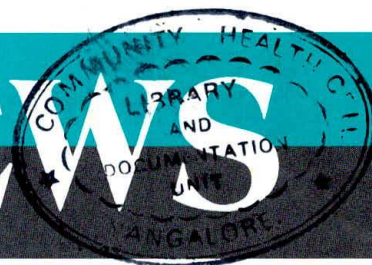


JOICFP NEWS



Follow-up for the ICPD Program of Action

Sadik outlines achievements of Cairo and urges follow-up of program's recommendations

Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, provided an overview of the achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994 at a special lecture meeting in Tokyo on October 27. She also urged action to be taken to follow up the recommendations outlined in the Program of Action. The meeting, organized by Population Forum 21, was attended by some 200 population experts, parliamentarians, government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media and members of the public. A regular event of Population Forum 21, a forum of opinion leaders on global issues, the meeting was chaired by forum co-chair, Shinji Fukukawa. Below are highlights of the speech by Sadik, who also serves as co-chair of the forum.

The ICPD adopted a new and forward-looking Program of Action for the next 20 years. This program is viewed by many — especially women's groups — as a major breakthrough in conventional thinking on population issues. The international community has, for the first time, gone beyond human numbers and demographic targets and explicitly placed human beings at the center of all population and development activities. The international community has acknowledged that investing in people, in their health and education, is the key to sustained economic growth and sustainable development. What is being emphasized in this program is an approach that attacks macro problems by addressing micro needs at the local level, taking into account individual perspectives and needs in policy formulation and implementation, without undermining the responsibilities and sovereignty of governments.

Perhaps the biggest achievement of this conference has been the clear recognition of the need to empower women both as an important

end in itself and as a key to improving the quality of life for everyone. The program acknowledges that there can be no sustainable human development without the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of development. Hence, the emphasis on gender equality in the program. For the first time, the empowerment of women has become an explicit cornerstone in the formulation and implementation of national and international population and development policies.

The program recognizes the need to integrate family planning (FP) activities into the wider context of reproductive health. Reproductive health goes well beyond FP in addressing the overall health and well-being of people, particularly women and girls. Reproductive health-care programs should be designed to serve the needs of women and men, including adolescents, and must involve women in the leadership, planning, decision-making, management, implementation, organization and evaluation of services.

The program recognizes the reproductive rights and reproductive health needs of adolescents in terms of information and services that help them attain a level of maturity required to make responsible decisions.

NGOs in developed and developing countries alike have a crucial role to play in the provision of reproductive health-care information and services and in mobilizing public support for such services. NGOs in donor countries like Japan can press their governments to fulfill their commitments made at ICPD. I would like to note the very active involvement of many Japanese NGOs in the ICPD, both during the preparatory process and the conference itself, particularly JOICFP and Japan's Network for Women's Health, Cairo '94. They have played an important role in mobilizing support for the goals and objectives of the ICPD.



Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA

The significance of the ICPD will now depend on the willingness of governments, local communities, the NGO sector, the international community and all other concerned organizations and individuals to turn the recommendations into action. The program recommends first of all that governments, with the assistance of NGOs and the UN system, should give the widest possible dissemination of the results of the ICPD and should seek broad public support for the goals, objectives and actions of the program. Second, all countries are urged to establish appropriate follow-up and monitoring mechanisms, in partnership with NGOs, community groups and representatives of the media and the academic community, as well with the support of parliamentarians.

I am confident that Population Forum 21 will play an important role in Japan in the mobilization of broad public and political support for the implementation of the relevant follow-up recommendations contained in the program.

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An Initiative from the South

The dramatic progress in terms of South-to-South cooperation in the field of population and family planning (FP) was noted by Minister of Population of Indonesia Haryono Suyono, who visited JOICFP on October 31. In a meeting with JOICFP Chairman Chojiro Kunii, Haryono provided background to the South-to-South cooperation approach which is attracting a growing number of developing countries. The initiative has been actively promoted by Indonesia under the leadership of the population minister.

Indonesia, one of the world's modern success stories of FP, has had an active population program for over 25 years. The country has accumulated many valuable lessons and experiences through its population program, which involves close collaboration between the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Haryono explained that Indonesia is eager to share these experiences

and that South-to-South cooperation is an appropriate channel for making this experience-sharing possible.

Indonesia has undergone significant trial and error in its FP program, which can be of benefit to countries in Asia and in regions such as Latin America and Africa, he said. Haryono explained that South-to-South cooperation is a practical means of mutual assistance for developing countries since accumulated know-how and experiences can be very relevant.

Haryono said that Indonesia has already taken the initiative to establish an international collaborative network. The network now involves the nine developing countries of Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe, he said. While these countries are at different stages in their programs, there are still many experiences that can be applied, he added.



Chojiro Kunii (left) speaks with Haryono Suyono in Tokyo.

Haryono also said that developed countries such as Japan can do much by recognizing South-to-South cooperation as effective and by providing support to assist this collaboration among developing countries. Haryono also expressed his hope that Japan will promote South-to-South cooperation under its recently launched Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS.

Learning Through Sharing

The efforts of Yayasan Kusuma Buana (YKB) to share experiences with other developing countries are being made under the Indonesian initiative led by Minister of Population Haryono Suyono to promote South-to-South cooperation. The concept of exchanging applicable experiences in fields such as population and family planning (FP) among developing countries has been actively promoted by Indonesia. As a result of these pioneering efforts, a total of nine other countries have adopted the approach and are pursuing South-to-South cooperation exchanges together with Indonesia.

A priority area of the initiative for the Indonesian government is the exchange of experiences of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). A well-established NGO, YKB was recently selected as one of four NGOs in the population and FP field to serve as an international training partner under the South-to-South cooperation scheme. A facility established by YKB was recently authorized by

the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) of Indonesia to function as an international training center.

Various experience-sharing activities have already been conducted by YKB including some entrusted by JOICFP. In cooperation with JOICFP, YKB has been assisting representatives from developing countries who are sent to Indonesia to learn about the government and NGO activities in the field of FP. Through BKKBN, YKB has been conducting "short-day program" training, while UNICEF China is also utilizing YKB to train Chinese representatives.

Some of the most valuable experiences that YKB is sharing with other countries are its strategies for self-reliance. Through a fee-



Women receive health education in Indonesia, a country that is promoting South-to-South exchanges of FP/MCH experiences.

charging system for FP, maternal and child health and other preventive health-care services, three of YKB's six clinics in Jakarta have reached the break-even level. The other three are expected to be self-sustaining within one to two years. Another important aspect of YKB's activities is its school health program under which parasite control activities are conducted at schools in Jakarta on a fee-charged basis together with health education. This program is also nearing the break-even point.

Full Partnership for Women in Development

Mary Luke, Vice President, Field Programs, Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), spoke with JOICFP NEWS on November 17 about her organization and issues concerning women. Below are highlights of her comments.

CEDPA's mission is to empower women to be full partners in development. We believe that women must be the center of development, not only the beneficiaries.

The way we implement our empowerment mission is through four primary approaches. These start with the development of women as leaders and managers through leadership training. We have now 4,000 CEDPA alumnae worldwide who have participated in our training programs.

Through USAID funding, we also implement integrated service programs which are geared toward women-managed health services. We usually seek out non-governmental organizations (NGOs) based in the community that have women as part of their services.

The third approach is building the capacity of institutions to broaden their services and programs and to strengthen their systems so that they are able to fully utilize opportunities for external funding. We also believe that by building the capacity of local NGOs we are also building a foundation for sustainability.

The fourth strategy is advocacy and policy. We were recently able to bring a group of women leaders to all of the meetings for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). We wanted to be sure that inputs into the Cairo Document included women who were representatives of programs in their communities. We brought women managers who have spent years serving their communities and got them involved in the policy dialogue at the highest international level on how FP policy and FP programs should be implemented for the next decade. That was a very empowering experience for them.

The ICPD document itself is favorable to women's development, women leaders and training for women, but the challenge is to find financial resources to make the commitment to women's programs on a large scale. UNFPA executive director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, has talked a lot about the resources needed to implement the Program of Action. She's committed to ensuring NGOs have access to a percentage of

these resources. It is vital that NGOs have a share to implement these programs, because without funds the commitment is only words. The test of the Program of Action is how it is implemented. NGOs do not have enough resources, but women's NGOs do not have anywhere near the resources of other NGOs.

The Global Issues Initiative (GII) is a very important and significant commitment on the part of the Japanese government. Given the magnitude of the problem of AIDS and population growth, it will take more donor commitment than ever. Given the success of the ICPD and the new policy based on the empowerment of women as leaders of development and importance of NGOs as designers and implementors of programs, this



Mary Luke

initiative takes on even more significance because it can potentially fund new programs. CEDPA's hope as an NGO whose mission is to ensure that women can participate and attain a fair share of resources, is that the new initiative will focus resources on some of these programs that will be developed and managed by women and NGOs.

UNFPA in Mongolia & North Korea

Ian Howie, UNFPA country director, China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), spoke with JOICFP on November 15 about the UNFPA country programs in Mongolia and DPRK. Below is an outline of his comments.

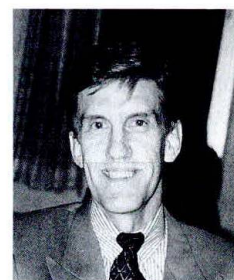
The Beijing Office covers the programs in Mongolia and DPRK. In both these countries the UNFPA program plays quite a pivotal role in their efforts to balance population growth and social and economic development.

Mongolia's maternal and child health (MCH) program is the main fulcrum of the assistance we provide. We have a large project there for which we have a number of resident advisors and experts. The program is working within the Ministry of Health in an effort to improve MCH services, particularly focusing on safe motherhood and support for the birth-spacing program. We also have projects dealing with population policy and the teaching of demography and population studies at the university, and have projects that are supportive of women and income generation.

The government of DPRK has had a long association with UNFPA. Like Mongolia, DPRK had representatives of ministerial rank at the recent International Conference on Population and Development. Also like Mongolia the statement presented there by the minister was very supportive of the aspirations of UNFPA and heralded their achievements in the health and population sector which were achieved with UNFPA assistance.

The DPRK government recently established a national coordinating committee for UNFPA. The importance of this development is that UNFPA assistance is now involved with national planning.

Our second country program in DPRK is divided into seven projects. The most important among them is the support we provide for the North Korean Population Center. Another important project is one that we jointly execute with UNESCO at the Health Education Institute. A third significant project is the assistance we provide for the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.



Ian Howie

International Assistance Catches On

The Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) chalked up a good year in 1994 for international assistance at its 20th quarterly meeting in Ota City, Tokyo, on November 18. The 14 local Japanese governments and JOICFP that belong to MCCOBA raised the target of reconditioned bicycles to be donated to developing countries before the end of fiscal 1994 from 3,225 to over 4,000.

Behind MCCOBA's decision to raise the bicycle donation target was the pledge by the Japan Bicycle Promotion Institute to increase its original pledge of ¥20 million (US\$196,000 at an exchange rate of ¥102 to US\$1) to ¥30 million (US\$294,000) to cover shipping costs. The cost of shipping the bicycles still remains one of major hurdles to sending the donations abroad. The local governments also provided ¥14 million (US\$137,000) for shipping and spare parts.

The distribution of almost all bicycles sent abroad in 1994 has been coordinated by JOICFP, which is aiming to better utilize space between shipped bicycles to send other items abroad such as stationery goods. In 1994, JOICFP received 163,000 notebooks from an educational notebook manufacturer and over 100,000 pencils from a trade association of pencil manufacturers in Arakawa City, Tokyo. A further 30,000 notebooks were donated by Toshima City, Tokyo, in 1994.

Another positive development for JOICFP is the collaboration being extended by the National Social Welfare Association, a semi-governmental organization covering almost all 3,300 municipalities of Japan. An early outcome of this new support is the donation of 2,000 ball-point pens by Oita Prefecture and 1,800 pencils from Shizuoka Prefecture.

Another effective means of assistance is being pursued by schools of Toshima City,



Children at a nursery in Zambia display donated notebooks and pencils.

which have been donating toys to support nursery schools established in Tanzania and Zambia under JOICFP's Integrated Project. The toys, rare in the rural communities, are effective for luring children to nurseries where they can learn to read and write and where their health status can be monitored. The nurseries have also sparked an interest in literacy among mothers and provided a forum for discussions on health issues including family planning.

Philippine Project Gathers Steam

The UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women (RAS/92/P11) received a show of support from local governments in the Philippines at a ceremony on November 15. The event, held to mark the turnover of audio-visual equipment for IEC activities and basic medical equipment and supplies, was attended by local dignitaries including the governor of the Province of Batangas, the mayors of the two project municipalities of Balayan and Malvar and officials of the Department of Health (DOH) which is implementing the project. Officials of UNFPA and JOICFP also attended.



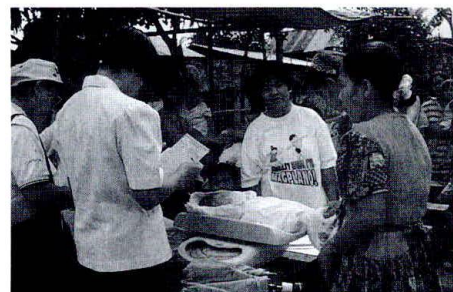
Local officials attend the turnover ceremony in front of the Batangas Capitol Building.

The items procured by JOICFP with the aim of improving health facilities at the community level, were distributed to health stations at the barangay (village) level and the rural health units at the municipal level.

Following the ceremony, a tripartite project review (TPR) meeting was attended by representatives of the DOH, UNFPA and JOICFP as well as the two mayors and representatives of project sites. The participants reviewed project status, discussed progress and made recommendations and a work plan for the following year.

High on the agenda were the capacity-building efforts made at the project sites including the formation of community-based committees for project implementation and the various training programs conducted for health personnel, volunteers and traditional birth attendants (TBAs). The participants also discussed the assessments of barangay-level health facilities that were used to guide renovations and improvements being carried out by municipal governments and communities.

Looking ahead, the participants stressed strategies to sustain activities beyond the project period. The need to further involve the newly organized women's groups in health-care



Health personnel and volunteers use new equipment to weigh a baby in Malvar.

activities was also emphasized by the participants who noted the issue of on-going training programs for health-post volunteers as well as the need for training such as mothers' classes at the community level. The goal of developing a community-based project and monitoring scheme with the help of volunteers was reaffirmed at the meeting.

Very little time was wasted in putting the procured equipment and materials to use at the barangay health stations in Malvar and Balayan. Shortly after the turnover ceremony, TBAs who have just completed training were provided with TBA kits. Meanwhile, women volunteers supported by health personnel began baby weighing activities and providing IEC talks immediately after receiving materials and equipment.

Paramedics Look Toward Developing Countries

Japanese paramedics with experience as volunteers in developing countries provided practical insights into working in the international assistance field at the 25th Seminar on International Cooperation in Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning (MCH/FP). Over half of the 19 attending the seminar had worked in international cooperation schemes. Six of these participants



A former JOCV member in Liberian costume introduces her experiences in sign language.

through the seminar.

The paramedics were introduced to various aspects of international assistance through presentations on population issues, volunteer work, reproductive health, adolescent health and communication techniques. An outline was also provided of Japan's postwar experiences in the FP/MCH field and the application of these experiences through JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP).

The active contribution of the former JOCV members made this year's seminar a more lively and interactive learning experience. Two former volunteers of Malawi provided insights into the needs of the community people with a firsthand description of hospital conditions and comments on the need to provide appropriate forms of assistance that do not hinder the community's ability to sustain itself. The importance of involving the people in health activities to promote their own development was also noted by a former volunteer of Peru,

who gave an account of a community's efforts to construct latrines.

A lecture provided by Masako Hoshino, director, Kanagawa Women's Center, was particularly rewarding for former JOCV member of Laos, Akiko Suzuki. Hoshino was one of the first volunteers sent abroad by the Japanese government to Laos in 1965. Suzuki, a midwife, was interested to learn the similarities between the situation of Laos today with that of 30 years ago. Suzuki commented that the seminar's focus on population, FP/MCH and women provided her with a better perspective on how to promote international assistance.



A view of the seminar participants.

complemented the information provided in the seminar by sharing their experiences as members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The seminar, held November 28 - December 8, was attended by Japanese nurses, public health nurses and midwives. An annual event, the seminar is ultimately geared to preparing participants for overseas service by deepening their understanding of issues related to international cooperation and to broadening technical cooperation channels in Japan to create a network for international assistance.

The seminar was subsidized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by JOICFP. It was launched in 1972 and has now been attended by a total of 565 health professionals. Course leader for the event was Dr. Minoru Muramatsu, former chairman, Population Association of Japan. In his opening remarks, Muramatsu called for participants to broaden their perspectives

Fertility Issues in Japan

"Childbearing within the nuclear family" was the theme of the National Convention of Maternal and Child Health/Family Planning (MCH/FP), held in Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture of Japan from November 15 - 16. Focusing on fertility and MCH issues in Japan — which is experiencing a falling birthrate and rapid population aging — the event was attended by 1,500 people from the medical and health-care fields.

The convention, an annual event, was jointly organized by the prefectural government, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ) and Boshi Aiku Kai, a prominent MCH promotion organization.

The theme of the convention reflects the concern being shown by prefectural governments, particularly in rural areas, toward shrinking family size and change in family structure. Japan's total fertility rate (TFR) continued to fall in 1993 to hit a postwar low of 1.46, a significant decrease from the TFR of 2.0 in 1975.

The Japanese government has recently developed two major programs in response to the demographic change. The "Angel Plan" is geared toward creating a more appropriate environment for couples to bear and raise children, while the "Gold Plan" strategies are aimed at coping with the increased number of elderly in the future population.

Welcoming the government's efforts to improve the situation for women to bear children, participants cautioned that childbirth is still a matter for the woman to decide. Childbirth should not affect a woman's ability to continue to work or study, it was noted.

Chinese Team Observes Role of NGOs in Health Care

A 10-member study team from China led by Lei Shude, director, Family Planning Commission of Liaoning Province, was introduced to Japan's experiences in family planning/maternal and child health (FP/MCH) and preventive health-care promotion during a visit to Japan from November 10 - 23.

Of particular interest to the group was the

provided on a mass scale for cost-effectiveness.

Composed of representatives of state and provincial FP commissions and associations, the study team was given a broad outline of Japan's postwar FP/MCH experiences and an overview of the concepts and strategies of the Integrated Project (IP) during the first part of their visit in Tokyo. The members then traveled to Fukushima Prefecture on a field trip for firsthand observation of health-care activities.

The main focus of the study tour was the observation of government and NGO activities. In Miharu and Ogoe towns, the team viewed health-care activities conducted by the prefectural government and towns in collaboration with volunteer groups, and observed health checkups for infants. They also visited the Fukushima Health Service Association, a local NGO providing preventive health-care services on a fee-

charged basis.

In Ogoe Town, the team was introduced to the activities of two volunteer groups, the local nutrition volunteers and the Boshi Aikui Kai, an MCH promotion group. The Chinese attended a meeting of these groups where the topic of discussion was improving nutrition to avoid health problems. They were also provided with a nutritious lunch prepared by the volunteers.

Noting the broad range of services carried out by NGOs including the production of IEC materials, the team members commented that they learned much about how to approach and inspire community people. In particular, they noted the effective use of IEC and the system of charging fees for services as good examples to follow. They commented that the charging of fees helps overcome the issues of service continuity and quality of care.

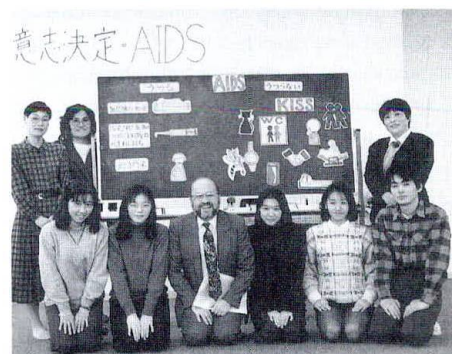
NGOs Effective in Mexico

The effectiveness of working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure that official development assistance (ODA) reaches the grassroots was emphasized by Alfonso López, executive director, Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM) during a meeting with an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in Tokyo on December 12. Noting the important role that NGOs are playing in the health-care field in Mexico, López urged that the Japanese government consider working in partnership with NGOs such as MEXFAM under Japan's new Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS.

On the same day, López also paid a courtesy call to the Tokorozawa City Office to express his appreciation for the city's donation of reconditioned bicycles to MEXFAM. The city is a member of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), which has sent over 700 bicycles to MEXFAM. López met with Mayor Hiroshi Saito and Deputy Mayor Eiji Takano.

López later traveled to Tochigi Prefecture where he visited the Tochigi Public Health Service Association. López expressed his gratitude to association chairman, Yasushi Morisawa, for the donation of two reconditioned X-ray vans, which are utilized as mobile clinics to provide health-care services in remote villages in Mexico without doctors. A third van from the association is scheduled to be shipped to MEXFAM this April.

While in Tochigi, López also visited the nursing school of Jichi Medical College which runs an adolescent health program.



Alfonso López sits with young peer counselors in Tochigi.



The team observes an infant health checkup in Miharu Town.

prominent role played by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the health-care field and their close collaboration with the government. The Chinese were also impressed with the high-quality of services provided by the NGOs, which maintain self-reliance by charging fees for services that are generally



Eleven-year-olds at a primary school receive sex education in Miharu Town.

A Role for NGOs in Implementation of GII



Masafumi Kuroki (3rd from right) speaks with representatives of Philippine NGOs.

The Japanese government demonstrated its recognition of the importance of non-governmental organization (NGO) involvement in the implementation of the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS during a project formulation mission to the Philippines and Indonesia in November and December. The first concrete GII activity to be carried out since the initiative was announced in February 1994, the mission was led by Masafumi Kuroki, director, Research and Programming Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and included a representative of JOICFP.

The inclusion of an NGO representative was a first for a government project formulation mission and underscored the importance that the ministry is placing on the role of NGOs under GII. The mission also included other

officials of MOFA and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF). The other significant activity that the ministry has been conducting under the GII is the assessment and reporting of information of priority country situations.

In the Philippines and Indonesia, the Japanese delegates held meetings with representatives of the health and related ministries as well as representatives of local NGOs.

In both countries, the mission received enthusiastic responses to the GII.

The mission was given an NGO perspective of the population and AIDS situation in the Philippines and introduced to the activities of NGOs by representatives of eight organizations during a meeting on November 24. While only 25% of family planning services are provided by NGOs, their role in the population and AIDS field continues to expand in the Philippines as service provision at the local level takes on greater importance under the country's policy of decentralization. The effectiveness of NGOs in reaching high-risk groups was also noted at the meeting.

Meanwhile, representatives of five NGOs expressed their desire to actively participate in FP service provision and AIDS prevention under the GII during a meeting with the

Japanese mission in Indonesia on December 1. Responding to the show of enthusiasm, Kuroki encouraged the NGOs to seek direct support for their activities through the Japanese Embassy, which provides Grassroots Grant Aid to local NGOs. Under this assistance scheme, Japanese embassies have been instructed to place priority on population and AIDS projects, he explained.

At the conclusion of the mission, Kuroki commented that the advice of NGOs was very valuable and that similar kinds of cooperation between government and NGOs should be pursued.

A Keyword of Self-reliance

Charging nominal fees for health-care services is an effective means to maintain service quality and create a base from which to pursue self-reliance, according to Rolando Maulion, executive director, Foundation for Integrated Services on Health and Development (FISHDEV) of the Philippines. Maulion made his comments at a report session on the activities of FISHDEV to representatives of the Hoken Kaikan Group organizations in Tokyo on November 1. He was accompanied by Dr.

Vicente Katapang, director, FISHDEV Clinic, Manila.

FISHDEV has been promoting integrated health care at the community level since it was established in 1989.

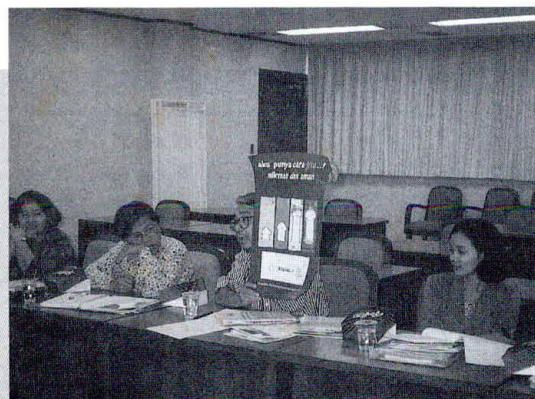
With the assistance of the Hoken Kaikan Group including the Family Planning Association of Japan (JFPA), Tokyo Health Service Association, Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) and JOICFP, FISHDEV set up a clinic in Manila which now recovers 80% of its funds.

The clinic provides a range of services such as maternal and child health (MCH) care and medical services on an individual client basis and also earns income by providing mass health checkups to nearby factories. In addition to the curative and preventive services at the clinic, FISHDEV also operates health education programs in Las Piñas and Zamboanga del Sur. Targeting 10,000 households, the family health campaigns cover parasite control, MCH, family planning and environmental sanitation. FISHDEV also provides training to health volunteers in the two districts.

Commenting on the contribution of Japanese NGOs to FISHDEV's activities, Maulion noted that the association has effectively utilized the technical know-how of the Hoken Kaikan Group to promote self-reliance. He added that support from the Postal Savings for International Aid scheme (POSIVA), administered by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, has also made a large contribution to FISHDEV's achievements.



Rolando Maulion



Dr. Firman Lubis, executive director, Yayasan Kusuma Buana, Indonesia, explains an AIDS poster.

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

A Pioneering Community Doctor

Dr. Toshikazu Wakatsuki, 83, has devoted his life to improving the health of rural people as director of Saku Central Hospital in Nagano Prefecture. A true pioneer, Wakatsuki was the first person to establish health-care services to reach rural populations in Japan.

As a youth I was very fond of literature. I particularly enjoyed the verse of Manyo-shu, a collection of ancient Japanese poems written over 1,000 years ago. I was moved by their

timeless quality. They inspired me to examine the meaning of literature and ultimately look for a purpose in my own life. I came to realize that human beings are driven to endeavor in order to live, and that these very efforts are in themselves acts of life.

In my quest to find the purpose of my life I ventured into the world of French literature and from there into Russian literature. I was inspired by the works of Tolstoy and Chekhov and the lives of those depicted in the novels seemed real to me.

My interest then returned to Japanese literature. It was by reading early modern Japanese works written by ordinary people and known as "proletariat literature" that I became

inspired by the ideals of socialist democratization. They gave me a whole new outlook on life.

My reading helped me come to a decision about what I should do with my life. The year was 1945, immediately following Japan's defeat in the war. After considering how I could make a real contribution to the process of rebuilding Japan, I decided to devote myself to eradicating the rampant problem of parasite infection. I put my heart and soul into this work, which I saw as a contribution to Japan's reconstruction.

There were a handful of colleagues who shared my enthusiasm and determination. One of them was Toshikazu Wakatsuki, who was particularly devoted to helping rural populations. From parasite control, the movement expanded to preventive medicine and then to family planning. These movements ultimately helped Japanese people attain the high standard of health they enjoy today.

DIARY

– JOICFP Deputy Executive Director Yasuo Kon and Program Officer Sumie Ishii were in Indonesia to attend the IPPF-ESEAOR meeting for executive directors from Oct. 3 - 11.

– Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami and staff member Tetsuo Kato were in Mexico from Oct. 3 - 16 to conduct a situation analysis survey on population and AIDS in relation to GII and attended the Regional IEC Workshop for Adolescent Health and the National Seminar on Adolescent Health for Mexico. Both later traveled to Guatemala to discuss project implementation from Oct. 16 - 18. They then moved to New York where they met with UNFPA and IPPF-WHR officials.

– Dr. **Michael Sylla**, president and founder, Guinea Development Foundation, visited JOICFP on Oct. 20 to exchange information.

– **Sung-Hee Yun**, associate director, Population Communications Services/Population Information Programs, Center for Communication Programs, Johns Hopkins University, visited JOICFP on Oct. 25 to exchange information. He was accompanied by **Paul White**, minister counselor for development cooperation, U.S. Embassy in Japan.

– Twelve participants from nine countries attended the Seminar on Population Aging, held in Tokyo and Hiroshima Prefecture from Oct. 18 - 29.

– **Haryono Suyono**, minister of population, Indonesia, visited JOICFP on Oct. 31 to exchange information on South-to-South cooperation.

– **Herbert Chao Gunther**, executive director,

Public Media Center (PMC), visited JOICFP on Oct. 31 to exchange information. He was accompanied by **Jerry Mander**, senior fellow, and **Elizabeth Garsonnin**, director of broadcast production, PMC, and **Aileen Mioko Smith** of PMC in Japan.

– JOICFP Program Officer Aiko Iijima was in Nepal from Oct. 15 - Nov. 5 to monitor the Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women and make preparations for the regional/national workshops. Program Officer Atsushi Yoshino and staff member Soon Hee Lee were also in Nepal from Oct. 15 - Nov. 5 for the production of IEC materials.

– Ten participants from six countries attended a one-day seminar at JOICFP entitled Program for Counterpart Training on Population and Family Planning on Nov. 8.

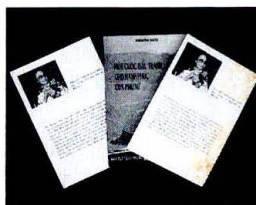
– Dr. **Noriji Suzuki**, professor emeritus, Kochi Medical College; Dr. **Takashi Onogawa**, director, Department 1, Central Research Laboratory, Tokyo Health Service Association; and JOICFP Program Officer Yukio Honma, were in China from Oct. 20 - Nov. 2 to provide technical assistance under the IP.

– A 10-member mission from China was in Japan from Nov. 10 - 23 to study FP/MCH.

– JOICFP Program Officer Ryoko Nishida was in the Philippines from Nov. 12 - 24 for a Tripartite Project Review Meeting for the Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on Women.

Kato's Story Translated for Vietnamese Women

Shidzue Kato's personal account of her role in the family planning (FP) and women's movements in Japan has been published in Vietnamese to help encourage women in Vietnam. The Vietnamese version of the book, *Fight for Women's Happiness*, was published by Vietnam Women's Press and distributed to leaders of the Vietnam Women's Union attending the national congress in October. The book was voluntarily translated by a Vietnamese doctor who is working as a director of a school for children with hearing and speech difficulties. The school is receiving the proceeds from the sale of book, which is being sold through Vietnam Women's Press. The doctor, inspired by Kato's story of struggle to promote FP and women's rights in Japan, received funds from JOICFP for the book's publication.



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