

JPPF The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population NEWS LETTER

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The International Planned Parenthood Federation Reports on Its Activities in Syria

On November 20 the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPPF) welcomed the attendance of Mr. Tewodros Melesse, the Director-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Ms. Rym Fayala, Director of the External Affairs Department at IPPF Arab World Regional Office, and other distinguished guests to a joint meeting of JPPF's Committees. IPPF is one of the world's largest international health NGOs, providing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services in 172 countries, as well as conducting public awareness and education programmes and providing governments with policy recommendations. It has been working together with JPPF for 40 years ever since the latter was established, and it has provided support for JPPF activities for many years.

Hon. Sadakazu Tanigaki, Chair of JPPF, began the meeting by expressing condolences for the victims of the terror attacks in Paris on 14 November. He expressed the observation that certain social factors lay behind those terrorist attacks, specifically an inability by individuals to see much future for themselves as a result of excessive population growth and the impact this has on employment opportunities. Hon. Tanigaki stated that "the population issues that JPPF tackles don't just secure better lives and greater rights for young people – its work is a fundamental step in protecting peace and security, including against terrorism."



Following Hon. Tanigaki, Mr. Melesse began his speech by expressing gratitude to the Japanese government and parliamentarians for their support for IPPF. He then went on to say that "as Hon. Tanigaki just said, the area of reproductive health (RH) and family planning, which is IPPF's area of activity, contains issues that lie firmly at the heart of bringing peace to the world, and I believe they are important elements for realizing the 'human security' that the Japanese government espouses. It is my strong wish that the collaboration between Japan's vision and IPPF's work be



continued, so as to further enhance the partnership between us”.

Ms. Fayala then gave a report on IPPF’s activities in the Arab world, stating that “of the 14 countries covered by IPPF’s Arab World Regional Office, currently five are experiencing conflict. The situation is particularly serious in Syria, where the number of people requiring humanitarian aid has risen to 12 million. Women and children make up 75% of the country’s internal displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees who have fled the country, which is facing a dire situation with a rise in maternal mortality rates, issues of public safety and gender-based violence (GBV), and many people left unable to access public services. Because so much of the country’s infrastructure is being destroyed, including 60% of the country’s hospitals, the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), a member association (MA) of IPPF which has been active for the past 30 years, has expanded the 20 clinics it had prior to the conflict to the 74 clinics it has now, which include mobile units. SFPA is providing a comprehensive range of services including RH services, maternal and child health care, ante- and post-natal care, and STD-related services including for HIV, all throughout the country, including in areas controlled by Islamic State (IS). As the conflict becomes more prolonged, adolescent girls and pregnant women are facing ever more serious conditions”. Ms. Fayala also thanked Japan for its support to date, and asked that it provide even greater support. Ms. Fayala was followed by Hon. Keizo Takemi, Executive Director of JPPF and Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), who gave an overview of the G7 Global Parliamentarians’ Conference planned for April of next year.



Before leaving Japan, Mr. Melesse and Ms. Fayala paid a courtesy visit to engage in an exchange of views on IPPF’s initiatives with Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, Honorary Chair of JPPF; Hon. Teruhiko Mashiko, Vice-Chair of JPPF; Hon. Hiroyuki Nagahama, Vice-Chair of JPPF; Hon. Keizo Takemi, Executive Director of JPPF and Chair of AFPPD; Hon. Toshiko Abe, Deputy Executive Director of JPPF; Hon. Aiko Shimajiri, Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs and Secretary-General of JPPF; Hon. Ryuhei Kawada, Director of JPPF; Hon. Karen Makishima, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Cabinet Office and Vice-Chair of JPPF Gender Issues Committee; and Hon. Hitoshi Kikawada, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.



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