elderly in the town. Despite an increase the number of elderly, the number of bed-bound has continued to fall through the hospital's efforts to promote community care with a comprehensive support system. The program, which began as mobile nursing services, was expanded to include a variety of welfare services and to actively involve the community as volunteers in the care of the elderly. The so-called "Zero Bed-bound Campaign" of Mitsugi Town has today become a model for other towns and has been incorporated into the Japanese government's "Gold Plan" policies on population aging.

"The Mitsugi model in care for the aged is one which provides good reference for Singapore," commented Timothy Sim Boon Wee, director, Care Corner Family Service Center, Singapore. He added that the provision of medical and welfare services is the key to reintegrating the elderly into the community.

"Coordination of sectors is urgently needed: medical-public health and welfare should be synergized into an integrated activity," said Professor Achir Yaumil, assistant to the minister for population, and head of the



Elderly people participate in rehabilitation exercises at a health facility for the aged in Mitsugi Town.

National Family Planning Coordinating Board, Indonesia. "This (Mitsugi Town's) coordination and integration could be a good model to be implemented at home."

For Siu Kum Leung, superintendent, Lok Sin Tong Cheong Home for the Aged, Hong Kong, the seminar was a networking opportunity. "The participants have invaluable experiences and I am glad to have this chance to discuss issues of population aging," she said.

Sompong Chareonsuk, director, Asia Training Center on Aging, Faculty of Nursing, University of Chiang Mai, Thailand, also welcomed the opportunity to share experiences with other participants. The concept of community participation, maximum utilization of volunteers and networking with NGOs and

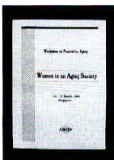


Elderly patients enjoy Japanese chess at Mitsugi General Hospital.

other agencies were aspects of the Japanese experience that can be applied to the Philippine situation, according to Martiniana Mercado, director, Region IV, Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippines.

All agreed on the importance of family support, but noted that family values are changing and that social services and community care should be developed to support families. The participants also emphasized the importance of financial security for the elderly and the significance of continued employment.

New Publication



JOICFP has published a report on the Workshop on Population Aging — Women in an Aging Society, which was held in Singapore in March this year. The

booklet singles out policy issues related to women and aging populations in Asia and includes recommendations made under the UNFPA-supported regional project, "Promotion of Awareness and Policy Formulation on Aging (RAS/92/P13)."

An Unshakable Commitment to Women's Health

The Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) celebrated 40 years of pioneering efforts in the family planning (FP) field with a reception held in Tokyo on November 2. Some 350 people including international guests attended the event, which served to highlight the achievements made by the non-governmental organization (NGO) since its

million abortions. This figure peaked a year later in 1955 at 1.17 million when Japan's total population was 89 million. Despite the provision of abortion services by designated doctors, the procedure took its toll with one out of every 500 women undergoing an induced abortion in the 1950s dying from complications.

Under Kunii's leadership, the NGO directed its efforts at promoting FP as a means to raise the health of women and children. Working smoothly with the government to reach the women in the communities, the NGO recruited volunteers and followers and took its activities nationwide.

The commitment to women's health remains an important aspect of the JFPA,



JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon and Chairman Chojiro Kunii (from left) stand next to FPFJ President Shidzue Kato outside a condom factory in 1954.



Dr. Seiichi Matsumoto, chairman, FPFJ, speaks at the reception.

which has diversified its activities over the years to meet demands and maintain its self-reliance and autonomy. Among the new challenges for the organization is promoting the implementation of the World Population Program of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. The JFPA is particularly committed to promoting the concept of reproductive health and rights within Japan.

establishment in 1954.

The NGO is part of the Hoken Kaikan Group and is headed by president and founder, Chojiro Kunii. A self-reliant organization, the JFPA is currently engaged in a variety of fields. Prominent among these is the JFPA's adolescent health program under which it operates an "open house" for adolescent counseling. Another important aspect of its activities is its FP promotion program through which it provides training services for FP instructors, produces educational materials and sells contraceptives.

The JFPA also operates a maternal and child health (MCH) promotion program, a health program for middle-aged and senior women and a program for genetic counseling. To promote understanding of FP-related issues, the JFPA publishes the monthly *Family and Health* newsletter in Japanese and actively promotes the advancement of scientific research through meetings and a regular publication. It also cooperates with JOICFP internationally and with other related organizations.

The JFPA was first established with the aim of spreading the concept of FP to avoid unwanted pregnancy and induced abortion. The year it was established, Japan recorded over 1

Japan Lagging in Reproductive Rights

Japan is one of only 11 of the world's countries that have not authorized the oral contraceptive pill for contraceptive purposes, noted Margaret Catley-Carlson, president, Population Council. Catley-Carlson made her comments on the low-dose pill at a special lecture meeting in Tokyo on October 14 where she served as guest speaker.

The meeting was organized by the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) in cooperation with the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), and JOICFP. It was attended by medical experts, parliamentarians, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the media.

During her lecture, Catley-Carlson noted the emphasis on women's empowerment and reproductive health and rights for women made in the World Population Program of Action adopted at the recent International Conference

on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. She emphasized that NGOs have an important role to play in realizing the goals of the program of action. Widening the choices of contraceptives, an important reproductive health issue, is the responsibility of the service providers including NGOs, she added.

Noting the relatively high rate of induced abortion in Japan, Catley-Carlson commented that the lack of access to the low-dose pill is not desirable from the perspective of reproductive health and rights. She called for widening the choice of contraceptives in Japan to include the low-dose pill and a wider selection of IUDs to promote reproductive health.



Catley-Carlson

Messages with Meaning for Adolescents

Regional workshop focuses on appropriate IEC for youth

"Communication for Youth's Sexual Health" was the theme of an IEC Workshop for the Latin American Region, held in cooperation with UNFPA, IPPF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in Pátzcuaro, Michoacán State in Mexico from October 10 - 12. The meeting, hosted by the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM), enabled the exchange of experiences on the production and evaluation of reproductive health education materials aimed at youths and gave participants an opportunity to determine unmet needs among adolescents

not answered by existing materials. Participants were also required to produce proposals for the production of IEC materials for adolescents in the region.

The workshop was attended by 80 participants from 15 countries including Japan and the U.S. During the three-day event, five roundtable discussions were held for exchange of experiences. The participants were also divided into four groups according to IEC format – TV and cinema; puppet making; radio; and printed materials – to discuss specific skills needed for each communication method.

During the workshop process, participants agreed that sex education is essential to prevent unwanted pregnancies, abortion and STDs including HIV/AIDS among youth. To achieve this, they stressed that youth should be directly involved in the entire process of IEC production and evaluation to ensure that the materials reflect youth's own view of sexuality. Participants also agreed that adolescent programs should consider young indigenous people living in rural or marginal areas, the most difficult groups to reach.

Noting that many materials are applicable in each other's countries, the participants called for the establishment of a network to enable the exchange of materials within the region. The workshop itself allowed participants to create informal networks with people working in the same field, according to the participant from Ecuador. She said that meeting people working in the same field had given her considerable motivation and that she hoped to organize joint activities in the future and share materials with other organizations in the region.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the five participants with the best IEC proposals were awarded grants for production. The proposals consisted of a regular newspaper column on youth sexuality in Guatemala; a series of radio programs to reach indigenous populations in Guatemala; dance performances on the theme of youth sexuality in Jamaica; a video on women and HIV/AIDS in Brazil; and a printed teacher's manual for prevention of sexual abuse in Paraguay.



Participants make puppets during the IEC workshop.

National Seminar in Mexico

The effective use of educational films jointly produced by the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM) and JOICFP to promote adolescent sex education was the theme of a national adolescent health seminar, held in Pátzcuaro, Mexico, on October 13 under the auspices of UNFPA and IPPF.

The Mexico seminar focused on the newly published manual for the film series and the evaluation report on the use of the films in MEXFAM's "Gente Joven" program for youth. The 40 participants, including most of MEXFAM's regional coordinators, used the event to analyze the evaluation report and discuss ways to improve the present situation of the program utilizing the report.

Participants agreed on the need to develop an instructional video to assist educators to use the films and accompanying pamphlets effectively. A revised manual for the films was also noted as important.

The seminar ended with a commitment by MEXFAM to develop a "bank" of leading questions posed by adolescents in reproductive health courses and to publish an auxiliary book for instructors.



A view of the national seminar.

New Publications

Two publications related to the adolescent health project in the Latin American region are now available. The first is a manual developed for use with the five adolescent health films jointly produced by MEXFAM and JOICFP.

The films, *Blue Pigeon*, *The Last Train*, *Music for Two*, *Best Wishes* and *The Saxophone*, were developed to support adolescent health education



activities in the region, particularly in Mexico. The new manual, *Sex Trusts and Videotapes*, is designed as an instructor's aid and provides information on the films and an outline on the kinds of questions to expect from students.

The second publication titled *Integrated Project: Production, Use, and Distribution of IEC Materials for Youth in Mexico*, is the published report of the evaluation on the use of the five above-mentioned films. It provides an overview of MEXFAM's activities to promote adolescent education using the MEXFAM/JOICFP films.

Both publications are available in English and Spanish.



Threads of Support Project in Guatemala on Track

The women's groups and community leaders in Sololá State of Guatemala have joined hands to improve the quality of life in communities where the Integrated Project (IP)



Junior high school students learn sewing skills at Santiago Atitlán.

is being implemented. With a donation of reconditioned treadle sewing machines from Japan, the IP communities have set up five sewing academies in which women are learning skills for income generation. In two villages, local people have also opened their homes for use as sewing academy facilities.

Efforts are also being made to integrate the sewing academy more smoothly with other health promotion activities of the IP. To support the traditional birth attendants' maternal and child health activities, the academy trainees will sew cloths to wrap newborns and aprons to wear at deliveries. They are also sewing bags for weighing babies.

Meanwhile, in Japan the cause of the IP in Guatemala is being promoted under the "Maria Fund," which seeks donations to support the sewing academies. It is hoped that these cooperative activities will be expanded in the future to foster a network of support involving Japanese women.



Laboratory staff explain family planning at a health post.

Three experts included in a Japanese mission to Guatemala provided valuable technical assistance to improve promotion of the Integrated Project (IP) at the grassroots. The team's visit to Guatemala from September 17 - October 3 coincided with the National Seminar on the Integrated Project. The seminar was held in Panajachel, Sololá State, and was funded with donations provided under the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme administered by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

The seminar was attended by almost 70 community leaders, traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and paramedics related to the project. The participants came from 15 municipalities in Sololá and Suchitepéquez states.

Organized as an orientation seminar, the event was attended by Dr. Fernando Poncé, UNDP resident representative to Honduras/Guatemala, who traveled from Guatemala City. The seminar also included a hand-over ceremony of a motorboat donated with POSIVA funds. The boat, which will be used to travel across Lake Atitlán, is invaluable for reaching the communities that are not serviced by roads.

The project, which is expanding from the original site of San Lucas Tolimán to other communities around Lake Atitlán, targets the predominantly Mayan population of the area which is not well served by health services or development activities. Despite the distrust shown by these ethnic people to outsiders, the project has won community support by catering not only to health demands but to community development needs.

During technical assistance exercises, the Japanese experts were impressed with the high level of skills developed by the laboratory staff of San Lucas Tolimán in Sololá. Dr. Shigeo Hayashi, former director, National Institute of Health of Japan, and Takaaki Hara, director, Research and Study Department, Japan Association of Parasite Control, observed parasite control (PC) and health education activities in primary schools during their visit. The team, which provided guidance on



Keiko Yazawa demonstrates how to weigh newborns to TBAs in San Lucas Tolimán.

improving services, noted that the lab technicians had begun to reach out to health posts and centers and expand activities from PC to health education including family planning (FP) messages.

The third expert on the team, Keiko Yazawa, a public health nurse, was formerly a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to Guatemala. While in the project areas, Yazawa focused on the activities of the TBAs, monitoring their use of the health care bags, maternal and child health (MCH) handbooks, illustrated MCH handbooks and MCH cards supplied with POSIVA funds. In particular, Yazawa noted that the illustrated MCH handbooks, specially designed for illiterate audiences, was being effectively used by the TBAs who have received regular training from project personnel.

Yazawa also provided technical training to TBAs during her visit. The Japanese nurse explained the use of infant weighing scales and procedures for screening newborns.



Nana Maria, a TBA who was featured in a JOICFP documentary film, with UNDP Resident Representative Fernando Poncé at the national seminar.

People Readily Pay for Quality Services in Nepal

The UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women has been expanded in Nepal to meet grassroots demands and is being embraced by the community people. This was the most significant finding of a monitoring

the people and that they are willing to pay for services. Under the project, community people are charged 75% of the total cost of services and medicines as a means to promote sustainability.

The project has been well integrated into FPAN's system, tying in

neatly with the association's strategic plan of promoting community participation, women's involvement, accessibility, sustainability and quality of care. Expansion of the project has therefore been smoothly carried out under the leadership of FPAN Director General Ram Neupane in cooperation with the FPAN branch manager and project staff.

Quality of care is a major issue in the project areas where village people normally have to walk over one hour to reach a government health facility where medical supplies and services are often limited. Under the project,

however, mobile teams of health professionals visit villages twice a month to provide FP/MCH and health care services.

During the monitoring mission, the team observed a mobile health clinic in Dumraha village of Sunsari. Of the 35 clients seen by the clinic in the day, a large number of women (16) received antenatal services. According to the baseline survey, only 17.2% of women in Sunsari replied that they had received antenatal checkups during their last pregnancy.

The mission also took part in a refresher training course aimed at needs identification and improving record-keeping and reporting skills for 28 FP workers. The training was conducted by Sabitri Basnet, an expert of FP/MCH and consultant of the project. She was assisted by Ashoda Nepal, staff nurse, FPAN. Both resource persons were extremely pleased with the course and the keen interest shown by the trainees.

Under the project, mothers' clubs have been set up in each of the nine wards of each project village. The clubs are composed of satisfied FP



A woman buys medicine from a community medicine assistant in Sunsari.



Young women listen attentively to a lecture by Sabitri Basnet on reproductive health.

mission conducted in Nepal from October 15 - November 5. The project, under which health services are provided on a fee-charged basis, was smoothly expanded from the six villages of Sunsari District to five adjacent villages in Morang District in May.

The project is being implemented by the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). Noting the willingness of the people to join project activities, the local FPAN branch manager commented that the situation "is not just good, but very good." He added that the project is well understood and appreciated by



Members of the mothers' club line up with a sign bearing an FP slogan.



A local government officer gives a certificate to a health worker.

Taicang IP Center in Action

A team of experts from Japan found the Taicang IP Training Center in full swing when the members visited China from October 20 - November 2. The center, established in 1993, is operated by the Taicang Family Planning Association (TFPA) in cooperation with the Taicang Family Planning Commission. The team also joined the Parasite Control Seminar on Technical Aspects for promoting the Integrated Project (IP) in China, held at the IP Training Center from October 26 - November 1.

The national-level seminar was organized in cooperation with the National IP Steering Committee, State Family Planning Commission, China Family Planning Association, the Institute of Parasitic Diseases of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine and JOICFP. It was supported by funds from the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) allocated by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The funds were provided

to JOICFP for its project in China titled "Protection of Chinese children's health and promotion of the improvement of the people's living conditions in rural areas."

Prior to the seminar, the TFPA held a hand-over ceremony for equipment and educational materials purchased with POSIVA funds. The donations comprised one vehicle, 30 microscopes, other medical equipment and health education leaflets for children and families. Zhang Zuqin, president, TFPA, gave a speech at the ceremony in which he thanked the 15 million Japanese people who donated funds under POSIVA.

The POSIVA support is expected to contribute to the promotion of children's health and community well-being not only for the 450,000 people in Taicang, but also for people in other IP areas in 16 provinces of China. The IP now covers a target population of about 4 million in China.

A total of 44 participants from 10 IP areas



A technician, trained in March under the IP, demonstrates her techniques in Taicang.

in 10 provinces attended the seminar where they learned various technical aspects of IP promotion, particularly the use of parasite control (PC) as a springboard to the promotion of other health activities such as family planning and as a means to promote program self-reliance. The Taicang IP Center has been charging fees for the mass PC examination and treatment activities it provides to school children. The center targeted more than 40,000 students in 1994.

The Japanese experts also visited the fourth phase IP area of Shaown City in Fujian Province from October 20 - 24, where the IP was launched in early 1993. The team noted that the concept of people's participation had been well accepted in the project areas where the people had been inspired through PC activities to construct sanitary drinking water supplies and new toilets. In one of the IP villages, the visitors viewed a new primary school with sanitary toilets and water supply and observed health education for children.

The change in the people's attitudes was highlighted for the team by a slogan painted on a building in the project. The Japanese remembered that prior to project implementation the slogan had previously read: "Examinations and approval are required for the first and second birth. Unplanned birth is forbidden." However, the new slogan reads: "Fewer births, healthier births. Healthy life, happy and fulfilling life."



School children read health education materials in Taicang.

Challenges for Japan After ICPD

The challenges for Japan following the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo was the topic of a meeting of the Council on Population Education, held at JOICFP on October 12. The meeting featured two speakers who joined the ICPD as members of Japan's official delegation. Dr. Makoto Ato, director, Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare, represented the government at the event, and Keiko Higuchi, professor, Tokyo Kasei University, represented the non-governmental organization (NGO), Japan's Network for Women's Health, Cairo '94.

Jointly organized by the council and JOICFP, the meeting was attended by 50 experts from the population field, government officials, representatives of NGOs and the media. The lecture meetings are held on a regular basis as a means to promote understanding of population issues.

Higuchi spoke frankly about the implications of the Cairo document for women

in Japan and drew attention to Japan's Eugenic Protection Law, enacted in 1948 to authorize induced abortion under certain conditions. Noting that today's Japan is very different to the country of the 1940s, Higuchi said that the law should be changed to reflect the issues of reproductive health and rights emphasized in the Cairo document. She said that the meaning of the law and its concept of eugenics do not reflect women's reproductive health or rights and called for a national campaign to create a more suitable law that authorizes abortion from the viewpoint of women's reproductive health and rights. She said that since the national Japanese delegation to Cairo clearly endorsed the program of action, the government should reflect the contents in its laws domestically.

Commenting on the concept of informed consent, Higuchi noted that women in Japan not only have no access to the low-dose contraceptive pill, but do not even have access to information about this effective form of contraception. She said what little information is available on the pill in Japan is mostly negative. Noting that the information is not enough for women to make an informed decision about the pill, Higuchi stressed that it was the responsibility of the government to disseminate correct information.

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

Broadening Our Horizons

A few months ago, quite a number Japanese women traveled to Cairo, Egypt, to join the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). I have been told that, while the conference itself was inspiring, the participants also enjoyed the opportunity to make history in the field of population. The

delegation of seven from JOICFP was led by our deputy executive director, Yasuo Kon.

In the NGO Forum held concurrently with the ICPD, many Japanese women from voluntary women's groups took part. I heard that these women held active discussions on ways for Japanese women to work to improve their situation. This news reminded me of Shidzue Kato, a pioneer who struggled to find solutions to population problems in the difficult postwar period in Japan. Her efforts helped enlighten many of us to the suffering that pioneers must endure as they open new paths.

There are a variety of ways in which we

can approach projects that will spark the interest of beneficiaries. For example, the local governments of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) have taken a prominent role in supporting JOICFP's projects through the donation of reconditioned bicycles. The provision of just 10 bicycles from MCCOBA is a great incentive for people living at the grassroots in a developing country. JOICFP's efforts to raise funds through the collection and sale of used prepaid cards is also a wonderful way to support people. Meanwhile, donated reconditioned treadle sewing machines from Japan are providing a source of income and inspiring development in local communities. These sorts of activities are extremely important for both the Japanese people and the recipients of the goodwill.

Today, it is not difficult for Japanese to travel overseas. I would therefore like to encourage my countrymen and women to travel widely in Asia and see how the people live in such cities as Jakarta, Manila and Shanghai — cities that are very familiar to us at JOICFP. It is my hope that such travels will help inspire new approaches to international assistance.

DIARY

— JOICFP Program Officer Hiroshi Taniguchi was in the Philippines from Sept. 26 - 29 to exchange information with the JICA project team and government officials.

— Dr. **Shigeo Hayashi**, former director, National Institute of Health of Japan; **Takaaki Hara**, director, Department of Research and Study, JAPC; and **Keiko Yazawa**, former member, Japan Overseas

Cooperation Volunteers, were in Guatemala from Sept. 17 - Oct. 3 to conduct project monitoring and provide technical assistance. They were accompanied by JOICFP staff members Mariko Honma and Tetsuo Kato.

— A three-member mission from FP organizations of China visited Japan from Sept. 25 - Oct. 3 to seek collaboration in FP.

JOICFP ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERIES

ANIMATION



BEST WISHES

14min, color/English, Spanish

Why do a young man and a young woman decide to live together? Why does a couple try to find the answers to raising a family and a happy life?

BEST WISHES is the third animated film in a series jointly produced by Mexico and Japan. This film depicts a young man and a young woman who are pursuing true love and who are confronted by reality and their worries about the futures. And they eliminate misconceptions about male-female roles and learn to respect each other as individuals.



SERIES LINE-UP

ANIMATION FILM NO.1

BLUE PIGEON 11min, color/English, Spanish

ANIMATION FILM NO.2

MUSIC FOR TWO 13min, color/English, Spanish



Distributed by **Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.**

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40 Years of Int'l Assistance

Japan celebrated 40 years of active involvement in international assistance with activities held on and around International Cooperation Day on October 6. Japan formally began providing official development assistance (ODA) in 1954 after becoming a signatory of the Colombo Plan. The 40-year milestone was marked by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) with a special symposium that reviewed Japan's ODA activities and focused on Japan's international role in the 21st century. A range of other events were also held by Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local governments to draw attention to issues in developing countries and Japan's role on the international stage.

Toshima Officials Visit UNFPA

An 11-member study mission from Toshima City of Tokyo held discussions with UNFPA officials on behalf of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) during a visit to UNFPA Headquarters in New York on September 2. The suprapartisan delegation of assemblymen and local government officials discussed the activities of the local Japanese government association, which has been providing reconditioned bicycles and stationery goods to UNFPA projects in developing countries. The bicycles, which have been donated for use by health and family planning workers in developing countries, are particularly effective as a means of transport in rural areas.

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

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