



JOICFP NEWS

Japan Committed to Global Social Development

Prime minister expresses Japan's strong commitment to helping developing countries with "self-help efforts"

The Japanese government made clear its commitment to contributing to social development around the world at the UN-sponsored World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from March 3 - 12. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama led the Japanese delegation and joined the 118 national leaders and 13,000 delegates representing 193 countries at the high-level summit.



Tomiichi Murayama
(file photo)

The event brought together developed and developing nations in a huge effort to alleviate poverty, unemployment and social injustice around the world. The massive turnout of world leaders was the largest in the UN's 50-year history and marked a milestone in terms of international efforts to fight poverty and related issues.

The conference produced the Copenhagen Declaration which includes commitments to fight poverty, empower women, and assist the poorest countries. Among the issues discussed at the summit was the so-called "20-20 Plan" which calls on rich countries to commit 20% of their foreign assistance for social improvement. In return, poor countries receiving assistance would set aside 20% of their domestic budget for the same objective.

In his address to the summit, Prime Minister Murayama expressed Japan's strong position on promoting social development and outlined various strategies for achieving this goal. He also expressed his gratitude for the assistance that Japan received from all over the world following the Great Hanshin Earthquake

that hit Kobe and surrounding areas of Japan on January 17. Below are highlights of his address.

As head of the Japanese government, I seek the creation of a "human-centered society," a vision of Japan in which each individual citizen is treated equally, endowed with opportunity to fully develop his or her potential, and enabled to utilize fully his or her capacity through employment and participation in society.

In promoting social development, I would like to suggest that, in the national policies of every country, the following three areas should be accorded highest priority.

First, in order to achieve social justice, governments should place emphasis on a human-centered approach to social development. It is necessary to promote worldwide disarmament. Each country should strive to allocate a larger share of its national budget for social development programs.

Second, governments should focus on developing human resources through education and training.

Third, social development cannot be achieved by governments alone, but requires the active participation of civil society as a whole, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs). I wish to emphasize the significant role that women play in social progress. To achieve social justice and development, it is essential to establish a society in which both men and women participate actively and contribute jointly to social progress.

In accordance with these policy objectives, developed countries should give priority to the social development field in allocating their official development assistance (ODA). Japan will focus on the following three areas.

First, Japan gives priority to human-centered social development. At present, the



Juan Somavia, chairman, Main Committee, and Chilean ambassador to the UN (center), addresses the Women's Caucus.

share of ODA allocated to this area already exceeds 20% of the total of Japan's bilateral ODA. This area will continue to be given the highest priority in our ODA policy.

Furthermore, developed and developing countries, with the involvement of NGOs, should strengthen cooperation in this area.

Second, Japan is resolved to continue placing priority on assistance for education and vocational training. Japan's assistance in this area has more than quadrupled during the last 10 years. South-South cooperation is effective in this regard in the sense that knowledge and experience of more advanced developing countries could be utilized for the promotion of social development in other developing countries. It is the intention of my government to provide as much assistance as possible for the concrete promotion of such cooperation.

Third, Japan places special importance on the role of women in the development of developing countries, particularly in the area of social development. At the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the importance of reproductive health was recognized, and the role of women in addressing the population issue was highlighted. Japan has already been extending its active cooperation for the support of women in developing countries, and intends to further strengthen its assistance in this field.

Lawmakers: Population & Social Development Inseparable

Parliamentarians from around the world endorsed action to promote social development by approving the Copenhagen Statement on Population and Social Development during the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (IMPPSD), held at the National Parliament (Folketinget) in Copenhagen, Denmark, from March 4 - 5. Timed prior to the World Summit for Social Development, the IMPPSD brought together 80 lawmakers from 55 countries and focused on political commitment to social development. The event was supported by UNFPA and IPPF.

A similar meeting, the International

Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD) was held ahead of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in September 1994 in Cairo, Egypt.

Shin Sakurai, chairman, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), served as president of the event and led the Japanese delegation of four legislators. The first such national suprapartisan body of lawmakers concerned with the issues of population and development, the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JFPF) was established in 1974 by then Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi.

The federation has been a pioneering force both within Asia and worldwide in fostering political commitment on these issues. It continues to play an important role in gaining and maintaining support in Japan for multilateral and bilateral assistance to the field of population and development.

In his address on March 4, Sakurai stressed that the resolution of population problems cannot be achieved without social development. "While population issues are decisive factors in determining our future, they cannot be forced," he added.

A message was also read by Dr. Hirofumi Ando, deputy executive director, UNFPA on behalf of Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA. Noting the impact of the ICPPD on the attitudes and support of parliamentarians regarding population, Sadik's message said that the post-ICPD challenge is to mobilize resources to realize the goals of the Program of Action adopted at the ICPD in Cairo.

Among the key points of the Copenhagen Statement is a recognition of the importance of slowing down rapid population growth, eradicating poverty, protecting the environment, creating jobs, and promoting social integration whereby all people, and in particular

women, participate equally and fully in all spheres of social, cultural, economic and political life.

The document acknowledges the need to promote universal access to education and health-care services, including reproductive health-care and family planning services and to promote equal partnership between men and women in the family, the economy and in society.

The declaration affirms the 20/20 principle as a useful concept for fighting against poverty and in development cooperation and stressed the importance of building up national capacity, both governmental and non-governmental, to establish a people-centered framework for social development. South-South cooperation is noted as a means to promote national and international cooperation.



A view of the parliamentarians' meeting.

Summit Insights

A meeting of the Council on Population Education held at JOICFP on April 6 focused on the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from March 3 - 12, and the

NGO Forum, which was held concurrently to the summit.



Nishikawa

Reports on the procedure and outcome of the summit were provided by two guest speakers, Jun Nishikawa, professor, Waseda University, and

Kojiro Takano, director-general, Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The council meeting was attended by 40 people including demographers, experts from the population field, government officials and the mass media.

Nishikawa explained the Copenhagen Alternative Declaration created by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the NGO Forum and spoke about the action plan that Japanese NGOs should carry out following the summit. In his presentation, Takano focused on the role and contribution of the Japanese government to improve the situation of social development. He also provided insights into the speech made by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at the summit.



Takano



Japanese government officials and representatives of Japanese NGOs held a forum open to international NGOs on March 9 at the NGO Forum. During the event, the Japanese officials responded to questions about Japanese official development assistance (ODA) and provided insights into the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS. The meeting was the first of its kind organized by the government in cooperation with NGOs.

NGOs Develop Alternative Declaration

Sixty members of Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including JOICFP joined the 10,000 representatives from 2,500 NGOs at the NGO Forum '95, held in Holmen, Denmark, from March 3 - 12. The event was held during the World Summit for Social Development.

The forum approved the Copenhagen Alternative Declaration which discusses the issue of social development from an NGO perspective and sets out conditions to realize an alternative vision of development. The document states that the dominant, neo-liberal system as a universal model for development has failed. Noting the burden of debt placed on many countries, the declaration criticizes the structural adjustment programs of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund as undermining economic and social progress. It states that Bretton Woods institutions must be made transparent and accountable to civil society in both the North and South.

The declaration also calls for a transformation of gender relations in which women are equal participants in the decision-making



Action on International Women's Day.

process. It states women must be guaranteed sexual and reproductive choice and health.

A highlight of the NGO Forum was the International Women's Day activities on March 8. Under the slogan "180 Days/180 Ways — Women's Action Campaign '95," women representatives drew attention to the participation of 180 member states of the UN in the 4th World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, China, in September. The Platform for Action for Equality, Development and Peace is to be adopted at the Beijing meeting.

Japan Plans Population Assistance for Ghana & Senegal

The Japanese government recently sent a High-level Mission on Economic and Technical Cooperation to Ghana and Senegal to conduct policy dialogue on economic cooperation for the medium and long term. The mission, which also discussed future orientation of Japanese cooperation in priority areas, was in Ghana from February 28 - March 4 and in Senegal from March 5 - 9. It was led by Kiyooki Kikuchi, special assistant to the minister of foreign affairs and former Japanese ambassador to the United Nations. The 17-member mission included representatives of seven government ministries including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

For Ghana, three priority areas were agreed upon: basic human needs including water supply, education, population and AIDS, and children's health; agriculture; and roads and power generation. Three priority areas were also agreed upon for Senegal: basic human needs including water supply, education and primary health care including population and AIDS; agriculture and fisheries; and the environment, especially desertification. In the future, both sides will select projects that will form the basis of future cooperation.

The mission was a follow-up activity of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in October 1993 where priority was given to cooperation in population and AIDS. Senegal and Ghana are among the 12 priority countries for Japanese assistance under the government's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS.

For Ghana, the Japanese government is considering technical cooperation in maternal and child health/family planning (MCH/FP). A preliminary study mission followed the economic mission to study appropriate forms of assistance. As for HIV/AIDS, the government will continue its ongoing cooperation with the Noguchi Memorial Institute in Accra. The government, which is also studying the possibility of technical cooperation, will provide basic MCH kits including contraceptives in collaboration with UNFPA.

For Senegal, the Japanese government has not been providing assistance specifically in the field of population and AIDS. It is now exploring the possibility of assisting in MCH/FP and providing technical assistance.

Japanese and local non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) are already being utilized by the Japanese government under the GII, according to Masafumi

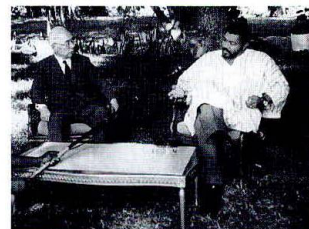
Kuroki, director, Research and Programming Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, MOFA, who joined the mission. Noting that JOICFP experts were included in project formulation missions to Indonesia and the Philippines, Kuroki said that NGO advisors would be included in coming missions to other countries, especially in South Asia.

"We want Japanese NGOs to participate more actively in the GII especially in concrete project implementation," he said. "There are many Japanese NGOs involved in population/AIDS and women in development, but not many are doing concrete activities in developing countries. In the field of population, JOICFP has been the most active NGO in implementing projects in developing countries."

"For population and AIDS especially, assistance should reach people at the community level. So providing assistance at the central level is not

sufficient," Kuroki said. "NGOs are usually working at the community level so they could have an important role in making assistance reach the people."

In population assistance, the role of the NGO and official development assistance at the local level is important," he said. "For population assistance, we have to make the access to the health facilities easier for people. So assistance for local health centers, for example, is more appropriate than hospitals in big cities."



Kikuchi (left) with President of Ghana Jerry Rawlings.



Kikuchi (left) with President of Senegal Abdou Diouf.

Messages for Teens in Brazil

A Japanese expert shared experiences in the field of adolescent health with personnel of CMI/PF (Centro Materno-Infantil/Planejamento Familia) during visits to areas where the Integrated Project (IP) is being implemented by CMI/PF, while in Brazil from March 2 - 16. Dr. Kunio Kitamura, director, Ichigaya Clinic, Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA), toured facilities and spoke to staff promoting the project, which has been implemented in the *favelas* (slums) of São Paulo since 1983 by CMI/PF in cooperation with JOICFP.

The visit was timely for JOICFP and CMI/PF, which are conducting training programs for teenagers with funds allocated by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications under the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme. The education/motivation activities will focus on adolescent health including AIDS prevention.

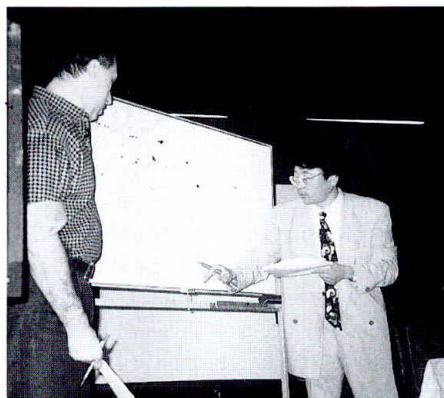


Teenagers attend an adolescent health training course in São Paulo.

The focus on adolescents reflects the priority placed on this age group in the Program of Action approved at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo.

Brazil was one of the first countries to recognize the importance of educating this group. The country launched progressive programs for teenagers as early as the 1970s to open up access to information in such areas as sex education and contraception through various methods including peer counseling and group training.

Despite the significant achievements of



Dr. Kitamura (right) explains the adolescent health situation in Japan.

these programs in changing attitudes of young people, Brazil has seen an increase in problems such as unwanted teen pregnancy and illegal induced abortion. The number of induced abortions among teenagers is estimated at 1 million annually. This figure has tripled in two decades, according to research conducted by São Paulo University.

Meanwhile, the total number of illegal induced abortions conducted in Brazil is estimated to be as high as 4 million, extremely high against the country's 3.6 million births (UNICEF, 1992).

Fight Against AIDS

Among the challenges in the field of adolescent health education is the need to close the awareness gap between teenagers and their parents who often do not know about the sexual activity of their offspring. Experts emphasize that continuous education is needed not only to prevent unwanted pregnancy and abortion, but also STDs including HIV/AIDS among this group.

According to recent research, AIDS is the major cause of death for women aged 22 - 35 years and the

second major cause of death for men in the same age group. Brazil, the second country to identify its first AIDS case (1983), has seen the number of AIDS cases climb to reach a cumulative figure of 58,595 in 1994 (including deaths). According to unofficial estimates, up to 1% of the population of São Paulo State could be HIV positive.

Against this alarming background, both government and NGOs have joined hands in AIDS-prevention campaigns. According to local experts, the key to making these activities work will be in education to change the attitudes of people.

Zambia Takes Integrated Course

Lavu Mulimba is chairman of the Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ) and chairperson, Africa and Middle East Region of Parliamentarians for Population and Development. During an interview conducted on March 16, he spoke to JOICFP NEWS about his country's approach to population issues.

For 22 years we implemented a vertical family planning (FP) program in Zambia. We have since learned that though about 90% of Zambia's population is aware that FP saves and improves lives, contraception practice is below 15%. So, we have now decided on a new approach which is based on integrating FP services into an a comprehensive package — the supermarket approach. The reason that we have taken this approach is that we are aware that we must address the concerns which people are immediately faced with such as water and sanitation, and access to education and land.

We have adopted a strategic plan and are realigning our expenditure priorities, and are sharpening grass-roots operations to ensure that we improve service delivery and the quality of this integrated approach.

The JOICFP Integrated Project (IP) therefore has become a focus of our new service delivery: the involvement of the community, the involvement of schools and the deworming of local communities and school children and women's programs. The empowerment of women of all ages including the young is important since women constitute the most productive sector at the grass roots. They produce the food and fetch the water, and they also produce the children. By involving women in the new integrated approach we are better able to address constraints that are preventing them from practicing FP.

I would like to emphasize the need for continuing and extending the IP service delivery mechanisms and programs to cover more areas in Zambia. We need to train more staff and to identify more volunteers, more locals to serve as service providers — not just for FP but to function as health workers promoting nutrition and education. We have to ensure that this approach becomes a way of life. In this way, we will be participating effectively in implementing the Cairo Program of Action and the new directions and the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development of Copenhagen.

Putting Women in the Picture



The strength and ingenuity that women call upon to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families is one of the messages conveyed by a new series of still-film videos developed by JOICFP. The three unique videos in this series show how women remain a driving force of development in Asia by highlighting the self-help spirit that pushes the

environmental sanitation, nutrition programs, and as a united force working together in income-generation projects to raise funds for community development.

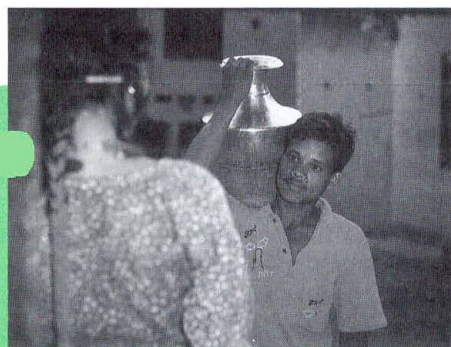
For Asian audiences, the videos reaffirm the important role that women have always played at the grass roots. In Japan, the videos are expected to serve as an IEC tool to raise awareness of issues such as reproductive health and women's empowerment in developing countries. For non-Asian viewers, the series reveals the effectiveness of utilizing women's initiative and reinforcing their efforts in the community to raise the level of health and welfare through such activities as FP/MCH promotion. The videos are effective for providing insights into Asian experiences in community-based programs focused on women.

The still-photo videos were created with an unusual technique that blends photos taken with a still camera to convey messages with a powerful effect. The advanced technique of weaving the beautiful still pictures into a seamless whole gives the impression of moving pictures and active images. Between 300 and 600 photos were used for each video, which vary in lengths of between 15 and 20 minutes. The 1,200 photos used for the three videos were selected from a total of 15,000 photos. The videos are available in English and Japanese.

A New Profile of Asia, the first of the series, portrays community movements in the six countries of Bhutan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Health and community development activities are featured in the video. *Integrated Project*, the second video, focuses on the concept of JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP) — the promotion of humanistic FP within a package of integrated components. The video depicts community-based movements that have flourished in many Asian countries. The third video, *Empowered Women in Asia*, focuses on the issue of quality of care



Empowering women in Asia is the theme of the third still-film video in JOICFP's series.



A husband assists his wife by carrying water, a task usually performed by women.

community-based movements found in villages throughout the region.

The *Asian Program Photo Video Series* was developed under the UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women. As a series, the videos provide unique insights into



Women have their photos taken in Nepal.

the distinctly Asian experience of community organizing and the central role that women play as a collective force in improving health and welfare at the grass roots. Women are shown as agents promoting such activities as FP, MCH,

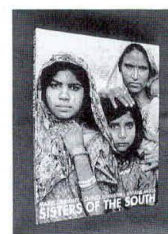
within the context of a mass, community-based movement. The video focuses on the experiences of Indonesia, Japan and Nepal.

The fourth video in the series is currently under production. The tentative title is *Adolescent Fertility* and the video is expected to feature the experiences of Bangladesh, Mexico and Thailand. It is scheduled for completion before the 4th World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September.

Please contact JOICFP for information about the videos in this series.

New Publication

Sisters of the South is a new book of photos published by Marval in association with UNFPA. The beautiful full-color volume features photographs by acclaimed women photographers Marie Dorigny, Chieko Ishikawa and Viviane Moos whose work chronicles the lives of women in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The powerful images depict the struggles and triumphs against the odds of poverty, hard labor and inequality. *Sisters of the South* presents an opportunity for all to recognize women's strength and ingenuity. The book includes a foreword by Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA.



Women at the Front-line in Philippines

Considerable progress has been made in the two project areas of Balayan and Malvar of Batangas Province in the Philippines where the UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women is being implemented. One of the most significant achievements of the project has been the success in encouraging the participation of women volunteers, mainly community volunteer health workers (CVHWs) and women leaders of the Samahang Batanguena, a women's organization.

A major objective of the project has been to build on the potential of women as key agents for project promotion at the barangay (village)

level by providing training and conducting motivational activities. At present, there are 285 CVHWs in Balayan and 151 CVHWs in Malvar. In the past year, over 300 CVHWs and women leaders were trained in community organizing and interpersonal communication skills in the area of FP/MCH. These women now serve as a driving force behind mothers' classes on FP/MCH at the barangay level.

In December 1994, 15 CVHWs were selected as outstanding volunteers from the three rural health units (RHUs) in the two municipalities in recognition of their work and commitment. Five were chosen from the unit in Malvar and five each from the two units in Balayan. Each volunteer was presented with a plaque and provided with a reconditioned bicycle donated by the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) through JOICFP to use for health activities in their communities.

To further boost the work of the volunteers, a study tour was organized to enable the exchange experiences with personnel of a model area in Tarlac in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Aimed at improving the skills in community organizing and management of livelihood activities, the study team comprised outstanding volunteers, women leaders and key health personnel who were in Tarlac from February 28 - March 1.

The main focus of the tour was to observe activities and exchange information with project personnel to assist with action plan development. The Batangas team was particularly impressed with the leadership role that the midwife has played for the past 11 years in meeting people's needs and promoting health through the project's Primary Health Care Committee. Another area of interest was the different fund-raising and livelihood projects conducted under the project in Tarlac. The visitors were introduced to such activities as pig raising, cultivation of medicinal herbs and toilet construction. The team was also impressed by a community drug insurance scheme set up in Tarlac.

The tour stimulated personnel of both Tarlac and Batangas. The Tarlac project



The community volunteer health worker in Tarlac demonstrates water sampling procedure using guava leaves.

personnel have since requested an opportunity to tour the Batangas project areas to learn from their experience.

The project is currently assisting two areas to set up a community-

based monitoring system with the help of volunteers to assist health personnel in monitoring activities to collect data to guide service provision.

Volunteers are presently being trained and the system is expected to be launched in June this year.



A Balayan participant receives a certificate of attendance in Tarlac.

Fukuda Turns 90

Takeo Fukuda, former prime minister of Japan and current president of JOICFP, celebrated his 90th birthday with a large reception party on March 16 in Tokyo. The 3,000 guests were drawn from all walks of life and included Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and other former prime ministers.

In an address to the guests, Fukuda stressed that politicians have a duty to ensure that there will be a future for humankind.

He urged all those in attendance to work to create a better world for future generations in the 21st century.

Fukuda will serve as the honorary chairman of the Inter-Action Council meeting to be held from May 23 - 26 in Tokyo. The meeting will focus on such issues as balancing population growth and food supply.



Fukuda

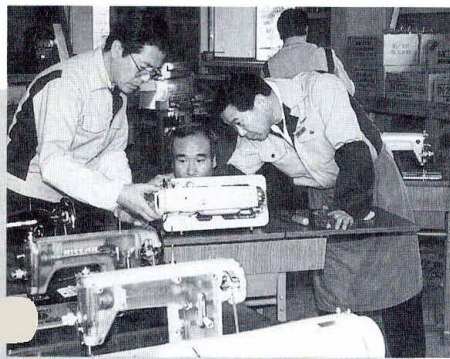
Groundwork Laid for Inter-Action Council

"Challenge to balance population growth and food supply" was the theme of a high-level group meeting of the Inter-Action Council held in Tokyo on May 10 and 11. It was chaired by Malcolm Fraser, former prime minister of Australia, and attended by 14 participants.

The meeting focused on developing a set of recommendations concerning population growth and food supply to present to the Inter-Action Council to be held in Tokyo from May 23 -26. The May meeting will be the 13th council session and the second to be held in Japan.

Joined by a Thread

A joint effort by school students, volunteers and local governments in Japan resulted in a shipment of 119 reconditioned treadle sewing machines to Tanzania on February 28. The sewing machines, which reached Dar es Salaam

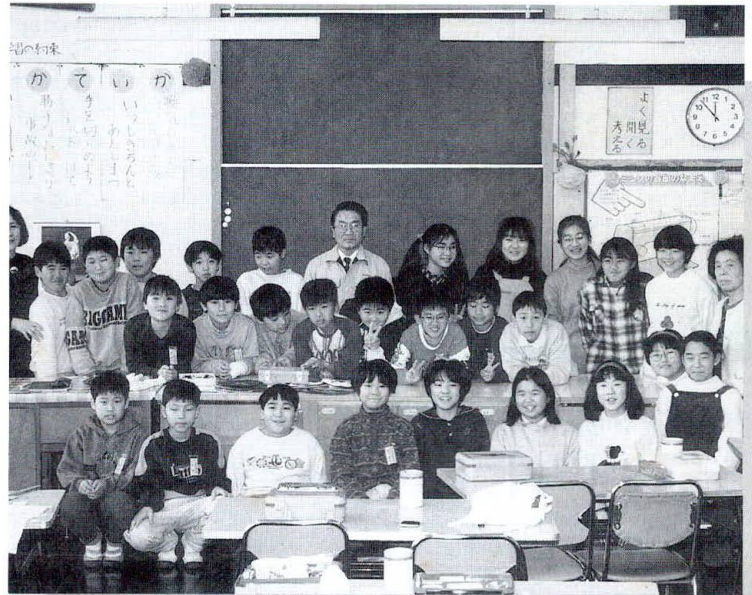


Janome mechanics recondition the sewing machines before shipment.

(UMATI) in areas where the Integrated Project (IP) is implemented to support income generation and vocational training organized through mothers' clubs.

Space between the sewing machines within the shipping container was utilized to send 1,000 notebooks donated by Toshima City, Tokyo, and 15,000 pencils donated by Arakawa City, Tokyo. The stationery goods will be used to support nursery and primary schools in IP

at the beginning of April, will be utilized by the Family Planning Association of Tanzania



Students of Takasago Primary School in Katsushika-ku, Tokyo, stand together with a Janome mechanic.

Takasago Primary School (6); Ochiai Dai San Primary School (5); and Ikebukuro High School of Commerce (1).

The donation of sewing machines, which are repaired free of charge by Janome Sewing Machine Co., Ltd., has caught the public eye in Japan and helped create awareness of the situation in developing countries and stimulate support for these countries.

NGOs Briefed on Aid Schemes

Eighty representatives of Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all sectors were briefed on NGO-supporting schemes and the Japanese government's assistance plan for fiscal 1995 (April 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996) during a meeting held in Tokyo on March 30. An annual event, the meeting was organized by the Non-governmental Organizations Assistance Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The meeting was attended by officials of government ministries involved in assistance to NGOs. The officials included representatives of MOFA, the Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Environment Agency.

During the meeting, Hiroshi Hirabayashi, director-general, Economic Cooperation Bureau, MOFA, commented that the partnership between government and NGOs working to improve the welfare of people should be strengthened. He said the Japanese government is willing to increase assistance to NGOs both at home and abroad.

A report on progress of the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme was provided by an official of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Now in its fifth year, the scheme has flourished with the number of account holders expanding to reach 16.63 million as of February 1995 and awareness of NGO activities increasing among the Japanese public.

areas. Shipment costs, the biggest obstacle to donations of this kind, were covered by the Showa Foundation, which donated ¥1.5 million (US\$15,300 at an exchange rate of ¥98 to \$1), and by donations of ¥500,000 (US\$5,100) from the Japanese public collected through the JOICFP Fund.

The majority of the sewing machines (50) were donated by the Volunteers of Towada to Support JOICFP, a small group led by Osamu Ogawa. After reading about the scheme in a newspaper, Ogawa coordinated the donations of eight schools and the local government of Towada City, Aomori Prefecture, to support JOICFP. The rest of the machines were donated by Taishido Junior High School (37); Toshima City (12); Arakawa City (8);

JOICFP Women's Health and Status Series

A New Animated Film

RAKHEE AND MAUSEE

12 min., Color/English, Hindi, Bengali, Nepali



Education is a key to improving the health and status of women. The process of change begins with learning how to read and write. As women use these skills to earn money, they gain the power to make decisions for a better future.

RAKHEE AND MAUSEE is a joint Indian-Japanese production and part of the women's health and status series of animated films. The theme is early marriage and the story concerns 14-year-old RAKHEE whose fate is changed by an independent woman called MAUSEE.

Distributed by

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VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

Inspired by a Dream

In the grim years immediately after the war, most Japanese did not know how they could earn a living. I had been demobilized from military service and was at a loss as to the direction my life should

take. It was a desperate situation and while talking with my wife I decided that I had to come up with proposals to help people.

As it turns out, I came up with a workable idea quite easily. The idea was to motivate women to earn money by making clothes with sewing machines. My wife agreed to the idea and began persuading women around us to accept the plan. We began activities with one of the units for women in the cooperative movement of which I was involved. As the idea spread, groups of war widows joined the

activities and Prince Takamatsu, the younger brother of the late Emperor Showa, offered us rooms to use for workshops. The story of the widows earning money from sewing spread and more women joined the activities.

Listening to my wife and her colleagues talk about their work inspired me. I realized how easy it was for people to devote themselves to work if they were rewarded financially.

The women of the sewing circle divided their work according to their talents. Some specialized in sewing, some focused on attracting women to join their work, while other more outgoing members made the rounds of shops to sell the goods and gain new orders. The women's groups became widely known and some expert dressmakers honed their skills through these activities.

I wished these women well and dreamed that the groups would strengthen their organization and increase production. As for me, I explored my own path. My goal was to realize my own dream, a dream that began with a simple idea.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IEC Workshop on Adolescent Women's Health

Date: July 19 - 21, 1995

Venue: Guatemala City, Guatemala

Theme & objectives: To develop IEC strategies on

adolescent women's health; and to propose concrete action toward the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing for the promotion of adolescent women's health.

Organizers: APROFAM, UNFPA, IPPF and JOICFP

Participants: Representatives of governments and NGOs from the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Note: Self-funded observers are welcome.

DIARY

- **Yasuyuki Mori**, representative, JICA Jordan Office, visited JOICFP on Feb. 22 to exchange information.

- **Saad Raheem Sheikh**, director, Asia and the Pacific Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP for discussions while in Japan from Feb. 21 - 24.

- A seven-member mission from the Taicang IP Center, China, was in Japan from Feb. 20 - Mar. 1 to study mass health examination and education activities of NGOs.

- Program Officer Yukio Honma was in China from Mar. 5 - 10 to prepare the launch of the 5th cycle of the IP.

- **Tomoko Iida** and **Masako Yamaguchi**, midwives from Japan, provided technical assistance to health personnel of the IP while in Vietnam from Feb. 24 - Mar. 12. They were accompanied by JOICFP Program Officer Sumie Ishii and staff member Mariko Honma.

- **Chang Zhongxuan**, standing vice president, China Family Planning Association, visited JOICFP on Mar. 13 to exchange information on the China IP.

- Michio Ozaki, councilor, JOICFP, attended the World Summit for Social Development and NGO

Forum while in Copenhagen, Denmark, from Mar. 2 - 15

- **Dr. Kunio Kitamura**, director, Ichigaya Clinic, Japan Family Planning Association, and Program Officer Ryoichi Suzuki, visited Brazil from Mar. 2 - 16 to provide technical assistance to IP personnel and for project monitoring.

- **Lavu Mulimba**, chairman, Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ), and chairman, Africa and Middle East Region of Parliamentarians for Population and Development, visited JOICFP, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Toshima City to exchange information while in Japan from Mar. 13 - 18. He later visited Indonesia to study the FP program as part of a South-to-South cooperation activity coordinated by JOICFP.

- Program Officer Ryoko Nishida monitored the Philippine project from Mar. 12 - 21.

- **V. M. Melendez Colindres**, chief, Hospital Division, Ministry of Health, Honduras, attended a one-day FP seminar at JOICFP on Mar. 31.

- **Eloine De Alencar**, associate professor, Pernambuco State University, Brazil, attended a one-day FP seminar at JOICFP on April 5.

Japan Extends Loan to Grameen Bank

The Japanese government recently extended a yen loan of ¥2.9 billion (US\$30 million at an exchange rate of ¥98 to \$1) to the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh for women-in-development projects. The bank, which was founded by its current managing director, Professor Muhammad Yunus, has become a powerful force for empowering women in Bangladesh. One of its key activities has been the provision of loans to women to set up small enterprises. The unique decision of the Japanese government to provide a loan to the non-governmental bank is seen as an endorsement of the work of the bank at the grassroots.

Correction

Incorrect information was included in the article on Ghana on page 2 of the April issue (No. 250) of JOICFP NEWS. According to a recent survey, the correct infant mortality rate is 82 per 1,000 live births and its mortality rate for children under 5 is 132 per 1,000 live births. The maternal mortality rate is 214 per 100,000 live births. We regret the error.

New Executive Director

Yasuo Kon, 67, was promoted to the position of executive director of JOICFP on March 28. Kon, who formerly held the post of deputy executive director of JOICFP, also holds the posts of executive director of both the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ) and Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA). His promotion was approved by JOICFP's board of directors at a meeting held on March 28. A family planning (FP) pioneer, Kon joined JOICFP in September 1988 to assume the position of deputy executive director. Kon first became involved in the FP movement in 1954 and brought rich experiences from domestic and international activities to JOICFP.



Kon

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