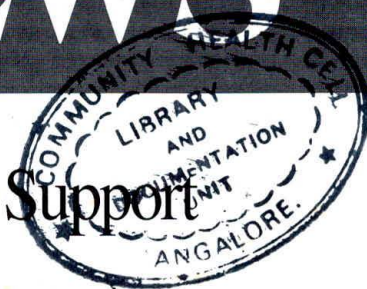


JOICFP NEWS

Innovative Campaign Strengthens Support Network in Japan



Prepaid card campaign draws remarkable response of support throughout Japan for international assistance

A JOICFP domestic campaign to collect used prepaid cards for sale has generated considerable funds for developing countries and spread the word in Japan about the work of organizations such as UNFPA and IPPF in the population and family planning field. The total number of cards collected by the end of April was over 4 million worth an estimated ¥33.2 million (US\$338,000 at an exchange rate of ¥98 to US\$1). Through the JOICFP Voluntary Fund (JVF), the money is being used to raise health and improve the way of life at the grass roots in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America by assisting the promotion of JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP).

The campaign, which covers all 47 prefectures of Japan, has also attracted wide-
ad media coverage to draw even more support for the campaign and spread awareness



Used prepaid cards.

of the needs of people in developing countries. The prepaid cards, which are used for trains, highway fees and public telephones,

feature attractive designs and settings in Japan and other countries, and are mostly sold overseas where they are coveted by collectors.

The campaign has caught the eye of the public by showing people what just one used prepaid card (worth approximately 5 - 6 US cents) will buy to promote health in a developing country. For instance, JOICFP conveys that with one card, a new razor blade can be purchased for cutting an umbilical cord

during delivery to promote safe motherhood. Another reason for the campaign's appeal is that it does not solicit funds directly from people, but encourages them to do something positive for others by sending in cards that they use almost every day and discard.

Each donor who sends in a card receives a thank you from JOICFP and information about activities, a gesture that helps maintain the impetus of the scheme. A team of 18 volunteers now assists with the counting of cards and correspondence with donors.

Launched in August 1993, the campaign has also attracted a wide support network of businesses, educational and medical institutions, workers' unions, and the media. Organizations such as the Lions Club, Lioness Club and Rotary Club have given their support to the scheme. Even the National Social Welfare Council with over 3,300 offices in every town and city in Japan is supporting the campaign, a move that gives JOICFP a powerful endorsement as a trustworthy organization in Japan.

Within communities and organizations, the campaign has had positive spin-off effects for other aspects of JOICFP's activities. After contributing to the campaign and receiving materials about JOICFP, a group in Aomori Prefecture recently donated 50 treadle sewing machines which were sent to Tanzania to assist income generation.

One of the keys to the success of the project has been the free advertising that has been provided by the media and businesses. The



Volunteers count used prepaid cards donated to JOICFP.

Japan FM Network Broadcasting Association of 33 FM radio stations developed a nationwide publicity campaign for six months from last October, and other radio stations and both national and local newspapers have regularly featured the campaign. In addition, companies such as Taito Corporation, one of Japan's leading amusement parlor companies, have created posters to publicize the campaign. The attention the campaign has drawn has enabled JOICFP to deepen understanding of its activities and those of UNFPA and IPPF, and widen the support network domestically.

The prepaid card campaign adds another dimension to JOICFP's cooperative activities. JOICFP already has strong links with local governments through the donations of reconditioned bicycles and other items by the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA) and is working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS. By establishing close ties with the public and media, JOICFP is creating a solid support network for international assistance activities.

Active NGO Role in GII

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan has already shown its commitment to carve out an active role for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the implementation of



Women receive health education, an area noted as important for Ghana.

the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS by involving them in initial activities. JOICFP recently completed situation analysis surveys entrusted by MOFA in Mexico, Ghana and Senegal, three of 12 GII priority countries.

Under the GII, the Japanese government is to provide assistance in population and AIDS,

both directly and indirectly, to developing countries. Japan has targeted a sum of US\$3 billion in official development assistance (ODA) for the GII for the period covering fiscal years 1994 - 2000.

Based on in-country surveys and the review of collected data and information in the three countries, JOICFP compiled reports which were submitted to MOFA in April. The documents are intended to provide the Japanese government with constructive recommendations for effective assistance in population and AIDS.

The surveys were carried out in the three countries between October 1994 and March 1995. JOICFP received collaboration and assistance from UNFPA Country Support Teams in Addis Ababa and in Dakar and UNFPA country offices in Mexico, Ghana and Senegal. The reports mainly deal with the situation analyses of population and AIDS. However, as for Ghana and Senegal, they also

review the situation of children's health, especially the immunization program, since this area is included under the Common Agenda in the Japan-U.S. Economic Framework Talks.

The focus of the situation analyses for all three countries was to review issues of population and AIDS in the overall national development planning; to analyze the situation of population, AIDS and children's health (except in Mexico) and to review current issues and needs in the implementation of population and AIDS programs; to review existing bilateral and multilateral assistance; and to provide recommendations for possible interventions for



The report notes adolescent health as a key area for Mexico.

the Japanese government based on the review of needs and priorities.

The recommendations were made under four principal strategies: adoption of a comprehensive approach or sector approach; emphasis on reproductive health including adolescents; promotion of South-to-South collaboration; and involvement of NGOs.

The report makes a summary of the principal strategies into five items common to all three countries: collaboration and coordination with other donor countries/agencies; involvement of NGOs; emphasis on human resource development; promotion of IEC activities; and improvement of grassroots health centers and AIDS-related facilities, the provision of basic medical equipment and supplies, and training programs.

The surveys noted three areas for consideration for effective implementation of the GII. In identifying the first area, collaboration with and full utilization of experts and agencies outside of Japan, JOICFP notes the necessity of Japan to collaborate with outside experts familiar with local situation and issues.

The second area, development of expertise within Japan, reflects the limited numbers of agencies and experts capable of dealing with such activities in Japan. To remedy this situation, JOICFP suggests expanding existing government training courses, full utilization of NGO expertise, involvement of ex-specialists from UN agencies and former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).

In identifying the third area, coordination with concerned agencies within Japan, JOICFP points out the desirability of coordination with other concerned government agencies since the GII includes indirect assistance related to population. The regular meeting between MOFA and NGOs concerned with the GII was noted as a big step forward.

GII Progress Update

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) officials from the Bureau of Economic Cooperation discussed progress of the Japanese government's Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS with 30 representatives of Japanese NGOs at a Tokyo meeting on April 17. The fourth government-NGO meeting on the GII organized by MOFA, the event focused on NGO involvement in all official



development assistance (ODA) processes under all the areas covered by the GII such as planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The MOFA officials also announced the

schedule for project formulation missions to countries designated as priority countries under the GII. The officials noted that NGOs will be involved in two of the missions, one to Bangladesh in June and one to India and Pakistan in autumn. JOICFP will participate in the Bangladesh mission. The other scheduled mission to the Philippines and Indonesia in July is a follow-up to a previous mission.

Focusing on Reproductive Health for Adolescents

Ahead of the 4th World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, China, in September, JOICFP is focusing its lens on reproductive health issues for adolescents with a still-photo video featuring adolescent women in Bangladesh, Thailand and Mexico. A JOICFP film crew was in Bangladesh from April 22 - May 2 and Thailand from May 2 - 15 to shoot photos for the films. The team is scheduled to visit Mexico from June 29 - July 7



On location in Bangladesh.

Dubbed the "silent revolution," the collective movement of women involved in income-generation, FP/MCH and related health-care activities is having a marked impact on rural women's health and status.

In Thailand, the film crew focused on the life of a former commercial sex worker taking part in an occupational skill development training scheme promoted by the Population and Community

Development Association (PDA). The adolescent was one of the estimated 150,000 women, mostly teenagers from extremely poor rural backgrounds, working in the sex industry in Thailand. In Bangkok alone, there is an estimated 44,000 women working as commercial sex workers in 1,500 establishments. The film crew captured her new life as a leader of teenagers in the village working to change attitudes and the fate of similar young women.

The PDA scheme is aimed at improving the health and raising the



Moni, a 14-year-old, was a bride at 13.

status of young rural women by assisting them to train in skills that can be applied to earn income and avoid the health hazards associated with the sex industry.

The Mexican segment of the film will focus on teen pregnancy and the innovative efforts being made by the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM) in the area of education and health care for adolescents.

for the same activity.

Bangladesh was chosen for the South Asia segment to highlight the issue of early marriage. During its stay in Bangladesh, the film crew captured on film the daily life of one couple living in a rural area. The couple, a 14-year-old wife and 20-year-old husband, was married when the wife was 13, before the onset of menstruation.

After marrying into her husband's family, Moni, has been working to serve and feed her husband's large extended family. She was introduced to the concept of reproductive health by the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), the local implementing agency of the UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women executed by JOICFP.

The FPAB works to empower women through a "human dynamics" approach. The organization encourages women like Moni who marry young into a powerless existence of servility, and early and frequent childbirth, to join other women in activities aimed at improving health and raising economic status.

ICPD Follow-up for Donors

The Donor Workshop on Implementing Reproductive Health Programs will be held from June 12 - 14 in New York as a follow-up activity of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994. The meeting will focus on how to bring the reproductive health approach to family planning (FP) programs, one of the resolutions of the ICPD Program of Action. The meeting, hosted by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the U.K. and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and organized by the Population Council, will be attended by representatives of DAC member countries.

According to Population Council President Margaret Catley-Carlson, the meeting will consider such issues as assessing the

reproductive health status of women in different countries to look for common problems; orienting FP services to clients; determining reproductive health implications of FP methods; and handling STDs and HIV/AIDS.

The meeting, which is expected to help provide donor countries with a better idea of how to assist developing countries in the field of reproductive health, should help spread the idea of reproductive health in donor countries holding seminars and workshops.

Senior JOICFP Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami was requested to attend as an advisor to the Japanese government delegation at the meeting.



Catley-Carlson

South-South Initiative Takes Off

Two members of a South-South collaboration team from Indonesia spoke to a JOICFP mission in Ghana on April 26. Dr. Pudjo Rahardjo and Jasmi Kamil of the International Population & Family Planning Training Center, National Family Planning Coordination Board (BKKBN) of Indonesia, provided an outline of the South-South initiative and spoke about its objectives in Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania. The two experts from Indonesia were assisted during their mission by Wilma H. Goppel, consultant of South-South Cooperation, UNFPA. Below are highlights of the interview.

South-South collaboration in population and development was initiated by Dr. Haryono Suyono, state minister for population, Indonesia, and chairman of BKKBN. He became the first chairman of "Partners in Population and Development; a South-South Initiative," the new name for South-South collaboration.

The South-South initiative, whereby the North and South are working together in population and development, actually began after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994. The founding partners launched the program under the auspices of UNFPA and major donors including Japan.

This mission is a follow-up of the tripartite agreement for assisting these countries established among Indonesia, UNFPA and the government of the Netherlands. It is an orientation mission for assessing needs.

In terms of collaboration, Indonesia is first offering these countries observation study tours (OSTs) which consist of 15% of classes and briefings, 70% of field experience and observation, and 15% of workshops.

Secondly, Indonesia is offering internship programs whereby field personnel can benefit from on-the-job training. The third modality we are offering is technical assistance — not



A woman receives FP advice in Indonesia, a pioneer of South-South cooperation.

for us to teach them — but to collaborate in such areas as the planning of policies and the drawing up of operational plans. This is not national level policy. We are only assisting in the implementation and the approaches.

UNFPA's role is very significant. The major donors like Japan have established trust funds with UNFPA for South-South collaboration. With these funds, UNFPA and recipient and provider countries in the South will organize the collaboration that is needed.

Supporting Self-help Efforts

A JOICFP mission was in The Gambia from April 17 - 23 to discuss the three-year plan for the Integrated Project (IP). The discussions focused on strengthening community participation in the project. The team also spoke with government officials who expressed strong support for the self-help efforts encouraged under the project.

One of these was Coumba Caesay Marenah, minister of health, social welfare and women's affairs, who praised the work of the Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA), the IP executing agency. Marenah, former director of the Women's Bureau and a volunteer of GFPA, called the GFPA a pioneer of family planning (FP)

promotion in The Gambia and noted that the organization was initially the only body promoting FP services in The Gambia. She said the GFPA influenced the government to integrate social development and FP activities.

The GFPA is one of the strongest non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in The Gambia where NGOs play an important role in providing services in areas the government cannot reach, she said. Noting the importance of stimulating community participation in activities, Marenah said people must take initiative to raise the quality of their own lives.

Marenah also commented that the reconditioned bicycles provided to health-care personnel under the project have been extremely useful. JOICFP, through the donation of bicycles by the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), was the first organization to provide bicycles. The donation stimulated a need within the health-care field and UNICEF has since initiated bicycle provision for village health workers, she said.

Ghana

The JOICFP mission was also in Ghana from April 23 - 28, where it discussed the project plan, construction of a clinic in Bontrese village and the monitoring of support provided under the Japanese Ministry of Posts



CBD training in progress.

and Telecommunications' Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme.

One of the most recent developments of the IP, executed by the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), was the training of 15 community-based distributors (CBDs) in March. The CBDs, which have begun providing services in new project areas, were provided with a first aid box and contraceptive supply. Members of the local steering committee expressed their intention to support the CBDs to ensure smooth project promotion.

Meanwhile, construction of the Bontrese clinic is expected to be completed within June. Preparations are being made for the opening and to ensure that the clinic is well managed and supported by the efforts of the community.



Marenah

China Project to Expand

Dr. Peng Yu, vice minister of the State Family Planning Commission (SFPC), and chairperson of the National Steering Committee of the Integrated Project (IP), endorsed the approach of the project during a seminar held in Beijing, China, from March 7 - 9.

"The Integrated Project (IP) is well suited to the situation of China. It is helping to realize the recommendations of the World Summit on



Peng

Social Development held this year in Copenhagen in terms of economic development, eliminating poverty and satisfying such basic needs as health, education and safe drinking water. The project promotes reproductive health

rather than merely controlling population, in line with the resolution of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) of Cairo in 1994," she said.

Peng added that one of the advantages of the IP is that stresses the concept of integrating family planning (FP) with total health-care services. The project also emphasizes benefits for the people and the importance of attaining service self-reliance, she said. International

assistance provided to the project should only be seen as an opportunity to work towards self-reliance, she stressed.

Peng was one of seven lecturers at the seminar. Jose Ferraris, UNFPA program officer for China, also spoke at the event. The seminar was held in preparation for the launch of the fifth cycle of the project and was attended by 18 participants from the nine provinces and autonomous regions. The project will be expanded in the fifth cycle to cover 26 areas within 22 provinces and autonomous regions.

During the seminar, the National IP Steering Committee recommended that an IP center similar to the one in Taicang City be established in each project area. The center, which would be established with the support of



A view of the seminar.

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and IPPF, would serve as a model for other areas. The Taicang IP Center, managed by the Taicang Family Planning Association, receives support from the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) allocated by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Mass Approach for Self-reliance

Representatives of the IP from eight areas in six provinces in China learned practical strategies including the use of mass parasite control (PC) to achieve the self-reliance of health-care activities during a seminar held at the IP Center in Taicang from March 24 - 30. The national-level Parasite Control Seminar on Technical Aspects for Promotion of the IP in China, brought together 43 staff of the project. It was supported with funds allocated by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications under the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme.

The 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.

A team of Japanese experts was in China from March 18 - 31 and joined the seminar to provide technical assistance. Participants also viewed the fee-charging system utilized by the Taicang IP Center for PC activities. The center covers all primary to junior high school students in Taicang City with PC activities.

The center's achievements are remarkable for a non-governmental organization (NGO) in China. Working in collaboration with the Family Planning Bureau, the center provides full parasite examination and treatment, rather

than the sampling examination approach implemented in other areas by health bureaus.

The Japanese team also visited the second phase IP area of Jiangning County in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province, from March 18 - 21. The IP, which was launched in two townships in 1987, was expanded to cover 12 townships in 1994 and a population of almost half a million people. There is now a plan to expand the project countywide to cover all 23 townships by 1996.

The team noted that the concept of involving community people directly in the implemen-

tation of the project has been well accepted. The team observed new residential areas with sanitary toilets and clean water supplies and viewed health education at a junior high school.

The visit enabled the team to observe the use of a mobile health-care van donated by the Preventive Health Service Association of Chiba Prefecture in 1991. The van, which offers health checkups on a fee-charged basis, also provides IEC activities. Traveling both within and outside IP areas, the van screened 111,000 people between 1991 - 1994.



A ceremony was held in Shanghai on April 13 to formalize collaboration between the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) and the Shanghai Family Planning Commission in the field of reproductive health including sex education and adolescent health. The event was attended by 230 people including representatives of both organizations, the Shanghai Family Planning Association as well as district and county-level FP associations, pharmacists and the mass media.



People wait for health checkups.

Nepal Project Moves Ahead as Grass-roots Force

A JOICFP mission in Nepal from April 2 - 14 laid the groundwork for a National IEC Workshop and National Workshop to be held November 14 - 16 and November 19 - 21, respectively. Materials are now being collected from non-governmental organizations, the government and international agencies ahead of the IEC workshop to enable participants and

experts to determine the most effective approaches for family planning (FP) promotion.

The mission also smoothed arrangements for an external evaluation to be



Volunteer supplies.

conducted this year of the UNFPA-supported Community-based Sustainable Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Project with Special Focus on Women. Another aspect of the mission was discussion on the production of the Nepali version of the video

Rakhee and Mausee, and plans for the utilization of ¥1.09 million (US\$11,122 at ¥98 for US\$1) JOICFP Voluntary Fund (JVF) generated by the collection and sale of used prepaid cards in Japan.

The mission also observed refresher training for 135 women volunteers from 15 villages in Panchkhal, Kavre District, conducted by resource person and project consultant, Sabatri Basnet. The volunteers and workers received supplies and items for FP/MCH promotion and outstanding individuals were awarded for the contribution to FP/MCH activities. The JOICFP mission paid a visit to the community-based primary health-care unit of Anaikot and met with the village health committee and women volunteers.

A positive development in the project is the coordination achieved with the other activities of the Family Planning Association of Nepal and women volunteers to diffuse FP/MCH



Participants of the refresher training provided for project volunteers in Panchkhal.

services and project activities. A 30-member study team from Panchkhal also recently visited a community-development project of the FP association in a neighboring area.

One of the outcomes of the mission was the decision to formulate technical support for both project areas of Panchkhal and Sunsari to provide training, provision of quality service, and a referral institute for patients.

The most relevant persons were recruited to be members of the technical support group for each area.

Working with Dominican Youth

Milqueya Portes, vice president, Family Planning Association of the Dominican Republic (PROFAMILIA), and president, Dominican Pharmaceutical Industry Association (INFADOMI), spoke to JOICFP NEWS on April 11 about her organization. Below is an outline of the interview.

In the Dominican Republic, a large percentage of the population is very young. We therefore understand that it is necessary to work with young people. They need orientation on such issues as sexual life, reproduction and male responsibility. It is important that our young people do not begin sexual life too early. Pregnancy that occurs at a too early stage interferes with health. It is impossible for a young woman to have good health if pregnancy is too early. A young woman cannot finish her studies if she becomes pregnant and once she leaves school she has narrower opportunities to improve her educational level.

Therefore, young people need knowledge. They need to know how to take care of their health and need proper knowledge about their bodies and about life. They need to understand the importance of good health and education.

Our association has innovative programs for young people. We provide education in this field and we also work in the area of AIDS prevention. Our principal goals now concern adolescents. We understand that we need to educate and provide orientation to young people because these are the people who will take care of the following generations.

The PROFAMILIA Council is made up of people from different professions which allows us to discuss and analyze issues from different points of view. We have an active organization of volunteers and hold workshops on various issues. We recently held a workshop on sexual health and reproduction. It is important that we have a clear philosophy about our job working

as volunteers.

PROFAMILIA has a good reputation in the Dominican Republic because we have been doing a pioneering job at many levels.

We recently established a new clinic for men and have two clinics for women belonging to PROFAMILIA. We also have agreements with more than 100 private clinics that deal with different clinical contraceptive methods, especially the IUD. We are also engaged in social marketing. We have agreements with companies and sell the contraceptive pill, condoms and others at different levels of society lower than retail.

Our organization has changed because times have changed and all things need to evolve according to the times and the needs of the people.



Portes

Japan Sees Drop in Children

The number of children in Japan aged 14 years or younger this year was the lowest on record since World War II, according to a survey released by the Management and Coordination Agency. As of April 1, Japan had a total of 20.2 million children under 15, a drop of 390,000 from 1994.

According to the figures, children now make up 16.1% of the country's population, slightly lower than the 16.3% share that children have in the populations of both Italy (1992) and Germany (1991). Children make up 21.9% of the population of the U.S. (1992), 28% in Korea (1994), and a large 36% in Indonesia. Among industrialized countries, Japan has the lowest proportion of children under 15 in its population.

The proportion of children has continued to decline in Japan's population with the fall in the number of births per woman, or total fertility rate (TFR). The birthrate actually rose slightly in 1994 for the first time in 21 years to bring

the TFR to between 1.47-1.49, still below the population replacement level, but higher than the 1.46 of 1993.

As the proportion of children in the population has fallen, the share held by people aged 65 and older has risen. In 1950, children occupied 35.4%, while the elderly held 4.9%. The aged now hold a 14.4% share.

This year also marked the lowest ratio of children to working population (23.2%) since statistics were introduced in 1920.

The figure means that there is now one child per 4.3 working adults. Among the age groups,



Only 16.1% of Japan's population is aged under 15.

14-year-olds comprised the largest group at 1.55 million.

Domoto Chairs UNFPA Panel

Kato Nears 100

A birthday party was held for family planning (FP) pioneer Shidzue Kato in Tokyo on April 22 to celebrate the beginning of her 99th year. Based on the traditional Japanese method of determining age, Kato who is actually 98, turned 99. To celebrate this milestone, the party used the Chinese character for *hakuju*, a play on words to mean "100 minus 1." The party was attended by 200 people. Kato, who holds the posts of president of the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ) and vice president of JOICFP, first began working to promote FP and raise the status and health of women as a young woman in the early part of this century. Kato is still a powerful voice on population, FP and women's issues in Japan and won the UN Population Award in 1988 for her contribution to the field.



Kato

Implementation of the goals set forth in the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) document is arguably a more contentious task than formulating the document itself. To explore ways to integrate the goals of the ICPD in its programs, UNFPA held a meeting of its Ad-hoc Advisory Panel on Gender, Population and Development on April 5 and 6 in New York. Japanese Member of Parliament Akiko Domoto was invited from Japan to bring her perspective as an activist in issues of women and population to the 16-member panel.

The panel, which meets every two years, was established in 1986 to advise UNFPA on policies, strategies and programs designed to mainstream gender concerns in population activities. It is composed of population, gender and development experts from both developing and developed countries.

The April meeting was comprised of seven sessions dealing with issues such as information, education and communication; reproductive health and family planning; and collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Domoto served as chair for the session on information, education and communication, and centered discussion on how to implement gender in these areas.

The result of the meeting was a draft document of specific and innovative recommendations to UNFPA. These ranged

from suggestions about collection and analysis of gender-differentiated data, provision of information and training to more fully utilize NGOs, and focus on impacting men's attitudes and behavior in regard to reproductive health including family planning and gender equality.

Indeed, the road to Beijing looks to be a bit rocky. However, with efforts such as the ad-hoc meeting sponsored by UNFPA, the flow of ideas and goals will stake new ground for women. As Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, stated in her opening remarks, "... a defining characteristic of this (ICPD) Program of Action is the importance that it accords to the need to empower women, to ensure gender equality and equity and the treatment that it gives to perspectives of women in relation to all relevant concerns ... we are working hard to ensure that the Beijing conference builds on the achievements of the ICPD and we will need your support in your various countries and regions to make sure that this happens."

- By Rhonda Schlagen



Domoto

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

More Action, Fewer Words

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo last year brought together representatives of a multitude of organizations and governments for discussion on world population and related issues.

One of the most significant issues discussed at Cairo was women's empowerment and economic

independence. While following the discussions, I found myself wanting the participants to argue less over issues and come up with concrete strategies that could be put to work to achieve the aims.

From my experience in Japan, I found that the genius of women lies in their ability to get things done rather than merely discuss issues. When Japan was defeated in the war 50 years ago, I felt it was the right time to end the past and begin anew. It was my conviction that we should take advantage of the new development in Japan to begin new directions.

One new direction I came up with was the concept of improving the situation of women through income-generating activities. The idea of

women sewing clothes to make a living and improve their lot seemed a good one. I figured that the ability to earn an income would start a process. If the efforts continued, the status of the women would be raised and they would have greater power. In turn, their families would also lead better, happier lives.

I asked women around me for suggestions and tried to find out what it was that they needed and wanted in their lives. We decided to go ahead with the plan and began working with a group of volunteers including my wife. It was like an impossible dream when we started, but as we progressed the scheme proved a practical means of earning income. In fact, the income we generated was more than we expected. We encouraged other women to take up dress making with their sewing machines and in a short period of time many women had joined the scheme. With collective numbers came considerable economic strength and the realization that women have remarkable potential.

This experience of working with women convinced me that practical action is far more important than words.

ANNOUNCEMENT

International Seminar on Family Planning Administration for Senior Officers II

Theme & objectives: The seminar will focus on effective administration of FP and MCH programs at the central and local levels by calling on Japan's experience in the field. It will also encourage the mutual sharing of experiences and knowledge.

Date: August 22 - September 15, 1995

Venue: Tokyo, Japan

Participants: 15 high-ranking FP administrators/managers to be selected from Bangladesh, Brazil,

Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Guinea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Tanzania and Thailand

Organizer: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with JOICFP

Background: The seminar is part of the government of Japan's technical cooperation programs for developing countries for fiscal 1995 (April 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996).

For further information, contact the Embassy of Japan in nominated countries through the relevant government agency.

DIARY

- Dr. **Noriji Suzuki**, professor emeritus, Kochi Medical College; Yoshio Ohno, executive director, Shizuoka Health Service Association; and **Takaaki Sambe**, director, Dept. 2, Central Research Laboratory, Tokyo Health Service Association, were in China from Mar. 18 - April 1 to provide technical assistance. They were accompanied by JOICFP Program Officer Yoshitatsu Kanno.

- Dr. **Milqueya Portes**, vice president, Family Planning Association of the Dominican Republic (PROFAMILIA), visited JOICFP to exchange information on April 10.

- JOICFP Senior Program Officer Aiko Iijima was in Nepal from April 1 - 15 for project monitoring.

- **Isamu Harasawa**, executive director, and **Shoji**

Shibata, deputy executive director, JFPA, were in Shanghai, China, from April 11 - 19 to seek collaboration in the contraceptive supply program. They were accompanied by Takeyuki Ishibashi, director, Population Problems Research Institute, Mainichi Shimbun, and JOICFP Program Officer Yoshitatsu Kanno.

- Hiroshi Taniguchi, editor, *Integration*, was in Vietnam from April 17 - 28 to gather information for the JOICFP publication.

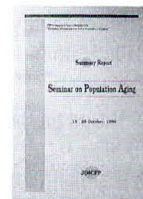
- JOICFP Senior Program Officer Ryoko Nishida and Program Officer Mayumi Katsube were in The Gambia to prepare for the next project cycle and in Ghana to monitor the POSIVA project from April 16 - 30.

New Publication

JOICFP recently published the *Summary Report of the Seminar on Population Aging*, an event held in Tokyo and Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan, from October 19 - 28, 1994. The seminar was organized under the UNFPA-supported Asian regional project entitled Promotion of

Awareness and Policy Formulation on Aging (RAS/92/P13). The theme of the seminar was "Aging Population and Social Services — Community Support Systems for the Elderly and the Family." It was

primarily aimed at promoting the formulation of social service policies and development of community support systems and strategies to meet the needs of societies with aged populations using the experience of Japan as a case study. The report contains situation analyses, case studies and recommendations. For more information, please contact JOICFP.



IP Pioneer Dies

Dr. Muneo Yokogawa, professor emeritus, school of medicine, Chiba University, and chairman, Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC), died in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, on May 3 of a subarachnoidal hemorrhage. He was 77. A board member of JOICFP, Yokogawa had a long association with JOICFP and provided valuable input into the promotion of JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP) in developing countries. Yokogawa contributed to the establishment of the Asian Parasite Control Organization (APCO) in 1974, a driving force of the IP, and served as chairman of the APCO Parasitologists' Meeting, a forum for discussing surveys and research, and for creating innovative strategies for IP promotion.



Yokogawa

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