



# JPFP Newsletter

Secretariat of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)  
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

March 2024

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## JPFP Meeting: ICPD30

On 4 March, the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) held a meeting on the occasion of the visit to Japan of Dr. Natalia Kanem, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA. Hon. Aisawa Ichiro, Acting Chair of JPFP, gave a welcome address and Hon. Kikawada Hitoshi, Secretary General of JPFP, facilitated the meeting.

In her speech, Dr. Kanem expressed her appreciation for the longstanding cooperation between UNFPA and Japan, especially the contributions of parliamentarians through APDA/JPFP activities. She then congratulated JPFP on its 50th anniversary this year. Given that this year also marks the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, or Cairo Conference), she stressed the need to recognize once again what is happening now in the population field. Population is an aggregate of “individuals”; it is imperative to protect their rights and dignity and provide support for them so that no one is left behind. Dr. Kanem explained that each country needs to consider sustainable policies that respond to diverse demographic changes.

During the Q&A session, Hon. Odawara Kiyoshi mentioned that young people are moving to cities in search of jobs, causing an imbalance in birth rates between prefectures. He asked how we could address the difficult *trilemma* of ensuring freedom of migration, autonomous local government policies, and stable wages.

Then Hon. Makihara Hideki said that accepting migrant workers would be a solution to the labor shortage and asked Dr. Kanem to comment on the cultural, linguistic, and other challenges faced by migrant workers in the society to which they migrate.

In response, Dr. Kanem mentioned that the immigration issue is indeed multidimensional and that there are always unintended effects and consequences, which we must anticipate and work together to address. She also emphasized that when it comes to lack of the working population, there is a big role for the innovation, robotics and technologies in meeting certain social needs. On the other hand, she added that it is important to understanding that human touch is irreplaceable and asked Japan to take a

leading part in thinking about these issues based on its experience and knowledge.



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## Toward JPFP's 50th Anniversary #10

### **JPFP's policy recommendations and concrete actions on global issues**

JPFP, together with APDA, has made policy recommendations on various global issues. In 2023, JPFP, APDA and AFPPD co-hosted the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit (GCPPD2023), and a declaration that was adopted as a conference outcome was directly submitted to Prime Minister H. E. Kishida Fumio who served as Chair of the G7 Summit,.

Also, at the Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit (GCPPD2016), a declaration was directly submitted to the then Prime Minister H.E. Abe Shinzo, and the recommendations on health including measures for infectious diseases and on women, as stated therein, were reflected in the Summit Leaders' Declaration.

At the G8 International Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and Sustainable Development, which was held prior to the 2008 G8 Toyako Summit, the participating parliamentarians adopted a statement that put forth a strong message that reproductive health is particularly important for improving maternal and child health and directly

submitted to the then Prime Minister H.E. Fukuda Yasuo. Part of the statement was reflected in the Leaders' Declaration.

Furthermore, JPFP regularly hold study meetings that lead to policy recommendations and international cooperation.

In 2021, JPFP organized a study meeting on humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Based on the meeting, they drew up concrete recommendations for effective assistance titled "Five Recommendations on the Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan and Japan's Role" and submitted the recommendations to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With regard to humanitarian assistance in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, and support for victims of natural disasters such as Turkey–Syria earthquakes, JPFP also examines the local situations, people's needs, and what priorities Japan can play a role, linking to mid- to long-term reconstruction and development and leading to concrete action.



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## JPFP

Established in 1974, JPFP has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on

## APDA

population and development. JPFP, in concert with APDA, has created a network of parliamentarians on population and development, through which a diverse range of knowledge and experience has been shared to accomplish concrete results.

Read more

APDA since its establishment in 1982 has served as the secretariat of JPFP.

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