

JOICFP NEWS

Balancing Population Growth and Food Supply

Sixteen former heads of state urge action to ensure survival of humankind in 21st century

Balancing population growth and food production was top of the agenda for participants of the 13th Session of the InterAction Council where participants also stressed the importance of promoting reproductive choice. The meeting of 16 former heads of government and 14 special guests was held at the UN University in Tokyo from May 23 - 26 under the theme of "The Challenge to Balance Population Increase and Food Supply."

The theme was appropriate for the session that marked the retirement of Honorary Chairman of the InterAction Council and

former Prime Minister of Japan Takeo Fukuda. Long an advocate of balancing population growth, Fukuda opened the session by noting that the world's population had quadrupled from 1.7 billion when he



Murayama

was born in 1905 to reach 5.7 billion this year. Fukuda, a founding member of the council, is also president of JOICFP.

Fukuda related some of the recommendations of a high-level expert group meeting held as a preparatory event to the council session in Tokyo on April 10 - 11. "Of particular note for developing countries is the need to improve the status of women as an essential ingredient in successful family planning (FP)," he said. "The group felt the most constructive recommendation for industrial nations is to instill an awareness of the negative consequences of excessive consumption." Calling for action, he stressed that the 21st century should be viewed as a turning point the survival of humankind.

The session was the second to be held in Japan since the council was organized in 1983

on Fukuda's initiative.

The previous Japan meeting was held in Hakone in 1986. The council, which meets annually, aims to foster international cooperation in the three areas of peace and arms reduction; global population, environment and development; and revitalizing the global economy. The prominent members of this influential group seek to communicate the proposals of the council directly to government heads and other national decision-makers, heads of international organizations and influential individuals worldwide.

Among this year's guests were UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik, Worldwatch Institute President Lester Brown, former World Bank President Robert McNamara, and former Japanese prime ministers Kiichi Miyazawa and Nobuo Takeshita.

Prime Minister of Japan Tomiichi Murayama expressed Japan's concern that the global issues of environment, population, drugs and AIDS threaten the whole of humankind. "I have constantly urged consideration of three policy areas that I think should be stressed by all countries — namely, human-centered approach to social development, the development of human resources through education and training, and active participation of civic society as a whole in social development," he said.

The session marked the retirement of InterAction Council Chairman and former Chancellor of Germany Helmut Schmidt who took over the post of honorary chairman. The position of chairman was filled by Andries van Agt, former prime minister of the Netherlands.

Schmidt, who noted that it took the world's population 19 centuries to grow from 200

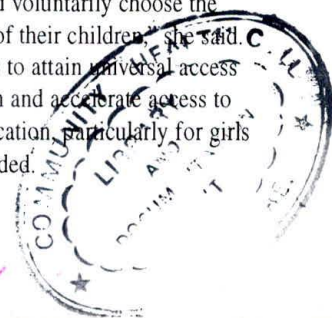


Takeo Fukuda (2nd from left) speaks to Helmut Schmidt at the council session.

million people at the time of Christ to reach 1.6 billion at the beginning of this century, outlined a "recipe against the explosion" of population. "We would propose that the donor countries of official development aid in the future make development aid dependent on the recipient countries' effective FP, enhancement of the education of girls, enhancement of the status of women, FP programs and the easy availability of contraceptives," he said. "And, by the way, also make official development aid dependent on a reasonable limitation of military expenditure by recipient countries."

Sadik, who spoke on the subject of "Population and food: old questions, new developments," commented that the International Conference on Population and Development (ICDP) Program of Action adopted in Cairo last year contains clear and identifiable goals over a 20-year time frame to tackle population and development issues. "One of these is to provide universal access to reproductive health information services including FP. This will enable individuals and couples to freely and voluntarily choose the number and timing of their children," she said.

"Another goal is to attain universal access to primary education and accelerate access to higher levels of education, particularly for girls and women," she added.



A Call to Action for North & South

Malcolm Fraser, former prime minister of Australia, provided participants of the 13th Session of the InterAction Council with an outline of the discussions and recommendations developed by participants of a high-level expert group meeting he chaired in Tokyo from April 10 - 11. The expert meeting was a preparatory event to the InterAction Council session. Below are highlights.

The high-level expert group emphasizes that continuous global expansion of population and wasteful consumption are inevitably going to increase pressure on future food supplies. Official estimates of population and food production should not lead to any complacency. The most vigorous efforts will be required from Third World countries and from donor countries to avoid an increasingly serious and unsustainable situation.

On one hand, low-income developing countries, where the greatest pressures already

exist, must redouble their efforts to introduce wide-ranging population policies. These policies must fully recognize the status of women. On the other hand, many donor countries must target their aid more effectively. Such assistance needs to pay particular attention to supporting agriculture and family planning (FP) in its broadest concept.

Consumption patterns in the wealthiest nations are depleting world resources and in ways that jeopardize the future of world development. Moderation and a sense of sharing our common world are required.

The global challenge of population growth and food security is not insurmountable. It requires large-scale efforts from both North and South. Greater attention to social policy, including health care, FP and greatly increased investment in education is required. Special attention is required to the status of women to ensure that in all respect they enjoy the same quality of rights and opportunities. This will



Takeo Fukuda makes an address.

lead to better informed women and voluntary choice in bearing children.

Broader partnership with NGOs should be sought to encourage more efficient ways to meet the needs of the poorest people and ensure more equitable sharing of development benefits so as not to exacerbate the already critical situation.

The affluent industrialized countries should instill consciousness among their own people that their excessive consumption is an integral part of the problem. It is not permissible for the North to ask the developing countries to curtail population growth, while they themselves continue to aggravate the ecosystem with their excessive lifestyle.



Sadik

Feeding a Hungry World

Lester Brown, president, Worldwatch Institute, warned about the need to balance population growth and limited resources, water and food supplies including fisheries in the 21st century at a Population Forum 21

symposium, held in Tokyo on May 27. The meeting, attended by 250 people, was organized by Population Forum 21 in cooperation with

JOICFP and with the support of UNFPA and the Mainichi Shimbun. Brown was guest speaker at the event which took the theme of, "Can humankind survive in the world of the 21st century?"

Taking China, India and the U.S. as examples, Brown emphasized the importance of balancing population with food production. As the population increases in China and factors such as dwindling water supply and declining grain yields take effect, the country will find it more difficult to feed itself, he stressed.

This scarcity of food, cropland and water in the world's most populous country will ultimately mean shortages for the entire world, he warned.



Brown with Shidzue Kato.

Council Update

Isamu Miyazaki, Chairman, Daiwa Institute of Research, Ltd., outlined the agenda of the 13th Session of the InterAction Council at a lecture meeting of the Council on Population



Miyazaki

Education in Tokyo on May 17. The meeting, held prior to the council session, was attended by 40 members of the Council on Population Education. Miyazaki was a special guest at the 13th council session.

Progress in Just 2.5 Years

After only two and a half years of implementation, the Integrated Project (IP) is proving to be an effective approach to improve the quality of life for people at the grass roots. This was one of the observations of a joint JOICFP-China monitoring mission that visited two fourth-cycle IP areas.

The acceptance of the project by the people was particularly evident in Nankang Town, Tieshangang District, Beihai Municipality, Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region. Despite a change in the administrative jurisdiction of Nankang Town from Nanpu County to Tieshangang District at the beginning of the year, the project has maintained its



A woman gets water from a covered well in Guangxi Zhuangzu Autonomous Region.

momentum and continued to gain the support of the people and local government.

The monitoring mission also observed that toilet and drinking water facilities had been much improved by the people without receiving external funding.

Since the IP was initiated in Nankang Town in 1992, the infant mortality rate (IMR) has dropped from 38 to 29.8 per 1,000 births (1994). Infection of hookworm dropped from 52% in 1992 to 15% in 1994, and Ascaris from 70% to 30% among school students.

The mission also visited Qujiang County, Shaoguan Municipality, Guangdong Province, where it also observed positive changes. As in Nankang, the people showed an awareness of health and hygiene issues and enthusiasm for the concept of helping themselves to raise the quality of life through the project.

China Project Set to Expand

The National Workshop on the IP in China focused on conducting an evaluation survey of the areas where the fourth-cycle of the IP is being implemented. The workshop, held in Qujiang County, Guangdong Province, from May 19 - 24, was attended by over 70 participants including representatives from 10 fourth-cycle project areas and seven potential fifth cycle areas.

The workshop was held ahead of the end of the first three years of the fourth cycle, which was launched in 1993. According to plans for project expansion, the fifth-project cycle will be initiated in 1996. A joint JOICFP-Chinese team of experts visited Hainan Province and Beijing to conduct feasibility studies of IP expansion areas. The group also visited two fourth-cycle areas and attended the national workshop, while in China from May 7 - 30.

The creation of a strategy for an evaluation survey of the fourth-cycle areas, which is scheduled to be conducted at the end of this

year, was top of the agenda of the workshop. Participants also discussed conducting a baseline survey in the potential fifth-cycle areas.



Children in Qujiang County use personal drinking cups.

The workshop produced a proposal of survey guidelines which were submitted to the National IP Steering Committee for consideration. A decision on the proposals is expected in September.

Potential New Project Areas

A joint JOICFP-Chinese team found that despite dramatic economic progress, the health and sanitation situation of Hainan Province has not kept pace with development. The team, which was in Hainan and Beijing to study the feasibility of implementing the fifth cycle of the IP, found a pressing need to raise people's awareness of health and hygiene issues including sanitary toilets and safe water supply.

In Hainan, the team visited the potential IP area of Qionghai City. According to a 1993 sampling survey, the infant mortality rate (IMR) is extremely high in Hainan at 44.67 per 1,000 births, while the parasite infection rate is as high as 95% according to figures recorded between 1986 - 1991. For the team, the lack of recent figures highlighted the need to conduct a baseline survey.

The team also visited

Fangshan District in Beijing Municipality which has a population of 745,000. Located in the southwest of the municipality, the district has an Ascaris infection rate of 59%, according to 1994 statistics.

CFPA Marks 15 Years

The China Family Planning Association celebrated its 15th anniversary with a reception held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on May 28. The event was attended by party and



Palan speaks at the ceremony.

government dignitaries, senior family planning officials and invited guests. One of the guests was V. T. Palan, regional director, ESEAOR-IPPF, who drew attention to IPPF's document "Vision 2000" and noted that IPPF has stressed sexual and reproductive health. "The essential focus of this is to ensure that NGOs such as CFPA do not take a very narrow contraceptive perspective in promoting planned parenthood," he said. "While contraception is very important, the ultimate objective must be the creation of responsible and healthy individuals and communities, who are able to exercise their freedom of choice not only in the area of contraception but in their own lives."

JFPA Goes to Work on Pill Issue in Japan

The Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) has been taking its advocacy role seriously by working to get the low-dose oral contraceptive pill approved by the government in Japan, the only industrialized country where it is still not approved for contraception. Approval of the pill was postponed in 1993 in a controversial decision made on "public health" grounds. An increased threat of HIV/AIDS was said to be the reason for the decision. The efforts of JFPA reflect the importance it places on widening the choice of contraceptives, particularly for women, to promote reproductive health and rights — key issues in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action.

In September 1994, Dr. Kunio Kitamura, director, Ichigaya Clinic, JFPA, visited the U.S. to exchange information and opinions about the pill issue with key people working in the reproductive health field. Below are excerpts of comments received from various opinion leaders in the U.S.

Alexander Sanger
President and CEO
Planned Parenthood of New York City, Inc.

I was surprised to learn that your government has not yet approved low-dose birth control pills, particularly because birth control pills are the most widely studied medication in history and have been consistently shown to be both safe and effective. In the U.S., oral contraceptives are



Sanger

the most widely used method of reversible birth control, and a growing number of women are choosing the low-dose pills.

We feel the best way to foster sexual health is to give our clients the widest

possible array of safe, effective birth control options, full information about STDs and HIV risks, and the freedom to make the choice that works best for them.

As FP providers, we share the same mission: to enable women to protect their sexual health. Of course, to do that effectively

means we must respond to the individual needs of our diverse range of clients. Approval of the low-dose contraceptive pill would be an important step in that direction.

Steven Sinding
Director
Population Sciences
& Mahmoud Fathalla
Senior advisor
Biodomedical and Reproductive Health
Research and Training
The Rockefeller Foundation

Notwithstanding the argument that use of low-dose oral contraception would increase the spread of HIV infection and AIDS in Japan,



Sinding

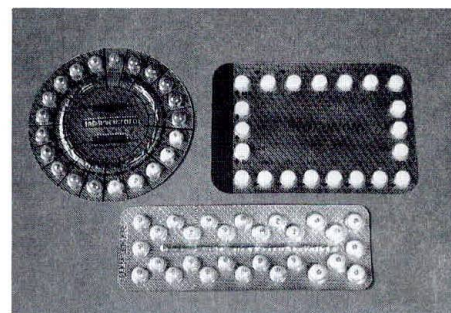
there is scant evidence of an association between oral contraceptive use and HIV/AIDS. One of the major demands from women's reproductive health groups during the preparatory process for the ICPD and at

Cairo itself was for increased access to safe and reliable methods of contraception. Women are demanding the right to make their own choices about which forms of contraception they use. We believe they deserve that right and that, if they have it, they will exercise it responsibly. We can think of no medical, ethical, or political grounds on which the right to choose among a range of safe proven methods of contraception should be denied to women in any society.

Malcolm Potts
Bixby Professor
Population and Family Planning
International Health Office
School of Public Health, Maternal
& Child Health
University of California

I continue to think that the Japanese restriction on the availability of oral contraceptives is most unfortunate.

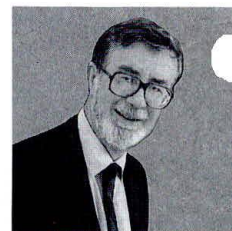
We know from empirical evidence around the world that the more choices society offers individuals for FP the higher the contraceptive prevalence. In general, the number of abortions



JFPA is pushing to get the low-dose pill authorized in Japan.

or unintended pregnancies will be lower the more widespread contraceptives are used.

I would strongly recommend condoms for individuals with a high risk of acquiring HIV, such as commercial sex workers, but I would not deny other people access to a highly reliable contraceptive such as the pill which also carries with it a unique range of non-contraceptive benefits.

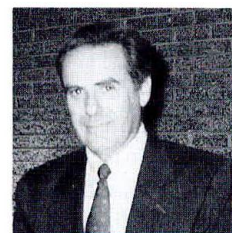


Potts

Allan Rosenfield
DeLamar professor and dean
Columbia University School of Public Health

It remains a mystery to me and to most public health and medical practitioners throughout the world why the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare has refused to approve the use of oral contraceptives since their introduction 35 years ago.

The women of Japan have been very poorly served by the current policy in that in forcing Japanese women to rely primarily on barrier methods of contraception, with their high pregnancy failure rates, means that Japan has one of the highest rates of abortion in the Western world. For a country such as Japan, which is among the most advanced countries in the industrialized world, this policy is surprising to reproductive health scientists and practitioners throughout the world.



Rosenfield

Reaching Out to Adolescents

When young people in Japan need to turn to someone for advice or information about sexual issues, there is usually no one there. A rare exception to the rule is the Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) which runs an innovative "Open House" where young people can come for counseling and services.

The center, housed at the JFPA's head office at the Ichigaya Clinic in Tokyo, broke new ground in Japan 14 years ago when it was opened to answer the information and service needs of young people. It is still only one of a handful of such places in Japan offering counseling and reproductive health services including family planning (FP).

One of the key ways that JFPA serves youth is through its adolescent health phone guidance services. The majority (65%) of callers using this service are adolescents and in 1994 the clinic received over 6,000 calls. The service

operates with 25 counselors, including midwives and public health nurses, who receive about 30 calls daily.

From the calls received last year, JFPA noted certain major issues that concerned adolescent callers. For the male callers, 18.9% were concerned about their foreskins interfering with sexual activity; 17.9% about masturbation; 11.5% about penis size; and 9.9% about ejaculation. For the young women, 22.4% asked about menstruation; 20.4% about pregnancy; and 10.1% about disease.

The center received 1,732 calls in 1994 about AIDS and contraception. The biggest group of callers in this area comprised people in their 20s. Of those who had used contraceptives, JFPA found that 68.1% used condoms; 9.0% used spermicides; 8.8% used withdrawal; and 6.0% used the oral contraceptive pill.

The lead taken by JFPA has been followed



Phone counselors answer questions about adolescent health issues at JFPA.

in other parts of Japan yet services for adolescents remain few and far between. In 1994, similar clinics were opened in Sendai City and Kobe City. The government recently began introducing sex education into schools, beginning in elementary school. However, the move has come late for the present generation of adolescents and young adults who rely on friends, magazines and movies for information.

Toshima Opens Door to AIDS Information

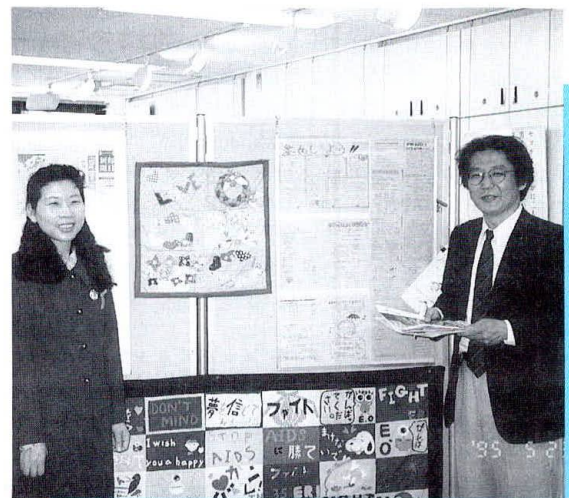
Toshima City is again leading the way as a progressive city of Tokyo. A pioneering member of the Municipal Coordinating

reflects the community-minded style of Mayor Kazutoshi Kato under whose leadership the city allocated a special budget for the center's establishment. The center is based in the Ikebukuro Health Center, one of the city's two public health centers. Located in downtown Ikebukuro, the public health center covers 160,000 people out of a population of 260,000 in Toshima City with a staff of 40.

The aim of the information center is to provide information on HIV/AIDS and promote expansion of a community network for HIV/AIDS prevention. The center also actively promotes ties with foreign residents in Japan and related bodies overseas.

A focus of the facility is the dissemination of appropriate information on HIV/AIDS, particularly to younger age groups. The center recently published a handbook on HIV/AIDS for hotel employees with the support of the Japan Travel Bureau (JTB). With the assistance of volunteer translators, it also provides regular updates on HIV/AIDS information from overseas.

Open seven days a week including evenings



Staff provide a range of IEC materials at the center which also offers counseling.

to such bodies as NGOs and to the public, the facility offers books, videos, computers and includes meeting and training rooms. It is designed as an open, user-friendly space and regularly invites people infected with HIV to speak to visitors. At the end of March, just six months after opening, the center had received 3,886 visitors.

The center is also actively cultivating a network for the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS and has so far targeted schools, medical staff, hotels and business groups such as JTB.



The unique AIDS Information Center based in Ikebukuro, Toshima City.

Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), which is donating reconditioned bicycles and other items to developing countries, Toshima established a unique AIDS Information Center in October 3, 1994.

The first of its kind in Japan, the center

Bringing Services to Women in Laos

A mobile health clinic is making inroads into rural areas and bringing services and counseling to women in need of information and family planning/maternal and child health (FP/MCH) services. The clinic, the first of its kind in Laos, was observed by a JOICFP mission in Laos to monitor activities of the UNFPA-supported Sustainable Community-based FP/MCH Project with Special Focus on



Insertion of the IUD is explained to women attending the mobile clinic.

Women from April 27 - May 19.

The mission also discussed the work plan for 1995, internal evaluation to be conducted this year and a plan for further technical assistance with Thailand. The team visited Naxaithong District, Vientiane Municipality, and Bolikhamxay Province where it observed project activities in Pacsane District and Thaphabat District.

The mobile clinic began with the provision of information and counseling and expanded to

include services. It is now playing a vital role in motivating women to work as volunteers to promote the project. The volunteers, mostly Lao Women's Union members, are trained to resupply oral contraceptive pills and condoms and provide essential drugs.

For the JOICFP team, the openness of the women attending the clinic and the success of group counseling were impressive. Most women of reproductive age attended the clinic along with men and children where they showed a desire to learn about birth spacing and contraception. The team observed volunteers and satisfied users sharing information and women raising questions freely.

The volunteer system is particularly important to follow up and support the health staff of the clinic which visits on a monthly basis. According to health staff, the clinic enabled the volunteers to be trained from scratch and gain knowledge and confidence to assist village women in a very short time. In response to a strong demand for the IUD, training for health staff in IUD insertion is now planned with an eye to ensuring quality of care.

Another important aspect of the mission was proposed collaboration with the Thai government and the Population and Community Development Association (PDA) in training of government and non-governmental staff. Thailand's expertise and experience in the field has already been beneficial to the project in Laos where the language is almost the same as Thai. Health staff, volunteers, women's union

members and district and village chiefs have received training in Thailand. The Thai side has also provided technical assistance and support for management and community-based development activities.

The project, which aims at sustainability of services, has promoted the concept of fee-charging for services from the beginning of the project. Despite the fees, the demand for project's services is strong in the communities. An evaluation to determine the expansion of the services will be conducted at a workshop to be held later this year in cooperation with the Institute for Mother and Child Health (IMCH), the implementing body of the project in Laos.

CST Covers the Field in Latin America

The UNFPA Country Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean will provide technical assistance to JOICFP for an evaluation of the UNFPA-supported project in Guatemala to be conducted in August. The mission will be led by CST member Isabel Hernandez, adviser on socio-cultural research.

The CST Office was created in 1992 and is based in Santiago, Chile. It brings together the wide experience of 12 experts drawn from various agencies and organizations as UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO/PAHO, FAO, ILO and CELADE/ECLAC and the Population Council. Headed by Team Director Joop Alberts, the CST is organized in three major working areas: reproductive health and family planning; IEC; and population and development.

The CST was established in response to the growing demand from countries in the region for an "integrated, inter-agency, interdisciplinary and inter-sectorial" approach to population programs. The team assists countries with technical cooperation and provided over 100 missions in 1994. Of these, 37% were for project monitoring, 24% for project formulation, 19% for PRSD/MTR/country programs, and 19% for training.

UNFPA priority countries Bolivia, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic received 35% of the missions. Another 45% of the missions were sent to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The team also assisted Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Cuba and some English-speaking Caribbean countries.



Members of the CST with a JOICFP staff member (center).

JOICFP Film Debuts

JOICFP's animated film, *Rakhee and Mausee*, premiered in Bombay, India, on May 23 to an audience of 350 people comprising officials of the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including women's NGOs and the media. Shigenobu Suzuki, consul general of Japan, also attended. The premier was organized under the joint auspices of JOICFP, Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd. and the Family Planning Association of India. The film was shown again in Delhi on May 31. Set in India and focusing on the theme of early marriage and education of the young girl, the film was created as a joint Indian-Japanese production. It is now available in four languages: English, Hindi, Bengali and Nepali.

Women's Rights Advocates on Defensive in U.S.

Jill Norgren, professor, The City University of New York, spoke about the women's rights agenda in the U.S. at a lecture organized by the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ) in Tokyo on May 26. Below are highlights.

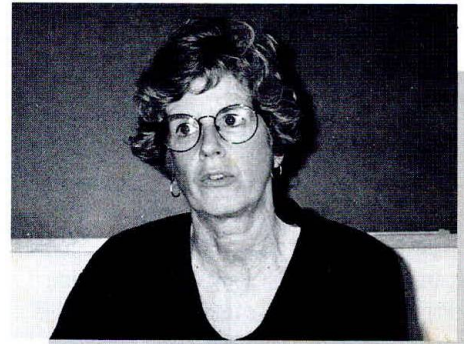
Many of the civil rights organizations which litigate in state and national courts on behalf of women's rights have been forced into a defensive position by actions of anti-abortion groups in the U.S. and, increasingly, since the November 1994 election, by conservative politicians.

Planned Parenthood (PP) Federation of America is a good example. It has not only devoted most of its resources to protecting access to contraception and abortion and to preventing clinic violence against both physicians and clients by anti-abortion groups, but conservative political policy has also led PP to challenge school curriculum that limits

information about sexuality. PP anticipates having to challenge conservative political action that would limit public welfare benefits to any woman who has a child while on welfare. The American Civil Liberties Union and National Organization for Women are other examples.

The list of issues addressed by the contemporary women's rights movement is extensive and includes cases involving sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, equal educational rights of pregnant teenagers, employment rights, domestic violence and rights and welfare of immigrant women. Among special focus organizations, there are the Reproductive Rights Project of the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy. Both were founded several years ago and have been taking challenging cases.

Yet, as I interviewed the lawyers who head



Jill Norgren

these legal divisions, I was told that they had not expected to have to continue to invest as much time and organizational funds in defending abortion and birth control rights. They now also feel that they are likely to have to go to court to oppose new welfare restrictions that would be harmful to the lives — and rights — of women and their children. This means that other legal areas of concern, issues that they had hoped to place at the center of the women's rights agenda, may be relegated to a less prominent place on that agenda for some time to come.

Sadik Outlines Progress After ICPD

Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA, spoke to Japanese parliamentarians on May 26 while in Tokyo to attend the Inter-Action Council meeting. Below are excerpts.

The recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) are very strong and the conference was a success due also to the work of parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly women's organizations.

After Cairo, most of the developing countries are reviewing their policies and programs to make them in line with the Cairo recommendations. They are looking at the goals that have been set in Cairo and making programs to achieve those goals. The goals are to be achieved in 20 years, but their programs will be in five-year segments. We at UNFPA have carried out a review of our own policies and programs and will be presenting to our



Nafis Sadik (file photo)

executive board the direction that UNFPA should take after Cairo.

Most of the donors have increased their contribution to UNFPA for 1995. This year our income is expected to be over US\$300 million, which is about a 20% increase over last year. This includes a contribution from the U.S. which originally was US\$50 million.

Sadik concluded by urging Japanese parliamentarians to work together with other donor countries including the US to mobilize sufficient resources in implementation of the ICPD Program of Action.

News on GII

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan provided an update of progress on the Global Issues Initiative (GII) on Population and AIDS at a regular meeting with Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on May 31 in Tokyo. Thirty NGO representatives joined government officials for the update.

Among the topics discussed was the U.S.-Japan Common Agenda of issues which includes population and AIDS, coral reefs, women in development, narcotics and children's health. MOFA also outlined the project formulation mission to Bangladesh from June 11 - 21 in which JOICFP will participate.

Included in the update was an outline of training courses for GII-related personnel and information on the increased budget for Grass-root Grant Aid, small-scale grants administered by the Japanese embassy in respective countries. The NGO side provided information on HIV/AIDS-prevention activities.

VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

The Passing of a Friend

Dr. Muneo Yokogawa, professor emeritus, School of Medicine, Chiba University, passed away on May 3 as the result of a subarachnoid hemorrhage. I was shocked by his sudden passing. My first thought was how to continue parasite control (PC) activities without him. Parasite control brings immediate and visible improvement to health and is an excellent tool for awakening community people to health issues and paving the way for the promotion of maternal and child health and family planning. Dr. Yokogawa was a pioneer in this field domestically and internationally.

Dr. Yokogawa's friends gathered together after his death and discussed what we should do without him. Our first concern was to work out what to do with the PC movement within Japan. Our other concern was the IP, which is being

implemented in developing countries around the world. Of particular concern was the IP in China which was launched over a decade ago.

The IP is now being implemented in 18 project areas in 16 provinces of China. An exciting new development of the project is the work of the Taicang IP Center located on the outskirts of Shanghai. The center, which is strongly supported by the government, is key to the promotion of school health programs under which parents pay to have their children examined and treated for parasites. These activities not only contribute to project self-reliance, but also serve as an entry point for other integrated health-care services.

Dr. Yokogawa sowed the seeds of this ambitious program which is now spreading to other areas and fostering community development that is driven by the efforts of the people themselves.

Dr. Yokogawa was at the front-line of the PC movement in Japan for the last two decades. He was a great leader who guided many "students" to enlightenment — including

myself. A great many people are upset about his sudden death. A sense of loss is shared by his colleagues and officials of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and other agencies.

Yaei Ito, governor, District 332-D, Japan, The International Association of Lions Clubs (center), and fellow Lions Club member Yoshiakira Nagao (left), present a donation of 36,600 used prepaid cards to Yasuo Kon, executive director, JOICFP, on May 24. The cards, which will be sold to raise funds for the JOICFP Voluntary Fund, were donated by the Fukushima Prefecture Lions Club comprising 79 clubs and a total membership of 3,338.



DIARY

- Margaret Catley-Carlson, president, Population Council, exchanged information with JOICFP while in Japan from May 11 - 12.

- JOICFP senior program officers Ryoichi Suzuki and Atsushi Yoshino and staff member Soon Hee Lee were in Bangladesh from April 21 - May 2 for photo shooting. Suzuki returned to Japan from Thailand on May 5. Yoshino and Lee returned to Japan after photo shooting in Thailand on May 14.

- Dr. Jigjidsuren Altantuya, Department of Macroeconomic Policy, National Development Board, Mongolia, attended a one-day seminar on FP/MCH at JOICFP on May 18.

- Sari Kailanko, commercial assistant, Trade Office, Embassy of Finland, visited JOICFP on May 19 to exchange information.

- Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, and Dr. Hirofumi Ando, deputy executive director, UNFPA, were in Japan to attend the 13th Session of the InterAction Council, held in Tokyo May 23 - 26.

- Lester Brown, president, Worldwatch Institute, provided a lecture at Population Forum 21 Symposium on May 27 in Tokyo.

- JOICFP senior program officers Sumie Ishii and Aiko Iijima were in Laos and Thailand for project monitoring and project-related activities from April 27 - May 19. Ishii was later in India until May 26 to attend the premier of the new JOICFP animated film on early marriage and education of the girl child, *Rakhee and Mausee*.

- Yoshio Koike, country director of Sierra Leone, UNFPA, visited JOICFP to exchange information between May 24 and 26.

- JOICFP Executive Director Yasuo Kon; Dr. Noriji Suzuki, professor emeritus, Kochi Medical College; JOICFP Senior Program Officer Yukio Honma; and Program Officer Yoshitatsu Kanno were in China for activities related to the 5th cycle of the IP, from May 7 - 28.

- Davidson R. Gwantkin, director, International Health Policy Program, U.S., visited JOICFP on June 9 to exchange information.

Japan's TFR Jumps

The average number of babies born to a woman in a lifetime in Japan, or total fertility rate (TFR), jumped from an all-time low of 1.46 in 1993 to reach 1.50 in 1994, according to a recent report of the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Japan. A total of 1.24 million babies was born in 1994, the first year-to-year increase in 21 years, and up 50,000 from 1993.

The report also noted that the average age of women giving birth to their first child was 27.3 years, an increase of 0.1 year from 1993. Meanwhile, couples married later with men marrying at an average age of 28.5 years and women at 26.2 years, both all-time highs.

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.

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JOICFP NEWS welcomes your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please mail to:

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