



The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

NEWS LETTER

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Follow-Up Meeting for GCPPD2016

On 26-27 April the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit (GCPPD2016) was held, being co-organized by the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). In addition to the more than 140 parliamentarians and Speakers/Vice-Speakers of Parliaments representing regional parliamentary groups spanning 64 different countries and regions around the world, about 600 participants attended in all, who included representatives from international organizations, experts in the field, and other interested parties from within Japan.

The GCPPD Follow-up Meeting was held on June 7, following the G7 Ise-Shima Summit which took place on 26–27 May. Along with the JPFP members who helped to organize the Conference, representatives from Government ministries and agencies and from civil society organizations also attended this meeting, where the outcomes from GCPPD were shared and lively exchanges of views took place on policy initiatives for the future.



Hon. Prof. Keizo Takemi, MP
Chair of AFPPD and Executive Director of JPFP

It was with the help of a great many people that the GCPPD was a major success, and I thank them deeply. The GCPPD not only made a contribution to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit; as a conference concerning population and development, it also represented an opportunity for Japan to send out a message on the issues of women, aging and investing in youth. The GCPPD as a whole was given a major boost of energy thanks to the help and active involvement of members of civil society groups. I see their involvement this time as a major catalyst, and I would like these Conferences to become a permanent fixture for helping to shape future blueprints for these issues, through the expert organization of appropriate themes as the occasion demands. I ask for parliamentarians to continue to cooperate in this regard, because I would very much like to see achievements in these areas with support from many parliamentarians through this non-partisan parliamentary group.

Hon. Dr. Toshiko Abe, MP
Deputy Executive Director of
JPPF

I was responsible for organizing Sub-session 1. This saw lively discussions, with a focus on the care that medical staff gives to Ebola and HIV patients at great risk to their own personal safety, and on the support we should build for the families left behind.



Mr. Keizo Takewaka
Deputy Director-General for Global
Issues, International Cooperation
Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Public health issues accounted for four out of the 32 pages of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit communique, or 1/8 of the total. The fact that public health issues took up so much of the Summit's attention was due to the extremely valuable proposals and support offered by the GCPPD.

Mr. Tetsuo Yoshioka
Councillor of the Cabinet Secretariat

The biggest outcome from the GCPPD was that it helped a mechanism to be developed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit for the international community to work together to handle emergencies. Japan was also able to play a leading role on the issue of drug (antimicrobial) resistance (AMR).



Hon. Ms. Yuriko Koike, MP
Vice-Chair of JPPF

I was impressed by a female parliamentarian from Bolivia's Upper House at the Conference, who was 25 years old. Despite the absence of any gender-based quotas, 51% of Bolivia's parliamentarians are women – the second highest rate after Rwanda. While the G7 Declaration did call for greater participation by women, something has to be done about the scarcity of women in nations' core decision-making bodies. In the areas of medical assistance and public health, it will be important to tackle public health issues hand-in-hand with education.

Hon. Mr. Hiroyuki Nagahama, MP
Vice-Chair of JPPF

When donor countries provide ODA and developing countries receive ODA, the role of parliamentarians is very important for fulfilling accountability to their respective citizens with transparency. The JPPF's activities to date have achieved major progress, as seen with the adoption by Zambia and several other countries of a legal requirement for ODA reports to be submitted to the nation's parliament. While the issue of population may not be considered a very glamorous area, the GCPPD enabled a shared discussion between different parliamentarians from around the world on the importance of parliamentarians' involvement with ODA issues.





Hon. Mr. Ichiro Aisawa, MP
Senior Vice-Chair of JPPF

The GCPPD represented a big shift in many respects, such as timing, the number of participants attending, and a sharper focusing of the topics. I personally am involved in a variety of issues, including refugees, Africa, and infectious diseases. The single topic of population serves as a good springboard for broaching a number of different fields. While we have left behind the MDGs era to embark on 15 years of the SDGs, helping to spread the changes affecting societies around the world from the perspectives of parliamentarians is another role that Japan can play. We need to be able to mobilize the budgetary resources needed to take on these challenges.



Hon. Mr. Takeaki Matsumoto, MP

With regard to diplomacy by parliamentarians, I feel very strongly that we will have a major role to play if we expand our activities that are solidly problem-solving by nature. This will be important if we are to have this sort of meeting framework for problem-solving featured in the government budgets and mechanisms in different countries, as well as in the international community. This Conference also reminded me how much there is to learn from exchanges between different nations' parliamentarians.



Hon. Mr. Shinsuke Okuno, MP

Population issues are very important, and building societies where women can achieve their potential is also important from a world perspective. I firmly believe that Japan must be more active in this area. I was impressed by the extraordinary number of participants and participating countries at this Conference. If I thought there was room for improvement anywhere, it would be a slightly better allocation of times. I would really like to see that tackled next time also.

Ms. Sumie Ishii
Chairperson, JOICFP

When I was organizing Sub-session 2, on topics including public health issues, young people, the environment and refugees, we had proposals from different Japanese NGOs operating in those fields, and parliamentarians from each country and different regions also put forward suggestions as to how they could help in their capacity as parliamentarians. Because civil society organizations rarely get to have this sort of opportunity they said it had been a very good experience, and the parliamentarians felt that it had been good to have such lively discussions about their own roles.

Mr. Masaki INABA
Executive Director, Ugoku/Ugokasu (GCAP JAPAN)

I think the GCPPD represented absolutely the best format for parliamentarians, bureaucrats and civil society organizations (CSOs) to work as one on some solid collaboration. CSOs want to take part in meetings like this, and we are presently working to build a whole range of suitable mechanisms for this kind of networking. I would very much welcome any such framework for collaboration in the future.



Hon. Ms. Aiko Shimajiri, MP
Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs; Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy; Minister of State for Space Policy; Secretary-General of JPFP

Much collaboration was achieved ahead of the G7 Summit. At the meeting of G7 Science Ministers, the topic of active aging came up in discussions about global health issues, as did the topic of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in discussions on infectious diseases. In its discussions on women and young people, the G7 Summit also looked at how to get more young women into science and engineering (“WISE”) as a career.

Hon. Mr. Asahiko Mihara, MP
Director of JPFP

In the session on crisis management, I served as joint chair with an outstanding parliamentarian from Chile. The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that it would develop crisis management systems that respond a little better to situations out in the field. That will be important. Even if more action is pledged under the International Health Regulations (IHR), nothing much is going to happen out in the field if the headquarters in Geneva just issues instructions. If WHO’s headquarters were in Cote d’Ivoire or Nairobi, it would then be just several hours’ drive away by car from the field where events are happening. WHO needs to be thinking along those lines too.



Hon. Mr. Ryuhei Kawada, MP
Director of JPFP

I am extremely pleased that such a great declaration that we and other parliamentarians from around the world put together have had the impact at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit. I think it should be better known around the world that Hon. Takashi Sato and others in Japan were tackling population issues on an international front from very early on.

The issue of universal health coverage (UHC) in particular is very important for our global society. I believe very strongly that Japan’s national universal health insurance system should be safeguarded, and I have campaigned for that for many years. It is a sign of the times to say that spreading this health insurance system around the world would mean safeguarding Japan’s own UHC. I firmly believe that parliamentary diplomacy is absolutely necessary in order to maintain this world-leading UHC system.



Hon. Dr. Karen Makishima, MP
Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office; Vice-Chair of JPFP Gender Issues Committee

I feel that investing in youth is becoming an issue common to all countries around the world. It is important for parliamentarians to share information in forums like these and then take that information back to their communities. That is important also for medicine in the global public health arena, and I think it is something that should be continued in the future.



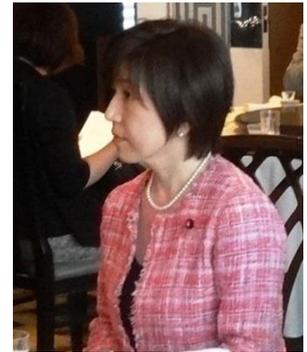


Hon. Mr. Tsuneo Akaeda, MP

I have been running a programme in Bangladesh that promotes breastfeeding. If women do not receive an education, in the end they are not fully capable of raising children – they learn nothing about environmental issues, and they can't practice contraception, so they give birth to children who just succumb to infectious diseases and die, in a pattern that is repeated over and over. As Hon. Koike has just said, public health and education must be properly promoted by a country's politicians.

Hon. Mr. Yoshitaka Sakurada, MP

I think that the most important population issue we must tackle from now on is aging population with low birth rate. To address this, we must make a society on the whole friendly with childbearing and childrearing. While economic policies are essential, if there is an environment for raising children in place, economic conditions themselves will improve.



Hon. Ms. Yayoi Kimura, MP

The Secretariat has reported that the GCPPD Declaration was reflected in about one quarter of the Summit Leaders' Declaration, amounting to about 5,000 words (10,000 words in Japanese). In addition with respect to the reference to women's issues in the Leaders' Declaration, the more limited expression "women's economic empowerment" was used in the Declaration from every previous G7 Summit. For this G7 Ise-Shima Summit, however, the qualifying expression "economic" was removed to adopt the expression "women's empowerment", so as to also call for improvements in women's health and social status. As well as recording major progress in the field of public health, GCPPD 2016 enjoyed great success in a number of areas, including the strong influence its measures had on the sections on women, young people, and aging in the Leaders' Declaration.



For more detailed information on this Meeting (its program, list of participants, and webcasts), please visit the following dedicated websites:

- Website: <http://gcppd2016.org/jp/>
- Program: <http://gcppd2016.org/jp/program/>
- List of participants: http://gcppd2016.org/jp/p_list/
- Webcasts: http://gcppd2016.org/jp/recording_movie1/

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