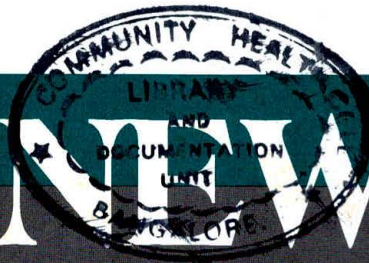


# JOICFP NEWS



## Japan Takes No-compromise Stand at Beijing

### Japanese delegation expresses commitment to women's empowerment and reproductive health and rights

The Japanese government made clear its firm commitment to the issues of reproductive rights and health and the empowerment of women at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from September 4 - 15, and the NGO Forum, held in Huairou from August 30 - September 8. In his official statement on September 5, head of the Japanese delegation Koken Nosaka, minister of Women's Affairs and chief cabinet secretary, outlined pillars of action: empowerment of women; respecting the human rights of women; and partnership between women and men, partnership between NGOs and governments and partnership across international borders.

The conference, organized by the UN, determined policy directions concerning women for the next 10 years. Attendance was estimated at over 17,000 representatives of 189 countries attending in national delegations mainly comprised of government ministers, parliamentarians, top-ranking government officials and NGO representatives. The recommendations agreed upon by national delegations at the conference produced the Platform for Action document. Some 30,000 attended the NGO Forum.

The no-compromise statement made by Japan was welcomed by international agencies and NGOs as a signal of Japan's leadership in the field and an encouraging direction for other donor countries to follow. The statement echoed the comprehensive approach taken by Japan in its Initiative on Women in Development (WID), which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) developed prior to the conference. In announcing the initiative, the government described it as the first comprehensive initiative on WID developed by a government. In his statement to the conference, Nosaka stressed that he will make every effort to expand Japan's development

assistance for WID which already exceeds US\$600 million a year.

The goal of actions taken to empower women is to "fully develop the potential of women and enable them to choose from various possibilities," said Nosaka. The keys to achieve women's empowerment include education, participation in the work place and decision making processes, he added. "It is essential that women participate in economic and social development on equal terms with men and thus fully benefit from the process in order to ensure that balanced, sustainable development is achieved. To that end, in implementing development assistance, donors need to enhance cooperation in order to empower women and remove gender inequality in all aspects of women's lives."

Noting that human rights of women are universal and must not be violated, Nosaka said that Japan highly evaluates the fact that there is now agreement on the importance of reproductive health and rights, and on the need for generic approaches to ensure these rights. Japan intends to take strong action so that women will no longer be victims of prostitution, sexual crimes and sexual exploitation, he said. "The government will support activities in a thoughtful and effective manner for the protection of women's human rights conducted at the grassroots level by Japanese and foreign NGOs."

In describing the third pillar, the enhancement of partnership, Nosaka emphasized Japan's commitment to partnership between NGOs and government. "It (the government) intends to involve all the people in the effort to accomplish gender equality, reinforcing the cooperative relationship between NGOs and the government that was established in the cause of preparing for this conference," he said.



A view of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from September 4 - 15.

### A Role for NGOs

Japan's commitment to working closely with NGOs was emphasized at a briefing for Japanese NGOs held prior to the conference on September 3 in Beijing. The MOFA officials outlined Japan's plan toward the 21st century to promote the active participation of women in society with the aim of achieving equal partnership with men. The officials made it clear that Japan stands firm on its commitment to the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and will not step back from this stand.

The officials also emphasized the importance of Japan's WID Initiative, which was outlined at the meeting. The initiative, which recognizes an important role for NGOs, is crucial to the government's efforts to reflect gender perspectives in ODA, according to the officials. Japan demonstrated the importance placed on NGOs by including NGO representatives — all women — in the official delegation, the officials noted. This was the most of any delegation at the conference.

The officials pointed out that Japan, which bears one-fifth of the world's total ODA, hopes that other countries will follow the direction it



# JOICFP Helps Raise Women's Voices



Women enjoy the opening ceremony of the NGO Forum.

has set with the WID initiative. Japan also contributed US\$2.5 million to support the Beijing conference and NGO Forum, they said.

## Japan's WID Initiative

*Japan's comprehensive WID Initiative announced at the Beijing conference clearly outlines three priority areas of cooperation: education, health and economic and social participation. The initiative was developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) ahead of the Beijing conference and reflects perspectives of NGO representatives who attended a meeting with MOFA officials on August 18 in Tokyo. The document clarifies Japan's position on the three areas and outlines specific action to be taken and goals to be achieved. Below are some excerpts of the document.*

Gender disparity in education, and primary education in particular, adversely affects the economic and social life of a country. It is important to guarantee educational opportunities for girls to rectify the gender disparity in education.

In a social context whereby women's primary role is seen as bearing children, the recurring cycle of pregnancy, birth and child rearing makes it nearly impossible for women to participate in development and thus derive benefit from this process. It is necessary to provide reproductive health care and ensure reproductive rights for women in order to prevent unwanted cases of pregnancy and birth through family planning, and thus enable parents to plan pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing.

To make the empowerment of women a reality, it is imperative to enable women to realize their full potential and thus become active participants in the economy and society, and thereby to indirectly assist in their efforts toward independence.

Japan will work toward greater public consciousness of gender and development issues through various contacts with the developing countries.

Japan also announced its plan to hold several workshops on WID in the 1995-1996 period as part of its follow-up to the Beijing conference. According to MOFA, "Such activities form an integral part of the WID initiative. The Japanese WID Fund (JWIDF), established in 1995 with initial funding of US\$1 million, will be instrumental in these efforts." The fund will be administered by UNDP.

JOICFP was actively involved in the NGO Forum of the 4th World Conference on Women, held August 30 - September 8, in Huairou, 55km from the main conference in Beijing. JOICFP also organized three events that were open to all participants of the NGO Forum.

The first, the Symposium on Promoting Reproductive Health and Rights — Voices from Africa, Asia and Latin America, was held on September 1. To provide a broad spectrum of opinions, panelists were drawn from countries in three regions: Kenya, India and Mexico. One of the highlights of the event was a role play about the problems that women in India face within the family and community. A speaker from the host country of China also contributed to the symposium.

The different needs, issues and recommendations related to reproductive health in each region presented by the speakers made the symposium a unique event. A serious reproductive health and rights issue confronting women in Japan was also raised by Dr. Kunio Kitamura, director, Ichigaya Clinic, Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA). Kitamura stressed that the government's delay to authorize the low-dose oral contraceptive pill has grave consequences for women's reproductive health.

The second event was the Forum on Health of Women and Youth on September 2. The event focused on the video *Adolescent Women/Voices Unheard*, shown at the forum. Participants discussed ways to effectively utilize the video which depicts the impact that lack of status and education have on the lives of three young women of Bangladesh, Thailand and Mexico. The video was hailed as an effective tool for stimulating discussions and convincing policy makers of the needs of women.

The third event, the Symposium on Japan's Global Issues Initiative on Population and AIDS and WID Initiative, featured



Indian women perform a role play at the September 1 symposium.

speakers Norio Hattori, deputy director general, Economic Cooperation Bureau, MOFA; Saad Raheem Sheikh, director, Asia and the Pacific Division, UNFPA; Dr. Fred Sai, president, IPPF, and Ingar Brueggemann, new secretary general, IPPF. The event was attended by about 50 people including two Japanese parliamentarians and representatives of international and national NGOs and mass media.

The symposium provided a forum for creating awareness and discussing issues related to the GII and the new WID initiative of the Japanese government. It was a unique opportunity for NGOs to raise issues directly to Japanese officials about the initiatives. The importance of facilitating dialog between the government and NGOs was emphasized by Hattori who said he is encouraging Japanese embassies in each country to serve as a communication channel with local NGOs.

Sheikh also provided an overview of UNFPA initiatives with NGOs, while Brueggemann explained the challenges facing IPPF. Applauding its initiatives and leadership in the field, Sai urged Japan to maintain its momentum to set an example for other countries to follow.



Participants discuss JOICFP's educational film at the September 2 forum.



# Parliamentarians Firm on Reproductive Health & Rights

Legislators from 57 countries attending a meeting in Tokyo affirmed their belief that "equitable and universal access to education and reproductive health and rights, including sexual health and rights, are a pre-requisite for improving the living conditions of all individuals, including adolescents, and for empowering women and promoting their advancement." The participants of the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development (IMPSPD), held in Tokyo on August 31 and September 1, also affirmed the unique and

important role of parliamentarians in ensuring adequate attention to gender, population and development issues and recognized the need to develop networks among

parliamentarians at the national, regional and inter-regional levels to strengthen exchange of experiences and cooperation.

The recommendations were part of the Tokyo Declaration developed by the parliamentarians ahead of the 4th World Conference on Women. The meeting, which saw active discussions on various issues raised in the declaration, was attended by about 150 participants including observers. Almost all participating legislators later traveled to Beijing to attend the UN conference as part of national delegations.

The IMPSPD was hosted by the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). It was supported by UNFPA and IPPF.

Participants were welcomed with an address by Taro Nakayama, chairperson, JPFP. Taking a clear stand of reproductive rights and health, Nakayama said, "I believe that unless empowerment of women, in other words, unless

women have the rights to decide how many children and when they will bear and manage their reproductive rights and health, there could be no resolution of the issues of population nor improvement of women's health."

The role of parliamentarians as representatives of the people was stressed by Shin Sakurai, chairperson, AFPPD. "It is not possible for governments alone to solve the population problem nor for the private sector to do it on its own. It is essential to have the active commitment of us parliamentarians, who listen to our people and are elected by them and act as their representatives."

Japan's commitment to the issues of gender, population and development was emphasized in a message read on behalf of Minister of Foreign Affairs Yohei Kono. "As a means to support women's empowerment, the Japanese government, through its Women in Development Initiative, will support women's initiatives in developing countries which aim to promote women's participation in development," he said.

Kayoko Shimizu, chairperson, IMPSPD, and member, House of Councilors, stressed that women hold the key to population. "The great achievement of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo was the adoption of the strategy to ensure women of their rights through their empowerment," she said. "The conference adopted its Program of Action for women's reproductive health and rights which lead to their empowerment and improved health."

The need to carry forward to Beijing the historic gains made at the ICPD and earlier conferences was emphasized by Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director, UNFPA. "We must be vigilant in ensuring that the Beijing conference reaffirms and extends the breakthroughs achieved at the ICPD, and that as a result, the world community moves forward even more vigorously in fully implementing all aspects of the Cairo agreement," she said.



Speakers of the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development.



Ingar Brueggemann, IPPF secretary general

The meeting was closed with remarks by the new Secretary General of IPPF Ingar Brueggemann. "We now know that there is no conflict between, the macro-demographic concerns of worldwide population growth and its concomitant impact on development on the one hand and, on the other micro-democratic participation and empowerment of individual women and men as a means and an end in itself. Indeed, we have recognized that without the enhancement of the status of women and girls, development cannot be achieved either economically or morally," she said. Brueggemann urged the parliamentarians to let their voices be heard at Beijing and not lose the important consensus reached in Cairo.

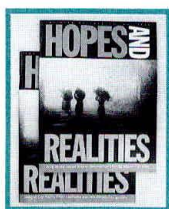


New secretary general of IPPF, Ingar Brueggemann (front, center), met with representatives of the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) and JOICFP while in Japan to attend the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Gender, Population and Development, held August 31 - September 1. She was accompanied by Mark Laskin, assistant secretary general, IPPF (rear, 3rd from left).



# Closing the Gap

*"That success in planning a family is only one of the many challenges a woman faces in her life goes without saying. But because having children is a basic aspect of women's lives and because most of the responsibility for raising children still falls on women, both the timing of pregnancy and birth and the number of children a woman bears affect many other areas of her life," states The Alan Guttmacher*



*Institute in its recent publication, "Hopes and Realities." The report, subtitled "Closing the Gap Between Women's Aspirations and Their Reproductive Experiences," brings together*

*comparative data from 42 countries on issues related to women's lives and the formation of families. Sixteen countries, including three developed countries, are the main focus of the report. Below are some highlights.*

Depending on where they live, women say they want between two to eight children. Women who marry or start a union while they are very young typically have their first child at an early age. In many developing countries,

20 - 50% of women marry or start a union before their 18th birthday. Sizable proportions may even do so before they are 15. Between 20% and 46% of women in the majority of the selected developing countries had their first child before their 18th birthday.

Often, when women find out they are pregnant, they realize that they are not in a position to raise a child. Some of these women will have an induced abortion. Estimates for the late 1980s and early 1990s indicate that between one-quarter and one-third of pregnancies in China, Japan and the U.S., and one-fifth of those in France, ended in induced abortion.

In 1995, there will be about 139 million live births throughout the world, and about 52 million induced abortions. These figures suggest that roughly 28% of all pregnancies — worldwide — end in an abortion. Of these abortions, 21 million are performed in countries where the procedure is not legal. Roughly 30 - 50 women per 1,000 women of child-bearing age have abortions each year in Latin America and about 27 per 1,000 do so in the U.S. In the Netherlands, a developed country, where contraceptive use is very efficient, the rate is only five abortions per 1,000 women.



Women want between two and eight children, states "Hopes and Realities."

Unsafe abortions are a leading cause of maternal deaths around the world. The WHO estimates that 13% of all pregnancy-related deaths result from abortion complications, particularly hemorrhage and infection.

A gap frequently exists between the number of children women say they want and the number they have, and sizable proportions of women in every country are having unplanned pregnancies. If all unwanted births were prevented, the global number of births would drop from 139 million annually to 122 million. Almost 230 million women worldwide lack effective contraceptive methods and services.

## Common Issues for Women

*Jeannie Rosoff, president, The Alan Guttmacher Institute, spoke to JOICFP NEWS on August 17 about her organization's publication, "Hopes and Realities." Below is an outline of the interview.*

People always tell you how different their countries are or how different their problems are. But most people pretty much want the same things in life. It's valuable to try to draw out these things that are in common, because the tendency is to separate people.

This is one of the reasons why we consciously took less-developed countries, developed countries and the most advanced countries (for *Hopes and Realities*).

For most women child bearing is a very central portion of their lives. Their lives are also sometimes organized around not having children. If a woman wants to have only two

children, she will have to practice contraception for about 20 years. The report shows that the practice of contraception is a big chore for women. It also points out that except for Japan and the U.S., men are taking very little responsibility for this in the countries we covered. In most other countries, you'll see that between 1% and 12% of the contraception is done by men — everything else is by women.

I also found it striking that in virtually all countries — this includes Japan — that the choice of contraceptive method is not dictated by what women want or by having much variety. It's really dictated by such issues as politics or tradition. It is really the medical profession or the government that decides what's available to women. That's significant.

The other point we wanted to make with this report — in a tactful and delicate way — is that even if countries think they don't have an abortion problem; they do have a problem. The only places where there are few abortions are countries where people still want very high fertility. In countries where people want to have small families, and where women have

some degree of independence and are not under extreme social control, even with the use of contraception, there will still be substantial need for abortion.

I think perhaps among the most difficult policies to impose upon people are those that deal with having children. They are not likely to be successful. Even with a fair amount of coercion — there is an enormous amount of resistance. This is an aspect of life which is so important to people and is highly resistant to government intervention. So, to be successful, you have to start with the people themselves to some degree and build upon their wishes to have fewer children.



Rosoff

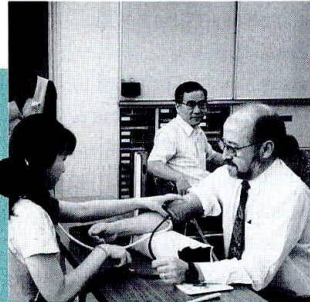


# Sexuality and Human Bonding

"Sexuality and human bonding" was the theme of the 12th World Congress of Sexology held in Yokohama, Japan, from August 12 - 16. Dr. Seichii Matsumoto, chairman, Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA) served as president of the meeting. It was attended by 800 participants including 250 from overseas. A

total of 41 countries were represented at the event.

The congress was opened with a statement recorded on video from Shidzue Kato,



López (right) at a health center in Nagano.

president of Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), and acting president of JOICFP. Noting JOICFP's unique position in Japan as an international organization in the field of population and reproductive health including family planning (FP), Kato commented that JOICFP's community-based Integrated Project was effective for FP promotion.

In parallel with the congress, JFPA organized various activities including the Symposium on Sexuality of Aged People. The topic was particularly relevant for countries such as Japan where the proportion of aged in the population is rapidly increasing.

A comparative study of adolescent sexuality in Japan and Mexico was also presented at the main conference by the Nursing School of Jichi Medical College. The Mexico part of the survey was conducted with the assistance of the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM), JOICFP's counterpart in Mexico.

One of MEXFAM's unique programs was presented at a congress event by Alfonso López Juárez, director general, MEXFAM. López spoke about MEXFAM's unique Gente Joven sex education program for adolescents, which aims to change the understanding and the meaning of sexuality in the minds of young people. Through this outreach program, MEXFAM seeks to teach young people that "sexual life has value in itself: the value of communication and love among human beings." López said that Gente Joven aims to promote a culture of sexual health as opposed to the culture of compulsive reproduction.

Gente Joven focuses on schools of all levels, urban and rural communities and factories and provides sex education starting with 9-year-olds, López said. The program utilizes trained instructors and advanced IEC materials. Some of these, including printed and audiovisual materials, were produced in cooperation with JOICFP. He said that the program has reached over one million people across the nation in the last nine years.

Following the congress, López traveled to Kusastumachi, Gunma Prefecture, where he observed preventive health-care activities

including health consultations for the aged and infant immunization. He was also introduced to the city's adolescent program.

López paid a courtesy call to Mayor Yoshio Nishino of Ota City, a member of the Municipal Coordinating Committee for Overseas Bicycle Assistance (MCCOBA), which has donated bicycles to assist MEXFAM.

# Reproductive Health Explained

Over 30 people including women's activists and an official of the Ministry of Health and Welfare were given an in-depth introduction to reproductive health and rights on August 11 in Tokyo by Dr. Pramilla Senanayake, assistant secretary general, IPPF. Organized by the Family Planning Federation of Japan (FPFJ), the seminar also included an overview of IPPF's reproductive health activities. Senanayake was in Tokyo to attend the 12th World Congress of Sexology in Yokohama where she served as a speaker.

In her presentation entitled, "Reproductive Health — What Does It Really Mean?" Senanayake provided insights into the concepts of reproductive health and rights. She used 60 slides to introduce the situation of women worldwide and offer descriptions and statistics of various aspects.

"Within the framework of WHO's definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, reproductive health addresses the reproductive processes, functions and system at all stages of life," noted Senanayake.

"Reproductive health could also be defined as the ability of men and

women to undertake sexual activity safely, whether or not pregnancy is desired and, if it is desired, for the woman to carry the pregnancy to term safely, deliver a healthy infant and be prepared to nurture it."

Senanayake used statistics to highlight various reproductive health issues. Noting the estimated annual 500,000 maternal deaths worldwide, she pointed out that only 6,000 of these occur in developed countries. She added that about 5.6 million infant deaths and 200,000 maternal deaths in developing countries could be avoided if optimum conditions for child bearing were observed.

Extremely practical and easy to understand, the presentation was effective for emphasizing to the Japanese audience that family planning is a basic human right and conveying the many dimensions of reproductive health.



Senanayake

## An NGO Perspective

JOICFP Senior Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami joined a Japanese government mission to Thailand from August 13 - 19 to prepare for training of administrators of programs under the Global Issues Initiative for Population and AIDS. The course, to be executed under the Foundation for Advanced Studies in International Cooperation and Development (FASID), will be held at the beginning of 1996 in Thailand. The mission included one FASID member, two experts and Ikegami. As the sole NGO representative, Ikegami reflected an NGO perspective in her recommendations concerning the draft course curriculum. Specifically she urged that the grassroots activities of NGOs be included in one of the three training modules. Her comments echoed the recommendations of Thai NGOs working in the field of population and HIV/AIDS. Another recommendation was to have NGO representatives actively involved in the training of the 20 or so trainees. During the stay in Thailand, the Japanese team visited two major NGOs involved in population and HIV/AIDS, Care Thailand and the Population and Community Development Association (PDA).



# Insights into Community-based Activities

Members of the Japanese non-governmental organization, 2050, observed conditions in two areas of China where JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP) is implemented prior to attending the NGO Forum



*Girls work as street vendors instead of attending school in Guizhou Province.*

of the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. Headed by Katsuhide Kitatani, president of 2050, and senior advisor of UNFPA, the study tour was organized by JOICFP and held from August 20 - 29.

The two areas selected for the tour were Taicang City, Jiangsu Province, and Duyun City, Guizhou Province. In Taicang, the team visited the Taicang IP Center, which is providing a mix of health-care services on a fee-charged basis. The team also visited a farmer's house.

In Guizhou, the visitors were provided with insights into such issues as FPMCH, poverty and women in the province by officials of various bodies including the FP commission, women's federation, development bureau and health bureau. The team was told that out of a population of 33 million in Guizhou, 10 million live below the poverty line. Some 31.5% of the population is made up of ethnic minorities.

To gain a broad perspective, the team visited both IP and non-IP villages in the province. The comparison enabled the members to note the difference in people's awareness of health and the better quality of life enjoyed by people in the IP village, which has better environmental sanitation, toilets and drinking water sources.

One of the pressing problems noted in the non-IP area in Guizhou was the low rate of school attendance among the girl children. The members of 2050 expressed their hope of collaborating with JOICFP in efforts to raise the enrollment of girls in the province.

# Firsthand Observations

Eleven members of a study team learned firsthand about family planning and maternal and child health (FPMCH) in China while in the country from July 27 - August 9. The team, which included representatives of the public health and preventive health field and the mass media, toured three areas to gain a wide perspective of FPMCH.

The Japanese visitors first traveled to Jiupu District, Anshan City, Liaoning Province, where JOICFP's Integrated Project (IP) was launched in 1987. The project, which began in two of the district's towns/townships, is now in its 3rd cycle and has been expanded to cover all 10 towns/townships with a population of 340,000. Since the IP began, the crude birth rate has dropped from 14.09‰ in 1986 to reach 10.01‰ in 1994 and the infant mortality rate has decreased from 31.4 per 1,000 live births to reach 12.8. An interesting activity observed by the team was the "central household system" whereby community workers work together to generate income for themselves and their families and to learn skills.



*Central household members in Jiupu District.*

The two other areas visited by the team will both begin the project as 5th cycle areas at the beginning of 1996. In Tuokexun County, Tulufan District, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, where the project will be launched in two counties, 82% of the population is made up of ethnic minorities. According to available statistics, the hospital delivery rate in the county is a mere 32%.

The other 5th cycle area viewed by the team was Minghe County, Qinghai Province. Like Tuokexun, Minghe is a very economically depressed area. About 54% of the population of the county is made up of ethnic groups.

The project is expected to do much to improve health and raise the quality of lives in both areas. A seminar in Taicang City was held in September in preparation for the launch of the projects and baseline surveys are scheduled to be conducted before year end.

## Sharing Lessons in Self-reliance

Thirteen members of a study mission from China learned practical techniques to promote community-based health-care on a fee-charged basis while in Japan from July 27-August 9. The team was led by Dr. Mi Rong, chief, Division of Science and Technology, Family Planning Commission of Shaanxi Province.



*The Chinese team observes health care in Fukushima.*

The participants of the seminar were drawn from areas where JOICFP's IP is in its 4th cycle and where the 5th cycle of the project is to be launched in 1996. A representative of the State Family Planning Commission also joined the 10 members from the 4th cycle and two from the 5th cycle areas.

The 12th of its kind to be held in Japan, the Parasite Control Seminar for Promoting the IP in China was sponsored by the Sasakawa Foundation and conducted by the Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC). This year's seminar included a

field trip to Fukushima Prefecture where the team was able to gain insights into providing preventive health-care services on a fee-charged basis.



# Reaching Adolescent Women in Latin America

Participants at this year's Latin American Workshop of IEC on Young Women's Health proposed a set of recommendations on adolescent women's health ahead of the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing. The three-day workshop, held in Guatemala City, ended on July 21 with a call to establish an international center to gather IEC materials for

educating young people on reproductive health and related subjects. Participants recommended the promotion of IEC approaches that are participatory and creative and that respect people's

social and cultural environments.

The workshop was attended by 24 participants from 14 countries with 56 participants from Guatemala. Supported by UNFPA and IPPF, the event was organized by the Guatemalan Family Planning Association

(APROFAM) and JOICFP to promote exchange of information and experiences in IEC and foster development of IEC materials in the region. To achieve these aims, each participant presented materials produced by their organizations.

As in previous workshops, participants were required to develop proposals for IEC materials. The three best proposals, two from Guatemala and one from Paraguay, were selected and funds were provided for development. The selected proposals were a student newspaper, a pamphlet for prevention of HIV/AIDS and an educational video on violence against women. Materials produced from funded proposals of the previous workshop were also presented.

Participants were provided with a UNFPA perspective on adolescent women's health ahead of the Beijing event by Isabel Hernández, advisor, Social/Cultural Investigation, Country



*A view of the speakers at the opening of the Latin American Workshop of IEC on Young Women's Health.*

Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Shoji Shibata, deputy executive secretary, Japan Family Planning Association (JFPA), also introduced JFPA's income-generation activities involving the production and distribution of educational materials on adolescent health and FP/MCH.



*Shoji Shibata*

## 17th APCO Meeting

The Integrated Project (IP) was given a strong endorsement by Dr. L. Savioli, medical officer, WHO, at the 17th Asian Parasite Control Organization (APCO) Parasitologists' Meeting, held in Tokyo from July 18-20. "The WHO is very supportive of the Integrated Project pioneered by Japan Association of Parasite Control (JAPC) to control intestinal helminths," said Savioli. "WHO looks at a more close association and collaboration with JAPC in the years to come."

The meeting was attended by 11 members of the APCO research group from nine countries and representatives from WHO, UNICEF, JAPC and JOICFP. It was sponsored by the Japan Keirin Association and Hoken Kaikan Group and organized by APCO and JAPC in cooperation with JOICFP and the Tokyo Health Service Association (THSA). Kunio Waki, director, UNICEF for Japan, Australia and New Zealand, and Dr. Soichiro Iwao, director, Infectious Disease Control Division, Health Services Bureau, Ministry of Health and Welfare of Japan, also spoke at the event.

## A Step Towards Self-reliance

A three-member team from Japan provided practical technical assistance to laboratory technicians and health staff of the Integrated Project (IP) in San Lucas Tolimán, during its

and Takaaki Hara, director, Department of Research and Study, JAPC. The team members monitored project areas and provided technical advice on operating a fee-charging system for services. They also exchanged information with the UNFPA evaluation mission.

The visit coincided with the start of outreach medical services in the area using a new mobile clinic. Welcomed by a large group of villagers, the health staff attended over 80 clients with services ranging from vasectomy and tubal ligation, to pap smears and pre- and post-natal checkups. For the APROFAM staff, the large turnout indicated how well the project has been accepted by the local Mayan people.

Basic orientation and training were also provided for the staff of APROFAM involved in promoting parasite control services under the IP as a means to generate income and promote self-reliance. Self-reliance has become a pressing issue for APROFAM which is now facing shrinking outside assistance.



*People wait for health checkups in San Lucas Tolimán.*

stay in Guatemala from August 28 - 31. Dispatched with funds from the Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid (POSIVA) scheme, the team included Dr. Shigeo Hayashi, former director, National Institute of Health of Japan,



## VOICE OF VOICES

By Chojiro Kunii

### Launching JOICFP World

The activities of JOICFP are supported by a great number of people. One notable activity that has been drawing enthusiastic support from people nationwide this year is the Used Prepaid Card Collection Campaign for International Cooperation. Prior to the campaign, Japanese people generally threw away their prepaid telephone, highway and railway cards once they were used. But after learning that there were many collectors of these cards, we decided to start a campaign to collect them. Collecting the cards, which often feature attractive pictures and graphics, has caught on in many countries

of the world as a hobby much like the global popularity of stamp collecting.

To make our campaign a success we got in contact with brokers who trade these used prepaid cards and buy each card for about ¥7 to ¥8 (approximately 7 US cents). A JOICFP staff member thoroughly investigated the system of card trading. A suitable broker was selected and the Shinjuku Branch of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) was consulted on the matter.

We then launched the campaign to the public, asking for support through our own publications and the mass media. The response was extremely positive. So far, about 6 million cards have been sent to our office by 20,000 individuals, groups and companies nationwide.

The funds raised through the sale of the cards are used to purchase basic equipment,

tools and supplies for community-based health-care activities and to promote the self-reliance of JOICFP projects in developing countries.

Thanks to the wide coverage by the media, support for the campaign is expanding to workplaces, youth groups, hobby clubs, student bodies in primary and secondary schools, community organizations and interest groups. These individuals and groups send cards with heart-warming messages which are sorted by volunteers of the Shinjuku City Social Welfare Council. The volunteers also handle thank-you letters to donors.

As I watched this campaign catch on, I cherished the idea of publishing a newsletter as a communication tool to reach supporters and provide information on JOICFP's activities, while offering a forum for supporters. This hope is now being realized with the Japanese *JOICFP World* newsletter, which is scheduled to be published quarterly. The inaugural issue will be released in the near future.

### DIARY

– **Juan Santiago**, deputy chief, Interregional & NGO Programs Branch, Technical and Evaluation Division, UNFPA, visited JOICFP on Aug. 9 and 10 to exchange information.

– **Alfonso López Juárez**, director general, Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM), was in Japan from Aug. 11 - 18 to participate in the World Congress of Sexology in Yokohama and to observe Japanese health activities.

– JOICFP Senior Program Officer Kiyoko Ikegami was in Thailand to participate in preparations for the Japanese government's FASID training course from Aug. 13 - 19.

– **Dr. Sung-Hee Yun**, associate director, Population Communication Services/Population Information Program (PCS/PIP), & chief, Asia Region, Johns Hopkins University, visited JOICFP on Aug. 22 to exchange information.

– Three Indonesian trainees of a course organized by the Foundation for Children's Future attended a one-day lecture at JOICFP

on family planning in Japan and JOICFP's international activities on Aug. 23.

– **Dr. Michael Jancloes**, director of division, Intensified Cooperation with Countries, WHO, visited JOICFP on Aug. 23 for information exchange.

– JOICFP Councilor Michio Ozaki, Senior Program Officer Yukio Honma and Program Officer Maho Ishikawa accompanied 12 members of the Japanese NGO, 2050, who observed JOICFP's IP activities in China from Aug. 20 - 28. Led by **Katsuhide Kitatani**, senior advisor, UNFPA, the study team later attended the NGO Forum.

– A mission composed of **Dr. Shigeo Hayashi**, former director, National Institute of Health of Japan; **Takaaki Hara**, director, Department of Research and Study, JAPC; and JOICFP staff member Tetsuo Kato, was in Guatemala from Aug. 21 - Sept. 1 to provide technical assistance. Kato later traveled to Mexico to hold discussions with officials of the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM).

### 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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16mm VTR (Beta, VHS/NTSC, PAL, SECAM)

### Creating Awareness



JOICFP helped create awareness in Japan prior to the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing with film shows in Tokyo on July 18 and 19. The three JOICFP animated films, *Twin Lotus*, *My Way* and *Rakhee and Mausee*, were shown to some 50 experts from various fields, opinion leaders and representatives of NGOs, women's groups and the mass media.

The educational films focus on issues such as reproductive health, adolescent sexuality and early marriage.

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

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

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